

Dear Student

Welcome!

Before anything else, we would like to remind you that even though we are almost past the uncertainties provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic, you should always keep track of [the latest sanitary measures](#) applicable on campus.

Also, 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](#).

In the following, we want to provide an overview of a number of important aspects that you need to consider with regard to your semester start.

We want to highlight that we are a cohort-based program, meaning that it officially starts in the fall semester each year, with a mandatory introductory course and fixed main modules. For your overview, see our study plan below:

Completion of the study program, CP	Modules	Eligible Course Formats
3 CP	Introduction to Critical Urbanisms	All according to Master-Ordnung §7Abs.4 and 5
12 CP	Ways of Knowing the City	All according to Master-Ordnung § 7Abs.4 and 5
15 CP of one of the three modules, including -5 CP seminar paper	Urbanism from the South	All according to Master-Ordnung §7Abs.4 and 5
	Urbanism across Geographies	
	Anthropological Fieldwork	
15 CP, including -10 CP studio -5 CP seminar paper	Interdisciplinary Urban Research	Studio Seminar Paper
15 CP including -5 CP seminar paper	The Urban across Disciplines	All according to Master-Ordnung §7Abs.4 and 5
10 CP	Master's examination	
30 CP	Master's thesis	
20 CP	Free Electives	
120 CP	Master of Arts	

*The complete study guidelines and program structure can be found on [this link](#). Especially important are "chapter 3" and the "appendix". We highly recommend you to read them thoroughly.

If you start in the fall, the first semester is where you complete the mandatory introductory module **“Introduction to Critical Urbanisms”**, which contains a block course taking place throughout the Introduction Week:

[“Critical Urbanisms: Introduction & Orientation”](#)

Preparatory reading for this course, however, should be completed already prior to the first day of class. You will receive a syllabus with detailed instructions once your official enrollment to the program has been confirmed.

Please note that successfully completing this course is a prerequisite to participating in the **Urbanism from the South**, **Urbanism across Geographies**, and **Ethnographic Research (Anthropological Fieldwork module)** tracks that are offered only in the spring semester (i.e. only once a year). More information on these tracks and their registration procedure can be found in our study guidelines linked above. You will also receive a detailed presentation on the topic during the introduction week.

It is crucial for you to be aware that if you miss or fail the mandatory introductory course, you will only be able 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 it 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.

We would also like to bring to your attention that this fall semester, distinguished visiting lecturer Kanishka Goonewardena will be teaching a block seminar in the week prior to the introductory course, which can be counted towards the **“Urban across Disciplines”** module:

[“Colonialism, Imperialism, Urbanization”](#)

For a complete list of courses offered for each module, please visit our [semester planning webpage](#). Tip: the filters are super helpful for you to find the courses that pertain to the modules from your study plan. Should you have any difficulties using it, do not hesitate to contact our student assistant Vinicio Altmann (v.altmann@unibas.ch) for help.

The second important piece of information for your semester start regards the **“Extra Requirements”**, designed as an independent study package. If you have been admitted with extra requirements (“Auflagen”), your admission letter should communicate the amount 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.

For any other questions, kindly wait until you have been allocated an assessor, with whom you can then arrange a meeting during their office hours. 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.

If you have not yet been allocated an assessor, we can already provide you with some relevant readings that form part of the extra requirements' packages via our SWITCH drive. Kindly contact Vinicio Altmann (v.altmann@unibas.ch) to gain access to it; please note, however, that access can only be granted to students who have a stud.unibas e-mail address).

E-Mail address:

Once you have registered for our program, it is **essential** to set up your stud.unibas email address via this link: <https://viaweb.unibas.ch/> and create your own password in order to have access to all of the University's [online services](#) and future communications.

Finally, please find attached our welcome book, which provides some useful tips about how to orient yourself in Basel. Do feel free to contact the University's [welcome center](#) for more general information.

For international students planning their trip to Switzerland in the current situation, this tool from the Federal Office for Health can be very helpful:
<https://travelcheck.admin.ch/home>.

We are looking forward to meeting you in the Introduction Week.
Warm wishes,

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

**Critical
Urbanisms**

