UNIL | Université de Lausanne
Faculté des géosciences
et de l'environnement

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE
FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES

Maîtrise universitaire ès Sciences en géologie
Master of Science (MSc) in Geology

Rules and Regulations

Entry into force: 16 September 2019

This translation is for information purposes only. The language of the original documents takes precedence.

ELSTE
UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE
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In these rules and regulations, male pronouns are used indiscriminately for females and males

Preamble

The Joint Geneva and Lausanne School of Earth Sciences (ELSTE) Agreement was signed on 7 July 1999, then renewed most recently on January, the 11, 2018. The Agreement applies to:

- the University of Geneva's Department of Earth Sciences, part of the Earth and Environmental Sciences Section of the University of Geneva's Faculty of Sciences;
- the University of Lausanne's Institute of Earth Sciences, part of the University of Lausanne's Faculty of Geosciences and Environment.

Chapter 1 – General Provisions

Article 1
Introduction

[1] The Universities of Geneva and Lausanne (hereinafter, "the partner universities") jointly award a Master of Science (MSc) in Earth sciences which constitutes a basic university program of study pursuant to the Framework agreement of 27 March 2009 on the creation of common Bachelor's and Master's programs between the Universities of Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne, and Neuchâtel, and as stipulated in swissuniversities provisions.

[2] The academic units concerned (hereinafter, "the partner faculties") are:

- The University of Geneva's Faculty of Sciences
- The University of Lausanne's Faculty of Geosciences and Environment.

Article 2
Management and organization

[1] The course of study and management of the Master of Science in Earth sciences (hereinafter, "MSc in Earth sciences") are placed under the responsibility of the Executive Committee of the Joint Geneva and Lausanne School of Earth Sciences (hereinafter, "ELSTE"). ELSTE's competencies are defined in the Agreement cited in the Preamble.

[2] The Faculty in which a student is enrolled is defined as the Faculty responsible for the management of a student's course of study (hereinafter, the "Faculty responsible for managing the course of study").

[3] The Director of ELSTE is charged with the execution (dissemination) of committee recommendations to the competent bodies of the partner universities.

[4] The ELSTE Executive Committee's responsibilities include:

- Designing the rules and regulations and the curriculum for the MSc in Earth sciences such that they are compatible with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to each university, and submitting them to the competent bodies of each of the partner universities;
- Providing recommendations for the competent bodies of each of the partner universities regarding admission of candidates and equivalencies;
- Coordinating courses and other activities called for by the curriculum, as well as the evaluation process;
- Encouraging the cooperative promotion of the MSc in Earth sciences;
- Designating an Academic Advisor at each of the two sites.

Article 3
Training objectives

The Master in Earth sciences offers a training that combines fundamental science and practical applications with a view to addressing geological problems of the planet. It aims to provide students with the tools necessary to manage fields governing Earth Sciences through a multidisciplinary approach: geodynamics of mountain chains and its underlying physical

processes, the geochemistry of mantle and terrestrial crust, the evolution of life, oceans and paleoclimate through the study of sedimentary rocks, monitoring and modeling of surface geophysical processes, reservoir geology and basin analysis, mineral resources, and geological hazards. Students use analytical methods and laboratories and are involved in field studies, in collaboration with academic, research and industrial partners. The skills acquired during this program prepare concretely to professional duties and to very varied insertion areas in the sphere of Earth Sciences.

In this context, at the end of the Master, students are able to:

- Analyze the challenges in the field of Earth Sciences.
- Develop critical thinking, capacity for analysis and synthesis in the management of contemporary issues related to Earth Sciences.
- Propose solutions to complex problems in geology on the basis of technical knowledge, of field measurements, of quantitative data processing and of modeling methods.
- Use sharp tools in Earth Sciences (equipment and analytical techniques, laboratories).
- Conduct an independent and innovative research by incorporating theoretical and experimental aspects, as well as practice acquired in the field at a national or international level.
- Work both independently and in groups.
- Be capable of effective oral and written communications, including in English.
- Argue from solid and consistent basis in the field of Earth Sciences; demonstrate logically a scientific argument and convince a varied audience while being open to new ideas.

