



Universität für Bodenkultur Wien

BOKU University

## **Curriculum**

for the Master's Programme in

# **Environmental Science – Soil, Water and Biodiversity (EnvEuro)**

Programme classification no. 066 449

Effective date: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

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The master´s programme “Environmental Science – Soil, Water and Biodiversity (EnvEuro)”<sup>1</sup> is a European programme jointly offered by BOKU University, Wageningen University, The Netherlands (WU), the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden (SLU), and the University of Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Germany (UHOH).

Students who started the master´s programme at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark (UCPH, programme partner according to the Operational Agreement 2022-2024) as home university by winter semester 2024/25 or as host university by winter semester 2025/26, are entitled to complete this degree programme.

## **§ 1 QUALIFICATION PROFILE**

EnvEuro 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.

### **1a) Knowledge and personal and professional skills**

The EnvEuro programme aims at providing candidates who can work professionally with soil, water and biodiversity in an environmental context and related to the use of natural resources, and based on insight in European ecosystems and knowledge on current European environmental management. The programme offers different possibilities for specialisation and is attractive for both students interested in management and policy, and students inclined to a strict natural science approach focusing on process and system functioning, process dynamics, monitoring and modelling. All students will start up with a common introduction to European environmental practices including legislation, regulation, monitoring/data collection, and policy. A joint European master´s programme in Environmental Science also brings a broader range of complementary expertises together ensuring high educational quality in a multi-cultural, -economic and -political environment.

After completing the programme, the graduate will have the following competences:

#### Competences within basic science

- Comprehend and analyse environmental concepts, problems and relationships in a European and global context.
- Design and execute a research project at the postgraduate level using methods, instruments, and tools and present the outcome in a journal article.
- Formulate the kinetics, equilibrium, and mass balances for chemical, physical, and biological processes affecting matter circulation in ecosystems within the selected area of specialisation for each student.
- Develop and use mathematical models describing chemical, physical, and biological processes for predictive purposes and in relation to planning and management.
- Carry out research projects and dedicated analyses within the area of specialisation of the graduate by use of up-to-date methods and principles, and based on clear formulation of problems, hypotheses and research methods.

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<sup>1</sup> Referred to as „EnvEuro“ in the following

### Competences within applied science

- Demonstrate capability and knowledge on strategies for handling and solving environmental problems and challenges in a European and a global context.
- understand the systemic and quantitative linkages between the use of natural resources and water quality.
- Present deep insight in structure and functioning of natural and man-influenced rural ecosystems, environmental and health effects of ecosystem perturbations, and be able to develop environmental technologies and measures for achieving sustainable production systems.
- Understand and apply the methods and techniques used for environmental monitoring, and subsequent handling, statistical analysis and presentation of environmental data.
- Understand the systematic and quantitative linkage between land use and environmental quality, with main focus on water resources.
- Understand the fundamental principles behind environmental policy/legislation, regulation and management in Europe.
- Create ideas and strategies for development of environmental technology in relation to remediation and reduction of pollution from soils and waters.

### Competences within ethics and values

- Understand the implications of sustainability concepts, and demonstrate insight in the environmental and land use history of Europe and the lessons learned from that.
- Effectively communicate and collaborate with others across distances, cultural and language borders by use of different medias such as written texts, oral presentations, video conferences, and web-forums.
- Use professional English in all oral and written communication.
- Discuss and assess environmental issues and creation of public attitudes in a European perspective.

## **1b) Professional qualifications**

EnvEuro candidates qualify for environmental careers in private companies and the public sector related to:

- analysis, monitoring and modelling
- environmental technology
- environmental regulation, planning and control
- impact assessment and risk analysis
- research and education

Environmental careers for graduates can be found in the environmental sections of industries, environmental technology companies, consulting companies (agriculture, engineering), public administration from local to governmental levels, laboratories, universities and other research institutions, and in developing agencies.

## **§ 2 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Admission to the master's programme EnvEuro is only possible in winter semester.

### **2a) Deadlines**

Admission and application within the master's programme EnvEuro are conducted in a consortium procedure by all partner universities.

The call for non-EU/EEA applicants is open from November 15, every year (n). The application deadline is January 15, of the following year (n+1). The call for EU/EEA applicants is open from January 16, of the following year (n+1). The application deadline is April 15, of the following year (n+1). With their application, students have to indicate their preferred home as well as their first and second preferred host university. Changes can be made upon approval of the Management Board.

Students applying for SLU or WU as home university must submit an additional application for the EnvEuro programme through the national SLU or WU application system.

