



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-EHS**

Institute for Environment  
and Human Security

UNIVERSITÄT **BONN**

## Call for Applications: Master of Science Programme "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security"

**Application Period: 15 September – 15 December.**

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Master of Science  
Geography of  
Environmental Risks  
and Human Security**

What are the requirements for this Master's Programme?

What are career opportunities with this Master's?

How can I check if I meet the requirements?

What level of English will be required?

How are the candidates selected?

Do I have to do an internship during the Master's?

Can I apply for the summer semester?

Can I study part-time / remotely?

How much are the tuition fees?

Do I need to submit original documents?

What if I have not completed my Bachelor's yet?

What are the requirements for the DAAD EPOS scholarship?

How to apply to this Master's Programme & EPOS scholarship?

What happens after my application?

Can I defer my application in case I am admitted?

Where can I find general information on studying in Germany?

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS MASTER'S?

Applicants must possess a first higher education qualification (Bachelor's degree or equivalent) in Geography or a related/relevant field. Out of all achieved academic performances (Bachelor's, Master's, additional coursework, etc.), the majority of attended courses (as reflected in your transcripts) 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.

**Note:** *The programme is not targeted at graduates in Engineering-related subjects. Likewise, graduates in International Relations or similar subjects cannot be considered unless their profile relates strongly to the field of environmental risks. Current PhD students or PhD holders cannot be considered.*

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

## WHAT ARE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THIS MASTER'S?

The Master's offers great 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, and international relations. Moreover, participants engage with research on climate change, food security, spatial planning, & policy. Opportunities may be pursued in all of these areas depending on individual interests and career goals.

## HOW CAN I CHECK IF I MEET THE REQUIREMENTS?

The subject areas listed under "What are the Requirements for this Master's?" are fundamental to the topics discussed during the lectures. Candidates are strongly recommended to check their university transcripts before applying to see if sufficient credits from those areas have been obtained.

**Definitive statements about individual eligibility yet cannot be made until applications have been submitted and reviewed by the selection committee.**

## WHAT LEVEL OF ENGLISH WILL BE REQUIRED?

At minimum, a **B2 level according to the [CEFR](#) levels is required. A C1 level is recommendable.** All applicants need to provide proof of their English language proficiency, except for native speakers from countries specified hereafter: Australia, Canada, Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Candidates from multilingual countries, where English is one of the official languages spoken and who can prove that the majority of their prior education was conducted in English may submit a certificate from their university attesting their language of instruction and the student's English language proficiency.

German candidates who have acquired their English language skills through attending the "Leistungskurs Abitur" (5 SWS) may provide documentation proving their course completion as a substitute to the certificates below.

Examination	Minimum Score	Examination	Minimum Score
TOEFL Paper	550	IELTS	6.5
TOEFL IBT	79	Cambridge Exam	CAE (≥ B2); CPE
TOEFL CBT	213	telc	B2 – C1

### What happens if I cannot take the language test before the application deadline?

Please register for one of the approved language tests at the next available opportunity and attach proof of your registration to your application. Your test results must then be shared with us once available.

## HOW ARE THE CANDIDATES SELECTED?

**The number of students per intake is limited.** Admission to the programme is thus restricted through a local Numerus Clausus (NC). Applicants' academic results and further programme-specific criteria (e.g. the candidate's ability to express thoughts on a scientific level, the candidate's motivation, career aspirations and personal fit) are taken into consideration during the shortlisting and selection process.

