



UNIL | Université de Lausanne

Faculté des géosciences
et de l'environnement

Maîtrise universitaire ès Sciences en sciences
de l'environnement

Master of Science (MSc) in Environmental Science

Faculty of Geosciences and Environment
University of Lausanne

Rules & regulations

For information purposes only

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Only the original version in French is binding*

Entry into force | 19.09.2023



Faculty of Geosciences and environment | www.unil.ch/gse

Maîtrise universitaire ès Sciences en sciences de l'environnement

Master of Science (MSc) in Environmental Science

In this document, the masculine form is used generically,
all titles and functions apply equally to women and men.

Chapter 1 – General

Article 1 Object

The Master of Science (MSc) in Environmental Science of the Faculty of Geosciences and Environment of the University of Lausanne aims to offer a cutting-edge university education while deepening an orientation.

Article 2 Objectives of training

¹The training objectives must lead students to be able to:

- Describe, understand and model physical and/or chemical processes, of natural or anthropogenic origin
- Master and know how to use quantitative methodologies in environmental sciences (field measurements, laboratory, data analysis)
- Choose appropriate techniques for assessing and monitoring environmental issues
- Problematize a theme on theoretical and empirical bases in the natural sciences
- Decode, analyze and appreciate scientific articles
- Know how to formulate a research problem
- Take into account the complexity, uncertainties and limits of knowledge about environmental processes
- Know how to write and present a scientific and technical work
- Know how to communicate on an environmental issue with non-specialists
- Be prepared to work in a multidisciplinary working group
- Understand the role of an environmental specialist in a multidisciplinary team.

²The additional training objectives by orientation are described in the study plan.

Chapter 2 – Management and organization

Article 3 Scientific Committee

¹ The curriculum is placed under the responsibility of the Deanship, which can delegate certain tasks to a Scientific Committee.

² The Scientific Committee is made up of teachers (professors, teaching and research supervisors and assistant professors) participating in the compulsory courses of the programme. It also has three student members, one per orientation, elected among the students, as well as two representatives of the assistants. A member of the GSE Bureau de l'École is designated as a permanent guest.

³ The Scientific Committee proposes a coordinator among its members. The appointment of the coordinator is validated by the Faculty Council upon notice from the Conseil de l'École. The coordinator is elected for two years, renewable.

⁴ Amongst the tasks of the Scientific Committee are in particular:

- a) Draw up Rules and a Study Plan for the Master's course and submit them for approval to the competent authorities;
 - b) the admission of candidates in accordance with the directives of the CUS of December 4, 2003; it is the University's Registration and Enrollment Service (SII) that makes the final decision;
 - c) coordinate the courses and other activities provided for in the Study Plan as well as the conduct of the evaluations;
 - d) notify, for the competent authorities, cases of force majeure motivating a derogation from these rules or the study plan.
- ⁵ The Committee has the possibility of delegating part of its functions to one of its members of the teaching staff. The Committee draws up a list of the tasks delegated to one or more of its members and formally approves it at the beginning of each academic year, and at each renewal of the Committee.

Chapter 3 – Conditions of admission

Article 4 Admission

- ¹ Can be admitted to the course of the Master of Science (MSc) in Environmental Science students who meet the conditions of matriculation and registration in master of the University of Lausanne, and who hold a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Geosciences and Environment, mention environmental sciences or geology, awarded by the Faculty of Geosciences and the Environment of the University of Lausanne.
- ² Can be admitted students who meet the conditions for matriculation and registration for a master's degree at the University of Lausanne, and who benefit from:
- a) a university Baccalaureate (Bachelor) in one of the branches of study (swissuniversities) of environmental sciences or earth sciences from a Swiss university;
 - b) a Swiss or foreign university Baccalaureate, or a title deemed equivalent by the Registration and Registration Department, obtained in another field of study.
- ³ The students referred to in paragraph 2 submit an application file for this purpose, on the basis of which a personalized upgrade will be established by the Scientific Committee according to the basic training course. If the upgrade exceeds 60 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits, admission to the Master is refused.
- ⁴ An upgrade is said to be integrated if it gives the right to a maximum of 15 ECTS credits. In this case, the student is admitted to the course and upgrades at the same time. The rank is only issued once this upgrade has been successfully completed.
- ⁵ An upgrade exceeding 15 ECTS credits is said to be prior, and its success constitutes an additional condition for admission to the course. This prerequisite upgrade cannot exceed 60 ECTS credits.

Article 5 Équivalences

- ¹ A student who has previously received training at the recognized university master's level in a field of study close to the curriculum of the University Master of Science in environmental sciences, or who holds a recognized university degree obtained in another field of study. studies, can obtain equivalences. The Scientific Committee of the program proposes criteria and rules of procedure that the Deanship, competent in matters of equivalence, applies according to the candidate's file.
- ² In all cases, at least 80 ECTS credits (including 40 ECTS credits for the dissertation) out of the 120 required must be acquired as part of the Master of Science in Environmental Sciences course.

