

# Master's degree in Geography

Contact:  
<https://www.geo.uzh.ch/de/studium.html>  
[student-advice@geo.uzh.ch](mailto:student-advice@geo.uzh.ch)  
 +41 44 635 51 18

With 30 ECTS credits Master's thesis				
ECTS	7. Semester (HS)	8. Semester (FS)	9. Semester (HS)	ECTS
1	GEO 410 Geography Matters.	Core elective modules	GEO 511 Master's thesis	1
2			Master's thesis may also be written over two semesters (max. 12 months).	2
3				3
4		4 ECTS		4
5	Core elective modules			5
6	Some core elective modules span over two semesters.			6
7				7
8				8
9				9
10				10
11				11
12		ca. 12 ECTS		12
13		Elective modules		13
14				14
15				15
16				16
17				17
18				18
19				19
20				20
21				21
22		ca. 18 ECTS		22
23	Elective modules			23
24				24
25				25
26				26
27				27
28		ca. 18 ECTS		28
29				29
30		ca. 8 ECTS		30
31			GEO 512 Master's exam	31
32				2 ECTS

## Structure

To obtain a Master's degree with a 30 ECTS credits Master thesis, at least 30 ECTS credits have to be completed with core elective modules offered by the Department of Geography.

## Emphasis

To obtain a Master's degree with a designated emphasis within the Master of Geography, a minimum of 18 ECTS credits in core elective modules and the Master's thesis have to be completed within the field of the emphasis.

The following emphases are possible:

- Physical Geography \*
- Human Geography
- Remote Sensing
- Geographic Information Science and Systems

\* In Physical Geography the 18 ECTS credits in core elective modules need to be completed out of at least two of the four units of Physical Geography (e.g. two modules out of 3G and one out of 2B, H2K or GCH or one module each out of three different units).

## Degree in General Geography

In addition to the emphases, it is possible to obtain a general Master's degree. For the degree in General Geography a minimum of 6 ECTS credits in core elective modules have to be chosen out of each of the three thematic subject areas: Physical Geography, Human Geography, as well as Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Science.

With 60 ECTS credits Master's thesis				
ECTS	7. Semester (HS)	8. Semester (FS)	9. Semester (HS)	ECTS
1	GEO 400 Master's agreement	GEO 510 Master's thesis		1
2	GEO 410 Geography Matters.	Master's thesis may also be written over three semesters (max. 18 months).		2
3				3
4				4
5		4 ECTS		5
6	Core elective modules			6
7	Some core elective modules span over two semesters.			7
8				8
9				9
10				10
11				11
12				12
13				13
14				14
15				15
16				16
17				17
18				18
19				19
20				20
21				21
22				22
23		18 ECTS		23
24	Elective modules			24
25				25
26				26
27				27
28				28
29		6 ECTS		29
30			GEO 512 Master's exam	30
31				60 ECTS
32				2 ECTS

## Structure

To obtain a Master's degree with a 60 ECTS credits Master thesis, a Master agreement (GEO 400) needs to be made with the supervisor of the Master's thesis during the first semester. At least 18 ECTS credits have to be completed with core elective modules offered by the Department of Geography.

## Emphasis

The conditions for a designated emphasis within the Master of Geography are defined with the supervisor and recorded on the Master's agreement (GEO 400). No unit is obliged to offer the 60 ECTS credits Master's thesis. Whether the 60 ECTS credits Master's thesis can be written, has to be agreed upon with the supervisor.

## Degree in General Geography

To obtain the degree in General Geography is only possible with a 30 ECTS credits Master's thesis.

## Overview

<span style="background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Compulsory modules
<span style="background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Core elective modules
<span style="background-color: #FFFF00; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Elective modules
HS: fall semester
FS: spring semester
ECTS: ECTS credits

## Core elective modules

### Emphasis on Human Geography

Fall Semester (HS)	Spring Semester (FS)
GEO 421 Development Studies (6 ECTS)	GEO 422 Urban Geography: Research and Methods (6 ECTS)
GEO 423 Political Geography (6 ECTS)	GEO 425 Political Ecology: From Critique to Transformation (6 ECTS)
GEO 432 Gender, Work and Space (6 ECTS)	GEO 433 Global Economic Geographies of Agriculture and Food Systems (6 ECTS)
GEO 837 Geographies of Environmental Governance (3 ECTS)	GEO 835 Geography of Sustainability Transitions (3 ECTS)
GEO 887 Agroecology and Food Systems (6 ECTS)	GEO 838 Self-organised Seminar (3 ECTS)

### Emphasis on Physical Geography

Fall Semester (HS)	Spring Semester (FS)
GEO 463 Soil Science I: Current challenges in plant-soil systems (2B) (6 ECTS)	GEO 411 Field studies on high mountain processes (3G) (6 ECTS)
GEO 475 Hydrological Modelling and Programming (H2K) (6 ECTS)	GEO 471 Hydrological field measurements and calculations (H2K) (6 ECTS)
GEO 815 Quantification and modelling of the Cryosphere: dynamic processes (3G) (3 ECTS)	GEO 820 Stable isotopes in ecology and soil science (2B) (3 ECTS)
GEO 851 Glacier Mass Balance Measurements and Analysis - from local observations to global assessments (3G) (3 ECTS)	GEO 856 The high-mountain cryosphere: processes and risks (3G) (3 ECTS)
ESS 841 Analyzing the plant-soil system: Theory (2B) (3 ECTS)	GEO 857 Snow and Avalanches: Processes and Risk Management (3G) (3 ECTS)
	ESS 842 Analyzing the plant-soil system: Practice (2B) (6 ECTS)
Over both semesters (HS & FS)	
GEO 417 Environmental archives and age determination (GCH) (6 ECTS)	

### Emphasis on GIScience and Systems

Fall Semester (HS)	Spring Semester (FS)
GEO 871 Retrieving Geographic Information (3 ECTS)	GEO 454 Geovisualisation (6 ECTS)
GEO 873 Cognitive Issues in GIScience (3 ECTS)	GEO 876 Introduction to Programming for Spatial Problems (3 ECTS)
GEO 874 Introduction to Databases (3 ECTS)	GEO 877 Spatial Algorithms (3 ECTS)
GEO 875 Spatial Databases (3 ECTS)	GEO 880 Computational Movement Analysis (3 ECTS)
GEO 879 Mobility Issues in GIScience (3 ECTS)	GEO 885 GIScience Project (3 ECTS)
	GEO 888 GIS for Environmental Monitoring (3 ECTS)

### Emphasis on Remote Sensing

Fall Semester (HS)	Spring Semester (FS)
GEO 442 Specialization in Remote Sensing: Spectroscopy of the Earth System (6 ECTS)	GEO 441 Remote Sensing: Seminar & Colloquiums (6 ECTS)
GEO 443 Specialization in Remote Sensing: SAR and LIDAR (6 ECTS)	