



Universität für Bodenkultur Wien

BOKU University, Vienna

Curriculum

for the Master Programme in

Civil Engineering and Water Management

Programme classification no. 066 431

Effective date: October 1st, 2025

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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Published and printed with support of ERASMUS–OM-funds

Issued in October, 2025

<p style="text-align: center;">Curriculum of the Master Degree Programme “Civil Engineering and Water Management” At the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna</p>
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As at October 1st, 2025

§1 QUALIFICATION PROFILE

The Master degree programme in Civil Engineering and Water Management 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 Master degree programme in Civil Engineering and Water Management allows students to consolidate their knowledge of the areas and working practices within the applied sciences and their engineering-related applications. This degree programme aims to enable mankind's use of natural resources.

Graduates of the Master degree programme are equipped with a good basic scientific knowledge, in addition to a comprehensive understanding of the sustainable use of resources and a logical mind for responsible planning, design, construction and maintenance.

In the areas of water and soil, the following subjects will be researched and extensively taught: 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.

The subject area of constructional engineering includes the fields structural analysis, geotechnology, resource-orientated building methods, constructive engineering as well as construction economics and project management.

In the fields of land use planning, traffic engineering and geo-data management graduates are equipped with specialised knowledge for the documentation and sustainable development of land use and infrastructure as well as for solutions of traffic and mobility problems.

Graduates of the Master degree in Civil Engineering and Water Management possess the necessary knowledge of administration and management to be successful in their

work. They are skilled in communication-, coordination and leading skills and they are aware of the importance of mobility, language skills and internationality for successful professional occupations.

1b) Professional Qualifications

Graduates of the Master degree programme of Civil Engineering and Water Management are especially enabled to work in the following fields of activities:

- Water management
- Land management, structural engineering and construction economics
- Traffic and infrastructure planning
- Waste management
- Geoinformation
- Risk management

For graduates of the Master degree programme of Civil Engineering and Water Management, employment opportunities are offered especially in the following fields of activities with the respective requirements:

- Public sector, e. g. federal ministries, governments and district administration or institutions for infrastructure
- Tertiary sector, e.g. engineering and construction offices, consulting, planning and managing of projects
- Freelance: for example, as freelance engineer and consultant engineer, authorized expert or in the field of project realization
- Research and development, e.g. at universities and public research and development centres

§2 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Graduates of the Bachelor programme in Civil Engineering and Water Management (formerly Cultural Engineering and Water Management) offered by BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences are eligible for admission with no further requirements.

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

(1) Basic knowledge in Civil Engineering and Water Management:

Mathematics, statistics, physics, chemistry, geology, meteorology, pedology, botany, hydrobiology, technical geometry, mechanics, material science, statics and strength of materials, hydraulics, surveying, geoinformation, spatial planning and construction economics

(2) Knowledge in the core areas of Civil Engineering and Water Management:

Hydrology, water management, constructive hydraulic engineering, settlement water management, waste management, rural water management, construction engineering, geotechnics, transport, rural development

Graduates who have completed 40 ECTS credits in both of the two areas are admitted directly to the Master degree programme.

Furthermore, competences in English at a level of B2 (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages by the Council of Europe) are recommended.

§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:	29 ECTS credits,
	including
Master's seminar:	2 ECTS credits
Master's Thesis:	30 ECTS credits
Elective courses:	48 ECTS credits
Free electives:	13 ECTS credits
Foreign language-taught courses*):	10 ECTS credits

*) Reforeign language-taught courses

Students are required to complete courses, which are related to the field of study, worth a total of 10 ECTS credits taught in a foreign language. These courses can be compulsory courses, elective courses, internships or free electives. Courses taken at international universities abroad are to be credited. General language courses (with the exception of specialised language courses) will not be considered. (General foreign language courses may be credited in the framework of free elective courses.)

