

## Qualitative and Quantitative Methods at Swiss Universities (2010, 2011)

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Covered disciplines: Sociology, political science, media and communication studies, cultural and social anthropology (including europäische/populäre Kulturen), human geography & gender studies

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### 1. Summary

The following statements refer to the *obligatory* teaching events and the credit points (CP) given for these courses at Swiss universities. Included are only teaching events that are explicitly declared as methods courses (thus the teaching of methods that occurs in the context of other topic or theory related courses will not be taken account for).

#### 1a. Bachelor Level

- Sociology
  - o Obligatory training in research methodology and methods in sociology is weighted differently concerning credit points (CP) as well as the number of teaching events: It ranges from 4 courses to 7 courses and from a total of 25 CP to a total of 48 CP; on average, there are 7 obligatory methods courses with a total of 33 CP.
  - o More or less balanced programs that focus on qualitative as well as quantitative methods are prevalent (Basel, Fribourg, Lausanne and Geneva) – but often within these programs, quantitative methods tend to be overrepresented. There are two programs that clearly focus on quantitative methods, in Berne and Zurich (whereas in Berne one qualitative course and a combined one are mandatory, in Zurich two combined courses are taught). In Neuchâtel and Lucerne, the focus is also mostly on quantitative methods. There is no program where the prevalent focus is on qualitative methods. What changed compared to the last survey is mostly the methodic orientation in Lucerne, where today the focus is set more on quantitative methods.
  - o Universities with balanced programs often provide introductory courses that cover qualitative and quantitative methods and then later on offer courses that focus either on qualitative or quantitative methods. E.g. students in Lausanne can to a certain extent decide on their own on what kind of methods they wish to get training.
- Political Science
  - o With an average of 25 CP and 4 obligatory courses, training in methods and methodology is not weighted as much as in sociology (34 CP).
  - o Generally there is a focus on quantitative methods training, partially complemented with mixed research designs. Nevertheless there has to be mentioned the University of Lucerne, where practically only combined courses are taught.
  - o Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- Media and communication Studies (Zurich, Basel, Berne, Fribourg)
  - o In media and communication studies, Fribourg, Zurich, and Berne require students to attend several courses concerned with methods. In Berne, media studies are taught as part of the bachelor program

- “social sciences”. Basel offers no obligatory courses, but an optional program in methods training, including quantitative as well as qualitative methods.
- The average of 18 CP in methods training is lower than the average in sociology (34 CP) and political science (25 CP).
  - The methods training focuses on mixed methods designs and quantitative methods. While there is only one obligatory teaching event that focuses exclusively on qualitative methods, there are several courses that teach both, qualitative & quantitative methods.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- Social and cultural anthropology (including “populäre Kulturen”)
- Within social and cultural anthropology, qualitative methods are predominant: almost all teaching events specialize in qualitative methods.
  - The average of 17 CP and 3 courses shows that explicit method training is not such a strong focus (alike to the media studies). This is probably due to the fact that at some universities, training in methods is meant to be an introduction (while further methods training is connected to specific topics and therefore taught in other courses or taught on master level).
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- Human geography
- The average of three mandatory method courses with 23 CP shows that explicit method training is not such a strong focus as in sociology or political science.
  - The methodic formation is characterized by being mostly quantitative. Especially the Universities of Neuchâtel and Geneva focus on quantitative methods. At the University of Fribourg the methodic formation is more balanced (1 quantitative, 1 qualitative and 1 mixed-research design course).
- Overall
- Considering credit points associated with obligatory teaching events in methods and methodology on the bachelor level, the weight of methods training varies considerably across disciplines: Sociology (33 CP), political science (25 CP), human geography (23 CP), media and communication studies (18 CP), and social and cultural anthropology (17 CP). The number of obligatory courses reflect this differences too: Whereas in sociology there is an average of 7 courses, the average in political science and media and communication studies is 4 courses and in social and cultural anthropology it is 3 courses.
  - Furthermore, there are differences across disciplines in how qualitative and quantitative methods are weighted: In sociology, qualitative and quantitative methods are more or less balanced, with quantitative methods usually being overrepresented. In political science as well as in human geography there is generally a focus on quantitative methods, while in social and cultural anthropology it is on qualitative methods. In media and communication studies, the methods training is focused on mixed research designs and quantitative methods.
  - Social sciences in Berne: On bachelor level, sociology, political science and media & communication studies have been merged to a ‘bachelor in social sciences’. All students of this social science bachelor visit the same obligatory methods courses.