Article 6 Mobility

The Faculty sets the rules for establishing mobility programs and for recognizing the courses taken in these programs. As part of the course described above, the credits acquired in mobility can be recognized in the course up to a maximum of 30 ECTS credits.

Article 7 Procédure d'admission

- ¹ Les candidats déposent leur dossier de candidature, dans les délais impartis, auprès du Service des immatriculations et inscriptions (SII) de l'Université de Lausanne. Après examen des conditions administratives, le SII se prononce sur l'admissibilité formelle de chaque candidat et transmet sa décision au Décanat de la Faculté, le cas échéant.

- ² The Dean's Office sends all formally admissible applications to the Master's Scientific Committee.
- ³ After reviewing the files, the Scientific Committee decides on the selection of candidates admitted to the Master's course. The Scientific Committee transmits its reasoned decision to the Dean of the Faculty.
- ⁴ Based on the advise of the Scientific Committee, the Deans' office sends the decision of acceptance or reasoned refusal to the candidate with, if necessary, indication of the upgrade which is imposed, as well as the means and deadlines for appeal.
- ⁵ If accepted, the Dean's office specifies the period of validity of the registration authorization.

Chapter 4 – Duration of studies

Article 8 Duration

- ¹ The normal duration of the cursus is 4 semesters for full-time studies and 8 semesters for part-time studies.
- ² The maximum duration of the cursus is 6 semesters for full-time studies and 10 semesters for part-time studies. Exceeding this duration results in exclusion from the Master.
- ³ At the request of the student in writing, and for valid reasons recognized as such, the Dean of the Faculty may grant an exemption from the maximum duration of studies. This exemption cannot exceed two semesters.

Article 9 Congé

Articles 92 to 97 of the RLUL apply. Students who wish to temporarily interrupt their studies can request a leave of absence from the Dean of the Faculty. This leave cannot exceed 2 semesters.

Chapter 5 – Organization of studies

Article 10 Orientation

When submitting their application, the candidate chooses one orientation from the three proposed:

- aquatic science
- natural hazards and risk
- earth surface processes in mountain environments.

Article 11 Crédits ECTS et structure du cursus

¹ The number of ECTS credits to be acquired to obtain the Master's degree is 120 ECTS credits: 80 ECTS credits relate to teaching and 40 ECTS credits are allocated to the dissertation.

² The award of ECTS credits is conditional to successful completion of the assessments as specified in the Study Plan.

³ The cursus is made up of four parts. The first part is made up of two modules: Module 1 Fundamentals of Environmental Sciences for 10 ECTS credits and Module 2 Analysis of Environmental Data and Systems for 20 ECTS credits. The second part consists of an orientation module for 30 ECTS credits:

- Module 3A: Aquatic Sciences

Or

- Module 3B: Natural hazards and risk

Or

- Module 3C: Earth surface processes in mountain environments.

The third part is made up of a Module 4 of free choice courses for 20 ECTS credits in which the student can carry out an internship in business or administration (from 5 to 20 ECTS). The fourth part is composed of a Module 5 Master's thesis for 40 ECTS credits.

Chapter 6 – Conditions for passing assessments

Article 12

Knowledge check

- ¹ Each lesson is subject to evaluation. This can take the form of a written or oral examination or validation (continuous assessment, practical work: individual work, seminar, oral presentation, practical laboratory or field work, internship, work site, etc., provides within the framework of studies). A single evaluation can concern several lessons (integrative evaluation).
- ² The evaluation methods are defined in the Study Plan.
- ³ The grades assigned to a graded evaluation range from 1 to 6. 0 is a sanction reserved for cases of fraud, attempted fraud, plagiarism or unjustified absence. Scores are expressed in quarter points.
- ⁴ The results of the evaluations are notified to students by the Dean's Office.

Article 13

Registration, withdrawal and failure to assess

- ¹ The student registers for courses within the deadlines set by the Dean's Office and within the periods planned by the UNIL Management. Registration for courses automatically results in registration for the corresponding assessments. Deadlines are published at the start of the academic year.
- ² Evaluations are in principle carried out during the examination session directly following the teaching, i.e. the winter session for teaching in the fall semester, and the summer session for teaching in the spring semester.
- ³ The candidate who does not appear for an evaluation for which he is registered obtains a 0 unless he justifies his failure without delay to the Director of the GSE School regarding exams or to the teacher 'acting validations. Only valid reasons can be accepted (illness, accident, death of a loved one, etc.). For cases of illness or accident, a relevant medical certificate must be submitted to the Faculty within 3 days, unless there is a major impediment.

