

New: “Regional Management in Mountain Areas” Dual Master’s Degree

Reconciling natural hazard management, biodiversity and regional added value requires broad, interdisciplinary knowledge and specific management skills. That’s why the Bern University of Applied Sciences’ School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL) and the Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT) are offering jointly a new three-semester Master’s programme in “Regional Management in Mountain Areas”. The programme opens up interesting career options for forestry engineers, agronomists, geographers and environmental scientists in research and in specialist and management positions at the interface between nature, society and economy in mountain areas.

All course content is focussed on these areas and is very practice-oriented, using examples from the Alps. In addition to the use of Alpine areas in agriculture and forestry, the course covers gravitational natural hazards such as avalanches, rockfalls, landslides and debris flows, and sustainable protective forest management in the context of integrated natural hazard risk management. The course also includes the latest methods for geographic information systems (GIS), project management and regional planning, national parks and tourism as well as a module on public relations and conflict management. In an all-encompassing case study on natural hazards, forestry and agriculture, students develop possible solutions to a real issue in the Upper Engadin, near the Swiss National Park. The first semester of the course is taught in Zollikofen near Bern. The second semester is taught in Freising (see diagram). In the third semester, students write their master thesis, which is usually based on a current, practical research project. The languages of study are German and English. Graduates will receive a dual Master’s degree the MSc in Life Sciences, specializing in Applied Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, from the Bern University of Applied Sciences and the MSc in Regional Management in Mountain Areas from the HSWT.

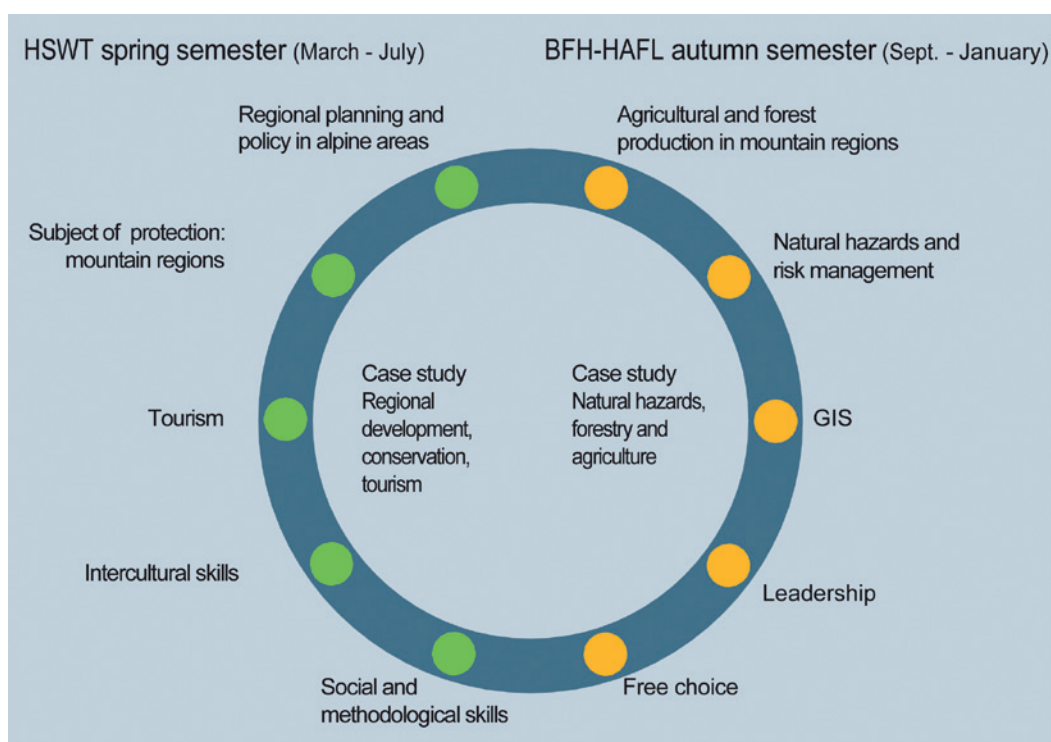
HAFL, Switzerland’s leading university of applied science for agriculture and forestry science, works closely with the WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF in Davos in the field of natural hazards. Faculty includes, Prof. Dr. Luuk Dorren, who teaches at the HAFL, and Prof. Dr. Jörg Ewald, who teaches at the HSWT.

Information and registration: www.hafl.bfh.ch

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ALPARC Workshop: “Monitoring biodiversity transformation to document climate change impacts in alpine protected areas”: Wednesday, 10–11 September 2014

The ALPARC Workshop will take place in Gran Paradiso National Park (Italy). The aim of this workshop is to present and discuss different monitoring protocols to assess changes in the biodiversity of Alpine ecosystems linked to global warming effects in order to identify possible synergies for a closer cooperation and exchange of information among Alpine protected areas.

The Italian biodiversity monitoring programme used in Gran Paradiso National Park will be included in the presentations and its application demonstrated during a field trip.

Target public: Staff in charge of environmental education in the Alpine protected areas.

Language of the meeting: English

Please save the date if you are interested in this workshop. Further information and registration will follow soon.

Call for contributions: If you wish to present your biodiversity monitoring model at this workshop, please contact yann.kohler@alparc.org and send him your proposal (title and short description in English) no later than 16.05.2014.

For further information please contact: info@alparc.org

ForumAlpinum 2014: 17–19 September 2014, Darfo Boario Terme (Val Camonica, Italy)

The 11th edition of the ForumAlpinum will focus on valorization, use and management of Alpine resources from local to macroregional scale, regrading four main aspects: Alpine branding; the use of Alpine resources from past to present; the use of Alpine resources from present to future; and governance of Alpine resources. Finally, the need for a policy of resources will be discussed in the context of an Alpine macroregion. All these aspects will be taken up and discussed in workshops.

Annual SCNAT Conference: How much protection (protected areas) does nature need? 25–26 September 2014, Lausanne (Switzerland)

Final conference green.Alps: 9–10 October 2014, Chambéry (France)

For more information on the project see <http://www.greenalps-project.eu/>

Parks discussed in this issue

Abbreviations: NP – National Park; BR – Biosphere Reserve; p. – page

