



Announcement

Academic year 2024/2025 – issued on 27 June 2025 – number 162

Any designations of functions are neutral in gender.

Curricula

162 Curriculum for the master's programme in Geographies of Global Change and Sustainability Transformations

At its meeting on 26 June 2025, the Senate approved the Curriculum for the master's programme in Geographies of Global Change and Sustainability Transformations specified below, which was resolved on 16 June 2025 by the Curriculum Committee, a body holding decision-making power, and established in accordance with section 25, para. 8, no. 3 and para. 1, no. 10a of the 2002 Universities Act.

The legal basis is the 2002 Universities Act and the section of the Statutes of the University of Vienna governing university studies as amended from time to time.

§ 1 Objectives and qualification profile

(1) The bilingual master's programme in Geographies of Global Change and Sustainability Transformations at the University of Vienna aims at educating graduates who are able to identify and analyse challenges, changes and complex problems in geography in the context of global change and the current debate on sustainability transformations. Graduates are able to analyse these by selecting from a diverse spectrum of methods available within the social sciences and are able to develop interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary solutions. The degree programme addresses national and international perspectives on current theory-driven geography research on the causes and consequences of global change, societal, spatial and environmental challenges in the context of sustainability transformations, as well as relevant application techniques. Thereby, it aims at a balance between thematic specialisation and a regional embedding in the wider, holistic context of sustainability transformations. This enables the integration of socio-ecological-technical systems thinking, which offers links to scenario building, living labs and citizen science approaches, as well as evidence-based policy recommendations.

Graduates thus acquire comprehensive competences in relevant areas (specialisations: Migration and Population Dynamics, Spatial Planning, Socioeconomic Transformations and Urban Studies) through an internationally oriented, bilingual curriculum. Students develop academic research and writing skills as well as methodological and subject-specific competences through the combination of techniques for work and analysis across specialisations and disciplines. These reflect geography with its scale-dependent, relational, spatio-temporally explicit approaches to the dynamics of global change and in the analysis, as well as participatory co-design of sustainability transformations.

(2) Beyond a bachelor's qualification, graduates of the master's programme in Geographies of Global Change and Sustainability Transformations at the University of Vienna are qualified to analyse complex questions relating to the interaction between humans and their social, physical and material, technological, ecological and digital environment and to develop solution strategies. Graduates are qualified to address current societal challenges in an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary manner in different regional contexts. They are able to trace complex, systemically anchored processes in space and time back to fundamental processes, and to map them in scenarios. They are able to critically reflect on theories, concepts, methods and applications and combine them in a context-specific manner in order to help shape systemic change. They are able to understand and co-design societal processes of negotiation in a participatory way with regard to future change and strategic agenda setting. As innovative, intellectually curious actors who are open to criticism, they have acquired competences to be able to take evidence-based decisions in society, the economy, politics and academia, and to help shape systemic change in a participatory way. The complexity of the spatial and temporal study of global change, sustainability and transformation in geography is also reflected by the breadth of the professional fields for graduates. These range from research and development, administration and public service (on an international, a national, regional or local level), international development assistance, regional development agencies, funding bodies and NGOs covering sustainability issues and education to engineering, planning and consulting companies. Therefore, students can additionally and individually focus on applied and research-led approaches in courses of the Specialisation modules.

In the courses of the degree programme, students address contents and methods meeting the current state of research in the relevant discipline. They focus on scientifically sound reflection and the applicability of knowledge. The master's programme serves the further consolidation of the competences and content acquired in the bachelor's programme.

§ 2 Duration and scope

(1) The workload for the master's programme in Geographies of Global Change and Sustainability Transformations comprises 120 ECTS credits. This is equivalent to a stipulated degree programme duration of four semesters.

(2) The programme is deemed completed if 60 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on compulsory modules, 35 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on alternative compulsory modules, 23 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on the master's thesis and 2 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on the master's examination have been obtained.