3b) Three-Pillar Principle

The three-pillar principle is one of the central identifying characteristics of both the Bachelor and Master programmes offered at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna. In the Master 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 threepillar rule.

3c) Limited Number of Participants in Courses

For courses with a limited number of participants the head of the Master course is authorised to first admit students enrolled in the Master programme (that means that students enrolled in a Bachelor study programme can only be admitted to the courses if further spaces are left on the course!) The admission of students enrolled in the Master

study programme is conducted according to the following order of required courses by the students: compulsory course, elective course, free elective course.

§4 COMPULSORY COURSES

Used Abbreviations:

ECTS = European Credit Transfer System

WS = Winter Semester

SS = Summer Semester

Notes:

- 1) In English
- 2) In English and German
- 3) Courses not offered in the academic year 2019/20
- 4) Courses only offered in uneven years (e.g. 2017/18, 2019/20, 2021/22)
- 5) Courses only offered in even years (e.g. 2016/17, 2018/19, 2020/21)
- *) Compulsory courses of the elective module

The following compulsory courses (worth 27 ECTS credits in total) are required to complete the Master programme:

Course Title	Course Type	ECTS Credits
Construction and plane load-bearing structures	VU	4.0
Applied geotechnical engineering	VU	4.0
Hydromechanics	VU	4.0
Special administrative law for civil engineering	VS	4.0
Strategic planning, decision support, and mediation	VS	3.0
Natural hazards	VO	2.0
Construction project (optionally interdisciplinary)	PJ	6.0
Master's thesis seminar	SE	2.0

§5 ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective courses worth a total of 48 ECTS credits are required to complete the Master programme. **Students have to choose 4-6 out of 13 elective modules. In each chosen elective module, courses worth 8 ECTS in total have to be taken.** If only 4-5 modules were chosen, the remaining ECTS credits (8 and 16, respectively) have to be gained by taking courses freely among all **chosen** elective modules.

Transport Planning and Transport Infrastructure	Course Type	ECTS Credits
Course Title		

Traffic planning ^{*)}	VU	3.0
Road design (exercises) ^{*)}	PJ	3.0
Traffic and transport planning ¹	SE	3.0
Public transport	SE	2.0
Road safety	VO	2.0
Development of a transport master plan for a town	SE	4.0
Mobility surveys and data analyses	VU	3.0
Traffic forecast and traffic models	VU	3.0
Railway system and railway construction I	VO	2.0
Railway system and railway construction II	VU	2.0
Road construction technology	VO	2.0
Road planning and environmental protection	VU	4.0
Road operation and maintenance	VO	2.0
Minor rural roads	VO	2.0
Transport telematics	SE	2.0
Transport planning and policy	VO	1.0
System analysis, strategic planning and policy modelling with system dynamics ¹	VU	3.0
Applied system dynamics modelling in transport ¹	VS	3.0
Geo-Data Management	Course Type	ECTS Credits
Course Title		
Geo-data management ^{1 *)}	VU	3.0
Satellite-based positioning and navigation (GPS) ^{*)}	VU	3.0
Remote sensing and image processing ¹	VU	6.0
Digital surveying systems and its applications	VU	3.0
Applied photogrammetry	VU	4.5
Spatial modeling and simulation ⁵	VU	3.0
Geodata for GIS-application in Austria	VU	3.0
Web-GIS-technologies ²	VU	3.0
Mathematical methods in geoinformatics ⁵	VU	1.5

