



Appendix to the Study Regulations for the Master of Science in Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)

at the School of Life Sciences and Facility Management, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW)

Based on § 2 of the General Academic Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes of the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) of 29 January, 2008, supplementing the Study Regulations for the Master's Programme in Environment and Natural Resources of 16 November, 2016, the following appendix to the Study Regulations was first enacted by the executive board on 11 April, 2017.

Disclaimer

This is a non-binding, unofficial translation of the original German version, "[Anhang zur Studienordnung für den Masterstudiengang Master of Science in Environment and Natural Resources \(ENR\) der Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften des Departement Life Sciences und Facility Management](#)". While it was prepared with all due care, the ZHAW School of Management and Law takes no responsibility for any remaining omissions and/or errors. The legally binding document is the original German version, which shall prevail in any case of doubt or differences of interpretation.

Please note that English is not an official language of the Swiss Confederation or the Canton of Zurich. This document is provided for information purposes only and has no legal force.



1. Admission requirements: Entrance exam

The entrance exam procedure is outlined in sections 1.1 – 1.4

1.1 Review of application documents

The application documents are assessed to determine whether they meet the formal requirements outlined in § 8 of the Study Regulations for the Master's Programme in Environment and Natural Resources.

1.2 Entrance exam

The entrance exam is conducted by the Master Research Unit (MRU) that the applicant selected, at the Institute of Natural Resource Sciences (IUNR). The available MRUs are:

- Agroecology and Food Systems
- Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- Ecological Engineering and Renewable Energy

Competences are assessed in the following four key areas:

- The applicant's ability to study, based on the Qualifications Framework for Bachelor's degree programmes (Dublin Descriptors): The applicants discuss in writing, using examples from their previous study-related career, how familiar they are with their chosen field of study (knowledge and understanding), practical examples that have resulted in the transfer of knowledge (application of knowledge), how they assess this in hindsight (judgement), whether they can explain the most central results of a research project to a layperson (communicative skills) and what the most important learning experiences have been so far in their studies (self-learning ability).
- The applicant's professional credentials, and whether these meet the requirements for the chosen MRU (general professional competences), based on the documents submitted (certificates).
- The applicant's motivation to apply for the Master's programme (letter of motivation) with reference to his or her current CV and what he or she aspires to.
- The applicant's language skills in German and English (C1 proficiency must be demonstrated for at least one of the two languages, and the applicant's language skills in the second language must be sufficient).

1.3 Assessment

For each of the four key areas, an assessment is provided by the two experts (good/sufficient/insufficient). The experts' assessment of the first key area (ability to study) must be rated as at least sufficient.

The applicant is admitted to the degree programme without conditions if both experts give a rating of no less than "sufficient" in each of the four key areas of the entrance exam.

If both experts give a rating of "unsatisfactory" in one of the key areas, the applicant is conditionally accepted to the degree programme. These applicants may be asked to demonstrate specific additional competences or to meet additional requirements before being admitted to the programme. These conditions must be met by the end of the second semester.

If both experts give a rating of "unsatisfactory" in two or more of the key areas of the exam, the applicant is not accepted to the programme.

1.4 Information

Applicants will be informed in writing about the status of their application: accepted, conditional acceptance, or rejected. A summary of how the four key areas were evaluated as well as the feedback from the two experts will be provided.

The head of the degree programme is responsible for the final decision.

2. Modules

2.1 Module composition: Individual Study Agreement (ISA)

The modules to be attended are defined in the Individual Study Agreement (ISA). Students will be registered for all modules indicated in this agreement. The ISA is developed in consultation with a tutor and is approved by the head of the degree programme. The Individual Study Agreement is established at the time of enrolment, and it can be adapted before the end of each semester for the following semester, in accordance with the ZHAW annual plan. Attending extra modules must be approved in advance by the head of the degree programme.

2.2 Compulsory modules

Semester	Module	Module Category	ECTS Credits	Assessment
Autumn Semester	Research Methods	Research Skills and Tools	15	Grade
Autumn Semester	Sustainability Science	Environment, Society and Responsibility	3	Grade
Autumn Semester / Spring Semester	Project Work in Research Group 1 ^{oS}	Masterstudio	6	Grade
Autumn Semester / Spring Semester	Project Work in Research Group 1 ^{oS}	Masterstudio	6	Grade

MRU Agroecology and Food Systems

Semester	Module	Module Category	ECTS Credits	Assessment
Autumn Semester	Agroecology and Food Systems	Focus	6	Grade

MRU Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Semester	Module	Module Category	ECTS Credits	Assessment
Autumn Semester	Biodiversity and Ecosystems	Focus	6	Grade

MRU Ecological Engineering and Renewable Energy

Semester	Module	Module Category	ECTS Credits	Assessment
Autumn Semester	Ecological Engineering and Renewable Energy	Focus	6	Grade

Master's Thesis

Semester	Module	Module Category	Course name	Workload (hours)	Assessment
Autumn Semester / Spring Semester	Master's Thesis ^{os}	Masterstudio	Milestone 1	300	Pass/Fail
Autumn Semester / Spring Semester	Master's Thesis ^{os}	Masterstudio	Milestone 2	300	Pass/Fail
Autumn Semester / Spring Semester	Master's Thesis ^{os}	Masterstudio	Milestone 3	300	Grade

Total ECTS-Credits in the Master's Thesis Module: 30

2.3 Elective modules

The elective modules can be freely selected and are defined in the Individual Study Agreement (ISA). The head of the degree programme may approve requests to attend and receive credit for modules from other degree programmes at the ZHAW or other universities. A minimum of 30 ECTS credits must be taken in elective modules.

