



The Graduate School of Climate Sciences, University of Bern

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The Graduate School of Climate Sciences, University of Bern, offers a specialised M.Sc. and a Ph.D. programme in climate sciences. The graduate school has a highly interdisciplinary profile involving not only natural sciences, but also humanities/history, economics, law, and medicine. The ten participating institutes with a total of 45 academics provide expertise in long-term climate variability, climate modelling, climate reconstruction, predictability of the future climate and extreme events, the impact of climate change on ecosystems as well as climate risks for society and economy. The graduate school collaborates closely with the sister institution at ETH Zurich by, e.g., jointly organised lectures. There are currently 23 master and 31 doctoral students in the programme originating from the University of Bern (31 %), from other Swiss universities (29 %) and from universities worldwide (40 %). Comprehensive information about the Graduate School of Climate Sciences is available at <http://www.climatestudies.unibe.ch>.

The M.Sc. in Climate Sciences (120 ECTS credits) is composed of 60 ECTS course work (8 compulsory and 52 elective) at the University of Bern and ETH Zurich, and a 60 ECTS master thesis. The students make their own course selection according to their profile envisaged (specialised versus broad education) and ideally already guided by a job perspective. Compulsory courses are dedicated to basic knowledge in climate sciences and to soft skills such as scientific writing, presenting and public relations, among others. Several courses are organised jointly with public authorities and the private industry, e.g. from experts working in the insurance business, in weather forecasting or in environmental pollution control. The master thesis (60 ECTS) involves the students in an ongoing research project and provides the opportunity to collaborate with experienced scientists in a team. Alternatively, a short thesis (30 ECTS) may be combined with an internship (30 ECTS) at another university, in the private sector or in the administration. Admission to the M.Sc. programme is competitive and conditional to qualitative requirements (high grades in the bachelor) and on a personal interview with the candidate. A bachelor in science at university level (B.A. for specialisation in economics or history) or an equivalent degree is required. The language of the programme is English.

The Ph.D. in Climate Sciences is research oriented and consists mainly of 3 to 4 years full time work in a project within one of the institutes involved in the Graduate School of Climate Sciences. The Ph.D. programme is not a structured training programme but contains workshops (soft skills), summer schools, colloquia, and seminars. The Ph.D. thesis is usually written in the form of research articles in international peer reviewed journals. A M.Sc. or a higher academic degree is conditional for admission to the Ph.D. programme.