

# **Degree Program and Examination Regulations for the Master's Degree Program M.Sc. Geographies of Global Inequalities in the Department of Earth Sciences at Freie Universität Berlin**

**Disclaimer:** Please note that only the German version of this document is legally binding. This translation is intended for the convenience of the non-German-reading public and is for informational purposes only.

## **Preamble**

On the basis of Section 14.1.1.2 of Freie Universität Berlin's supplemental rules and regulations [*Teilgrundordnung (Erprobungsmodell)*] from October 27, 1998, published in *FU-Mitteilungen* No. 24/1998 (the official bulletin of Freie Universität Berlin), the Department Council (*Fachbereichsrat*) of the Department of Earth Sciences at Freie Universität Berlin issued the following degree program and examination regulations for the master's degree program M.Sc. Geographies of Global Inequalities in the Department of Earth Sciences on November 30, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

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## **Section 1 Scope**

These regulations define the objectives, content, and structure of the master's degree program M.Sc. Geographies of Global Inequalities in the Department of Earth Sciences at Freie Universität Berlin. These regulations apply in conjunction with Freie Universität Berlin's guiding regulations for degree programs and examinations (*Rahmenstudien- und -prüfungsordnung*, RSPO), as they outline the requirements and processes necessary to complete coursework and assessments toward successful completion of a master's degree program.

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<sup>1</sup> The Executive Board of Freie Universität Berlin approved these regulations on January 20, 2023.

## **Section 2 Learning Objectives**

(1) Graduates of this degree program demonstrate an awareness of the topics, debates, and concepts of human geography. They are familiar with critical social science theory on the spatialization and the analysis of global inequalities. Graduates of this degree program are qualified to work in research fields focusing on geographies of global inequalities and have thematic specializations in areas such as mobility and migration, human-environment relations, crisis research, or poverty research. Students who have completed the degree program have gained insight into the main theories, concepts, and issues of the field, have acquired knowledge of qualitative and ethnographic social research, and are able to independently put this knowledge into practice when carrying out empirical research. They have obtained advanced, in-depth knowledge of selected theories and concepts in specialized seminars, allowing them to engage with a range of research approaches and issues within the scope of geographic inequalities. They are familiar with the fundamental methods of qualitative research in the social sciences and, within the scope of their master's thesis, have selected their own research topic, designed a research project, and carried out empirical research. Graduates are aware of the foundations and general principles of academic work and good scientific practice and are able to apply these from the start of their scholarly activities.

(2) Graduates can quickly and independently familiarize themselves with different topics within geography, and can plan, carry out, and complete geographic projects in a targeted manner. They are able to select the appropriate work methods, instruments, and techniques according to the topic being investigated. Graduates are capable of critically reflecting on their results, and of documenting, presenting, and structuring these results clearly. They can transfer their knowledge to practical fields of application, making use of interdisciplinary knowledge while doing so. When carrying out teamwork, they are able to take on a leadership role, identify the strengths and weaknesses of other members of the group, and distribute tasks in such a way as to encourage quick success. They are able to consciously assess the interpersonal relations of the group and select the most appropriate type of communication required for solving the task at hand. They are able to independently determine potential future developments in their own work and in their work with others, allowing them to act and plan accordingly. They continually develop their knowledge and skills in matters of gender and diversity and actively promote awareness thereof.

(3) Graduates possess the knowledge, skills, and experience they need to take up professional employment. Potential areas of employment include national and international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), think tanks, development and humanitarian organizations, government offices and agencies, associations, organizations, consulting agencies, administration, politics, and multiplication roles within the fields of journalism and the media. Graduates of the master's degree program are qualified to continue on to doctoral study and have proven themselves capable of meeting professional challenges in academia and practice through the application of modern methods.

## **Section 3 Curriculum Contents**

(1) The master's degree program familiarizes students with theoretical concepts, scientific research methods, data analysis techniques, and different ways of interpreting information. The contents of the curriculum are organized and presented in the form of theoretical discussions and practical work. In terms of content, the program lays the foundations for a deeper understanding of the geographies of global inequalities, as well as the theoretical and methodological foundations of human geography. These are addressed through empirical and theoretical work carried out in specialist seminars and research work in four thematic areas within global inequalities: mobility and migration, human-environment relations, crises, and relational poverty research. Courses that improve professional, practical, and project management skills are also offered, as are opportunities for research-based learning. Here, students' abilities to carry out independent scientific work are in the foreground. Acquiring subject-specific theoretical and methodological skills provides students with the ability to make scientifically sound decisions based on the information and data available to them and in alignment with social, scientific, and ethical criteria. Furthermore, students are capable of carrying out independent research and application-oriented projects and can independently inform themselves about complex societal issues. Students also gain knowledge of and experience with the basic tenets of academic and scientific work as well as good scientific practice. Students are supported throughout their studies, as they are introduced to academic and scientific work.

(2) The individual modules that comprise the master's degree program are based on international scientific collections of literature and data, and deal with complex and socially relevant topics. These modules require the student to carry out empirical work, as well as to present subject-specific and interdisciplinary information in English, in groups and individually, and in written, visual, and oral formats. Work carried out in related fields of study allow students to deepen and expand upon their interdisciplinary skills and knowledge. By carrying out an internship, or comparable work as a student assistant, in a development or research-related university or non-university research institute, students gain first-hand insights into possible future careers. This allows students to develop interdisciplinary, linguistic, intercultural, and interpersonal skills, as well as an awareness for gender and diversity issues.

