



Universität
Basel

Philosophisch-Historische
Fakultät



Guidelines Master's Degree Program in **African Studies**

**Guidelines for the Master's Degree Program in African Studies
at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Basel**

The original German guidelines were established by the Social Sciences teaching committee in consultation with the Office of the Dean of Studies at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Approved by the examination commission on 09.06.2020.

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Preamble

The examination commission (Prüfungskommission) of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Basel has approved the following guidelines. These guidelines govern details of the degree program Master of Arts in African Studies.

The paragraph numbers in these guidelines refer to the Regulations of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Basel for Master's Studies (Ordnung der Philosophisch-Historischen Fakultät der Universität Basel für das Masterstudium) dated 25 October 2018. Should there be any contradictions between the study guidelines and the master's regulations (Masterordnung) or the study program (Studienplan) for the Master of Arts in African Studies, the master's regulations or study program for the Master of Arts in African Studies shall apply.

Please consult the relevant documents at philhist.unibas.ch/de/studium/.

1. The Master's Degree Program in African Studies at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Basel

1.1 Subject area concept and focal points in Basel

The Centre for African Studies Basel (ZASB) coordinates research, teaching and events relating to Africa at the University of Basel in collaboration with other university departments and external organizations. It builds on the work of many Africa-related institutions based in Basel.

The Master's Degree Program in African Studies offered by the ZASB is an interdisciplinary and cross-faculty program consisting of disciplinary and interdisciplinary/thematic modules. In Basel, African Studies typically combines humanities and social sciences with health and environmental sciences topics.

A variety of disciplines contributes classes to the individual modules. These are mainly history, anthropology, sociology, theology and religious studies, political sciences, Environmental Sciences and Epidemiology. Languages and Literatures, Gender Studies and other disciplines also contribute to the program on a regular basis.

African Studies is highly interdisciplinary in nature, promoting and comparing various academic approaches and methods.

Transdisciplinarity is also specifically promoted by integrating practical knowledge into the degree program and introducing students to applied research fields.

The thematic modules within the degree program build on the research axes of the ZASB. This fosters the systematic transfer of findings and current research questions to the classroom. It also promotes the integration of graduates into research groups.

1.2 Prerequisites for admission to the program

The Master's Degree Program in African Studies is subject to the Master's Regulations for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (see Masterordnung for the official, legally binding version):

Section 3. The requirements and procedure for admission to the master's program are regulated in the student regulations of the University of Basel dated 28 September 2011 and in the admission regulations approved by the President's Office.

Admission without additional requirements is based on (see Studienplan for the official, legally binding version):

a. a bachelor's degree issued by the University of Basel in one of the following disciplines:

- Anthropology
- Art History
- Biology
- Business and Economics
- Classical Studies
- Cultural Anthropology
- Eastern European Cultures
- English
- French
- Gender Studies
- German Philology
- Geography
- Hispanic Studies
- History
- Law
- Media Studies
- Musicology
- Near and Middle Eastern Studies
- Nordic Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Religious Studies
- Social Sciences
- Sociology
- Theology

or the following programs:

- Classical Studies
- East European Studies

b. on the basis of equivalent credits earned at a higher education institution recognized by the University of Basel.

c. on the basis of credits earned at a higher education institution recognized by the University of Basel, which correspond in scope and requirements to a bachelor's degree subject offered by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Basel in one of the following areas:

- African Studies
- Central Asian Cultural Studies
- Comparative Literature
- East Asian Studies
- Environmental Sciences
- Forestry
- Linguistics
- Near Eastern Studies
- Scientific Theory and History of Science
- Social Work and Social Policy

1.3 Subject-specific requirements and recommendations

Students on the African Studies program are committed to an interdisciplinary approach and are keen to explore the space between disciplines. The master's degree program is strongly influenced by the social sciences. Basic knowledge of a social science discipline is therefore advantageous. The study program lists all subject areas that allow for direct access to the master's degree program.

Personal experience and knowledge of Africa are beneficial but not a prerequisite for admission.

The most crucial personal requirement for the Master's Degree Program in African Studies is a profound interest in Africa and its natural, social and historical

particularities. This includes a willingness to reflect critically on the student's own position as a member of a European university.

Language skills (section 11)

The Master's Degree Program in African Studies has students and lecturers from all around the world. English is the dominant language of instruction. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have the language skills required to articulate complex thoughts orally and in writing.

