

Plan of Studies for the Master's Degree Program in Earth Sciences

of October 4th, 2012

The Faculty of Science,

on the basis of Article 44 of the Statute of the University of Bern of June 7th, 2011 (Universitätsstatut, UniSt), and the Regulations for Obtaining a Master of Science in Earth Sciences of the Universities of Bern and Fribourg of October 4th, 2012, and December 19th, 2011,

decrees the following plan of studies:

I. General Provisions

SPECIALTY TRACKS

Art. 1 The Master's degree program offers the following specialty tracks:

- a. Earth and Life Evolution,
- b. Geology,
- c. Earth Materials,
- d. Environmental and Resource Geochemistry,
- e. Pure and Applied Quaternary Sciences.

MODULES

Art. 2 Description of the compulsory modules with the corresponding ECTS credits:

- a. Soft-Skills module worth 6 ECTS credits,
- b. specialty track module worth 30 ECTS credits,
- c. free elective module worth 24 ECTS credits,
- d. Master thesis worth 60 ECTS credits.

SOFT-SKILLS MODULE

Art. 3 This module includes an introductory field trip through Switzerland (3 ECTS credits) during which the most important geological rock series are examined and correlated with their geodynamic evolution. The module also includes soft-skill courses (3 ECTS credits), focused on techniques for writing scientific articles, holding oral presentations and for graphic representation of scientific results. Practical experience in holding oral

presentations shall also be gained within the scope of the soft-skill courses.

SPECIALTY TRACK MODULE **Art. 4** The module allows students to specialise in one of five subdisciplines. Within their chosen specialty track, students shall select courses worth 30 ECTS credits. The BeFri website shall keep an updated list of all of the courses available in this module.

FREE ELECTIVE MODULE **Art. 5** This module permits students to choose courses that broaden their knowledge, as a complement to the specialty track module. Students shall select courses worth 24 ECTS credits from the entire range of scientific courses offered in the degree program, as published and continuously updated on the BeFri website.

MASTER THESIS **Art. 6** Within the scope of the Master thesis, the students shall investigate an Earth Sciences topic under close supervision. In so doing, they will learn how to apply the knowledge and techniques learned in the specialty track and free elective modules. A list of possible Master thesis topics shall be published and continuously updated on the BeFri website.

ASSESSMENTS **Art. 7** Assessment dates and enrollment deadlines are in accordance with the regulations governing the studies and assessments at the Faculty of Science of April 14th, 2005 (RSL Phil.-nat.) and shall be published in an appropriate manner.

II. Final Provisions

AMENDMENTS TO THE PLAN OF STUDIES **Art. 8** The amendments to the plan of studies are subject to approval by the Executive Board of the University of Bern.

ENTRY INTO FORCE **Art. 9** This plan of studies shall enter into force upon approval by the Executive Board of the University of Bern retroactively to September 1st, 2012.

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

Signature

Prof. Dr. Silvio Decurtins

Approved by the Executive Board of the University of Bern:

Bern, October 23rd, 2012 The Rector:

Signature

Prof. Dr. Martin Täuber

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