#### **Section 4 General Academic Advising and Departmental Advising**

(1) The Center for Academic Advising and Psychological Counseling at Freie Universität Berlin provides general academic advising for students.

(2) Instructors who teach courses offered in the master's degree program provide departmental advising during their office hours. A student assistant is also available to offer additional advising support. Students are encouraged to attend an advising session when establishing their individual curriculum plan, particularly when selecting the modules in their complementary area.

(3) It is highly recommended that students who have yet to complete at least one third of the required credit points upon reaching the mid-way point of the standard study period for this degree program arrange an appointment for departmental advising to ensure that they are adequately supported in successfully continuing their studies.

#### **Section 5 Examination Board**

The examination board is appointed by the Department Council of the Department of Earth Sciences at Freie Universität Berlin. The board is responsible for organizing examinations and the other tasks stipulated by the framework regulations for degree programs and examinations (RSPO).

#### **Section 6 Standard Time to Degree**

The standard time to degree is four semesters.

#### **Section 7 Structure and Components; Distribution of Credit Points**

(1) In order to complete the master's degree program, students must earn a total of 120 credit points.

The various components of the master's degree program include:

1. Introductory subjects totaling 20 credit points,
2. a core area totaling 25 credit points,
3. a specialization area totaling 10 credit points,
4. an academic and professional practical work area totaling 20 credit points,
5. an interdisciplinary elective area totaling 15 credit points, and
6. a master's thesis, including a presentation of the research outcomes, totaling 30 credit points.

(2) The following modules relating to the foundations of geographies of global inequalities, which must total 20 credit points, are to be completed:

- Module: Introduction to Geographies of Global Inequalities (10 credit points) and
- Module: Geographies of Global Inequalities: Methods and Methodologies (10 credit points).

(3) The core area consists of the following modules and must be completed for a total of 25 credit points:

- Module: Project Work I: Thematic and Methodological Preparation (10 credit points),

- Module: Project Work II: Empirical Research and Data Analysis (7 credit points), and
- Module: Project Work III: Presentation and Discussion (8 credit points).

Within the core area, students have the option to select projects that align with their own interests.

Two projects are offered per academic year – each with a different thematic and/or regional focus.

(4) The specialization area consists of the following modules and must be completed for a total of 10 credit points:

- Module: Advanced Course (Conceptual) (5 credit points) and
- Module: Advanced Course (Thematic) (5 credit points).

(5) The academic and professional practical work area consists of the following modules and must be completed for a total of 20 credit points:

- Module: Internship and Project Management (15 credit points) and
- Module: Good Scientific Practice (5 credit points).

(6) Within the interdisciplinary elective area (15 credit points), students can choose from a selection of modules from across the Department of Earth Sciences, as well as other appropriate interdisciplinary modules. A catalog of modules that may be selected will be made available to students in good time and in a suitable format before the registration period begins. Reference will also be made to the corresponding degree program and examination regulations. Upon request, the examination board may allow modules completed successfully within other areas to be recognized within the degree program.

(7) The module descriptions in Appendix 1 provide information on the prerequisites, the contents and learning objectives, the modes of instruction, the workload, the different types of active participation, the various assessments that students must take during the program, information on participation requirements in the different modes of instruction, the standard duration, and how often courses are offered. Please refer to the respective degree program and examination regulations for the specific degree programs at Freie Universität Berlin for more information on the interdisciplinary modules from the required elective area.

(8) Appendix 2 is a standard curriculum plan for completing the master's degree program.

## **Section 8 Modes of Instruction**

(1) The following modes of instruction will be offered as part of the curriculum:

1. Lectures (V) impart to students an overview of an overarching subject area and its methodical and/or theoretical foundations, as well as knowledge regarding a specific topic and related research questions where applicable. They thus serve to provide wider context for the subject area and outline its theoretical foundations. The main mode of instruction is a presentation prepared by the instructor. Students are also provided with the opportunity for interaction and group exercises.

2. Seminars (S) convey knowledge on a clearly defined subject area and teach students the skills of independently researching an issue, presenting the results, and discussing the subject using critical thinking. The main modes of instruction and learning are seminar discussions based on the provided learning materials, preparatory reading of specialist literature and sources, and group work.

3. Teaching research projects (LFP) are designed for students to combine their theoretical knowledge with methodological expertise, allowing them to gain experience in research. They develop the ability to independently conduct empirical experiments. The main mode of instruction is intensive collaboration between instructors and small study groups.

4. Advanced seminars (HS) provide students with a chance to engage intensively with a defined area of study and to gain practice in carrying out independent academic work. These courses primarily consist of seminar discussions guided by readings of specialist literature and sources, as well as

presentations that the students prepare on their own and in which they present their findings from the assigned readings, orally and/or in writing. The level of independent study is significantly higher than in a regular seminar.

5. Textual analysis courses (LK) promote students' ability to independently read, analyze, and interpret complete academic texts, and provide techniques for independently strengthening reading skills and working with large corpora of texts. In these courses, students explain the terms used within the texts and carefully map the specific references made to other texts and sources of information.