## 1b. Master Level

- Sociology
- Like on bachelor level, obligatory training in research methods is weighted and composed differently: It ranges from 2 to 7 methods courses and from a total of 6 to 36 CP. The education in methods in general is weighted stronger on bachelor than on master level.
  - Generally, the focus of methods on the master level in relation to the bachelor level seems to be a continuation or at least does not switch. In Basel and Lucerne, balanced programs which equally focus on qualitative and quantitative methods are offered. In Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchâtel, the focus of methods depends on the choice of the students: While in Geneva the course offering is balanced and tends to focus slightly stronger on qualitative methods, there are mostly quantitative courses offered in Neuchâtel and Lausanne. Only Fribourg provides a qualitative program on the master level (“sociétés plurielles”). The master in sociology is balanced concerning methods. In

Berne, the education is quantitative (as it is on the bachelor level). However since the last survey a qualitative course was added to the programme. Finally in Zurich there is no information concerning *obligatory* methods courses.

- Political science
  - o There are no obligatory methods courses in Berne. In Geneva and Lausanne, there are 2 courses, in Zurich 3, ranging from 9 to 22 CP. In Lucerne, there are several seminars and lectures (amounting to 22 CP).
  - o In Geneva and Lausanne, the focus of methods is more or less balanced; it depends on the choice of the students. In Lucerne, courses equally focus on quantitative and qualitative methods and mixed research designs (as on the bachelor level). In Zurich, the focus lies mostly on quantitative methods.
  - o Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- Media and communication studies (Basel, Berne, Fribourg, Zurich)
  - o In Basel, Fribourg and Zurich there are between 1 and 3 obligatory teaching events that amount to 6 – 22 CP. In Berne there is no master program in media and communication studies.
  - o In Basel, the focus is on mixed research designs. In Fribourg, too, there are two mixed research designs courses offered, in addition to a qualitative course. In Zurich the focus is on quantitative methods, but nevertheless one mixed-research-design course is taught.
  - o Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- Social and cultural anthropology
  - o There are between 1 and 5 obligatory methods courses (3 – 30 CP). Methods are often taught in connection with empirical research problems; in Basel (Kulturwissenschaften), methods are only taught in this way.
  - o Alike to the bachelor level, method training is mainly qualitative. Lausanne and Neuchâtel are exceptions, since students can freely choose their method courses: While in Neuchâtel the offering concerning methods is balanced, there are mostly quantitative courses in Lausanne.
- Human geography
  - o In Fribourg there is one mandatory course and in Neuchâtel there are five. At the University of Geneva there are no mandatory method courses on the Master level. In Fribourg the method courses are about 3 CP whereas in Neuchâtel they are about 70 CP. At both universities the method formation has been quite balanced, but at Neuchâtel quantitative methods are more in the focus. Finally also the courses in Geneva encompass qualitative and quantitative methods.
- Overall
  - o The differences across disciplines concerning methods occur also on the master level. In general, the focus concerning qualitative and quantitative methods is more or less the same than on the bachelor level.

## 2. The Courses per Discipline and University

### *Terms*

Below, the following terms are used to describe the different kinds of teaching events mentioned in the questionnaire:

- qualitative: qualitative methods
- quantitative: quantitative methods
- mixed: mixed research designs
- quantitative & qualitative: both kinds of methods are taught separately in one course
- quantitative & qualitative & mixed: both kinds of research methods and mixed research designs are taught in one course.

