

The Courses

All courses include lectures as well as practical aspects, such as onsite training, hands-on at the PC, group work on case studies or excursions/field trips.

Soil Information Systems

Students are introduced to the theoretical basis of Geographic Information Systems, learn to operate ArcGIS and apply GIS based soil evaluation methods to obtain new levels of knowledge (fe erosion risk, nitrate leaching).

Application of Models for Soil and Plant

After a brief theoretical introduction, students work on model applications in the field of soil protection, for instance on case studies on the assessment of the leaching risk of contaminants to the groundwater.

Soil Clean-Up

Students are introduced to treatment technologies for soils, sediments, groundwater and soil vapor. Based on different case studies of contaminated land and brownfields, students are familiarized with know treatment operations and, subsequently, are able to assess different methods.

Urban Soil Science

Students become acquainted with the characteristics of soils and typical substrates in urban, industrial and mining areas with their particular properties and characteristics (fe contamination, land use).

Soils and Soil Protection in Regions Outside Central Europe

Students are introduced to worldwide soil types and their properties according to international classifications (FAO, WRB, Soil Taxonomy). Examples of soil-related problems such as erosion, salinization or desertification are discussed.

Soil and Climate Change

Climate change and the development of adaptation strategies are major challenges for our society. The soil, its properties and its use are important factors that mitigate the effects of climate change. The course introduces the current state of research on soil and climate change.

Land Use and Soil Protection

Students will deal with key issues in land use and soil protection. With the help of recent publications, they analyze current topics such as soil contamination, land degradation or land use by energy crops.



Limnology and Protection of Inland Waters

Students discuss current issues in limnology and the protection of rivers and lakes such as specific groups of substances (fe hormones, drugs, metals), contaminant pathways, eutrophication or evaluation and reference systems.

Protection of Inlands Waters within the Water Framework Directive

The European Water Framework Directive (WFD) provides the framework for the protection and management of inland waters in Europe. Using specific examples, students critically analyze the WFD with special reference to the assessment and implementation procedures.

Other courses

As guest student you can also attend other courses offered by the two universities. English courses in biology, system science, agriculture, physics or chemistry may be of particular interest to students interested in environmental issues.

Costs and tuition fees

This is what you need to consider when calculating the expenses incurred for the International Semester on ‘Soils, Inland Waters & Contaminated Land’ in Osnabrück:

- Semester fees for the Student Council and Student Services (incl. semester ticket for public transport): € 165 per semester
- Accommodation: € 160 to 220 per month (accommodation in students’ residences can be arranged for you)
- Health Insurance: € 55 per month
- Further expenses (meals, telecommunication, books etc.): € 200–300 per month according to personal needs
- International Intensive German Summer Language School (participation recommended but not compulsory): € 220

Tuition fees are usually waived if a mutual cooperation agreement exists between your home university and Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences or Osnabrück University and if you are registered as a guest student.

Scholarships

If your home university is in the European Union or associated countries, you may apply for a Socrates scholarship which includes monthly grants and a waiver of the tuition fee and the semester fee. For further information on the Socrates program please contact the international office of your home university. Under certain conditions students from non-EU countries may apply for a DAAD scholarship. Further information is available at www.daad.de.



International Semester Soils, Inland Waters & Contaminated Land

Courses taught in English are offered each fall semester as part of the Master of Science Study Program on Soils, Inland Waters & Contaminated Land



Master of Science Study Program on Soils, Inland Waters & Contaminated Land

The Master of Science Study Program ‘Soils, Inland Waters & Contaminated Land’ is a full two-year program. To obtain the Master’s Degree you will focus on either soils, inland waters or contaminated lands. Basic teaching medium is German which means that you must either already have sufficient knowledge of German or you will have to complete a 3–6 month language course before starting your studies.

For those international students who are interested in a semester abroad with English as the teaching medium, we offer the ‘International Semester’ each fall with courses related to soils, inland waters and contaminated land.

A great place to study!

You will study at two universities, which combine their strengths to provide you with an interesting and challenging program. The special focus of both universities is mirrored in the courses of the International Semester which combine high academic standards with the requirements of professional practice.

The City of Osnabrück

Osnabrück, a city of 165,000 inhabitants, is situated in north-west Germany. Hanover, Bremen, Bielefeld and Münster are only a short distance away and can easily be reached at no extra charge with your semester ticket. Even the Netherlands is just a 70 km trip away. The city is surrounded by major highways and can easily be reached by train or other public transport. The nearest international airports are Münster-Osnabrück, Bremen and Hanover.



Osnabrück University

Osnabrück University has a focus on fundamental research with particular strengths in Biology, Systems Science and Geography. The University offers Bachelor’s, Master’s and PhD Degrees in most fields of science. The courses of the International Semester are taught by the School of Cultural Studies and Geography

Osnabrück University owes its special flair to its successful integration within the City of Osnabrück with the 16th century palace as its headquarters. The School of Cultural Studies and Geography is situated within walking distance to the city center with its shopping malls and pubs.

Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences

Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences has a focus on applied research with a strong orientation towards the requirements of the occupational field. The courses of the International Semester are taught by the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Landscape Architecture.

Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences is situated in a beautiful park-like campus at the outskirts of the City of Osnabrück where the teaching facilities for horticulture, agriculture, and landscape planning are situated. The city center is just a 15 minute cycle or bus ride away.

The International Semester

- If you have a firm background in soil science and/or surface water hydrology, you may want to supplement your knowledge with information on contaminated soils, inland waters or GIS systems. In this case you can join our International Semester as part of your Master’s or PhD Program at your home university.
- The International Semester with English as teaching medium is part of the Master of Science Study Program ‘Soils, Inland Waters & Contaminated Land’ and will take place in the fall semester each year (October to January).
- You must take 6 courses to obtain the necessary 30 credit points required to complete the semester. To be sure that those credit points are acknowledged for your Master of Science or PhD Program at home, a written personalized learning agreement must be signed between our university and your home university before starting your studies.
- There will be a four-week International Summer German Language School before the start of the semester.
- Proficiency in German is not required to join the International Semester, but knowledge of some ‘Survival German’ is highly recommended to cope with everyday life.

Admission Requirements

You must be registered at your home university in a Master’s or PhD Program in soil science, agronomy, horticulture, geography, civil engineering, limnology, hydrology, or related subjects. During the International Semester you have the status of a guest student in Osnabrück. A good command of the English language, which enables you to follow the lectures and work independently, is an admission requirement.

Further Information

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