<b>DO I HAVE TO DO AN INTERNSHIP DURING THE MASTER'S?</b>	Students need to conduct a mandatory study internship of at least 8 weeks at an institution of their choice in their 3 <sup>rd</sup> study semester. The internship must be clearly related to the contents of the Master's programme. Students are supported with their internship search, yet are <b>not</b> placed into their internships.
<b>CAN I APPLY FOR THE SUMMER SEMESTER?</b>	<b>No.</b> The Joint Master's programme has an annual intake starting in accordance with the German winter semester, i.e. usually in early October.
<b>CAN I STUDY PART-TIME/REMOTELY?</b>	<b>No.</b> Our Master's programme is a full-time, two-year degree course. Students need to be present in Bonn, Germany to attend their classes.
<b>HOW MUCH ARE THE TUITION FEES?</b>	<p>There are <b>no tuition fees</b> for our Master's course.</p> <p>However, so-called <b>semester contribution fees</b> are to be made to the University of Bonn (approx. 310€ for each semester, including the local transportation ticket) as well as to UNU (100€, for the first three semesters only).</p> <p><i>How much are the costs of living in Germany?</i> Regarding living expenses in Bonn/Germany in general, please be referred to the following pages <a href="#">here</a> and <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>DO I NEED TO SUBMIT ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS?</b>	<b>No,</b> please do not submit any original documents for your application. Only digital copies will be required. In case of admission into the programme, you will be required to present your original certificates at the beginning of your studies for verification.
<b>WHAT IF I HAVE NOT COMPLETED MY BACHELOR'S YET?</b>	If you are going to finish your Bachelor's studies only after the application deadline, you can apply with your current transcripts, and then hand in your final transcripts and Bachelor's certificate as soon as you receive them. As a general requirement, you will need to have finished your current programme before the start of the Master's.
<b>WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY APPLICATION?</b>	<p><b>Formally complete applications are assessed for their academic eligibility.</b> Suitable applicants are shortlisted and invited for an interview in February or March for further assessment of their academic and professional background, motivation, career aspirations and overall fit for the Joint Master's programme.</p> <p><b>Eligible candidates for the EPOS funding programme</b> will be shortlisted and submitted to the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for their consideration. If candidate has not been granted a DAAD EPOS scholarship yet has been selected for programme admission, they may choose to participate in the programme as a self-funded student.</p>
<b>CAN I DEFER MY ACCEPTANCE IN CASE ADMITTED?</b>	Admission <b>cannot</b> be deferred to the following year. In case you are accepted yet are unable to commence your studies in the upcoming semester, your place will be offered to the next candidate on the waiting list, and you will need to re-apply.
<b>WHERE CAN I FIND INFO ON STUDYING IN GERMANY?</b>	For general information on studying in Germany (e.g. visa requirements, finding accommodation, cost of living etc.), please be referred to <a href="#">Study-In.de</a> , as well as the <a href="#">DAAD's Study and Research website</a> .

# DAAD DAAD DEVELOPMENT-RELATED POSTGRADUATE COURSES (EPOS) SCHOLARSHIP

## WHAT ARE THE EPOS SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS?

This Joint Master's is part of a select group of international postgraduate degrees that benefit from the EPOS funding scheme offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). A number of fully-funded scholarships can be offered to students from developing countries through this scheme.

The current call for applications and necessary application documents for the scholarship for an EPOS study program can be found on the [DAAD's website here](#).

Eligible candidates should fulfil the following requirements in addition to the general eligibility criteria:

- Being a candidate from an eligible developing country (check the [list](#) on DAAD [website](#));
- Having accumulated at least two years of relevant work experience **since graduation from the Bachelor's by the time of application** (e.g. with an NGO, GO, or the private sector);
- Having graduated from the last academic degree no longer than 6 years ago by the time of application;
- Having completed no other Master's degree in a similar field of studies;
- Aiming to pursue a career as a practitioner in the field of development following graduation from the Master's programme (not in an academic area/not aiming to pursue a PhD);
- Being ready to commit fully to the Joint Master's degree in case accepted for the programme and a DAAD EPOS scholarship.

Students wishing to be considered for these scholarships need to attach the additionally required documents (DAAD application form, professional references, work certificates) (see [Applications](#) section) to their application package. Programme admission does **not** guarantee being awarded a DAAD EPOS scholarship.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR THIS MASTER'S PROGRAMME & THE DAAD EPOS SCHOLARSHIP?

**IMPORTANT:** In order to apply for our programme, please

1. read the information above as well as on our [website](#) thoroughly,
2. submit the [online application form](#),
3. gather the required documents (incl. the academic writing sample) precisely as explained below,
4. rename the merged application documents' file as *[your last name.your first name].pdf*,
5. and send your application documents via e-mail to [master-georisk@ehs.unu.edu](mailto:master-georisk@ehs.unu.edu).

The following documents need to be submitted via email as one PDF package, **not exceeding 8MB** in size, and in this exact order. The sample of your academic work must be attached as a separate file, if necessary in a separate email. Incomplete documents, late, as well as paper applications sent via post will not be considered.

**Note:** All documents need to be submitted as scans in PDF format. Smartphone pictures in PDF format will not be accepted. To combine, arrange, and compress your PDF application package, use freely available software.

Please make sure that your provided information is accurate!

The [online application](#) can only be submitted once!

Completed application packages must be received by the **application deadline on 15 December at 23:59 CET** (Central European Time / Bonn, Germany).