6. Specialization seminars (VS) provide students with a chance to engage intensively with a defined area of study and to gain practice in carrying out independent academic work. The main modes of instruction and learning are seminar discussions based on the provided learning materials, preparatory reading of specialist literature and sources, written and oral assignments, and group work.

7. Colloquia (Ko) allow students to exchange ideas in a flexible format. They also provide students with the opportunity to present their own current research results in the context of their master's thesis.

8. External internship (eP): An external internship is a set period of time during which practical activities in an organization, a work process, or an institution lead to the deepening of already existing knowledge as well as the acquisition of new knowledge and skills, and the ability to apply these in practice.

(2) The modes of instruction as outlined in Section 8.1 can be implemented through blended learning formats. Blended learning combines on-site education with digital, internet-based media (e-learning). In this context, certain educational activities can be offered through Freie Universität Berlin's central e-learning applications. Students can work on these activities individually or in groups. They can complete them on their own or with the guidance of an instructor. Blended learning can be used both as part of the active learning phase (discussing educational materials, sharing solutions to assignments, vigorous communication between instructors and students) and for follow-up activities (evaluating students' progress, applying and transferring knowledge).

## **Section 9 Master's Thesis**

(1) The master's thesis is intended to demonstrate that a student has the ability to work independently on problems in the field of geographies of global inequalities using relevant research methods and within a specified period of time. They should be able to present their findings in writing and discuss them orally, as well as critically assess them. Students must also be able to present and discuss the results of their master's thesis orally.

(2) Students will be admitted to work on a master's thesis by submitting a request, provided that

1. they were most recently enrolled in a master's degree program at Freie Universität Berlin, and
2. they have successfully completed modules totaling at least 60 credit points in the course of the master's degree program.

(3) The admission request for the master's thesis must be accompanied by proper documentation of the prerequisites listed above under Section 9.2, as well as confirmation from an instructor who is also an authorized examiner that they are willing and able to act as supervisor for the master's thesis. The relevant examination board is responsible for approving requests. If the request does not include confirmation from a supervisor as described above, the examination board will appoint the student a supervisor. The function of supervision is to guide students toward an understanding of and compliance with the rules of good scientific practice in the context of the specific requirements of the given field or subject area.

(4) The examination board assigns the topic of the master's thesis in coordination with the thesis supervisor. The topic and assignment must be designed in such a way as to ensure the work can be completed by the deadline. The function of supervision is to guide students toward an understanding of and compliance with the rules of good scientific practice in the context of the specific requirements of the given field or subject area. Students have the opportunity to propose topics for their thesis; however, there is no guarantee that their proposed topics will be approved. The topic and assignment must be

designed in such a way as to ensure the work can be completed by the deadline. The assignment and compliance with the submission deadline must be documented and kept on file.

(5) The work period for the master's thesis is 25 weeks. This period begins with the date that the topic is assigned by the examination board. The topic can also be declined within the first three weeks of being assigned, in which case it will be deemed not issued.

(6) Students should regularly discuss their progress with their supervisor while working on their master's thesis. The master's thesis should be around 18,000 words in length and written in English.

(7) Students must submit three bound machine-readable copies of their master's thesis as well as an electronic copy in Portable Document Format (PDF) by the stipulated submission deadline. The PDF file must be machine-readable and digitalized. Furthermore, it may not be subject to any rights restrictions. When the student submits their master's thesis, they must include a written statement confirming that they alone are responsible for the content of the thesis and that they only used the sources or references listed in the thesis.

(8) The master's thesis is to be assessed by two authorized examiners appointed by the examination board, one of whom must be the supervisor of the thesis. The grade for the master's thesis is calculated as the arithmetical mean of the grades awarded by the two examiners. The two grades should be submitted to the examination board within eight weeks after the submission of the thesis.

(9) The findings of the master's thesis will be presented and discussed orally. The date of the presentation will be communicated to the student in good time. The presentation should last around 40 minutes, comprising a talk by the student on the findings of the thesis and a subsequent discussion, of around 20 minutes each.

(10) The presentation will be assessed by the two authorized examiners. These must be the same examiners as those who examined the written thesis. The grade for the presentation is calculated as the arithmetical mean of the grades awarded by the two examiners.

(11) The grade awarded for the written master's thesis contributes to five-sixths of the cumulative grade for the master's thesis, with the grade for the oral presentation contributing one-sixth.

(12) The master's thesis is considered passed if the overall grade awarded is "sufficient" (4.0) or higher.

(13) A student's work on a master's thesis elsewhere can be recognized/transferred to Freie Universität Berlin. The recognition request should be submitted to the examination committee. In order for the master's thesis to be recognized, the examination conditions and the assignment of the submitted work must not differ substantially in terms of quality, level, learning outcomes, scope, and profile when compared to the examination conditions and the assignment of a master's thesis completed in this master's degree program, which particularly demonstrates the type of professional qualification this master's degree program provides.

### **Section 10 Electronic (Online) Examinations**

(1) Where examinations take place online, the examination and grading for the examination will take place using digital technologies.

(2) The suitability of the chosen technologies for the purpose of carrying out the electronic examination and completing the examination questions must be determined in advance by two examiners.

