

A person with a backpack is riding a bicycle on a paved path that curves through a lush green park. The background is filled with trees displaying vibrant autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy white clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a pleasant day in a park.

WELCOME TO STUDY GEOGRAPHY AT MSc LEVEL!

Olli Ruth, Geography MSc Info 2023

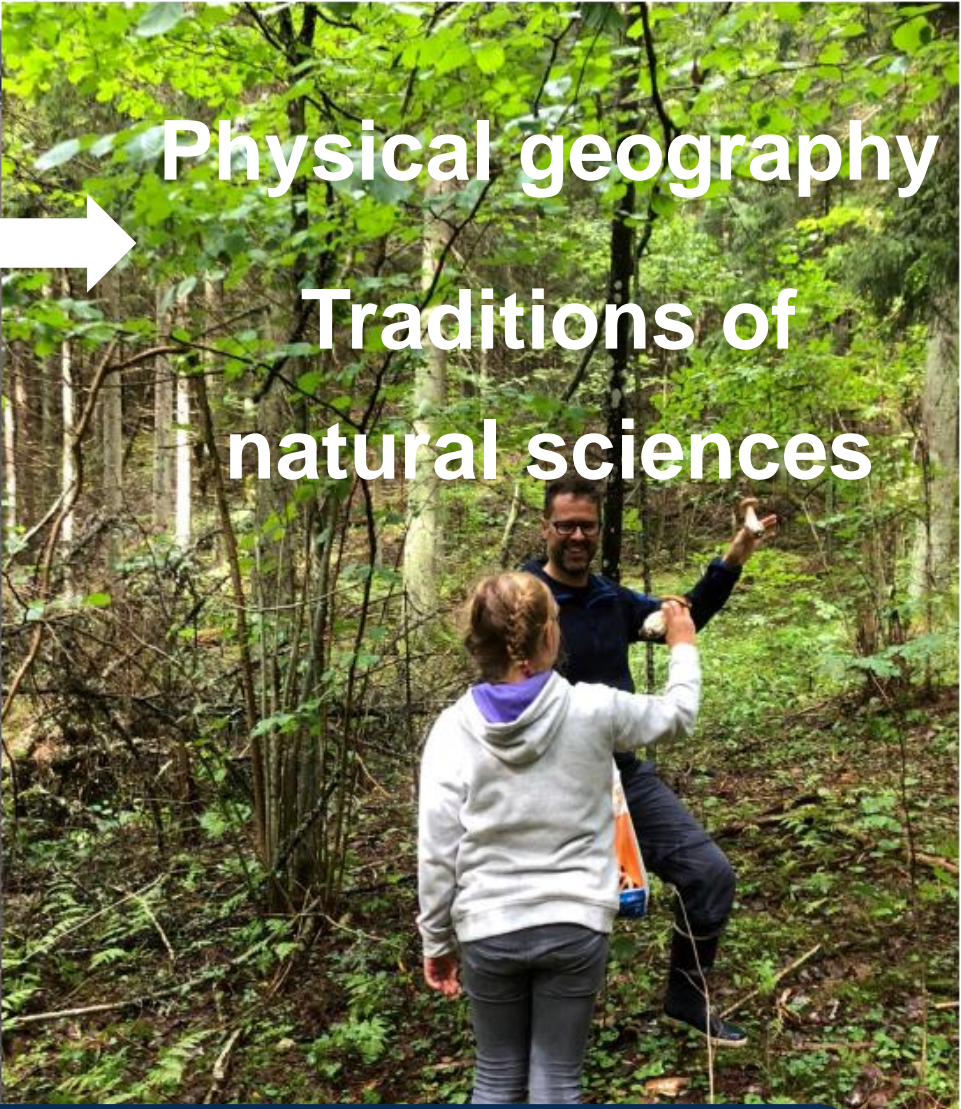
HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



TRADITIONAL STUDY SUBJECT AT THE UNIVERSITY



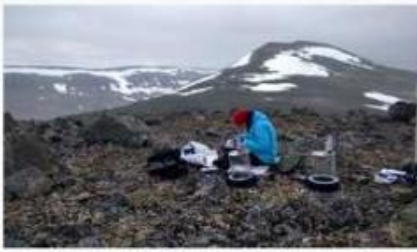
Kuva 3. Maantieteen laitoksen opiskelijoita kenttätutkimusmenetelmiin tutustumassa prof. Rosbergin (takarivissä toinen oikealta) johdolla Eläintarhan alueella Helsingissä vuonna 1901.