## **2b) Admission Criteria**

Applicants should have a first university degree equivalent to a European bachelor degree in Natural Science with documented completion of courses comprising natural resources/earth sciences/environmental sciences and at least two of the disciplines: physics/chemistry, biology/ecology, mathematics/statistics. The degree must be obtained at an institution which is officially acknowledged by the countries of home and host university and with above average results.

Admission criteria also comprise English language skills as a threshold criterion. The Management Board accepts the following ways of documenting this:

1. Nationals of the following countries are exempt from submitting a language test: UK, Republic of Ireland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA.
2. Applicants holding a first degree in English completed in either the US, UK, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland or Australia are exempt from submitting a language test.
3. Applicants who do not fulfil the criteria of points 1. or 2. above, or applicants with English as their second language must pass an IELTS, TOEFL or Cambridge Advanced English test before being admitted. The following tests and scores are accepted:
  - IELTS: min. score 7,0 (no section under 5.5, min 6.0 for speaking)
  - TOEFL iBT: min. score 92 (min 23 for speaking, min 20 in writing)
  - Cambridge Advanced: C or better (C1)

Language tests older than 2 years (from the application deadline) are not accepted.

## **§ 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:

- the Basic Semester Package (BSP - 30 ECTS) incl. the EnvEuro Introduction Days in August,
- two Advanced Semester Packages (ASP1 and ASP2 - 2 x 30 ECTS)
- and the master's thesis (30 ECTS).

General structure		
Home Uni- versity	1 <sup>st</sup> semester BSP	EnvEuro Introduction Days in August + the jointly taught e-learning course “Environmental Management in Europe” throughout the semester (12 ECTS).
		Compulsory, elective and free elective courses, 18 ECTS
	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester ASP1	Compulsory, elective and free elective courses, 30 ECTS
		Summer School (elective/free elective)
Host University	3 <sup>rd</sup> semester ASP2	Compulsory, elective and free elective, 30 ECTS
	4 <sup>th</sup> semester Thesis Work	Thesis, 30 ECTS

BSP ... Basic Semester Package

ASP ... Advanced Semester Packages

Within this master’s programme, students will be studying at two of the four partner universities. The university where the student is accepted in the 1<sup>st</sup> programme year is referred to as “home university”. The university chosen by the student to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> year university will be referred to as “host university”. Students must spend one full academic year at each institution, i.e. BSP and ASP1 at their home university and ASP2 and the master’s thesis at their host university. The thesis work must be assigned to the host university and is to be jointly supervised with the host university providing the main supervisor and the home university the co-supervisor. Students can do two ASPs within the same specialisation, or choose two different specialisations for ASP1 and ASP2, respectively.

All courses are offered in English.

### 3b) Three-pillar principle

The three-pillar principle is the central identifying characteristic of both the bachelor’s and master’s programmes offered at BOKU. In the master’s programme, the sum of the compulsory and elective courses at BOKU must be made up of at least

15% technology and engineering

15% natural sciences

15% economic and social sciences, law

The master’s thesis and free electives are excluded from the three-pillar rule.

## § 4 COMPULSORY COURSES

The aim of the BSP is to bring students to a common level of knowledge and to establish a general background for the ASPs, and to introduce and train concepts, theories and requisites to be used throughout the programme. The BSP consists of 30 ECTS, where compulsory courses are amongst others the online course Environmental Management in Europe (EME) coordinated by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden (SLU), including Introduction Days organized by BOKU where students and lecturers will come physically to the same location.

### 4a) Basic Semester Package (BSP) - Home University BOKU

The following compulsory courses are required within the BSP to complete the master's programme:

<b>Basic Semester Package (BSP) 1<sup>st</sup> semester compulsory</b>	<b>Course type</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
<b>Course title</b>		
Environmental management in Europe – including introduction days	SE	12
Lecture series in soil, water and atmosphere	VO	3

Within the BSP, elective courses worth a total of 12 ECTS credits have to be chosen by students to complete the master's programme.