## 2a. The Courses per Discipline and University – Bachelor Level

### Sociology

- University of Basel
  - 4 obligatory teaching events (12 CP): 2 qualitative & quantitative (each 3 CP; basics), 1 event is only qualitative (3 CP), 1 only quantitative (3 CP)
  - Beyond that students must pass a research lab, which is not predefined in its methodic orientation.
  - Overall, qualitative and quantitative methods are balanced.
  - Compared to the last survey there are less courses and CPs that fall in to the category of methods training.
  
- University of Berne
  - 7 obligatory teaching events (26 CP): 1 qualitative (3 CP), 5 quantitative (20 CP) and 1 introductory course (qualitative, quantitative and mixed; 3 CP). In addition, one empirical research course (10 CP or more) is mandatory (incl. a lecture concerning ‘work techniques’).
  - Quantitative methods are predominant.
  - Education on bachelor level in Berne in sociology, political science and media & communication studies has been merged to a ‘bachelor in social sciences’. All students of this social science bachelor visit the same obligatory methods courses.
  - Goal: “Basic education in quantitative, statistical methods and development of research designs.”
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
  
- University of Fribourg
  - Two bachelor studies are offered: one in social sciences (“Gesellschaftswissenschaften”, with several special focuses; the one considered here is on “sociopolitical studies”) and one in sociology.
  - Sociology: 7 obligatory teaching events (33 CP): 2 event focuses on qualitative methods (9 CP) and 2 on quantitative methods (12 CP). Beyond that, 2 research labs that encompass qualitative as well as quantitative methods (6 CP) are mandatory. 1 course (6 CP) for which there is no specific information at hand concerning qualitative and/or quantitative methods.
  - Social Sciences: 6 courses (18 CP) in total: 2 qualitative (6 CP), 1 quantitative (3 CP) and 3 qualitative & quantitative & mixed (9 CP).
  - Qualitative methods focus on interviews, ethnographic observation, conversation analysis and audiovisual methods.
  - Goal: To acquire the basics for the master level and practical application, no in-depth theory.
  - Extracurricular courses in ethnomethodology and conversation analysis are offered.
  - Compared to the last survey there was a slight switch into the direction of qualitative methods within the sociology major.
  
- University of Geneva<sup>1</sup>
  - 8 obligatory teaching events (42CP): 2 qualitative (12 CP), 2 mixed methods (6 CP), 4 quantitative (24CP).
  - The methods focus is more or less balanced but tends to be on quantitative methods.
  - Qualitative methods include: content analysis, discourse and image analysis, observation and interviews.
  - Goal: to get to know the basic research methods.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
  
- University of Lausanne
  - Total methods training: 7-8 courses, 48 CP.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> year: 3 obligatory courses (18 CP) in mixed methods.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> year: The methods courses are divided into 3 modules; out of all 3 modules, 4-5 courses must be chosen (30 CP). The 1<sup>st</sup> module consists of 2 qualitative and 1 quantitative courses (1 must be chosen, 9 CP). The 2<sup>nd</sup> module consists of 3 qualitative courses, 4 quantitative and 1 mixed course (2-

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<sup>1</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

- 3 must be chosen, 12 CP). The 3<sup>rd</sup> module: among 2 quantitative courses and 1 mixed course, 1 must be chosen (9 CP).
- The balance between qualitative and quantitative methods is almost even. The students' choices make a difference on what kind of methods training they get.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Lucerne
- 5 obligatory teaching events (22 CP): 1 course (8 CP) treats qualitative & quantitative & mixed methods, one is about mixed methods and 3 courses (6 CP) are about quantitative methods.
  - There are several other optional courses on qualitative methods (including ethnography and image analysis).
  - The students' choices make a difference on what kind of methods training they get.
  - The methods focus is more or less balanced but tends to be on qualitative methods.
  - Compared to the last survey the focus at Lucerne switched more to quantitative methods
- University of Neuchâtel<sup>2</sup>
- 6 obligatory courses (30 CP): 2 courses (12 CP) are qualitative & quantitative & mixed methods, 3 courses quantitative (14 CP), 1 course qualitative (4 CP).
  - Goal: to acquire basic knowledge in qualitative and quantitative methods. Advanced lectures and seminars on qualitative methods are offered in the second (mandatory) area of study (mostly human geography, cultural anthropology).
  - Introductory lectures are balanced concerning methods; advanced lectures focus on quantitative methods.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Zurich
- 6 obligatory courses (32 CP): 2 courses deal with qualitative and quantitative methods (8 CP); all other courses deal with quantitative methods (24 CP).
  - Qualitative social research is not part of the mandatory method formation. But optional courses in qualitative methods are offered. From the third semester on students can choose to specialize into qualitative social research. Such optional courses may encompass topics like qualitative social research, qualitative interviews, expert interviews and content analysis.
  - The focus is on quantitative methods.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.

