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UNU-EHS

Institute for Environment
and Human Security



Call for Applications: Master of Science Programme "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" (intake 2021)

Application Period: 15 September – 15 December, 2020.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

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WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS MASTER?

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.

A strong motivation to contribute to the area of human security and management of risks related to environmental change is a prerequisite to study in this Master's programme. Applicants should be highly motivated to learn in a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment.

All applicants need to provide proof of their English language proficiency as outlined below, except for native speakers from an Anglo-Saxon country. Having studied in an English-taught programme is not enough per se.

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 Courses ([EPOS](#)) scheme by the German Academic Exchange Service ([DAAD](#)).

WHAT ARE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THIS MASTER?

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 interest and career goals.

HOW CAN I CHECK IF I MEET THE REQUIREMENTS?

The subject areas listed under "What are the Requirements for this Master?" 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. Extracurricular activities, study abroad

experiences, as well as trainings and work experiences that are relevant to subject areas of the Master's programme are considered in course of the selection process. Definitive statements about individual eligibility yet cannot be made until applications have been the submitted and reviewed by the selection committee.

All submitted transcripts must display the respective course credits awarded for each course, and must contain an overview of the applicable grading system (except for applicants from the German education system).

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 accordingly, except for native speakers from an Anglo-Saxon country. Having studied in an English-taught programme is not enough per se.

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 must submit a certificate from their university attesting their language of instruction and the student's English language proficiency.

German candidates who 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 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 to 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 an interview. The interview accounts for 49% in the decision process.

DO I HAVE TO DO AN INTERNSHIP DURING THE MASTER'S?

Students need to conduct a mandatory study internship of at least 8 weeks at an institution of their choice in their 3rd 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 **not** placed into their internships.

CAN I APPLY FOR THE SUMMER SEMESTER?

No. The Joint Master's programme has an annual intake starting in accordance with the German winter semester, i.e. usually in early October.

CAN I STUDY PART-TIME/REMOTELY?

No. Our Master's programme is a full-time, two-year degree course. Students need to attend their classes in-person.

HOW MUCH ARE THE TUITION FEES?

There are no tuition fees for our Master's course.

However so-called **semester contribution fees** 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).

How much are the costs of living in Germany? Regarding living expenses in Bonn/Germany in general, please be referred to the following pages [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

DO I NEED TO SUBMIT ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS?

Please do not send any originals to us via post! Only send scanned copies of your originals. In case of admission into the programme, you will be required to present your original certificates on the day of your enrolment.

WHAT IF I HAVE NOT COMPLETED MY BACHELOR'S YET?

If you are going to finish your Bachelor's studies only 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. As a general requirement, you will need to have finished your current programme before the start of the Master's.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY APPLICATION?

Formally complete applications are assessed for their academic eligibility. Eligible applicants are shortlisted as potential candidates for the programme. 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 happen between February and April each year.

Eligible candidates for the EPOS funding programme will be shortlisted and submitted to the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for their consideration. If the candidate has not been granted an 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.

CAN I DEFER MY ACCEPTANCE IN CASE ADMITTED?

Admission **cannot** 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 extended to the next candidate on the waiting list; and you will need to re-apply.

WHERE CAN I FIND INFO ON STUDYING IN GERMANY?

For general information on studying in Germany (e.g. visa requirements, finding accommodation, cost of living etc.), please be referred to [Study-In.de](#), as well as the [DAAD's Study and Research website](#).

DAAD DAAD DEVELOPMENT-RELATED POSTGRADUATE COURSES (EPOS) SCHOLARSHIP

WHAT ARE THE EPOS SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS?

The programme is part of a selected group of international postgraduate programmes that benefits 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.

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 last academic degree no longer than 5 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 TO THIS MASTER'S PROGRAMME & 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. and send your application documents via e-mail to 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 academic work must be attached as a separate file. 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 December 15th, 2020 at 23:59 CET** (Central European Time) for 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.
1) Online Application Confirmation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will be sent via email after completing the online application sign and date as explained, attach to application as scan
2) Motivation Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> see the additional notes on our website min. 1– max. 2 pages, signed and dated for EPOS applicants: must explain preferences if applying for more than one EPOS-funded programme
3) Recent CV in EUROPASS format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in reverse chronological order, dates must correspond to attached references <i>precisely</i> max. 3 pages, signed and dated
4a) Academic Degree Certificate(s) [Bachelor's or equivalent & Master's if available]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in German or English, otherwise attach certified translation for EPOS applicants: must be stamped and/or signed by issuing university on original document.
4b) Transcript(s) of Records [Bachelor's or equivalent & Master's if available]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in German or English, otherwise attach certified translation must include overview of applicable grading system (except for applicants from the German education system) include other academic credit such as exchange semesters, summer schools etc. for EPOS applicants: must be stamped by issuing university on original document or sent <i>directly</i> from Registrar's Office to master-georisk[at]ehs.unu.edu.
5) English Language Proficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> see "What level of English will be required?" above
6) Academic Reference(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional, max. three references by former university lecturers in German or English, otherwise attach certified translation recent, dated, stamped, signed & must contain a letterhead for EPOS applicants: must submit min. one academic reference.
7) Copy of Passport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> page displaying your name and personal information
8) Other Relevant References (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e.g. trainings, volunteering; at maximum three references as stated in online application, do not include school certificates
Additionally, <i>if</i> applying for DAAD EPOS scholarship:	
9) DAAD Application Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> must state all EPOS programmes applied for (page 2) must be filled in typed, <u>not</u> by hand, signed and dated
10) Professional Reference(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recent, dated, stamped, signed & must contain a letterhead issued by employer / supervisor / HR department in German or English, otherwise attach certified translation may substitute work certificate if fulfilling criteria (see below)
11) Work Certificate(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> only relevant, postgraduate work experience accepted must state duration <i>to the day</i>, i.e. dd.mm.yyyy – dd.mm.yyyy must be issued by person authorized to do so must in total amount to <u>at least two years</u> of documented experience by time of application also: dated, stamped, signed & must contain a letterhead
② Additionally, to be submitted as a separate PDF within the same email:	
+ Sample of Academic Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> see the additional notes on our website must include a declaration of authenticity