<b>Basic Semester Package (BSP) 1<sup>st</sup> semester elective</b>	<b>Course type</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
<b>Course title</b>		
Remote sensing and GIS in natural resource management	VO	3
Remote sensing and GIS in natural resource management	UE	3
Multiple criteria decision making in natural resource management	VS	3
Technology assessment	VS	3
Mountain hazard processes	VX	6
Decision support systems	SE	3
International land management	VS	1.5
Geo-data management	VU	3
On site solutions for water supply and sanitation	VO	3
Formulation of questions and experimental design in ecological research	VS	4.5
Seminar in global change and ecosystems	SE	2
Scientific methods and writing skills	VS	1
Protection of natural resources by organic farming	VS	3
Soil physics and chemistry	VO	3
Plant and environment	VO	3
Meteorological conditions and precipitation	VS	3

#### 4b) Host University BOKU

Basic Semester Package (BSP) 1 <sup>st</sup> semester compulsory	Course type	ECTS credits
<b>Course title</b>		
Environmental management in Europe – including introduction days	SE	12
<i>Compulsory/Elective/Free elective courses at the home university</i>		18

For detailed information on the elective/free elective courses at the partner universities please refer to the homepages of the chosen home university, UHOH, SLU, or WU, and the homepage of the ELLS Master´s Programme EnvEuro.

## § 5 ELECTIVE COURSES<sup>2</sup>

### Advanced semester packages (ASP)

Within the ASPs 60 ECTS credits are required to complete the master's programme. ASPs are selected by the students for the second and third semesters. Both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ASP have to be chosen at the end of the first semester. This leaves sufficient time for the student to arrange where and how to physically move between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ASP.

Six themes of specialisation are possible and there are no limitations to how students may combine the two ASPs, i.e. the student can select the two ASPs within the same specialisation or within two different specialisations.

Each partner university offers ASPs within at least 3 of the following specialisations

- Water Resources
- Environmental Impacts
- Soil Resources and Land Use
- Ecosystems and Biodiversity
- Environmental Management
- Climate Change

#### 5a) Home University BOKU

At BOKU, ASP1 and ASP2 consist of compulsory courses, elective courses and free elective courses where students have to complete courses worth a total of 30 ECTS credits in all offered specialisations.

#### ASP1 at BOKU: Water Resources

Advanced Semester Package (ASP1) 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester compulsory	Course type	ECTS credits
<b>Course title</b>		
Environmental risk analysis and management	VO	3
Rural water management (advanced)	VO	3

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<sup>2</sup> Acknowledgement: The partner universities distinguish only between compulsory courses and elective courses ( $\hat{=}$  free elective courses at BOKU)

<b>Advanced Semester Package (ASP1) 2<sup>nd</sup> semester elective</b>	<b>Course type</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
<b>Course title</b>		
Possible impacts of climate change on water resources	VO	3
Application of GIS in hydrology and water management	VU	3
Environmental chemistry <sup>3</sup>	SE	4.5
Biology, chemistry and microbiology for civil engineering	VU	3
Sediment regime and river morphology	VO	3
Applications in sediment regime and river morphology	UE	3
Soil and water bioengineering – principles and applications	VS	3
Selected methods of soil analysis	PR	4
Protection and mitigation measures against natural hazards	VX	3
Valuation methods for natural resources	VO	3
Water resources management in developing co-operation	VU	3
Industrial water management	VO	3
Project management	VU	3
Soil physical modeling with python	UE	4

#### **ASP1 at BOKU: Soil Resources and Land Use**

<b>Advanced Semester Package (ASP1) 2<sup>nd</sup> semester compulsory</b>	<b>Course type</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
<b>Course title</b>		
Biogeochemistry of soils	VU	3
Soil protection	VO	3

<b>Advanced Semester Package (ASP1) 2<sup>nd</sup> semester elective</b>	<b>Course type</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
<b>Course title</b>		
Soil fertility and soil ecology in organic agriculture	VU	3
Soil and water bioengineering – principles and applications	VS	3
In-situ treatment of polluted soils and sediments: phytoremediation, in-situ fixation and attenuation techniques	UE	3
Mountain risk engineering	VX	6
Global waste management II	VO	3
Selected methods of soil analysis	PR	4
Soil pollution and remediation	VU	3
Soil management in tropical and subtropical developing regions	VO	3
Valuation methods for natural resources	VO	3
Environmental chemistry <sup>3</sup>	SE	4.5
Stable isotopes (C, N, S, O, H) in soil and environmental sciences	VX	3
Soil health monitoring	VX	3
Environmental risk analysis and management	VO	3
Soil microbiology course	UE	4
Molecular microbial ecology of soils	VU	3
Biology, chemistry and microbiology for civil engineering	VU	3
Project management	VU	3
Soil indicators	VO	3

<sup>3</sup> Only offered every second year (2014, 2016, ...)

