



**University of  
Zurich** <sup>UZH</sup>

**Department of Geography**

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Study guide to the program of Geography

# Master of Science



**Starting in the fall  
semester 2019**

**Imprint**

Student Advisory Board Geography and Earth System Science

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**[www.geo.uzh.ch/en/studying](http://www.geo.uzh.ch/en/studying)**

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# 1 Preface

In this **study guide („Wegleitung“)**, the Master’s degree program in Geography is illustrated for students taking up their studies starting from fall semester 2019. For students who have commenced their studies before fall semester 2019, the study guide of the corresponding year (begin of studies) as well as the transitional regulations are relevant. The current and previous versions of the study guide as well as additional information are published on the website of the Department of Geography (GIUZ).

→ [www.geo.uzh.ch/en/studying](http://www.geo.uzh.ch/en/studying)

The **program regulations („Studienordnung“)** contain detailed content-related requirements and module and exam procedures of major and minor subjects at the Faculty of Science (MNF). The **framework ordinance („Rahmenordnung“)** governs the general conditions for Bachelor’s and Master’s degree programs at the MNF. The mentioned regulations as well as further study guidelines are available on the website of the MNF.

→ [www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/studying](http://www.mnf.uzh.ch/en/studying)

In case of remaining questions, the student advisory board of the Department of Geography (GIUZ) is the first contact point:

Office	Y25 K10, Winterthurstr. 190, Universität Irchel, Zürich
Phone	044/635 51 18
Mail	✉ <a href="mailto:beratung.lehre@geo.uzh.ch">beratung.lehre@geo.uzh.ch</a>
Opening hours	Two afternoons per week from 13.00 to 16.30 o’clock (please consider the information on the website for current opening hours). Appointments for a meeting can be booked at → <a href="http://www.terminland.de/giuz-studienberatung">www.terminland.de/giuz-studienberatung</a>

Further information about the study program and particularly about individual courses can be found on the following websites:

- Website for students of the University of Zurich  
→ [www.students.uzh.ch](http://www.students.uzh.ch)
- Commented course catalogue of the University of Zurich  
→ <https://studentservices.uzh.ch/uzh/anonym/vvz/index.html>
- Commented course catalogue of the ETH  
→ [www.vvz.ethz.ch](http://www.vvz.ethz.ch)

In order to allow students to efficiently plan their studies, an information event concerning the Master's program is held at the end of the Bachelor's program. For new students, an introduction presentation is held on Tuesday before the start of the fall semester.

Student advisory board of the Department of Geography, August 2019  
Etienne Gruebler & Marco de Koning

## 2 Geography at the University of Zurich

Welcome! We are glad that you are interested in choosing the Master's study program in Geography at the University of Zurich.

Based on the motto „*One Earth – Many worlds*“, existentially important questions about the present as well as the future of the living environment on our planet are examined at the Department of Geography. How do humans and environment interact? What kind of relations develop between human and space? Global change, neoliberalisation, virtual worlds, environmental changes and urbanisation are some of the core challenges Geography touches upon.

The study program in Geography offers a unique combination of research perspectives and unites approaches of natural, social and computational sciences. The Master's study program in Geography allows specialisation in individual research strands of Geography. Profound knowledge of current research projects is imparted and the critical discussion of socially relevant topics is encouraged. In doing so, the students' intellectual and communicational skills are promoted.

### **Aims of the study program**

- The students understand the synthesis and transformation of the living space on a local, regional and global scale as well as their characteristics.
- The students are able to implement approaches of natural, social and computational sciences to analyse actual questions appropriately.
- The students are able to act responsibly as interdisciplinary thinking human beings at the creation and utilisation of living space.

## 2.1 Focus of Education

The Geographical Department of the University of Zurich has the following foci of education:

### Physical Geography

- *Glaciology and Geomorphodynamics Group (3G)*: Climate history and climatic consequences, natural hazards, research on ice ages and high mountain areas
- *Geochronology (GCH)*: Dating of soils, landscapes and surface processes
- *Soil Science and Biogeochemistry (2B)*: Carbon cycle in the system of plant and soil, geography of vegetation and geoecology, history of landscape
- *Hydrology and Climate (H2K)*: Water cycle, catchment hydrology, hydrological processes, climate impact on water resources

### Human Geography

- *Human Geography (HGG)*: Development studies, migration and multilocality, spatial appropriation and nature conservation, youth and education
- *Political Geography (PGG)*: Geographies of violence and power, geographies of moral, political ecology, development studies
- *Economic Geography (WGG)*: Geographies of global commodity chains and transnational markets; work, gender and space; urban and regional development



## Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems

- *Remote Sensing Laboratories (RSL)*: Generating products of remote sensing of the earth surface, classification of land use, SAR and LIDAR, image spectrometry, instruments and methods for capturing environmental problems and processes with satellite and plane data.
- *Remote Sensing of Water Systems (RSWS)*: Developing and applying novel approaches building upon coupled models and observations to advance water systems research.
- *Geographic Information Visualisation and Analyses (GIVA)*: Geographic information visualisation, science in spatial cognition, methods of analysing space, application of geographic information technologies in human and social sciences
- *Geographic Information Systems (GIS)*: Analysis of spatio-temporal data, pattern recognition in spatial data, automatic generation of maps, GIS in protection areas, spatial modelling in the environmental area.
- *Geocomputation (GC)*: Methods of geoinformatics with a focus on uncertainties in environmental modelling, methods of spatial localisation and search in text and images, extraction of geosemantical information out of unstructured geographical sources

## 3 Geographical World of Work

Geographers can benefit from a wide occupational field on the job market. Because of Geography's broad scope, employment can be found in a variety of special fields, although competition from graduates of other study programs might also compete for the same jobs. Nevertheless, two skills which are high in demand – teamwork, project work and interdisciplinary collaboration – are acquired through the Geography study program.

