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142. Curriculum for the Master's Degree Programme in Geography (Curriculum 2025)

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In its session on 08.04.2025 the Academic Senate of the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg enacted the curriculum for the English-language Master's degree programme in Geography formally approved by the curriculum commission Geography of the University of Salzburg in its session on 28.03.2025 in the following version.

The legal basis for the curriculum is the Federal Act on the Organisation of Universities and their Studies (Universities Act 2002 – UG), Federal Law Gazette I No. 120/2002, as well as the section of the Statutes of the University of Salzburg pertaining to university studies, in the applicable version.

§ 1 General Provisions

(1) The total number of ECTS credit points necessary to complete a degree in the Master's programme in Geography is 120. This corresponds to four semesters of study.
(2) Graduates of the Master's programme in Geography will be awarded the academic title "Master of Science, abbreviated "Msc".
(3) The precondition for the admission to the Master's degree programme in Geography is the completion of a relevant Bachelor's degree programme or of another relevant degree programme of at least the same higher educational level at a recognised domestic or foreign post-secondary institute of education (cf. § 64 para. 3 UG).
(4) To compensate for significant subject-related differences in equivalency the students may be required to complete supplementary examinations worth up to 45 ECTS credit points; these supplementary examinations must be completed by the end of the second semester of the Master's programme. Only the Rectorate or a member of staff of the University of Salzburg designated by the Rectorate is authorised to decide on whether there are significant subject-related differences in equivalency.
(5) Candidates for the Geography Master's programme are selected based on the supporting documents filed with the application. A detailed description of the process can be found in the Annex III: Application procedure.
(6) Each academic achievement to be fulfilled by students has been assigned ECTS credit points. One ECTS credit point equals 25 hours of study, which corresponds to the average number of hours required to achieve the expected learning objectives. An academic year consists of 1500 full hours corresponding to 60 ECTS credit points.
(7) Students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses must not be subject to any form of discrimination in their studies. The guiding principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Austrian Federal Equal Treatment Act as well as the principles of compensation of disadvantage apply.

§ 2 Overview of the degree programme and professional skills

(1) Overview of the degree programme

Geographers study the Earth, its inhabitants, and the interrelationships between human societies and their physical and social environments. Geography analyses the dynamics of these interactions from a spatial, multi-scalar perspective and addresses key 21st-century challenges, including climate change, environmental degradation, socio-spatial inequality, social transformation, globalization, urbanization, natural hazards, resource management, political conflicts and migration.

A key strength of Geography lies in its ability to integrate both natural and social sciences through diverse perspectives and methods. It is a paradigmatically and methodologically pluralistic discipline.

The Master in Geography programme combines insights from both physical and human geography, enriched by methods from geoinformatics, statistics, remote sensing as well qualitative research

methods from social sciences. It emphasizes integrative, systems-based approaches to human-environment interactions focussing on the fields natural hazards, climate, socio-economic transformation, ecosystems and urban ecology. The study programme equips students with problem-solving skills for promoting sustainable development in both the environment and society.

The Master's programme is closely aligned with ongoing research in Geography, incorporating current research topics and activities into the curriculum. A key focus is the applied nature of Geography, emphasised through numerous practical workshops and field trips that engage with real-world examples and include contributions from external experts. Students are also required to complete a compulsory internship, providing them with valuable hands-on experience. The programme offers a topical focus but also includes enough space for individual learning through a variety of optional offers and elective modules.

(2) Professional Skills and Competences (Learning Outcomes)

Graduates of the Master's programme in Geography:

- Analyse and communicate the complexity of society-environment relationships from an integrative perspective, considering different spatial and temporal scales. They focus on spatial and temporal patterns, processes, and dynamics. These are considered as core competencies of geographers.

- Possess advanced integrated knowledge of Geography, with specialized expertise in one or more of the following focus areas:

  - Applied Geomorphology and Natural Hazards
  - Climate, Ecosystems, and Urban Ecology
  - Socio-economic Transformations

- Are capable of independently addressing complex scientific and applied problems, including:

  - Formulating hypotheses and research objectives
  - Designing a targeted research plan and selecting appropriate methods
  - Collecting, evaluating, and analysing (geo-)data competently and efficiently
  - Presenting findings effectively in both written and oral formats
  - Interpreting results in a clear and conclusive manner

- Carry out research effectively, mastering the application of relevant methods and sources for geographical and spatial studies and interpreting them critically.

- Evaluate and apply a wide range of quantitative and qualitative methods from various subfields of Geography, including:

  - Advanced field and terrain methods in physical geography (e.g. Terrestrial Laserscanning, UAV-based photogrammetry, field geophysics, etc.)
  - Advanced quantitative-analytical methods in empirical social, natural and geospatial sciences
  - Advanced qualitative-interpretive methods in empirical social, natural and geospatial sciences
  - Advanced knowledge of (geo)statistics and numerical data analysis

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and modelling
- Advanced data visualization and cartography
- Advanced lab techniques
- Multi- and mixed methods approaches

- Are proficient in communication and presentation, both oral and written. They effectively engage with different stakeholders, demonstrating professional expertise in a manner appropriate to the target audience and context.

