

Teaching and Examination Regulations

Master's Degree Programme

B. programme-specific section

M Environment and Resource Management

Academic year 2014-2015

Section B: Programme-specific section

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Section B: Programme-specific section

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Definitions

See section A

Article 1.2 Degree programme information

1. The programme Environment and Resource Management with the CROHO number 60045 is offered on a full-time, basis, and the language of instruction is English.
2. The programme has a workload of 60 EC.
3. A unit of study comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof.

Article 1.3 Intake dates

The programme is offered starting in the first semester of the academic year only (1 September). The intake date mentioned in this paragraph ensure(s) that a programme can be completed within the nominal study duration set for the programme.

2. Programme objectives and exit qualifications

Article 2.1 Programme objective

The programme aims to deliver ERM graduates who are able to:

1. Assess the relevance of environmental issues in the context of both the natural and the social sciences;
2. Position environmental issues within the context of sustainable development;
3. Carry out in-depth research and analysis of environmental issues, starting from a set of concepts, theories and research methods based on either the natural or the social sciences, or from a twofold approach;
4. Independently set up an investigation into an environmental issue, to carry out this investigation, to report on the progress, and to formulate recommendations for further intervention and research;
5. Make a profound contribution at an academic level to the transition to a sustainable society, on the basis of acquired substantive and methodical knowledge, skills in the field of the integration of knowledge, and reporting and advisory skills;
6. Communicate both in a scientific and a non-scientific context about environmental issues and the way to deal with those issues, to assume scientifically sound points of view in that connection, and to argue those points of view;
7. Critically reflect on environmental issues, the contribution of environmental scientists in that respect, and the associated questions of complexity and uncertainty;
8. Assume the role of an environmental professional, acting as a researcher, an advisor and/or an operative for academic, government or private (profit and non-profit) organizations.

Article 2.2 Exit qualifications

In all events, a graduate of the degree programme will have the following:

1. Knowledge and Understanding: The ERM graduate has demonstrated knowledge and understanding that is founded upon and extends or enhances the level that is typically associated with Bachelor's level, and that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying ideas, often within a research context.
2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding: Can apply his/her knowledge, understanding and problem solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader or multidisciplinary contexts related to his/her field of study; has the ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity.
3. Making Judgements: Can formulate judgements based on incomplete or limited information, that include reflection on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgements
4. Communication: Can communicate conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously.
5. Learning Skills: Has the learning skills to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.

6. Specific final attainment levels related to 1-5 are described in detail in the ERM Critical Reflection 2013.

3. Further admission requirements

Article 3.1 Admission requirements

1. Admission to the Master's programme is possible for an individual who can demonstrate that he/she has the following knowledge, understanding and skills at the Bachelor's degree level, obtained at an institution of academic higher education. First degrees may be in both natural and social sciences; however, the previous study programme of students must show a clear and solid link to environmental problems. Criteria for admission are:
 - BSc degree from a well regarded university;
 - GPA of 7/10 and higher or equivalent (often BSc degree with distinction);
 - VU requirements for English language proficiency, including sufficient scores for each test component;
 - Proven interest in environmental issues by courses taken and/or work experience, expressed in a motivation statement;
 - Other information such as reference letters, course descriptions, students thesis or reports, curriculum vitae.
2. The Admissions Board will investigate whether the interested person meets the admission requirements.
3. When the programme commences, the candidate must have fully completed the Bachelor's programme or pre-Master's programme allowing admission to this Master's programme.

Article 3.2 Pre-Master's programme

1. Students with a Bachelor's degree in a field that corresponds to a sufficient extent with the subject area covered by the Master's programme can request admission to the pre-Master's programme.
2. The pre-Master's programme comprises 24 EC and is made up of the following units of study:
 - a. Systeem Aarde (AB_450067; 6 EC)
 - b. Inleiding Economie I (AB_450214; 6 EC)
 - c. Inleiding economie II (FEWEB Code; 3 EC)
 - d. Decision Making in Policy and Public Administration (AB_450258; 3 EC)
 - e. Introduction to Environmental Sciences (AB_1105; 6 EC)
3. Proof of a successfully completed pre-Master's programme serves as proof of admission to the Master's programme specified within it in the subsequent academic year.

Article 3.3 Limited programme capacity

1. The faculty board will, if necessary, announce the maximum programme capacity by 1 May prior to the start of the academic year.
2. Candidates will be selected in the following way:
 - a. an average HBO grade of 7.5
 - b. results pre master assessment
3. If the programme capacity determined by the faculty board is exceeded, the available places will be allocated by means of an unweighted draw procedure among the candidates who have registered at least two months before the start of the academic year.