Students are invited to make use of the wide range of courses offered by the Language Center at the University of Basel (not included in the tuition fee). Command of an African language is not required but may be useful for research. Students may write their assignments in English, German or French in consultation with the assessor. These texts must be meticulous and grammatically correct.

1.4 Academic advice

Tailored advice for students is a crucial part of the program. Academic advice is offered

- in a mandatory counseling session at the start of the master's program with one of the staff members listed on the ZASB website. Based on an analysis of their portfolio, students receive recommendations on how to achieve specific goals and work on their weaknesses through the electives and subject areas they choose;

- in meetings with lecturers and assistants when preparing for/following up on seminar papers, master's theses, internships and trips abroad;
- in mandatory meetings with examiners and supervisors before registering for the master's thesis or master's examination.

Students may also ask faculty members and ZASB counsellors for meetings at any time, whether they wish to discuss one of these topics, are experiencing difficulties with written assignments, or have any other issues relating to their studies. It is highly recommended that students make regular use of this service.

2. Learning outcomes, qualifications and professions

2.1 Learning outcomes and qualifications

The Master's Degree Program in African Studies aims to provide in-depth knowledge and skills for interdisciplinary academic work focusing on Africa. Students acquire subject-specific, social and practical skills. Students build their own skills profile and personal focal areas by combining disciplinary and interdisciplinary/thematic modules, choosing a vocational or research internship, attending courses in their electives, and selecting the topic for their master's thesis.

Expertise

Throughout the program, students acquire interdisciplinary, theory-based and application-oriented knowledge about Africa. The thematic focal areas are based on the main research axes of the ZASB (Media & Imagination, Knowledge Production & Transfer, Governance & Politics, and Public Health & Social Life). By combining various disciplinary approaches, students acquire academic knowledge of historical developments and current issues relating to society, nature, health and the cultural, social and natural living conditions in various regions of the continent.

This interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary training in African Studies enables students to

- carefully apply methods and concepts, particularly for interdisciplinary approaches;
- perform comparative analyses of natural, historical, societal and health-related contexts in Africa;
- understand people and social actions in different African societies and milieus in various natural environments, historic epochs and emic perspectives;
- analyze Africa's position in the context of European and global studies, and how African Studies may be able to help improve understanding of this context.

Social and practical skills

Students may choose to focus on applied or basic research. Whatever their choice, the program provides them with

- the skills to contextualize knowledge about Africa;
- the ability to impart knowledge about Africa in an understandable manner across disciplines and academic boundaries, and to incorporate academic findings into professional practice.

2.2 Professions

This skill set allows graduates to access a young (in terms of Switzerland) academic field and an emerging international job market that requires numerous specific skills related to the African continent that are not usually offered by a single academic program and are necessary for further vocational training. Combined with internships in a related professional

field, trainee positions or continuing education, the Master's Degree Program in African Studies opens up the following professional fields:

- academic teaching and research;
- applied research and consultancy;
- multilateral and bilateral organizations, governmental and nongovernmental development cooperation;
- journalism and communication;
- migration and integration;
- museums, archives and independent curating;
- environmental agencies and projects;
- public health sector.

The attached qualification profile provides further details of the skills and learning outcomes offered by this program.

3. Program structure

Students on the Master's Degree Program in African Studies earn at least 68 credit points in disciplinary and interdisciplinary/thematic modules. The modules complement one another, each with their own content and targets for imparting knowledge and skills. The master's thesis is worth another 30 credit points and the master's examination 10 credit points. Students can earn 12 credit points from electives.

The Master's Degree Program in African Studies consists of the following modules:

- Introduction to African Studies (6 CP)
- Basics (10 CP in total)
 - Environment
 - Epidemiology
 - Sociology
 - Social Anthropology
 - History
 - Politics
 - Religion
- Fields (30 CP in total)
 - Media and Imagination
 - Knowledge Production and Transfer
 - Governance and Politics
 - Public Health and Social Life
 - Environment and Development
- Interdisciplinary and Applied African Studies (11 CP)
- Research Skills (11 CP)

3.1 Study structure

Curriculum (see Studienplan for the official, legally binding version)

