

Universität für Bodenkultur Wien

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna



Curriculum

for the Master's programme in

Organic Agriculture and Food Systems (EUR-Organic)

Programme classification no. 066 458



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For legal purposes, only the version of the curriculum that has been published in the official journal (Mitteilungsblatt) is binding and valid - this English translation is for information purposes only.

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MASTER´S PROGRAMME ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS (EUR-ORGANIC)

§ 1 QUALIFICATION PROFILE

The Master's programme in "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) is a degree programme which serves to deepen and extend students' pre-vocational academic education, building on the basis provided by a bachelor degree programme (§ 51 [2] item 5 of the Universities Act UG 2002, Federal Law Gazette BGBl I no. 81/2009). The programme fulfils the requirements of Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications, article 11, letter e.

The Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) is carried out within the framework of the Euroleague for Life Sciences (ELLS). University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) ELLS partner universities in this Master's programme are the University Hohenheim (U-HOH), Aarhus University (AU-SciTech) and Warsaw University of Life Sciences (WULS-SGGW).

As BOKU and WULS-SGGW do not offer the complete Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic), students of the Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) can currently only start their academic studies at AU-SciTech and UHOH. The university at which the student is admitted and completes the first academic study year is referred to as home university. The other selected universities (UHOH or AU-SciTech, WULS-SGGW or BOKU respectively) are referred to as host universities.

Currently BOKU and WULS-SGGW only serve as host university. As soon as BOKU and WULS-SGGW offer a complete Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic), these can also be chosen as home universities.

1a) Knowledge and personal and professional skills

The Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) offers an all embracing system-led (further-) education in the field of "Organic agriculture systems" through its compulsory and elective courses. The language of instruction is English. The international focus provides opportunities to deepen the scientific qualifications and opens up occupational outlooks in businesses, which operate on an international level and in the field of organic agriculture and the related food industry.

After the successful completion of this Master's programme, graduates are equipped with a broad topical knowledge as well as theories and methods to deal scientifically with organic agriculture and related fields of expertise. This foundation covers cultural, ecological, economic political and geographic – as well as production-related – features of organic agriculture in its diverse characteristics. In addition to the systems approach of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), also a specialisation in the fields of "Livestock, fruit and vegetable production" (AU-SciTech), "Socioeconomy" (UHOH) and "Food quality" (WULS-SGGW) are offered. This combination of a systems and a food chain approach enhances the students' ability to work with a broad range of methods, theories and content regarding organic agriculture and nutrition. The qualification profile especially in-

cludes the facet of organic tropical agriculture. This cannot be offered by any (other) single university. Thus, graduates possess a deepened and partially specialized international qualification. Furthermore, the two semesters stay abroad at a partner university, which must cover at least 60 ECTS credits, helps the graduates to gain detailed insight into the organic agriculture sector of another European country. This university programme is aimed both at the development of scientific qualifications and at “application-oriented” fields.

Graduates of the Master’s programme “Organic Agriculture and Food Systems” (EUR-Organic) at BOKU are in the position to:

- know and understand the characteristics and modes of operation of organic agriculture,
- understand and apply the systems approach of organic agriculture and related implications on approaches to research, test designs, experiments etc. in both, their socio-economic and their natural science contexts,
- describe and apply ethics based concepts and understand their significance for and applications in organic agriculture,
- analyze sub-systems of organic agriculture in order to develop and conduct scientific projects which closely related to his/her individual areas of expertise,
- apply state of the art scientific theories and methods to the development and completion of research projects, which reflect the disciplinary as well as inter- and transdisciplinary specialisations,
- evaluate agrarian ecosystems and the influence of (organic) agriculture on these and understand driving forces which influence land use and changes in land use,
- interpret the influence of political, social and legal framework requirements on organic agriculture,
- understand the connections and interrelations between the production of organic products and food quality,
- make use of the knowledge and abilities gained during the academic study programme for professional occupations in the private and public sector.

Due to the constant process of internationalization of the job market, personal skills of students are becoming more and more important. The study programme accounts for that as graduates are equipped with the following personal competences:

- intercultural communication and team work,
- inter- and transdisciplinary teamwork,
- practical experience due to project modules and a Master’s thesis in cooperation with companies and research,
- contact with various cultures.

In addition to the above mentioned qualifications students of the Master’s programme “Organic Agriculture and Food Systems” (EUR-Organic) also undergo a specialisation at the respective partner universities.