### ASP1 at BOKU: Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Advanced Semester Package (ASP1) 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester compulsory	Course type	ECTS credits
<b>Course title</b>		
Urban ecology	SE	3
Ecology restoration and conservation of aquatic and riparian vegetation	VU	2
Biodiversity and conservation of mountain forests	VS	2

Advanced Semester Package (ASP1) 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester elective	Course type	ECTS credits
<b>Course title</b>		
Agroforestry in mountain regions	VS	3
Recreation in riverine landscapes	SX	3
Ecologically oriented methods and monitoring in river engineering	VU	3
Environmental chemistry <sup>3</sup>	SE	4.5
Soil and water bioengineering – principles and applications	VS	3
Valuation methods for natural resources	VO	3
Soil fertility and soil ecology in organic agriculture	VU	3
Conservation genetic analysis methods	VO	1
Conservation genetic lab	PR	2
Systems science for participatory management of dynamic socio-ecosystems	SE	3
Ecology of algae	VU	2
Biology, chemistry and microbiology for civil engineering	VU	3
Biocultural diversity in rural landscapes	VS	3
Possible impacts of climate change on water resources	VO	3
Participatory methods in development research and practice	SE	3
Fire management in mountain forest ecosystems - prophylaxis and control	VS	2
Soil management in tropical and subtropical developing regions	VO	3
Plant populations and conservation genetics <sup>4</sup>	VS	1
Remote sensing and image processing	VU	6
Project management	VU	3
Ecology of aquatic plants	VU	2

### ASP1 at BOKU: Climate Change

Advanced Semester Package (ASP1) 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester compulsory	Course type	ECTS credits
<b>Course title</b>		
Possible impacts of climate change on water resources	VO	3
Meteorological hazards and climate extremes	VU	3

<sup>4</sup> Offered only every second year

<b>Advanced Semester Package (ASP1) 2<sup>nd</sup> semester elective</b>	<b>Course type</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
<b>Course title</b>		
Grand challenges in climate research	SE	3
Urban climate and environmental meteorology	VS	3
Urban climate and environmental meteorology	UE	3
Mountain risk engineering	VX	6
Environmental risk analysis and management	VO	3
Protection and mitigation measures against natural hazards	VX	3
Globalisation and rural development	VO	3
Valuation methods for natural resources	VO	3
Ecologically oriented methods and monitoring in river engineering	VU	3
Remote sensing and image processing	VU	6
Resource and environmental economics	VO	3
Application of GIS in hydrology and water management	VU	3
Project management	VU	3
Disaster management	VO	2

In addition, one summer school offered within the Euroleague for Life Sciences can be recognised as elective course in the ASP1 (max. 6 ECTS credits), if it is scientifically relevant for the specialisation and approved by the programme coordinator in the Individual Course Plan.

For detailed information about courses offered at the partner universities please refer to the homepages of, UHOH, SLU, or WU and the homepage of the ELLS master´s programme EnvEuro.

## **5b) Host University BOKU**

### **ASP2 at BOKU: Water Resources**

<b>Advanced Semester Package (ASP2) 3<sup>rd</sup> semester compulsory</b>	<b>Course type</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
<b>Course title</b>		
Hydrological processes and water resources management	VO	3
Water supply and wastewater treatment	VO	3
<i>Master's thesis seminar<sup>5</sup></i>	SE	2

<b>Advanced Semester Package (ASP2) 3<sup>rd</sup> semester elective</b>	<b>Course type</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
<b>Course title</b>		
Integrated flood risk management	VO	3
On site solutions for water supply and sanitation	VO	3
Computer based river modelling	VU	3
Mountain forest climatology	VU	2.5
Forests and water	VO	3
Simulation in vadose zone environment	VU	3

<sup>5</sup> Associated with the Master's Thesis in the 4<sup>th</sup> semester – compulsory

Irrigation design	VU	3
Soil water management	VO	3
Human impacts in riverine landscapes	VO	2
Ecological river landscape management	VO	2
Aquatic biomonitoring and -assessment	VO	2
Ecology of aquatic systems	VO	3
Technology assessment	VS	3
Decision support systems	SE	3
Planning and design in water supply and wastewater treatment	UE	3
Advanced topics on hydrology	SE	3

### **ASP2 at BOKU: Soil Resources and Land Use**

<b>Advanced Semester Package (ASP2) 3<sup>rd</sup> semester compulsory</b>	<b>Course type</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
<b>Course title</b>		
Soil physics and chemistry	VO	3
Soils and global change	SE	4
<i>Master's thesis seminar<sup>4</sup></i>	SE	2