### 3.1 Selected Fields of Work

**Spatial planning:** City, regional & land use planning, site evaluation, city and regional research, economic and structural policy, economic promotion, disposal, transport and mobility research, traffic planning, tourism

**Environment, landscape and human beings:** Environmental and landscape planning, nature and environment protection, natural hazards, biotope mapping, geo-ecology, geotechnology, ecosystem research, ecological management, environmental economy, soil protection, soil science, climatic research, hydrology, soil protection specialist unit, development cooperation, international organisations, insurances, meteorology

**Information and communication:** Press and public relations, media, publishing sector, statistics, market research, information services, remote sensing, (computer) cartography, geoinformatics (GIS), banks, museums, libraries

**Schools:** Teaching activities at secondary schools, vocational schools and other schools

### **3.2 Employment Situation**

Thanks to the social importance of topics like environmental protection, city and spatial planning or natural hazards, the majority of graduated geographers will find an interesting and challenging position. Also, the importance of electronic data processing will increase and hence, provide jobs in this field.

Examples of job outlines can be found here:

→ [www.geo.uzh.ch/en/studying/after-graduation](http://www.geo.uzh.ch/en/studying/after-graduation)

## 4 General information about studying at MNF

The degree courses at the MNF are structured into Bachelor's and Master's degrees. The Master's degree is based on previous knowledge acquired during the Bachelor's degree. In the Bachelor degree course, fundamental knowledge as well as the capability for methodical-scientific thinking are imparted. Further information about the Bachelor's degree is given in the Bachelor's study degree guide.

A subsequent Master's course conveys advanced scientific knowledge and enables students to carry out independent scientific work. The structure of the Master's program at GIUZ is described on pages 15 and 16.

In a third step after obtaining a Master's degree in Geography, a PhD can be achieved. This either requires being accepted in a promotion program and/or an advisor is found willing to lead a dissertation project.

A Master's degree also forms the fundamental requirement for acquiring the teaching diploma for high schools. The didactical education is held at the Institute of Education (IfE) of the University of Zurich (see chapter 7).

Within the study program Master of Science in Geography, an emphasis in one specific field in Geography is possible, but not mandatory. It hence allows a specialisation of the knowledge gained during the Bachelor's program. For a successfully absolved Master's degree in Geography, the **diploma „Master of Science in Geography“** (MSc UZH in Geography) is awarded.

### 4.1 Matriculation

In order to follow a study program at University of Zurich, matriculation is necessary. All students have to be matriculated as long as they require services of the University. These services include the visit of courses, the claim for counselling and support, the utilisation of libraries and the computer centre, taking exams, as well as the validation of the diploma.

### *Registration*

The first matriculation needs a registration at the Student Administration Office of the University. This is also the case after an interruption of matriculation through deregistration.

→ [www.uzh.ch/studies/application\\_en.html](http://www.uzh.ch/studies/application_en.html)

Application period:

- Fall semester: 30th of April
- Spring semester: 30th of November

### *Semester enrolment*

The matriculation is renewed every semester through the online semester enrolment.

→ [www.students.uzh.ch/registration\\_en.html](http://www.students.uzh.ch/registration_en.html)

## **4.2 Structure**

Every degree program at the University of Zurich is built according to the principle of the credit point system. A Master's degree in Geography contains 90 or 120 ECTS credits respectively (ECTS = European Credit Transfer System). For all coursework, students get ECTS credits based on an official assessment. The following principles apply:

- No credit points are awarded without an official assessment.
- One ECTS credit corresponds to a workload of around 25-30 hours. In this time, lectures and time for individual work (self-study, solving exercises, preparation for exams, etc.) are included.
- In a full-time study program, around 30 ECTS credits are gained per semester.
- Only integer ECTS credits can be gained.

The courses of the Master study program are structured into compulsory modules, core elective modules and elective modules. Generally, students

decide themselves which and how many modules they would like to book and absolve each semester. It needs to be kept in mind that most modules are offered either in the fall or the spring semester, and the maximum period of study should not be exceeded. There are also cases of modules which range over two semesters. In addition, the completion of modules can also depend on prerequisites. This and further information on individual modules is provided in the online course book.

### **4.3 Structure of major and minor**

The Bachelor's (180 ECTS credits) and Master's programs (90 or 120 ECTS credits) at the Faculty of Science (MNF) are divided into major and minor subjects. Within the Master's program (90 ECTS credits) in Geography, no minor is provided. Nevertheless, an additional minor (30 ECTS) can be completed if the study program is extended to 120 ECTS credits. Additional to the minors offered at the University of Zurich, there is the special opportunity for students in Geography to complete a minor at ETH Zurich.

→ [https://www.geo.uzh.ch/de/studium/nebenfaecher\\_fuer\\_geographiestudierende.html](https://www.geo.uzh.ch/de/studium/nebenfaecher_fuer_geographiestudierende.html)

At the Faculty of Science (MNF) and the ETH Zurich, a new minor can be started at Master's level. At any other faculty, a minor has to be started already at Bachelor's level in order to be continued at Master's level. A list of all major and minor subjects of the University of Zurich can be found on the following website.

→ [www.degrees.uzh.ch](http://www.degrees.uzh.ch)

### **4.4 Begin of studies**

Generally, the begin of the Master's study is in the fall semester. As – besides the Master's thesis – there is only one compulsory module in the

Master's program, there is no big difference in starting in the fall or the spring semester. If students begin their Master's study program in the spring semester they have to take certain preconditions for modules (e.g. Module B is only bookable after graduation of module A) into account.

