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Department of Geography



Department of Geography

The Department of Geography in Bonn is the largest geography department in Germany that offers a wide range of academic programs and conducts cutting-edge research projects in collaboration with national and international partners. We combine an established reputation for high quality research with a deep commitment to excellence in teaching.

RESEARCH

Our Department is home to 15 different research groups. Our research is organized around nine research clusters within three main research areas: water, risk and geomatics.

Climatology and Landscape Ecology

- › Arctic-alpine ecosystem research
- › Boundary layer climate research
- › Process-based biogeographic research

Geomorphology

- › Mountain geomorphology and permafrost environments
- › Natural hazards and risks
- › Fluvial geomorphology and Palaeohydrology
- › Geoaerchology

Hydrology and Water Resource Management

- › Hydrological processes and modelling
- › Ecohydrology
- › River basin management and hydrological extremes
- › Human-water-systems

Remote Sensing and GIS

- › Observations of land surface processes & natural hazards
- › Radiative transfer & artificial intelligence modelling
- › Development of space/airborne technology & tools
- › Support for spatial decisions & policy making

Development Geography

- › Unequal global development
- › Critical adaptation to climate change
- › Politics of environmental knowledge
- › Development institutions and governance

Cultural Geography

- › Cultural Politics and Space
- › Geographies of (In)Security
- › Identity, Diversity and Belonging

Economic and Social Geography

- › Energy and financial geography
- › Infrastructures and digitization
- › Social inequality and urban marginality
- › Geographies of home and housing

Urban Geography

- › Urban planning and governance
- › Demographic change
- › Migration

Geography Education

- › Transformative geography education
- › Spatial literacy
- › Aesthetic learning

www.geographie.uni-bonn.de/research-groups



Studying Geography in Bonn

The Department of Geography at the University of Bonn offers different degree programs in the field of geography. Students have the opportunity to specialize in various disciplines such as physical geography, human geography, and geoinformatics. The institute is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and high-quality resources, providing students with an optimal learning environment. Practical exercises, research projects, and fieldwork allow students to deepen their knowledge of the complex interaction between humans and the environment. The department offers a dynamic and diverse academic community, where students receive a solid education that prepares them for a successful career in geography.

Further information

www.geographie.uni-bonn.de/studying

UNDERGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Science in Geography

The Bachelor program offers a comprehensive curriculum that covers a wide range of topics, including physical geography, human geography, and geoinformatics. The 3 year program is comprised of a geography major (156 credit points) and elective modules (24 credit points) in other subject areas related to Geography. The BSc Geography is a German degree program, but courses are offered in English in three modules.

Teaching Degree in Geography

The students can choose Geography as one of two subjects of their teaching degree. After completing their Bachelor's degree, they can continue onto a Master of Education. This study program is taught in German.

POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMS

Master of Science in Geography

The Master's program in Geography at Bonn University offers a well-rounded curriculum that combines theory and practical fieldwork, preparing students for diverse career opportunities in academia, government, and the private sector. The students can choose between four specialized thematic areas:

- › Governance and Space
- › Globalisation and Development
- › Environmental Systems in Change
- › Water in Change

The MSc Geography is a German degree programme, however selected courses are offered in English.

Master of Science in Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security

This international Master program is jointly offered by United Nations University and the Department of Geography. The two-year program uses an interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approach for teaching students how to investigate and manage various resources related to environmental hazards by implementing science-based principles and methodologies to disaster risk management. The program offers a certain number of fully-funded scholarships to students from the Global South. This Master program is taught in English.

www.geographie.uni-bonn.de/msc-georisks

Master of Science: Nature conservation and landscape ecology

This interdisciplinary Master program is offered by the Department of Geography and the Faculty of Agriculture. The two-year program combines new aspects of landscape ecology with the perspective of natural conservation. The MSc „Nature conservation and landscape ecology“ is a German degree program.

www.lwf.uni-bonn.de/studium-lehre/msc-nala

Master of Education

The Master of Education program is designed to enhance the subject knowledge and pedagogical knowledge of practising teachers in secondary and vocational schools.

This program emphasises education as an academic field of study and the importance of research in the development of teaching practise. This study program is taught in German.

Advanced Training Program: Master of Disaster Management and Risk Governance

This Master program is designed for postgraduates with professional experience. The program is offered in cooperation with the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance. This Master program is taught in German.

www.kavoma.de

INTERNATIONAL

Internationality is a central component of the University of Bonn's mission statement. The Department of Geography is home to a variety of international contacts and collaborations, which are mostly based upon international research activities. One regional research focus, among others, is Africa. Many research projects in Development Geography, Hydrology and Remote sensing are based in West or East Africa. One example is the Collaborative Research Centre (CRC) "Future Rural Africa". The CRC combines expertise from two complementary Centers of Excellence at the Universities of Bonn and Cologne to study newly emerging issues of social-ecological transformation and future-making in Africa.

www.crc228.de

www.geographie.uni-bonn.de/international-profile

In addition to the 37 overseas student exchange partnerships of the University of Bonn, our Department maintains 44 ERASMUS-partnerships in 18 countries. Every year, 60-70 geography students go abroad as part of the University's exchange program. In return we have about 80 international geography students in our undergraduate and postgraduate study programs.

Offers for international students at the Department of Geography

- › International Joint-Master in "Geography of Environmental Risk and Human Security"
- › Numerous courses taught in English at Bachelor and Master-level (30-60 credits per semester)
- › A large number of interdisciplinary courses in the „International Classroom Bonn“
- › Activities for international geography students: field trips, events

www.geographie.uni-bonn.de/international-students

In addition to the departmental offers the International Office provides many activities and services for international students, e.g. intensive and in-semester German language courses, the international club, the international choir, the buddy program and the help desk.

www.uni-bonn.de/international-students