<b>Advanced Semester Package (ASP2) 3<sup>rd</sup> semester elective</b>	<b>Course type</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
<b>Course title</b>		
Soil erosion models and their application	VU	3
Integrating soils, rewilding, and stakeholder engagement into nature conservation and wildlife management	VU	3
Soil – plant science workshop: From the hypothesis to publication I	SE	3
Soil conservation	VU	3
Soil water management	VO	3
Simulation in vadose zone environment	VU	3
Mountain forest climatology	VU	2.5
Forests and water	VO	3
Integrated flood risk management	VO	3
Soil chemistry laboratory	UE	3
Protection of natural resources by organic farming	VS	3
Root traits and rhizosphere processes for sustainable soil management	VO	3
Root traits and rhizosphere processes for sustainable soil management – practical exercise	UE	3
Specific methods in soil analysis (lecture)	VO	1
Specific methods in soil analysis (practical)	UE	1
Soils and food security	VU	2
Field course soil ecology	UE	3
Interdisciplinary project work: soil sciences	PJ	6
Risk management and vulnerability assessment	VS	3
Dynamics of geophysical flows	VS	3
Decision support systems	SE	3

## ASP2 at BOKU: Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Advanced Semester Package (ASP2) 3 <sup>rd</sup> semester compulsory	Course type	ECTS credits
Course title		
Plant and environment	VO	3
Ecology of aquatic systems	VO	3
<i>Master's thesis seminar<sup>4</sup></i>	SE	2

Advanced Semester Package (ASP2) 3 <sup>rd</sup> semester elective	Course type	ECTS credits
Course title		
Computer based river modelling	VU	3
Multiple criteria decision making in natural resource management	VS	3
Air pollution effects on forest ecosystems	VS	3
Mountain forest climatology	VU	2.5
Forests and water	VO	3
Root traits and rhizosphere processes for sustainable soil management - practical exercise (in Eng.)	UE	3
Modelling of mountain forest ecosystems	VS	2.5
Innovations for sustainable forest management	VS	4
Ecology and management of invasive alien species	VU	6
Root traits and rhizosphere processes for sustainable soil management	VO	3
Geo-data management	VU	3
Soil ecology	VO	3
Conservation biogeography and genetics	VS	3
Human impacts in riverine landscapes	VO	2
Ecological river landscape management	VO	2
Farmland ecology	SE	1
Field camp I - introduction to mountain forestry & forest sciences	VX	2
Mountain hazard processes	VX	6
Seminar in global change and ecosystems	SE	2
Ecology and population biology of plants in agro-ecosystems	VX	5
Multivariate analysis of ecological data sets	VO	3
Multivariate analysis of ecological data sets - exercises	UE	1.5
Gender, food systems and Natural Resources	VS	6
Formulation of questions and experimental design in ecological research	VS	4.5
Decision support systems	SE	3
Scientific writing	SE	1.5

## ASP-2 at BOKU: Climate Change

Advanced Semester Package (ASP2) 3 <sup>rd</sup> semester compulsory	Course type	ECTS credits
<b>Course title</b>		
Meteorological conditions and precipitation	VS	3
Climate change scenarios and regional impact	VS	3
<i>Master's thesis seminar<sup>4</sup></i>	SE	2

Advanced Semester Package (ASP2) 3 <sup>rd</sup> semester elective	Course type	ECTS credits
<b>Course title</b>		
Agriculture, climate change and transition	SE	3
Interfacing climate and climate models	VU	2
Meteorological data analysis and visualization	VU	3
Selected projects in meteorology	UE	3
Weather, climate and society	VU	3
Ethnopedology, ethnometeorology and ethnoclimatology: Local knowledge about soil, weather and climate change	VS	3
Modelling of mountain forest ecosystems	VS	2.5
Seminar in global change and ecosystems	SE	2
Integrated flood risk management	VO	3
Adapting forest management to climate change	VS	2
Mountain forest climatology	VU	2.5
Forests and water	VO	3
Technology assessment	VS	3
Risk management and vulnerability assessment	VS	3
Soil conservation	VU	3
Innovations for sustainable forest management	VS	4
Gender, food systems and natural resources	VS	6
Introduction to social ecology	VO	3
Remote sensing and GIS in natural resource management	UE	3
Statistics of extreme events and geostatistics	VS	3
Foresight – what future to expect? (Late lessons from early warnings)	VU	3
Decision support systems	SE	3
Advanced topics on hydrology	SE	3

In addition, one summer school offered within the Euroleague for Life Sciences can be recognised as elective course in the ASP2 (max. 6 ECTS credits), if it is scientifically relevant for the specialisation and approved by the programme coordinator in the Individual Course Plan.