§ 3 Entry requirements

(1) To be admitted to the master's programme in Geographies of Global Change and Sustainability Transformations students must have completed an eligible bachelor's programme or an eligible degree programme at the same level of university education at a recognised Austrian or foreign post-secondary educational institution.

(2) The bachelor's programme in Geography and the bachelor's programme in Teacher Education for the school subject of Geography and Economic Education at the University of Vienna are certainly eligible. These degree programmes fulfil the qualitative admission requirements specified in section 3.

(3) As qualitative admission requirements, applicants must provide the following evidence of knowledge corresponding to at least 30 ECTS credits:

(a) Basic knowledge of social sciences at university level in theories and topics of development studies, geography, communication, social and cultural anthropology, planning sciences, political science, sociology, urban studies or business administration, equivalent to 15 ECTS credits.

(b) Basic prior knowledge of quantitative or qualitative methods in empirical social science corresponding to 15 ECTS credits in total. Up to 5 of these 15 ECTS credits can be demonstrated through basic prior knowledge in geoinformatics, geocommunication or remote sensing.

(c) Knowledge of the languages of instruction: German and English. The provisions of the University of Vienna apply to the necessary level of German proficiency (level A2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) and the type of proof to be provided. Students require English proficiency at level B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The regulations of the University of Vienna specify the type of proof which must be provided.

(d) Evidence of knowledge according to sub-para. a) is, in any case, the completion of the extension curriculum in Geography: Society and Space.

Evidence of knowledge according to sub-para. b) is, in any case, the completion of the extension curriculum in Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences' or the extension curriculum in Statistics I: Basics.

If the applicant cannot prove their knowledge in the form of a completed extension curriculum, they have to present a qualification description specifying the achievements completed prior to the submission of the application for admission and which are equivalent to the exams of the required extension curricula. Based on this qualification description, the competent body for study matters examines whether the qualitative admission requirements are fulfilled. Detailed regulations on the qualification description are provided by the competent body for study matters.

(4) To compensate for significant disciplinary differences, supplementary examinations can be stipulated, which have to be completed by the end of the second semester of the master's programme. The Rectorate may specify which supplementary examinations are a prerequisite for taking examinations specified in the Curriculum of the master's programme.

(5) If the significant disciplinary differences according to para. 3 exceed the extent of 30 ECTS credits, this is not considered an eligible degree programme and the student will not be admitted to the master's programme.

§ 4 Academic degree

Graduates of the master's programme in Geographies of Global Change and Sustainability Transformations are awarded the degree 'Master of Science', abbreviated as MSc. Where the academic degree is stated, this must be after the name.

§ 5 Structure – Modules with allocated ECTS credits

(1) Overview

The master's programme in Geographies of Global Change and Sustainability Transformations at the University of Vienna is structured as follows:

Module title	ECTS credits
M1 Human Geography (compulsory module)	10
M2 Geography Pool (compulsory module)	20
M3 Basics Specialisations (alternative group of compulsory modules): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M3.1: Introduction to the Specialisation: Migration and Population Dynamics (alternative compulsory module) • M3.2: Introduction to the Specialisation: Spatial Planning (alternative compulsory module) • M3.3: Introduction to the Specialisation: Socioeconomic Transformations (alternative compulsory module) • M3.4: Introduction to the Specialisation: Urban Studies (alternative compulsory module) 	5
M4 Specialisations (alternative group of compulsory modules): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M4.1: Migration and Population Dynamics (alternative compulsory module) • M4.2: Spatial Planning (alternative compulsory module) • M4.3: Socioeconomic Transformations (alternative compulsory module) • M4.4: Urban Studies (alternative compulsory module) 	30
M5 Individual Specialisation (compulsory module)	25
M6 Master's Thesis Seminars (compulsory module)	5
Master's Thesis	23
Public Defence	2
	120

(2) Module descriptions Human Geography (compulsory module)