(3) The identity of the candidate taking part in the exam and the validity of the examination results must be authenticated. For this purpose, the examination results must be unambiguously identifiable and permanently assignable to the correct student in the digital system. It must be ensured that the electronic data are unchanged and complete for the purposes of grading and verifying the results.

(4) If an examination has been graded automatically via digital means, the student may request that an examiner verifies the result.



## **Section 11 Multiple-Choice Examinations**

- (1) Multiple-choice questions in an examination must be set by two examiners.
- (2) If it becomes clear during the grading of multiple-choice questions that certain questions do not fulfill their purpose of obtaining reliable examination results and do not sufficiently reflect the qualification objectives of the relevant module, the grading process must be adjusted so that the examination candidate is not put at a disadvantage in their examination result.
- (3) An examination in the form of multiple-choice questions is deemed passed if the candidate has achieved at least 50 percent of the possible total points (absolute passing grade), or if the number of points achieved by the student does not fall below the average number of points achieved by all candidates who participated in the examination by more than 10 percent (relative passing grade). If the relative passing grade is used, the candidate must still achieve at least 40 percent of the total possible points in order to pass the examination.
- (4) Multiple-choice examinations must be graded as follows: Where the candidate has achieved the minimum number of points as defined above under Section 11.3, they will be graded according to the following criteria:
  - "very good" for a number of points that totals at least 75 percent more than the required minimum number of points under Section 11.3;
  - "good" for a number of points that totals at least 50 percent, but less than 75 percent, more than the required number of points under Section 11.3;
  - "satisfactory" for a number of points that totals at least 25 percent, but less than 50 percent, more than the required number of points under Section 11.3;
  - "sufficient" for a number of points up to 25 percent more than the required minimum number of points under Section 11.3.

For the grading system, please also refer to the framework regulations for degree programs and examinations (RSPO).

- (5) The grading requirements stipulated in Sections 11.3 and 11.4 above will not be applied where
  1. the examiners who set the questions as described in Section 11.1 are also the examiners responsible for grading the multiple-choice answers, or
  2. the proportion of maximum points achievable in the multiple-choice section makes up no more than 25 percent of the examination as a whole where the examination is only partly in multiple-choice format.

## **Section 11 Retaking Exams and Assessments**

- (1) If a student does not pass their master's thesis, they can attempt the assessment a second time. For all other exams and assessments in the program, they can retake them three times.
- (2) Exams and assessments that receive a grade of "sufficient" (4.0) or better cannot be retaken.

## **Section 12 Study Abroad**

- (1) Students are encouraged to study abroad. While studying abroad, students should enroll in courses that can be recognized within their master's degree program.
- (2) A learning agreement is required in order to study abroad. This is drafted and approved by the student, the chair of the examination board for the degree program, and the responsible office of the host institution abroad. The agreement covers the length of the study abroad period, the courses of study to be completed while studying abroad, which must equate to the courses of the master's degree program in terms of credit points, and the credit points allocated to the completed courses of study. Coursework completed in accordance with this agreement will be recognized.
- (3) The Institute for Geographical Sciences at Freie Universität Berlin supports students in planning and preparing for a period of study abroad.
- (4) The third semester in the program is the most suitable to study abroad, and students are encouraged to study abroad then.

### **Section 13 Degree Completion**

- (1) In order to graduate, students must complete the coursework and assessments outlined in Sections 7 and 9.
- (2) A student is not eligible for graduation if they have definitively failed some coursework or assessment or are involved in a pending examination procedure at another university in the same course of study or in a module that is identical or comparable to one of the modules to be completed in the master's degree program here and that is to be taken into account when determining their overall grade.
- (3) The application request for the award of a degree must be accompanied by documentation showing the student has completed the requirements mentioned in Section 13.1 as well as a guarantee that the applicant is not subject to any of the eligibility restrictions mentioned in Section 13.2. The relevant examination board is responsible for approving the application.
- (4) Upon successful completion of the assessment, the student will receive a Master of Science (M.Sc.) university degree. Students receive a transcript and a degree certificate (Appendices 3 and 4), in addition to a diploma supplement (English and German versions). A degree certificate supplement with details of the individual modules and their components (transcript) is also prepared. Additional English versions of the transcript and degree certificate may be issued upon request.

### **Section 14 Entry into Force**

These regulations enter into force on the day following their publication in *FU-Mitteilungen* (the official bulletin of Freie Universität Berlin).



## **Annex 1) Module Descriptions**

### **Explanations:**

The following module descriptions designate, unless reference is made to other regulations, for each module of the master's degree program

- the name of the module
- the person responsible for the module,
- the prerequisites for access to the respective module,
- contents and qualification goals of the module,
- teaching and learning methods of the module,
- the amount of student work required for the successful completion of a module,
- forms of active participation,
- the forms of examination,
- the obligation of regular attendance,
- the credit points assigned to the modules,
- the standard duration of the module,
- the frequency of the offer,
- the usability of the module.

The information on the time required takes into account in particular

- the active participation within the scope of the attendance study time,
- the working time required for the completion of smaller tasks within the scope of the attendance study time,
- the time for independent preparation and follow-up,
- the processing of study units in the online study phases,
- the immediate preparation time for examination performances,
- the examination time itself.

