



Universität
Basel

Philosophisch-Historische
Fakultät



Master's program African Studies



Why African Studies?

- Study Africa in order to understand the world.
- De-center your perspective and challenge common assumptions in Academia.
- Learn to define problems before searching for solutions.
- Acquire theoretical knowledge and methodological skills across a select range of social and natural science disciplines that allows you 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.
- Study in an international environment meeting with students from all over the world.
- Practice to read, understand, revise and write English scientific texts and express yourself in the English language on an academic level.

Program Structure

Introduction to Interdisciplinary African Studies

Basics (5/7)

Environment

Sociology

History

Politics

Epidemiology

Social Anthropology

Religion

Fields (2/5)

Media and Imagination

Knowledge Production and Transfer

Governance and Politics

Environment and Development

Public Health and Social Life

Interdisciplinary and Applied African Studies

Research Skills

Master thesis and oral exams

Testimonials

African realities speaking to the world

“An MA in African Studies makes you understand the continent on its own terms, allows you to explore African realities that speak to the whole world.”

(Henri-Michel Yéré, postdoc)



Diverse and inspiring

“This program offers a broad choice of courses with many institutions working together. It was particularly inspiring to be with students from all over the world.”

(Caro van Leeuwen, graphic reporter)

Master's theses – some examples

- **Mickness Eliakunda Aeschlimann:** To what extent has the female participation in microfinance programs led to a change in gender relations at the household level?
- **Oluwasooto Ajayi:** African voices in the Africa Rising narrative
- **Lilian Gathigia Bieber:** World War II and the campaign for self rule in Kenya
- **Calasan Nemanja:** Role models and their influence on the youth: Swiss youth of African descent and their way to professional basketball
- **Robin Hill:** Diving across socio-ecological spaces
- **Johanna Mugabi:** Target group perception of humanitarian assistance focusing on enhanced food security through the concept of sustainable livelihoods
- **Anja Orschulko:** More than a health insurance? An Exploration of health related and non-health related uses of the Improved Community Health Fund (Tanzania)
- **Tibor Rechsteiner:** In Senegal, our problem is to master the water. Drip irrigation [...] for smallholder farmers as a socio-technical system
- **Rahel Stirnimann:** The working experiences of former Ethiopian domestic workers in Saudi Arabia and their impact on future migrant choices

Career perspectives

The competencies acquired in the Master program and your individual study portfolio provide a sound basis for a number of professional fields. Our graduates can be found in

- 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 and
- diplomacy and politics.

Career perspectives – Examples

Redakteur WOZ	Assistant lecturer, St. Augustine University of Mwanza, TZ
Deputy Managing Director Swiss African Business Circle SABC/ Rainbow Unlimited	Lecturer, Hochschule Luzern
Head of Africa Program, Brücke Le Pont	Project Associate, Swiss TPH
Arthur Waser Foundation/Co-Leiter des SwissFoundations Arbeitskreises «Internationale Zusammenarbeit	PhD, Data curator at the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellenc
Bereichsleiter Ausbildung birdlife Aargau	PhD, legal advisory team, University of Basel
Project Officer Swiss TPH	Senior lecturer in the Department of Anthropology and Development Studies at the University of Johannesburg
Projektleiter Nachhaltigkeit, Katholische Kirche Zürich	Research Professor, University of Basel
ImpactHub Bern	Swahili Lecturer and PhD student, Universität Köln
Coaching-Services.ch	PhD candidate, University of Basel
Public Engagement and Advocacy Manager at Mennonite Central Committee	PhD candidate, University of Basel
Ministry of Veterans Affairs, Namibia	PhD candidate, University of Bayreuth
Senior Manager International Programs at UNICEF Schweiz	PhD candidate at Edith Cowan University, Australia
Evangelisches Kinder- und Jugendwerk Baden (D)	PhD candidate, University of Zürich, Redakteur 20Min, Bundesamt für Geistiges Eigentum
Executive Director, Stiftung Presencia, Basel	PhD candidate, University of Basel
Senior Lecturer (Prof), Berner Fachhochschule	PhD candidate, University of Basel
Technical Advisor on School Development, Swisscontact	PhD candidate, University of Zürich
Scientific Officer at Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO	PhD candidate at Kadir Has University, now in the US
Fachstelle Integration, Kanton Aargau	PhD candidate University of Bern
Programme Officer, Swisscontact	PhD candidate, University of Cologne
Mission-21, Programmverantwortliche Kamerun	PhD candidate, University of Leipzig
Team Leader & Deputy Head of Department at Engagement Global gGmbH	Postdoc Universität Bern /University of Amsterdam
Mobiliar/Geschäftsführerin Actares, Aktionärinnen für nachhaltiges Wirtschaften	Postdoc University of the Free State, Bloemfontein
Transition Coach. Counselor New Orientation, Roche	Postdoc University of Basel
Ethics and Compliance Officer, Terre des Hommes	Postdoc University of Lucerne
Project manager Curaden / Agile, Lucerne	PhD, Lecturer and faculty member at the department of Religious and Intercultural Studies, Lead City University,
Graphic Reporter	Postdoc, University of Zürich
Academic proof reader	Postdoc, University of Bamberg
Creative writer, www.funigmettler.com	Postdoc University of Basel, Lecturer EPFL
Book Shop Proviant, Basel	Postdoc, University of Luxembourg
Coach und Mentorin für Frauen im Bereich Human Design, Life Coaching, Schamanismus	

Why study in Basel?

Founded in 2001, the Centre for African Studies Basel is the first of its kind in Switzerland.

It offers a Master and a PhD in African Studies as consecutive university degrees, as well as a continuing education program for professionals.

The Centre draws on a long tradition of scientific engagement with Africa in the region of Basel and benefits from a unique concentration of institutions and organizations with relation to Africa.

Basel is the home of major archives of importance for African Studies, to which students have access and which provide an excellent basis for research.

Besides its academic activities the Centre reaches out to the public with publications and events for a wider audience and by promoting public and cultural events through its website and newsletter, thereby fostering a vibrant community.



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Join our Zoom session
13 March, 12:30–13:30 (click on link)

Or contact us for an individual
counseling session: T. 061 207 34 82,
veit.arlt@unibas.ch

www.zasb.unibas.ch