Completing the degree program, CP	Modules	Eligible course formats
6 CP , of which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 CP lecture with colloquium • 3 CP practical course 	Introduction to African Studies	Lecture with colloquium Practical course
10 CP , of which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 CP each for the "Basics: Environment" and "Basics: Epidemiology" modules • 2 CP each for three of the following modules: "Basics: Sociology", "Basics: Social Anthropology", "Basics: History", "Basics: Politics" or "Basics: Religion" (free choice) 	Basics: Environment	All in accordance with section 7 (4) and (5), and in accordance with the regulations for bachelor's and master's degree programs in the Faculty of Science at the University of Basel (Ordnung für die Bachelor- und Masterstudiengänge an der Philosophisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Basel)
	Basics: Epidemiology	All in accordance with section 7 (4) and (5), and in accordance with the regulations for bachelor's and master's degree programs in the Faculty of Science at the University of Basel (Ordnung für die Bachelor- und Masterstudiengänge an der Philosophisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Basel)
	Basics: Sociology	All in accordance with section 7 (4) and (5)
	Basics: Social Anthropology	All in accordance with section 7 (4) and (5)
	Basics: History	All in accordance with section 7 (4) and (5)
	Basics: Politics	All in accordance with section 7 (4) and (5)
Basics: Religion	All in accordance with section 7 (4) and (5)	

30 CP, of which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 CP for courses offered by the Faculty of Science within the five modules • 9 CP for courses offered by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences within the five modules • 5 CP each for two seminar papers in two modules in which courses were taken • 5 CP for electives 	Fields: Media and Imagination	All in accordance with section 7 (4) and (5)
	Fields: Knowledge Production and Transfer	All in accordance with section 7 (4) and (5)
	Fields: Governance and Politics	All in accordance with section 7 (4) and (5)
	Fields: Public Health and Social Life	All in accordance with section 7 (4) and (5), and in accordance with the regulations for bachelor's and master's degree programs in the Faculty of Science at the University of Basel (Ordnung für die Bachelor- und Masterstudiengänge an der Philosophisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Basel)
	Fields: Environment and Development	All in accordance with section 7 (4) and (5), and in accordance with the regulations for bachelor's and master's degree programs in the Faculty of Science at the University of Basel (Ordnung für die Bachelor- und Masterstudiengänge an der Philosophisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Basel)
11 CP, of which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 CP for a seminar or research seminar • 5 CP for an internship / field trip / seminar / course / guided independent study (Learning Contract) • 3 CP for practical course 	Interdisciplinary and Applied African Studies	Research seminar, internship, field trip, seminar, course, guided independent study, practical course

11 CP , of which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 CP for African Studies colloquium • 2 CP for a further colloquium offered by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences or a seminar offered by the Faculty of Science • 3 CP for a course in qualitative methods • 3 CP for a course in quantitative methods 	Research skills	All in accordance with section 7 (4) and (5), and in accordance with the regulations for bachelor's and master's degree programs in the Faculty of Science at the University of Basel (Ordnung für die Bachelor- und Masterstudiengänge an der Philosophisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Basel)
10 CP	Master's examination	
30 CP	Master's thesis	
12 CP	Electives	
120 CP	Master's degree program	

"Completing the degree program, CP" column

This column lists the minimum requirements for successful completion of the degree program. Here you will find instructions for your studies with the credit points to be acquired within each module and the course formats to be completed. The number in bold is the total of the individual requirements for a particular module, or for several modules. Credit points for seminar papers are included in this calculation.

The total of all bold numbers is 108 CP. Another 12 CP from electives are required to pass.

Students are encouraged to attend courses and complete written work beyond the minimum requirements. These accom-

plishments will be reported in the degree completion documents.

Mandatory courses listed in the "Completing the degree program" column

Mandatory courses are offered on a regular basis with the same learning objectives. They are listed here with their specific title. They are always listed in the online course directory with the same course number. To successfully complete a module, students must pass the mandatory courses listed. These may not be substituted with other courses.

"Modules" column

A module is a learning unit consisting of several courses that are unified through their related study objectives. A curriculum provides for learning objectives that must be fulfilled in very specific modules. Other

learning objectives are achieved by successfully completing a selection from a number of modules.

"Eligible course formats" column

This column lists the course formats that may be offered/credited in a module, whereas the "Completing the degree program" column stipulates which course formats are required.

Electives in the "Completing the degree program" column

Some study programs allow students to earn credit points through electives:

On the one hand, these are credit points in a particular module. Students can choose all courses that are linked to the module in the online course directory for this contingent of points. On the other hand, these are credit points of free choice from the entire range of courses offered in the corresponding subject or course. Students can book any course offered as electives credit points in fulfillment of this contingent.

