



Universität für Bodenkultur Wien

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna

Curriculum

for the Master's Programme in

Water Management and Environmental Engineering

Programme classification no.

Effective date: October 1st, 2011



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.

Contents

§ 1	Qualification profile	3
§ 2	Admission requirements	4
§ 3	Programme structure	5
§ 4	Compulsory courses	7
§ 5	Elective courses	8
§ 6	Free electives	15
§ 7	Compulsory internship	15
§ 8	Master's thesis	16
§ 9	Completion	16
§ 10	Academic title	16
§ 11	Examination regulations	16
§ 12	Transitional provisions	18
§ 13	Effective date	18
Annex A	Types of courses.....	19

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§ 1 QUALIFICATION PROFILE

The Master's Programme in Water Management and Environmental Engineering 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 degree programme allows students to consolidate their knowledge of the areas and working practices within the applied sciences and their engineering-related applications. This study programme is aimed at enabling the use of the natural resource water by humans as well as ensuring its provision, diagnosing natural hazards and developing solutions for the protection and management of natural hazards.

The Master study programme is designed as a programme in English. This means that all courses are offered in English. Students' achievements such as exams, seminar papers and the Master theses therefore have to be completed in English. Consequently, adequate competences of the English language are obligatory.

The Master study programme offers two specialisation options:

1. Water Management and Engineering
2. Mountain Risk Engineering

These specialisations are explicitly stated in the final degree document.

1a) Knowledge and personal and professional skills

Water management aims at the sustainable use and safeguarding of the resource water. Thereby, it finds itself in an area of conflict of economic and ecologic objectives. The understanding of the water circle has to be the basis for all water management measures. It is imperative that the multifaceted functions of the natural potential water in its interplay with the soil is used and protected in the most perfect and purposeful way. Furthermore, it needs to be sustainable safeguarded for our livelihood. It gets harder and harder to provide the adequate quantity of water and, in particular, to also ensure sufficient water quality. Therefore, the focus on exceedingly complex ecological interrelationships and interdependencies gets more and more important.

For this professional training, a good basic scientific knowledge is required, in addition to a comprehensive understanding of the sustainable use of resources and a logical mind for responsible planning, design, construction and maintenance.

During the Master degree programme graduates of "Water Management and Environmental Engineering" acquire knowledge and skills in the areas of hydrology, water management planning, constructive hydraulic engineering and river management, cultural water and groundwater management, settlement water management, industrial water management and water protection, hydrobiology and water ecology, waste management.

In the field of Mountain Risk Engineering the identification of geo risks and the development of safety measures are essential. Thereby, special significance is given to the usages of integrative methods for risk management. Special expertise on alpine mass transportation, description and modeling of these processes and the technical constructions of safety measures are gained.

Graduates of the Master study programme Water Management and Environmental Engineering acquire the theoretical and practical knowledge in the fields of planning, administration and economy necessary for successful working. Within the framework of the university education communication, coordination and management skills are acquired. Activities such as mobility, improvement of language skills and internationality are promoted in the Master study programme and help students gain further competences for international occupational activities.

1b) Professional qualifications

The versatility of this education opens the following fields of work for graduates:

- In commercial enterprises: as consulting engineers and in planning agencies, in industry and trade, in consulting offices, etc. ...
- In the services sector: in research and testing institutions, in planning agencies, engineering offices, etc. ...
- In administration and education: in the public sector (federal ministries, governments and district administration), as appraiser
- In development cooperation
- In international organisations including EU organisations

§ 2 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Graduates of the bachelor's programme in Environmental Engineering offered by BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences are eligible for admission with no further requirements.

Graduates of other Bachelor degrees who wish to take the Master degree in Water Management and Environmental Engineering must be able to demonstrate a fundamental, equivalent knowledge of the central subjects taught as part of the Bachelor degree in Environmental Engineering. In detail, it deals with those designated courses stated in the areas of natural scientific basic principles, technical and subject-specific basic principles, social sciences, economics, law and the vocational compulsory subjects (culture-technical core area).