Semester	Module	Module Category	Credits	Assessment
Autumn Semester	Agroecology and Food Systems	Focus	6	Grade
Autumn Semester	Biodiversity and Ecosystems	Focus	6	Grade
Autumn Semester	Ecological Engineering and Renewable Energy	Focus	6	Grade
Autumn Semester	Summer School ^{oS}	Focus	4	Pass/Fail
Autumn Semester	Advanced Spatial Analysis *	Research Skills and Tools	3	Grade
Autumn Semester	Regenerative Business Models and Finance**	Entrepreneurial Skills	3	Pass/Fail
Autumn Semester	Disruption Days – Personal Resilience**	Entrepreneurial Skills	2	Pass/Fail
Spring Semester	Patterns and Trends in Environmental Data ^{oS}	Research Skills and Tools	3	Grade
Spring Semester	Behavioral Change ^{oS}	Environment, Society and Responsibility	3	Grade
Spring Semester	Environmental Economics ^{oS}	Environment, Society and Responsibility	3	Grade
Spring Semester	Environmental Ethics ^{oS}	Environment, Society and Responsibility	3	Grade
Spring Semester	Environmental Mediation ^{oS}	Environment, Society and Responsibility	3	Pass/Fail
Spring Semester	Advanced Life Cycle Assessment ^{oS}	Focus	3	Grade
Spring Semester	Aquaculture Systems ^{oS}	Focus	3	Grade
Spring Semester	Agriculture for the Future ^{oS}	Focus	3	Grade
Spring Semester	CO ₂ management in Companies and Local Authorities ^{oS}	Focus	3	Grade
Spring Semester	Global Economic Geographies of Agriculture and Food Systems *	Focus	6	Grade

Semester	Module	Module Category	Credits	Assessment
Spring Semester	Natural Resources Management in Urban Areas ^{oS}	Focus	3	Grade
Spring Semester	Natural Resources Management of Mountain Areas ^{oS}	Focus	3	Grade
Spring Semester	Natural Resources Management in Emerging Economies ^{oS}	Focus	3	Grade
Spring Semester	Remote Sensing for Ecology ^{oS}	Focus	3	Grade
Spring Semester	Winter School ^{oS}	Focus	4	Pass/Fail
Spring Semester	Regenerative Strategies and Innovation Processes ^{**}	Entrepreneurial Skills	3	Pass/Fail
Autumn Semester / Spring Semester	Individual Specialisation module A ^{oS}	Focus	3	Pass/Fail
Autumn Semester / Spring Semester	Individual Specialisation module B ^{oS}	Focus	3	Pass/Fail
Autumn Semester / Spring Semester	Individual Specialisation module C ^{oS}	Focus	5	Pass/Fail
Autumn Semester / Spring Semester	Intercultural Competence ^{***}	Focus	2	Pass/Fail

* These modules are offered in cooperation with the University of Zurich. The University of Zurich is responsible for the assessment, and the grades are transferred to the ZHAW's records: Module grades are recorded with two decimal places.

** These modules are offered in cooperation with the MSc in Preneurship for Regenerative Food Systems at the ZHAW's School of Life Sciences and Facility Management.

*** This module takes place over two consecutive semesters.

^{oS} For the modules marked with "oS" (out of semester), assignments or courses may take place outside of the normal semester period.



3. Double Degree Agreement

For the Master's degree in Environment and Natural Resources, the ZHAW provides the opportunity to obtain a second degree from the University of Ljubljana's Master's programme in Water Science and Environmental Engineering, Inland Norway University's Master's programme in Applied Ecology, or the Eberswalde University of Sustainable Development's Master's programme in Organic Agriculture and Food Systems.

The Double Degree is completed in accordance with the Double Degree Agreement and the official study plan. The final grades from the modules completed at the partner universities are not taken into account in the calculation of the final grade at the ZHAW.

4. Conditions for the transitional periods

4.1 Conditions for the transitional period from 30 January, 2018

Students who commenced their studies before the autumn semester 2018/2019 will continue their studies in accordance with the current Appendix. Credit will be given for all academic work that has already been completed.

4.2 Conditions for the transitional period from 1 April, 2021

Students who commenced their studies before the autumn semester 2021/2022 will continue their studies in accordance with the current Appendix. All academic work that has already been completed, including assessments and their weighting, will be carried over unchanged.

4.3 Conditions for the transitional period from 28 January, 2022

Students who commenced their studies before the autumn semester 2022/2023 will continue their studies in accordance with the current Appendix. Credit for academic work that has already been completed will be given according to a concordance table. Any modules that have been credited, including their assessment and weighting, will be carried over unchanged.



5. Issuing information

5.1 Issuing metadata

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5.2 Issuing Process

Version	Decision	Decided by	Validity	Description of Change
1.0.0	11.04.2017	HSL	01.08.2017	Original version.
1.1.0	30.01.2018	HSL	01.08.2018	Para. 3.2 Renaming of compulsory module, additions to para.3.3 Elective module and para. 5 Double Degree Agreement.
1.1.1	-	-	-	Revision layout/structure, 17.04.2019.
2.0.0	01.04.2021	Dean	01.08.2021	Adjustment of module names, new module added and new partners for double degree.
3.0.0	28.01.2022	Dean	01.08.2022	Adjustments to the curriculum and the admission process
3.0.1	-	-	-	Link to the English version, 23.08.2022