



## Degree Profile

# Master in African Studies

<b>Organizational unit</b>	Centre for African Studies Basel (ZASB)
<b>Degree</b>	MA in African Studies
<b>Range, Duration, Start</b>	120 ECTS; 4 Semester (if full time), Spring and Fall Semester
<b>Language of instruction</b>	English

## Program Goals

Students acquire theoretical knowledge and methodological skills across a select range of social and natural science disciplines. This knowledge allows them to understand the complex links between natural, social, cultural, political and historical factors in Africa and to apply these skills in basic or applied research.

## Program Characteristics

<b>Orientation</b>	Scientific-oriented education
<b>Subject area</b>	African Studies
<b>Majors</b>	–
<b>Program structure</b>	The curriculum includes the modules: Introduction to African Studies (6 ECTS); Basics (Environment, Epidemiology, Sociology, Social Anthropology, History, Politics, Religion – 10 ECTS); Fields (Media and Imagination, Knowledge Production and Transfer, Governance and Politics, Public Health and Social Life, Environment and Development – 30 ECTS); Interdisciplinary and Applied African Studies (11 ECTS); Research Skills (11 ECTS); free elective (12 ECTS); master's examination (10 ECTS); master's thesis (30 ECTS).
<b>Distinctive Features</b>	Through its combination of thematic and application oriented modules the study program is decidedly interdisciplinary in order to foster comparison among different scientific approaches as well as a wide variety of methods. In addition, transdisciplinarity is promoted by integrating practical knowledge and introducing students to applied research fields. It emphasizes training along the main axes of research at the Centre for African Studies Basel as well as training in applied African Studies and research methods. The Centre coordinates research and teaching as well as Africa-relevant events at the University of Basel in cooperation with other university departments and external organizations. It builds on a number of institutions relating to Africa based in Basel.

## Career Opportunities

<b>Employment</b>	Development cooperation and consultancy; intercultural mediation, migration, integration and social work; media, public relations and journalism; museums, archives and independent curating; tourism; public health sector; environmental agencies; corporate sector; diplomacy and politics
<b>Further Studies</b>	Doctorate; Master of Advanced Studies in Development and Cooperation

## Teaching

<b>Approaches</b>	Individual, tutored and collective learning, interactive learning, study trips, field work, internship, project-based learning
<b>Assessments</b>	Oral and written exams, active participation in courses, term papers, master's thesis, master's examination

## Competences

<b>Generic</b> Attitude / Communication Approach / Management	Students acquire the skills to ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– define and approach a problem in view of basic or applied research.</li> <li>– design research plans, formulate research questions, collect and analyze data autonomously and collaboratively.</li> <li>– plan and conduct field research autonomously.</li> <li>– examine conceptual alternatives and research literature critically and substantially.</li> <li>– work responsibly, in a timely and solution-oriented manner.</li> <li>– critically reflect on their claims and constructively engage with criticism.</li> <li>– meet the world with critical openness.</li> <li>– deploy scientific tools to account for social practices and phenomena.</li> <li>– explain complex societal and systemic relationships in scientifically sound manner and communicate effectively and persuasively in written and oral form to academic and lay publics.</li> <li>– read, understand, revise and write English scientific texts and express themselves in the English language on an academic level.</li> </ul>
<b>Subject-related</b> Knowledge / Understanding Application / Judgment Interdisciplinarity	Students acquire the skills to ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– acknowledge the importance of understanding social phenomena and practices from the perspective of the actors themselves.</li> <li>– understand links between social, environmental, health-related and historical factors in Africa and analyze them comparatively in a local, national and transnational perspective.</li> <li>– explain agents and actions in societies or settings in different environmental zones and epochs grounded in context.</li> <li>– challenge systematically the results and problems of current research on Africa.</li> <li>– situate, analyze and synthesize knowledge from different fields in the context of African Studies.</li> <li>– apply Africa-based knowledge to analyze the specific position of Africa in the world.</li> <li>– review and assess independently publications and sources from and relating to Africa.</li> <li>– collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data with methodological accuracy.</li> <li>– reflect the epistemic foundations of African Studies.</li> <li>– conduct interdisciplinary research while acknowledging the boundaries between the disciplines.</li> </ul>

## Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the master's program in African Studies...

- demonstrate a broad and in-depth knowledge of relevant social science theories as well as thematic and regional literature in order to formulate research questions, describe and analyze adequately current and historical processes and conditions of health-related, environmental, social and cultural issues in distinct African regions.
- are able to interdisciplinary assess the knowledge produced by the various social-science disciplines in order to evaluate their specific approach and to synthesize their contribution to the study of Africa adequately.
- are able to correctly assess and develop research designs in the context of African Studies based on their empirical research skills and their awareness of the theoretical and methodological challenges in producing Africa-related knowledge.
- are able to plan, carry out, appropriately document and critically reflect individual or collaborative basic and applied research including field work in order to understand social practices and phenomena, historical processes, as well as health and environmental issues in Africa and beyond.
- can address a specific regional, thematic or theoretical issue in the context of African Studies, to argue for a chosen approach and present their results for discussion to peers and the public clearly and adequately in written and oral form.