The time specifications for self-study (including preparation and follow-up work, as well as exam preparation) are guidelines intended to provide students with assistance in organizing their module-related workload in terms of time. The information on the workload corresponds to the number of credit points (abbr. CP) assigned to the respective module, as a unit of measurement for the student workload that must be performed for the successful completion of the module. One credit point corresponds to 30 hours.

Insofar as regular attendance is required for the respective forms of teaching and learning, it is a prerequisite for the acquisition of the credit points assigned to the respective module, in addition to active participation in the forms of teaching and learning and the successful completion of the examinations of a module. Regular participation is deemed to have taken place if at least 85% of the attendance study time provided for in the teaching and learning forms of a module has been attended. If there is no obligation to regularly attend a teaching and learning form of a module, it is nevertheless strongly recommended. The determination of mandatory attendance by the respective lecturer does not pertain to teaching and learning forms for which attendance is merely recommended. In modules in which alternative forms of active participation are provided for, the forms of active participation for the respective semester, which are to be determined according to the student workload, are to be determined by the responsible teacher at the latest in the first course session.

For each module, the corresponding module examination must be taken (if a module examination is applicable). Assessed modules are completed with only one examination (module examination). The module examination is related to the qualification objectives of the module and tests the achievement of the module's objectives in an exemplary manner. The scope of the examination is limited to what is necessary for this purpose. In modules in which alternative forms of examination are provided for, the form of examination for the respective semester is to be determined by the responsible teacher at the latest in the first course session.

The active and, if mandatory, regular participation in the teaching and learning forms as well as the successful completion of the examinations of a module are prerequisites for the acquisition of the credit points assigned to the respective module. In the case of modules without module examinations, active and regular participation in the teaching and learning forms is a prerequisite for the acquisition of the credit points assigned to the respective module.

## Basic Modules

<b>Module:</b> Introduction to Geographies of Global Inequalities				
<b>University/Department:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/Earth Sciences/Geographical Sciences				
<b>Module Responsibility:</b> Lecturer of the Module				
<b>Admission requirements:</b> None				
<b>Qualification Goals:</b> Students are familiar with theories and practices of social science studies on global inequalities. These represent the starting point for the in-depth study of theoretical, empirical and application-oriented questions. Students are qualified to independently deal with common concepts for the analysis of global inequalities. Students can successfully complete tasks in teams and present the results appropriately. They can promote the learning process of others, for example through moderation.				
<b>Content:</b> Students will be introduced to topics and concepts in human geography and the social sciences related to the spatialization and analysis of global inequalities and will be introduced to key debates as well as conceptual and disciplinary history. Furthermore, important cross-cutting approaches such as intersectionality, feminist, postcolonial and decolonial approaches are introduced. Thematically, the module introduces the key challenges and issues that shape or are shaped by global inequalities, as well as that contribute to the emergence and perpetuation of global inequalities. Students develop topics under supervision in groups, and present and discuss the results.				
Teaching and Learning Methods	Presence Study (semester hours per week = SWS)	Forms of Active Participation	Workload (hours)	
Lectures	2	–	Presence Time V Preparation and Follow Up V	30 45
Main Seminar	2	Moderation, Presentation, Group Work	Presence Time HS Preparation and Follow Up HS  Exam Preparation and Exam	30 60  135
<b>Module Exam</b>		Term paper (approx. 4 000 words)		
<b>Module Language</b>		English		
<b>Obligation to attend regularly</b>		Lecture: attendance is recommended / Seminar: Yes		
<b>Workload in total</b>		300 hours		10 CP
<b>Module Duration</b>		One semester		
<b>Frequency of Offer</b>		Every winter semester		
<b>Usability</b>		Master's Degree Program Geographies of Global Inequalities		

<b>Module:</b> Geographies of Inequalities: Methods and Methodologies				
<b>University/Department:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/ Earth Sciences/Geographical Sciences				
<b>Module Responsibility:</b> Lecturer of the Module				
<b>Admission Requirements:</b> None				
<b>Qualification Goals:</b> Students understand the scientific-theoretical prerequisites of empirical research on inequalities and are able to comprehend the processes of academic knowledge production. They know social science methods and know how to apply them in relation to concrete research questions. They understand how qualitative, ethnographic, participatory and transdisciplinary methods can be used to reconstruct concrete everyday worlds in which socio-spatial contexts are integrated. Furthermore, students are familiar with contexts and challenges in applying these different methods.				
<b>Content:</b> In this module, the scientific and epistemological foundations of social science research are taught and reflected upon in the context of questions of human geography research on global inequalities. The basic epistemic assumptions and the theoretical and conceptual foundations of methods in various scientific disciplines and methodological approaches, as well as potential fields of application in research and practice, are taught. A particular focus is placed on practical methods of data collection and analysis, as well as on the development of an exemplary research design. Methods are practiced in small groups using empirical questions, and under close supervision by the lecturer. Basic principles of research ethics and ethical guidelines are introduced and reflections on ethical questions in students' own research are initiated. This includes principles of good scientific practice, as well as procedures of anonymization of research data and data management. Furthermore, students acquire knowledge in software-supported literature search and management, and are introduced to data analysis programs in the form of practical exercises.				

