QUESTIONS:

What are the requirements for this Master’s Programme?
What are career opportunities with this Master?
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How to apply to this Master’s Programme & Epos scholarship?
What happens after my application?
What should I do once I’m accepted to the programme?
Applicants must possess a first, higher education qualification (Bachelor’s Degree) in Geography or a related / comparable professionally certified study programme. Out of all higher education qualifications earned (Bachelor’s, Master’s, additional academic coursework, etc.) the majority of the attended courses (reflected in your transcripts with at least 100 credit points) must be related to the three following areas:

1. Human Geography and Social Sciences with a focus on spatial patterns, society, development;
2. Science methodology and empirical research methods;
3. Physical Geography, Geosciences and Environmental Sciences with a focus on Earth System Science.

A strong motivation to contribute to the area of Human Security and management of risks related to Environmental Change is a pre-requisite to study in our Master’s Programme. Applicants should be highly motivated to learn in a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment.

A minimum of 2 years of related professional experience is required only for candidates from developing countries who additionally wish to apply for a scholarship under the Development-Related Postgraduate programmes (Epos) of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Non-native English speaking applicants must prove sufficient proficiency in the English language.

The Master offers good visibility and exposure to international organizations, federal agencies, academic and non-academic research organizations, as well as corporations involved with disaster risk reduction and preparedness, humanitarian aid, international relations, research on climate change, food security, spatial planning, and policy. Opportunities might arise in all of these areas based upon a specific individual’s situation and career goals.

The subject areas listed under “What are the Requirements for the Master” are fundamental to the topics discussed during our lectures. We strongly recommend that you check your university transcript of records to see if you have gained credits from all of those areas before applying. Ideally but not necessarily there should be a good repartition between the areas listed. Any extracurricular activities, study abroad experience, trainings and work experience that are relevant to subject areas of the Master programme are also taken into account for the selection of candidates. This said we cannot make any definitive statements about your eligibility until your application has been submitted and reviewed by our selection committee.

Except for those who studied in a University inside European Union, the applicants should request from the Registrar or Examination Office of their University a European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) overview / transcript of your courses.

If your registrar is unable to provide you with an ECTS overview, any official document that explains the grading system of your University would be accepted instead.
What level of English will be required?

A minimum of a B2 of the CEFER levels is required, C1 level is recommendable. Please note, we require a score from one of the below tests from any candidate who does not speak English as a mother tongue or who is not from a country with English as an official language. Candidates from multilingual countries, where English is one of the official languages spoken who can prove that the majority of their prior education was conducted in English, must submit a certificate from their University referring to the language of instruction and the student’s English language proficiency.

German candidates who acquired English language skills on the level “Leistungskurs Abitur” (5 SWS) must submit any certified document reflecting their attendance in the English classes.

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<tr>
<th>Name of Exam (Abbreviation)</th>
<th>Desired Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>TOEFL Paper</td>
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<td>Cambridge Exam</td>
<td>CAE (at least level B2); CPE</td>
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What happens if I cannot take the language test before the application deadline?

Please check when the next opportunity for any of the approved language test is available and state in your application when you will take the test. A proof of registration for the test needs to be added to the application and results need to be shared as soon as they are available.

How are the candidates selected?

There is a local Numerus Clausus (NC) ruling the programme. The number of students is restricted to 24 per intake. The academic results of the candidate determine his/her position in the shortlist of candidates and influence the decision on a candidate for 51%. The NC varies with the pool of candidates. Other programme specific criteria (i.e. the candidate’s ability to express thoughts on a scientific level, the candidate’s motivation, career aspirations and personal fit) will be examined based on the application file and will in addition be assessed in a telephone interview. The interview counts for 49% in the decision process.

Do I have to do an internship during the master?

An internship for at least 8 weeks is a compulsory part of the programme. The official internship period starts in the 3rd semester. Many organizations do not offer internships shorter than 3 months. It is at the students’ choice as to where to do an internship, important is that the experience gained is thematically related to their Master’s studies.