(3) Significance and relevance of the degree for society, the scientific community and the labour market

Geographers are experts in geospatial analysis and in communicating spatially relevant problems and solutions. Their integrative approach to understanding processes, dynamics, and the complexity of society-environment interactions enables them to work effectively in interdisciplinary teams and serve as mediators. This allows them to contribute to a wide range of solutions for pressing environmental and societal challenges, including the impacts of climate and environmental change, socio-economic transformations, social change processes, and the effects of natural phenomena on society (e.g., natural hazards, biodiversity loss, resource depletion), along with their spatial and temporal variations.
The specialized skills developed in the Geography Master's degree programme prepare graduates to address urgent challenges across various geospheres and biospheres, particularly in adapting to the climate crisis and advancing the sustainable development goals.

Graduates of the Master's degree programme in Geography open doors to a variety of exciting professional fields:

- Consultancy: work as an expert in urban, spatial, and regional planning or natural hazard management.
- Public service: Shape the future of your community as part of public administration.
- Non-profit sector: Get involved in NGOs or international organisations for social and ecological justice.
- Policy consulting: Advocate for sustainable solutions by improving the processes and outcomes of public service delivery and governance.

Geographers are sought-after problem solvers in a complex world – their skills are crucial for a sustainable future.

§ 3 Structure of the degree programme

The Master's programme in Geography comprises two compulsory cross-focus modules covering 18 ECTS credit points and one compulsory elective module with 6 ECTS credit points. The core of the programme is formed by three focus areas each amounting to 42 ECTS credit points. The selection of a focus area enables students to specialise in a particular subject and develop a profile. The selection of a focus is not compulsory but strongly recommended. Compulsory cross-focus, elective and focus area modules sum up to a total number of 66 ECTS credit points. In addition, 12 ECTS credit points are assigned for free elective courses. The programme includes a compulsory internship worth 12 ECTS credit points. The graduation module including the master thesis amounts to 30 ECTS credit points.

The focus areas are:

- Focus area 1: Applied Geomorphology and Mountain Hazards
- Focus area 2: Climate, Ecosystems and Urban Ecology
- Focus area 3: Socio-Ecological Transformations

	ECTS
(1) Compulsory cross-focus modules:	
855 M1 Theories and Global Perspectives in Geography	12
855 M2 Field Trip	6
(2) Focus Area modules	42
Focus Area 1: Applied Geomorphology and Mountain Hazards	
855 M11 Mountain Environments, Climate and Earth Surface Processes	12
855 M12 Natural Hazards 1	
855 M13 Natural Hazards 2	6
855 M14 Advanced Analytical Techniques	6
855 M15 Applications and perspectives in Geomorphology and Mountain Hazards	12 6
Focus area 2: Climate, Ecosystems and Urban Ecology	
855 M21 Introduction into Climate and Ecosystems	6
855 M22 Urban Ecology	6
855 M23 Landscapes, Cities & Geodata	12
855 M24 Applied Project Study	12
855 M25 Applications in Science and Practice	6
Focus area 3: Socio-Ecological Transformations	
855 M31 Local Strategies of Socio-Ecological Transformation	12
855 M32 Feminist and Labour Geography	6
855 M33 Socio-ecological transformation	6
855 M34 Housing and Socio-Ecological Transformation	12
855 M35 Challenges of Socio-Ecological transformation	6
(3) Compulsory elective module	6
(4) Free elective courses	12
(5) Compulsory Internship	12
(6) Graduation module • Master colloquium • Master thesis • Final exam	 1 27 2
Total	**120**

§ 4 Course types

The following course types are included in the degree programme:

Lecture courses (VO) provide an overview of a subject or one of its sections and its theoretical approaches and present different doctrines and methods. Contents are primarily presented in the style of a speech. A lecture course is not continuously assessed, attendance is not compulsory.

Tutorial and lecture courses (UV) combine a theoretical introduction to a specific topic with practical skills, whereby the character of the course is predominantly practical. A tutorial and lecture course is a continuous assessment course, attendance is compulsory.

Tutorial courses (UE) aim to help students acquire, practice and perfect practical skills and knowledge of the subject or one of its topics. A tutorial course is a continuous assessment course, attendance is compulsory.

Seminar courses (SE) are advanced academic courses to acquire more in-depth knowledge, to discuss and reflect academic issues through active participation on the part of the students. A seminar course is a continuous assessment course, attendance is compulsory.

Field trip courses (EX) are intended to promote and exemplify specialised knowledge beyond the classroom. A field trip course is a continuous assessment course, attendance is compulsory.

Colloquium courses (KO) serve as a forum for academic discussion, debate and collaboration, the consolidation of specialist knowledge and the specialised supervision of theses, dissertations, and research. A colloquium is a continuous assessment course, attendance is compulsory.

§ 5 Programme content and course structure

The following contains a list of modules and courses of the Master's programme in Geography. The attribution to semesters serves as a recommendation designed to ensure that the order in which the courses are taken is optimally built on previous knowledge and that the workload of 60 ECTS credit points within an academic year is not exceeded. However, modules and courses can be taken in a different order if there are no preconditions according to § 12.
Detailed descriptions of the modules including the knowledge, methods, and skills to be imparted can be found in Annex I: Description of modules.