Human geography
**Traditions of social
sciences**

Physical geography
**Traditions of
natural sciences**

**Geoinformatics:
Methodological development and
application expertise**



**THE BIOGEOCLIMATE MODEL-
LING LAB**



**AQUATIC COMMUNITY ECO-
LOGY GROUP**



**SPATIAL POLICY, POLITICS
AND PLANNING**



**URBAN GEOGRAPHY AND
URBAN ACADEMY**



DIGITAL GEOGRAPHY LAB



**LAND CHANGE STUDIES IN
AFRICA (ECHOLAB)**



**CONSERVATION
GEOGRAPHY (HELICS)**



**TAITA RESEARCH STATION
KENYA**

TEACHING LINKING TO RESEARCH

GEOGRAPHY IN HELSINKI

ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD



Home

Rankings ▾

Universities

News ▾

Activities ▾

32



University of Bristol



214.1

61.9

33



Lund University



213.5

62.5

34



Autonomous University of Barcelona



212.5

35



University of Helsinki



212.1

36



University of Zurich



211.8

37



University of Birmingham



211.4

38



Stanford University



210.5

Best Ranked Subjects 🇷🇺

Subject	Rank
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Ecology	26
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Dentistry & Oral Sciences	31
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Geography	35
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Atmospheric Science	35
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Communication	41
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Public Health	44
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Agricultural Sciences	46
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Remote Sensing	47
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HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
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UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

Contacts within and outside the university





WHO ARE WE GEOGRAPHERS?

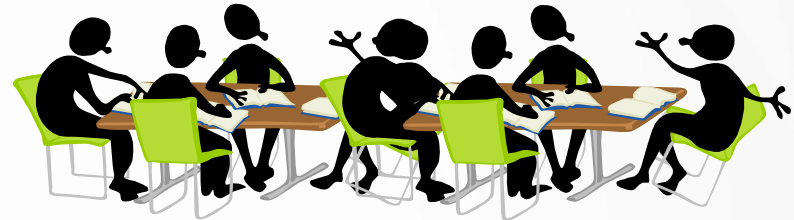
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UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



PEOPLE IN THE MSC PROGRAMME



Students:
approx 600



The Board of Geography
Study programmes



**YOU ARE AN
IMPORTANT PART OF
GEOGRAPHY
COMMUNITY** ☐





AT MSC LEVEL, YOU

Have the right to

- Dive deep into geographical questions, theories and methods.
- Receive high quality teaching and supervision.
- Be a full member of the university and geographer community.

Have also responsibilities ☐

- Take responsibility and decisions on your own studies.
- Give feedback to develop our teaching.
- Treat everyone fairly and with respect and report if you witness problems.

A person is riding a bicycle on a paved path that curves through a park. The path is bordered by green grass. In the background, there is a large hill covered in trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and red. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The text "WE ARE SUPER EXCITED TO MEET/SEE YOU!" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

**WE ARE SUPER
EXCITED TO
MEET/SEE YOU!**

**HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI**



GEOGRAPHY

Master's programme orientation

August 31st, 2023

Physicum E204

9.15–11.45 am

Ph.D. Katariina Kosonen

Education coordinator

Geography Bachelor's and Master's Programmes

Department of Geosciences and Geography



GEOGRAPHY ORIENTATION 2023

9.15–9.30	Welcome (Olli Ruth)
9.30–10.00	Faculty information, structure of studies, personal study plan and master's thesis (Katariina Kosonen)
10.00–10.10	Joint studies: The very first course of your master studies (Lotta Junnilainen)
10.10–10.30	Joint studies: Master thesis seminar and study guidance (Olli Ruth & Heli Kainulainen)
10.30–10.40	a short break
10.40–10.50	Physical geography start module (Olli Ruth)
10.50–11.00	Human geography start module (Juho Luukkonen)
11.00–11.10	Geoinformatics start module (Tuuli Toivonen)
11.10–11.20	Student organizations MaO and EGEA presentation
11.20–11.45	Questions, discussion