Article 14

Conditions for passing assessments

- ¹ The Study Plan provides for the conditions of success applied to courses whose evaluations must be passed independently and those for modules which are passed on the basis of an average.
- ² A course whose evaluation must be passed independently is acquired if the mark is greater than or equal to 4.00. The ECTS credits attached to this course are then awarded.
- ³ The lessons of a module are acquired if the average weighted by ECTS credits of the marks obtained is greater than or equal to 4.00. In this case no evaluation can be presented on a second attempt..
- ⁴ In the event of failure in a module, any evaluation score equal to or greater than 4.00 remains acquired.
- ⁵ The student has, in the event of failure in a course for which the assessment must be passed independently or in a module, a second attempt for each failed assessment.
- ⁶ In the event of a second failure in a course for which the evaluation must be passed independently, the student is authorized to follow and have another course evaluated for which the evaluation must be passed independently, subject to compliance with the maximum duration of studies.
- ⁷ A second failure in a module places the student in a situation of definitive failure.
- ⁸ If a student must resubmit certain assessments, the grades obtained on the second attempt are taken into account.

Article 15

Conditions of upgrade success

- ¹ Unless an exemption is granted by the Dean's Office upon notice from the Scientific Committee, the disciplines of integrated upgrading (maximum 15 ECTS credits) must be followed and passed during the first year of the Master's degree. In all cases, the integrated upgrade must be successful for the student to be admitted to defend the dissertation.
- ² The preliminary upgrade (more than 15 ECTS credits) must be followed and validated before entering the Master's degree. Successful completion is a condition for registration for the Master's degree.
- ³ The student attends the regular winter and summer sessions. The fall session is a make-up session.

- ⁴ The upgrade assessments (integrated or prerequisite) are passed if the weighted average by ECTS credits is equal to or greater than 4.0.
- ⁵ If the upgrade (integrated or prerequisite) fails, the student has a second attempt. Evaluation scores equal to or greater than 4.0 and successful evaluations remain acquired. The notes from the second attempt are kept.
- ⁶ In the event of a second failure in the preliminary upgrade, the student is a definitive failure and cannot be admitted to the Master's degree. In the event of a second failure of the integrated upgrade, the student will definitely fail the Master of Science in environmental sciences course.

Article 16
Change of
orientation

- ¹ The request for change of orientation must be sent to the students Admission Office within the deadlines set by the Directorate. The Admission Office transmits it to the Dean's Office, which submits it for approval by the scientific committee. The change is authorized if the student meets the admission conditions of the new orientation. Respect for the duration of studies provided for in Article 8 remains reserved.
- ² In the event of failure in the first attempt, the student is entitled to a second attempt at the failed assessments of the module making up their new orientation..
- ³ In the event of a second failure in the orientation module, it is no longer possible to change orientation, the student finding himself in a situation of definitive failure.
- ⁴ Only one change of orientation is possible within the course, subject to the maximum duration of studies (art. 8).

Article 17
Internship in
business /
administration

- ¹ As part of the study plan, an internship in a business or administration gives the right to a maximum of 20 ECTS credits which are registered in the free choice module. The number of credits granted depends on the duration of the internship as well as the content of the specifications.
- ² The student proposes to his/her supervisor a project for their internship in business or administration. If the teacher supports the project, it is submitted to the Committee for approval.
- ³ An agreement is established between the student, the responsible teacher and the project manager in the company/administration, regulating in particular the terms of engagement, remuneration, and the objectives of the internship in the company or administration, as well as that the number of ECTS granted.
- ⁴ The internship in business or administration and the corresponding ECTS credits are validated by the Scientific Committee on the basis of a report written by the student, accompanied by a certificate of activity established by the host organization and the documents produced by the student, an oral presentation for an internship in a company or administration of more than 3 months (or 10 ECTS) and an assessment of the signatories of the agreement. The oral presentation is carried out in the presence of the teacher supervising the dissertation and the project manager in the host structure.

Chapter 7 – Thesis

Article 18
Thesis

- ¹ The thesis is a personal research activity placed under the responsibility of a teacher member of the Scientific Committee (professor, teaching and research professor, assistant professor) as director of the thesis.
- ² A teacher from the Faculty can also direct a thesis, with the agreement of the Scientific Committee, which appoints one of its members as rapporteur.
- ³ A teacher from another Faculty or another University High School may also supervise a thesis, with the agreement of the Scientific Committee which appoints, with the approval of the Dean's Office, a rapporteur who is a member of the Scientific Committee.
- ⁴ The holder of a doctorate or a title deemed equivalent by the Dean's Office may be authorized to direct a thesis with the agreement of the Scientific Committee which appoints, with the approval of the Dean's Office, a rapporteur within the meaning of paragraph 1.
- ⁵ The quality of the thesis is judged on the basis of several criteria reflecting the quality of the personal research carried out.
- ⁶ The student must complete the thesis in the chosen orientation.
- ⁷ The instructions concerning the writing, formatting and defense of the thesis are regulated in a directive published on the Master's website..