Teaching and Learning Methods	Presence Study (semester hours per week = SWS)	Forms of Active Participation	Workload (hours)	
Seminar	2	Presentation, Discussion Participation	Presence Time S Preparation and Follow Up S	30 45
Main Seminar	2	Moderation, Discussion Participation	Presence Time HS Preparation and Follow Up HS  Exam Preparation and Exam	30 60  135
Module Exam		Report (approx. 3.000 words); the module examination is not evaluated differentially.		
Module Language		English		
Obligation to attend regularly		Yes		
Workload in total		300 hours		10 CP
Module Duration		One semester		
Frequency of Offer		Every winter semester		
Usability		Master's Degree Program Geographies of Global Inequalities		

### Core Area

<b>Module:</b> Project Work I: Thematic and Methodical Preparation				
<b>University/Department:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/ Earth Sciences/Geographical Sciences				
<b>Module Responsibility:</b> Lecturer of the Module				
<b>Admission Requirements:</b> Successful completion of the module "Introduction to Geographies of Global Inequalities".				
<b>Qualification Goals:</b> Based on their acquired scientific theoretical and methodological competences, students are able to independently develop current questions on global inequalities and – based on the current state of research – transfer them into a sustainable research concept. Students master the basics of good scientific practice as well as research ethics and possess conceptual and methodological expertise through guided and independent scientific work.				
<b>Content:</b> Students prepare a selected project topic in small groups, under the guidance and supervision of the lecturers and on the basis of literature studies, and define a concrete research question. Methodological, ethical and practical research procedures for empirical field research are developed in line with the students' research question and are taken into account and implemented in the research design.				
Teaching and Learning Methods	Presence Study (semester hours per week = SWS)	Forms of Active Participation	Workload (hours)	
Reading Course	2	Presentation and moderation of a class session, conceptual elaboration of the problem analysis on the basis of technical literature	Presence time LK Preparation and follow-up LK	30 60
Advanced Seminar	2	Presentation, conceptual development of methods and empirical approach	Presence time VS Preparation and follow-up VS  Exam preparation and exam	30 60  120
<b>Module Exam</b>		Term Paper (3.000 words) or Investigation Concept (approx. 3.000 words)		
<b>Module Language</b>		English		
<b>Obligation to attend regularly</b>		Yes		
<b>Workload in total</b>		300 hours		10 CP
<b>Module Duration</b>		One semester		
<b>Frequency of Offer</b>		Every winter semester		
<b>Usability</b>		Master's Degree Program Geographies of Global Inequalities		

<b>Module:</b> Project Work II: Empirical Research and Data Analysis				
<b>University/Department:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/ Earth Sciences/Geographical Sciences				
<b>Module Responsibility:</b> Lecturer of the Module				
<b>Admission Requirements:</b> Successful completion of the module "Introduction to Geographies of Global Inequalities".				
<b>Qualification Goals:</b> Students are able to apply the theoretical foundations of empirical research in practice as well as to reflect on the practical research procedure in their own application and, if necessary, to adapt this procedure in consideration of scientific standards. In working with research partners, students can proceed in a diversity-sensitive manner and draw on intercultural competencies in communication and research practice.				
<b>Content:</b> The focus is on the empirical application of theoretical and methodological knowledge in a defined study area in the context of analyzing global inequalities. This includes conducting students' own empirical geographic field research in small groups in a European or non-European country, preferably in cooperation with local universities, (non-)governmental organizations or civil society organizations. Students evaluate their collected data and prepare their results.				
Teaching and Learning Methods	Presence Study (semester hours per week = SWS)	Forms of Active Participation	Workload (hours)	
Teaching Research Project	4	Implementation of Empirical Surveys	Presence Time Preparation and Follow Up	60 15 0
Module Exam		None		
Module Language		English		
Obligation to attend regularly		Yes		
Workload in total		210 hours		7 CP
Module Duration		One semester		
Frequency of Offer		Every summer semester, mainly as a block course during the lecture-free period		
Usability		Master's Degree Program Geographies of Global Inequalities		

<b>Module:</b> Project Work III: Presentation and Discussion				
<b>University/Department:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/ Earth Sciences/Geographical Sciences				
<b>Module responsibility:</b> Lecturer of the Module				
<b>Admission requirements:</b> Successful completion of the modules "Project Work I: Thematic and Methodological Preparation" and "Project Work II: Empirical Research and Data Analysis".				
<b>Qualification goals:</b> Students are able to present their own research results, in a professional and target group-specific manner using appropriate media, and to argue and debate in discussions. They can apply their knowledge to various issues and are able to promote the professional development of others in a targeted manner. Students are able to effectively lead discussions.				
<b>Content:</b> Students present their empirical results and findings from their project in a public lecture, in the form of a podcast, policy report, documentary, infographic, or a similar format. They situate their findings within the broader framework of global inequalities analysis and discuss the implications of their research findings in practice as well as for their wider geographical profession.				
Teaching and Learning Methods	Presence Study (semester hours per week = SWS)	Forms of Active Participation	Workload (hours)	
Main Seminar	2	Moderation and Discussion	Presence Time Preparation and Follow Up	30 60
			Exam Preparation and Exam	150
Module Exam		Presentation with written elaboration (approx. 4 000 words)		
Module Language		English		
Obligation to attend regularly		Yes		
Workload in total		240 hours		8 CP
Module Duration		One semester		
Frequency of Offer		Every winter semester		
Usability		Master's Degree Program Geographies of Global Inequalities		

