

BEFRI – UNIVERSITIES OF BERN AND FRIBOURG

Intradisciplinary Collaboration Agreement BEFRI in Earth Sciences

of September 1st, 2012

Object

Art. 1 BEFRI Institutions

Pursuant to Art. 3 of the Framework Convention of March 3rd, 2008, governing the collaboration between the Universities of Bern, Neuchâtel and Fribourg (BENEFRI), an Intradisciplinary Collaboration Agreement (*Fachkonvention*; hereinafter referred to as Collaboration Agreement) is established between the two Institutions:

- University of Bern: Faculty of Science, Institute of Geological Sciences
- University of Fribourg: Faculty of Science, Department of Geosciences, Earth Sciences
(hereinafter referred to as BEFRI Institutions)

Principles of Collaboration

Art. 2 Purpose

¹ This Collaboration Agreement governs collaboration in teaching, research and administration.

² The main purpose is to establish the basic conditions for a joint Master's degree program in Earth Sciences at the BEFRI Institutions, which guarantees competitive depth and breadth of its educational contents, as well as its continuity.

³ The joint Master's program replaces the individual Master's degree programs in Earth Sciences and shall be offered to students at both BEFRI Institutions. The name of the joint Master's degree is: "Master of Science in Earth Sciences" of the Universities of Bern and Fribourg.

⁴ A further objective is to make optimal use of scientific and administrative resources, especially of staff, large laboratory facilities and marketing at both BEFRI Institutions.

⁵ The Collaboration Agreement shall, furthermore, promote the mobility of the students and teaching staff as well as the free exchange of ideas, openness toward the outside world and interdisciplinarity.

Organization and Responsibilities

Art. 3 Coordination Committee (*Fachkommission*)

This document is a translation from German and is provided for information purposes only. It has no legal force. Accordingly, in the event of any dispute whatsoever about the interpretation of an article, the text of the original German version shall always prevail.

¹ Pursuant to Art. 6 of the Framework Convention a Coordination Committee shall be set up and shall, in particular, focus on questions of planning, coordinating and marketing, as well as on resolving specific issues.

² The Coordination Committee shall consist of the following members:

- two members of the teaching staff at both BEFRI Institutions, including the Directors of Studies, elected for two years by the respective Institutions and re-electable;
- a representative of the Master's degree students, elected for a maximum term of two years.

³ The Coordination Committee shall elect a chairperson from its teaching staff for a two-year term in office. The Committee shall define its own working methods. The chairperson may be re-elected. The Committee shall meet at least twice a year and shall pass its resolutions by simple majority of the members present.

⁴ Whereas the Faculties concerned shall delegate tasks to the Coordination Committee, the Faculties shall retain the formal responsibilities. These are tasks that must be standardized to ensure smooth and efficient administration and monitoring of students in the joint degree program.

Further tasks of the Committee are:

- strengthening of synergies and reduction of overlaps and duplications at the two Institutions, especially regarding coordination of research and large laboratory facilities;
- coordination of marketing.

⁵ The Coordination Committee shall be supported by a joint secretariat operated by secretaries of the BEFRI Institutions.

Art. 4 Regulations and Plan of Studies

¹ The Coordination Committee shall devise regulations and a plan of studies for the Master's degree program in Earth Sciences.

² The regulations and the plan of studies shall be issued and approved by the responsible bodies of both BEFRI Institutions pursuant to the legislation in force.

Art. 5 Master of Science in Earth Sciences

¹ Both BEFRI Institutions shall award a Diploma pursuant to the Regulations on obtaining a Master of Science in Earth Sciences of the Universities of Bern and Fribourg.

² The documents shall be signed by the responsible bodies of both Universities.

Art. 6 Bachelor of Science in Earth Sciences

¹ The BEFRI Institutions shall strive to continuously improve collaboration at Bachelor level and to mutually coordinate their teaching curricula.

² Teaching of the Bachelor of Science in Earth Sciences is governed by the plans of studies of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the University of Bern and the Faculty of Science of the University of Fribourg. Some courses are coordinated mutually by the two Institutions.

³ The conditions for awarding a Bachelor degree are stipulated in the relevant regulations of the two Faculties.

Art. 7 Duty to Inform and Coordinate

¹ Both BEFRI Institutions shall keep each other informed in a timely manner about new directions of research as well as staff-related and strategic developments.

² A representative from each BEFRI Institution shall have a seat on the planning and nomination committees of Professorships at the other BEFRI partner Institution.

Art. 8 Finances

¹ Support of the courses conducted within the framework of this Cooperation Agreement constitutes a part of the teaching duties of the participating lecturers, contingent on their employment level.

² The lecturers' travel costs shall be borne by the university at which they are administratively employed. The students' travel costs shall be borne by the university in which they are enrolled. Any relevant amendment or repeal of the Framework Convention BENEFRRI of March 3rd, 2008, remains reserved.

Art. 9 Future Endeavors and Tasks

Both BEFRI Institutions shall gradually develop further endeavors and collaborations in teaching, librarianship and research in the domain of Earth Sciences, especially joint conferences, collaboration in field trips, seminars and internships, as well as maintenance of alumni networks.

Duration of Contract and Termination

Art. 10 Entry into Force and Termination

¹ This BEFRI Cooperation Agreement in Earth Sciences shall enter into force on September 1st, 2012. It repeals and replaces the BENEFRRI Framework Convention in Earth Sciences and the Agreement on Coordination of the Master of Science in Earth Sciences of December 8th, 2004.

² This Agreement may be terminated by either of the two BEFRI Institutions at one year's notice, with termination taking effect at the end of the academic year. If both BEFRI

Institutions agree, this Cooperation Agreement may also be repealed at shorter notice.

On behalf of the Faculty of Science of the
University of Bern
Bern, October 4th, 2012
The Dean

Signature

Prof. Dr. Silvio Decurtins

University of Fribourg: Faculty of Science
Fribourg, December 19th, 2011
The Dean

Signature

Prof. Fritz Müller