1b) Professional qualifications

(a) Scientific qualification profile

Graduates of the Master’s programme “Organic Agriculture and Food Systems” (EUR-Organic) are equipped with qualifications relevant for occupations and activities with a technical, natural science or socio-economic emphasis. In relation to this, students also acquire necessary research skills for careers in public and private, national and especially in-

ternational research establishments and international organizations focuses on organic agriculture; such careers may include:

- qualification to a doctoral study programme,
- contribution in research in the fields of organic agriculture / agriculture in the Tropics and Subtropics,
- participation in research in organic agriculture-related fields of expertise,
- participation in research in organic agriculture-related inter- and transdisciplinary research contexts.

(b) Qualification profile for non-scientific facilities and organisations

Graduates are equipped with qualifications in the following fields of occupations:

- running of organic business (production, processing, market), especially across company borders and with a social objective (e.g. interlinking with tasks in social areas, rural areas, market initiatives across company borders, etc.),
- administrating organic agriculture (e.g. organic organizations, environmental associations, chamber of agriculture, controlling and certification authorities, administrative offices, EU, media, international organizations),
- project management and regional development,
- marketing of organically produce, especially foods.

§ 2 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

2a) Deadlines

Deadline for application is March 15th for non-European Union citizens and June 1st for European Union (EU) citizens. When applying for the Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) one must choose a home university. The person will be enrolled at their home university and pay the tuition fee at this university during the entire two years programme (also when studying at the host university).

Important note for students choosing AU-SciTech as home university: AU-SciTech application deadline for international students is March 1st, but late applications for the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences are accepted until June 1st.

For a more detailed description of admission criteria and procedures please refer to the homepage of the Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic).

2b) Admission criteria

At each university the following criteria have to be fulfilled by the students: Students require a Bachelor of Science (BSc) or an equivalent degree in Agriculture or a related discipline (e.g. Biology, Food Technology, Nutrition Sciences, Environmental Sciences) following at least three years of university studies. Students who hold a Bachelor's degree in Economics are admissible at UHOH and can choose AU-SciTech as host university for the second year of their studies.

Over and above these general entry requirements, selection will be based upon grades, educational background and relevant professional experience. Additional professional qualifications can also be considered. The degree must be obtained at an acknowledged institution.

Admission criteria also comprise English language skills. Required minimum TOEFL¹ Scores (or equivalent tests) are:

- 550 Points in the paper-based test or
- 213 Points in the computer-based test or
- 79 Points in the internet-based test.

Equivalent tests with required scores are listed at the homepage of the Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic). An official proof of language skills is not requested from applicants whose native language is English or who have already completed a study programme in English.

2c) Documents required for admission at all partner universities:

- Letter of Motivation,
- CV,
- Proof of completed pre-studies, including the certificate and a transcript of records (certified copies translated into English in case the documents are not issued in English),
- Proof of proficiency in English.

2cI) Documents required for admission at AU-SciTech:

- List of documents required for admission at AU-SciTech is available at the homepage of AU-SciTech.

2cII) Additional documents for admission at BOKU:

- Proof of admission for continuing studies of an university of the country where the applicant completed his degree (applicants with citizenship of a EU or EEA country excluded).

2d) Fees

Students pay the tuition fee according to the rules of university where they are registered as fulltime students, i.e. their home university, during both study years.

Students of the UHOH cannot apply for an academic leave of absence (including a tuition fee waiver) for their study abroad period.

Students are exempt from paying tuition fee at their host university.

¹ TOEFL = Test of English as a Foreign Language

For more detailed information please refer to the homepage of the Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic).

2e) Choosing specialisation

In the Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) you must choose your host university for your second year of studies and your specialisation for the 3rd semester. You can choose between eight specialisations. You choose your host university and your specialisation at the end of the 1st semester and the form has to be sent to the programme coordinator of your home university latest at 31st of December. The specialisation form can be found at the homepage of the Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic), but will also be sent to the enrolled students one month before the deadline.

For more detailed information please refer to §5 (page 10).

§ 3 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

3a) Duration, total ECTS credits, and structure

The Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) comprises a total of 120 ECTS credits corresponding to a study period of four semesters (3000 hours with 60 minutes). Furthermore, the Master's programme is divided into two „Basic Semester Packages“ (BSP – 2 x 30 ECTS credits), one "Specialisation Semester Package" (SSP - 30 ECTS credits) and the Master's thesis (30 ECTS credits).

A jointly held "Start-up Module" (6 ECTS credits for students from UHOH as their home university and 5 ECTS credits for students from AU-SciTech as their home university) offered by the partner universities must be completed at the beginning of the Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic).

If UHOH is chosen as the home university, students have to successfully complete 42 ECTS credits (7x6 ECTS credits) as compulsory modules for the BSP and elective modules² comprising 12 ECTS credits (2x6 ECTS credits; see §4I; page 10).

If AU-SciTech is chosen as the home university, students have to successfully complete 20 ECTS credits (2x10 ECTS credits) from compulsory modules in the BSP, 20 ECTS credits (2x10 ECTS credits) from compulsory optional modules³ (see §4II; page 10) and elective modules to the extent of at least 15 ECTS credits.

