

Dear Students

Welcome to the Master Program in Critical Urbanisms at the University of Basel. Our faculty and staff are looking forward to meeting you.

Even though we are still faced with the ongoing uncertainties with the COVID-19 pandemic, the university hopes that many of our classes can take place in person. In the following, we want to provide an overview of a number of important aspects that you need to consider with regard to our program at this point.

First, we want to highlight that the **mandatory introductory course, “Critical Urbanisms: Introduction,”** takes place as a block course from **9am-5pm during the first week of the semester, i.e. during the week of 20-24 September.** Please note that a part of the workload (reading and writing critical reading journals) should be completed prior to the first day of class. You will receive a detailed syllabus with instructions once you have confirmed with us your program registration. Successfully completing this course is a prerequisite to participating in the Urbanism from the South/Urbanism across Geographies/Anthropological Fieldwork tracks that are offered only in the Spring semester (i.e. only once a year). As part of this mandatory introductory course, you will also receive detailed information about the Urbanism from the South/Urbanism across Geographies/Anthropological Fieldwork tracks and the process of registering for one of the tracks.

It is crucial for you to be aware that if you miss or fail the mandatory introductory course, you will have to retake it the next year as it is only offered in the Fall semester. Further details about how to pass the course will be communicated at the start of the course. Since successfully completing is a prerequisite for participating in the above-mentioned tracks, this also means that if you fail, you would not be able to register for any of the tracks until the following year.

If you have been admitted with **extra requirements** (“Auflagen”), please note the following: The extra requirements are designed as [independent study](#) and may include a seminar paper. Please see your admission letter for the exact number of credit points you are required to complete and whether this includes a seminar paper. You will be allocated an assessor from the Urban Studies faculty with whom you will be able to discuss your specific package of extra requirements as well as any related questions, and who will assess your extra requirements once submitted. In keeping with the University of Basel’s registration deadlines, you can only be assigned your assessor once you have formally matriculated/registered for the program at the University of Basel.

We can provide some relevant readings that form part of the extra requirements packages via our SWITCH drive. If you would like to already gain access, kindly contact Jennifer Felsenberg (jennifer.felsenberg@unibas.ch; please note, however, that access can only be granted to students who have a stud.unibas e-mail address). For any other questions related to extra requirements, kindly wait until you have been allocated an assessor.

If you have not done so already, please confirm whether you are planning to register for the program this Fall semester with our administrator Jennifer Felsenberg (jennifer.felsenberg@unibas.ch). For help with your registration process, please consult the university’s student services [website](#). Once you have registered for our program, it is essential to set up your stud.unibas e-mail address via this [ViaWeb link](#) and create your own password in order to have access to all [services](#) and future communications.

In addition, please find attached our welcome book, which provides some useful tips about how to orient yourself in Basel. Also, feel free to contact the University’s [welcome center](#) for more general info.

Warm wishes,

Kenny Cupers, on behalf of the Urban Studies faculty and staff