Kumpula Campus

EXACTUM

- Department of Computer Science
- Department of Mathematics and Statistics
- Institute of Seismology
- Unicafe canteen



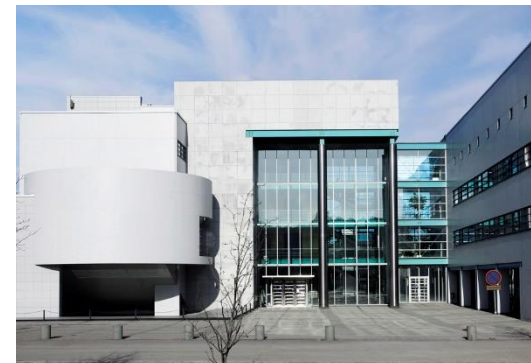
PHYSICUM

- Department of Physics
- Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research (INAR)
- Helsinki Institute of Physics (HIP)
- Department of Geosciences and Geography
- Kumpula Campus Library and Student Services



CHEMICUM

- Department of Chemistry
- VERIFIN - Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention
- Unicafe canteen





Also at the Campus...

- Kumpula Manor:
 - Kumpula Botanic Garden
 - Geological collections
- Kumpula Sports Centre
 - In the campus area
 - UniSport Services
- Finnish Meteorological Institute
- Head Office of the ICOS (Integrated Carbon Observation System)
- Finnish Communication Regulatory Authority (FICORA)





Geographers work also on Centre campus: Institute of Urban and Regional Studies

Porthania-building, 3rd floor, Street address: Yliopistonkatu 3





Completion times

- The target time for completing your degree is 5 years.
 - This means students who have been granted the right to study both the Bachelor's and Master's Degrees.
- Your study right is valid for a total of 7 years (Bs+Ma degree) or 4 years (Ma degree only).
- For more information, please visit:
<https://studies.helsinki.fi/instructions/article/duration-degree>

Structure of your degree

MSc, Geography 120 cr

Joint studies 10 cr

GEOG-301 Geographical thinking, history and research directions

GEOG-388 Master thesis seminar in geography

Modules, min. 45 cr

1 start module
GIS/Phys/Hum

Choose +2 from
thematic or start
modules

Start 1
15 cr



Theme 1 (15 cr)

Theme 1 (15 cr)

OR

Theme 2 (15 cr)

Start 2 (15 cr)

Master's seminar and thesis 35 cr

GEOG-G/H/P388 MSc seminar 5 cr

GEOG-389 MSc thesis 30 cr

Other studies 30 cr (several options):

- optional courses or more modules (geography or others)
- some fixed study module (UH, Aalto or other university)
- exchange studies abroad –work life courses/practical training
- optional/compulsory language courses

MSc, Geography subject teacher education 120 cr

Geography education start module 10 cr

GEOG-301 Geographical thinking, history and research directions

GEOG-352 Geographies of young people and education

1 module 15 cr

Start (15 cr)

OR

Theme (15 cr)

Master's seminar and thesis 35 cr

GEOG-G/H/P388 MSc seminar 5 cr

GEOG-389 MSc thesis 30 cr

Pedagogical studies for teachers 60 cr

for teaching in basic education and upper secondary
school level

Basic and intermediate studies in education

GEOG-M1 Joint studies, 10 cr

GEOG-301 Geographical thinking, history and research directions

GEOG-388 Master thesis seminar in geography

Start modules

GEOG-M2 Geoinformatics start module, 15 cr

GEOG-M3 Human geography start module, 15 cr

GEOG-M4 Physical geography start module, 15 cr

GEOG-M4 Geography education start module 10 cr

Thematic modules all 15 cr

GEOG-M11
Automating and visualizing in GIS

GEOG-M12
Conservation geography

GEOG-M13
Conservation practice and planning

GEOG-M14
GIS and Big Data for Social good

GEOG-M15
Implementing Research in Physical Geography

GEOG-M16
Political geographies of regional development

GEOG-M17
Remote Sensing of Environment

GEOG-M18
Spatial Inequalities and sustainability policies

GEOG-M19
High-latitude landscapes and ecosystems

GEOG-M20
Urban geography and land use planning

GEOG-M21
Urban dynamics and diversity

GEOG-M23
Development geography

GEOG-M24
Technical Geoinformatics (Aalto university)

