



Information Sheet: Research Modules for a Master's in Social Anthropology *Fieldwork, Museum Research or Extended Literature Research*

General

The Master's in Social Anthropology programme is centred around an independent research project, which serves as the basis for the master's thesis. This student research is booked as a "research module" reserved for students in the major. The module can be completed as (a) fieldwork, (b) museum research or (c) extended literature research.

Your «research module» (type a, b or c) is booked prior to the start of your research via our teaching coordinator (contact below), using the booking form provided for this purpose: «[Request for Booking Research Modules Master](#)». «Research Modules» are not graded (pass/fail) and result in 6 ECTS credits. After the research, please send the completed and signed «[Attestation for Research Modules Master](#)» to the teaching coordinator.

Your «Research Module» is embedded in the two parts of the Master-Colloquium. This means, (1) your research can only be started after a «research concept» has been accepted in the «Master-Colloquium I». And (2) you finalize your "Research Module" by submitting a «research report» in the «Master-Colloquium II». Only then your "Research Module" is recorded as passed by our teaching coordinator.

Make sure you book «Master-Colloquium I and II» as any other module online via UZH's module booking page; each part resulting in 3 ECTS credits. These modules are offered every semester. Additionally - and usually in parallel with "Master-Colloquium I"/ at least before starting your research - you also do the module «Methods and Research Design» (6 ECTS credits), offered every spring semester.

(a) Fieldwork

Learning objectives: Independent fieldwork develops skills in empirical data collection and analysis using ethnographic methods. A research project is planned and carried out independently. Data obtained is then used for the student's master thesis.

Duration: Approximately 3 months of fieldwork should enable the student to collect sufficient data for a master thesis.

Supervision and interim report: A supervisor must be determined before a research module is booked. The supervisor will have already accompanied the development of the research concept in the Master-Colloquium I module, and the supervisory relationship continues during the fieldwork. Questions and problems that arise in the field can be discussed with the supervisor, usually by email. In the course of the field research, an interim report of approximately 2–3 pages should be submitted to the supervisor.

Conducting fieldwork: During the fieldwork, students should apply ethnographic methods appropriate to the topic and the research situation, in consultation with their supervisor. Intertwined



with this is an initial evaluation of data in the field. Students must conduct their fieldwork in accordance with the ethical standards of the subject. See the ethical charter for ethnologists by the Swiss Anthropological Association (SAA / SEG): https://sagw.ch/fileadmin/redaktion_seg-sse/dokumente/EDDT_Ethical_Statement_of_the_SES.pdf

It is the student's responsibility to arrange appropriate private insurance (accident and health insurance) and, if necessary, to obtain further information about the fieldwork location independently, e.g. travel advice from the EDA: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/representations-and-travel-advice.html>. Field research can take place following an excursion (field trip) or summer school, if appropriate.

Prerequisites: Completion of modules "Master-Colloquium I" and "Methods and Research Design"; necessary language skills; basic knowledge of the research field, topic and corresponding regional ethnography.

(b) Museum Research at VMZ (*Museumsethnologie / Praktische Forschung am Völkerkundemuseum VMZ*)

Learning objectives: Museum research, in cooperation with technical or scientific staff, grants students experience in empirical data collection using museum ethnographic methods and insight into the practice and theory of museological and teaching research. A research project is arranged in consultation with a scientific supervisor (preferably but not necessarily based on existing exhibitions or collections). It is planned and carried out independently, and the data obtained is then used for the student's master thesis.

Duration: 3 months should allow in-depth research of a museological topic, a collection or an exhibition area.

Supervision and interim report: A supervisor is determined before the "Research Module" is booked and already accompanies the development of the research concept (in "Master-Colloquium I"). The supervisory relationship continues during the fieldwork. Questions and problems that arise in the field can be discussed with the supervisor. The student will be granted a research permit to use collections of the Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zurich (VMZ), and a research agreement will be formulated jointly. In the course of the museum research, an interim report of approximately 2–3 pages should be submitted to the supervisor.

Conducting museum research: Museum-specific methods should be applied depending on the chosen research topic and in consultation with the supervisor and possibly other museum staff.

Prerequisites: The modules "Methods and Research Design" and "Master-Colloquium I" must have been completed before starting the practical museum research.

In the Bachelor's program, students should have completed the lecture module "Core Field: Material Culture, Everyday Technology and Arts" ("*Kernbereich Materielle Kultur, praktisches Wissen und Kunst, Vorlesung*") for 3 ECTS credits, and, if possible, the "Museum Internship" ("*Praxismodul*")



Museumsethnologie”) for 6 ECTS credits, which provide systematic introductions to all areas of the Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zurich (VMZ). If necessary, competences have to be acquired subsequently; this will be discussed in the supervision agreement. Willingness and interest in the in-depth examination of museum-relevant topics in social anthropology are required; practical skills (learned crafts or hobbies, knowledge of graphics and textiles, etc.) are also welcome. Any necessary language skills will be determined in the course of the first supervision interview.

(c) Extended Literature Research (*Erweiterte Literatur- und Theoriearbeit*)

Learning objectives: Extended literature research gives students competence in in-depth scientific literature research and theoretical discussions within social anthropology. A research project is planned and carried out independently. The knowledge gained from the literature and relevant archival material is used for the student’s own master thesis.

Duration: The equivalent of 3 months of fieldwork, excluding preparation and follow-up.

Supervision and interim report: A supervisor must be determined before the “Research Module” is booked. The supervisor will have already accompanied the development of the research concept (in “Master-Colloquium I”). The supervisory relationship continues during the extended literature research. Questions and problems that arise during the research can be discussed with the supervisor. In the course of the extended literature research, an interim report of approx. 2–3 pages should be submitted to the supervisor.

Conducting literature research: Literature and/or archive research as the basis for extended literature research can be carried out in Switzerland or abroad.

Prerequisites: Completion of the modules “Master-Colloquium I” and “Methods and Research Design”; willingness and interest in the in-depth study of theories of the subject and of the social sciences and humanities in general; necessary language skills.

Contact Information

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