#### 4.5 Standard study period

The standard study period of study is three semesters for a Master's without minor (90 ECTS credits), and four semesters for a Master's with a minor (120 ECTS credits). The maximum study period is twice the standard study period, thus six – or eight – semesters.

If the maximum period of study is exceeded, no degree can be achieved at the Faculty of Science (MNF) anymore. The Faculty might permit exceptions upon handing in a justified request.

#### 4.6 Compulsory, core elective and elective modules

Study programs consist of different modules. Modules can contain one or more courses such as lectures, exercises, seminars or field trips. Every module is completed by an assessment. The type of assessment is determined for every single module and is published in the online course book.

There are different kinds of modules:

- **Compulsory modules** are compulsory for all students of a certain study course. If the assessment of a compulsory module is failed, the assessment can be repeated once. If the repetition is again insufficient, all study programs, which contain the respective module as compulsory module, can no longer be attended.
- **Core elective modules** are modules, which can be chosen from a given list. A core elective module can be repeated once. If the repetition is again insufficient, the respective module can be replaced once by another core elective module.

- **Elective modules** are modules, which can be chosen freely from the offer of a subject. A substitution of an elective module is possible without restraint.

## 4.7 Booking modules

After having paid the semester fees it is possible to book modules online. The deadlines of the respective faculties have to be considered. The booking tool opens about six weeks before the start of the lectures. Booking modules is usually possible until the third week after the start of lectures, but there are modules which need to be booked earlier. A deregistration of modules at the MNF is usually possible until around the middle of the semester.

→ [www.students.uzh.ch/booking/fristen\\_en.html](http://www.students.uzh.ch/booking/fristen_en.html)

If a module exam is failed, an invitation to apply for the repeat examination is sent together with the exam result. The registration for a repeat examination is binding and it is therefore not possible to de-register. Students also have the opportunity to choose to repeat the whole module. It can also be chosen to repeat the whole module.

Modules at the ETH Zurich (all modules with the code ESS) can be booked after a separate enrolment at the ETH Zurich. Therefore, an antecedent registration as special student at the ETH is needed. This registration has to be confirmed every semester. Afterwards, modules at the ETH Zurich are bookable online through myStudies.

→ [www.mystudies.ethz.ch](http://www.mystudies.ethz.ch)

## 4.8 Assessments

With the booking of a module of the UZH, students are automatically registered for the assessment of the respective module. A deregistration after the expiry of the cancellation deadline is only possible upon submission of a medical certificate or a written request. These documents have to



be handed in at the Student Affairs Office of the Faculty of Science no later than five days after the date of the exam. Afterwards, missed exams (no-show) will be graded as failed. In the final diploma, only passed assessments will be shown.

For modules at the ETH Zurich the exam registration has to be carried out separately. Depending on the type of examination, a deregistration is possible until shortly before the exam.

At the beginning of each semester, all students receive a transcript of records by mail. Students have access to their summary of credits at any time online.

→ [http://www.students.uzh.ch/record\\_en.html](http://www.students.uzh.ch/record_en.html)

## 4.9 Mobility

An exchange of one or two semesters can be undertaken at the beginning of the Master studies. Studying at another university in Switzerland or abroad is a very exciting and valuable experience. Furthermore, it offers the possibility of improving a foreign language. All necessary information about studying abroad can be found at the website of the GIUZ.

The student advisory board supports students with the planning of mobility stages at other universities.

**Please note:** Applications have to be submitted up until 31th of January for the following academic year (autumn until autumn!).

→ <http://www.geo.uzh.ch/de/studium/austauschprogramme.html>

## 4.10 Final degree

The Master's degree doesn't automatically get issued upon completion of all necessary ECTS credits. Students have to submit an application form (leaflet „Application form for the graduation as MSc in Geography“) at the office of the student advisory board (Y25 K10). If all conditions are fulfilled, the Faculty of Science will grant the respective academic title at the next meeting of the Academic Committee, but only if the application was submitted at least four weeks before the meeting. Otherwise the diploma will be issued after the subsequent meeting.

→ [http://www.geo.uzh.ch/de/studium/konsekutiver\\_master/abschluss.html](http://www.geo.uzh.ch/de/studium/konsekutiver_master/abschluss.html)

→ <http://www.mnf.uzh.ch/de/studium/wie-studieren/termine.html#5>

## 4.11 Transfer of additional credits

It is possible to credit up a maximum of 10 additional ECTS credits to each study unit (major and minor). This can include modules of the UZH and the ETHZ, as well as language courses of the Language Center of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich. A maximum of 4 ECTS credits can be credited for language courses (BSc and MSc together).

All additional ECTS credits are listed in the summary of credits, but are not included in the calculation of the average grade.

## **5 Master of Science in Geography (MSc)**

### **5.1 General information**

A Master of Science in Geography is the standard degree in this subject. For a test-free admission to the Master's study program in Geography, a Bachelor's degree in Geography from the Faculty of Science of the University of Zurich – or an equivalent degree from another recognised university – is required. The Faculty decides about a possible admission for students with a degree from a university of applied sciences.

The Master's study program enables a specialisation within the field of geography. The Master's degree is the qualification for professional ability for academic jobs. Furthermore, it builds the professional scientific foundation for qualification as a secondary school teacher and is necessary for a PhD.