Master's degree programme Geography								
Module	**Course**	**SHrs.**	**Type**	**ECTS**	**Semester with ECTS**			
					I	**II**	**III**	**IV**
(1) Compulsory cross-focus modules								
855 M1 Theories and Global Perspectives in Geography								
Global Problems and Perspectives*		2	VO	3	3			
Climate, Ecosystems and Society*		2	VO	3		3		
Theories and Core Concepts in Geography		2	SE	3	3			
Scientific Communication and Writing		2	UE	3		3		
Interim total 855 M1		8		12	6	6		
855 M2 Field Trip								
Geography Field Trip		5	EX	6		6		
Interim total 855 M2		5		6		6		
Interim total compulsory cross-focus modules		**13**		**18**	**6**	**12**		
(2) Focus Area modules – Students can choose from three specializations. Each specialization requires 42 ECTS credit points.								
Focus area 1: Applied Geomorphology and Mountain Hazards								
855 M11# Mountain Environments, Climate and Earth Surface Processes								
Mountain Environments		2	VO	3	3			
Earth Surface Processes		2	SE	3	3			

Seminar Climate and Ecosystems*	2	SE	3	3			
Applied Data Analysis in Climate & Environmental Sciences	2	UE	3		3		
Interim total 855 M11	8		12	9	3		
855 M12# Natural Hazards 1							
Natural Hazards and Risk Management*	2	VO	3		3		
Geohazards and Mitigation Strategies	2	UE/UV	3		3		
Interim total 855 M12	4		6		6		
855 M13 Natural Hazards 2							
Natural Hazards Management – Hands on	2	UE	3				3
Hazards and Risk in an Alpine Setting	2	EX	3				3
Interim total 855 M12	4		6				6
855 M14 Advanced Analytical Techniques							
Advanced GIS and Remote Sensing	2	UE	3	3			
Statistics, Geospatial Analysis, and Visualization	2	UE	3	3			
Field Techniques in Geomorphology and Hazard Analysis	2	UE	6		6		
Interim total 855 M13	6		12	6	6		
855 M15 Applications and Perspectives in Geomorphology and Mountain Hazards							
Applications and Perspectives in Geomorphology and Mountain Hazards	2	UE	3			3	
Perspectives in Physical Geography 1	1	KO	1,5			1,5	
Perspectives in Physical Geography 2	1	KO	1,5				1,5
Interim total 855 M14	4		6			4,5	1,5
Interim total focus area 1	**26**		**42**	**15**	**15**	**4,5**	**7,5**
Focus area 2: Climate, Ecosystems and Urban Ecology							
855 M21# Introduction into Climate and Ecosystems							
Mountain Environments	2	VO	3	3			
Seminar Climate and Ecosystems*	2	SE	3	3			
Interim total 855 M21	4		6	6			
855 M22# Urban Ecology							
Urban Ecology	2	VO	3	3			
Seminar Urban Ecology*	2	SE	3		3		
Interim total 855 M21	4		6	3	3		
855 M23# Landscapes, Cities & Geodata							
Advanced GIS & Remote Sensing	2	UE	3	3			
Statistics, Geospatial Analysis, and Visualization	2	UE	3	3			
Advanced Seminar Climate, Ecosystems and Urban Ecology*	2	SE	3		3		
Field Trip Climate, Ecosystems and Urban Ecology*	2	EX	3		3		
Interim total 855 M22	8		12	6	6		

855 M24# Applied Project Study							
Methods & Analytics (Theory)	2	SE	3			3	
Advanced Field Training Course (Practice)	2	UE/EX	3				3
Multicriteria & Scenario Analysis	2	UE/EX	3			3	
Perspectives in Physical Geography 1	1	KO	1,5			1,5	
Perspectives in Physical Geography 2	1	KO	1,5				1,5
Interim total 855 M23	8		12			7,5	4,5
855 M25# Applications in Science and Practice							
Applied Data Analysis in Climate & Environmental Sciences	2	UE	3				3
Real-world Laboratory with External Actors*	2	UE/SE	3			3	
Interim total 855 M24	4		6			3	3
Interim total focus area 2	**28**		**42**	**15**	**9**	**10,5**	**7,5**
Focus area 3: Socio-Ecological Transformations							
855 M31# Local Strategies of Socio-Ecological Transformation							
Urban Social Geography*	2	VO	3		3		
Local Commons*	2	SE/UE	6	6			
Multivariate Statistics	2	UE	3	3			
Interim total 855 M31	6		12	9	3		
855 M32# Feminist and Labour Geography							
Global Uneven Development*	2	VO	3		3		
Work, Labour and Ecology*	2	UE/KO	3		3		
Interim total 855 M32	4		6		6		
855 M33# Socio-Ecological Transformation							
Economic Change and Socio-Ecological Transformation*	2	VO	3			3	
Power and Socio-Ecological Transformation*	2	UE/KO	3			3	
Interim total 855 M33	4		6			6	
855 M34# Housing and Socio-Ecological Transformation							
Housing, Inequalities and Planning*	2	SE	6			6	
Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods in Practice	2	SE	6			6	
Interim total 855 M34	4		12			12	
855 M35 Challenges of Socio-Ecological Transformation							
Challenges of Socio-Ecological Transformation	2	SE	6		6		
Interim total 855 M35	2		6		6		
Interim total focus area 3	**20**		**42**	**9**	**15**	**18**	

(3) Compulsory elective module							
Students can select different types of courses in the following fields: - external CIVIS, Erasmus, BIP courses, summer schools - courses from one of the focus areas (out of the selected specification) - courses from neighbouring subjects			6	3	3		
Interim total compulsory elective module			**6**	**3**	**3**		
Compulsory Modules total			**66**				
(4) Free elective courses			**12**	**6**	**0**	**6**	
(5) Compulsory internship			**12**	**3**	**3**	**6**	
(6) Graduation module							
855 M41 Graduation							
Master colloquium	1	KO	1				1
Master thesis			27				27
Final exam			2				2
Interim total graduation module	1		**30**				**30**
Total			**120**	**60**		**60**	

Courses marked with (*) especially cover topics related to the socio-ecological crises.