## Political Science

- University of Berne
- 7 obligatory teaching events (26 CP): 1 qualitative (3 CP), 5 quantitative (20 CP) and 1 introductory course (qualitative, quantitative and mixed; 3 CP). In addition, one empirical research course (10 CP or more) is mandatory (incl. a lecture concerning 'work techniques').
  - Quantitative methods are predominant.
  - Education on bachelor level in Berne in sociology, political science and media & communication studies has been merged to a 'bachelor in social sciences'. All students of this social science bachelor visit the same obligatory methods courses.
  - Goal: "Basic education in quantitative, statistical methods and development of research designs."
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Geneva<sup>3</sup>
- Bachelor "political science": 5 obligatory courses (36 CP): 1 quantitative (6 CP), 1 quantitative & qualitative (9 CP) and 3 mixed courses (21 CP).
  - The focus is on quantitative methods and mixed research designs: "Most compulsory courses with seminars ... have methodological components both qualitative and quantitative."

<sup>2</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

<sup>3</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

- Bachelor “international relations”: 3 courses (18 CP): 2 mixed courses (12 CP) and 1 qualitative & quantitative & mixed course (6 CP).
  - Optional or conditional: 3 courses in statistics and mathematics (18 CP).
  - Compared to the last survey there was only a slight shift in the credit structure of the bachelor. The courses that are taught are still the same.
- University of Lausanne<sup>4</sup>
    - 4 obligatory courses (33 CP): The introduction is qualitative (6 CP), 2 other courses are quantitative (21 CP). 1 course (6 CP) can be chosen out of 1 qualitative and 8 other, mainly quantitative as well as mixed methods courses.
    - The focus is clearly on quantitative methods.
    - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Lucerne
    - 3 obligatory courses (18 CP): All 3 courses equally deal with qualitative and quantitative methods and – partially – mixed research designs.
    - Goal: Competence in designing empirical research, in critical evaluation of qualitative and quantitative research, in doing research professionally.
    - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Zurich<sup>5</sup>
    - 2 obligatory courses (12 CP) in quantitative methods.
    - Goal: Competence in designing empirical research, critically assessing both qualitative and quantitative empirical research, competently carry out empirical research.
    - Strong focus on quantitative methods
    - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.

## **Social and Cultural Anthropology**

- University of Basel: Seminar für Kulturwissenschaft/europäische Ethnologie
  - The focus is exclusively on qualitative methods. Out of 4 modules, 3 must be chosen (30 CP).
  - The course modules are arranged around methodical domains which are practiced in the context of certain topics.
  - Modules 1-4: Theories, methods and perspectives of the analysis of (1) verbal, (2) written, (3) visual and (4) material culture.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Basel: Ethnologisches Seminar/Social Anthropology<sup>6</sup>
  - 1 mandatory qualitative course (3 CP).
  - Focus on qualitative methods.
- University of Berne
  - 4 obligatory courses (19 CP): 3 courses are qualitative (14 CP), 1 course (5 CP) is qualitative, quantitative and mixed.
  - The focus is clearly on qualitative methods.
  - Goal: Training in ethnographic methods, in particular ethnography; and to “get a summary acquaintance with quantitative Methods”.
- University of Fribourg
  - 5 obligatory courses (11 CP), 4 qualitative and 1 quantitative course.<sup>7</sup>
  - The focus is on qualitative methods.