If BOKU is chosen as host university (normally in semester 3 or 4 respectively), within the framework of SSP the student may choose either a "Thematic Focus" or a "Profile" (while still being at the home university in the first semester; also see under "Choosing specialisation", page 3f). For both, the "Thematic Focus" or the "Profile" at least 30 ECTS credits⁴ have to come from compulsory optional courses respectively elective courses. Furthermore, a Mas-

² In German: *Freie Wahllehrveranstaltungen*

³ In German: *Wahlpflichtlehrveranstaltungen*

⁴ If the chosen „Profile“ / „Thematic Focus“ comprises less than 30 ECTS credits, additional courses from any offered „Profile“ / „Thematic Focus“ have to be added until a minimum of 30 ECTS credits is reached (see § 5, page 10).

ter's thesis, which counts for 30 ECTS credits, has to be successfully submitted. The Master's thesis must be completed at the host university, but can also be co-supervised by the home university.

The SSP (Thematic Foci and Profiles) offered by BOKU are listed in § 5 (page 10).

The Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) is a double degree Master's programme and when §8 resp. §10 is fulfilled (page 16f), it is completed with an academic title at the home university as well as at the host university.

3b) Structure of the Double Degree Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic)⁵

Home - University	1 st Term	Basic semester	Joint start-up module + e-learning (UHOH: 6 ECTS credits ; AU-SciTech: 5 ECTS credits)
			Compulsory and Elective Courses (UHOH: 24 ECTS credits; AU-SciTech: 25 ECTS credits)
	2 nd Term	Basic semester	Compulsory and Elective Courses (30 ECTS credits)
		Summer school	Elective Course (6 ECTS credits)
Host - University	3 rd Term	Specialisation	Elective Courses (30 ECTS credits)
	4 th Term	Master's Thesis	Master's Thesis (30 ECTS credits)

3b) Three-pillar principle

The three-pillar principle is one of the central identifying characteristics of both the Bachelor's and Master's programmes offered at BOKU. In the Master's programmes, the sum of the compulsory and elective courses must be made up of at least

- 15% technology and engineering
- 15% natural sciences
- 15% economic and social sciences, law

The Master's thesis, (elective) internship and free electives are excluded from the three-pillar rule.

§ 4 COMPULSORY COURSES

The Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) comprises the following compulsory modules:

Module	Code	ECTS credits
Joint start up module	-	6 UHOH resp. 5 AU-SciTech

⁵ The detailed format of the BSP at the partner home universities – UHOH and AU-SciTech – of the ELLS Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) is included in Annex B (page 20).

I. Home-University UHOH⁶:

Module	Code	ECTS credits
Socioeconomics of Organic Farming	4101-430	6
Social and Cultural Conditions of Sustainable Agriculture	4303-440	6
Food Processing and Quality of Organic Food	3405-460	6
Organic Food Chain Project	3405-550	6
Organic Crop Production	3401-460	6
Markets and Marketing of Organic Food	4202-440	6
Organic Livestock Farming and Products	4801-480	6

Note: A maximum of three compulsory modules may be replaced at UHOH with the corresponding number of electives if knowledge corresponding to the content and scope of the modules to be replaced can be proven in the previous study programme. Permission shall be granted by the examination committee upon application by the student and upon recommendation from the mentor.

II. Home-University AU-SciTech:⁷

Module	Code	ECTS credits
Organic agriculture – system analysis, product quality and environment	-	10
Organic agriculture in a development system	-	10

Students at AU-SciTech have to choose a specialisation at the beginning of their studies. Within this specialisation courses to the extent of 20 ECTS credits have to be completed. The specialisation can be chosen from:

(i) Animal Specialisation:

Module	Code	ECTS credits
Animal production, health and welfare	-	10
Quantitative animal nutrition and physiology	-	10

(ii) Plant Specialisation:

Module	Code	ECTS credits
Crop nutrition and physiology	-	10
Crop pests - biology and control	-	10

§ 5 ELECTIVE COURSES

The Specialisation semester packages (SSP) of the ELLS Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) at BOKU include three "Thematic Foci" and five "Profiles".