GEOG-M25
Spatial planning (Aalto university)

GEOG-M50
Mixed module 0-15 cr

Master's seminar 5 cr and thesis 30 cr

GEOG-G388
Advanced seminar in geoinformatics

GEOG-H388
Advanced seminar in human geography

GEOG-P388
Advanced seminar in physical geography

GEOG-389 Master's thesis in geography 30 cr



Structure and recommended timing

First year studies (60 credits):

- Joint studies:
 - GEOG-301 Geographical thinking (5 cr)
 - GEOG-388 Master's thesis seminar sessions throughout the year
- Start module: Human geography, Physical geography or Geoinformatics (15 cr)
- Advanced seminar sessions
- Thematic modules (15 + 15 cr, some courses on the 2nd year)
- Optional studies (10-20 cr, depending on your PSP and timing of the courses)

Second year studies (60 credits):

Autumn term

- Thematic modules / Optional studies (20-30 cr)
- Advanced seminar (5 cr)
- Master's thesis seminar sessions

Spring term

- Master's thesis (30 cr)
- Master's thesis seminar sessions and presentation (5 cr)



Structure and recommended timing continues...

OPTIONAL STUDIES, 30 credits

- Courses or study modules from any other programme, please check here what is available:
<https://studies.helsinki.fi/instructions/optional-studies>
- Courses from other universities; flexible study right (JOO-studies), exchange studies
- Internship, 5-10 cr (responsible teacher Petteri Muukkonen)



Plan your studies: personal study plan (PSP) and SISU

- <https://sisu.helsinki.fi/student/login>
 - log in with your UH username and password
 - your personal student information
 - degree structures, PSP, timing
 - registration for courses and exams
 - completed credits, applications, groups
-
- **A guided SISU-clinic for master students on Friday, September 1st in Zoom at 12-13 pm**



Academic year and teaching periods

The Academic Year: 1.8.–31.7.

Autumn Semester 2023

- Intense Period 28.8.–3.9.
- **I Teaching Period 4.9.–22.10.**
- Exam and Reading Week 23.10.–29.10.
- **II Teaching Period 30.10.–17.12.**
- Exam and Reading Week 18.12.–23.12.

Spring Semester 2024

- Intense Period 2.1.–14.1.
- **III Teaching Period 15.1.–3.3.**
- Exam and Reading Week 4.3.–10.3.
- **IV Teaching Period 11.3.–5.5.**
(Easter Break 28.3.- 3.4.)
- Exam and Reading Week 6.5.–12.5.
- Intense Period 6.5.–31.5.



Enrollment every academic year

- You must register at the university either as present or absent each academic year. The registration period is 1.5.–31.8. (Note! Check annually.)
- Automatic registration is done in the registration service [Oili](#).
- Personal registration must be made to Student Services if you pay with a general reference number.
- More information in the [Instructions for Students](#)



Course levels and credits

- Course levels
 - Basic level studies – Bachelor's degree
 - Intermediate level studies – Bachelor's degree
 - Advanced level studies – Master's degree
 - Language studies
 - Other studies
- Credits (Cr) correspond to the ECTS
 - European Credit Transfer System -> 1 credit point (1 op) = 1 ECTS = 27 hours of work
- The degree students workload is 1600 hours per year which is worth 60 credits in completed studies.
 - We recommend students to take 15 credits/period or 30 credits/term
- Grades used in the University of Helsinki
 - 5 (excellent), 4 (very good), 3 (good), 2 (satisfactory), 1 (passable), 0 = fail





More information and help...

- Studies service: <https://studies.helsinki.fi/frontpage>
All about studying; general instructions, course information, optional studies, your personal course calendar, services, sisu and a lot more...
- Your tutors
- Study Counsellors
- Education coordinators
- Student Services: kumpula-student@helsinki.fi
- Faculty of Science: <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/faculty-of-science>



More information and help...