### **5.2 Structure of the study program in Geography**

The consecutive Master study program in Geography at GIUZ includes a compulsory interdisciplinary module, at least five consolidation modules, the Master's thesis, the Master's exam and elective modules in the extent of 24 ECTS credits (see overview on the next page). This sums up to a total of 90 ECTS credits if no minor is chosen. It is possible to complete an additional minor of 30 ECTS credits which hereby extends the study program to 120 ECTS credits.



### 5.3 Emphasis within the Master of Geography

An emphasis on one Thematic Subject Area (TSA) in Geography is possible within the Master studies. This emphasis is mentioned in the Master's diploma in addition to the Master's title. This will be in the form of „MSc in Geography, with Major in X“, with „X“ being replaced by the emphasis.

In order for an emphasis to be mentioned, a minimum of three consolidation blocks (VB) as well as the Master's thesis have to be completed within the field of the emphasis.

The following emphases are possible:

- Physical Geography:  
A minimum of three consolidation modules have to be chosen out of at least two of the four units of Physical Geography (e.g. two modules out of 3G and one out of 2B, H2K or GCH or one module each out of three different units).
- Human Geography
- Remote Sensing
- Geographic Information Science and Systems

In addition to the emphasis, it is possible to achieve a general Master's degree. This is especially suitable for candidates studying towards a Teaching Diploma for Upper Secondary Education. Here the five consolidation modules have to be chosen out of the three TSA's Physical Geography, Human Geography, as well as Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Science. At least one course has to be chosen from each TSA. The Master's thesis is written in any of the three TSA.

- General Geography

## 5.4 Module overview

At least five of the core elective modules offered by the Department of Geography have to be completed. Core elective modules are also called consolidation modules ("Vertiefungsblock VB") and are each assigned with 6 ECTS credits. The choice of the consolidation modules determines the emphasis within the Master's study program. For some of these modules it is required that certain prior modules are completed (e.g. certain core elective modules from the Bachelor's study program).

Course type		Assessments	
VL	Lecture	PP	Poster/presentation
UE	Practical course	MP	Exam
SE	Seminar	SA	Paper
E	Field trip	KW	Calendar week
BL	Block course		
PR	Practical training		
VU	Lecture with practical course		

The language of the module title usually corresponds to the teaching language.

The modules of the spring semester correspond to the modules in year 2019 and are subject to change in spring semester 2020.

### 5.4.1 Compulsory Modules

ECTS	Module title	Type	Time	Semester	Assessment
4	GEO 410 Geography. Matters.	VU	Mon 14-16	HS	SA, PP, MP
30	GEO 511 Master's Thesis	SA	-	HS/FS	SA
2	GEO 512 Master's Exam	PP	-	HS/FS	PP

*Master's thesis (GEO 511)*

The Master's thesis contains all essential features of a scientific and academic field of work. It has to be completed within one year (365 or 366 days) and corresponds to 30 ECTS credits. The amount of work corresponds to a student working on his/her Master's thesis 100% for half a year or 50% for one year respectively. The Master's thesis is graded. In order to successfully pass, a minimum grade of 4 is required. In the event of an insufficient grade, a new thesis with a different topic has to be written. If the second thesis is not accepted either, a Master's degree in Geography at the Faculty of Science cannot be obtained anymore.

Further information can be found on the information leaflet about the Master's thesis and the Master's exam.

→ [http://www.geo.uzh.ch/en/studying/consecutive\\_master/master\\_thesis\\_exam.html](http://www.geo.uzh.ch/en/studying/consecutive_master/master_thesis_exam.html)

*Master's exam (GEO 512)*

The Master's exam takes place shortly after submission of the Master's thesis. It consists of a maximum one hour-long colloquium presentation and a disputation. Hereby, the student not only proves him- or herself in being well versed in the matter of its Master's thesis, but is also able to integrate the thesis into the context of the geographic research.

The Master's exam is passed when the Master's presentation and the disputation together are graded with at least a 4. A failed Master's exam can be repeated once. If the repetition is insufficient as well, no Master degree can be obtained at the Faculty of Science anymore. Further information can be found on the mentioned leaflet about the Master's thesis and Master's exam.

## 5.4.2 Core Elective Modules („Vertiefungsblöcke VB“)

### Emphasis on Physical Geography

ECTS	Module title	Type	Time	Semester	Assessment
6	GEO 411 Field studies on high mountain processes	SE PR, E	Thu 13-17 irregular	FS	SA
6	GEO 463 Soil Science I	VU	Thu 10-12	HS	SA
6	GEO 419 Soil Science II	VU VL	Fri 8-10 Fri 10-12	FS	SA, PP
6	GEO 412 Soil Science III	BL	two weeks in June	FS	PP, SA
6	GEO 417 Environmental archives and age determination	PR BL BL	Tue 14-16 20-22.1.20 1 week in July	HS HS FS	SA
6	GEO 418 Atmosphere and Climate	VL	ETHZ	HS/FS	MP
6	GEO 471 Hydrological field measurements and calculations	VU	irregular	FS	PP, SA
6	GEO 475 Hydrological Modelling and Programming	VU	Mon 8-12	HS	MP, SA

Two of the following courses can be combined and counted as a consolidation module in Physical Geography:

ECTS	Module title	Type	Time	Semester	Assessment
3	GEO 815 Quantification and modelling of the Cryosphere	VU	Fri 8-10	HS	PP, SA
3	GEO 851 Glacier Mass Balance Measurements and Analysis	VU E	Thu 14-16	HS	SA
3	GEO856 The high-mountain cryosphere: processes and risks	VU	Tue 16-18	FS	MP
3	GEO857 Snow and Avalanches: Processes and Risk Management	VU	Mon 15-17	FS	MP