§ 6 Compulsory elective courses

Compulsory elective courses provide the opportunity to gain insights into additional aspects related to the Master's programme in Geography. Students can select several types of courses amounting to 6 ECTS credit points in the following fields:

- external subject-related CIVIS/Erasmus BIP (Blended Intensive Programmes) courses and other summer schools, or
- courses from one of the other focus areas (additional to the chosen focus).

§ 7 Free elective courses

(1) In the Master's programme in Geography students are to complete free elective courses totalling 12 ECTS credit points. These free elective courses can be selected from the range of courses offered by all recognised post-secondary educational institutions without restriction and are designed to further the acquisition of additional professional skills and to strengthen individual areas of focus within a student's course of study.

(2) If the courses chosen are closely subject related to the amount of 12 ECTS credit points, the free elective courses can constitute a supplementary note in the Master's certificate as or "supplementary study programme". Depending on the chosen focus area, we recommend selecting courses from the neighbouring subjects of Geology, Biology, Environmental Studies or Sociology.

§ 8 Master thesis

(1) The Master's thesis serves to demonstrate that the students have acquired the capability to independently perform academic research in the field of Geography according to current academic research methods and standards.

(2) The topic of the Master's thesis should be chosen in such a way that it is reasonable and appropriate to complete the thesis within six months (cf. § 81 para. 2 UG).

(3) The topic of the Master's thesis must be taken from one of the modules in the Master's programme. The student is entitled to suggest a topic or to choose the topic from a number of topics proposed by the available thesis advisors.

(4) The Master's thesis is worth 27 ECTS credit points.

(5) Students are obliged to attend the master colloquium, as this seminar serves to support students in the preparation of their thesis.

(6) It is to be noted that both the student's work on the topic and the advisor's work with the student are subject to the Austrian Copyright Act, Federal Law Gazette No. 111/1936 (cf. § 80 para. 2 UG).

§ 9 Compulsory Internship

(1) As part of the Master's degree programme in Geography, students must complete a compulsory internship related to the programme comprising, or equivalent to 8 weeks of full-time employment (this corresponds to 12 ECTS credit points). The internship should enable students to use the knowledge and skills they have gained during their studies so far.

(2) The internship is generally to be completed outside of the university in institutions pre-approved by the governing body responsible for study matters. Prior to starting work the responsible governing body must be informed of the internship and the selected institution, and both must be approved by the responsible governing body.

(3) Should it not be possible to complete the internship outside the university in justified cases, students may complete an internship by participating in research projects at the university, as far as this is possible at the university and as far as this is approved by the responsible governing body.

(4) Students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses will be supported by the university as far as internships are concerned. If it is not possible to obtain an internship at possible institutions due to inadequate infrastructure (physical as well as infrastructural accessibility), students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses will be given another opportunity to fulfil this part of the curriculum.

§ 10 International mobility

Students of the Master's degree programme in Geography are recommended to spend a semester of study abroad. The semesters 2 to 3 are particularly suited for this study abroad. The recognition of courses and other academic achievements completed during the study abroad is conducted by the governing body responsible for study matters. The documents required for the assessment are to be provided by the student.

It is ensured that semesters abroad are possible without causing a delay in a student's course of study if the following conditions are met:

- during each semester abroad courses and other academic achievements totalling at least 30 ECTS credit points are completed
- the courses and other academic achievements completed during the study abroad are not identical to the content of courses and academic achievements already completed at the University of Salzburg

- before starting the semester abroad, it is stated by means of an official order which of the planned examinations will be recognised for the examinations stipulated in the curriculum.

In addition to subject-specific competences students can acquire the following qualifications by studying abroad:

- Acquisition and deepening of subject-specific knowledge of a foreign language
- Acquisition and deepening of general foreign-language skills (comprehension, conversation)
- Acquisition and deepening of organisational skills by independently planning the day-to-day study life in international administrative and university structures
- Familiarising with and studying in international university systems as well as broadening the individual perspectives in the student's own field of study
- Acquisition and deepening of intercultural competences.

Students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses will be actively assisted by the university in searching for an opportunity to study abroad and in planning the semester abroad.

§ 11 Allocation of study places in courses with a limited number of participants

(1) For the following types of course the number of participants in the Master's programme in [Name of programme] is limited as follows:

Lectures (VO)	**No limitation**
Exercise (UE)	**16**
Seminar (SE)	**25**
Excursion (EX)	**25**
Colloquium courses (KO)	**25**

(2) If the maximum number of participants is exceeded by the number of enrolments for courses with a limited number of participants, those students for whom this course is part of their curriculum will be given priority.