## Area of Specialization

Area of Specialization				
<b>Module:</b> Advanced Class (conceptual)				
<b>University/Department:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/ Earth Sciences/Geographical Sciences				
<b>Module responsibility:</b> Lecturer of the Module				
<b>Admission Requirements:</b> Successful completion of the module "Introduction to Geographies of Global Inequalities".				
<b>Qualification Goals:</b> Students are familiar with human geography and social science concepts. These include different conceptions of crises, space, nature, culture, environment and society as well as the relations between these concepts. Students have in-depth knowledge of analytical concepts and can relate this theoretical knowledge to current processes and challenges, as well as being able to critically apply it in the preparation of scientific contributions.				
<b>Content:</b> In this module, human geography and social science concepts and theories are taught. Central theories, conceptualizations, analytical approaches and problem areas of human geographic inequality research are examined in their relation to current scientific and political debates in scientific articles and reflected upon. Through intensive engagement with both primary texts and secondary literature, students will gain in-depth knowledge in one or more intellectual school of theory, for example, postcolonial and decolonial theories, science and technology studies, poststructuralist theories, practice theory, intersectional and feminist perspectives, British social theory, development theories, political economy, political ecology, world systems theory, or livelihoods research.				
Teaching and Learning Methods	Presence Study (semester hours per week = SWS)	Forms of Active Participation	Workload (hours)	
Seminar	2	Paper, Learning Diary, Presentation, Moderation, Discussion Participation.	Presence Time Preparation and Follow Up  Exam Preparation and Exam	30 60  60
<b>Module Exam</b>		Term Paper (approx. 4.000 words)		
<b>Module Language</b>		English		
<b>Obligation to attend regularly</b>		Yes		
<b>Workload in total</b>		150 hours		5 CP
<b>Module Duration</b>		One semester		
<b>Frequency of Offer</b>		Every winter semester		
<b>Usability</b>		Master's Degree Program Geographies of Global Inequalities		

<b>Module:</b> Advanced Class (thematic)				
<b>University/Department:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/ Earth Sciences/Geographical Sciences				
<b>Module responsibility:</b> Lecturer of the Module				
<b>Admission Requirements:</b> Successful completion of the module "Introduction to Geographies of Global Inequalities".				
<b>Qualification Goals:</b> Students are familiar with a current and relevant research field of geographic inequality research in its thematic breadth. They are familiar with important debates in this research field and can relate their thematic knowledge to current processes and problems, as well as analyze and explain these using the conceptual approaches they have learned.				
<b>Content:</b> In this module, a thematic deepening from a selected central human geography research field is developed. This includes topics from the fields of human-environment relations, geographical health research, mobility (migration, forced migration, racism), urban research, poverty and inequality, work and economic systems, crises and disaster research, livelihood research, global governance, socio-ecological transformation and gender or queer geographies. Specific thematic areas are introduced through empirical case studies and are related to analytical perspectives for the study of the relations of nature, culture, and society.				
Teaching and Learning Methods	Presence Study (semester hours per week = SWS)	Forms of Active Participation	Workload (hours)	
Seminar	2	Paper, Learning Diary, Presentation, Moderation, Discussion Participation.	Presence Time Preparation and Follow Up  Exam Preparation and Exam	30 60  60



<b>Module Exam</b>	Term Paper (approx. 4.000 words), Presentation of a Poster (approx. 30 minutes) or Podcast (approx. 20 minutes)	
<b>Module Language</b>	English	
<b>Obligation to attend regularly</b>	Yes	
<b>Workload in total</b>	150 hours	5 CP
<b>Module Duration</b>	One semester	
<b>Frequency of Offer</b>	Every winter semester	
<b>Usability</b>	Master's Degree Program Geographies of Global Inequalities	

#### 4. Area of Professional Practice and Scientific Work

<b>Module:</b> Internship and Project Management				
<b>University/Department:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/ Earth Sciences/Geographical Sciences				
<b>Module responsibility:</b> Lecturer of the Module				
<b>Admission Requirements:</b> None				
<b>Qualification Goals:</b> Students are familiar with the basics of project management. They are able to independently design, structure and apply for a project, plan the workflow and appropriately present their results in both oral and written forms within the framework of a presentation. They thus learn important skills for their master's thesis, for (science-related) project work and for project applications. Students have practical experience of working in a university or non-university research institution or a non-governmental organization, think tank, or company in Germany or abroad.				
<b>Content:</b> Based on a case study, a project is structured and planned in detail, and time and budget plans are drawn up. In addition, the basics of team building and team communication are developed, taking gender and diversity competencies into account. In addition, students gain practical insights into the structure and working methods of non-governmental organizations, think tanks, development institutions, companies, foundations as well as politics and administration. This introduces students to opportunities for professional practice related to the course of study.				
Teaching and Learning Methods	Presence Study (semester hours per week = SWS)	Forms of Active Participation	Workload (hours)	
Seminar	2	Moderation, Exercise and Group Work, Presentation or Input	Presence Time S Preparation and Follow Up S	30 60
External subject-related Internship	240 hours	–	Presence Time eP Preparation and Follow Up eP  Exam Preparation and Exam	240 60  60
<b>Module Exam</b>	Short Report (approx 1.500 words), this module examination is not evaluated differentially.			
<b>Module Language</b>	Seminar: English / Subject-related Internship: English, facultative German, resp. national language of the internship location			
<b>Obligation to attend regularly</b>	Yes			
<b>Arbeitszeitaufwand insgesamt</b>	450 hours		15 CP	
<b>Module Duration</b>	Two semesters			
<b>Frequency of Offer</b>	Internship every summer semester, seminar every winter semester			
<b>Usability</b>	Master's Degree Program Geographies of Global Inequalities			