Advanced methods in remote sensing: machine learning and cloud computing ¹	VU	3.0
Application of GIS in hydrology and water management ¹	VO	3.0
Meteorological data analysis and visualization ¹	VU	3.0
Land Management and Rural Development	Course Type	ECTS Credits
Course Title		
Land consolidation project *)	PJ	3.0
Land administration *)	VO	2.0
Spatial planning: legal and planning instruments	VO	2.0
Land policy and land rearrangement	VO	2.0
Spatial planning in alpine areas	VO	2.0
Spatial impact assessment	VS	3.0
International land management ¹	VS	1.5
Spatial research in rural areas	VO	2.0
Sustainable spatial development and energy transition ¹	VS	6.0
Politics of spatial and regional planning	VO	3.0
Integrated spatial and energy planning	VS	3.0
Development innovation ¹	VS	3.0
Risk Management and Protection of Resources	Course Type	ECTS Credits
Course Title		
Integrated flood risk management ^{1 *)}	VO	3.0
Sustainability, protection of resources and natural hazards *)	VU	3.0
Protection and mitigation measures against natural hazards ¹	VX	3.0
Risk management and vulnerability assessment ¹	VS	3.0
Landslide hazards ²	VS	3.0
Environmental risks - introduction to risk analysis	VO	2.0
Technology assessment	VS	3.0
Environmental statistics ¹	VU	3.0
Soil protection ¹	VO	3.0
Meteorological hazards and climate extremes ¹	VU	3.0

Hydrology and Water Management	Course Type	ECTS Credits
Course Title		
Hydrological processes and water resources management *)	VO	3.0
Practical course in hydrology and water management II *)	UE	2.0
Hydrology of Austria	VO	2.0
Possible impacts of climate change on water resources ¹	VO	3.0
Seminar in surface hydrology	SE	3.0
Hydro-electric energy and electricity market	VO	2.0
Solution of conflicts between ecological integrity and engineering of rivers	VO	2.0
Hydrogeology ¹	VU	3.0
Hydrological field studies	PR	3.0
Hydrogeological excursion ¹	EX	1.0
Remote sensing hydrology ¹	US	3.0
Advanced topics on hydrology ¹	SE	3.0

Hydraulic Engineering and River Basin Management	Course Type	ECTS Credits
Course Title		
Hydraulic engineering and river basin management ¹ *)	VO	3.0
Planning and design of hydraulic structures (river engineering & small hydro power) *)	UE	3.0
Project management for hydraulic engineering	VO	2.0
Environmental impact assessment for small hydropower plants ³	VO	1.0
Planning and design of small hydro power plants	VO	2.0
Hydraulic scale models	VU	3.0
Ecologically oriented methods and monitoring in river engineering ¹	VU	3.0
Sediment regime and river morphology	VO	3.0
Monitoring in river engineering	VO	3.0
River basin planning and management	VO	2.0
Computer based river modelling ¹	VU	3.0
Hydraulic and river engineering field exercises	PR	4.0

Structural Engineering and Construction Management	Course Type	ECTS Credits
Course Title		
Structural design *)	VU	3.0
Construction economy and construction management *)	VO	3.0
Digital design and automated construction	PJ	6.0
Protection systems against natural hazards	VU	3.0
Anchor and fastening techniques	VO	2.0
Fire safety	VO	2.0
Construction- executing and process planning ³	VO	2.0
Construction- executing and process planning ³	UE	3.0
Project and risk management, infrastructure in construction	VO	2.0
Project and risk management, infrastructure in construction	PJ	3.0
Building laws	VO	2.0

Structural Analysis and Life Cycle Management	Course Type	ECTS Credits
Course Title		
Sustainable design and construction *) ¹	VO	3.0
Safety and reliability of structures ¹	VU	3.0
Sustainable design and construction ¹	PJ	3.0
Experimental testing on building materials and fastening technology ¹	VU	6.0
Advanced structural timber engineering ¹	VU	4.0
Building physics ¹	VO	3.0
Building physics ¹	UE	3.0
Structural maintenance ³	VU	4.0
Finite element methods for structures ¹	VU	3.0
Finite element methods for advanced structures ¹	VU	3.0
Reliability and safety evaluation – Probabilistic methods for existing structure ¹	VU	4.0

