



UNU-EHS and INFORM internship and M.Sc research programme

INFORM partner United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security ([UNU-EHS](#)) offers a M.Sc. Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security.¹ The programme content addresses theoretical and methodological debates in geography to better understand the complex emergence of environmental risks and natural hazards and their implications for human-nature relations (vulnerability, resilience, adaptation) and how to deal with them in practice.²

Each student on the programme needs to take a compulsory internship and complete a thesis. INFORM and UNU-EHS are collaborating to facilitate contacts between INFORM partners and interested students who would like to:

- Undertake a relevant internship with an INFORM partner organisation,
- Research a relevant topic of interest to an INFORM partner organisation, in the context of a Master Thesis.

Internships

Internship should last at least 8 weeks and should involve:

- Understanding structures and workflows within international key organizations related to the topics of the programme,
- Applying knowledge and skills acquired during the course of the programme in a professional working environment,
- Experiencing professional experiences within international organizations or collaborative networks.

Generally, students are available to undertake internships from January (3rd semester) and during a course break, between the 2nd and the 3rd semester (mid-July to mid-October).

Research projects (Master Thesis)

Each student prepares a thesis that shows that the candidate is able to independently treat a problem from the subjects of the programme. The project chosen should be relevant to the programme. A short

¹ Course overview -

<https://ehs.unu.edu/education/masters/international-joint-msc-programme-geography-of-environmental-risks-and-human-security.html#overview>

² Course curriculum -

https://i.unu.edu/media/ehs.unu.edu/admission/4438/Curriculum-Overview_Joint_M.Sc-2017.pdf

research proposal is drafted and discussed between the involved actors (i.e. the main supervisor, the INFORM partner, and the student). After signing off the research proposal the student should take a maximum of 6 months to complete the thesis. If field research is needed, it should take place during the official thesis time, except if the research is necessary to define the research subject scope.

The main supervisor/examiner for the thesis must be from the group of lecturers within the Joint Master's Programme "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" of the United Nations University in Bonn (UNU-EHS) or the Department of Geography of the University of Bonn, under a set of Rules and Regulations that govern the study programme. INFORM Partners will act as external advisors/observers bringing in their professional practice and knowledge in the research field and benefitting from the outcome of the research work.

Process

The purpose of this collaboration is simply to facilitate contact between students and INFORM partners.

- **For internships:** INFORM partners can register their interest in attracting students from the programme via the Master Programme Coordinator, Ms. Karen Hattenbach (hattenbach@ehs.unu.edu). This must include short description of the project/scope of work (Terms of Reference) that the students would be involved with, preferred time frame, location, name and contact details. Students will receive the information and contact the INFORM partner directly. All arrangements for the internship are then to be made directly between the student and the host organisation. INFORM partners should ensure that all interested students are kept informed of the status of their application.
- **For research projects (Master Thesis):** INFORM partners should send a short description of their idea for a topic (or research area), including - if feasible - information on context of the work, timing, location, possible funding, etc, to the Master Programme Coordinator Ms Karen Hattenbach (hattenbach@ehs.unu.edu), who would help to connect with UNU-EHS Senior Research Staff to confirm if the project would be suitable for a Master Thesis. Interested students would prepare a short concept note which shall be discussed with the supervisors at UNU-EHS and the respective focal points of the INFORM partners interested in offering a thesis topic.