

# Erasmus+ at the Institute of Geography and Geoecology (KIT)

11/07/2016

## Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

The [Karlsruhe Institute of Technology](#), briefly referred to as KIT, was established by the merger of the Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe GmbH and the Universität Karlsruhe (TH) on October 01, 2009. KIT combines the tasks of a university of the federal state of Baden-Württemberg (Germany) with those of a research center of the Helmholtz Association in the areas of research, teaching, and innovation.

The KIT merger represents the consistent continuation of a long-standing close cooperation of two research and education institutions rich in tradition. The University of Karlsruhe was founded in 1825 as a Polytechnical School and has developed to a modern location of research and education in natural sciences, engineering, economics, social sciences, and the humanities, which is organized in eleven departments. The Karlsruhe Helmholtz Research Center was founded in 1956 as the Nuclear Reactor Construction and Operation Company and has turned into a multidisciplinary large-scale research center of the Helmholtz Association, which conducts research under eleven scientific and engineering programs.

## Institute for Geography and Geoecology

At the [Institute for Geography and Geoecology](#) research and education focus on the synergies among human society, soil, water, vegetation and climate. Sustainable handling of our environment is inconceivable without an understanding of these interactions. There are four research teams dedicated to **vegetation science** (Prof. S Schmidlein), **soil science** (Prof. W Wilcke), **human geography** (Prof. C Kramer) and **river and floodplain ecology** (Prof. F Wittmann). Due to this diversity of expertise we offer an interesting curriculum and teaching in close contact with research in the field of geography, geoecology and environmental science.

## Courses

We are pleased to invite foreign students to study at the KIT – Institute for Geography and Geoecology in Karlsruhe. Guest students can select from all courses at KIT and particularly from courses part of the curriculum [MSc Geoecology](#).

Besides interesting courses in German language (refer to curricula of [MSc Geoecology](#), [MSc Regionalwissenschaften](#), [MEd Geography](#)) we additionally offer the opportunity to participate in courses fully taught in English. As orientation here is a list of courses currently available in English within the curriculum of MSc Geoecology:

- Geoecological climate impact research 1 (M Mauder): **Matter balances**, Eddy Flux measurements
- Geoecological climate impact research 2 (K Dolos): **Forests under climate change**, process-oriented forest stand modeling
- Geoecological climate impact research 3 (A Arneth): **Global climate impact research**, Process-oriented terrestrial ecosystem modeling at global scale

- **Isotope methods in Geoecology** (W. Wilcke)
- **Introduction to R** (E Householder)
- **Macroecology** (K Dolos)
- Methods in ecology 2 (S Schmidlein, F Fassnacht): **Remote sensing of the environment**
- Research projects **Ecology** (S Schmidlein, K Dolos), **Wetland Ecology** (F Wittmann), **Soil science** (W Wilcke)
- **Soil Biogeochemistry** (W. Wilcke)
- **Vegetation ecology** (S Schmidlein)
- **Water and Energy Cycles in Hydrological Systems: Processes, Predictions and Management** (E Zehe)
- **Wetland Ecology** (F Wittmann)

The module catalog for the Master of Geoecology (Germany version only) can be found on the homepage of KIT-IfGG [www.ifgg.kit.edu/downloads](http://www.ifgg.kit.edu/downloads).

Additionally, there is a Master "[Water Science and Engineering](#)" with English courses, which can be chosen after consultation of the responsible lecturer.

## Living in Karlsruhe

Karlsruhe has a population of approximately 300,000 people, and almost 35,000 are students who study at one of eight universities. KIT is the largest University in Karlsruhe. Housing is about 200 – 350 €/month in one of many [student residences](#) and shared flats.

Karlsruhe is one of Germany's warmest cities and has about 140 days of sunshine per year. On these sunny day you can visit the botanical garden close to the castle and the enjoy the atmosphere in the "Stadtgarten". There are many students bars in the city center (Oststadt, Südstadt) and two extraordinary festivals during summer (Zeltival, Das Fest, Unifest) as well las a niche Christmas market during December. In the surroundings of Karlsruhe there are nice destinations for day excursions such as Heidelberg, Strasbourg and the Black Forest National Park.

## Application

Application deadlines and some general information can be found at the [Erasmus+ website of the BGU-faculty](#), the [IStO](#) and at the [IfGG website](#). Current Erasmus+ coordinator for Geoecology and Geography is Prof. Sebastian Schmidlein. Contact person for incoming and outgoing students is Dr. Christophe Neff.