For graduates of bachelor's programmes completed at other universities, mastery of the following learning outcomes is required for admission:

- (1) Basic knowledge in natural sciences: Mathematics, statistics, physics, chemistry, geology, soil science and botany, hydrobiology
- (2) Basic knowledge in technical sciences: Geometry, mechanics, statics and strength of materials, surveying, structural design, geotechnics, geoinformation
- (3) Basic knowledge in environmental engineering: hydraulics, hydrology, river basin management, hydraulic engineering, settlement water management, hydrology, waste management, transport, rural water management, spatial planning and construction economics

Students are directly entitled to admission to the study programme when they can provide proof for 20 ECTS credits each in all three areas.

§ 3 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

3a) Duration, total ECTS credits, and structure

The programme consists of courses and other requirements worth a total of 120 ECTS credits. This is equivalent to a duration of four semesters (a total of 3,000 60-minute credit hours). The programme is divided into

Compulsory courses:	30 ECTS credits
Elective courses:	46 ECTS credits
Free electives:	12 ECTS credits
Master's thesis:	30 ECTS credits
Master's seminar:	2 ECTS credits

Detailed structure of the programme:

Compulsory basic subjects

Basic Subjects.....	12 ECTS credits
Complementary Subjects.....	12 ECTS credits
Engineering Project.....	6 ECTS credits

Specialisations

1. *Water Management and Environmental Engineering (WMEE):*

5 sectoral subjects to the extent of 30 ECTS credits have to be completed (each of the sectoral subjects is worth 6 ECTS credits).

Sectoral subjects..... 30 ECTS credits

For the specialisation in Water Management and Environmental Engineering at least 3 sectoral subjects have to be chosen from “*Sanitary Engineering*”, “*Rural Water Management*”, “*Hydrology and Water Management*” and “*Hydraulic Engineering and River Basin Management*”.

2. *Mountain Risk Engineering (MRE):*

5 sectoral subjects to the extent of 30 ECTS credits have to be completed (each sectoral subject is worth 6 ECTS credits).

Sectoral subjects..... 30 ECTS credits

For the specialisation in Mountain Risk Engineering the sectoral subjects “*Mountain Hazard Processes*”, “*Mitigation Measures for Mountain Hazards*” and “*Risk Management*” are compulsory.

Elective Specialisation Subjects.....16 ECTS credits

Elective Subjects 12 ECTS credits
(Practical Training) 3 ECTS credits)

Master’s seminar..... 2 ECTS credits

Master thesis 30 ECTS credits

Total **120 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 the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna. 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, compulsory internship and free electives are excluded from the three-pillar rule.

§ 4 COMPULSORY COURSES

The following compulsory courses to the extent of 30 ECTS credits are required to complete the master's programme:

Basics					
<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
	VO	Ringvorlesung Water, Soil and Atmosphere (in Engl.)		2.0	3.0
	VO	Statistical and numerical methods in water management		2.0	3.0
	VO	International Law and Cooperation Development		2.0	3.0
	VU	Operations Research and System Analysis		4.0	6.0

Complementary subjects					
<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
857321	VO	Remote Sensing and GIS in Natural Resource Management	WS	2.0	3.0
	VO	Geotechnics		2.0	3.0
872302	VU	Hydrogeology	SS	2.0	3.0
		Planning and Design / Conceptual Design		2.0	3.0

Engineering project					
Number	Type	Name	Semester	SST	ECTS credits
	UE	Structural excercises*)			6.0

*) For the specialisation in Water Management and Environmental Engineering the **Engineering project has to be chosen from the sectoral subjects** “Sanitary Engineering”, “Rural Water Management”, “Hydrology and Water Management” and “Hydraulic Engineering and River Basin Management”.