## Emphasis on Human Geography

ECTS	Module title	Type	Time	Semester	Assessment
6	GEO 421 Development studies	VL	Tue 14-16	HS	PP, SA
6	GEO 422 Qualitative Methodologies and Methods in Human Geography	VL	Mon 10-14	FS	SA
6	GEO 423 Political Geography	SE	Wed 9-12	HS	SA
6	GEO 424 Environment in History	SE	Wed 13-16	FS	SA
6	GEO 425 Political Ecology	SE	Wed 9-12	FS	SA
6	GEO 432 Gender, Work and Space	SE E	Di 10-12 tba	HS	SA
6	GEO 433 Global Economic Geographies of Agriculture and Food Systems	SE	Thu 10-13	FS	SA

Two of the following courses can be combined and counted as a consolidation module in Human Geography:

ECTS	Module title	Type	Time	Semester	Assessment
3	GEO 722 Human Geography Field Course 1	SE E	irregular		PP
3	GEO 723 Human Geography Field Course 2	SE E	irregular	HS	PP
3	GEO 724 Human Geography Field Course 3	SE E	irregular		PP
3	GEO 837 Regional Environmental Governance	SE	Fri 10-12	HS	PP, SA
3	GEO 838 Self-organised Seminar	SE	Tue 10-12	FS	

## Emphasis on Remote Sensing

ECTS	Module title	Type	Time	Semester	Assessment
6	GEO 441 Remote Sensing A: Seminar	KO SE	Tue 15-17 Thu 14-16	FS	SA
6	GEO 442 Remote Sensing: Spectroscopy of the Earth System	VL UE	Wed 8-10 Wed 10-12	HS	MP
6	GEO 443 Remote Sensing: SAR and LIDAR	VL UE	Tue 8-10 Tue 10-12	HS	MP

## Emphasis on GIScience and Systems

In GIScience and Systems any two modules of 3 ECTS credits can be combined to one consolidation module / Vertiefungsblock (VB).

ECTS	Module title	Type	Time	Semester	Assessment
3	GEO 871 Retrieving Geographic Information	VU	Wed 14-16	HS	SA
3	GEO 872 Advanced Spatial Analysis I	VU	Wed 10-12	HS	SA
3	GEO 873 Cognitive Issues in GIScience	VL UE	Tue 9-10 Tue 10-12	HS	SA
3	GEO 874 Introduction to Databases (until 1.11.19)	VL UE	Fri 8-10 Fri 10-12	HS	MP
3	GEO 875 Spatial Databases (from 8.11.19)	VL UE	Fri 8-10 Fri 10-12	HS	MP
3	GEO 876 Introduction to Programming for Spatial Problems	VU	Mon 14-18 Wed 8-10 Wed 12-14	FS	SA
3	GEO 878 Geovisualisation	VL UE	Wed 8-10 Wed 10-12	FS	MP PP
3	GEO 880 Computational Movement Analysis	VU	Fri 8-12	FS	SA

ECTS	Module title	Type	Time	Semester	Assessment
3	GEO 881 Advanced Spatial Analysis II	VL/UE	Thu 8-10	FS	SA
3	GEO 884 Location-based Services	VL/UE	Thu 10-12	FS	PP

### 5.4.3 Elective Modules

Besides compulsory and core elective modules, elective modules in the extent of 24 ECTS credits have to be completed. Basically, all modules of the course book of the University and the ETH Zurich are eligible:

#### Geography:

Courses offered by the Department, particularly:

- Core elective modules, which are not already taken as such
- Elective modules of the Department
- Additional field trips

#### Other subjects:

Whole offer of the University of Zurich and the ETH Zurich primarily on Master level. Subject to certain restrictions by the responsible field or instructor.

#### Further modules:

Other modules which are a reasonable addition can be chosen, e.g. language and communication courses of the Language Centre of the University of Zurich and the ETH Zurich. A maximum of 4 ECTS credits for language courses can be credited (BSc and MSc together).

#### Internship, tutorial

See information on page 27

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· ETHZ sports modules are not counted.

When choosing your elective modules, the following points have to be considered:

- Preconditions for individual modules, as defined in the course book, are also valid for other subjects.
- Depending on the emphasis in Geography, further compulsory modules can be determined.
- Individual sports courses cannot be credited as elective modules.
- Modules at the ETH have to be booked at the ETH via myStudies.

The following elective modules are offered at the Department of Geography:

ECTS	Module title	Type	Time	Semester	Assessment
6	GEO 401 Integratives Projekt	SE	Do 16-18 irregularly	HS & FS	PP
1	GEO 717 Google Earth Engine	BL	9.– 13.9.19	HS	SA
1	GEO 802 Data Information Literacy	BL	2 days in September	HS	SA
2	GEO 803 Solving Geospatial Problems using Matlab	BL	September	HS	PP
2	GEO 805 Natural hazard and risk assessment in high-mountain areas	BL	3 days in September	HS	PP
1	GEO 812 Getting started with R for spatial analysis	BL	September	HS	-
3	GEO 813 Surveying course for Geographers	BL	Easter break	FS	SA
6	GEO 818 Dendro-Ecology	VL BL	Wed 16-18 irregularly	HS FS	SA, PP SA
4	GEO 819 The biogeochemistry of plant- soil systems in a changing world	VU	Fri 8-10	FS	SA, PP
2	GEO 820 Stable isotopes in ecology and soil science	VL	Fri 10-12	FS	SA

ECTS	Module title	Type	Time	Semester	Assessment
3	GEO 886 Natural Resource Management of Mountain Areas	VL/UE E	Tue 14-19 tba	FS	
2	GEO 893 Public Participatory GIS	VU	Tue 14-16	FS	SA
1-3	GEO 7xx Modules with integrated excursions	E	irregularly	HS FS	SA

In addition, the core elective modules can be chosen as an elective module.

