

# Regulations for the study programs at the Institute of Social Anthropology

from 1 August 2016

*The Faculty of Humanities has passed,*

in accordance with Artikel 44 of the statutes of the University of Bern of 7 June 2011 (University Statutes, UniSt) and the program regulations governing studies and academic assessment at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Bern on 27 October 2005 (RSL 05),

*the following plan of studies:*

## **I. General**

### SCOPE

**Art. 1** This plan of studies applies to all students of Social Anthropology at the Faculty of Humanities. It also applies to students from other study programs who are taking courses at the Institute of Social Anthropology.

### STUDY PROGRAMS

**Art. 2** The Institute of Social Anthropology (hereafter, the Institute), within the Faculty of Humanities, offers the following study programs in Social and Cultural Anthropology:

- a Bachelor's degree in Social Anthropology (Major, 120 credits)
- b Bachelor's degree in Social Anthropology (Minor, 60 credits)
- c Bachelor's degree in Social Anthropology (Minor, 30 credits)
- d Bachelor's degree in Social Anthropology (Major, 90 credits)
- e Master's degree in Social Anthropology (Minor, 30 credits)
- f Master's degree in Anthropology of Transnationalism and the State (ATS) (Major, 90 credits)
- g Master's degree in Anthropology of Transnationalism and the State (ATS) (Minor, 30 credits),
- h Master's degree Creole – Cultural Differences and Transnational Processes (Mono, 120 credits).

### DEGREES

**Art. 3** The following degrees can be acquired:

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- a Bachelor of Arts in Social Anthropology, University of Bern (BA),
- b Master of Arts in Social Anthropology, University of Bern (MA).

MODULES FOR OTHER STUDY PROGRAMS

**Art. 4** The Institute offers modules for other study programs. (Annex 2)

ASSESSING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

**Art. 5** <sup>1</sup> Students' achievements are assessed through the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and its units of assessment, credits.

<sup>2</sup> The number of credits as well as the learning goals for the individual events/courses are defined in the electronic events calendar.

EVALUATION AND MODES OF ASSESSMENT

**Art. 6** All modules and assessments are evaluated. The modes of assessment of all courses and modules are determined by the course instructors at the start of each course (Annex 1, Chapter 4).

RETAKES

**Art. 7** <sup>1</sup> Failed assessments can be retaken once, usually in the following semester or in agreement with the course instructors.

LANGUAGE

**Art. 8** To successfully take part in courses, sufficient knowledge of German, and English is requisite from the start of the course.

### **III. Master's study program**

#### **1. Master's study program in Social Anthropology (Major, 90 credits)**

COURSE CONTENTS AND EDUCATIONAL GOALS

**Art. 26** <sup>1</sup> The study program is mainly aimed at graduates of the Bachelor's degree in Social Anthropology, and teaches the topic at an advanced level. Events are tailored to the Institute's focus areas (such as anthropology of work, migration research, media anthropology, legal anthropology and ecology). Disciplinary focus areas and current scientific topics are taught in conjunction with theoretical foundations as well as regional specializations.

<sup>2</sup> Graduates understand the complexity of society – especially in the fields of politics, economics, ecology, migration, law, religion, and media – from different theoretical perspectives.

They understand and are able to link the history and central schools of thought of the subject, and can apply these in different contexts.

By specializing in one part of the subject, students become familiar with theories and can assess them, using them to formulate scientific questions and write scientific texts. Students are

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able to distinguish between, and apply, different types of scientific text.

Students are able to carry out research processes independently: developing the questions, understanding and applying the methods, understanding and reflecting on theories, and applying this in a master's thesis which they write (or partly visually depict) independently.

They can identify and build up networks, manage their knowledge in a specialized way, and transmit the results of their knowledge.

#### FEATURES AND PREREQUISITES

**Art. 27** <sup>1</sup> Prerequisites for admission are a Bachelor's degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology/Ethnology from a Swiss university.