M1	Human Geography (compulsory module)	10 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	<p>Students are familiar with the various approaches in human geography represented in the programme for describing and analysing complex systemic processes of global change and sustainability transformations in order to develop interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary solutions. They are able to place these in the general scientific discourse. In addition, students are able to reflect on their individual academic and professional development trajectory in the context of their studies.</p> <p>Students familiarise themselves with the master's programme and learn about the human geography specialisations at the Department of Geography and Regional Research. Students are familiar with the relevant fundamentals of human geography work and research in terms of theories and scientific methods, can develop questions and apply concepts and approaches. Students are able to apply project-related approaches and working methods in teamwork (e.g. moderation, process design, project management).</p>	
Module structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS or SE Introduction to Research and Practice in Human Geography (pi), 5 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. • PS or SE Open Minds (pi), 5 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. 	
Proof of performance	Passing of all continuous assessment (pi) courses specified in the module (10 ECTS credits in total)	
Language	English and German	

M2 Geography Pool (group of compulsory modules)

M2	Geography Pool (compulsory module)	20 ECTS credits
Prerequisites for participation	none	
Module outcomes	<p>Students acquire knowledge of the most important academic foundations in the sub-areas of physical geography, human geography and spatial data science. They are able to identify connections with the various academic disciplines and interdisciplinary research approaches. They gain an overview of the current state and demand of research in the relevant disciplines. They are able to identify the drivers of global change, digital transformation and sustainability and their manifold effects, derive socio-spatial issues and fields of action from a geographical perspective, and present and visualise their findings accordingly.</p> <p>The topics covered in the Geography Pool include an introduction to the theoretical basics of the relevant discipline as well as current topics and issues relating to practical problems with a focus on global change, sustainability and digital technologies. According to their choice, students gain an in-depth understanding of various fields of work in physical geography and geocology, economic and human geography, geocommunication and geoinformation (spatial data science), spatial research and spatial planning as well as urban studies, population geography and demography and/or digital geography. They are able to follow the current discourse on relevant topical issues.</p>	
Module structure	<p>Students choose 4 courses corresponding to 20 ECTS credits in total (non-continuous assessment, corresponding to 5 ECTS credits each) from the following Geography Pool:</p> <p>Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VO on Advances in Environmental Dynamics and Sustainability (npi), 5 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. • VO on Spatial Data Science and Geocommunication (npi), 5 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. 2 • VO on Advances in Human Geography (npi), 5 ECTS credits each, 2 SSt. • VO on Frontiers in Spatial Sciences (npi), 5 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. • VO on Sustainability and Digital Transformation (npi), 5 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. 	
Proof of performance	Passing of all course examinations (npi) specified in the module (20 ECTS credits in total)	
Language	English	

Introduction to the Specialisations (alternative group of compulsive modules) (5 ECTS credits)

Students can only continue their chosen specialisation after successfully completing the introductory specialisation course. Students must select one of the following preparatory modules comprising 5 ECTS credits. The preparatory module serves the further acquisition or, where applicable, the further development of the competences required for the relevant specialisation.

M3.1	Introduction to the Specialisation: Migration and Population Dynamics (alternative compulsory module)	5 ECTS credits
Prerequisites for participation	none	
Module outcomes	Upon successful completion of the module, students will have acquired the basic competences regarding contents, methods and concepts required for the Specialisation in Migration and Population Dynamics and are able to apply these competences. In addition, students receive guidance on how to pursue a structured, individualised specialisation within the framework of their chosen focus area.	
Module structure	SE on Specialisation in Migration and Population Dynamics – Introduction (pi), 5 ECTS credits, 3 SSt.	
Proof of performance	Passing of the continuous assessment course (pi) specified in the module (5 ECTS credits)	
Language	English and German	