Chapter 2 – Registration and Admission

Article 4
Admission

[1] The following are eligible for admission to the Master's program in Earth sciences:

a. holders of a Bachelor's Degree in Earth Sciences and Environment from the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Geneva

b. holders of a Bachelor's Degree in Geosciences and Environment with a Geology concentration from the Faculty of Geosciences and Environment of the University of Lausanne

c. holders of a Bachelor's Degree in the Earth Sciences field (swissuniversities category “sciences de la Terre”) from a Swiss university

d. holders of any degree deemed to be equivalent by the competent organs of each university, on recommendation of the Executive Committee.

[2] In addition, candidates for admission must meet all requirements for registration of the university with which they wish to register.

Article 5
Admission with conditions

[1] The Executive Committee may offer candidates with Bachelor’s Degrees in a field not mentioned in Article 3.1 above admission conditional upon requirements to be met after admission except as specified in Article 6 below. Conditions to be met after admission shall not exceed 18 ECTS credits.

[2] Specific conditions shall be specified in writing and agreed to by the student and the Faculty responsible for management of his curriculum.

[3] Failure to meet post-admission requirements by the specified deadline shall result in the student's elimination from the program pursuant to Article 18 below.

Article 6
Admission with pre-conditions

[1] The Executive Committee may offer candidates with Bachelor's Degrees in a field not mentioned in Article 3.1 above admission conditional upon requirements to be met before admission. Conditions to be met before admission shall not exceed 60 ECTS credits.

[2] Specific conditions shall be specified in writing and agreed to by the student and the Faculty responsible for management of his curriculum

[3] Failure to meet pre-admission requirements by the specified deadline shall result in revocation of admission.

Article 7
Registration and Fees

[1] Registration and admission are processed by the competent bodies of the registering university, upon the recommendations of the competent science committee.

[2] Each student is registered at his choice of one of the partner universities and is recorded as a student of the corresponding Faculty. He shall pay fees for that university only.

[3] It is in principle not possible to change registration to another university during the course of studies.

[4] Students are subject to all laws, rules, and regulations of their university for all matters not addressed in these rules and regulations.

Article 8
Equivalencies

[1] A student who earned through prior studies a Master's-level degree in a field of study related to the MSc in Earth sciences curriculum, or holding a recognized university degree in another field of study, may be offered equivalencies.

[2] In all cases, at least 80 ECTS credits out of the 120 ECTS credits required must be earned in the framework of the course of study for the MSc in Earth sciences. The credits for the Master's thesis must be earned through the program.

[3] The ELSTE Executive Committee provides recommendations on equivalencies to the Faculty responsible for managing the course of study.

Article 9
Admission conditions following elimination

A student who has been eliminated from a Master's-level program at another faculty or higher education institution and who is admitted to the MSc in Geology is only permitted one attempt to successfully complete the module representing 12 ECTS credits in the part of required courses defined in the curriculum of the MSc in Earth sciences. Failing to successfully complete this module shall result in the student being eliminated from the program.

Chapter 3 – Curriculum

Article 10
Duration of studies and ECTS credits

[1] The curriculum is organized for 60 ECTS credits to be earned per year of full-time study.

[2] To obtain the MSc in Earth sciences, the student must earn a total of 120 ECTS credits as specified in the curriculum. The duration of studies is normally 4 semesters; the maximum duration of studies is 6 semesters, unless an extension is granted by the Dean's Office of the responsible Faculty due to exceptional or justified circumstances.

[3] The maximum duration of studies may be shortened proportionally for students granted equivalencies. It is extended proportionally if extra courses have been required of the student (Article 4).

Article 11
Leave of absence

Students wishing to temporarily interrupt their studies may request a leave of absence in the manner specified by the rules and regulations of the University at which they are registered.

Article 12
Curriculum

[1] The curriculum specifies the forms of instruction (courses, seminars, practicums, labs, etc.) as well as the forms of assessment (exams, continuing assessment, practical tests, etc.). The curriculum also specifies whether an internship is part of the course of studies.

[2] The curriculum differentiates between required courses and elective courses.

[3] The curriculum shall include instruction validated on its own as well as groups of related instruction (modules).

[4] The breakdown of ECTS credits for each course and for the Master's thesis shall be specified in the curriculum.

[5] Courses are organized into several concentrations. Each concentration comprises:

- A part of 24 required ECTS credits divided into 4 modules
- A part of 24 ECTS credits divided into 4 modules to be chosen from those in the selected concentration
- A part of 12 elective ECTS credits (student's choice, including courses, internships, etc.)
- A part that corresponds to the Master's thesis worth 60 ECTS credits. 10 ECTS credits are for the thesis project and 50 ECTS credits are for the written thesis and its defense.