Article 3.4 Final deadline for registration

A candidate must submit a request to be admitted to the programme through Studielink before the dates that are determined in the Application and Registration Regulation (at <http://www.vu.nl/en/programmes/practical/policies/index.asp>). Under exceptional circumstances, the Admissions Board may consider a request submitted after this closing date.

Article 3.5 English language requirement for English-language Master's programmes

1. International applicants are required to pass an English language proficiency test. The proficiency requirement in English as the language of instruction can be met by the successful completion of one of the following examinations or an equivalent:
 - a. IELTS: 6.5
 - b. TOEFL paper based test: 580
 - c. TOEFL internet based test: 92-93

- d. Cambridge Advanced English: A, B or C.
2. Exemption is granted from the examination in English referred to in the first paragraph to students who:
- met the requirements of the VU test in English language proficiency TOEFL ITP, with at least the scores specified in paragraph 1, or
 - had previous education in secondary or tertiary education in an English-speaking country as listed on the VU website, or
 - have an English-language 'international baccalaureate' diploma.

Article 3.6 Free curriculum

- Subject to certain conditions, the student has the option of compiling a curriculum of his/her own choice which deviates from the curricula prescribed by the programme.
- The concrete details of such a curriculum must be approved beforehand by the most appropriate Examinations Board.
- The free curriculum is put together by the student from the units of study offered by VU University Amsterdam and must at least have the size, breadth and depth of a regular Master's programme.
- The following conditions must at least have been met in order to be eligible for the Master's degree:
 - at least 40 EC must be obtained from the regular curriculum,
 - the level of the programme must match the objectives and exit qualifications that apply for the programme for which the student is enrolled.

4. Curriculum structure

Article 4.1 Composition of programme

- The programme consists of the following components:
 - compulsory units of study
 - specialisation tracks

Article 4.2 Compulsory units of study

The compulsory units of study are:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of Credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Causes and Consequences of Environmental Change	AM_1049	6	1	L/ WG	Exam / paper / presentation and paper	400
Environmental Economics for ERM	AM_468020	6	2	L/ WG	Exam / paper / presentation and paper	400
Environmental Policy	AM_468021	6	2	L/ WG	Exam and paper	400
Methods of Environment and Resources Management	AM_1135	6	4	L/ WG	Exam and paper	400
Research workshops	AM_1136	6	4	L/ WG	Presentation, Paper	400
Research Project	AM_468017	18	5,6	WG	Paper (thesis), presentation	500

L= lecture, WG= work group

Specialisation tracks: Energy Studies

Name of course component	Course code	Number of Credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Sustainable Energy Analysis	AM_468018	6	1	L/ WG	Exam and paper	400
Energy System	AM_468019	6	3	L/ WG	Exam and	400

Transitions					paper	
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L= lecture, WG= work group

Specialisation tracks: Climate and Water

Name of course component	Course code	Number of Credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Water and Policy	AM_468023	6	1	L/ WG	Exam and paper	400
Climate and Policy	AM_450188	6	3	L/ WG	Exam and paper	400

L= lecture, WG= work group

Specialisation tracks: Ecosystems Services and Biodiversity

Name of course component	Course code	Number of Credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Value of Ecosystem Services	AM_468024	6	1	L/ WG	Exam and paper	400
Governance of Ecosystem Services	AM_468025	6	3	L/WG	Exam and paper	400

L= lecture, WG= work group

Specialisation tracks: Environmental Studies

At least 12 EC from the courses offered in the other three specialisation pathways and the electives mentioned under article 4.4 (Electives)

Article 4.3 Practical exercise

Not applicable

Article 4.4 Electives

The student can take one of the following electives:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of Credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Workshop in Global Environmental Governance	S_WGEG (FSW course)	12	4	Tutorial	Assignments	\$
Modern Climate and Geo-ecosystems	AM_1124	6	1	Lectures / workshops	Written exam	400
Sedimentary Environments and Climate Archives	AM_450330	6	1	Lectures / workshops	Written exam/report	400
Selected Issues: Global Environmental Governance	S_SIGEG (FSW course)	6	2	\$	\$	\$
Theories and Approaches of International Relations	S_TAIR (FSW course)	6	1	\$	\$	\$
Climate Modelling	AM_450004	6	3	Lectures	Written exam	\$

* FSW courses may require special permission

\$ details are available in the study guide

If the student wishes to take a different course than the units of study listed, advance permission must be obtained in writing from the Examinations Board.

