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Teaching Panel

Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin

By fall 2002 the Freie Universität Berlin launched the interdisciplinary Master's program „Public and Private Environmental Management“ which builds upon the long-term interdisciplinary cooperation of the departments of Political Science, Law Science and Business Administration in environmental studies at the Freie Universität.

Goal of the MA is to prepare students for professional careers in public and private organisations such as industrial enterprises, consulting firms, trade associations, government agencies, environmental nonprofit organisations, think tanks, foundations or research institutions. Students are taught in analytical skills and interdisciplinary knowledge to understand the causes of environmental problems and to develop responses.

The teaching program addresses traditional focal points of environmental protections such as soil protection, water protection etc. and draws attention to complex issue areas of global change such as climate change and the loss in bio-diversity. It is linked with research areas such as:

- Development of appropriate environmental policy responses including institutional and procedural innovations;
- Implementing sustainable development;
- Environmental policy integration;
- Implementing new environmental policy approaches in the context of the existing legal system and their valuation with regard to legal requirements, effectiveness and efficiency;
- New forms of environmental governance, e.g. relations between environmental regulation and environmental innovations in enterprises;
- Eligibility, steady-ness and impacts of environmental policy measures;
- Study of legal instruments in the multi-level-system of environmental policy in Germany, the European Union and the international system,
- Structures of international and European environmental policy, legal frameworks and economic aspects.

The paper reflects on experiences with the interdisciplinary Master's of Art Program "Public and private Environmental Management" and the Minor "Environmental Management" both based at the Free University Berlin. It addresses forms and driving forces behind interdisciplinary teaching, interlinkages between research and teaching and the internationalization of the study program.