[6] At the beginning of the Master's program, the student selects one concentration among those offered in the curriculum of the MSc in Earth sciences program. The director of the Master's thesis (or, alternatively, the Academic Advisor) approves, in writing, the list of courses chosen by the student.

[7] By the end of the first semester of Master's studies at the latest, the student must have chosen the director and the subject of his Master's thesis.

[8] The curriculum must be approved by the competent organs of each of the two partner universities.

[9] Instructors from other higher education institutions or institutes who teach courses in the framework of the curriculum of the MSc in Earth sciences are considered associate members of ELSTE.

Chapter 4–Assessment and Grading

Article 13
General information

[1] Assessment is by either exam or validation.

[2] Exams take place during exam sessions and always result in issuance of a grade. Exams may be oral or written, may combine several types of questions, and may require assimilation of the material of multiple courses.

[3] Validations take place during the semester and may result in a grade or simply be pass/fail. Validations are typically obtained after continuing assessment, a personal project (oral or written), or a test at the end of the semester.

[4] Details regarding assessment are specified in the curriculum.

[5] All graded assessments receive a grade from 1 to 6, where the minimum passing grade is 4 and the best grade possible is 6. Grading is to the quarter point. The grade of 0 is reserved for unexcused absences from exams and for cases of fraud or attempted fraud. A grade of 0 in any part of a module results in the failure of the entire module. For all other matters, the rules and regulations regarding fraud and plagiarism of the Faculty responsible for managing the course of study shall apply.

[6] Assessment results are communicated to students and to the deans of the partner Faculties by the ELSTE Administrator.

Article 14
Registration, withdrawal, and absence from assessments

[1] Each partner University has its own procedures and deadlines for course and assessment registration for the MSc program in Earth sciences. The ELSTE Executive Committee publishes these on the ELSTE website at the beginning of each academic year.

[2] Registration for exams may only be withdrawn due to exceptional circumstances. A written withdrawal request must be submitted to the ELSTE Executive Committee.

[3] Candidates absent from an assessment for which they are registered shall receive a grade of 0 unless their absence is duly justified. Illness and accidents are the most common justifications accepted. Students must inform the Dean of the Faculty responsible for managing the course of study in writing immediately, in principle within 3 days of the absence. In cases of illness or accident, a relevant medical certificate must be submitted.

Article 15
Successful completion of assessments and modules

[1] Courses or other forms of instruction with individual grades are successfully completed with an assessment grade of at least 4, or, in the case of courses without grades, with a notification of successful completion. All ECTS credits associated with the course are earned at that time.

[2] Courses or other forms of instruction that are graded in groups (modules) are successfully completed, and credits earned in a block, if the credit-weighted grade average is at least 4 and if validations are earned for courses representing at least 80% of the total ECTS credits.

[3] If a student fails to successfully complete a module, the student may make a second attempt to successfully complete the failed assessments, as stipulated in point 4 below. All results of 4 or higher, and notifications of successful completion, remain in place for the module. For repeated assessments, only grades or validations obtained in second attempt are retained.

[4] For each assessment, the maximum number of attempts is two, with the second failure resulting in elimination from the program in the case of a required course or module.

[5] In case of a second failure for an elective course or module, students may take and validate another elective course or module. If students fail to successfully complete this new course or module after their second attempt, they are eliminated from the program.

[6] An internship lasting at least one month may be validated as part of a student's elective credits. This internship is evaluated by the Master's thesis advisor based on a written report produced by the student and a certification produced by the internship director at the host institution.

Article 16
Procedures for, and successful completion of, the Master's thesis

[1] The Master's thesis is a personal research project under the responsibility of an ELSTE instructor (Full Professor, Associate Professor, Adjunct Professor, Assistant Professor, Visiting Professor, Research and Teaching Associate, or, upon approval by the Executive Committee, *Privat-Docent*, Senior Lecturer, Lecturer, Senior Research and Teaching Assistant, or another qualified scientist.)

[2] An instructor from another higher education institution may direct a Master's thesis, upon approval of the ELSTE Executive Committee. In this case, an ELSTE Professor shall be named co-director by the Executive Committee.

[3] The Master's thesis comprises a thesis project, a written thesis, and an oral defense.