(3) Study places will be allocated in the order specified in the Statutes of the University of Salzburg.

(4) For students participating in international exchange programmes, additional study places constituting at least ten percent of the maximum number of participants on each course will be available. These study places will be allocated by lot.

§ 12 Admission requirements for exams

There are no courses that constitute a mandatory prerequisite for admission to any other course in the Master's programme in Geography. However, students are urged to follow the recommended plan of study, especially regarding the following courses:

- The courses "Advanced GIS and Remote Sensing" should be completed prior to "Geohazards and Mitigation Strategies" and "Natural Hazards Management – Hands on"
- The courses "Advanced GIS and Remote Sensing" and "Statistics, Geospatial Analysis and Visualization" should be completed prior to the course "Multicriteria & Scenario Analysis".

§ 13 Exam regulations

Examination is course-based with individual examination types for each course type. Lectures are assessed based on a single written or oral exam at the end of the course. For other course types, individual examination formats apply including reports, essays, and tests.

§ 14 Master's examination before examining committee

(1) The Master's programme in Geography is concluded with a Master's examination before an examining committee worth 2 ECTS credit points.
(2) Taking the Master's examination before an examining committee requires proof of successful completion of all prescribed examinations, the compulsory internship and positive assessment of the Master's thesis.
(3) The Master's examination before an examining committee consists of:

- a presentation of the Master's thesis by the person taking the examination (approx. 10 minutes),
- questions on the topic of the Master's thesis by the members of the examining committee,
- questions on two separate topics different from the topic of the Master's thesis proposed by the candidate from the modules marked with # in the Master's programme in accordance with § 8 para. 3.

§ 15 Effective date

The curriculum comes into force 1 October 2025

§ 16 Transitional provisions

(1) Students who are registered for the Master's degree programme Geography at the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg (2016 Version, University Bulletin, Special number 139, 20 April 2016) at the time this curriculum becomes effective are entitled to complete their studies at the latest by 30 September 2027 in accordance with these study regulations.

(2) Students are entitled to voluntarily enrol in this Master's degree programme at any time within the admission period. A written irrevocable declaration to this effect must be sent to the Admissions Office.

Course equivalency lists can be found in Annex II.

Annex I: Description of modules
Master Geography 2025

(1) Compulsory cross-focus modules

Module name	**Theories and Global Perspectives in Geography**
Module code	855 M1
Total workload	12
Learning Outcomes	Students have an extended understanding of social and natural science approaches to current social and ecological challenges. Students conceive global and local perspectives on environmental and climate change as well as social and economic problems and appraise geographical solutions. Students know core concepts of geographical thinking and can communicate scientific knowledge in various professional environments.
Module content	Global problems like environmental and climate change and its impacts, outlooks and risks in selected regions, the uneven economic and social development, the increasing economic and social interrelations. Earth's system functioning, save operating space for planet earth, potential tipping points in the climate system and man-made alterations. Theories and core concepts of geography including space, time, scale, systems theory, complexity, feedback and others. Technique of scientific communication like writing, presentation techniques, media.
Courses	• VO Global Problems and Perspectives • VO Climate, Ecosystems and Society • SE Theories and Core Concepts in Geography • UE Scientific Communication and Writing
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

Module name	**Field Trip**
Module code	855 M2
Total workload	6
Learning Outcomes	Students perceive, describe, and interpret spatial phenomena, relationships and structures observed in the field. Students recognise different social and natural science approaches and methods and can apply them in the field. Students gain a deepened understanding of geographical processes and structures. They can document and summarise their observations using field notes, sketches and in a report.
Module content	The **geographical field trip** is designed to provide students, researchers, or enthusiasts with hands-on experience in observing and analysing geographical phenomena in real-world settings. These trips complement classroom-based learning by offering a practical understanding of physical and human geography.
Courses	• EX Geography Field Trip
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

(2) Focus area 1: Applied Geomorphology and Mountain Hazards

Module name	**Mountain Environments, Climate and Earth Surface Processes**
Module code	855 M11
Total workload	12
Learning Outcomes	Students can explain fundamental formative processes and environmental conditions of mountain environments. Students can differentiate mountain specific dynamics from lowlands conditions and can link natural processes to hazards and climate change impacts. Students have an in-depth understanding of earth surface, climatic and ecologic processes, and structures. Students master collection, analysis and application of climate and environmental data.
Module content	Environmental settings and ecosystem conditions of mountain environments are introduced in this module. Fundamental principles of mountain climate, geomorphic and hydrologic processes will be updated and extended and linked to ecosystem settings and landscape patterns to fully grasp the uniqueness of mountain environments. The module lays the foundation for the in-depth understanding of climate change impacts and natural hazard occurrences in mountain environments. Climate and environment data analysis techniques are provided linking theoretical Module contents with applications and scientific solutions.
Courses	• VO Mountain Environments • SE Earth Surface Processes • SE Seminar Climate and Ecosystems • UE Applied Data Analysis in Climate & Environmental Sciences
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