For the specialisation in Mountain Risk Engineering the **Engineering project has to be chosen from the sectoral subjects** “Mountain Hazard Processes”, “Mitigation Measures for Mountain Hazards” and “Risk Management”.

§ 5 ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective courses worth a total of 46 ECTS credits are required to complete the master’s programme. These are structured in 11 specialist division units. Once a unit is chosen the completion of 6 ECTS points each is compulsory.

For the specialisation in Water Management and Environmental Engineering at least 3 sectoral subjects have to be chosen from “Sanitary Engineering”, “Rural Water Management”, “Hydrology and Water Management” and “Hydraulic Engineering and River Basin Management”.

For the specialisation in Mountain Risk Engineering the sectoral subjects “Mountain Hazard Processes”, “Mitigation Measures for Mountain Hazards” and “Risk Management” are compulsory. Additionally 16 ECTS credits from the elective courses have to be completed.

Detailed structure of the sectoral subjects:

1. Sanitary Engineering

Compulsory courses					
Number	Type	Name	Semester	SST	ECTS credits
	SE	Case Studies in Sanitary Engineering		2.0	3.0
811356	VO	Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment	WS	2.0	3.0

Elective courses					
Number	Type	Name	Semester	SST	ECTS credits
	VO	On Site Solutions for Water Supply and Sanitation		2.0	3.0
811360	VU	Modelling in Sanitary Engineering (Sewer, Treatment Plant + Receiver)	WS	3.0	4.5
811358	UE	Planning and Design in Water supply and Wastewater Treatment	SS	2.0	3.0
811363	VO	Industrial Water Management	SS	2.0	3.0
	VU	Water Resources Management in Developing Co-operation		2.0	3.0
811357	VU	Biology, Chemistry and Microbiology for Civil Engineering	SS	2.0	3.0

2. Rural Water Management

Compulsory courses					
Number	Type	Name	Semester	SST	ECTS credits
815303	VO	Soil water management	WS	2.0	3.0
815321	VU	Soil Conservation and Soil Protection	WS	2.0	3.0
Elective courses					
Number	Type	Name	Semester	SST	ECTS credits
815322	VU	Soil erosion models and their application		3.0	4.5
	PR	Applied Methods of Soil Analyses		3.0	4.5
815311	VU	Simulation in Vadose Zone Environment	WS	2.0	3
815025	KO	Irrigation Engineering Principles	SS	2.0	3
	VU	Irrigation Design		2.0	3

3. Hydrology and Water Management

Compulsory courses					
<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
	VO	Hydrological Processes and modelling		2.0	3.0
	VO	Water Resources Planning and Management		2.0	3.0
Elective courses					
<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
	VO	Integrated Flood Risk Management		2.0	3.0
816347	VO	Application of GIS in Hydrology and Water Management	SS	2.0	3.0
816343	VO	Environmental Risk Analysis and Management	SS	2.0	3.0
816342	VO	Possible Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources	SS	2.0	3.0
816325	SE	Flood forecasting and flood protection	SS	2.0	3.0
816305	SE	Seminary in surface hydrology	SS	2.0	3.0
816303	SE	Seminary in groundwater management	WS	2.0	3.0
	PR	Hydrometric and river engineering field exercises		3.0	4.5

4. Hydraulic Engineering and River Basin Management

Compulsory courses					
<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
	VO	Hydraulic Engineering		2.0	3.0
	VO	River Basin Management, sediment regime and river morphology		2.0	3.0

Elective courses					
Number	Type	Name	Semester	SST	ECTS credits
816340	VU	Ecologically Oriented Methods and Monitoring in River Engineering	SS	2.0	3.0
816332	VU	Computer based river modelling	WS	2.0	3.0
	PR	Hydrometric and river engineering field exercises PR		3.0	4.5
816318	VO	Monitoring in river engineering	SS	2.0	3.0