<sup>2</sup> Students are also eligible for admission if they have a Bachelor Minor worth at least 60 credits in the subject of Social and Cultural Anthropology/Ethnology.

<sup>3</sup> Additional requirements according to Article 5a RSL 05 will be defined individually.

#### PROGRAM STRUCTURE

**Art. 28** <sup>1</sup> The study program comprises the following components:

*a* Compulsory components (55 credits):

- three master's colloquia
- the master's seminar
- data collection with research report
- master's thesis

*b* Elective courses (35 credits):

- three seminars
- elective courses from the entire range of Social Anthropology and ATS worth 14 credits.

<sup>2</sup> The structure of the study program and the examination modalities are outlined in Annex 1 of this plan of studies.

#### MASTER'S THESIS

**Art. 29** <sup>1</sup> At the end of the course the students write a master's thesis (worth 30 credits) (Annex 1). The students complete the master's thesis, which is 200,000–275,000 characters in length, within six months. In agreement with teaching staff it may be partly in audio-visual form, in which case the scale and scope of the written part is individually determined.

<sup>2</sup> The topic of the master's is decided in agreement with an Institute course instructor. The topic must be narrow enough to allow full-time students to complete it in the set time-frame.

<sup>3</sup> Article 37ff RSL 05 applies to the master's thesis.

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COMPENSATION OF  
UNSATISFACTORY GRADES

**Art. 30** Unsatisfactory grades cannot be compensated.

PASS REQUIREMENTS

**Art. 31** A pass mark in the study program is achieved, if:

- a the student has passed the module and courses in accordance with Article 28 Section 1;
- b the master's thesis is awarded at least the Grade 4;
- c additional requirements are awarded at least a "pass".

GRADING

**Art. 32** <sup>1</sup> The grade of the study program is subject to Article 44 Section 1 RSL 05.

<sup>2</sup> The final master's grade is subject to Article 44 Section 3 RSL 05.

SELECTION OF MINOR

**Art. 33** <sup>1</sup> Students of the Major in Social Anthropology may combine it with any of the Minors with the required number of credits offered at the University of Bern. Combining a Major with a Minor in the same subject is not permitted (exception see Section 2).

<sup>2</sup> However, students of the Major in Social Anthropology are permitted to select a Minor in Social and Cultural Anthropology/Ethnology, as complementary and advanced study, at another Swiss university.

**2. *Master's study program in Social Anthropology (Minor, 30 credits)***

CONTENTS AND  
EDUCATIONAL GOALS

**Art. 34** <sup>1</sup> The study program imparts in-depth specialist knowledge in general social anthropology, in particular related to theory, as well as to specific thematic or regional topics. Courses are aligned with focus areas of the institute (such as the anthropology of work, migration research, media anthropology, legal anthropology and ecology). Disciplinary focus areas and current scientific topics are taught in conjunction with theoretical foundations as well as regional specializations.

<sup>2</sup> Graduates are able to communicate the central schools of thought of this subject. They are able to recognize and develop social-anthropological questions.

They can process the results of their knowledge against this social-anthropological background independently or in groups, and can impart the results of their knowledge scientifically.

FEATURES AND  
PREREQUISITES

**Art. 35** <sup>1</sup> Prerequisites for admission are a Bachelor Minor of at least 30 credits in Social and Cultural Anthropology/Ethnology.

<sup>2</sup> Additional requirements according to Article 5a RSL 05 will be defined individually.

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PROGRAM STRUCTURE

**Art. 36**

<sup>1</sup> The study program comprises the following components:

a Compulsory components (15 credits):

- master’s seminar
- written work

b Elective courses (15 credits)

- a seminar
- elective courses from the offer of Social Anthropology and ATS, worth 8 credits.

<sup>2</sup> The structure of the study program and the examination modalities are outlined in Annex 1 of this plan of studies.