For detailed information about courses offered at the partner universities please refer to the homepages of UHOH, SLU, or WU and the homepage of the ELLS master's programme EnvEuro.

## **§ 6 FREE ELECTIVES**

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.

If BOKU is chosen as the home university, students have to successfully complete free elective courses worth a total of 9 ECTS credits – 3 ECTS credits in the BSP and 6 ECTS credits in ASP1.

If BOKU is chosen as the host university students have to successfully complete free elective courses worth a total of 6 ECTS credits in ASP2.

## **§ 7 MASTER'S THESIS**

Master's theses are academic papers in the Master's studies that serve to demonstrate the ability to work on academic topics independently and in a way that is justifiable in terms of content and methodology (§ 51 para 2 sub-para 8 UG 2002). The study regulations for the Master's thesis can be found in the statutes of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna.

The Master's thesis comprises a total of 30 ECTS credits including the defensio.

The topic of the Master's thesis must be taken from a subject of the degree programme. Each student has two thesis supervisors, the main supervisor from the university where the thesis work is physically located (host university) and a co-supervisor from the home university. The main supervisor needs to have a teaching authorization in this subject (exception: § 86 par. 7 of the statutes of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna<sup>6</sup>).

The assignment of the Master's thesis must be chosen in such a way that it is possible and reasonable to complete it within six months. (§ 81 para 2 UG 2002).

If BOKU is the host university, the attendance of a master's thesis seminar is required. The Master's thesis is to be written English. The defensio is to be carried out in English. The master's thesis has to be completed and defended at the host university, and must be co-supervised by the home university. The co-supervisor will be invited to be present for the thesis defensio (via video conference).

## **§ 8 COMPLETION OF THE MASTER'S PROGRAMME**

The EnvEuro programme has been completed when the student has passed all required courses and received a positive grade on the master's thesis and defensio.

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<sup>6</sup> Where required, the Dean of Studies is authorized to entrust suitable research and teaching staff with the supervision and assessment of Master's theses. Before any entrustment, the cumulative fulfillment of certain requirements must be checked.

## **§ 9 ACADEMIC DEGREE**

Graduates of the EnvEuro programme are awarded the academic degree Master of Science, abbreviated as MSc. The academic degree MSc, if used, shall follow the bearer's name (§ 88 [2] UG 2002 BGBl. I no. 81/2009).

## **§ 10 EXAMINATION REGULATIONS**

(1) The EnvEuro programme has been completed successfully when the following requirements have been met:

- positive completion of the BSP worth a total of 30 ECTS credits (§ 4)
- positive completion of ASP-1 and ASP-2 worth a total of 60 ECTS credits (§ 5)
- a positive grade on the master's thesis and the defensio (§ 6)

(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 (SE) and project-based courses (PJ) 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) After the successful completion of all the courses and examinations required in the master's programme, the completed master's thesis, after it has been given a positive evaluation by the thesis supervisor and co-supervisor, shall be publically presented by the student and defended in the form of an academic discussion (defensio). The committee shall consist of a committee chair and two additional university teachers with a *venia docendi* or equivalent qualification. The student's total performance (thesis and defensio) will be assigned a comprehensive grade. Both thesis and defensio must receive a passing grade for the student to complete the programme. The written evaluations stating the rationale for the thesis grade and the defensio grade are included in calculating the comprehensive grade and are documented separately.

The comprehensive grade is calculated as follows:

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

(5) 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 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

Students who have not completed the Master's degree programme “Environmental Science – Soil, Water and Biodiversity (EnvEuro)” according to the previously valid curriculum when this curriculum comes into force will be transferred to the present curriculum.

In this case, examinations on courses/modules from the old curriculum that have already been successfully completed will be recognized for the current curriculum in accordance with the equivalence catalogue for the Environmental Science – Soil, Water and Biodiversity (EnvEuro) degree programme.

## **§ 12 EFFECTIVE DATE**

This curriculum shall take effect on October 1st, 2026.

## **ANNEX A      TYPES OF COURSES**

The following types of courses are available:

### **Lecture (VO)**

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

### **Exercise course (UE)**

Exercise 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.

### **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 and seminar (VS)**

### **Lecture and exercise (VU)**

### **Lecture and field trip (VX)**

### **Seminar and field trip (SX)**

### **Exercise and seminar (US)**

### **Exercise and field trip (UX)**