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<sup>4</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

<sup>5</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

<sup>6</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

<sup>7</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

- Goal: “Understand scientific results in anthropology research; learn simple methods of qualitative research”.
- Compared to the last survey the method training at Fribourg has been expanded (2 courses, 8 CP).
- University of Lausanne
  - The bachelor program is very similar to the program in sociology.
  - 6 obligatory courses (48 CP): The first part of the program consists of 2 courses: 1 in mixed methods (12 CP) and 1 in qualitative methods (6 CP). The second part is composed as follows: 4 methods courses can be chosen out of 3 modules (30 CP). The 1<sup>st</sup> module consists of 1 qualitative and 2 mixed methods courses (1 must be chosen, 9 CP). The 2<sup>nd</sup> module consists of 5 courses: 3 qualitative and 2 qualitative & quantitative (2 must be chosen, each 6 CP). And the 3<sup>rd</sup> module consists of 3 quantitative courses (1 must be chosen, 9 CP).
  - The obligatory methods training is balanced between qualitative and quantitative methods.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Neuchâtel: MAPS
  - 2 obligatory courses (8 CP): 1 in qualitative methods (3 CP) and for 1 course additional information is required (5 CP). Moreover students have to choose 2 compulsory optional courses, one has to be qualitative (5 CP) and the other quantitative (5 CP).
  - Goal: “Simple Introduction to quantitative and qualitative Methods, with introductory hands-on exercises required”.
  - Compared to the last survey there is a stronger focus on qualitative methods.
- University of Zurich: Populäre Kulturen
  - 2 obligatory courses (12 CP), both of them in qualitative methods.
  - Focus on qualitative methods.
  - Goal: to acquire knowledge of the most important qualitative methods, e.g. ethnography, cultural analysis, qualitative content analysis, source criticism ...
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Zurich: Ethnologisches Seminar
  - 1 course on assessment level (2 CP), focusing on qualitative & quantitative methods.
  - In the old study program (Liz), 2 methods courses were taught, also focusing on qualitative & quantitative methods.
  - Goal: “Mastering methods of ethnographic data collection, reflection on writing ethnography”.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.

## **Media and Communication Studies**

- University of Basel
  - Only optional course offering: 5 courses (15 CP), focused on: qualitative methods (3 courses, each 3 CP), quantitative methods (2 courses, each 3 CP). (Language/text, image/life style, popular culture analysis, descriptive, inductive statistics)
  - Goal: “Introduction to basic qualitative and quantitative research methods with a focus on data analysis”.
  - One extracurricular teaching event in telephone questioning (media practice course; 5 CP) is offered.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Berne
  - 7 obligatory teaching events (26 CP): 1 qualitative (3 CP), 5 quantitative (20 CP) and 1 introductory course (qualitative, quantitative and mixed; 3 CP). In addition, one empirical research course (10 CP or more) is mandatory (incl. a lecture concerning ‘work techniques’).
  - Quantitative methods are predominant.
  - Education on bachelor level in Berne in sociology, political science and media & communication studies has been merged to a ‘bachelor in social sciences’. All students of this social science bachelor visit the same obligatory methods courses.

- Goal: “Basic education in quantitative, statistical methods and development of research designs.”
- Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Fribourg
  - 4 obligatory courses (27 CP): 3 mixed methods (21 CP), 1 quantitative (6 CP); ‘proseminars’ and ‘research seminars’ (15 CP) are labeled as mixed.
  - Slight focus on quantitative methods.
  - Goal: “to get to know, understand and evaluate research methods in communication studies”.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Zurich<sup>8</sup>
  - 3 obligatory courses (16 CP): 1 quantitative course including an exercise course (6CP), 2 courses on mixed research design (one including an exercise course) (10 CP).
  - The focus is set onto mixed research designs and quantitative courses. There is no qualitative method course.
  - Goal: “Extensive education in quantitative and qualitative methods”.
  - Compared to the last survey there less courses and credits in the method training part of the bachelor.

