



Information and Acknowledgement Form for Students Conducting Field Research (Master Social and Cultural Anthropology)

When you go on field research, there are a few things to keep in mind to ensure your health, safety and security. We hereby draw your attention to them and ask you to confirm by your signature that you have taken note of this information.

1. Before carrying out your research trip abroad, you will need to clarify your travel insurance coverage. We recommend checking with your health insurance provider about your coverage while abroad and, if necessary, obtaining appropriate supplementary insurance. This is particularly important for transport costs in the event of repatriation to Switzerland, which is not covered by the Swiss obligatory health insurance. Also, note that you may need to review your insurance coverage if you travel to another region during your stay. For more information, please visit the UZH website on [Business Travel and Fieldwork](#).

2. You should be medically prepared for the stay. This is especially true for countries that do not have the same hygiene standards as Switzerland and where there are diseases that do not exist or hardly exist in Switzerland. Health advice and appropriate vaccinations are therefore advisable. You can obtain advice in this regard from the [UZH Travel Clinic](#).

3. If you are abroad, you do not have the same political rights as in your home country. In principle, you should therefore consider whether political statements and actions are appropriate or not. However, it is important to bear in mind that in some countries state repression impedes the free expression of political opinion. In these cases, you should refrain from making political statements, endorsing them or acting in a way that could be construed as a political statement. It should also be noted that being a student does not necessarily give you greater freedoms in this regard, as students count as a politically very active group in some countries.

4. You should also keep in mind that social and cultural customs in other countries differ from those you know from Switzerland. This concerns, for example, clothing or access to private rooms. You do not have to adapt completely to the social and cultural customs of the host country, but you should do so to an extent that allows you to behave in an acceptable manner in the eyes of the local population. In some countries, for example, you indicate through your style of dress that you respect yourself and others.

5. You should consult the pages of the [Federal Department of Foreign Affairs \(FDFA\)](#). The FDFA assesses the political and security situation for all countries. If the FDFA advises you not to travel to a specific region, you should also refrain from doing this. In addition, we recommend that you contact the FDFA immediately and clarify whether you need to return to Switzerland if the political and security situation changes during your stay and the FDFA decides to advise against travel to the country where you are conducting your research.

6. Take special care in traffic and avoid large crowds if they may pose a threat to your safety. Also note that the use of illegal substances is severely punished in some countries.

7. If you run into problems during your field stay, you can always contact your supervisor at ISEK-Social Anthropology.

Funding

Students are expected to ensure that they have sufficient personal funds to cover all costs related to fieldwork activities. They may apply for a travel allowance from ISEK to cover (part of) the outward and return trip for an master's fieldwork project. Please refer to the [Application for Travel Allowance with Information sheet](#). Approval is subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. Students conducting fieldwork as part of an existing project may be eligible for funding through that project.

Visas, arrival and departure

Students are responsible for applying for any required visa and for planning their travel between Switzerland and the country of destination. In the case of group travel, the lecturer may coordinate travel arrangements. Depending on the destination and the nature of the fieldwork, a research or student visa may be required. Participants should clarify visa requirements and discuss the visa type with their supervisor well in advance.

Contacts

Study advisor Master Social and Cultural Anthropology

Dr. Jan Patrick Heiss

E-mail: janpatrick.heiss@uzh.ch

Program coordinator

Dr. Juliane Neuhaus

E-mail: juliane.neuhaus@uzh.ch

Signature

Please sign this form and submit it to your supervisor before starting the research.

I have taken note of these instructions for the “Research Module 3: Fieldwork” (Master Social and Cultural Anthropology):

Date: Name and first name of the student:

Signature: