

# Transects Through Alpine Water Landscapes

**ETH-EPFL**  
**Summer School**  
*16–21 August 2021*  
*Villa Cassel, Riederalp*

## Call for Applicants

### Description

Participants will engage with foundational knowledge related to (1) landscape, planning, and systemic design issues linked to water in the Alps, and (2) broader trans-disciplinary challenges facing water landscapes (climate change, agriculture, energy, urban drainage). Fieldwork will be employed as a form of direct engagement with the landscape to document key infrastructure, such as irrigation channels, dams, and drainage systems. The objective is to develop a spatial, empirical, and material understanding of the landscape. The final outcome will be the production of individual field diaries and a synthetic 'transect' describing relations along a set path from the Aletsch glacier to the Rhone valley floor.

### Application Process

The summer school offers 25 places for master and doctoral students. ETH and EPFL students will be given priority; students from other universities are also invited to apply. The offer primarily addresses students in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urbanism and related fields. The summer school will be in English. The summer school cannot assist with visa applications. All applicants should be legally entitled to be in Switzerland for the duration of the summer school. Students should be physically prepared for hiking (levels T1-T3) and spend extended time outdoors daily, and be adequately equipped for rapidly-changing alpine weather.

**The deadline for applications is 1 June 2021.** Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by mid-June 2021.

The application should include:

1. Letter of motivation describing applicant's academic interest in the topic of the summer school (max. 500 words)
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Sample of work: either design (max. 3 pages) or academic research (max. 1500 words)
4. For EPFL doctoral students, include supervisor approval

All participants are required to submit their documents exclusively via email to both Sylvie Tram Nguyen ([sylvie.nguyen@epfl.ch](mailto:sylvie.nguyen@epfl.ch)) and Sarem Sunderland ([sunderland@arch.ethz.ch](mailto:sunderland@arch.ethz.ch)).

### Format

The summer school involves 3 full expedition days, 1 production day, and 1 final critique day. Researchers with relevant expertise will lead field expeditions, supplemented by keynote lectures by invited guest experts. Workshops and critiques led by professors from ETH and EPFL will take place on site and in the seminar room at Villa Cassel.

### Accommodation

Accommodation is provided by Villa Cassel in Riederalp, Canton Valais. The Belle Epoque villa sits above the Aletsch glacier and serves as a research center for ProNatura. It is well-equipped for study groups and offers comfortable accommodation as well as seminar rooms. Participants will be hosted in alpine-style dormitory rooms (up to six people per room).

### Course credit

2 ECTS credits will be granted to students who complete the 6-day summer school. Accepted students are required to be present for the full length of the summer school and participate in all planned activities (field work, hikes, workshops, etc).

### Participation Fee

Master students (ETH Zurich/EPFL): 100.-  
Doctoral students (ETH Zurich/EPFL): CHF 250.-  
Doctoral students (external institutions): CHF 500.-

These fees cover the cost of accommodation (5 nights/6 days at Villa Cassel), full-board (breakfast, packed lunch, dinner each day), travel by public transit within the area (not including travel to and from the summer school), a printed booklet, and field research tools.

### COVID measures

We will follow all official directives on hygiene and rules related to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The summer school is currently planned as an in-person event. However, the summer school reserves the right for a flexible adaptation to the situation until mid-June 2021.