⁶ For more detailed information please refer to the homepage of UHOH and the homepage of the ELLS Master's programme EUR-Organic

⁷ For more detailed information please refer to the homepage of AU-SciTech and the homepage of the ELLS Master's programme EUR-Organic

5a) Thematic Foci (courses offered in English language):

- Organic Soil Fertility and Crop Production (in drought regions) / Horticulture, Orchard, Viticulture Systems / Animal Production in Organic Agriculture
- Organic Agriculture in Subtropical and Tropical Environments
- Organic Agricultural Systems / Social Science and Organic Farming

5b) Profiles (courses offered in German and all courses offered in English from the thematic foci):

- Organic Soil Fertility and Crop Production (in drought regions) / Horticulture, Orchard, Viticulture Systems
- Organic Agriculture in Subtropical and Tropical Environments
- Organic Agricultural Systems / Social Science and Organic Farming
- Organic Animal Husbandry
- Organic Agricultural Economics / Rural Development

Students are recommended to start working on their Master’s thesis already in the winter term and to also take courses in summer term parallel to their thesis work (The total amount of ECTS credits from courses in winter and summer semester should be at a minimum of 30, plus 30 ECTS credits Master’s thesis).

In addition to their main “Thematic Focus”, guest students at BOKU have to attend courses up to 30 ECTS credits of free choice from other “Thematic Foci”/“Profiles” if the chosen “Thematic Focus”/“Profile” provides less than 30 ECTS credits.

“Thematic Foci”/“Profiles” which do not provide the total amount of 30 ECTS credits are:

Thematic foci (offered in English language)	Additional ECTS credits from other than the chosen “Thematic focus”
Thematic focus: Organic Agriculture in Subtropical and Tropical Environments	6
Thematic focus: Organic Agricultural Systems / Social Science and Organic Farming	12
Profiles (offered in English and German language)	Additional ECTS credits from other than the chosen “Profile”
Profile: Organic Agriculture in Subtropical and Tropical Environments	3
Profile: Organic Agricultural Economics / Rural Development	6

In addition to their main focus students are allowed to attend additional courses (exceeding 30 ECTS credits) of all “Thematic Foci” and “Profiles” in English and German language.

Ad 5a): “Thematic Foci” for EUR-Organic students in English language at BOKU:

Thematic focus: Organic Soil Fertility and Crop Production (in drought regions) / Horticulture, Orchard, Viticulture Systems / Animal Production in Organic Agriculture

Course Number	ECTS credits	Course Title	Term*	Type**	Rotation***
933308	3	Soil Fertility and Soil Ecology in Organic Farming	SS	VU	-
911312	3	Rhizosphere Processes and Application to Agriculture and Soil Protection	WS	VO	-
933302	3	Protection of Natural Resources by Organic Farming	WS	VS	2
931362	3	Production Systems and Atmospheric Pollution	SS	VO	-
952316	3	Organic Fruit Growing and Viticulture	WS	VS	-
952317	3	Biological Production of Vegetables and Ornamentals	WS	VS	-
952311	6	Interdisciplinary Project in Organic Horticulture, Fruit Growing and Viticulture	SS	PJ	-
953324	3	Ecological Plant Protection	WS	VU	-
953102	3	Applied Entomology in Orchards, Vineyards and Horticultural Crops	WS	VS	-
953044	2	Arthropod Behavioral Ecology	SS	VS	-
815311	3	Simulation in Vadose Zone Environment	WS	VU	-
952331	3	Physiology and management of grapevines	WS	VO	-
952104	1,5	Biology and Physiology of the Grapevine - Exercise	WS	UE	-
932105	4,5	Animal Production in Organic Agriculture	WS	VO	-
Total ECTS credits: 44					

*SS = Summer term; WS = Winter term

** For a description of the types of courses please refer to Annex A (page 19)

*** 1 = offered in uneven academic years (e.g. 2011/12; 2013/14; etc.); 2 = offered in even academic years (e.g. 2012/13; 2014/15; etc.); - = offered in each academic year.

Thematic focus: Organic Agriculture in Subtropical and Tropical Environments

Course Number	ECTS credits	Course Title	Term	Type	Rotation
933319	1,5	Organic Land Use and Livelihood Systems in Tropical and Subtropical Regions	SS	VS	-
933320	3	Facilitating Organic Farming in Tropical and Subtropical Environments	SS	VS	1
933321	3	Development Processes of Organic Agriculture in Tropical and Subtropical Regions	SS	SE	1
933323	6	Project: Organic Farming in Tropical and Subtropical Regions	SS	PJ	-
911324	3	Soil Management in Tropical and Subtropical Developing Regions	SS	VO	-
932324	3	Animal Husbandry in Tropical and Subtropical Regions	SS	VO	-
931312	4,5	Mechanization of Agriculture in Developing Countries	WS	VS	-
Total ECTS credits: 24					

Thematic focus: Organic Agricultural Systems / Social Science and Organic Farming