M3.2	Introduction to the Specialisation: Spatial Planning (alternative compulsory module)	5 ECTS credits
Prerequisites for participation	none	
Module outcomes	Upon successful completion of the module, students will have acquired the basic competences regarding contents, methods and concepts required for the Specialisation in Spatial Planning and are able to apply these competences. In addition, students receive guidance on how to pursue a structured, individualised specialisation within the framework of their chosen focus area.	
Module structure	VU on Specialisation in Spatial Planning – Introduction (pi), 5 ECTS credits, 3 SSt.	
Proof of performance	Passing of the continuous assessment course (pi) specified in the module (5 ECTS credits)	
Language	English and German	

M3.3	Introduction to the Specialisation: Socioeconomic Transformations (alternative compulsory module)	5 ECTS credits
Prerequisites for participation	none	
Module outcomes	Upon successful completion of the module, students will have acquired the basic competences regarding contents, methods and concepts required for the Specialisation in Socioeconomic Transformations and are able to apply these competences. In addition, students receive guidance on how to pursue a structured, individualised specialisation within the framework of their chosen focus area.	
Module structure	SE on Specialisation in Socioeconomic Transformations – Introduction (pi), 5 ECTS credits, 3 SSt.	
Proof of performance	Passing of the continuous assessment course (pi) specified in the module (5 ECTS credits)	
Language	English and German	

M3.4	Introduction to the Specialisation: Urban Studies (alternative compulsory module)	5 ECTS credits
Prerequisites for participation	none	
Module outcomes	Upon successful completion of the module, students will have acquired the basic competences regarding contents, methods and concepts required for the Specialisation in Urban Studies and are able to apply these competences. In addition, students receive guidance on how to pursue a structured, individualised specialisation within the framework of their chosen focus area.	
Module structure	VU on Specialisation in Urban Studies – Introduction (pi), 5 ECTS credits, 3 SSt.	
Proof of performance	Passing of the continuous assessment course (pi) specified in the module (5 ECTS credits)	
Language	English and German	

Specialisations (alternative group of compulsory modules)

A. Specialisation: Migration and Population Dynamics (alternative compulsory module) (30 ECTS credits)

M4.1	Specialisation: Migration and Population Dynamics (alternative compulsory module)	30 ECTS credits
Prerequisites for participation	M3.1 (prerequisite course for the Specialisation: Migration and Population Dynamics)	
Module outcomes	Students are familiar with the most important interactions between global change, in particular environmental change and climate change, and various forms of human mobility (migration, displacement, etc.) and the associated population dynamics in the context of vulnerability, adaptation and resilience. Moreover, students are familiar with the contextualisation of these topics within global development and sustainability transformations and understand the specific situation of the Global South. Students are able to analyse relevant issues from the perspective of geography based on related theories and concepts. Upon completion of the module, students are familiar with methods of population geography. They are able to independently reconstruct analyses of the interactions between global change and human mobility (migration, displacement, etc.) and the related population dynamics. In addition, they are able to critically evaluate empirical studies.	
Module structure	Subject to availability, students complete <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2 seminars (SE (pi) 5 ECTS credits each, 2 SSt.) comprising 10 ECTS credits on theories, concepts, empirical examples and current research debates on migration and population dynamics in the context of global change and development. 2. 1 project seminar (SE Projektseminar (pi) 10 ECTS credits, 4 SSt.) on selected research designs, research methods and their application in the fields of migration and population dynamics in the context of global change and development. 3. 1 to 2 courses (SE Projektseminar, SE or EX (pi)) comprising 10 ECTS credits, 4 SSt.) on further related theories, concepts, research debates and research methods and their application in the fields of migration and population dynamics in the context of global change and development. 	
Proof of performance	Passing of all continuous assessment (pi) courses specified in the module (30 ECTS credits in total)	
Language	English and German	

B. Specialisation: Spatial Planning (alternative compulsory module) (30 ECTS credits)

This specialisation requires students to have German language skills at least at level B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