Module name	**Natural Hazards 1**
Module code	855 M12
Total workload	6
Learning Outcomes	Students are familiar with fundamental natural hazard processes and know about formation principles and trigger mechanisms. Students know strategies of hazard assessment and can assess required methods and fundamental data needs. Students master the principles of risk assessment and management practices in the context of natural hazards in a changing climate and society. Students apply simulations and models to assess hazard process effects and design hazard prevention strategies.
Module content	This module addresses fundamentals and applications of natural hazards and risk management in a changing climate including: - Natural processes and environmental conditions causing hazards and risks - Principles of hazard assessment and risk management. - Vulnerability of natural and human systems - Hazard mitigation strategies and modelling techniques.
Courses	• VO Natural Hazards and Risk Management • UE/UV Geohazards and Mitigation Strategies
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

Module name	**Natural Hazards 2**
Module code	855 M13
Total workload	6
Learning Outcomes	Students master principles and methods of hazard assessment applied to a real-world example. Students can identify hazardous natural conditions in the field and are familiar with applied management strategies. Students can reflect on climate change impacts on mountain environments and societies and know of potential adaptation strategies. Students are familiar with the role and the responsibilities of stakeholders in the field of hazard and risk management.
Module content	This module extends knowledge of natural hazards and risk management to real-world examples. Topics addressed include: - Application of hazard assessment techniques - Planning and decision making of mitigation measures - Climate change impacts on mountain societies and adaptation strategies - Stakeholders and decision makers in risk management
Courses	• UE Natural Hazards Management – Hands on • EX Hazards and Risk in an Alpine Setting
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

Module name	**Advanced Analytical Techniques**
Module code	855 M14
Total workload	12
Learning Outcomes	Students know and master data analysis tools in applied geomorphology, environmental and hazard analysis. Students can evaluate geoscientific methods and know of benefits and trade-offs. Students are familiar with typical applications of methods and can select appropriate techniques for various applied problems. Students can design and plan a scientific field campaign focussing on natural hazard assessment. Students can document and report field observations.
Module content	Experience various desk and field-based analysis tools central to the solution of problems in applied geomorphology, hazards and ecosystem analysis. The tools include: - GIS and Remote Sensing applications - Statistical and geostatistical analysis using R - Visualisation techniques in the context on environmental and hazard analysis and communication - Field techniques including surveying, sampling, subsurface analysis (geophysics, coring), laserscanning and related data analysis tools
Courses	• UE Advanced GIS and Remote Sensing • UE Statistics, Geospatial Analysis, and Visualization • UE Field Techniques in Geomorphology and Hazard Analysis
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

Module name	**Applications and Perspectives in Geomorphology and Mountain Hazards**
Module code	855 M15
Total workload	6
Learning Outcomes	Students can set hazard management issues and climate change related responses into a specific, applied context. Students appraise current management practices in the context of natural hazard and know about the role of stakeholders. Students can critically discuss and evaluate scientific publications in the context of Physical Geography.
Module content	Real-world examples of current hazard management strategies are presented by external experts. Students get hands-on experience of urging environmental problems and hazard situations and learn how experts and stakeholders address these issues. Current scientific perspectives on hazard research and Physical Geography and ongoing master thesis activities are discussed in a journal club style colloquium.
Courses	• UE Applications and Perspectives in Geomorphology and Mountain Hazards • KO Perspectives in Physical Geography 1 • KO Perspectives in Physical Geography 2
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

(3) Focus area 2: Climate, Ecosystems and Urban Ecology

Module name	**Introduction to Climate and Ecosystems**
Module code	855 M21
Total workload	6
Learning Outcomes	Students understand the importance of selected topics in climate and environmental/ecosystem research. They can transfer science-based knowledge about climate and environment to neighbouring disciplines and to society. They can communicate and present a topic from climate and environmental science at high level, considering the standards of scientific working and writing. They are aware of topical interrelations and can place specific issues into a broader scientific and societal significance.
Module content	Selected background and methods related to the understanding of climate and environmental dynamics, and ecosystems.
Courses	• VO Mountain Environments • SE Seminar Climate and Ecosystems
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

Module name	**Urban Ecology**
Module code	855 M22
Total workload	6
Learning Outcomes	Students understand the fundamentals of urban ecology, which deals with the ecological analysis, assessment, use and development of urban ecosystems. Students understand ecological systems using the example of urban ecosystems. They can analyse and evaluate urban ecosystems (indicators, principles, methods). They know relevant and selected methods to map and categorize urban nature and land use. Students can make appropriate choices of analytical methods for different research questions in urban ecology. They can transfer ecological knowledge to nature and biodiversity conservation in urban areas. They can identify problems and paradigms of environmental development and structural change in cities and apply them in development and design models.
Module content	Introduction to urban ecology and basic elements of sustainable development. Basic theories, concepts and schools of urban ecology. Urban ecology research and methodology at different scales in urban ecosystems (global, regional, and local). Urban land use systems, ecological systems and their interactions. Mapping and analysis of urban nature and land use using selected methods.
Courses	• VO Urban Ecology • SE Seminar Urban Ecology
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

Module name	**Landscapes, Cities & Geodata**
Module code	855 M23
Total workload	12 ECTS
Learning Outcomes	Students have an in-depth understanding of the major principles of data, data availability and production in landscape and urban change research. They master the practical application of different statistical methods for the problems at hand. They understand the importance of space/time for the analysis and interpretation of environmental data. Students are aware of problems on different data types and can critically provide correct interpretations of data usage and potential errors. They generate scripts for an automated processing of environmental and observational data. They communicate and visualise advanced methods of data obtaining, processing and visualization.
Module content	Selected methods related to the processing of Earth observation data, big data; Real-time application of obtained knowledge during field trips including teamwork in small groups
Courses	• UE Advanced GIS and Remote Sensing • UE Statistics, Geospatial Analysis and Visualization