Course Number	ECTS credits	Course Title	Term	Type	Rotation
933306	3	Interdisciplinary Seminar in Organic Agriculture	WS	SE	-
933051	2	Local knowledge and ethnobiology in organic farming – methods seminar	SS	SE	-
933053	1	Local knowledge and ethnobiology in organic farming – introduction	WS	VO	-
933315	3	Topics of Agro-, Cultural- and Ethnoecology	SS	VS	-
933303	3	Safety and Quality of Organic Foods	SS	VO	-
933103	3	Standards, certification and accreditation in Organic Farming	WS	VS	-
731327	3	Principles of Empirical Research Methods in the Social Sciences	SS	VO	-
Total ECTS credits: 18					

Ad 5b): “Profiles” for EUR-Organic students in German and English language at BOKU:

Profile: Organic Soil Fertility and Crop Production (in drought regions) / Horticulture, Orchard, Viticulture Systems

Course Number	ECTS credits	Course Title	Term	Type	Rotation
933308	3	Soil fertility and soil ecology in organic farming	SS	VU	-
911312	3	Rhizosphere Processes and Application to Agriculture and Soil Protection	WS	VO	-
933302	3	Protection of Natural Resources by Organic Farming	WS	VS	2
931362	3	Production Systems and Atmospheric Pollution	SS	VO	-
952316	3	Organic Fruit Growing and Viticulture	WS	VS	-
952317	3	Biological Production of Vegetables and Ornamentals	WS	VS	-
952311	6	Interdisciplinary Project in Organic Horticulture, Fruit Growing and Viticulture	SS	PJ	-
953324	3	Ecological Plant Protection	WS	VU	-
953102	3	Applied Entomology in Orchards, Vineyards and Horticultural Crops	WS	VS	-
953044	2	Arthropod Behavioral Ecology	SS	VS	-
931310	4,5	Technik in der Ökologischen Landwirtschaft	WS	VS	-
911304	3	Bodenkennwerte	WS	VO	-
911300	3	Bodenphysik und –chemie	WS	VO	-
911309	3	Bodenchemie-Übungen	WS	UE	-
911308	3	Bodenphysik – Übungen	SS	UE	-
911310	1,5	Bodenmikrobiologie	WS	VO	-
911311	4,5	Bodenmikrobiologie-Übungen	SS	UE	-
833301	3	Bodenökologie	WS	VO	-
833303	3	Bodenzoologie	WS	VO	-
911313	4,5	Die Bodenstruktur: Entstehung, Funktionen und Veränderung	SS	VX	-

		durch landwirtschaftliche Nutzung			
911303	3	Bodenschätzung und Bodenkartierung	WS	VU	-
911323	3	Der Boden in der Landschaft	SS	VX	-
853308	4,5	Landschaftsökologisches Freilandpraktikum	SS	PJ	-
831329	3	Naturschutzfachliche Bewertung und Kartierung in der Kulturlandschaft	WS	VO	-
933313	4,5	Interdisziplinäre Projektlehrveranstaltung - ÖLW, Pflanzenschutz, Zoologie	SS	PJ	1
953305	3	Landwirtschaftliche Schaddiagnostik	SS	UX	-
953320	3	Biologischer Pflanzenschutz	SS	VU	-
953301	3	Ökologische Grundlagen der biologischen Schädlingskontrolle	WS	VO	-
831311	3	Unkrautbiologie	SS	VO	-
933314	3	Stoffkreisläufe in der Landwirtschaft	WS	VS	1
911307	6	Interdisziplinäre Projektlehrveranstaltung Bodenkunde	WS	PJ	-
933307	3	Pflanzenbauliche Produktionssysteme in der ÖLW - Interdisziplinäre Lehrveranstaltung	SS	VU	-
931303	4,5	Verfahrenstechnik in der pflanzlichen Produktion-Seminar	SS	SX	-
931301	3	Grünlandmechanisierung	WS	VO	-
931306	3	Kompostierungstechnik	SS	VX	1
931314	3	GPS-gestützte Landwirtschaft	SS	VX	-
931302	3	Klimatechnik	WS	VO	-
931305	3	Nacherntetechnologie	SS	VO	2
931308	3	Instrumente der bau- und landtechnischen Beratung	WS	VS	-
931317	3	Biogastechnologie	WS	VU	-
815311	3	Simulation in Vadose Zone Environment	WS	VU	-
952331	3	Physiology and management of grapevines	WS	VO	-
952104	1,5	Biology and Physiology of the Grapevine - Exercise	WS	UE	-
Total ECTS credits: 140,5					