COMPENSATING  
UNSATISFACTORY GRADES

**Art. 37** Unsatisfactory grades cannot be compensated.

PASS REQUIREMENTS

A pass mark in the study program is achieved, if:

**Art. 38**

a The student has passed the courses in accordance with Article 36 Section 1.

b Additional requirements are awarded at least a “pass”.

GRADING

**Art. 39** The grade of the study program is subject to Article 44 Section 2 RSL 05.

**3. *Master’s study program in Anthropology of Transnationalism and the State (ATS) (Major, 90 credits)***

COURSE CONTENTS AND  
EDUCATIONAL GOALS

**Art. 40** <sup>1</sup> The ATS program examines transformations of society that are relevant in the context of global interdependence. The focus is on interconnected issues such as the state, migration, law, economics, religion and politics. Statehood and related circulatory movements such as migration, international legal regimes, and economic linkages are focus areas of the exercises and seminars in this program. Particular attention is given to the focus areas of the Institute (e.g. anthropology of work, migration research, media anthropology, legal anthropology and ecology), and students may choose to specialize in one aspect of the subject.

<sup>2</sup> Graduates can understand the history and main schools of thought of the subject, and apply these in different contexts.

By specializing in one part of the subject, students become familiar with theories and can assess them, enabling them to follow and comment on scientific debates. They are able to transmit their acquired knowledge.

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Students are able to transmit parts of the subject and apply these in their own texts. They are able to write various types of scientific text.

They can understand interdisciplinary approaches and apply these in research. They can investigate institutions and translocal research areas.

They can carry out research processes independently, developing questions, understanding and applying methods, understanding and reflecting on theories, and reproducing these in an independent written (or partly visual) Master's thesis.

They can identify and build networks as well as manage their knowledge.

#### FEATURES AND PREREQUISITES

**Art. 41** <sup>1</sup> Prerequisites for admission are a Bachelor's degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology/Ethnology from a Swiss or foreign university.

<sup>2</sup> Students are also eligible for admission if they have a Bachelor Minor worth at least 60 credits in the subject of Social and Cultural Anthropology/Ethnology.

<sup>3</sup> Additional requirements according to Article 5a RSL 05 will be defined individually.

#### COURSE STRUCTURE

**Art. 42** <sup>1</sup> The study program comprises the following components:

a Compulsory components (52 credits):

- three master's colloquia
- the ATS lecture
- data collection with research report
- master's thesis

b Elective courses (38 credits)

- seminars
- elective courses from the offer of Social Anthropology and ATS, worth 17 credits.

<sup>2</sup> The structure of the study program and the examination modalities are outlined in Annex 1 of this plan of studies.

#### MASTER'S THESIS

**Art. 43** <sup>1</sup> At the end of the course the students write a master's thesis (worth 30 credits) (Annex 1). The students complete the master's thesis, which is 200,000-275,000 characters in length, within six months. In agreement with teaching staff it may be partly in audio-visual form, in which case the scale and scope of the written part is individually determined.