Article 19
Conditions for
passing the thesis

- ¹ To be admitted to defend their thesis, the student must have passed the evaluations of the three teaching modules of parts 1 and 2 of the course (module 1, module 2 and module 3A, 3B or 3C), and obtained the 60 ECTS credits. correspondents. If applicable, he must have successfully completed his integrated upgrade program.
- ² The jury is made up of at least the thesis supervisor, where applicable the rapporteur, and an internal or external expert..
- ³ The jury awards a mark on the basis of the scientific quality of the thesis presented, the quality of the oral defense and the candidate's knowledge in the discipline concerned..
- ⁴ The thesis is passed and the 40 ECTS credits acquired if the mark reflecting the quality of the research, the writing quality of the thesis and the oral defense is equal to or greater than 4.00.
- ⁵ Any modifications to the thesis requested by the jury are entered in the defense protocol, the candidate having a maximum period of 10 days – from the day of the defense – to correct his/her work.
- ⁶ Late submission, a brief deemed insufficient, or failure to comply with the corrections requested during the defense are punishable by failure. In the event of failure, the student has a second attempt which must take place at the latest before the end of the following semester, subject to article 8 al. 2 of these regulations. Cases of force majeure duly justified in writing to the Dean of the Faculty remain reserved.
- ⁷ Cases of fraud, attempted fraud and plagiarism are governed by the Faculty Regulations (FGSE – Chapter 8, Organization of studies). The procedure applicable to students, in the event of plagiarism, is described in directive 3.15 of the Directorate relating to the treatment of cases of plagiarism in the context of teaching.

Article 20
Code of ethics

The student enrolled in the Master of Science in environmental sciences course completes and signs at the start of his/her Master the document relating to compliance with the Code of Ethics of the University of Lausanne in matters of borrowing, citation and exploitation of various sources and the Charter of the University of Lausanne. This document is placed in the student's file at the Dean's Office.

Chapter 8 – Exclusion

Article 21
Exclusion

- ¹ Is excluded from the Master of Science in environmental sciences at the University of Lausanne a student who can no longer meet the conditions for acquiring credits according to the Regulations and the Study Plan, following in particular:
 - a) a definitive failure in the evaluation of a module of the course or thesis;
 - b) exceeding the duration of studies provided for in this regulation;
 - c) a second failure of an integrated upgrade program.
- ² The exclusion decision is pronounced by the Dean of the Faculty, who may take into account exceptional situations in the cases described in letter b) above..

Article 22
Exclusion, dismissal,
exmatriculation

Articles 89, 90 and 91 of the RLUL apply for exclusion, dismissal or exmatriculation.

Chapter 9 – Appeal

Article 23
Appeal procedures

- ¹ Appeal procedures are subject to the laws and regulations of the University of Lausanne and the Faculty of Geosciences and the Environment.
- ² First instance appeals must be filed in writing with the Dean, Chairman of the Faculty Appeals Commission.
- ³ In the event of a challenge to the first instance decision, a second instance appeal may be filed according to the rules in force at the University of Lausanne (art. 83 LUL).

Chapter 10 – Delivery of the degree and diploma supplement

- Article 24**
Title of degree
- Based on current regulations, the title of the grade is as follows:
- Maîtrise universitaire ès Sciences en sciences de l'environnement / Master of Science (MSc) in Environmental Science
- « Orientation sciences aquatiques » *ou*
 - « Orientation dangers naturels et risque » *ou*
 - « Orientation processus de la surface terrestre en environnements de montagne »
- Master of Science (MSc) in Environmental Science
- « Orientation Aquatic Science » *or*
 - « Orientation Natural Hazards and Risk » *or*
 - « Orientation Earth Surface Processes in Mountain Environments »
- Article 25**
Award of the degree and diploma supplement
- ¹ The degree is awarded to the student who has obtained the required ECTS credits in the teaching modules and the dissertation, in accordance with the Study Plan and within the set deadlines..
- ² The Dean of the Faculty requests the issuance of the degree and diploma supplement to the administrative authorities of the University.

Chapter 11 – Entry into force and transitional provisions

- Article 26**
Coming into force
- These Regulations come into force on September 21, 2021. They repeal and replace the corresponding Regulations dated September 14, 2020 and apply to all students.
- Article 27**
Transitional measures
- The reference to the RLUL (article 9 paragraph 2 and article 22 paragraph 2 of the previous study regulations) is deleted. This change applies to all students from January 1, 2021.

Chapter 12 – Supplementary right

- Article 28**
Supplementary right
- The RLUL, RGE and the RFGSE apply for the remainder.

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Approved by the Faculty Council in its meeting of April 5, 2023.

Adopted by Management in its meeting of June 6, 2023.