Profile: Organic Agriculture in Subtropical and Tropical Environments

Course Number	ECTS credits	Course Title	Term	Type	Rotation
933319	1,5	Organic Land Use and Livelihood Systems in Tropical and Subtropical Regions	SS	VS	-
933320	3	Facilitating Organic Farming in Tropical and Subtropical Environments	SS	VS	1
933321	3	Development Processes of Organic Agriculture in Tropical and Subtropical Regions	SS	SE	1
933323	6	Project: Organic Farming in Tropical and Subtropical Regions	SS	PJ	-
911324	3	Soil Management in Tropical and Subtropical Developing Regions	SS	VO	-
932324	3	Animal Husbandry in Tropical and Subtropical Regions	SS	VO	-
931312	4,5	Mechanization of Agriculture in Developing Countries	WS	VS	-
933322	3	Ernährung in Entwicklungsländern	SS	VS	1
Total ECTS credits: 27					

Profile: Organic Agricultural Systems / Social Science and Organic Farming

Course Number	ECTS credits	Course Title	Term	Type	Rotation
933306	3	Interdisciplinary Seminar in Organic Agriculture	WS	SE	-
933051	2	Local knowledge and ethnobiology in organic farming – methods seminar	SS	SE	-
933053	1	Local knowledge and ethnobiology in organic farming – introduction	WS	VO	-
933315	3	Topics of Agro-, Cultural- and Ethnoecology	SS	VS	-
933303	3	Safety and Quality of Organic Foods	SS	VO	-
933103	3	Standards, certification and accreditation in Organic Farming	WS	VS	-
731327	3	Principles of Empirical Research Methods in the Social Sciences	SS	VO	-
933312	2	Interdisziplinäre Exkursion zur ÖLW	SS	EX	-
933309	4,5	Umstellung auf ÖLW - Interdisziplinäres Projekt	SS	PJ	1
933310	5	Systemanalyse und Szenariotechnik – Methoden und Anwendungen	SS	SE	-
933317	3	Ökologische Landwirtschaft im gesellschaftlichen Diskurs	SS	VS	-
732335	3	Wissenschaftstheorie	WS	VO	-
854322	2	Bäuerliche Ökonomie als nachhaltiges Wirtschaften	SS	VO	1
952323	3	Frauen in der bäuerlichen Garten- und Landwirtschaft	WS	VU	-
931307	3	Technologiefolgenabschätzung in der Landwirtschaft	WS	VS	1
Total ECTS credits: 43,5					

Profile: Organic Animal Husbandry

Course Number	ECTS credits	Course Title	Term	Type	Rotation
932105	4,5	Animal Production in Organic Agriculture	WS	VO	-
932325	3	Ausgewählte Aspekte zur ökologischen Tierhaltung	WS	VS	-
932303	3	Tiergesundheit in der ÖLW	SS	VS	-
932316	3	Spezielle Nutztierethologie	WS	VS	-
932317	3	Methoden zur Beurteilung der Tiergerechtigkeit	WS	VS	-
932321	3	Tierschutz in der Nutztierhaltung	WS	VO	-
932309	7,5	Biostatistik in den Nutztierwissenschaften	SS	VU	-
931309	4,5	Planungsseminar Tierhaltungssysteme	SS	VS	1
931318	3	Technik der Wirtschaftsdüngernutzung	WS	VU	-
931362	3	Produktionssysteme und Atmosphärenbelastung	SS	VO	-
932003	2	Nachhaltigkeit tierischer Produktionssysteme	WS	VS	-
Total ECTS credits: 39,5					

Profile: Organic Agricultural Economics / Rural Development

Course Number	ECTS credits	Course Title	Term	Type	Rotation
733324	3	Betriebswirtschaft und Marketing-Mix in der ÖLW	WS	VO	-
735313	3	Direktvermarktung	SS	SE	-

933316	6	Projekt: ÖLW und regionale Entwicklung	SS	PJ	-
933318	6	Projekt: Indikatoren einer nachhaltigen Landwirtschaft	SS	PJ	2
731337	3	Methoden ländlicher Regionalentwicklung	WS	VO	-
731342	3	Schwerpunkt – Seminar Ländliche Regionalentwicklung	WS	SE	-
Total ECTS credits: 24					

§ 6 FREE ELECTIVES

A list of recommended free electives is included in Annex C (page 21).

§ 7 MASTER'S THESIS

A Master's thesis is a paper on a scientific topic, to be written as part of a Master's programme (for exceptions please see the By Laws of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, part III- Teaching, § 30[9]). The thesis is worth a total of 30 ECTS credits. With their Master's theses, students demonstrate their ability to independently address a scientific topic, both thematically and methodologically (§ 51 [8] UG 2002 BGBl. I no. 81/2009).

The topic of a Master's thesis shall be chosen in such a way that it is reasonable to expect a student to be able to complete it within six months. Multiple students may jointly address a topic, provided that the performance of individual students can be assessed (§ 81 [2] UG 2002 BGBl. I no. 81/2009).