<b>Module:</b> Masters Colloquium	
<b>University/Department:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/ Earth Sciences/Geographical Sciences	
<b>Module responsibility:</b> Lecturer of the Module	
<b>Admission Requirements:</b> Successful completion of the modules "Project Work I: Thematic and Methodological Preparation", "Project Work II: Empirical Research and Data Analysis" and "Project Work III: Presentation and Discussion".	
<b>Qualification Goals:</b> Students are familiar with the principles and practices of good scientific practice, considering the specifics of the interdisciplinary field, and are able to apply their knowledge in discussion and presentation. They will acquire basic skills in speaker research and invitation (internal and external). Students are able to present	



and discuss their own research results from course research and/or their individual master's thesis projects.

**Content:** Students deepen the principles of good scientific practice. Through invited internal and external experts, students learn about current research in the field of geographies of global inequality in order to then deepen this understanding independently in research-based learning. In the colloquium, students also present and discuss their own research projects, for example in the context of their final thesis. The colloquium thus contributes to linking the results of the study project as well as one's own research in the context of the final thesis with current research questions. This module serves the conceptual preparation for and accompaniment of the student's individual master's thesis.

Teaching and Learning Methods	Presence Study (semester hours per week = SWS)	Forms of Active Participation	Workload (hours)	
Colloquium	2	Presentation, Moderation, Discussion, Group Work	Presence Time Preparation and Follow Up	30 120
<b>Module Exam</b>		None		
<b>Module Language</b>		English		
<b>Obligation to attend regularly</b>		Yes		
<b>Workload in total</b>		150 hours		5 CP
<b>Module Duration</b>		One semester		
<b>Frequency of Offer</b>		Every summer semester		
<b>Usability</b>		Master's Degree Program Geographies of Global Inequalities		

**Annex 2) Exemplary course of studies for the Master's Degree Program Geographies of Global Inequalities**

Semester	Modules				
<b>1. FS 30 CP</b>	Module: Introduction to Geographies of Global inequalities 10 CP	Module: Methods and Methodologies of Geographical Research on Inequalities 10 CP	Modul(es) from interdisciplinary elective area 10 CP		
<b>2. FS 30 CP</b>	Module: Project Work I: Thematic and Methodical Preparation 10 CP	Module: Project Work II: Empirical Research and Data Analysis 7 CP	Module from interdisciplinary elective area 5 CP	Modul: Professional Practice and Project Management 15 CP	
<b>3. FS 30 CP</b>	Module: Project Work III: Presentation and Discussion 8 CP	Modul: Conceptual Specialisation 5 CP	Module: Thematic Specialisation 5 CP		
<b>4. FS 30 CP</b>	Module: Masters Colloquium 5 CP				Master Thesis with Presentation of the Results 30 CP

**Annex 3) Master's Degree Program Certificate (Sample)**



Freie Universität Berlin  
Institute of Geographical Sciences

Certificate

[Name/Last Name]

Born on [Day/Month/Year] in [Birthplace]

has completed the Master's Degree Program

Geographies of Global Inequalities

on the basis of the examination regulations of DD. Month JJJJ (FU-Mitteilungen Nr. XX/JJJJ) with the overall grade

[grade as number and text]

successfully and with proof of the required number of 120 credit points attained.

Exam performance was graded as follows:

Study Areas	Credit Points	Grade
Modules	90 (63)	n,n
Master Thesis with Presentation	30 (30)	n,n

The Master Thesis had the topic: [XX]

Berlin, [Day/Month/Year]

(Seal)

The Dean

The Chairperson of the Examination Committee

Grade Scale: 1,0 – 1,5 very good; 1,6 – 2,5 good; 2,6 – 3,5 satisfying; 3,6 – 4,0 sufficient; 4,1 – 5,0 not sufficient

Undifferentiated assessments: BE – passed; NB – failed

The credit points correspond to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

Part of the course is ungraded; the number of credit points in parentheses indicates the extent of the differentiated

The number of credit points in parentheses indicates the extent of the differentiated graded performances that influence the overall grade.

**Annex 4) Master's Degree Program Certificate (Sample)**



Freie Universität Berlin  
Institute of Geographical Sciences

Certificate

[Name/Last Name]

Born on [Day/Month/Year] in [Birth Place]

has successfully completed the Master's Degree Program

Geographies of Global Inequalities.

According to the examination regulations of DD. Month YYYY (FU-Mitteilungen No. XX/YYYY), the  
university degree

Master of Science (M.Sc.)

is awarded.

Berlin, [Day/Month/Year]

(Seal)

The Dean

The Chairperson of the Examination Committee