Can I apply for the summer semester?

NO. There is just one programme intake per year for this Joint Master Programme starting with the Winter Semester, usually in early October.
CAN I STUDY PART-TIME/ONLINE/REMOTELY?

NO. Our Master’s Programme is a full-time, two year curriculum and requires the students to attend their classes personally.

HOW MUCH ARE THE TUITION FEES?

There is no tuition fees for our Master’s course. However, both Institutions (Uni Bonn and UNU) claim a contribution to cover the costs for transport, excursions and events. The contribution for Bonn University per semester = about 280 EUR (including public transport for the entire NRW region). The contribution for UNU EHS per semester (for semesters 1-3) = 100 EUR (no semester contribution is required for the fourth semester).

How much are the costs of living in Germany?


WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DAAD EPOS SCHOLARSHIP?

The Joint Master Programme is part of a selected group of international postgraduate programmes that benefit from funding through the Development-Related Postgraduate Courses of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) called Epos. Candidates should apply for funding via master-georisk@ehs.unu.edu when submitting the full application package for the Master’s application. They should add the DAAD application form and a motivation letter with reference to the current occupation for the Epos programme participation (please check the How to apply to this Master’s Programme & Epos scholarship? for further details).

Eligible candidates should fill the following requirements in addition to the Master’s programme requirements:

- being a candidate from an eligible Developing Country (check the list on DAAD website);
- having at least 2 years of practical work experience after the Bachelor’s and before applying for Epos programme (i.e. with an NGO, GO, or the private sector);
- having graduated from their Bachelor not more than 5 years ago;
- having completed no other Master in a similar field of studies;
- wishing to apply the post-Master knowledge in career as practitioner (not in an academic area/PHD) further contributing to development;
- being ready to fully commit to start with the Joint Master Programme once accepted by Joint Master’s selection committee and for funding through Epos.

The selection process for the Epos funding among shortlisted candidates will happen between February and April each year. Candidates that do not fulfill the Epos requirements but wish to benefit from financial support during their studies are invited to apply individually and early to other available funding programmes in Germany. A list of available programmes can be found on the DAAD website.
HOW TO APPLY TO THIS MASTER’S PROGRAMME & EPOS SCHOLARSHIP?

Please read carefully the requirements below and compile your application accordingly. If you are eligible for the DAAD Epos scholarship and wish to apply for funding, send us the scholarship application package along with the one for the Master’s Programme. Kindly check your documents thoroughly before submitting your application/s.

I. A COMPLETE MASTER’S APPLICATION PACKAGE MUST INCLUDE:

1. **Master’s Programme application form** (signed and dated)

2. **Motivation statement** (signed and dated!)
   * A written statement, about 1 page in length, describing student’s motivation, area of proposed research, background, past work in the intended field of study, plans for further postgraduate study and any other relevant info. Applicants who are currently registered in a postgraduate programme at another university should explain why they wish to change programmes.

3. **CV / Résumé** (signed and dated!)
   * An up to date Résumé or CV including a chronological listing of employment and other significant activities must be submitted with your application. **Make sure your CV information corresponds precisely to the certificates and letters of recommendation attached to your application!**

4. **Bachelor’s and, if applicable, Master’s Transcript of Academic Records** (signed and dated) reflecting the courses and grades achieved per each year and semester
   * Applicants must submit an official transcript from each college or university in which they were enrolled for any period of time, showing all courses, grades and degrees received;
   * Only transcripts that have been certified by the university where the degree was awarded will be accepted;
   * Additional Certified Transcripts in cases where additional academic credits were earned outside of Degrees awarded, or in case of courses attended within exchange programmes (i.e. Erasmus, student exchange etc.);
   * In cases where the transcript is written in any other language than English, a certified translation of the transcript into English is also required. Translated versions can be certified either by the originating university or an official national or international institution.

