




FAQ – M.Sc. Geographies of Global Inequalities

October 2023

General Study Organization	
Where can I find information about the study program ?	All important information is summarized in the study and examination regulations (“Studien- und Prüfungsordnung”). You can find it on the website of the study program .
When is the application period ?	The application period is always between the 15th of April and the 31st of May .
Do I have to follow the exemplary study plan ?	As the name suggests, the study plan (to be found in the study and examination regulations) is exemplary. However, it makes sense to take the modules of the disciplinary area in the given order, since they all build on each other. Only for the modules of the interdisciplinary elective area, as well as for the internship, it does not make a big difference at which time you take them.
How can I prove my English language skills ?	There are several ways to prove that your English language skills are at C1 level or higher : Next to the proof of completion of DAAD courses and English tests from various universities , a TOEFL test (score: from 550 (paper), 213 (computer), 90 (internet)) can also prove the required level. The latter can be replaced by the following certificates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- IELTS (Academic) overall score 6.5 (possibly also 6.0 in all sections)- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)- Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)- UNICERT III If you have a credential that is not listed here, feel free to contact us.
I come from abroad and have questions about the German university system. Where can I find information on the enrollment and who can I contact?	In principle, you can always contact us. However, many questions are already answered on the website of the Student Service Center under " Studying at Freie Universität ". There you'll find information about: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.) Studying at Freie Universität2.) Language Skills (For the M.Sc. Geographies of Global Inequalities, no knowledge of German is required):3.) Fees & Funding

	4.) Entry & Residence
When should I start the visa application process ?	You should apply for a visa as soon as possible and not wait for the confirmation of the study program. The German missions abroad (embassies or consulates) are responsible for this. The "national visa" is intended for longer study stays. You can find more information on the DAAD website.
Interdisciplinary Elective	
Is there a catalog from which I can choose electives?	No.
Which courses can I choose as electives?	In principle, all courses that are not subordinate to a geography department since the courses are to be taken across disciplines. You do not have to limit yourself to the FU but can also take courses at all other universities and colleges. Unfortunately, language courses are not recognized. Nevertheless, these regulations should not prevent you from taking courses to your heart's content that you cannot have credited to you. Courses that are not included in the grade can also be listed on the diploma.
Are there any contingency agreements with some departments?	Yes, but Master students can only apply to the contingents provided by the Department of History and Cultural Studies. For this purpose, there is a contact form and separate application periods, which you can find here with further information.
Will the electives that I have taken be graded or will a "pass" be sufficient?	It depends on the course, as there is no regulation in our study regulations. However, if the course also allows you to choose it yourself, you can do this.
How do I get the certificate that proves my completion of the elective?	There are two possibilities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If it is a course at the FU, you can contact Ms. Zech / Ms. Nardozza (pruefungsbuero@geo.fu-berlin.de) from the Examination Office so that they can manually enter the course you have taken into Campus Management. The lecturer of your elective module can then enter your grade or a "pass/fail" as usual after the course has been completed. 2. Alternatively, you can also have a written certificate, the so-called "Leistungsnachweis", handed out on paper. Especially if you have taken a course outside the FU, this is the usual procedure. The certificate of achievement is usually issued by the faculty where you are taking your course.

<p>How can the elective modules that I have taken be recognized?</p>	<p>For this, you need your original certificates of achievement or the corresponding printouts from the Campus Management. You have to hand them in together with the completed form "Anrechnung von Leistungen" to the professor of our department. The respective professor can decide whether they recognize the elective modules and, if they agree, sign the form for you. Either they forward all documents directly to the examination office or you must take care of this last step yourself.</p> <p>Attention: In the form under "Recognized for", be sure to enter "Interdisciplinary elective"!</p>
<p>Welcome to Berlin!</p>	
<p>When do I have to register at the Citizen's Office (Bürgeramt)?</p>	<p>You must officially register at a registration office in one of Berlin's many "Bürgerämter" within 14 days of your move. Since places are rare, it is important to also keep an eye out for appointments at Bürgerämter in other districts.</p>
<p>Do I need a residency permit?</p>	<p>If you are not from an EU member state, Norway, Iceland or Lichtenstein, you must apply for a residence permit at the State Office for Immigration within 90 days of entry.</p>
<p>Can I use public transport as a student?</p>	<p>Yes! As soon as you have created and validated your Campuscard, you can use the card for public transportation in the Berlin ABC area.</p>
<p>New at Freie Universität?</p>	
<p>What do I need to take care of after I receive my acceptance letter?</p>	<p>It is essential that you enroll at the FU before the end of the enrollment period. You will find the deadline on your admission letter. If you have further questions about enrollment, please check here.</p>
<p>What can I do with my Campuscard?</p>	<p>The Campuscard is student ID, canteen card, library card and public transport ticket all in one. After enrollment, you can have it generated at an issuing machine using the QR code that will be sent to you. You then have to have it validated at a validation machine. You will have to redo the latter every semester. Unfortunately, there is no issuing machine at the Geo-Campus in Malteserstraße, only a validation machine. You can find the locations of the machines and further information here.</p>
<p>Which libraries can I use?</p>	<p>For research but also for undisturbed work there is hardly any way around them. You have probably already found the library on campus in Lankwitz, but you should know that there are numerous other libraries in the city that you can use. The FU has several libraries on the main campus in Dahlem. In addition, it is also</p>

	worthwhile to see if there are libraries of the HU or TU Berlin in your vicinity that you can reach more quickly.
Semester Abroad	
Which options do I have to go abroad?	In principle, you have the choice between different Erasmus programs and the so-called direct exchange . All important information can be found on this page: https://www.geo.fu-berlin.de/studium/Auslandsstudium/index.html Both exchange formats also offer regular office hours, as well as information events on selected days.
How long can I go abroad and in which semester is it best?	You can spend a maximum of one year, meaning up to two semesters, abroad in each of the exchange formats. The 3rd and 4th semester are best suited for this. Please note: The semesters at foreign universities often start earlier, so that our current semester overlaps with the semester abroad.
Open Questions	
	Feel free to message me at any time if you have unanswered questions. You can reach me at: sprengea57@zedat.fu-berlin.de Arvid Sprenger Student Assistant at the Center for Geographies of Global Inequalities Office hours: Every Tuesday, 1-2 pm (You can register for slots here)