- Education coordinator for geography programmes is **Katariina Kosonen**
- Office hours:
 - Tuesdays 11-12 am,
telephone appointments or Porthania
 - Thursdays, 10-11 am,
Physicum library, 2nd floor, room G231 (group room Q)
 - book an appointment via Vihta
 - <https://secure.vihta.com/public-ng/studenthelsinki/#/home>
 - mail to: kumpula-student@helsinki.fi





Student Services

- General advice on studies at the University of Helsinki
- Advice on registration for the academic year and study rights
- Official study certificates, transcripts of records and various travel discount certificates (HSL, Matkahuolto and VR)
- The university has eight student service points: Kaisa Library, Kruununuhaka, Kumpula, Meilahti, Metsätalo, Porthania, Siltavuori and Viikki + Language Centre and Open University's own counselling
 - Opening hours vary by point. Please check the current information in the Instructions for Students!
- **If you don't know who to ask, ask Student Services!**



Student Services

Kumpula Student Services

Physicum, Kumpula Student Services, Gustaf Hällströminkatu 2

- Email: **kumpula-student@helsinki.fi**
- Telephone 02941 50066
(Telephone service hours: Thu 12-14)



Other services for students


- Finnish Student Health Care Foundation
[YTHS](#)
- [UniSport](#) (Sports services)
- Study Psychologist, [Contact Form](#)
- [Nyyti ry](#) – Student Support Center
- [University Chaplain](#)
- Student Union of the University of Helsinki
[\(HYY\)](#)
- [Career Services](#)

- [The Guidance Compass](#) is the most convenient way to find services.



Kumpula Campus Code of Conduct

- The Kumpula Campus Code of Conduct defines how we behave in our faculty, what kind of behaviour we expect from others and what kind of image we give of our faculty to the outside world.
- Through the guidelines, the faculty takes a proactive and preventive role to ensure that our faculty is a good and safe place to work, study and visit.
- Check out the instructions:
- <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/faculty-science/faculty/kumpula-campus-code-conduct>



**We wish you success in
your studies!**



Scientific thinking, History and Concepts of Geography

Course for first year MSc, 2023



Overview of the course

- Joint studies: A course for all 1.year master-level students.
- The course adopts a holistic approach to geography as a discipline by presenting its 'philosophical principles, theoretical debates and key concepts.
- What does it mean to think scientifically and geographically? What are geography's key concepts and how do we use them? How and why are geography's perspectives relevant in addressing the major environmental and societal challenges of today?
- Geography festival, Key concept-seminar, Book clubs, great presentations on geographical thinking and research, fascinating debates and discussions.



Schedule 2023

Teaching periods 1 + 2
Meetings on Fridays 8.9.-8.12.
Physicum, E204

8.9. Introduction lecture, 8-10

15.9. Geography Festival, 9-17

29.9.-24.11.(Fridays) Key Concept Intros,
8-10

8.12. Key Concept Conference, 9-17

+ Weekly book clubs

(No fixed schedule, student groups can decide when and where their book club meets)

SECOND EDITION

Edited by
Nicholas J. Clifford, Sarah L. Holloway, Stephen P. Rice and Gill Valentine

Key Concepts in Geography





GLOBALIZATION

NATURE

SCALE

LANDSCAPE

RISK

SPACE

SOCIAL SYSTEMS

ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS

DEVELOPMENT

PLACE

THE POWER OF GEOGRAPHICAL THINKING!



-
- For those without a BSc in geography, this course provides the frame and foundation for their studies in geography.
 - The course is about practicing our geographic minds, and seeing the power of geographical thinking...
...but it also helps you to get to know each other and make friends!
 - For more information, go to our Moodle area. You will get the access to the area next week.

Welcome to the course, and see you next week (on Friday at 8)!