5. **Bachelor’s and, if applicable, Master’s Degree Certificate** in English

6. **Certificate of English** language proficiency (please check the language requirements)

7. **Academic work** (in English; max. 6 000 characters including space and annotations)
   * In order to assess your academic writing skills, an academic paper work e.g. one of the following, is required:
     - any academic writings (Essay, Research paper, published academic article etc.) written as part of the fulfillment of your university studies;
     - an Essay related to GeoRisk topic;
     - Bachelor’s Thesis or its extract.

8. **Recommendation letters** from your current and/or previous lecturers (these must be signed, dated, stamped, and on a letterhead); any other relevant documents
NOTE! The application for the DAAD EPOS scholarship must be submitted along with the application for the Master’s Programme. The scholarship application alone will not be considered. Both, the Master’s and the scholarship application must be submitted in a pdf document each (more info below).

II. A COMPLETE DAAD EPOS APPLICATION PACKAGE MUST INCLUDE:

1. DAAD EPOS application form signed and dated

2. Motivation statement* signed and dated
   * A written statement, about 1 page in length, describing student’s motivation, background, past work in the intended field of study, future career aspirations and any other relevant info. Applicants who are currently registered in a postgraduate programme at another university should explain why they wish to change programmes.
   * Feel free to compile one motivation letter for both, the Master and EPOS scholarship, and attach it to both or your application packages.

3. CV / Résumé signed and dated*
   * An up to date Résumé or CV including a chronological listing of employment and other significant activities must be submitted with your application. Make sure your CV information corresponds precisely to the certificates and letters of recommendation attached to your application!

4. Bachelor’s and, if applicable, Master’s Transcript of Academic Records* reflecting the courses and grades achieved per each year and semester
   * Applicants must submit an official transcript from each college or university in which they were enrolled for any period of time, showing all courses, grades and degrees received;
   * Only transcripts that have been certified by the university where the degree was awarded will be accepted;
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   * In cases where the transcript is written in any other language than English, a certified translation of the transcript into English is also required. Translated versions can be certified either by the originating university or an official national or international institution.

5. Bachelor’s and, if applicable, Master’s Degree Certificate in English

6. Certificate of English language proficiency (check the language requirements)

7. Academic Recommendation Letter/s from your current and/or previous lecturers; these must be signed, recently dated, stamped, and on a letterhead

8. Professional Recommendation Letter/s from your current and/or previous employers; these must be signed, recently dated, stamped, and on a letterhead

9. Work certificate/s* from your current and/or previous employers
   * Must reflect the period of the mandatory min. 2 years professional experience after Bachelor’s studies;
   * These must mention the period of employment, must be signed, dated, stamped, and on a letterhead;
   * Your certificates must correspond chronologically to the info reflected in your CV/Résumé.
**IMPORTANT:** In order to apply for our programme, please fill in the following online application: [https://mscgeoriskonline2020.questionpro.eu](https://mscgeoriskonline2020.questionpro.eu), and send us your documents via e-mail.

Please make sure that the information provided in the online form is **accurate**! The provided data will be directly entered in our Application Database and will be used for your assessment during the Selection Process. You can submit the **online application form** only once! Please make sure that your application packet/s is/are complete and correspond/s to our requirements.

The application must be submitted in 2 (if applying for Epos, in 3) PDF files including the required (merged) documents accordingly:

1. Master’s Programme application packet
2. Academic work
3. Epos scholarship application packet (if applying).

Each file **should not exceed 8 Megabytes (MB)**. Send your application packet/s exclusively online to:

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master-georisk@ehs.unu.edu
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Only digital versions sent via email will be accepted. **We do not accept applications sent via post.** Completed application packets must be received by the **application deadline = December 15th**, at 23:59 CET (Central European Time) for Bonn, Germany.