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	<p><sup>2</sup> The topic of the master's is decided in agreement with an Institute course instructor. The topic must be narrow enough to allow full-time students to complete it in the set time-frame.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Article 37ff RSL 05 applies to the master's thesis.</p>
COMPENSATING UNSATISFACTORY GRADES	<b>Art. 44</b> Unsatisfactory grades cannot be compensated.
PASS REQUIREMENTS	<p><b>Art. 45</b> A pass mark in the study program is achieved, if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a The student has passed the module and courses in accordance with Article 42 Section 1;</li> <li>b The master's thesis is awarded at least the grade 4;</li> <li>c Additional requirements are awarded at least a "pass".</li> </ul>
GRADING	<p><b>Art. 46</b> <sup>1</sup> The grade of the study program is subject to Article 44 Section 1 RSL 05.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> The final grade for the master's degree is subject to Article 44 Section 3 RSL 05.</p>
SELECTION OF MINOR	<p><b>Art. 47</b> <sup>1</sup> Students of the Major in Anthropology of Transnationalism and the State may combine it with any of the Minors with the required number of credits offered at the University of Bern. Combining a Major with a Minor in the same subject is not permitted (exception see Section 2).</p> <p><sup>2</sup> However, students of the Major in Anthropology of Transnationalism and the State are permitted to select and complete a Minor in Social and Cultural Anthropology/Ethnology at another Swiss university.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>4. Master Minor in Anthropology of Transnationalism and the State (ATS) (30 credits)</b></p>
COURSE CONTENTS AND EDUCATIONAL GOALS	<p><b>Art. 48</b> <sup>1</sup> The study program imparts in-depth specialist knowledge with a particular focus on transformations of society related to global interdependence. Particular attention is paid to focus areas of the institute (such as the anthropology of work, migration research, media anthropology, legal anthropology and ecology), and a specialization is offered.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Graduates of this Minor understand, and can transmit their knowledge on, thematic fields of Anthropology of Transnationalism and the State.</p> <p>Graduates are able to work on questions of current topics of transnationalism, independently or in groups. They can transmit, at a scientific level, the results of their knowledge against this background.</p>
FEATURES AND PREREQUISITES	<b>Art. 49</b> <sup>1</sup> Prerequisites for admission are a Bachelor Minor worth at least 30 credits in Social and Cultural Anthropology/Ethnology.

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<sup>2</sup> Additional requirements according to Article 5a RSL 05 will be defined individually.

#### PROGRAM STRUCTURE

**Art. 50** The study program comprises the following components:

- a Compulsory components (12 credits):
  - the ATS lecture
  - written work
- b Choice of elective courses (18 credits):
  - seminars
  - elective courses from the offer of Social Anthropology and ATS, worth 4 credits

<sup>2</sup> The structure of the study program and the examination modalities are outlined in Annex 1 of this plan of studies.

#### COMPENSATING UNSATISFACTORY GRADES

**Art. 51** Unsatisfactory grades cannot be compensated.

#### PASS REQUIREMENTS

**Art. 52** A pass mark in the study program is achieved, if:

- a the student has passed the courses in accordance with Article 50 Section 1;
- b Additional requirements are awarded at least a “pass”;

#### GRADING

**Art. 53** <sup>1</sup> The grade of the study program is subject to Article 44 Section 2 RSL 05.

**5. Specialized Master’s study program CREOLE – Cultural Differences and Transnational Processes (Mono 120 credits)**

#### COURSE CONTENTS AND EDUCATIONAL GOALS

**Art. 54** <sup>1</sup> The study program imparts an advanced understanding of the linkages between local life-worlds as well as transnational and global social and cultural processes. Three topics are taught in depth, through theories and practical examples: a) New identities; b) Material culture and consumption; c) Visual culture/popular culture. These topics are taught in relation to transnational processes, cultural diversity/difference, as well as new social formations.

Graduates of the study program at the University of Bern are able to work on and implement problems of basic and/or commissioned research, in a scientifically informed way and independently or in a team.

The study program imparts the following scientific qualifications:

- capacity to conduct independent, scientific work;
- in-depth understanding of the significance for society of transnational, intercultural interlinkages;

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- capacity to analyse sociocultural processes occurring in transnational contexts;
- capacity to apply relevant scientific research methods;
- capacity to find and solve problems;
- ability to cooperate and communicate within transnational networks;

#### FEATURES AND PREREQUISITES

**Art. 55** <sup>1</sup> Up to 6 students are admitted in one academic year. Acceptance onto the master's program is subject to approval by the Institute; admissions in general are subject to approval by the Executive Board of the University of Bern.

<sup>2</sup> Prerequisites for admission are a Bachelor's degree or a Bachelor Minor (worth at least 60 credits) in Social and Cultural Anthropology/Ethnology from a Swiss or foreign university.