## Human Geography

- University of Neuchâtel
  - 5 obligatory courses (35 C), 1 of these is a qualitative methods course (12 CP) and 4 are quantitative methods courses (23 CP).
  - There is a clear focus on quantitative methods.
  - Goal: “strengthen the capabilities to develop and conduct an elaborate and autonomous research design. Moreover the ability to apply statistic but also qualitative methods shall be fostered.”
  - First time encompassed in this survey
- University of Fribourg
  - 3 obligatory courses (6 CP): 1 qualitative methods course (2 CP), 1 quantitative and qualitative methods course (2 CP) and one mixed methods course (2 CP).
  - The focus of the master is on qualitative methods, what is reflected in the naming of the courses (méthodes qualitatives en géographie humaine, méthodes qualitatives II,...)
  - Goal: “The students are capable to formulate a research question and to distinguish several socio-scientific theories and data collection methods, which they can also apply. Furthermore they are able to analyse the resulting data.”
  - First time encompassed in this survey
- University of Geneva<sup>9</sup>
  - 3 obligatory courses (27 CP), 1 of them is quantitative including an exercise course (9 CP), 2 of them are mixed (18 CP)
  - The focus of the bachelor is on quantitative methods.
  - bachelor in « géographie et environment ». Strong focus on environmental issues.
  - First time encompassed in this survey

## 2b. The Courses per Discipline and University – Master Level

### Sociology

- University of Basel<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

<sup>9</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

<sup>10</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

- 2 obligatory courses, out of which 1 is qualitative (3 CP), 1 quantitative (3 CP) and 1 consists of writing a seminar paper (not predetermined concerning methods), which is not predetermined in the used methods (5 CP).
  - Goal: “An integrated methods program is offered that combines situating sociological work epistemologically with an education in quantitative and qualitative methods. A major part of the methods program is the integration of methodical questions into research design as well as their implementation.”
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Berne
- 3 obligatory methods courses (9 CP); no information yet concerning methods: 1 in qualitative methods. For the two other courses no information concerning their methodic content is available.
  - Goal: Advanced capability to plan, conduct and evaluate empirical (research) projects; to apply advanced qualitative and quantitative analysis methods...
  - Compared to the last survey there are more courses (1) and more CP (3) in the methods training part of the master.
- University of Fribourg
- Master “sociétés plurielles: cultures, politiques et religions”: 7 courses (36 CP); all of them deal with qualitative methods.
  - Master “sociology”: 4 courses (12 CP), 1 course qualitative (3 CP), 1 course quantitative (3 CP), and 2 courses (6 CP) quantitative as well as qualitative methods.
  - Methods are elaborated in the context of theoretical problems.
  - Focus of the master “sociétés plurielles” is clearly on qualitative methods, such as individual and group interviews, participant observation, conversation analysis and audiovisual methods.
  - Compared to the last survey there are less courses (1) and less CP (3) in the methods training part of the master.
- University of Geneva<sup>11</sup>
- 3-6 obligatory courses (15-30 CP): In qualitative methods, 3-12 CP have to be gained, resulting to 1-3 courses (out of 4); in quantitative methods, 3-12 CP have to be gained, visiting 1 or 2 courses (out of 2). One research paper has to be written using a mixed research design (9 CP).
  - The focus concerning methods depends largely on the students’ choices.
  - Goal: To be able to deal critically with concepts and ideas; to construct research problems and associate solutions to it; to formulate a research design and appropriately combine it with a specific methodology; ability to formulate a research report.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Lausanne
- 3-5 obligatory methods courses (15 CP).
  - Out of 10 courses, 2-4 courses (12 CP) must be chosen. The course offering consists of 4 quantitative courses, 4 mixed courses and 2 qualitative courses.
  - This major includes several ‘orientations’ (focus on a specific topic) of which one is to be chosen. Each ‘orientation’ offers at least one obligatory methods course (3 CP); the methods profile depends on the ‘orientation’.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Lucerne
- 2 obligatory methods courses (12 CP). Students can choose among three different modules per semester (qualitative, quantitative and mixed courses).
  - In a mandatory research seminar (16 CP) students have to develop and realize their own research project (qualitative, quantitative or mixed).