5. Aquatic Ecology and Wetland Management

Compulsory courses					
Number	Type	Name	Semester	SST	ECTS
812347	VO	Human impacts in riverine landscapes	WS	1.5	2.0
812346	VO	Biomonitoring and –assessment	WS	1.0	2.0
812321	VO	Ecological river landscape management		1.0	2.0
Elective courses					
Number	Type	Name	Semester	SST	ECTS credits
	VU	Benthic invertebrate status assessment		2.0	3.0
812344	VO	Ecology of fishes	WS	2.0	3.0
	VX	Applications in river landscape management		2.0	2.0
	VU	Multi-scale modeling and system dynamics in aquatic ecosystems		2.0	2.0
	VU	Ecology of aquatic plants		2.0	2.0

6. Water Management in Developing Countries

Compulsory courses					
<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
	VO	Globalisation and Rural Development		2.0	3.0
811332	VU	Water Resources Management in Developing Co-operation	SS	2.0	3.0

Elective courses					
	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
731005	VU	Dynamic Land Use Optimization under Global Change	WS	2.0	3.0
811334	VU	Risk assessment in the Aquatic Environment	WS	2.0	3.0
811362	VO	On Site Solutions for Water Supply and Sanitation	WS	2.0	3.0
	VO	Appropriate Technology for Water Supply and sanitation		2.0	3.0
815308	VO	Selected Topics of hydraulics and Rural Water management	SS	2.0	3.0
911319	UE	In-situ Treatment of Polluted Soils and sediment: Phytoremediation, In-situ Fixation and Attenuation Techniques	SS	3.0	4.5
874300	VY	Soil- bioengineering techniques (slopes & gullies)	SS	2.5	3.0

7. Waste Management

Compulsory courses					
<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
	VO	Global Waste Management I		2.0	3.0
	VO	Global Waste Management II		2.0	3.0

Elective courses					
<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
	SE	Waste Management Seminar		2.0	3.0
	VU	Planning and Assessment of Waste management Systems		2.0	3.0
	VO	Life Cycle Management		2.0	2.0

8. Economy and Law

Compulsory courses					
<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS</i>
731348	VU	Managerial Economics	SS	2.0	3.0
731328	VO	Valuation Methods for Natural Resources (Economic Valuation of Market Goods and Natural Resources)	SS	2.0	3.0
Elective courses					
<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>		<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
731325	VO	International Commodity Markets and Trade Policy (Agricultural and Food Policy II)	WS	2.0	3.0
	VO	Game Theory		2.0	3.0
731324	VO	Resource and Environmental Economics	SS	2.0	3.0
732326	VO	Institutions and Policies of the EU (<i>Introduction to the Law and Politics of the European Union</i>)	SS	2.0	3.0
731347	VO	Regional Economics and Regional Governance	SS	2.0	3.0
731331	VO	WTO and International Environmental Agreements	SS	2.0	3.0

9. Mountain Hazard Processes

Compulsory courses					
	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS</i>
871322	VS	Science of Natural Mountain Disasters	WS	3.0	4.5
	EX	Science of Natural Mountain Disasters		1.0	1.5

Elective courses					
	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS</i>
	VS	Rock Fall		1.0	1.5
871310	VSX	Snow and Avalanches	WS	2.0	3.0
	VS	Dynamics of geophysical flows		2.0	3.0
912314	VU	Mountain Forest Climatology and headwater Hydrology	WS	3.0	4.5

10. Mitigation Measures for Mountain Hazards

Compulsory courses					
<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
871319	VX	Protection and mitigation measures against mountain hazards	SS	3.0	4.5
	SE	Protection and mitigation measures against mountain hazards		1.0	1.5
Elective courses					
<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
	VX	Afforestation and forest protection in protective forests		1.0	1.5
	VO	Soil and bio-engineering techniques (slopes and gullies)		2.0	3.0
	VU	Ecologically orientated methods and monitoring in river engineering		2.0	3.0

	VX	Fire management in Mountain Forest Eco-systems		2.0	2.0
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11. Risk Management

