Information for first semester students at the Geography Department

Welcome to the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin!

On the following pages you will find important information to help you get started at our university.

Further information can also be found on the following hompages:

- Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
- Geography Department

By the way: On **October 14th** from 11:30am - 13pm the central semester kick-off event takes place in **Adlershof**. The programme can be found here: [Semester kick-off event](#).
To the new geography students starting in the winter semester 2019/20

Dear soon-to-be students,

Welcome to the Geography Department of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU) – one of Germany’s and Europe’s oldest and most popular geography departments.

You have made an excellent choice: Geography is an exciting, diverse and highly relevant subject that deals with pivotal questions of humankind and seeks to find solutions in the light of global change, worldwide migration, international competitions between cities, economic globalisation processes, the ageing and social polarisation of western societies with concurrently increasing climate extremes, unsolved water issues and loss of biodiversity.

Our department at the HU is a young institution in terms of our employees and our newly structured study programmes and departmental divisions. We primarily deal with the interface between human and physical geography. With our main focus on land use and urban transition we take a perspective onto the environment in an interdisciplinary way and with strong ties to neighbouring sciences such as sociology, ethnology, spatial planning, informatics, climate research or hydrology.

The study programmes at our department are research-oriented but also aim at a practical implementation of geography in planning and the private sector. Our university’s Integrated Research Institutes (IRI) pursue an interdisciplinary research approach in collaboration with other universities. The current co-chair of the Integrative Research Institute on Transformations of Human-Environment Systems (IRI THESys) and the director of the Georg-Simmel-Centre for Metropolitan Studies both are geographers from our department. So with us you are truly sitting in a front row seat.

Through several adjustments of our study programmes in recent years we have created a modern study structure that offers a variety of choices. We build upon an excellent and trustful relationship between our lecturers, the administration and the
students. Our remarkably active and ever helpful student initiative (FSI) will introduce itself in the following pages and will certainly assist you during the early weeks of your new studies.

Berlin offers a great and inspiring atmosphere to study. Our campus in Adlershof presents a professional study environment and a welcome respite from the turmoil of Berlin City.

I wish you a successful start at our department!

My best wishes,

Prof. Dr. Christoph Schneider
Executive Director
Dear soon-to-be master students,

We, the student initiative at the Geography Department, welcome you! For an easy and pleasant start in your master's program, we would like to introduce you to the campus, our department and your study program's structure in our introduction days from October 9th to 11th. You'll find the schedule for our introduction days on the next page. Some activities are designed for Bachelor students but are nevertheless very helpful for students new to Humboldt University or the campus.

November 1st to 3rd will be our weekend trip for new students. We'll take you out “into the wild” for a weekend, with plenty of time to get to know each other and have fun with all kinds of activities. The entire weekend trip will set you back 40€, including transport, food and lodging. The trip is designed for Bachelor students but will be a fun experience for new master students, too. Please note that the registration as well as most of the trip activities will be in German language. Number of trip participants is limited, so make sure to register soon on forms.gle/jkPmrZ6MJzEuPYKx7.

For any questions leading up the introduction days or your study program in general, feel free to contact our student guidance at studienberatung.geographie@geo.hu-berlin.de.

We are looking forward to meeting you during our introduction days and our weekend trip!

Best,
your student representatives in geography
### Introduction days for winter term 2019/20

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<th>Wednesday, October 9th</th>
<th>Thursday, October 10th</th>
<th>Friday, October 11th</th>
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<td><strong>11.00 am, Foyer of the department</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Welcome speech</strong> by Prof. Dr. Christoph Schneider (director of the department) and the student initiative (FSI).</td>
<td><strong>11.00 am, Foyer of the department</strong>&lt;br&gt;In our <strong>department rallye</strong>, you get to explore the most relevant sites inside our department.</td>
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<td><strong>11.30 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Campus rallye.</strong> You’ll get to know the Campus Adlershof and we show you how to create your Campus-Card (student ID).&lt;br&gt;Afterwards will be a <strong>FAQ for your study program.</strong>&lt;br&gt;We’ll give you an overview of your study and examination regulations and show you what’s to come in the upcoming semesters.&lt;br&gt;Meet our administrational platforms <strong>AGNES and moodle.</strong> Please bring the login data to your Humboldt university account if you already have one, otherwise <strong>bring your matriculation documents</strong> so we can help you create one.</td>
<td><strong>2.30 pm until 4.30 pm, room 1’013 Johann-von-Neumann-Haus</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Introduction of all divisions at our department.</strong> Here you can make yourself familiar with the people and fields of research at our department. Note that the presentations will be in German.</td>
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<td><strong>from 3 pm</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Barbecue and chill-out</strong> with students from other departments at the student café ‘MOPS’. Barbecue starts at 5 pm with steaks, sausages as well as vegetarian and vegan food at low prices.</td>
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<td><strong>from 8.00 pm</strong>&lt;br&gt;“<strong>Studying social geography of Berlin’s nightlife.</strong>” Let’s get together and have some drinks at the Flaschenzug-Bar, Emser Straße 16, 12051 Berlin. [S/U-station Neukölln or Hermannstraße]</td>
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Monday, 14th October is the so-called “**dies academicus**”. There are no lectures or courses on this day but a **campus-wide welcoming event** (held in German language) for all students at the Erwin-Schrödinger-Zentrum (room 0’115) in Adlershof from 11.30 am until 1 pm.