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<sup>11</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

- optional: specialized methods courses (each 4 CP) (qualitative or quantitative); empirical master thesis.
  - Focus is on both, qualitative and quantitative methods.
  - Goal: To gain theoretical in-depth knowledge of standardized (“quantitative”) and non-standardized (“qualitative”) empirical research and to reflect upon it using existing research. There’s an explicit focus on actually applying methods.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Neuchâtel
    - 4 courses in methodology (20 CP) are required (depending on the students’ choices), choosing out of 6 courses (30 CP): 1 qualitative course (10 CP), 4 quantitative courses (20 CP) and 1 course qualitative & quantitative & mixed.
    - In addition 1 obligatory workshop (quantitative-qualitative-mixed) is required (for the master’s thesis).
    - Focus is more or less balanced, but tends to be on qualitative methods.
    - Goal: “In-depth knowledge of both the most important quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and data analysis. Expertise in doing research (qualitative or quantitative or mixed).”
    - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
  - University of Zurich
    - The elective part of the master contains courses that reach from quantitative over qualitative methods to mixed research designs. Out of this elective part 1 course has to be chosen (6 CP).
    - Courses in quantitative and qualitative methods.
    - “Forschungsstudium” (research study): students conduct own, closely supported and supervised theory-driven empirical studies.
    - Goal: In-depth knowledge and practical expertise in empirical research, based on method courses and own empirical research.
    - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.

## Political Science

- University of Berne<sup>12</sup>
  - No obligatory methods courses. 4 optional courses: 3 quantitative courses (each 6 CP) and 1 qualitative course (3 CP).
  - Goal: Possibility to study methods in-depth.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Geneva
  - 2 obligatory method courses (12 CP), which can be chosen out of 4 courses: 1 quantitative, 2 mixed and 1 qualitative. Moreover there exists the option of a research lab, which is open in its methodic orientation.
  - The training in methods depends largely on the students’ choices.
  - Goal: “Multiple Approaches”.
  - Compared to the last survey there is one qualitative methods course less in the master programme at Geneva. Furthermore there is a new research lab course that is not methodically predefined.
- University of Lausanne<sup>13</sup>
  - 2 obligatory methods courses (9 CP), which can be chosen out of 4 courses: 2 quantitative and 2 qualitative.
  - The training in methods depends largely on the students’ choices.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Lucerne

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<sup>12</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

<sup>13</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

- Several seminars and lectures (22 CP). 14 CP may alternatively be obtained by an internship. The 22 credit points encompass further an obligatory research thesis (8 CP), where students are free in the choice of an appropriate method.
  - A master seminar with a written thesis (8 CP) is also obligatory. The students are free in the choice of methods.
  - As on the bachelor level, all courses equally deal with qualitative methods, quantitative methods, and mixed research designs
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Zurich<sup>14</sup>
    - 3 obligatory methods courses (22 CP): 1 quantitative (6 CP), 1 mixed (12 CP) and 1 methods seminar (6 CP; not predefined concerning methods).
    - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.

### **Social and Cultural Anthropology**

- University of Basel: Seminar für Kulturwissenschaft/europäische Ethnologie
  - Courses out of 2 modules must be chosen (in total 20 CP). Only qualitative methods are applied.
  - Methods are trained on specific topics.
  - Goal: Students are able to do research on their own in the most relevant fields of study and are proficient in applying the corresponding methods.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Basel: Ethnologisches Seminar<sup>15</sup>
  - 3 obligatory courses (in total 9 CP), involving field work. The preparatory course covers qualitative, quantitative & mixed methods. The field course is predominantly qualitative, but can also include other methods. Finally the analysis course is mainly qualitative.
  - Goal: Students should participate in a fieldwork course to develop a small project of their own. The aim is to enable the students to define research questions and to choose and apply appropriate methods.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Berne
  - 2 obligatory methods courses (21 CP), both of them qualitative (students are encouraged to complement their research with quantitative methods).
  - Goal: “Students are assisted in their individual acquisition of specialised research methods, which they will apply in their MA-research. [This research should] qualify the students for further social anthropological research.”
- University of Fribourg<sup>16</sup>
  - 2 obligatory methods courses (3 CP in total), both qualitative.
  - Main Goal: “To allow Students to research so far as possible independently, and to show all possibilities how research specifically can be done.”
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
- University of Lausanne
  - 3-4 obligatory methods courses (18 CP).
  - Out of 7 courses, 2-3 courses (12 CP) must be chosen. The course offering is mostly quantitative (6 courses); only 1 course is qualitative.
  - In addition to that, 1 qualitative & mixed research design course (3 CP) is obligatory.
  - What kind of methods training students get depends to a certain extent on their choices; the offering is mostly quantitative.
  - Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.