Compulsory courses					
<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
	VS	Risk management and Vulnerability Assessment		2.0	3.0
	VO	Cost / benefit analysis		2.0	3.0
Elective courses					
<i>Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>SST</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
857321	UE	Remote Sensing and GIS in Natural Resource Management	WS	2.0	3.0
816336	VO	Integrated Flood Risk Management	WS	2.0	3.0
811334	VU	Risk Assessment in the Aquatic Environment	WS	2.0	3.0
871332	VO	Disaster Management	WS	2.0	2.0
816343	VO	Environmental Risk Analysis and Management	SS	2.0	3.0

§ 6 FREE ELECTIVES

Free electives worth a total of 12 ECTS credits are required to complete the master's programme. Free electives may be selected from all courses offered by all recognized universities in Austria and abroad. Free electives are intended to impart knowledge and skills in the student's own academic subject as well as in fields of general interest. It is recommended to choose elective courses from the sectoral subjects.

§ 7 COMPULSORY INTERNSHIP

In the course of the Master study programme Water Management and Environmental Engineering no compulsory internship has to be completed. The internship is intended to help students improve the skills learned in their degree programme. It is also intended to encour-

age students to learn to apply what they have learned in practice, and recognize relationships between theory and practice.

The internship shall be at least 3 weeks in duration and will be awarded 3 ECTS credits in the form of an internship seminar (free elective).

§ 8 MASTER'S THESIS

A master's thesis is a paper on a scientific topic, to be written as part of a master's degree 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).

The master's thesis shall be written in English. The thesis defence must be held in English.

§ 9 COMPLETION OF THE MASTER'S PROGRAMME

The Master's Programme in Water Management and Environmental Engineering has been completed when the student has passed all required courses and received a positive grade on the master's thesis and defence examination.

§ 10 ACADEMIC DEGREE

Graduates of the Master's Programme in Water Management and Environmental Engineering are awarded the academic title *Diplomingenieur* (m) or *Diplomingenieurin* (f), abbreviated as Dipl.-Ing./ Dipl.Ing.ⁱⁿ or DI/DIⁱⁿ.

The academic title Dipl.-Ing./Dipl.Ing.ⁱⁿ or DI/DIⁱⁿ, if used, shall precede the bearer's name, while the academic title MSc (M.Sc) shall follow it (§ 88 [2] UG 2002 BGBl. I no. 81/2009).

§ 11 EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

(1) The Master's Programme in Water Management and Environmental Engineering has been completed successfully when the following requirements (corresponds to components in [7] below) have been met:

- positive completion of compulsory courses worth a total of 30 ECTS credits (§ 4)
- positive completion of elective courses worth a total of 46 ECTS credits (§ 5)
- positive completion of free electives worth a total of 12 ECTS credits (§ 6)

- a positive grade on the master's thesis and the defence examination

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) The topic of the master's thesis shall be selected from one of the subjects of the master's programme. The student must inform the dean in writing prior to the commencement of the work on the Master thesis. Thereby, the student has to state the Master thesis topic as well as the name of the supervisor of the Master thesis.

(5) 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%

(6) 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).

§ 12 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

For students who switch to the new master's programme Water Management and Environmental Engineering, examinations for courses listed in § 4 and § 5, which have been taken under the provisions of their previous master's programme, shall be recognized towards the new programme.

The compulsory completion of foreign-language courses is valid for students beginning the master's programme on October 1st, 2011.

§ 13 EFFECTIVE DATE

This curriculum shall take effect on October 1st, 2011.

ANNEX A TYPES OF COURSES

The following types of courses are available:

(Please only offer course types included in this list from now on.)

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 thesis seminar (MA)

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

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.

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.

Lecture /seminar (VS)

Lecture/lab (VU)

Lecture/field trip (VX)

Seminar/field trip (SX)

Lab/seminar (US)

Lab/field trip (UX)