3.2 Modules

"Introduction to African Studies" module

This introductory module conveys the interdisciplinary and epistemological foundations of African Studies in their historical context, and provides space to critically reflect on these. It teaches students to conduct independent research and evaluate publications and sources from and about Africa. Students learn to recognize the theoretical and methodolo-

gical challenges involved in the production of knowledge related to Africa, and to use these insights as a resource in their own academic and practical applications. A total of 6 credit points must be obtained. The module consists of a lecture with colloquium (Introduction to African studies, 3 CP) and an exercise (Writing Workshop, 3 CP), in which students learn about the specific standards of academic work and Africa-related resources (libraries, archives and collections) available in Basel.

Basics

In these modules, students are taught the basics of academic engagement with Africa from the perspective of various disciplines that have long been part of knowledge production about Africa. The Basics modules have the following specific objectives:

- imparting the subject matter as well as specific research questions from the contributing disciplines, particularly in relation to the African continent;
- imparting a thematic overview of the contributing disciplines.

Students must earn a total of 10 CP: 2 CP from the "Environment" module, 2 CP from the "Epidemiology" module and 2 CP from three of the following five modules: "Sociology", "Social Anthropology", "History", "Politics" or "Religion".

Fields

The five thematic and interdisciplinary Fields modules are based on the research axes of the Centre for African Studies, ensuring a connection to the doctoral level and to current research activities.

- "Media and Imagination": How are increasingly visual information and communication technologies changing societies in Africa? How are African people's fears, hopes, goals and dreams articulated through media and images?
- "Knowledge Production and Transfer": How is knowledge generated, focused, negotiated and passed on in African contexts? Do cities form a hub for the emergence of an African knowledge society?
- "Governance and Politics": How is political rule reproduced in a rapidly changing context? What form do the everyday practices of political administration and services take in Africa?
- "Public Health and Social Life": What are the challenges of the African healthcare sector? How do people deal with healthcare systems? How do they withstand crises?
- "Environment and Development": How do environmental factors of global change impact the built environment? What requirements have to be met to ensure sustainable use of urban and rural habitats?

Students specialize in two of the five Fields modules; these are the focus of their master's exams. They write a seminar paper worth 5 CP in each of the two modules chosen, and their master's thesis in one of these modules. The two seminar papers serve as preparation for the master's thesis and should therefore be written before the student registers for the master's thesis.

A total of at least 30 CP are acquired through the five Fields modules. At least 6

CP must come from courses offered by the Faculty of Science, and at least 9 CP must come from courses offered by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

"Interdisciplinary and Applied African Studies" module

This module reflects the program's interdisciplinary nature through intensive and focused exchange between different disciplines. This takes the form of a seminar or research seminar (3 CP) and research training (5 CP), culminating in a collaborative project between lecturers and students. A practical course in professional skills (3 CP) strengthens the students' ability to apply the knowledge they have acquired to practical situations. Field trips, internships and courses combined with guided independent study may replace the research training. Students must earn a total of at least 11 CP in this module.

Research Skills

This module provides students with research skills and, in particular, with the opportunity to prepare for their master's thesis within the African Studies colloquium (3 CP). The questions formulated here should lead to research projects that aim at either basic or application-oriented knowledge. An additional disciplinary colloquium or seminar (2 CP) taught by one of the supervisors of the project gives students the opportunity to discuss their preliminary findings. In addition, two courses (3 CP each) impart qualitative and quantitative data analysis skills. Students must earn a total of at least 11 CP in this module.

4. Teaching and study formats

4.1 Course formats

Guided research, research projects and field trips aim to introduce students to academic practices. They can take the form of collective courses or individual research activities. Research projects and field trips may differ in length depending on the requirements of the relevant discipline: Field research projects generally last at least one month, field trips at least two weeks. Individual research projects are designed by the relevant lecturer in accordance with the research question. The results of research projects and field trips are generally documented in individual or collective student assessments that can take different forms according to the project requirements. Students are generally required to submit a written report about their participation in collective or individual research projects and field trips. Assessment (pass/fail) is the responsibility of the lecturer supervising the research project or excursion.

Non-university internships can be completed in public or private institutions closely linked to the professional fields within African Studies. Internships should generally last at least three weeks. Students must find internship positions for themselves, if necessary with the support of their lecturers. Prior to the internship, the supervising lecturer (assessor) and the student work with the relevant person at the non-university institution (second assessor) to define the type and

duration of the practical work and specify the terms of the assignment and how it will be assessed in a learning contract to be approved by the African Studies teaching committee. The student must write a critical, reflective report of 10–16 pages on the internship with an annex that documents the practical work. The assessor approves the assessment, again in consultation with the second assessor.