**Please note:** An elective module can only be taken as such, if it isn't part of a chosen core elective module (e.g. GEO 415 can't be combined with 856 and 857. The module GEO 415 includes the courses GEO 856/857 and is a core elective module for the Master's degree in Physical Geography).

## 5.5 Field trips (GEO 599)

At most six days of field trips (corresponds to 3 ECTS credit) are allowed to be taken before the end of the Master studies. The students are informed about the excursions via e-mail. Another option to visit excursions are the GEGZ excursions.

→ <https://www.geo.uzh.ch/microsite/gegz/exkursionen/programm.html>

This does not include field trips, which are part of certain lectures or exercises. 0.5 ECTS credits are assigned per field trip day. For field trips held over several days, a maximum of 1 ECTS credit (= 2 days) is assigned; even if the duration is significantly longer. In total, a maximum of 3 ECTS credits (= 6 days) can be earned during the Master's study program. Only integer ECTS credits can be gained. The ECTS credit points for the field trips are awarded once before the end of the study program, upon the confirmation of having completed the field trips. The document „confirmation from the visited field trips“ can be found on the GIUZ-website under „Downloads / Guidelines“.

→ <http://www.geo.uzh.ch/en/studying/downloads.html>

Please bring the signed confirmation document to the office of the student advisory board before graduating.

In addition to this, it is possible to get a maximum of 2 ECTS credits for one excursion seminar (GEO777) during the whole Bachelor's and Master's study program in the frame of a big excursion (abroad).

For GEO 7xx modules with integrated excursions there are no restrictions for crediting in the elective range.

## **5.6 Tutorials**

Students, who contribute as tutors in one of the Geography modules are awarded 2 ECTS credits per module. During the entire period of study (Bachelor and Master studies), a maximum of 5 ECTS credits can be earned.

Tutorials are a useful and recommended addition to the studies and a valuable experience. Tutors support the instructors in exercises and seminars of lower semesters. The correction of assignments is also part of the activity of a tutor. Their own knowledge is applied and passed on. Future teachers can collect first experiences in teaching. Furthermore, semester assistant positions are only given to students who have worked as tutors in the respective TSA. Apart from the 2 ECTS credits per tutorial, tutors receive a financial remuneration as well.

Open positions for tutorials for the following semester are published on the website in the middle of the semester. Students receive information about positions and deadlines by email.

## 5.7 Internship

A research or vocational internship can be a useful addition to an academic education. For a four weeks' internship 2 ECTS can be credited as an elective module. During the entire study (Bachelor and Master) a maximum of 5 ECTS credits, which correspond to a ten weeks' internship, can be credited. A faculty member must approve of the internship **prior** to its completion.

→ <http://www.geo.uzh.ch/de/studium/downloads>

The internship report is intended to show other students different options for gaining work experience and to help them organize their own internship. On approximately one A4 page the internship is to be described and important key points are to be mentioned. What type of additional assignment is necessary for the credit points is determined individually with the faculty member (in-depth report, code or similar).

The report is to be handed in as a Word document in English or German and should contain the points listed on page number two. Links leading to relevant webpages can be included in the text and must additionally be listed at the end of the report. One to two images are requested for illustration purposes and have to be handed in separately. They need a minimum resolution of 920x556 pixels in landscape format.

→ <https://www.geo.uzh.ch/en/studying/internship-reports.html>

→ <https://www.geo.uzh.ch/de/studium/praktikumsberichte.html>

By submitting their report, students agree to its upload to the GIUZ's online internship catalogue and thereby its public accessibility.

Internship positions have to be organised independently. Open positions are published on our website and advertised on the Internet.

→ [www.geo.uzh.ch/en/services/open-positions/](http://www.geo.uzh.ch/en/services/open-positions/)

→ [www.careerservices.uzh.ch/static/jobs/index.php?lang=en](http://www.careerservices.uzh.ch/static/jobs/index.php?lang=en)

→ [www.iaeste.ch](http://www.iaeste.ch)

## **6 Geography as a Minor**

Geography can be taken as minor with 30 or 60 ECTS credits. Both programs are regulated within the guidelines for the Bachelor's program (Bachelorwegleitung) and on the website.

→ [http://www.geo.uzh.ch/de/studium/geographie\\_nebenfach.html](http://www.geo.uzh.ch/de/studium/geographie_nebenfach.html)



## 7 Teaching Diploma

### Lehrdiplom für Maturitätsschulen

Um Geographie an einer Mittelschule unterrichten zu können, wird das Lehrdiplom für Maturitätsschulen im Fach Geographie verlangt. Geographie kann als 1. oder 2. Unterrichtsfach gewählt werden. Es kann bereits während des Masterstudiums mit der didaktischen Ausbildung begonnen werden, ein abgeschlossenes Geographiestudium ist jedoch Voraussetzung für den Erwerb des Lehrdiploms für Maturitätsschulen. Die didaktische Ausbildung wird vom Institut für Erziehungswissenschaften (IfE) angeboten. Dafür ist eine Doppelimmatrikulation nötig.