GEOG-388 MASTER THESIS SEMINAR IN GEOGRAPHY, 5 CR 1.-2. ACADEMIC YEAR

JOINT STUDIES

GEOG-301 Geographical thinking, history and research directions

GEOG-388 Master thesis seminar in geography



GEOG-388 Master's thesis seminar

- All Geography theses, will be examined in common seminars on Fridays once a month. Supervisor will book time for the examination from the spreadsheet

As a student you have to

- 1-6: Listen to at least 6 presentations during your studies and write short (approx. 1-1,5 page) memo and return that to course own Moodle page. More information on Moodle page.
- 7: Be an student-opponent for one of the thesis presentations (usually close to end of your studies). (also memo to Moodle page about key points)
- 8: Present your own thesis in the seminar and write short description / “advertisement” about your thesis to our blog (not the same than abstract of the thesis)





Seminar dates (autumn 2023)

- 1.9.2023 (no teachers guidance&supervision meeting)
- 29.9.2023
- 27.10.2023
- 24.11.2023
- 15.12.2023 (not possible to get degree before 2024)

Seminar times

- 8:30-9:45
- 10:00-11:15
- 11:30-12:45 Guidance & supervision meetings!!
- 13:00-14:15
- 14:30-15:45

11:30-12:10 General guidance (Heli&Katariina&Olli),
12:15-12:45 Thesis supervisors present



- 20 min thesis presentation,
- 10-15 min opponent`s presentation and discussion,
- 10-15 min. general discussion with the public,
- 10-15 min examiner`s comments and discussion,
- 10-15 min. supervisor`s comments and discussion.





PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY START MODULE

Physical geography start module

GEOG-P301 Spatial aquatic research

GEOG-P302 Modelling in physical geography

GEOG-P312 Spatial terrestrial research

How to package:

How to execute scientific field sampling and analysis, both aquatic and terrestrial

How to evaluate and present spatial data



GEOG-P301 SPATIAL AQUATIC RESEARCH, 5 CR 1. PERIOD

<https://studies.helsinki.fi/courses/course-unit/otm-eab75718-7746-4a88-b37a-6144e6d397b2>

Field days 5.-7.9.23 9AM-3 PM (from Kumpula campus)

Intensive period weeks: Lectures, practical work, small seminar, exam. 2.10.-17.10.23 (Kumpula campus C108 and labs.)



GEOG-P312 SPATIAL TERRESTRIAL RESEARCH, 5 CR 1. PERIOD.

<https://studies.helsinki.fi/courses/course-unit/otm-fca1ba5a-b7e5-47a5-8e95-a97a9f0b2a54>

Field course in Tvärminen station (Hanko) 11.-14.9.23 (from 9AM on Monday to 4 Pm on Thursday)

Intensive period weeks: Lectures, practical work, small seminar, exam. 18.10.-29.10.23 (Kumpula campus C108 and labs.)



GEOG-P302 MODELLING IN PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY, 5 CR., 2. PERIOD.

<https://studies.helsinki.fi/courses/course-unit/otm-363a115a-a66e-476e-9335-eedbcf751eb5>

Lectures, practical/independent work, small seminar, exam.
30.10.-30.11.23 Mo, Tu, We 12-15. (Kumpula campus
Excatum C220)

Human geography start module 15 cr

Courses:

- GEOG-H301 Qualitative research techniques and analysis in human geography 5 cr (Juho Luukkonen), 1. period
- GEOG-H302 Quantitative research techniques and analysis in human geography 5 cr (Teemu Kemppainen), 2. period
- GEOG-H303 Argumentation in human geography 5 cr (Juho Luukkonen, Teemu Kemppainen). "How to write a good research plan in human geography; 3. period: Very good idea to combine H303 with the course "Advanced seminar in human geography" (write and present research plan for your thesis)

Completion methods:

