



**Contact**

Dr. Samuel Abiven  
Physical Geography  
Department of Geography  
University of Zurich  
Winterthurerstrasse 190  
8057 Zürich  
samuel.abiven@geo.uzh.ch  
[www.geo.uzh.ch/en/studying/spez\\_master/physical\\_geography](http://www.geo.uzh.ch/en/studying/spez_master/physical_geography)

SPECIALIZED  
MASTER

# Physical Geography

Study and understand our  
natural environment



The specialized Master's in Physical Geography offers you the chance to engage with the complexities of the natural environment. We propose you to specifically study one of the following topics: Glaciology & Geomorphodynamics, Hydrology & Climate, Soil Science & Biogeochemistry and Geochronology. This Master's degree program is designed to provide an in-depth scientific education and the skills required to carry out an independent scientific work.



### SPECIALIZED MASTER'S IN PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Global changes currently modify many aspects of the terrestrial physical systems. From the carbon cycle to the water cycle, from the glaciers to the archives of the past, these changes are studied under different research points of view at the Department of Geography. The **Glaciology & Geomorphodynamics group** focuses on mountain processes that result from the interactions between the climate and the surface. The related research topics concern glaciers, permafrost, and natural hazards. The **Soil Science & Biogeochemistry group** aims at understanding how global climate change affects the multiple interactions of vegetation, soil, and the terrestrial carbon cycle. The **Hydrology & Climate group** focuses its research and teaching on water catchment hydrology and climate impacts on water resources. The **Geochronology group** explores soil and landscape past dynamics and processes with a special focus on Alpine environments.

### ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Completion of a Bachelor's degree in Geography or in a relevant neighboring discipline with above-average performance
- Prior knowledge in your field of interest
- High degree of motivation

### PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The extended Master's thesis of 60 ECTS gives you the opportunity to deepen your knowledge into the research project of your interest. An individual course program of 30 ECTS is tailored to your preferences and needs. Within the specialized Master's in Physical Geography you will further specialize in Glaciology & Geomorphodynamics, Hydrology & Climate, Soil Science & Biogeochemistry or Geochronology.

### Optional course offerings

- Field studies on high mountain processes
- Quantification and modeling of the Cryosphere
- Atmosphere and climate
- Global change and ecosystem response
- Hydrological field measurements and calculations
- Hydrological modeling and programming
- Environment, soil, vegetation
- Environmental archives and age determination

In addition, you can choose from a large number of other Master's courses offered by the University of Zurich, ETH Zurich, or other Swiss universities.

### EXCELLENT SUPERVISION

As a specialized Master's student in Physical Geography at the University of Zurich, you will profit from outstanding supervision opportunities from a broad set of internationally renowned scientific expertise. The research groups in Physical Geography at the University of Zurich are worldwide recognized for their excellency in their field of competency. The World Glacier Monitoring Service is located at the Department of Geography of the University of Zurich and the Physical Geography unit is well equipped by high quality laboratory infrastructure.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The specialized Master's in Physical Geography prepares you to find exciting and challenging positions in academia, companies, governmental institutions, NGOs and international organizations.

