



## Geophysics M.Sc.

### Application Information

**Application period:** 1 June - 15 July (winter term) and 1 December - 15 January (summer term)

**Semester start:** October 1st (winter term) and April 1st (summer term)

**Language(s) of instruction:** English

### Introduction

The M.Sc. Geophysics is a research-oriented programme that offers individual specialisation. Students can choose those lectures from the curriculum of the Institute of Geophysics that best suit their scientific interests. The programme is divided into two study phases, beginning with the Advanced Studies phase, where students develop advanced knowledge and understanding in geophysics and related interdisciplinary subjects. This phase is followed by the Research phase, where students specialise in a geophysical research field that eventually becomes the topic of their Master's thesis.

The curriculum of the Institute of Geophysics represents the focus of the working groups in research and teaching:

- Applied seismics
- Marine geophysics
- Seismology
- Physical volcanology
- Machine learning in geophysics
- Interdisciplinary expertise
- Learning by active participation in research

Students are often involved in international research projects that include field studies and offer an opportunity to further the experience already gained during B.Sc. studies. Correspondingly, field data gained in the context of such a research project is often the basis for a Master's thesis. The main target group for the M.Sc. Geophysics are graduates from B.Sc. programmes in or related to geophysics.

The M.Sc. Geophysics of the University of Hamburg has an excellent international reputation. Our graduates are highly sought-after for research, development, administration, and industry.

### Admission Requirements

#### University Degree

- A Bachelor's degree in the consecutive B.Sc. Geophysik/Ozeanographie of the Faculty for Mathematics, Informatics, and Natural Sciences of the University of Hamburg or



- a Bachelor's degree in an equivalent subject or
- a Bachelor's degree in a mathematical or physical programme where a minimum of 90 ECTS credit points coincides with the curriculum of the B.Sc. Geophysik/Ozeanographie of the Faculty for Mathematics, Informatics, and Natural Sciences of the University of Hamburg. Of the aforementioned 90 ECTS credit points, a minimum of 45 ECTS credit points must be acquired in mathematics and/or physics.

Furthermore, a minimum of 6 ECTS credit points in computer programming is required. If you have not received your degree certificate yet, you can submit this by the end of the first semester of your master's program. Please see the "Documents to submit" section below for details.

### **Additional Special Admission Requirements**

Proficiency in English language is required and must be proved by any of the following certificates:

- a) Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) B2 or
- b) International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic Test with a minimum score of 5.0 or
- c) Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) internet-based test with a minimum score of 72 points or
- d) Cambridge First Certificate in English (FCE), Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE), Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) or
- e) a minimum of seven years in English at a German high school or by equivalent certification, where the equivalency is determined by the admission board.

For details of the legal basis for this regulation, please see the admission bylaws for your chosen degree program: [www.uni-hamburg.de/zugang-master](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/zugang-master)

### **Recognition of Transcripts for Degree Programs Completed at Foreign Higher Education Institutions**

If you obtained your first degree abroad, your certificate will be reviewed during the application procedure in the faculty of your program.

If your degree certificate is not in English or German, please include a copy of a certified English or German translation of this together with your application documents.

If you obtained your higher education entrance eligibility abroad, you will need to apply for recognition of your higher education entrance eligibility in addition to your application for a degree program.

You can find all information on how to apply for recognition here: [www.uni-hamburg.de/vpd](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/vpd)

### **Application**

#### **Online Application**

You will need to complete the online application available on Universität Hamburg's application portal during the application period: [www.uni-hamburg.de/online-application](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/online-application) . Please create a



user account, enter your information online, upload the required documents to your online application and submit your application online.

The application procedure for the master program is an online procedure. This means that you do not need to submit any documents in paper form or via email to Universität Hamburg. Instead, you have to upload the documents. Selection is based on the information you provide online and the documents you upload.

If you want to submit an additional special application (e.g. hardship application), you will need to send this special application separately via the online application portal together with the required proofs as an upload by the application deadline. For more information on special applications, please see [www.uni-hamburg.de/sonderantrag](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/sonderantrag) and [www.uni-hamburg.de/info-master](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/info-master).

### Documents to Submit

Please upload the mandatory documents listed below in pdf format to the application portal. For documents not issued in English or German, an electronic copy of a certified English or German translation is required.

- Your online application
- Degree certificate or provisional Transcript of Records  
If you are still studying when you apply and cannot yet provide a final certificate containing your grades, please submit your current Transcript of Records confirming your provisional grade point average. You will then need to submit your degree certificate by the end of the first semester of your master's program.
- Higher education entrance eligibility
- Application letter detailing the motivation for the study of geophysics and advanced scientific education
- Brief CV including professional experience and/or internships in the field of geophysics
- Documentation of computer programming experience (unless already contained in the degree certificate or Transcript of Records)
- English language certificates

### Selection Criteria

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, a selection procedure will be necessary:

1.1. 75% of places will be offered following a ranking of the final grade of the first professional B.Sc. degree. In case of equal grades, the better grade of the university entrance exam will be decisive.

1.2. For the remaining 25% of places, a group of students consisting of twice as many students as places offered will be selected from the remaining pool of applicants (not considered in the first group mentioned above) based on the best grades of the first professional B.Sc. degree. Within this group, the selection will be conducted as follows:



- a) the final grade of the first professional B.Sc. degree. The accountable grade of the first professional B.Sc. degree can be improved by fulfilling one or more of the criteria below:
- b) the level of similarity of the previous degree with a B.Sc degree in Geophysik/Ozeanographie at the Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Natural Sciences (MIN) at Universität Hamburg,
- c) for the M.Sc. degree relevant work experiences,
- d) further qualifications, such as (but not limited to) studies abroad or the grade of the university entrance degree,
- e) a well-reasoned motivation for studying the M.Sc. degree in particular with respect to further scientific understanding.

The criteria listed above as (b) to (e) can each be accounted for with 3 'points'. Every such 'point' improves the grade of the first professional B.Sc. degree by 0.1 units on the German grading scale. The ranking is established by an arithmetic mean of (a) and the grade established by taking into account (b) to (e).

2. If places remain open after 1.2. are conducted as described above, further places can be offered following these procedures again (list of alternates) List of selection criteria according to the current bylaws.

3. The selection process is conducted by the academic study advisor in agreement with the head of the examination board.

For details of the legal basis for this regulation, please see the selection bylaws for your chosen master's program: [www.uni-hamburg.de/auswahl-master](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/auswahl-master) .

### **Admission and Enrollment**

Once your application has been reviewed, an acceptance or rejection letter will be made available in your STiNE account under the Dokumente (Documents) tab. Please see the information at [www.uni-hamburg.de/online-application](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/online-application) . An enrollment deadline will be indicated in your acceptance letter - please submit the documents required for enrollment by this date. Detailed information about the enrollment process is provided at [www.uni-hamburg.de/masterenrollment](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/masterenrollment)

### **Contact**

PD Dr. Claudia Vanelle

[claudia.vanelle@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:claudia.vanelle@uni-hamburg.de)

Last updated: November 2023