→ <http://www.geo.uzh.ch/de/studium/lehrdiplom.html>

→ <http://www.ife.uzh.ch/de/llbm/lehrdiplomfuermaturitaetsschulen.html>

Bewerbungsfristen Doppelimmatrikulation:

Beginn im Herbstsemester:

**30. April**

Beginn im Frühjahrssemester:

**30. November**

Institut für Erziehungswissenschaften (IfE) UZH

Abteilung Lehrerinnen und Lehrerbildung Maturitätsschulen (LLBM)

Kantonsschulstrasse 3

8001 Zürich

Tel. 044/634 66 55

✉ [sekretariat.llbm@ife.uzh.ch](mailto:sekretariat.llbm@ife.uzh.ch)

Dr. Itta Bauer

Geography Teacher Training

Y25 L08

Winterthurerstr. 190, Universität Irchel, Zürich

Tel. 044/635 51 47

✉ [itta.bauer@geo.uzh.ch](mailto:itta.bauer@geo.uzh.ch)

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As the Teaching Diploma for Upper Secondary Education can only be completed in German, the following information is provided in German.

## 7.1 Geographie als 1. Unterrichtsfach

Als Basis für das Lehrdiplom für Maturitätsschulen mit Geographie als Monofach (sie unterrichten später ausschliesslich Geographie) oder 1. Unterrichtsfach (sie unterrichten daneben ein zweites Unterrichtsfach) dient der Bachelor- und Masterabschluss in Geographie (Bsc in Geographie, resp. MSc in Geographie).

Das Lehrdiplom für Maturitätsschulen kann – muss aber nicht – neben dem Fach Geographie auch in einem 2. Unterrichtsfach (z.B. Geschichte, Biologie, Chemie, Physik, Mathematik) erworben werden. Das 2. Unterrichtsfach kann ein Fach aus der Mathematisch-naturwissenschaftlichen oder der Philosophischen Fakultät sein, **nicht** aber eines aus der wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen Fakultät oder der ETH, insbesondere Sport. Informationen über die Anforderungen können beim Institut für Erziehungswissenschaften bezogen werden. Studierende, welche das Lehrdiplom für Maturitätsschulen in einem 2. Unterrichtsfach erwerben möchten, sollten bereits während dem Bachelorstudium Module im entsprechenden Fach belegen. Weiter muss die Fachdidaktik für das entsprechende 2. Unterrichtsfach besucht werden.

## 7.2 Geographie als 2. Unterrichtsfach

Studierende mit Nebenfach Geographie können Geographie als 2. Unterrichtsfach auswählen, sofern sie auch in ihrem Hauptfach das Lehrdiplom für Maturitätsschulen erwerben. Diese Möglichkeit richtet sich ausschliesslich an Studierende mit einem Hauptfach, welches an Kantonschulen unterrichtet wird (z.B. Geschichte, Biologie, Physik).

Die fachwissenschaftlichen Voraussetzungen für das 2. Unterrichtsfach Geographie umfassen 90 ECTS Credits. Da die Module klar vorgegeben sind, empfiehlt sich eine frühe Planung des Nebenfachs. Die Liste der fachwissenschaftlichen Voraussetzungen ist auf der Website des GIUZ publiziert.

→ <http://www.geo.uzh.ch/de/studium/lehrdiplom.html>

## 8 Varia

### 8.1 Student Society Geography (Fachverein)

The Student Society Geography's primary aim is the protection of the interests of geography students towards the Department. It is close to the University of Zurich Student Association (VSUZH). The Student Society offers the possibility to establish contacts between the students, but it also aims to cooperate with the lecturer as well as with other student societies. The Geoteam organises parties, such as the popular „Geofest“, and launched the „DoBar“ with big with success. For a continued existence and safeguarding of students' interests, students, especially of lower semesters, are always needed and welcome to join!

→ [www.geoteam.uzh.ch](http://www.geoteam.uzh.ch)

✉ [geoteam@geo.uzh.ch](mailto:geoteam@geo.uzh.ch)

Geoscope – the magazine of the Student Society Geography – discusses current issues of studies in geography. An indispensable study companion for everyone who wants to be actively involved with Geography and the University! The editors ensure that an issue is published twice a year.

→ [www.geo.uzh.ch/microsite/geoscope](http://www.geo.uzh.ch/microsite/geoscope)

✉ [geoscope@geo.uzh.ch](mailto:geoscope@geo.uzh.ch)

## 8.2 Libraries

A number of different libraries are available to students, including:

- Main Library of the University of Zurich, Winterthurerstr. 190  
→ [www.hbz.uzh.ch](http://www.hbz.uzh.ch)  
The Library of the Department of Geography is integrated into the Main Library of the University of Zurich.  
→ [www.geo.uzh.ch/de/bibliothek](http://www.geo.uzh.ch/de/bibliothek)
- Zentralbibliothek Zürich, Predigerplatz  
→ [www.zb.uzh.ch](http://www.zb.uzh.ch)
- ETH-Library, ETH-City Campus  
→ [www.library.ethz.ch](http://www.library.ethz.ch)
- Library of Earth Sciences, Sonneggstrasse 5  
→ [www.library.ethz.ch/Bibliothek-Erdwissenschaften](http://www.library.ethz.ch/Bibliothek-Erdwissenschaften)
- Schweizerisches Sozialarchiv, Stadelhoferstrasse 12  
→ [www.sozialarchiv.ch](http://www.sozialarchiv.ch)

## 8.3 Important University Information Offices

*Student Administration Office (Kanzlei)*

University Main Building, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich, room E 8

Tel. 044/634 22 17, Mail: [kanzlei@uzh.ch](mailto:kanzlei@uzh.ch)

Opening hours: Monday - Friday: 9.30-12.30 o'clock

→ <https://www.uzh.ch/cmssl/en/studies/dates/adresses.html>

*Student Affairs Office, Faculty of Science (MNF)*

University Irchel, room 10-G-23

Tel. 044/635 40 07, Mail: [diplom@mnf.uzh.ch](mailto:diplom@mnf.uzh.ch)

Opening hours: Tue / Thu: 10.00-12.30 / 13.45-16.15,

Wed: 10.00-12.30 (mornings only during semester holidays)

→ [www.mnf.uzh.ch](http://www.mnf.uzh.ch)

*Psychological Counselling Service*

Plattenstrasse 28, 8032 Zürich

Tel. 044/634 22 80, Mail: [pbs@ad.uzh.ch](mailto:pbs@ad.uzh.ch)

Appointments by arrangement, also during semester holidays. Consultations are free of charge and strictly confidential.

