At the end of the course, students will have shown that they can apply their knowledge to conduct a research project, and will have learned how to work independently and within an interdisciplinary research team. The award of the degree requires creativity and reflexivity, as well as the ability to communicate ideas and work both in English and in the student’s native language.

**Integrative, interdisciplinary geography**
Reflecting the diverse team of around 30 researchers at our Unit of Geography, the specialised master’s course in Nature, Society and Politics is truly integrative and interdisciplinary. Apart from providing integrative training, i.e. with the neighbouring disciplines of the Department: Physical Geography and Environmental Sciences, it also gives students the chance to specialise in topics like political ecology, natural resource management and governance (water, land, re-naturation and landscapes). This approach is a great aid to understanding and assessing complex environmental systems, as well as the relationship between nature, society, and politics. During their master’s studies in Fribourg – and especially while working on their master’s thesis – students may be part of research teams and can participate in on-going national and international research projects. The human dimensions of our diverse Department and the drive of the various research groups provide a supportive, quality environment for all students.

**Structure of classes and lectures**
All teaching is in English. The teaching is structured into four modules and is delivered through a combination of lectures, hands-on methodological courses, seminars, excursions and colloquiums. A field trip is organised every year in one of the teams’ research regions.

1. The **common module** gives a brief overview of conceptual approaches in geography, as well as the current state of research in the fields of climate change, natural hazards and risk management, data collection and analysis methods, and modelling. Three cycles of internal colloquiums offer students a chance to gain more in-depth knowledge on current research topics.
2. The **specialisation module** equips the students with advanced knowledge in the chosen field.
3. A **supporting module** allows students to personalise their study programmes by pursuing courses related to their specialisation. Students can choose from a wide range of courses from the University of Fribourg, as well as other universities. Depending on the student’s prior education and training, the supporting module may also be used to fill in gaps.
4. The **master’s thesis** is carried out under the supervision of a professor and makes up a very substantial part of the programme.

**Career openings**
This programme is intended for motivated students who are interested in pursuing a career in research – e.g. by pursuing a PhD – or in the public or private sector – e.g. in environmental consulting and management, spatial planning and development, administration, public institutions (local, cantonal, federal, international), international organisations such as NGOs or the UN institutions of sustainable development. The **specialised master’s**
degree does not give access to the teacher education for baccalaureate schools (DEEM or LDM) of the University of Fribourg.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies
120 ECTS credits, 4 semesters

Curriculum
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/vBvMa

Admission

Admission to the specialised master is based on the student's dossier, according to the conditions described in the study plan. N.B. Students who have obtained a bachelor's degree in geography, or at least 60 ECTS credits in geography, should choose the master's degree in geography (option Dynamics in Glaciology and Geomorphology or Nature, Society and Politics).

Contact

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