The specialised master’s programme in Nature, Society and Politics is truly integrative and interdisciplinary. Apart from providing students with advanced knowledge in the chosen field, students have 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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