- Lectures, readings, workshops and individual field work exercises



General aims of the module

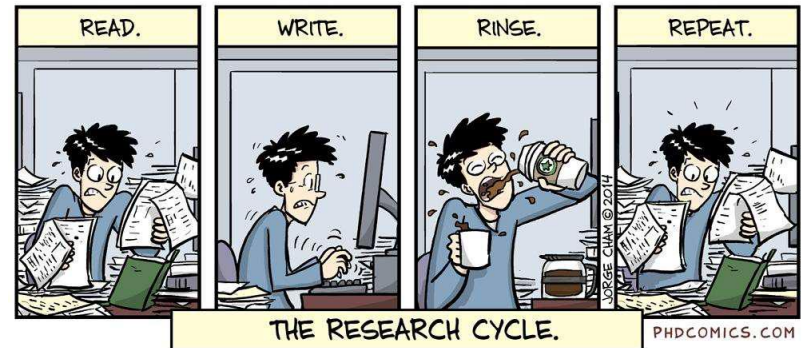
- After completing the module, students are familiar with **key theories, concepts and methods** in contemporary human geography.
- They are also familiar with analysing and interpreting social, economic and political phenomena through lenses of **different research traditions in human geography**.
- After the courses, the students have knowledge on the **timely research themes in human geography**, and on the wide range of human geography research.
- Finally, the students are familiar with basic **research ethics** related to practicing human geography.



Detailed aims of the module

After completing the courses of the module, student

1. understands the **research process** and logic of qualitative and quantitative analysis;
2. is able to critically evaluate relevant **methodological questions** (e.g. correspondence of the research question(s), data and methods);
3. can apply the most typical **qualitative/quantitative methods** at the level needed for a master thesis in human geography;
4. is able to define, formulate and justify their **research topics**;
5. is able to create rigorous and original **research questions**;
6. is able to critically evaluate, develop and literally express **scientific arguments**;
7. and is able to continue learning in other relevant courses



GEOG-M2 GEOINFORMATICS START MODULE

Courses:

- , GEOG -G301, *Compulsory* OR Introduction to advanced geoinformatics Cartographic visualization in GIS; GEOG-349; *Alternative* if GEOG -G301 has been completed by the student before, GEOG -G301
- Introduction to remote sensing of environment; GEOG-G302; *Compulsory*
- Quantitative methods in geography, GEOG-306, *Compulsory*

“The module will introduce the student to fundamental concepts and approaches of geoinformatics, remote sensing and quantitative geography at the MSc level. It will provide the foundations for later studies in geoinformatics, or an overview of advanced geoinformatics for those taking other related modules later”

Learning outcomes – a student will be able to:

- 1) distinguish the key methods in geoinformatics, including spatial analysis, remote sensing and statistical methods relevant for geographers.
- 2) be familiar with the timely research themes in geoinformatics
- 3) be able to apply remote sensing, spatial analysis and statistical methods of in geographical research professionally

GEOG-M1
Joint studies

GEOG-301 Geographical thinking, history and research directions

GEOG-XXX Master thesis seminar in geography

Start modules, pick 1-2

GEOG-M2 Geoinformatics start module

GEOG-M3 Human geography start module

GEOG-M4 Physical geography start module

GEOG-M4 Geography education start module
10 ECTS

Thematic modules 15 ECTS, pick 2-3 (start modules + thematic modules should make up 3 modules)

GEOG-M11
Automating and visualizing in GIS

GEOG-M17
Remote Sensing of Environment

GEOG-M21
Urban dynamics and diversity

GEOG-M16
Political geographies of regional development

GEOG-M15
Implementing Research in Physical Geography

GEOG-M14
GIS and Big Data for Social good

GEOG-M12
Conservation geography

GEOG-M18
Spatial Inequalities and sustainability policies

GEOG-M20
Urban geography and land use planning

GEOG-M19
High-latitude landscapes and ecosystems

GEOG-M24
Technical Geoinformatics (Aalto university)

GEOG-M13
Conservation practice and planning

GEOG-M25
Spatial planning (Aalto university)

GEOG-M23
Development geography

GEOG-M50
Mixed module 0-15 cr

MSc seminar and thesis

GEOG-G388
Advanced seminar in geoinformatics

GEOG-H388
Advanced seminar in human geography

GEOG-P388
Advanced seminar in physical geography

GEOG-389 Master's thesis in geography
30 ECTS

PLEASE NOTE ALSO THE GEOINFORMATICS SEMINAR

Everyone invited from early on! Do take the full 2 years to participate!

Meetings: Every Wednesday from Oct 4th onwards

Content:

- Thesis plan presentations (students)
- Thesis advancement presentations (students)
- How to write the thesis discussions:
 - Choosing the topic
 - Making the research plan
 - Advancing with the writing (thesis structure and common pitfalls)
 - Open science practices
- Catching up with most recent research or other advancements
- You can influence!