




# FAQ – M.Sc. Geographies of Global Inequalities

October 2024

General Study Organization	
Where can I find <b>information</b> about the <b>study program</b> ?	All important information is summarized in the study and examination regulations (“Studien- und Prüfungsordnung”). You can find these regulations on the <a href="#">website of the study program</a> .
When is the <b>application period</b> ?	The application period is always between the <b>15<sup>th</sup> of April and the 31<sup>st</sup> of May</b> .
Do I have to follow the <b>exemplary study plan</b> ?	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 build upon each other. For the modules of the interdisciplinary elective area, as well as for the internship, you can decide freely when to complete the necessary credits.
How can I prove my <b>English language skills</b> ?	There are several ways to prove that your English language skills are at <b>C1 level or higher</b> : Next to the proof of completion of <b>DAAD courses</b> and <b>English tests from various universities</b> , a <b>TOEFL test</b> (score: at least 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"><li>- IELTS (Academic) overall score 6.5 (possibly also 6.0 in all sections)</li><li>- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)</li><li>- Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)</li><li>- UNICERT III</li></ul> If you have a credential that is not listed here, feel free to contact us.
<b>I come from abroad</b> and have questions about the German university system. Where can I find information on enrollment and who can I contact?	In general, you can always contact us. However, many questions are already answered on the website of the Student Service Center under " <a href="#">Studying at Freie Universität</a> ".  There you'll find information about: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.) <a href="#">Studying at Freie Universität</a></li><li>2.) <a href="#">Language Skills</a> (For the M.Sc. Geographies of Global Inequalities, no knowledge of German is required)</li><li>3.) <a href="#">Fees &amp; Funding</a></li></ol>

	4.) <a href="#">Entry &amp; Residence</a>
When should I start the <b>visa application process</b> ?	You should apply for a visa as soon as possible, and not wait for confirmation of enrollment in 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 <a href="#">DAAD</a> website.
Interdisciplinary Elective	
Is there a <b>catalog</b> from which I can choose electives?	No.
Which <b>courses</b> can I choose as electives?	You can freely select any courses not offered by a geography department, as these electives are intended to be taken across different disciplines. You do not have to limit yourself to the FU and 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 that interest you, even if you cannot receive academic credit. Courses that are not included in your overall grade can still be listed on your final diploma.
Are there any <b>contingency agreements</b> with other departments?	Yes, but Master students can only apply to the contingencies provided by the Department of History and Cultural Studies. For this purpose, there is a contact form and separate application periods; more information can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
Will the electives that I have taken be <b>graded</b> or will a <b>"pass"</b> be sufficient?	It depends on the course, as there is no specific regulation for this in our study regulations. However, if the course you are taking allows you to choose, you can decide whether you would like to receive a grade that is reflected in your overall final average.
How do I get the certificate that proves my completion of an elective?	There are two possibilities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If it is a course at the FU, you can contact Ms. Zech / Ms. Nardozza (<a href="mailto:pruefungsbuero@geo.fu-berlin.de">pruefungsbuero@geo.fu-berlin.de</a>) 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 per usual, after the course has been completed.</li> <li>2. Alternatively, you can also have a written certificate of achievement, 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.</li> </ol>

<p>How can the elective modules that I have taken be <b>recognized</b>?</p>	<p>For this, you need your original certificates of achievement or the corresponding printouts from Campus Management. You have to hand them in together with the completed form "<a href="#">Anrechnung von Leistungen</a>" to the professor of our department. The respective professor determines whether the elective modules can be recognized and, if they agree, they 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><b>Welcome to Berlin!</b></p>	
<p>When do I have to register at the <b>Citizen's Office (Bürgeramt)</b>?</p>	<p>You must officially register at a registration office in one of Berlin's many "Bürgerämter" within 14 days of your move. Since appointments are often booked out in advance, it is important to also keep an eye out for appointments at Bürgerämter in districts other than where you live.</p>
<p>Do I need a <b>residency permit</b>?</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 <b>public transport</b> as a student?</p>	<p>Yes! As soon as you have received and validated your Campuscard, you can use this card for public transportation in the Berlin ABC transportation area.</p>
<p><b>New at Freie Universität?</b></p>	
<p>What do I need to take care of after I receive my <b>acceptance letter</b>?</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 <a href="#">check here</a>.</p>
<p>What can I do with my <b>Campuscard</b>?</p>	<p>The Campuscard is your 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 must have it validated at a validation machine. You will have to validate your card at the beginning of 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 <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p>Which <b>libraries</b> 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.</p>

	<p>The FU has <a href="#">several libraries</a> on the main campus in Dahlem. In addition, it is also worthwhile to see if there are libraries of the <a href="#">HU</a> or <a href="#">TU</a> Berlin in your vicinity that you can reach more quickly.</p>
<p><b>Semester Abroad</b></p>	
<p>Which options do I have to go abroad?</p>	<p>You have the choice between different <b>Erasmus programs</b> and the so-called <b>direct exchange</b>. All important information can be found on this page: <a href="https://www.geo.fu-berlin.de/studium/Auslandsstudium/index.html">https://www.geo.fu-berlin.de/studium/Auslandsstudium/index.html</a> Both exchange formats also offer regular office hours, as well as information events on selected days.</p>
<p>How long can I go abroad and in which semester is it best?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Open Questions</p>	
	<p>Feel free to message our student assistant Marcela Ávila if you have unanswered questions, at: <a href="mailto:marcela.avila@fu-berlin.de">marcela.avila@fu-berlin.de</a> Or register for office hours <a href="#">here</a>.</p>