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<sup>14</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

<sup>15</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

<sup>16</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

- University of Neuchâtel
  - o There have to be completed 5 courses (30 CP). 1 of these courses is qualitative (10 CP) and 4 are quantitative (20 CP).
  - o The focus of the master is on quantitative methods.
  - o Compared to the last survey there are more courses (4) and more CP (20) in the methods training part of the master.
  
- University of Zurich: Populäre Kulturen
  - o 2 obligatory courses (16 CP), both qualitative.
  - o 1 optional course (6 CP), qualitative.
  - o Goal: To acquire in-depth knowledge of methods and methodology taught on bachelor level and to apply this knowledge to specific topics.
  - o Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
  
- University of Zurich: Ethnologisches Seminar<sup>17</sup>
  - o 1 obligatory methods course (6 CP), until today information concerning the methodic orientation are lacking. Most probably it will contain qualitative methods.
  - o Goal: “Mastering methods of ethnographic data collection, qualitative and quantitative (to some extent)”.
  - o Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.

### **Media and Communication Studies**

- University of Basel
  - o 1 obligatory course (6 CP), focusing on mixed research designs.
  - o 1 optional course (3 CP), also focusing on mixed research designs.
  - o Goal: Research skills.
  
- University of Berne
  - o There’s no master program in media and communication studies.
  
- University of Fribourg
  - o 2 obligatory methods courses that can be chosen out of three courses (6–15 CP): 1 qualitative and 2 mixed.
  - o Goal: Applied theoretical and methodical knowledge in media studies.
  - o Compared to the last survey there are no important changes.
  
- University of Zurich
  - o 2 obligatory courses (10 CP): 1 quantitative, 1 mixed. Furthermore students have to complete a research seminar (12 CP); but there is no information yet available concerning the methods of this seminar.
  - o Goal: “Complementing education especially in methodology”.
  - o Compared to the last survey there are more courses (1) and more CP (4).

### **Human Geography**

- University of Neuchâtel
  - o 5 courses (70 CP) : 2 quantitative (20 CP), 1 qualitative (10 CP) and 2 mixed (40 CP).
  - o Concerning the methods the master has a diverse orientation.
  - o Goal : « The students should be capable to develop and conduct a research project autonomously. Moreover the students’ spectrum of methods in the realms of quantitative and qualitative methods shall be broadened
  - o First time encompassed in this survey

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<sup>17</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute

- University of Fribourg
  - 1 course (3 CP) that encompasses qualitative as well as quantitative methods.
  - Goal : « The students are familiar with the research process and know essential contemporary socio-scientific theories.
  - First time encompassed in this survey
  
- University of Geneva<sup>18</sup>
  - No obligatory method course. Nevertheless in the optional compulsory part of the master students have the choice amongst several quantitative and qualitative method courses.
  - Master in « géographie et science du territoire ». Strong focus on environmental issues.
  - First time encompassed in this survey

### **Gender studies**

In the case of gender studies the situation is completely different. Any swiss university offers an autonomous major in gender studies. In the majority of cases only a Minor or several independent courses exists. Normally the methodic formation takes place in the major a student has chosen and not in the gender studies courses.

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<sup>18</sup> Actualization following the online information of the respective institute