	• SE Advanced Seminar Climate, Ecosystems and Urban Ecology • EX Field Trip Climate, Ecosystems and Urban Ecology
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

Module name	**Applied Project Study**
Module code	855 M24
Total workload	12 ECTS
Learning Outcomes	Students master advanced analytical techniques and corresponding instruments for climate and ecological research. They have an in-depth understanding of essential measuring principles and can design and evaluate analytical research plans. They can critically evaluate the performance and quality of measuring techniques and master the handling of analytical field data. Students can critically discuss and evaluate scientific publications in the context of Physical Geography.
Module content	Design and implementation of a clearly defined research project of manageable size in time and content in accordance with and under guidance from the responsible lecturers. Introduction into the competent application of suitable field measuring methods and devices. Independent data acquisition through learned applications and instruments. Subsequent data treatment, statistical testing, data interpretation and data visualization using up to date software products (e.g. R, ArcGIS), explore alternative outcomes of planning or management decisions
Courses	• SE Methods & Analytics (Theory) • UE/EX Advanced Field Training Course (Practice) • UE/EX Multicriteria & Scenario Analysis • KO Perspectives in Physical Geography 1 • KO Perspectives in Physical Geography 2
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

Module name	**Applications in Science and Practice**
Module code	855 M25
Total workload	6 ECTS
Learning Outcomes	Students can independently design and systematically transfer problem-orientated questions within clear targets/objectives. They can select suitable methods to empirically treat the selected set of seminar topics. Students identify adequate theoretical approaches and place their own research topic within the theoretical approach. They show awareness of and organize logical demands of research objectives. They communicate methods, principles and results both competent and understandable to experts and non-experts in their field.
Module content	In-depth study of selected research-oriented topics in climate and environmental science as well as urban ecology from scientific literature. The real-world laboratory is focused on the implementation of external players as lecturers to cross-educate between university and e.g. players from economy (spatial planning offices), state agencies policy makers and decision

	makers from various backgrounds (e.g. actors from landscape planning, nature conservation and environmental protection).
Courses	• UE Applied Data Analysis in Climate & Environmental Sciences • UE/SE Real-world Laboratory with External Actors
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

(4) Focus area 3: Socio-Ecological Transformations

Module name	**Local Strategies of Socio-Ecological Transformation**
Module code	855 M31
Total workload	12 ECTS
Learning Outcomes	Students can transfer the planetary boundary topics to the local and regional scales. They can apply theories of local self-governance, local common approaches, and urbanism to concrete instances. They can utilize multivariate statistic methods to understand local transformation strategies methodologically.
Module content	Issues of socio-ecological transformation will be translated to the urban and rural contexts. Sustainable development – with its social, ecological and economic domains – will be discussed by referring to the SDGs. The idea of commons will be presented using approaches ranging from market to communalist approaches. Multivariate statistics will be used to understand local transformation strategies from a methodological perspective.
Courses	• VO Urban Social Geography • SE/UE Local Commons • UE Multivariate Statistics
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

Module name	**Feminist and Labour Geography**
Module code	855 M32
Total workload	6 ECTS
Learning Outcomes	Students are aware of the relevant theories in Feminist and Labour Geography and can critically evaluate them. They develop skills to perceive, analyse and intervene in the public and academic debate for a sustainable and caring concept of work and economy.
Module content	As a social natural being, humans are the direct interface between society and ecology. On the one hand, their lives are necessarily individual and physical in nature and are therefore vulnerable and finite. In this sense, humans are part of nature. On the other hand, humans interact with nature through work, changing and shaping it. In their work, humans enter into a metabolism with nature and thus produce space. This does not happen individually, but in economic and social structures.
Courses	• VO Global Uneven Development • UE/KO Work, Labour and Ecology
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

Module name	**Socio-Ecological Transformation**
Module code	855 M33
Total workload	6 ECTS
Learning Outcomes	Students will be able to critically analyse theories of uneven development, economic change, and socio-ecological transformation. Students recognise the economic constraints and incentives that cause greenhouse gas emissions. Students understand the scope and content of the necessary socio-ecological transformation in the context of planetary boundaries and the dynamics of tipping points. Students recognise processes and driving-forces of economic change and uneven development on different geographical scales and situate these in the context of ecological constraints and changes in the Earth system.
Module content	Students are informed about different phases of capitalist development and the social metabolism with nature, processes of international expansion and international reconfiguration of the division of labour, innovation processes and industrial changes, the importance of financial capital, public debt, the economic significance of the state, the key processes of valorisation of nature, processes of uneven development as well as the content, scope and urgency of a socio-ecological transformation.
Courses	• VO Economic Change and Socio-Ecological Transformation • KO/UE Power and Socio-Ecological Transformation
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

Module name	**Housing and Socio-Ecological Transformation**
Module code	855 M34
Total workload	12 ECTS
Learning Outcomes	Students understand strategies and concepts for socio-ecological transformations in the realm of housing. They master approaches how to measure inequalities in different dimensions and on different spatial scales and critically reflect value judgments implicit to these measures. Students have in-depth knowledge of historical and current trends that are discussed in critical urban and housing studies. They can design and carry-out a research project in the context of Housing and socio-ecological transformation.
Module content	Students receive profound insights into applied urban and housing studies and its conceptual and methodological diversity. Thematically, this module deals with global and local housing questions as well as broader societal processes that shape urban inequalities. Beyond theoretical concepts and approaches students learn how to tackle geographies of inequalities from an applied critical perspective. This includes a reflective discussion and development of “planning solutions” based on case studies. Methodically, this module provides a well-structured overview and an application of qualitative research methods in social science.