[4] Before the beginning of the second year of the program, students must draft and present their Master's thesis projects as stipulated in the curriculum.

[5] To be allowed to defend their theses, students must have successfully completed the assessments for all courses and other forms of instruction stipulated by the curriculum, except the part free choice of credits (12 ECTS credits) as well as the biannual courses of the spring semester, that can be validated during the same session than the Master thesis. Students must have also successfully presented their thesis projects.

[6] Assessment of the thesis project and written thesis is by a jury comprising at least the thesis director and another instructor (co-director, holder of a doctorate) from one of the ELSTE units.

If necessary, a second instructor can be chosen outside of the ELSTE.

[7] Thesis defenses take place on days shared by the two sites, organized by the ELSTE Executive Committee during the examination sessions of June and January. The August examination session is reserved to the second attempts and to duly justified exceptional cases . All directors of theses being defended must be present on these days.

[8] Theses are evaluated based on the submitted manuscript and the quality of the oral defense. This evaluation, weighted according to stipulations in the "Guidelines on the Master thesis", takes the form of a single grade. The Master thesis is passed and the ECTS credits for the thesis are earned when that grade is 4 or higher and that the evaluation of the manuscript is 4 or higher.

[9] In case of failure, students have a second chance to rework their manuscript (if required) and to once again defend it orally. This second attempt must take place before the end of the following semester.

[10] The modalities of the Master thesis validation and the details related to its realization are explained in the "Guidelines of the Master thesis" developed by the ELSTE executive Committee and published on the website dedicated to the formation.

Article 17
Ethics and safety

[1] Students enrolled in the MSc program in Earth sciences complete and sign, at the beginning of studies, a document on compliance with ethical standards regarding borrowing from, citing, and using various sources. This document is held in students' ELSTE files.

[2] At each university students also sign a document on safety in laboratories and in the field.

Chapter 5 – Final Provisions

Article 18
Granting of the degree and the Europass Diploma Supplement

[1] The Master of Science in Earth sciences degree is granted when the candidate has met all requirements of the rules and regulations and the curriculum.

[2] The Dean of the Faculty responsible for managing the course of study requests the issuance of the degree and the Europass Diploma Supplement from the administrative organs concerned.

[3] The diploma is signed by the Deans of the partner faculties and the Rectors of the partner universities.

Article 19
Elimination

[1] Students are eliminated from the program if they are no longer able to meet the requirements for earning credits as stipulated in the rules and regulations and in the curriculum. Common reasons for this include:

a) failure on the last allowed attempt at an assessment for a required course or module;
b) failure to meet the deadline for maximum duration of studies as stipulated in these rules and regulations.
c) Students failing to earn the credits (up to 30) required for a conditional enrollment (per Article 5) within the permitted timeframe are also eliminated from the program.

[2] The decision to eliminate a student is made by the Dean of the Faculty responsible for management of the student's course of study.

[3] The Dean of the Faculty responsible for management of a student's course of study may take into account exceptional circumstances.

Article 20
Objections and appeals

[1] Decisions made through application of these rules and regulations come from the Dean of the Faculty responsible for managing the course of study unless otherwise specified.

[2] In all cases, decisions made through application of these rules and regulations clearly indicate

procedures — the deadlines and procedures for objections and appeals in effect at the concerned university.

Article 21
Entry into force

[1] These rules and regulations shall enter into force on 16 September 2019.

[2] It applies to all new students from its entry into force

[3] These rules and regulations supersede and replace the rules and regulations for the MSc in Earth sciences of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Geneva and the University of Lausanne Faculty of Geosciences and Environment dated 17 September 2018 except as specified below.

[4] The rules and regulations of 17 September 2018 remain temporarily applicable to students already enrolled in the program before the autumn semester of 2019, but only until their maximum allowed time of studies expires or until the expiry of the granted studies extension.

The original document in French carries the following signatures

Pour l'Université de Genève	**Pour l'Université de Lausanne**
Genève, le	Lausanne, le
Costanza Bonadonna Vice-directrice de l'ELSTE	Stefan Schmalholz Directeur de l'ELSTE
Genève, le	Lausanne, le
Jérôme Lacour Doyen de la Faculté des Sciences	Frédéric Herman Doyen de la Faculté des géosciences et de l'environnement
Genève, le	Lausanne, le
Yves Flückiger Recteur de l'Université de Genève	Nouria Hernandez, Rectrice de l'Université de Lausanne