**FURTHER QUESTIONS:**

a) **Do I have to fill out the application form electronically, or could I fill it out by hand?**

Preferably electronically, but by hand is acceptable as long as it’s readable. It is imperative that the application form is signed.

b) **Can I apply even though I have not completed my final Bachelor’s examination or did not receive my Bachelor’s Certificate by the application deadline?**

Yes. If you are going to finish your Bachelor studies shortly after the application deadline you can apply with your current transcripts and hand in your final transcripts and Bachelor’s certificate as soon as you receive them. If you are accepted into the programme you must also present your original Bachelor’s/Master’s certificate on the day of your enrolment.

c) **Do I have to provide a letter of recommendation?**

Although not obligatory (except for Epos funding), it is highly advisable to attach one or several recommendation letters to your application.
d) Do I need to provide originals of my documents?
Please do not send any originals to us via post! Only send scanned copies of your originals. If you are accepted into the programme, you will be required to present your original certificates on the day of your enrolment.

e) When is the application deadline?
December 15th, for the semester start in October of the same year. Application process usually opens in November each year.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY APPLICATION?

Once the application is submitted, each applicant receives an automatic message confirming receipt of the application from the Joint Master E-mail account. If the application package is incomplete, the applicant will be required to provide additional documents.

If the application package is complete and an applicant fulfills the application requirements, he/she is shortlisted as a potential candidate for the programme. As the programme is ruled by a local Numerus Clausus the candidate’s academic results will determine the position within the shortlist.

Eligible candidates for the Epos funding programme will be shortlisted and submitted to the German Academic Exchange (DAAD). The DAAD selection committee will be in touch with individual candidates for their nomination, requesting additional uploads into their online system and the final confirmation of acceptance into the funding programme (as of April).

If the candidate has not been granted the EPOS scholarship yet is fulfilling the Master’s requirements, the candidate is still eligible for a place as a self-funded student in our programme.

Skype/Telephone interviews
Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview in order to understand the student’s academic and professional background, motivation, career aspirations and personal fit for the Joint Master. These interviews will happen between February and April each year.

When will the University inform about acceptance and rejections?
The expected timing is between mid-April and mid-May for the majority of candidates, for German nationals usually before the end of July.

WHAT SHOULD I DO ONCE I’M ACCEPTED TO THE PROGRAMME?

After being accepted in our Master’s Programme, our team will get in contact with the candidates providing further info and instructions. Accepted candidates should consider the following additional aspects:

The admission cannot be deferred to next year.
If you are accepted, but you are not able to start your studies in the upcoming semester your place will be extended to candidates from waiting lists and you will have to re-apply.

Apply for a visa/residence permit
Please check on the following website if you need a visa to enter Germany:
Before applying for a visa a proof of English proficiency might be necessary. Each Consular Service might be asking for a different level of English in order to grant your visa application. Please check with the representatives of the German embassy in your country and make your arrangements accordingly.

**Find accommodation**
You will need to apply for accommodation once you are admitted to the programme. There will be three ways to secure your accommodation:
- Register with Uni Bonn International Office’s group booking (for international candidates only/more info in the admission documents)
- Register individually at [http://www.studentenwerk-bonn.de/wohnen/online-bewerbung/](http://www.studentenwerk-bonn.de/wohnen/online-bewerbung/)
- Try to find accommodation independently. A list of options will be provided to the admitted students. Please note that Bonn is very popular for students and it remains difficult every year to find a suitable room.

**Other specifics you have to take into consideration:**
- **Bank:** You have to open a German bank account. Many banks offer free student accounts.
- **Blocked account:** In order to prove your financial security, some German embassies require students to open a blocked bank account with one of the German banks. It is required to have a minimum amount of 12 months’ average living expenses (roughly 8000 Euros) in your blocked account with a maximum that you can withdraw every month.
- **Health insurance:** You have to register with a German Health insurance company as a student in Germany. Health coverage from some EU countries might be accepted, depending on the insurance schemes and coverage.
- **General information for living and studying/working in Germany**
  [https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/02-lernen-und-arbeiten](https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/einreiseundaufenthalt/02-lernen-und-arbeiten)