Aquatic Ecology	Course Type	ECTS Credits
Course Title		
Hydrobiology II *)	VO	2.0
Aquatic biomonitoring and -assessment ^{1 *})	VO	2.0
Human impacts in riverine landscapes ^{1 *})	VO	2.0
Benthic invertebrate status assessment ¹	VU	3.0
Benthic invertebrate sampling and monitoring ¹	VU	3.0
Selected chapters in ecology of aquatic environments	VO	3.0
Applications in river landscape management ¹	VX	3.0
Ecological river landscape management ¹	VO	2.0
Ecology of aquatic plants ¹	VU	2.0
Ecology of fishes ¹	VO	3.0
Ecohydromorphological mapping ¹	VU	2.0
Fish passes and continuity ¹	VU	2.0
Aquatic habitat modeling ¹	VU	2.0

Sanitary Engineering, Industrial Water Use and Pollution Control	Course Type	ECTS Credits
Course Title		
Project work on sanitary engineering and water pollution control *)	PJ	6.0
Technologies in sanitary engineering	VU	3.0
Technologies in water pollution control	VU	3.0
Seminar of practice in sanitary engineering, industrial water management and water pollution control	VS	4.5
Modelling in sanitary engineering (sewer, treatment plant and receiver) ¹	VU	4.5
Water quality assessment	VU	4.5
Infrastructure management in sanitary engineering	VU	4.0
Pipeline construction and rehabilitation in sanitary engineering	VO	2.0
Water quality monitoring, sensor and control technology ⁵	VO	2.0
Industrial water management ¹	VO	3.0
Water quality management for municipal and industrial water use	VO	2.0

On site solutions for water supply and sanitation ¹	VO	3.0
Water resources management in developing cooperation ¹	VU	3.0
Soil Physics and Rural Water Management	Course Type	ECTS Credits
Course Title		
Soil conservation and soil protection *)	VU	3.0
Drainage	VU	3.0
Simulation in vadose zone environment ¹	VU	3.0
Irrigation	VU	3.0
Selected methods of soil analysis ²	PR	4.0
Soil physics continued	VU	3.0
Using water erosion models ¹	UE	3.0
Applied methods of rural water management in the tropics and subtropics	SE	3.0
Soil water and groundwater protection	VU	2.0
Crop water requirements	VU	2.0
Isotope and tracer hydrology ¹	VU	3.0

Geotechnical Engineering and Applied Geology	Course Type	ECTS Credits
Course Title		
Geotechnical engineering I *)	VU	3.0
Engineering geology - introduction *)	VU	2.0
Geotechnical engineering II	UE	3.0
Slope engineering ¹	VO	2.0
Special ground construction I	VO	1.0
Special ground construction II	VO	1.0
Numerical methods in geotechnics an applied geology ¹	VU	3.0
Geotechnical engineering in waste management	VO	2.0
Laboratory practices in geotechnical engineering	PR	3.0
Rock mechanics	VU	4.5
Applied geology - field practice	PR	3.0
Engineering-geological mapping	UE	3.0
Applied geophysics for engineers ¹	VU	3.0

Laboratory exercises	VU	3.0
Environmental geology	VU	3.0
Quaternary geology	VO	2.0
Geothermal energy – Geological fundamentals and applications ¹	VU	3.0
The engineering geological model - Fundamentals, application and modern methods	VU	3.0

Waste Management and Waste Disposal	Course Type	ECTS Credits
Course Title		
Seminar waste management *)	SE	4.5
Waste logistics	VO	2.0
Waste technology	VO	3.0
Planning and assessment of waste management systems ¹	VU	3.0
Chemistry and analysis of waste	VO	2.0
Life cycle management ¹	VO	2.0
Global waste management II ¹	VO	3.0
Monitoring of emissions from biological waste treatment processes	VU	3.0
Research reports of waste management	VS	1.0
Contaminated sites and soil protection	VO	2.0

The chosen elective subjects and their ECTS credit points are listed in the Master's Thesis certificate.

§ 6 FREE ELECTIVES

Free electives worth a total of 13 ECTS credits are required to complete the Master 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 free elective courses from the elective subjects (§ 5).