M4.2	Specialisation: Spatial Planning (alternative compulsory module)	30 ECTS credits
Prerequisites for participation	M3.2 (prerequisite course for the Specialisation: Spatial Planning)	
Module outcomes	Students are able to analyse complex spatial problems and develop sustainable solutions. They acquire in-depth knowledge of local and regional planning theories and methods, enabling them to develop and implement spatial concepts. In addition, they are able to work in an interdisciplinary manner and integrate the interests of various stakeholders into planning processes. Students evaluate the social, environmental and economic impacts of planning decisions and are able to take these into account in a range of different contexts. Other essential skills include communicating and presenting their planning results in an understandable way.	
Module structure	<p>Subject to availability, students complete</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2 courses (SE (pi) 5 ECTS credits each, 2 SSt.) comprising 10 ECTS credits from the area Understanding Spatial Planning and/or Spatial Planning and Sustainability Transformation 2. 1 course (SE (pi) 5 ECTS credits, 2 SSt.) from the area Current Issues in Regional Planning and Development 3. 1 course SE project seminar (including excursion) on Understanding Spatial Planning (pi), 10 ECTS credits, 4 SSt. 4. 1 course SE project seminar (including excursion) on Spatial Planning and Sustainability Transformation (pi), 5 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. 	
Proof of performance	Passing of all continuous assessment (pi) courses specified in the module (30 ECTS credits in total)	
Language	English and German	

C. Specialisation: Socioeconomic Transformations (alternative compulsory module) (30 ECTS credits)

M4.3	Specialisation: Socioeconomic Transformations (alternative compulsory module)	30 ECTS credits
Prerequisites for participation	M3.3 (prerequisite course for the Specialisation: Socioeconomic Transformations)	
Module outcomes	<p>Students understand local, regional and global development contexts and dynamics for sustainability innovations and transformations. They are able to analyse these using appropriate theories, concepts and transformative methods and to evaluate their ecological, social and economic impacts from a spatial perspective. Students have comprehensive knowledge of evidence-based policy strategies at local and regional level in the context of multi-level governance systems. They are capable of developing and advancing regional development strategies for sustainable socioeconomic transformation processes and socio-technical systems, taking into account spatial and social justice issues using appropriate methods. Students understand spatial socioeconomic dependency dynamics as well as possible development paths and alternatives.</p>	
Module structure	<p>Subject to availability, students complete</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2 courses (SE (pi) 5 ECTS credits each, 2 SSt.) comprising 10 ECTS credits from the areas Geography of Innovation and Industrial Transitions; Globalisation and Sustainable Development 2. 1 course (SE project seminar (pi) 10 ECTS credits, 4 SSt.) on Strategic Development and Governance. 3. 1 to 2 courses (SE project seminar, SE or EX (pi)) comprising 10 ECTS credits, 4 SSt.) on further theories, concepts, research debates and research methods as well as their application in the field of socioeconomic sustainability transformations in different spatial contexts. 	
Proof of performance	Passing of all continuous assessment (pi) courses specified in the module (30 ECTS credits in total)	
Language	English and German	