In the Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) the Master's thesis must be written in English. This also applies for the defense. Another language may only be chosen with a confirmation from the supervisor. The Master's thesis has to be completed at the host university, but may be co-supervised by the home university.

§ 8 COMPLETION OF THE MASTER'S PROGRAMME

The Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) has been completed when the student has passed all required modules and courses – at the home university as well as at BOKU as host university – and received a positive grade on the Master's thesis and defence examination.

At the respective home university courses (basic semester packages) to an extent of at least 60 ECTS credits have to be completed successfully. For the graduation at BOKU as host university, courses (specialisation semester packages) to an extent of at least 30 ECTS credits as well as the Master's thesis (30 ECTS credits) must be completed successfully.

§ 9 ACADEMIC DEGREE

Upon successful completion of the Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) students are awarded a double diploma: by the home and by the host university as well as a diploma supplement.

At BOKU graduates of the Master's programme in "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) are awarded the academic title Master of Science, abbreviated as MSc or M.Sc.

The following degrees will be awarded by the partner universities of BOKU:

- **AU-SciTech:** MSc in Agrobiolology with Specialisation in Organic Agriculture
- **UHOH:** MSc in Organic Agriculture and Food Systems
- **WULS-SGGW:** MSc in Food Technology and Human Nutrition

The academic title MSc (M.Sc.), if used, shall follow the bearer's name (§ 88 [2] UG 2002 BGBl. I no. 81/2009).

§ 10 EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

(1) For the Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) the respective examination regulations of the partner universities must be adhered to in addition to the BOKU examination regulations termed here.

Evaluation of course activities can take a variety of forms: written exams, oral exams, oral project presentations, reports, posters, laboratory and theoretical exercises all following the local institutional regulations. If a student fails in exams and changes between home and host university before reexamination the home and the host university is obliged to make the reexamination possible for the student. The assessment of the courses is in accordance with the "European Credit Transfer System", where 60 ECTS credits represents one year of full study.

(2) The Master's programme "Organic Agriculture and Food Systems" (EUR-Organic) with BOKU as host university has been completed successfully when the following requirements (corresponds to components in para 8 below) have been met:

- positive completion of all basic semester packages (including the start up module to the extent of 6 ECTS credits at UHOH and 5 ECTS credits at AU-SciTech) at the respective home university – UHOH or AU-SciTech – to the extent of at least 60 ECTS credits (§4./§4I./§4II. and §6.; see page 9f/16),
- positive completion of at least 30 ECTS credits from the chosen „Profile“ or „Thematic Focus“. If the chosen „Profile“ / „Thematic Focus“ comprises less than 30 ECTS credits, additional courses from any offered „Profiles“ / „Thematic foci“ have to be added until a minimum of 30 ECTS credits is reached (see §5; page 10f),
- a positive grade on the Master's thesis and the defence examination (30 ECTS credits).

(3) Student evaluation takes the form of course and module examinations. Course examinations can be either written or oral, as determined by the course instructor, taking the ECTS credit value of the course into account. Any prerequisites for admission to examinations shall be listed in § 4 under the respective course/module.

(4) Student evaluation in modules: Module evaluation is based on the grades given the students in the individual courses that make up the module. The total evaluation for the module is calculated as the average of the grades of all module courses, weighted by

ECTS credits. Average values of .5 or lower are rounded to the better (numerically lower) grade; values of over .5 are rounded to the worse (numerically higher) grade. If deemed necessary, the Dean of Students may require a module examination at his/her discretion.

(5) The choice of examination method shall be based on the type of course: Lectures shall conclude with a written or oral examination, if continuous assessment of student performance is not applied. Seminars and project-based courses can be evaluated based on independently written papers, length and contents of which are determined by the course instructor. For all other course types, the examination type is at the instructor's discretion.

(6) The topic of the Master's thesis shall be selected from one of the subjects of the Master's programme.

(7) The completed Master's thesis shall be publically presented by the student and defended in the form of an academic discussion (defence examination). The examination committee shall consist of a committee chair, a first examiner (the student's thesis supervisor) and a second examiner. The student's total performance (thesis and defence examination) will be assigned a comprehensive grade. Both thesis and defence examination must receive a passing grade for the student to complete the programme. The written evaluations stating the grounds for the thesis grade and the defence examination grade are included in calculating the comprehensive grade and are documented separately.

The comprehensive grade is calculated as follows:

- Master's thesis: 70%
- Defence examination (incl. presentation): 30%

(8) A comprehensive evaluation of the student's performance on the entire programme shall be assigned. A comprehensive evaluation of "passed" means that each individual component of the programme was completed successfully. If individual components of the programme have not been successfully completed, the comprehensive evaluation is "failed". A comprehensive evaluation of "passed with honours" is granted if the student has received no grade worse than a 2 (good) on all individual components, and if at least 50% of the individual components were graded with 1 (excellent).