§ 7 COMPULSORY INTERNSHIP

In the course of the Master degree programme Civil Engineering and Water Management no compulsory internship has to be completed. It is recommended to complete a voluntary internship to improve the skills acquired in the degree programme.

§ 8 MASTER'S THESIS

The Master's Thesis is a paper on a scientific topic, to be written as part of the Master degree programme Civil Engineering and Water Management (Exception: § 86 para. 9 of the Constitution/Statutes of the Boku University, Vienna) The thesis is worth a total of 30 ECTS credits. With their Master's Thesis, 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 the Master's thesis shall be taken from a subject of the study programme. The Master's thesis is supervised by a person with full teaching authorisation (*venia docendi*) in this subject (exception: § 86 para. 7 of the Constitution of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna). Joint supervision by two persons with full teaching authorisation (*venia docendi*) is permissible if at least one of these two persons represents a subject of the study programme.

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 German or English. Languages other than German or English are permissible only if approved and confirmed by the thesis supervisor. The thesis defence must be held in German or English regardless of the language of the thesis.

§ 9 COMPLETION OF THE MASTER PROGRAMME

The Master programme in Civil Engineering and Water Management 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 programme in Civil Engineering and Water Management are awarded the academic title *Diplom-Ingenieur (m)* or *Diplom-Ingenieurin (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 (§ 88 [2] UG 2002 BGBl. I no. 81/2009).

§ 11 EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

(1) The Master programme in Civil Engineering and Water Management 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 29 ECTS credits (§ 4),
- positive completion of elective courses worth a total of 48 ECTS credits (§ 5),
- positive completion of free electives worth a total of 13 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 programme. The student must inform the dean in writing prior to the commencement of the work on the Master's Thesis. Thereby, the student has to state the Master's Thesis topic as well as the name of the supervisor of the Master's Thesis.

(5) The completed Master's Thesis which has been assessed positively by the supervisor shall be publicly presented by the student and defended in the form of an academic discussion (defence examination) after successful completion of all courses. The committee shall consist of a committee chair and two additional university lecturers with a *venia docendi* or equivalent qualification. 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

The compulsory course „Construction – Surface Structures”, “Applied Geotechnical Engineering” and “Natural Hazards” were adopted from the curriculum for the Bachelor study programme Land and Water Management which was in effect until September 30, 2011 into this present curriculum for the Master study programme Land and Water Management. If the courses “Construction”, “Geotechnical Engineering II” and “Natural Hazards” were already completed successfully in the Bachelor study programme, they are creditable with regards to content for the courses “Construction – Surface Structures”, “Applied Geotechnical Engineering” and for “Natural Hazards”. However, optional lecture courses from the optional lecture course pool have to be completed successfully to an extent of 10 ECTS credits all together (4 ECTS credits for “Construction – Surface Structures”, 4 ECTS credits for “Applied Geotechnical Engineering”, 2 ECTS credits for “Natural Hazards”).

If “Geotechnical Engineering II” and / or “Natural Hazards” were submitted as free optional lecture courses in the Bachelor study programme Land and Water Management, this crediting with regards to content is still possible. However, optional lecture courses from the optional lecture course pool have to be completed successfully to an extent of 4 ECTS credits for “Applied Geotechnical Engineering” or 2 ECTS credits for “Natural Hazards” respectively.

Students who have not completed the formerly effective Master's degree in Civil Engineering and Water Management (UH 066 431) when this new Master's curriculum comes into force are transferred to the currently valid one.

For students in the new Master's curriculum already positively completed exams on courses from the old Master's curriculum are acknowledged based on the equivalence list for the respective study programme.

The compulsory completion of foreign language courses applies for students who began their studies under the new curriculum on October 1st, 2011, or after.

§ 13 EFFECTIVE DATE

This curriculum shall take effect on Oct. 1st 2025.

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.

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)