D. Specialisation: Urban Studies (alternative compulsory module) (30 ECTS)

M4.4	Specialisation: Urban Studies (alternative compulsory module)	30 ECTS credits
Prerequisites for participation	M3.4 (prerequisite course for the Specialisation: Urban Studies)	
Module outcomes	<p>The Specialisation in Urban Studies enables students to analyse urban societies and the diverse human-environment-technology interactions of urban spaces in a national and international context with the help of relevant advanced theories and interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary methods. They are also able to evaluate them critically and systemically in the relevant context. Students acquire relevant competences for analysing and designing urban sustainability transformations, with a focus on developing an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary, local (urban) understanding of challenges and solution-finding processes in the context of global change processes. Students in this specialisation consolidate their presentation, communication and project management skills through the independent development of projects within the framework of an established Urban Sustainability Living Lab, which also takes transdisciplinary and citizen science approaches into account. The specialisation is embedded in an interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and international environment with diverse collaborations with institutions and relevant stakeholders.</p>	
Module structure	<p>Subject to availability, students complete</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1 VU and 1 PS (pi) (5 ECTS credits each, 2 SSt.) comprising 10 ECTS credits on Inter- and Transdisciplinary and Comparative Theories or Methods in Urban Studies 2. 1 SE and 1 VU (pi) (5 ECTS credits each, 2 SSt.) comprising 10 ECTS credits on Urban Sustainability Transformations 3. 1 project seminar (SE Project Seminar), including excursion or internship (pi) comprising 5 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. on Transdisciplinary Urban Practices: Part I 4. 1 project seminar (SE Project Seminar), including excursion or internship (pi) comprising 5 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. on Transdisciplinary Urban Practices: Part II 	
Proof of performance	Passing of all continuous assessment (pi) courses specified in the module (30 ECTS credits in total)	
Language	English and German	

All students must complete the following compulsory modules.

Individual Specialisation (compulsory module)

M5	Individual Specialisation (compulsory module)	25 ECTS credits
Prerequisites for participation	none	
Module outcomes	<p>Students further develop their individual competences in the area of sustainability transformations through individual academic or practical specialisation. Students broaden their knowledge, acquire and develop abilities and skills, build networks for their studies and their future professional career by participating in courses of other disciplines at the University of Vienna, other universities and research institutions in Austria or abroad, by completing internships in companies and organisations or by working in research projects.</p>	
Module structure	<p>Subject to availability, students choose courses with non-continuous assessment (npi) and/or courses with continuous assessment (pi) comprising 25 ECTS credits in total.</p> <p>Students may select</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SE, VU or EX on current topics related to career start according to the courses offered in the curriculum (pi), 3 ECTS credits, 2 SSt.; • individual designated specialisation courses from the master's programme beyond their individual specialisation, subject to available places, corresponding to more than 15 ECTS credits in total; • courses offered across departments or universities in cooperation with the master's programme; • individual courses relevant to the topic of the degree programme offered by the University of Vienna and other universities or research and post-secondary educational institutions in Austria or abroad including MOOCs; • participation in research projects at the Department of Geography and Regional Research and other departments and units of the University of Vienna, corresponding to no more than 10 ECTS credits or • internships clearly relevant to the research and application areas covered by the degree programme at companies, university or non-university research institutions, organisations, etc.; corresponding to no more than 10 ECTS credits. <p>A confirmation for the hours worked serves as a proof of performance for the participation in subject-relevant research projects and for internships, whereas 1 ECTS credit corresponds to 25 working hours.</p> <p>The competent body responsible for study matters must approve the student's choice of courses in advance. The directorate of studies publishes a list of courses associated with the module in the University of Vienna's course directory, which are eligible for this module and are generally considered approved upon completion.</p>	

Proof of performance	Passing of all course examinations (npi) and continuous assessment courses (pi) and/or the production of proof of time worked (25 ECTS credits in total)
Language	English and German

Master's Seminar (compulsory module):

M6	Master's Thesis Seminars (compulsory module)	5 ECTS credits
Prerequisites for participation	M3 (prerequisite course for the Specialisation) The prerequisite for participation in the Accompanying Master's Seminar is the approval of the topic and supervision of the master's thesis by the competent body responsible for study matters.	
Module outcomes	Students are supported in the process of finding a topic and selecting theories and methods. The aim is to develop an individual topic for a master's thesis that can be completed within six months. Students are able to present the progress of their master's thesis and discuss it with other students. They learn how to give, receive and incorporate constructive peer feedback.	
Module structure	Subject to availability, students complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 PS or SE Preparatory Master's Seminar (pi), 3 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. • 1 PS or SE Accompanying Master's Seminar (pi), 2 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. 	
Proof of performance	Passing of all continuous assessment (pi) courses specified in the module (5 ECTS credits in total)	
Language	English and German	

§ 6 Master's thesis

(1) The master's thesis serves to demonstrate the student's ability to achieve adequate standards of content and methodology when independently addressing academic topics. The assignment for the master's thesis must be so chosen that the student can reasonably be expected to complete it within six months.