External credits and grades: Upon the request of the African Studies teaching committee, the examination commission decides whether to recognize credits and grades achieved outside the University of Basel that are not automatically recognized as part of cooperation agreements, and whether to allocate the relevant credit points. At least 45 credit points must be earned at the University of Basel. Furthermore, the master's thesis must be submitted at the University of Basel and all credits and grades relevant for the final grade must be earned at the University of Basel. Seminar papers can be submitted externally but must be assessed at the University of Basel by means of a learning contract.

Learning Contracts stipulate the conditions for earning credit points outside regular university courses on an individual basis. They define how credit points are allocated to study achievements in the context of exceptional forms of study, particularly guided independent study, individual field trips, participation in research projects, individual internships, tutorial work, student self-government and independent seminar papers.

4.2 Assessment

The Master's Degree Program in African Studies combines courses from various disciplines that have developed different forms of teaching and learning. The terms of assessment for each course are defined by the relevant subject area or faculty. In interactive courses, achievements are generally assessed through active participation. In all other forms of courses, information about the terms (content, duration or scope, format and mode of assessment) and registration formalities for the assessment are specified in the guidelines. Students on the Master's Degree Program in African Studies take part in all relevant, mandatory assessments. Achievements not listed in the course directory – such as guided independent study, individual field trips, research projects and non-university internships – are possible in principle and regulated in learning contracts, which must be approved by the African Studies teaching committee.

5. Master's thesis and master's examination

5.1 Master's thesis

The purpose of the master's thesis is to prove the author's ability to produce independent academic reflection and work – that is, to develop a research question, justify the procedure chosen, present the findings in a stylistically appropriate manner and critically reflect on them. The master's thesis identifies a research problem in the relevant academic field and, by engaging with the problem, develops insights that can answer theoretical and conceptual questions or formulate solutions to practical questions.

To be admitted to the master's thesis, students must have earned at least 20 CP at the time of registration, fulfilled any additional requirements, acquired the necessary language skills and have at least one of the two seminar papers in the Fields modules on record. Students register for the master's thesis at the Study Administration and Examinations Office of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The topic and format of the master's thesis are agreed in a learning contract by the student and a faculty member from a subject area within the Centre for African Studies network who is responsible for the degree program, has completed their postdoctoral habilitation or holds an equivalent qualification.

The topic covers a specific regional, subject-related, epistemological or theoretical question from one of the Fields modules chosen by the student: "Media and Imagination", "Knowledge Production and Transfer", "Governance and Politics", "Public Health and Social Life" or "Environment and Development". As a general rule, the master's thesis consists of a written paper based on available sources (publications, archives, collections) or data collected by the student. The written thesis should generally be 80 pages in length. The thesis can be written in English, German or French as agreed with the supervisor.

Students can spend up to nine months developing and completing their master's thesis. The master's thesis must be submitted on or before the due date with copies submitted directly to the examiner (main assessment) and second examiner (second assessment). A third copy must be provided to the Centre for African Studies. The examiners submit their reports, including grades, to the Study Administration and Examinations Office at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences six weeks before the academic semester ends.

5.2 Oral master's examinations

Two oral exams of 60 minutes each aim to assess whether and to what extent the candidate is able to combine different areas of knowledge within the context of African Studies and present them coherently. The candidate chooses two Fields

modules and agrees on three topics per module with the examiners. Each module is generally examined by one faculty member. Depending on the topics chosen or if the examiner will not be assessing the master's thesis, the student may choose a second examiner for the relevant module.

If the master's thesis has been submitted and accepted when the student registers for the examination, it becomes part of one of the examinations and replaces one of the three topics in the relevant module.

Faculty members from the subject areas within the Centre for African Studies network who hold a PhD and contribute to the selected Fields modules are authorized to examine students. Exam administration (registration and organization, including assignment of chairpersons) is managed by the Study Administration and Examinations Office of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Examinations are held in German or English.

5.3 Master's degree certificate and transcripts

Successful graduates of the Master's Degree Program in African Studies receive a degree certificate signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The chosen modules, courses attended, seminar papers, credit points and grades are listed in detail in a separate degree transcript.

