SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND AREA STUDIES MINOR
30 ECTS

Mandatory project 18 ECTS

Introduction to project I* MA1
8 6
Introduction to project II* MA2
8 6
Fieldwork (China or Russia)*** Summer 10 12
Project II** MA3
10 12

Optional courses 12 ECTS

Project I** MA2
Fieldwork (China or Russia)*** Summer 10 12

* Acquisition of competences (including transversal skills) to conduct the mandatory project
** Projects are conducted under the supervision of faculty members from your section
*** Fieldwork is conducted during the summer; length of fieldwork varies between 2 and 4 weeks

Do you want to explore the role of China’s manufacturing cluster in global production networks?

Do you want to study the impact of climate change on the Arctic region?

DEDICATED SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES (SHS) COURSE
A specific SHS course (HUM440 - Global perspectives, local realities) accompanies the Minor. It aims to contextualize contemporary global and regional issues and dynamics. During the first semester students will acquire a set of tools and skills borrowed from different social science disciplines (anthropology, history, economics and politics). During the second semester students will be grouped around their regional choice. They will be asked to work on a specific issue related to their mandatory project from a social and human science perspective.

ADMISSIONS
The Minor is restricted to students starting their Master studies (MA1). Participation is limited to 12 students per region. Participants are selected on the basis of an application (for details check the website: iags.epfl.ch/stas). Applications must be submitted between August 1 and 31. Participation will be confirmed 10 days before the start of the Autumn semester.

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Global perspectives, local realities

The Minor combines project-based learning with fieldwork in Russia or China. Positioned at the crossroads of science, technology and social sciences, it equips you with the tools and skills to communicate across disciplines and across regions.

Choose a project from 2 regions

China:
From idea to prototype

You will develop a connected device and do a small batch production in the Hong Kong-Shenzhen ecosystem.

China Hardware Innovation Camp (CHIC)
As part of an interdisciplinary team of engineers you will imagine and design a product from scratch. During your stay in Southern China you will finalize the devices at a local prototyper’s factory (Seeedstudio). In parallel you will pitch the products in front of incubators, accelerators and Chinese makers. You will also have the opportunity to visit some of the leading hardware companies in the region (e.g., Huawei, DJI, etc.).

Russia:
Investigating climate change in the Arctic

You will be introduced to the problems of climate change via fieldwork carried out either on a research vessel or in a research station.

Russia Floating University
This expedition project offers a unique opportunity to carry out complex interdisciplinary research of the Arctic environment aboard of the oceanographic research-vessel “Professor Molchanov”. During the three to four-week long voyage toward the island of Novaya Zemlia, you will explore the impact of climate change in the Arctic territories from the angle of biodiversity, cryogenic processes, pollution, legal frameworks and social and economic challenges.

Samoylov Island Research Station
In the framework of an international research program you will study the formation, turnover and release of carbon in Siberian permafrost landscapes. You will join the expedition organized by the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in St. Petersburg working on the research station on Samoylov Island located in the northeast of Siberia.