(2) The topic of the master's thesis must be taken from the compulsory module in the specialisation. If a different topic is selected or if there is uncertainty regarding the allocation of the selected topic, the competent body responsible for study matters decides on whether or not it is admissible.

(3) The master's thesis comprises 23 ECTS credits.

§ 7 Master's examination

(1) To be admitted to a master's examination the student must have successfully passed all required modules and examinations and the master's thesis must have been awarded a positive grade.

(2) The master's examination is a public defence and consists of a defence and an examination on the academic disciplines related to the master's thesis. Grading will be conducted as stipulated in the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

(3) The master's examination is conducted before an examination committee in accordance with the section of the Statutes of the University of Vienna governing university studies.

(4) The master's examination comprises 2 ECTS credits.

§ 8 Mobility during the master's programme

A stay abroad can be completed, in particular, as part of the Individual Specialisation module.

The competent body responsible for study matters is responsible for the recognition of academic achievements completed abroad.

§ 9 Course classification

(1) All courses with non-continuous assessment (npi) have to be offered as one of the following types of courses:

Lectures (*Vorlesung*, VO) are courses with non-continuous assessment of student performance and serve the purpose of presenting topics, subjects, theories and methods of geography while critically taking different academic opinions into account. The lecture is completed with an oral or written examination.

(2) All courses with continuous assessment (pi) have to be offered as one of the following types of courses:

Combined lectures and exercises (*Vorlesungen und Übungen*, VU) are courses with continuous assessment that combine the acquisition of subject knowledge and/or methodological knowledge in the lecture part with their application in the exercise part. The lecture part and the exercise part must be completed simultaneously. The proof of performance is the implementation and submission of independent assignments as well as a written or oral final examination.

Introductory seminars (*Proseminare*, PS) are courses with continuous assessment that introduce students to analysing and discussing subject-specific themes and positions. The core learning outcome is the independent acquisition and understanding of the course content, as well as its discussion and presentation in written, oral and, where appropriate, multimodal form. Proof of performance is provided in the form of several partial achievements.

Seminars (SE) are courses with continuous assessment and serve as a basis for the further development and discussion of subject-specific content and positions. The core learning outcome is the independent analysis of academic content and positions as well as their discussion and presentation in written, oral and, where appropriate, multimodal form.

Proof of performance is provided in the form of several partial achievements.

Project seminars (*SE Projektseminar*) are courses with continuous assessment and aim to give students a detailed introduction to the practical aspects of research. Through participation in ongoing research projects and/or supervisor-guided own small research projects, students familiarise themselves with the different steps in academic research projects – from the formulation of a hypothesis to the interpretation of results. This may also include independent data collection as part of field research. Usually, participants document and present the results in an adequate form. These results must comply with the principles of good academic practice.

Practical courses (*Praktikum, PR*) are courses with continuous assessment, including fieldwork and practical laboratory courses, complementing lectures, exercises and seminars and aim at consolidating practical skills and knowledge. Students complete small projects with the help and support of the lecturer. Proof of performance is provided in the form of active participation in the course, the completion of tasks and the submission of one or several work protocol(s) and/or one or several project report(s).

Excursions (*Exkursion, EX*) are courses with continuous assessment and enable students to acquire and expand subject-specific knowledge in the field. As a rule, participants are required to produce a written report and can be expected to play an active role in shaping the content of the excursion. Field trips should, where possible, be held in periods when there are no classes.