Courses	• SE Housing, Inequalities and Planning • SE Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods in Practice
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

Module name	**Challenges of Socio-Ecological Transformation**
Module code	855 M35
Total workload	6 ECTS
Learning Outcomes	Students understand industrial changes, global financial flows, the indebtedness of public budgets and the economic valorisation of nature in the context the changing earth system and increasing ecological constraints. Students deal competently with theoretical and empirical economic processes in their spatial and ecological dimensions. Students recognize and assess political and institutional processes in relation to their consequences for economic change and unequal development. Students deal with theoretical and empirical questions. By working on current issues, they can assess theories and concepts, place them in social contexts and critically scrutinise them. Students identify and critically analyse theoretical and empirical literature. They handle literature databases, identify and evaluate statistical material and synthesise contradictory phenomena. Students use research methods appropriately. Students write seminar papers with appropriate content and correct form, present them orally in an attractive manner and critically reflect on and assess other papers.
Module content	The module contextualizes empirical and theoretical questions in specific phases of capitalist development and social metabolism with nature, processes of international expansion and international reconfiguration of the division of labor, innovation processes and industrial changes, the importance of financial capital, public debt, the economic significance of the state, the key processes of valorisation of nature, processes of uneven development as well as the content, scope and urgency of a socio-ecological transformation.
Courses	• SE Challenges of Socio-Ecological Transformation
Type of exam	Course-oriented type of exam

Annex II: Course equivalency lists

Curriculum 2016			Curriculum 2025		
Type	Name	ECTS	Type	Name	ECTS
SE	Prozessgeomorphologie	4	SE	Earth Surface Processes	3
KO	Geomorphologisches Kolloquium	2	KO	Perspectives in Physical Geography 1	1.5
VO	Naturgefahren und Risikomanagement	2	VO	Natural Hazards and Risk Management	3
EX	Naturgefahren und Risiken im Alpenraum	4	EX	Hazards and Risk in an Alpine Setting	3
UE	Digitale Reliefanalyse	4	UE	Advanced GIS and Remote Sensing	3
UE	Geomorphologisches Geländepraktikum	8	UE	Field Techniques in Geomorphology and Hazard Analysis	6
VO	Ökonomischer Wandel	3	VO	Economic Change and Socio-Ecological Transformation	3
VO	Global ungleiche Entwicklung	3	VO	Global Uneven Development	3
SE	Probleme global ungleicher Entwicklung	6	UE/KO	Work, Labour and Ecology	3
SE	Geographies of Inequalities	6	VO	Housing, Inequalities and Planning	6
VU	Modelling Geographical Systems	3	SE	Qualitative Research Methods in Practice	6
VO	Grundlagen der Stadtökologie	3	VO	Urban Ecology	3
SE	Management von Stadtökosystemen	4	SE	Seminar Urban Ecology	3
UE	Stadtökosysteme / Urbane Biodiversität	5	UE/EX	Advanced Field Training Course (Practice)	3
VO	Urbane Ökosysteme	3	SE	Seminar Climate and Ecosystems	3
UE	Natur- und Landschaftsschutz	6	UE/EX	Methods & Analytics (Theory)	3
VO	Management von Ökosystemen in der Raumplanung	3	UE	Advanced Seminar: Climate, Ecosystems and Urban Ecology	3
SE	Nachhaltigkeit und Regionale Entwicklung	4	UE/SE	Real-world Laboratory with External Actors	3
EX	Nachhaltiges Landschaftsmanagement	5	UE	Multicriteria & scenario analysis	3

Annex III: Application procedure

The application procedure consists of two phases:

Phase 1: Online application
Generally, all documents submitted from outside the EU, including all certificates and confirmations, must be verified by the country of origin and acknowledged by the Austrian representation authorities in that country (see the admissions department website https://www.plus.ac.at/studium/vor-dem-studium-3/?lang=en).
The following documents must be provided:

- Application form
- Bachelor's diploma, diploma supplement (including course duration, description of the content and credits) and / or transcript of records including course titles, credit hours & grades
- Copy of passport
- Proof of language proficiency (e.g., school leaving certificate "Reifeprüfungszeugnis" within the EU)

Details including application deadlines can be found on the admissions department website.

Phase 2: Preselection
Based on the online application the admission team pre-selects applicants and passes qualifying applicants to the admission department of the University of Salzburg.
The final decision on admission is made by the University of Salzburg.
Candidates may be invited for interview (online) with the admission team if the documents provided online are insufficient to judge an applicant's qualification.
Criteria for the interviews include:

- Key competences for the intended Master's programme
- Subject-related English skills
- Motivation and expectations
- Previous academic achievements or practical experience

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