6. Electives

Electives (12 CP) are available to all students regardless of their degree subject or program. They are free to choose any courses to acquire these 12 credit points. Usually, elective courses aim to help students gain general skills (languages, IT, rhetoric, etc.), engage in interdisciplinary learning (courses outside the degree subject, interdisciplinary courses) and/or deepen their knowledge of their own subject by taking additional courses in African Studies, or earn a certificate. Please see the guidelines for elective courses at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Wegleitung für den freien Wahlbereich an der Phil.-Hist. Fakultät).

Electives complement the courses within the degree program. Students use them to

- gain disciplinary skills that they may not have at the start of their studies;
- enhance specific thematic and practical knowledge;
- acquire language skills;
- fulfil the requirements to be accepted as a doctoral student in a specific subject area.

All courses from the curriculum (BA and MA level) of all faculties are eligible, as are academic self-government activities and individual study achievements governed by learning contracts.

7. Further information and contacts

Mobility: Besides Basel, other Swiss universities and universities of applied sciences offering Africa-related courses include the University of Geneva, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva and the Universities of Bern and Zurich. To promote student mobility, support is available for students wishing to attend these courses. Relevant services are regularly published on the ZASB website. The same applies to the universities of the tri-national Upper Rhine region (EUCOR: Strasbourg, Colmar, Mulhouse, Karlsruhe, Freiburg i.Br.). The EUCOR student pass grants students from Basel the same access and benefits as students enrolled at these universities.

Semesters abroad can be fruitful experiences and are ideally combined with data collection for the master's thesis and/or internships. Students can access European universities with a focus on Africa through the ERASMUS program, for example the Universities of Leipzig and Vienna. The ZASB has signed mobility agreements with various universities in Africa.

For further information, please visit the ZASB website:

zasb.unibas.ch/en/cooperation/. For general information and regulations on student mobility at the University of Basel, please visit www.unibas.ch ("Studies" -> "Mobility").

The Centre for African Studies builds on Basel's unique concentration of Africa-related institutions. The extensive libraries at the Museum der Kulturen Basel, mission 21, the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute and the various subject areas at the University of Basel can be accessed via the online catalogue of the Basel university library. The excellent Basler Afrika Bibliographien library, which specializes in southern Africa, can only be accessed via its website (www.baslerafrika.ch).

The mission 21 archive documents the activities of the Basler Mission, particularly in Ghana and Cameroon. It is closely linked to the well-stocked library in the mission house and partly accessible online – particularly the photo archive and the collection of historical maps (www.bmarchives.org). The archive has grown organically, with a strongly inter-linked collection. Basler Afrika Bibliographien has extensive press and documentation collections as well as archives from various organizations, the Hans W. Debrunner collection, personal archives with around 100 written estates, a photo archive, a poster collection and special collections with limited access. The Museum der Kulturen has several African collections that form the basis of its regional focus on Africa.

The Centre for African Studies website provides an overview of available resources and mentions other archive collections such as the Basel-Stadt state archive and the Swiss Economics Archive (zasb.unibas.ch/en/research/resources).

Students are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with these key resources when they begin their studies.

Contacts:

Centre for African Studies Basel
Rheinsprung 21
4051 Basel
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (0)61 207 34 86
zasb@unibas.ch

Basler Afrika Bibliographien

Namibia Resource Centre and
Southern Africa Library
Klosterberg 23
4051 Basel
Switzerland
www.baslerafrika.ch

Archiv der Basler Mission/mission 21

Bibliothek von Mission 21
Missionsstrasse 21
4055 Basel
Switzerland
www.mission-21.org/en/what-wedo/research/researcharchive

Museum der Kulturen Basel

Münsterplatz 20
4051 Basel
Switzerland
www.mkb.ch

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

Socinstrasse 57
4051 Basel
Switzerland
www.swisstoph.ch

Website of the Faculty of the Humanities and Social Sciences

(Information and documents relating to master's studies, Study Administration and Examinations Office, other subject areas, etc.)

philhist.unibas.ch

Website of the University of Basel

(Go to "Studies" section for dates and general information)

www.unibas.ch

Online course directory

vorlesungsverzeichnis.unibas.ch

IT Services

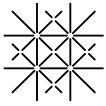
(Support desk, email access, VPN etc.)