§ 10 Courses with a limited number of participants and registration procedure

(1) The following general limits on the number of students apply in the following courses:

Project seminar (SE Projektseminar), Seminar (SE), Practical course (PR), Excursion (EX): 25 participants
Introductory seminar (PS), lecture with exercise (VU): 50 participants

(2) Modalities concerning the registration for courses and examinations as well as the allocation of places in courses are governed by the stipulations of the Statutes of the University of Vienna

(3) Selection of a specialisation and registration procedure:

Students select their specialisation once they have begun the degree programme. Registration for a specialisation is subject to the availability of places and must be made with the competent body for study matters. Students can only continue their specialisation after successful completion of the introductory specialisation course M3 Basics Specialisations (alternative group of compulsory modules) (always offered in the winter semester). The specialisation can only be studied based on the courses available in the curriculum. Students can change their specialisation only if there are sufficient spaces available and provided they have successfully completed the introductory specialisation course in the winter semester.

§ 11 Examination regulations

(1) Proof of performance in courses

The lecturer of a course is responsible for making the necessary announcements according to the stipulations in the Statutes.

(2) Examination content

The examination content relevant to preparing and holding examinations must be in line with the required number of ECTS credits. This also applies to module examinations.

(3) Examination procedure

The examination procedure is subject to the stipulations of the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

(4) No double recognition and no dual use

Courses taken and examinations passed in the degree programme, which constitute entry requirements for the master's programme, can only be recognised in the master's programme if there is no significant difference between the learning outcomes of the master's programme and the learning outcomes of the bachelor's programme. Courses taken and examinations passed that are used, in particular, for qualitative entry requirements and on which the master's programme is based, cannot be recognised due to significant differences in the acquired competences. Courses taken and examinations passed from another compulsory or elective module of the degree programme cannot be recognised within another module in the same degree programme. This also applies to recognition procedures.

(5) Examination results must be allocated to the relevant module by the stated ECTS figure and must not be allocated to different proofs of academic achievement.

§ 12 Entry into force

This Curriculum will enter into force upon announcement in the University Gazette of the University of Vienna as of 1 October 2025.

§ 13 Transitional provisions

(1) This Curriculum applies to all students who commence their degree programme as of the winter semester of 2025/2026.

(2) If, at a later stage of the degree programme, courses are no longer offered which were compulsory under the original curricula, the competent body responsible for study matters decides *ex officio* (equivalence regulation) or at the request of the participant which courses and examinations have to be completed instead.

(3) Students who have started the master's programme in Regional Research and Regional Planning before that date may voluntarily accept the provisions of this Curriculum by simple confirmation.

(4) Students who were subject to the master's curriculum in Spatial Research and Spatial Planning, which entered into force prior to this Curriculum (University Gazette of 22 June 2007, 31st edition, no. 167, as amended) are entitled to complete their degree programme by 31 October 2027.

(5) The competent body responsible for study matters specified in the organisational regulations is entitled to determine in general or on a case-by-case basis which of the courses taken and examinations passed will be recognised for this Curriculum.

Appendix

It is recommended to commence this degree programme in the winter semester as this makes it easier for them to complete the courses required in the shortest time possible.

Recommended path through the programme:

Semester	Module	Course	ECTS credits	Total ECTS credits
1st	M1	PS or SE Introduction to Research and Practice in Human Geography (Human Geography (compulsory module))	5	
	M1	PS or SE Open Minds (Human Geography (compulsory module))	5	
	M2	1 course from pool	5	
	M2	1 course from pool	5	
	M2	1 course from pool	5	
	M3.1-4	Prerequisite course for specialisation	5	
				30
2nd	M2	1 course from pool	5	
	M4.1-4	Courses according to choice	15	
	M5	Courses according to choice	10	
				30
3rd	M4.1-4	Courses according to choice	15	
	M5	Courses according to choice	12	
	M6	Preparatory Master's Seminar	3	
				30
4th	M5	Courses according to choice	3	
	M6	Accompanying Master's Seminar	2	

		Master's Thesis	23	
		Public Defence	2	
				30
	Total ECTS credits			120

On behalf of the Senate:
The chairperson of the curriculum committee
Stassinopoulou