## A COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKAGE MUST INCLUDE:

① Required Documents Must be submitted <u>in this exact order</u> :	Formal Requirements All documents must be submitted in English unless indicated otherwise.
<b>1) <a href="#">Online Application Confirmation</a></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>will be sent via email after completing the online application</li> <li><b>sign and date as explained</b>, attach to the application as scan</li> </ul>
<b>2) Motivation Letter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>see the additional information <a href="#">on our website</a></li> <li>min. 1– max. 2 pages, <b>must be dated</b></li> </ul>
<b>3) Recent CV in <a href="#">EUROPASS</a> format in reverse chronological order</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>dates must correspond to attached references <i>precisely</i></li> <li>max. 3 pages, <b>signed and dated</b></li> </ul>
<b>4a) Academic Degree Certificate(s)</b> [Bachelor's or equivalent & Master's if available]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in German or English, otherwise add certified translation</li> <li><b>for EPOS applicants:</b> must be stamped and/or signed by the issuing university on original document.</li> </ul>
<b>4b) Transcript(s) of Records</b> [Bachelor's or equivalent & Master's if available] * if not graduated yet, please see "What if I have not completed my Bachelor's yet?" above.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in German or English, otherwise add certified translation</li> <li><b>must</b> include a current, identifiable total average grade</li> <li><b>must</b> include an overview of the applicable grading system (except for applicants from the German education system)</li> <li>incl. other academic credits, e.g. semesters abroad, summer schools etc.</li> <li><b>for EPOS applicants:</b> must be stamped by the issuing university on original document <b>or</b> sent <i>directly</i> from Registrar's Office to master-georisk[at]jehs.unu.edu.</li> </ul>
<b>5) English Language Proficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>see "What level of English will be required?" above.</li> </ul>
<b>6) Academic Reference(s)</b> (Recommended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optional, max. two references by former university lecturers</li> <li>in German or English, otherwise add certified translation</li> <li>recent, dated, stamped, signed &amp; must contain a letterhead</li> </ul>
<b>7) Copy of Passport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>page displaying your name and personal information.</li> </ul>
<b>8) Other Relevant References</b> (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e.g. internships, previous employments, trainings, volunteering; at maximum three references, (for <b>EPOS applicants</b>, see below)</li> <li>as stated in online application, <b>do not</b> include school certificates</li> </ul>
<b>9) Only for applicants from China, Vietnam and India:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>scan of your APS Certificate.</li> </ul>
<b>Additionally, <i>if</i> applying for a DAAD EPOS scholarship:</b> <b>Important:</b> Read all information provided by the DAAD <a href="#">here</a> thoroughly.	
<b>10) DAAD EPOS Checklist</b> (from <a href="#">DAAD EPOS website</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>must be signed and dated on page 2 as indicated: <i>Location &amp; Date of Signature, Name, Signature</i></li> </ul>
<b>11) DAAD Application Form</b> (from <a href="#">DAAD EPOS website</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>must state all EPOS programmes applied for (page 2)</li> <li>must be filled in typed, <u>not</u> by hand, <b>must be dated</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>12) Scholarship Motivation Letter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>min. 1 – max. 2 pages, <b>must be dated</b>.</li> <li>may build on the above 2) Motivation Letter, however</li> <li>must additionally include all aspects indicated in the additional information provided <a href="#">on our website</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>13) Professional Reference from Current Employer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recent, dated, stamped, signed &amp; must contain a letterhead</li> <li>issued by employer / supervisor / HR department</li> <li>in German or English, otherwise add certified translation</li> <li>may substitute work certificate if fulfilling criteria (see below)</li> </ul>
<b>14) Work Certificate(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>only</b> relevant, postgraduate work experience accepted</li> <li><b>must</b> state duration <i>to the day</i>, i.e. dd.mm.yyyy – dd.mm.yyyy</li> <li><b>must</b> be issued by a person authorized to do so</li> <li><b>must</b> in total amount to <u>at least two years</u> of documented experience by time of application. Work experience gathered after the application deadline cannot be counted.</li> <li>also: dated, stamped, signed &amp; must contain a letterhead.</li> </ul>
<b>② Additionally, to be submitted as a <u>separate</u> PDF:</b>	
<b>+ Sample of Academic Work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>in English</b>, see the additional information <a href="#">on our website</a>.</li> <li>must include a declaration of authenticity.</li> </ul>