→ [www.pbs.uzh.ch](http://www.pbs.uzh.ch)

*Advisory Centre for Grants and Loans*

University Main Building, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich, room KOL E10

Tel. 044/634 22 04, Mail: [studienfinanzierung@ad.uzh.ch](mailto:studienfinanzierung@ad.uzh.ch)

Opening hours: Tue - Fr: 10.00-12.30. Appointments by arrangement.

→ [www.studienfinanzierung.uzh.ch/index.html](http://www.studienfinanzierung.uzh.ch/index.html)

*International Relations Office (Exchange Programs)*

University Main Building, Rämistr. 71, 8006 Zürich, room KOL E 17

Tel. 044/634 41 57, Mail: [international@int.uzh.ch](mailto:international@int.uzh.ch)

Opening hours: Mo - Fr: 9.30 - 12.30 or by arrangement

→ [www.int.uzh.ch/contact.html](http://www.int.uzh.ch/contact.html)

*Academic Sports Association Zurich (ASVZ)*

Secretary and information desk: Polyterrasse ETH,

Tel. 044/632 42 10, Mail: [info@asvz.ethz.ch](mailto:info@asvz.ethz.ch)

September-Mai: Monday - Friday 10.00 - 16.00 / Thursday 10.00 - 19.00

June-August: Monday - Friday 10.00 - 14.00 o'clock

→ [www.asvz.ch](http://www.asvz.ch)

*Accommodation Agency*

Accommodation (rooms and flats) service for students, lecturers and employees of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich

Sonneggstrasse 27, 8092 Zürich

Tel. 044/632 20 37, Mail: [zimmervermittlung@ethz.ch](mailto:zimmervermittlung@ethz.ch)

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday - Fr 11.00 - 13.00 o'clock

→ [www.wohnen.ethz.ch](http://www.wohnen.ethz.ch)

*Studentische Wohngenossenschaft (Woko)*

Sonneggstrasse 63, 8006 Zürich

Tel. 044/632 42 90, Mail: [woko@woko.ch](mailto:woko@woko.ch)

Opening hours: Monday - Thursday 11.00 - 15.00 o'clock

Phone hours: Monday - Thursday 9.00 - 13.00 o'clock

→ [www.woko.ch](http://www.woko.ch)

*Employment Agency*

→ [www.uzh.ch/cmssl/en/studies/studentlife/vacancies.html](http://www.uzh.ch/cmssl/en/studies/studentlife/vacancies.html)

*Other useful links*

→ [www.students.ch/jobs](http://www.students.ch/jobs)

→ [www.marktplatz.uzh.ch](http://www.marktplatz.uzh.ch) (also for rooms and flats)

*Career Services*

Hirschengraben 60, 8001 Zürich

Tel. 044/634 21 53 or 54 or 62

→ [www.careerservices.uzh.ch](http://www.careerservices.uzh.ch)

## 8.4 Geographisch-Ethnographische Gesellschaft Zürich (GEGZ)

This section is about the Geographical-Ethnological Society in Zurich. They offer different field trips and lectures on geographical issues. As they are mainly held in German, this section is written in German.

Die GEGZ sieht sich als Bindeglied zwischen Hochschule und Öffentlichkeit. Ihr Hauptanliegen ist es, durch Fachvorträge zu verschiedenen aktuellen Leitthemen und durch Exkursionen im In- und Ausland, wissenschaftliche Forschungsergebnisse in verständlicher Form zugänglich zu machen. Die aktuell rund 400 Mitglieder zählende GEGZ umfasst junge Geographiestudierende sowie aktive und ehemalige Geographie-Lehrpersonen, Hochschul-Absolventeninnen und -Absolventen und Dozierende verschiedener Fachrichtungen. Die GEGZ pflegt und ermöglicht ein dichtes fachliches und persönliches Netzwerk. Sie ist als Regionalgesellschaft Mitglied der ASG (Association Suisse de Géographie, Verband Geographie Schweiz). Mit der ASG zusammen bildet die GEGZ die Trägerschaft der „Geographica Helvetica“ (Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Geographie). Diese Zeitschrift ist *open access* erhältlich und wird durch ein Herausgeberteam mit Schriftleitung an der Universität Zürich geleitet.

→ [www.geo.uzh.ch/gegz](http://www.geo.uzh.ch/gegz)

→ [www.geographica-helvetica.net](http://www.geographica-helvetica.net)

### *Mitgliedschaft*

Der Mitgliederbeitrag beträgt für Studierende 20 Fr. pro Jahr, für alle anderen Mitglieder 60 Fr. Darin inbegriffen ist die Fachzeitschrift „Geographica Helvetica“, welche vierteljährlich erscheint.

Die Vorträge finden während dem Herbstsemester alle zwei Wochen jeweils am Mittwochabend um 18.15 Uhr im Auditorium D1.2 des Hauptgebäudes der ETH Zürich statt.