Article 4.5 Sequence of examinations

Students may participate in examinations for the units below only if they have passed the examination or examinations for the units mentioned:

- Research Project: after passing 18 EC in the ERM curriculum on February 15, as well as participation in the “Methods of Environmental and Resource Management” course and the “Research Workshops” course.

Article 4.6 Participation in practical exercise and tutorials

1. In the case of a practical training, the student must attend at least 100 % of the practical sessions. Should the student attend less than 100 %, he/she must repeat the practical training, or the course examiner may have one or more supplementary assignments issued.
2. In the case of tutorials with assignments, the student must attend at least 100 % of the tutorials. Should the student attend less than 100 %, he/she must repeat the study group, or the course examiner may have one or more supplementary assignments issued.
3. In exceptional circumstances, the Examinations Board may, at the request of the student, permit an exemption from this requirement if, in the opinion of the Board, the assessment of the intended skills is also possible with a lesser percentage of participation, with or without the imposition of supplementary requirements.

Article 4.7 Maximum exemption

A maximum of 18 EC of the curriculum can be accumulated through granted exemptions.

Article 4.8 Validity period for results

The validity period of examinations and exemptions from examinations is limited, as follows:
As laid down in article 4.8 of OER part A.

Article 4.9 Degree

Students who have successfully completed their Master's final examination are awarded a Master of Science degree. The degree awarded is stated on the diploma. If it is a joint degree, this will also be stated on the diploma.

5. Transitional and final provisions

Article 5.1 Amendments and periodic review

1. Any amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations will be adopted by the faculty board VU after taking advice from the relevant Board of Studies. A copy of the advice will be sent to the authorised representative advisory body.
2. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations requires the approval of the authorised representative advisory body if it concerns components not related to the subjects of Section 7.13, paragraph 2 sub a to g and v, as well as paragraph 4 of the WHW and the requirements for admission to the Master's programme.
3. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations can only pertain to an academic year that is already in progress if this does not demonstrably damage the interests of students.

Article 5.2 Transitional provisions

Notwithstanding the current Teaching and Examination Regulations, the following transitional provisions apply for students who started the programme under a previous set of Teaching and Examination Regulations:

1. Compulsory components

a. The compulsory components below have been replaced in academic year 2014-2015

New component	Former component
AM_1135 Methods of Environment and Resources Management (6 EC) <i>and</i> AM_1136 Research Workshops (6 EC)	AM_468012 Environmental and Energy Policy Tools (12 EC)

From 1 September 2014 on students obtain the new courses, unless they passed the former course.

Students who started their programme before academic year 2014-2015 are, under specified conditions, permitted to replace compulsory courses by another compulsory course from their former examination programme.

b. For students who started in 2012-2013 or earlier:

Compulsory course	Permitted replacement course
AM_1049 Causes and Consequences of Environmental Change (6 EC)	AM_468011 Sustainability and Growth (6 EC)

From 1 September 2013 students obtain the new course, unless they passed the former.

2. Electives

a. The electives below have been replaced in academic year 2014-2015

New component	Former component
AM_1124 Modern Climate and Geo-ecosystems (6 EC)	AM_450185 Modern Climate Systems (3 EC) and AM_450313 Modern Geo-ecosystems (3 EC)

From 1 September 2014 on students obtain the new course, unless they passed the former course.

b. The courses below are no longer available in the programme but are still elective components for students who started their programme before academic year 2014-2015 and have passed the courses' examinations:

Courses ended in academic year 2013-2014

- AM_1015 Sustainable Land Management (6 EC)
- AM_450137 Aquatic Ecology (6 EC)
- AM_1029 International development issues in the context of sustainable development (6EC)

Courses ended in academic year 2012-2013

- SPPS&RM_O Philosophy of Political Science & Research Methods (5 EC)
- SPCP_O Political concepts and processes (5 EC)
- S_T&AIR_O Theories & Approaches of International Relations (5 EC)
- AM_468026 Workshop Governance for Sustainable Development (7 EC)

Courses ended in academic year 2011-2012

- AM_450227 Applied GIS (3 EC)

Courses ended in academic year 2010-2011

- 450014 Ecohydrology (6 EC)

3. Total of 60 EC

The final examination programme should always total 60 EC.

Article 5.3 Publication

1. The faculty board will ensure the appropriate publication of these Regulations and any amendments to them.
2. The Teaching and Examination Regulations will be posted on the faculty website and deemed to be included in the course catalogue.

Article 5.4 Effective date

These Regulations enter into force with effect from 1 September 2014.

Advice from Board of Studies, 14 September 2014

Approved by authorised representative advisory body on 18 September 2014

Adopted by the faculty board on 19 September 2014

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