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Degree Profile

Master in African Studies

Organizational unit	Centre for African Studies Basel (ZASB)
Degree	MA in African Studies
Range, Duration, Start	120 ECTS; 4 Semester (if full time), Spring and Fall Semester
Language of instruction	English

Program Goals

Students acquire theoretical knowledge and methodological skills across a select range of social and natural science disciplines. This knowledge allows them to understand the complex links between natural, social, cultural, political and historical factors in Africa and to apply these skills in basic or applied research.

Program Characteristics

Orientation	Scientific-oriented education
Subject area	African Studies
Majors	–
Program structure	The curriculum includes the modules: Introduction to African Studies (6 ECTS); Basics (Environment, Epidemiology, Sociology, Social Anthropology, History, Politics, Religion – 10 ECTS); Fields (Media and Imagination, Knowledge Production and Transfer, Governance and Politics, Public Health and Social Life, Environment and Development – 30 ECTS); Interdisciplinary and Applied African Studies (11 ECTS); Research Skills (11 ECTS); free elective (12 ECTS); master’s examination (10 ECTS); master’s thesis (30 ECTS).
Distinctive Features	Through its combination of thematic and application oriented modules the study program is decidedly interdisciplinary in order to foster comparison among different scientific approaches as well as a wide variety of methods. In addition, transdisciplinarity is promoted by integrating practical knowledge and introducing students to applied research fields. It emphasizes training along the main axes of research at the Centre for African Studies Basel as well as training in applied African Studies and research methods. The Centre coordinates research and teaching as well as Africa-relevant events at the University of Basel in cooperation with other university departments and external organizations. It builds on a number of institutions relating to Africa based in Basel.

Career Opportunities

Employment	Development cooperation and consultancy; intercultural mediation, migration, integration and social work; media, public relations and journalism; museums, archives and independent curating; tourism; public health sector; environmental agencies; corporate sector; diplomacy and politics
Further Studies	Doctorate; Master of Advanced Studies in Development and Cooperation

Teaching

Approaches	Individual, tutored and collective learning, interactive learning, study trips, field work, internship, project-based learning
Assessments	Oral and written exams, active participation in courses, term papers, master's thesis, master's examination

Competences

Generic Attitude / Communication Approach / Management	Students acquire the skills to ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – define and approach a problem in view of basic or applied research. – design research plans, formulate research questions, collect and analyze data autonomously and collaboratively. – plan and conduct field research autonomously. – examine conceptual alternatives and research literature critically and substantially. – work responsibly, in a timely and solution-oriented manner. – critically reflect on their claims and constructively engage with criticism. – meet the world with critical openness. – deploy scientific tools to account for social practices and phenomena. – explain complex societal and systemic relationships in scientifically sound manner and communicate effectively and persuasively in written and oral form to academic and lay publics. – read, understand, revise and write English scientific texts and express themselves in the English language on an academic level.
Subject-related Knowledge / Understanding Application / Judgment Interdisciplinarity	Students acquire the skills to ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – acknowledge the importance of understanding social phenomena and practices from the perspective of the actors themselves. – understand links between social, environmental, health-related and historical factors in Africa and analyze them comparatively in a local, national and transnational perspective. – explain agents and actions in societies or settings in different environmental zones and epochs grounded in context. – challenge systematically the results and problems of current research on Africa. – situate, analyze and synthesize knowledge from different fields in the context of African Studies. – apply Africa-based knowledge to analyze the specific position of Africa in the world. – review and assess independently publications and sources from and relating to Africa. – collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data with methodological accuracy. – reflect the epistemic foundations of African Studies. – conduct interdisciplinary research while acknowledging the boundaries between the disciplines.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the master's program in African Studies...

- demonstrate a broad and in-depth knowledge of relevant social science theories as well as thematic and regional literature in order to formulate research questions, describe and analyze adequately current and historical processes and conditions of health-related, environmental, social and cultural issues in distinct African regions.
- are able to interdisciplinary assess the knowledge produced by the various social-science disciplines in order to evaluate their specific approach and to synthesize their contribution to the study of Africa adequately.
- are able to correctly assess and develop research designs in the context of African Studies based on their empirical research skills and their awareness of the theoretical and methodological challenges in producing Africa-related knowledge.
- are able to plan, carry out, appropriately document and critically reflect individual or collaborative basic and applied research including field work in order to understand social practices and phenomena, historical processes, as well as health and environmental issues in Africa and beyond.
- can address a specific regional, thematic or theoretical issue in the context of African Studies, to argue for a chosen approach and present their results for discussion to peers and the public clearly and adequately in written and oral form.