<sup>3</sup> Applications are evaluated by the Institute. Admissions criteria are grade point average, an interview, and a career plan.

<sup>4</sup> Additional requirements according to Article 5a RSL 05 will be defined individually.

<sup>5</sup> Courses take place mainly in English or in the local language of the participating institute.

#### COURSE STRUCTURE

**Art. 56** <sup>1</sup> The study program is composed of the following modules:

- a "General anthropology" module (24 credits)
- b two master's colloquia (6 credits)
- c "Creole" module (30 credits), with the following focus areas:
  - New identities
  - Material culture and consumption
  - Visual culture/popular culture
- d Erasmus module (15 credits) (comprises intensive programs IP and teaching exchange courses)
- e data collection with research report (9 credits)
- f research colloquium/research seminar (6 credits)
- g master's thesis and examination (30 credits)

<sup>2</sup> Students shall acquire at least 60 credits at the University of Bern, of which 30 are for the master's thesis.

#### MASTER'S THESIS AND DEFENCE

**Art. 57** <sup>1</sup> At the end of the course the students write a master's thesis (worth 30 credits) (Annex 1). The students complete the master's thesis, which is 200,000-275,000 characters in length, within six months. In agreement with teaching staff it may be partly in audio-visual form, in which case the scale and scope of the written part is individually determined.

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<sup>2</sup> The topic of the master's is decided in agreement with an Institute course instructor. The topic must be narrow enough to allow full-time students to complete it in the set time-frame.

<sup>3</sup> The master's thesis is co-supervised by a course instructor at the exchange university. The student is eligible for up to 3 hours of individual supervision at the exchange university.

<sup>4</sup> The master's thesis is written in English.

<sup>5</sup> If the proposed grade of the master's thesis is at least a "pass", an oral examination in the form of a defence takes place.

<sup>6</sup> The oral exam takes 30 minutes and comprises a position paper and a question and/or discussion part.

<sup>7</sup> An unsatisfactory examination can be retaken once.

<sup>8</sup> The grade for the master's thesis is composed of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the grade for the exam and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the grade for the Master's thesis.

<sup>9</sup> Article 37ff RSL 05 applies to the master's thesis and to the examination.

COMPENSATING  
UNSATISFACTORY GRADES

**Art. 58** All modules must be fulfilled. They are considered fulfilled if all components contained in each module have been passed.

PASS REQUIREMENTS

**Art. 59** A pass mark in the study program is achieved, if:

- a the student has passed the module in accordance with Article 56 Section 1;
- b the master's thesis is awarded at least the grade 4;
- c additional requirements are awarded at least a "pass".

GRADING

**Art. 60**

<sup>1</sup> The grade of the study program is subject to Article 44 Section 1 RSL 05.

<sup>2</sup> The final master's grade is subject to Article 44 Section 3 RSL 05.

#### ***IV. Legal provisions***

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

**Art. 61** RSL 05 shall apply.

#### ***IV. Transitional and final provisions***

CHANGES TO THE  
PLAN OF STUDIES

**Art. 62** The changes to the plan of studies are subject to approval by the Executive Board of the University of Bern. Exceptions are changes to the Annexes that fall under the jurisdiction of the faculty.

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TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

**Art. 63** <sup>1</sup> This plan of studies applies to students starting their studies in the fall semester of 2016 at the Institute of Social Anthropology.

<sup>2</sup> Students currently studying under the “Studienplan Institute für Sozialanthropology” of 1 October 2005 shall complete their studies under that plan of studies.

EFFECTIVE FROM

**Art. 64** This plan of studies replaces the “Studienplan Institute für Sozialanthropology” of 1 October 2005, and takes effect on 1 August 2016.

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Bern, XX. YYYYYY 201Z

For the Faculty of Humanities  
The Dean:

Prof. Dr. Virginia Richter

*Approved by the Executive Board of the University of Bern:*

Bern, XX. YYYYYY 201Z

The President

Prof. Dr. Martin Täuber

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