§ 11 EFFECTIVE DATE

This curriculum shall take effect on 01.10.2011

ANNEX A TYPES OF COURSES

Lecture (VO)

Lectures are courses in which certain areas of a subject and the methods used in this area are imparted through didactic presentation.

Lab course (UE)

Lab courses are courses in which students are instructed in specific practical skills, based on theoretical knowledge.

Practical course (PR)

Practical courses are classes in which students deal with specific topics independently, based on previously acquired theoretical and practical knowledge.

Compulsory internship seminar (PP)

The compulsory internship seminar is a class in which students deal independently with topics related to their internship placements, based on previously acquired theoretical and practical knowledge.

Seminar (SE)

Seminars are courses in which students are required to work independently on the respective subject, deepen their knowledge of the topic and discuss relevant issues.

Field trips (EX)

Field trips are courses in which students have the opportunity to experience relevant fields of study in real-life practical application, to deepen their knowledge of the respective subject. Field trips can be taken to destinations both in Austria and abroad.

Master's thesis seminar (MA)

Master's thesis seminars are seminars intended to provide students with academic support during the thesis writing process.

Mixed-type courses:

Mixed-type courses combine the characteristics of the courses named above (with the exception of project-type courses). Integration of different course-type elements improved the didactic value of these courses.

Project course (PJ)

Project courses are characterized by problem-based learning. Under instruction, students work (preferably in small groups) on case studies, applying appropriate scientific methods.

Lecture /seminar (VS)

Lecture/lab (VU)

Lecture/field trip (VX)

Seminar/field trip (SX)

Lab/seminar (US)

Lab/field trip (UX)

ANNEX B BASIC SEMESTER PACKAGES OF THE ELLS MASTER'S PROGRAMME "ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS" (EUR-ORGANIC) AT THE PARTNER-HOME-UNIVERSITIES - UHOH AND AU-SciTECH

Home-University UHOH Basic Semester Packages (BSP) 1 and 2:

Semester	Code	Modules	Type*	ECTS credits
1	-	Joint start-up module	C	6
	4101-430	Socioeconomics of Organic Farming	C	6
	4303-440	Social and Cultural Conditions of Sustainable Agriculture	C	6
	3405-460	Food Processing and Quality of Organic Food	C	6
	-	Elective module	E	6
1+2	3405-550	Organic Food Chain Project	C	6
2	3401-460	Organic Crop Production	C	6
	4202-440	Markets and Marketing of Organic Food	C	6
	4801-480	Organic Livestock Farming and Products	C	6
	-	Elective module	E	6

* C=Compulsory; E=Elective

Home-University AU-SciTech Basic Semester Packages (BSP) 1 and 2:

Semester	Code	Modules	Type*	ECTS credits
1	-	Joint start-up module	C	5
	<i>Animal Specialisation:</i>			
	-	Animal Specialisation	CO	10
	-	Animal production, health and welfare	CO	10
	<i>Plant Specialisation:</i>			
	-	Crop nutrition and physiology	CO	10
	-	Crop pests - biology and control	CO	10
2	-	Elective module	E	5
	-	Organic agriculture – system analysis, product quality and environment	C	10
	-	Organic agriculture in a development system	C	10
	-	Elective module	E	10

* C=Compulsory; CO=Compulsory optimal; E=Elective

**ANNEX C LIST OF RECOMMENDED ELECTIVE COURSES FOR THE ELLS
MASTER'S PROGRAMME "ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS"
(EUR-ORGANIC) AT THE UHOH**

Module	Code	ECTS credits
Summer school: Organic Food Production Chain	-	6
Socioeconomics of Organic Farming	4101-430	6
Food Technology and Residues	1503-410	6
Food Safety and Quality Chains	3003-410	6
Soil Fertility and Fertilisation in Organic Farming	3301-440	6
Problems and Perspectives of Organic Farming	3405-450	6
Gender, Nutrition, and Right to Food	4303-470	6
Crop Protection in Organic Farming	3603-420	6
Postharvest Technology of Food and Bio-Based Products	4403-550	6
International Food and Agricultural Trade	4902-420	6
Ecology and Agroecosystems	3802-410	6
Rural Development Policies and Institutions	4901-430	6
Knowledge and Innovation Management	4301-410	6
Biodiversity, Plant and Animal Genetic Resources	3802-420	6
Ethics of Food and Nutrition Security	4303-490	6

Note: At UHOH the elective modules can be chosen from the complete catalogue of the UHOH's Master courses, including more than 30 disciplinary and interdisciplinary subjects. The modules listed above are appropriate examples. For the complete catalogue of possible elective modules, please refer to the homepage of the UHOH.