



Curricula

Curriculum for the master's programme in Meteorology (2022 version)

At its meeting on 24 March 2022 the Senate approved the version of the Curriculum for the master's programme in Meteorology stated below, which was resolved on 14 March 2022 by the Curriculum Committee, a body holding decision-making power and established in accordance with section 25, para. 8, no. 3 and para. 10 of the 2002 Universities Act.

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

§ 1 Objectives and qualification profile

(1) The objective of the English-language master's programme in Meteorology at the University of Vienna is an advanced, sound academic education in the disciplines of meteorology and climatology. Based on the comprehensive general education in the fields of meteorology and climatology during the bachelor's programme, graduates of the master's programme have consolidated and specialised in the disciplines of environmental meteorology, weather, climate and computational modelling and simulation on high-performance computers. Students demonstrate that they can meet this educational objective by means of a master's thesis and a master's examination.

(2) Beyond a bachelor's qualification, graduates of the master's programme in Meteorology at the University of Vienna are qualified to understand complex relationships of atmospheric processes and the climate system, describe these by means of an approach to theory and mathematics and to model and simulate these by computational means. The master's programme in Meteorology applies the principle of research-led teaching. Graduates are therefore familiar with the practice of academic research and writing. Based on the competences acquired they are able to develop innovations and have the abilities to solve current and novel problems.

(3) Meteorology and climatology are disciplines of high societal and economic relevance. Therefore, a broad spectrum of fields of application and research emerge from them. The skills and competences they obtained qualify graduates for an academic career at an international level. They are equipped for eminent tasks as executive staff at public and private weather services, weather editors in media, public institutions on the federal and provincial level in the area of the environment, in economic areas affected by weather and climate (e.g. traffic and insurance companies) and companies in the area of renewable energy (e.g. solar energy and wind energy). The competences acquired in the area of numerical simulation and data processing as well as training in analytical and

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Course types and their abbreviations: see § 9.

logical thinking give graduates good employment opportunities also beyond the immediate discipline.

- (4) Weather and climate and their change are cornerstones of sustainable development and sustainable economic activities. Weather forecasts, for example, are used by the energy industry to assess the short-term and medium-term energy consumption or the availability of renewable energy. Climate scenarios provide an important basis for social and political actions and for adaptations to climate change, such as urban development. Graduates of the master's programme in Meteorology have acquired comprehensive competences in the area of sustainability through the specialisation modules Environment, Weather and Climate.
- (5) The knowledge and skills acquired in the master's programme in Meteorology qualify graduates to apply for postgraduate programmes, especially doctoral programmes at the national and international level.

§ 2 Duration and scope

- (1) The workload for the master's programme in Meteorology comprises 120 ECTS credits. This is equivalent to a period of four semesters.
- (2) The programme is deemed completed if 60 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on compulsory modules, 30 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on alternative compulsory modules and/or elective modules, 27 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on the master's thesis and 3 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on the master's examination have been obtained.

§ 3 Entry requirements

- (1) To be admitted to the master's programme in Meteorology students must have completed an eligible bachelor's programme or an eligible degree programme at the same level of university education at a recognised Austrian or foreign post-secondary educational institution.
- (2) The bachelor's programme in Meteorology at the University of Vienna is certainly eligible.
- (3) To compensate for significant disciplinary differences, supplementary examinations can be stipulated, which have to be completed until the end of the second semester of the master's programme. The Rectorate may specify which supplementary examinations are a prerequisite for taking examinations specified in the Curriculum of the master's programme.
- (4) If the significant disciplinary differences according to para. 3 exceed the extent of 30 ECTS credits, this is not considered an eligible degree programme and the student is not admitted to the master's programme.
- (5) The master's programme in Meteorology is held in English. Therefore, students must have English language proficiency corresponding to level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). Regarding the proof of language proficiency, the regulations of the University of Vienna apply.

§ 4 Academic degree

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Graduates of the master's programme in Meteorology are awarded the degree "*Master of Science*", abbreviated as MSc. Where the academic degree is stated this must be after the name.

§ 5 Structure – Modules with allocated ECTS credits

(1) Overview

The master's programme in Meteorology consists of three parts:

The first part is the group of compulsory modules A (Core) comprising 30 ECTS credits in total. Students should acquire advanced knowledge of central contents and methods in the core areas of meteorology and climatology.

The second part consisting of the group of elective modules B (Specialisation) focusses on the consolidation and specialisation in selected disciplines of meteorology and climatology and comprises 30 ECTS credits in total.

The third part comprises, on the one hand, the preparation for the concrete topic of the master's thesis and the extension of knowledge in the group of compulsory modules C comprising 30 ECTS credits in total, and, on the other, writing the master's thesis comprising 27 ECTS credits and the master's examination comprising 3 ECTS credits.

(1.1) Group of compulsory modules A (Core) 30 ECTS credits

Module code	Module name	ECTS credits
PM-EnvMet	Environmental Meteorology	6
PM-ClimDynDia	Climate Dynamics and Diagnostics	6
PM-DA-EPS	Data Assimilation and Ensemble Methods	6
PM-FluidDyn	Fluid Dynamics of the Atmosphere	6
PM-ModAna	Modelling and Data Analysis	6

(1.2) Group of elective modules (Specialisation) 30 ECTS credits

Students have to complete 2 modules (comprising 10 ECTS credits each) according to their choice. In addition, they have to select 10 ECTS credits from the other courses offered in the group of elective modules B.

Module code	Module name	ECTS credits
WM-AdvEnv	Environment	10
WM-AdvCli	Climate	10
WM-AdvWea	Weather	10

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Course types and their abbreviations: see § 9.

WM-AdvComMet	Computational Meteorology	10
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(1.3) Group of compulsory modules C 30 ECTS credits

Module code	Module name	ECTS credits
PM-PapClub	Paper Club	6
PM-Special	Specialisation	15
PM-RelSci	Related Sciences	9

(1.4) Master's Thesis 27 ECTS credits

(1.5) Master's Examination 3 ECTS credits

(2) Module descriptions

(2.1) Group of compulsory modules A (Core)

PM-EnvMet	Environmental Meteorology (compulsory module)	6 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	Students acquire profound knowledge in all areas of environmental meteorology. They are familiar with the meteorological aspects of renewable energy. They understand the processes of pollutant dispersion, of transport in the atmosphere at all scales and the deposition of airborne pollutants and aerosols. They are able to model these and to apply these to special and current research areas.	
Module structure	VO, 6 ECTS credits, 4 SSt. (npi)	
Proof of performance	Passing of the course (6 ECTS credits)	
Language	English	

PM-ClimDynDia	Climate Dynamics and Diagnostics (compulsory module)	6 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	Students know the interrelation of the individual components of the climate system. They acquire profound knowledge of the tropical climate and extratropical climate and their variability as well as their interactions. They understand the physical relations and reasons for climate change and its effects on circulation and extreme weather events.	

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Module structure	VU, 6 ECTS credits, 4 SSt. (pi)
Proof of performance	Passing of the course (6 ECTS credits)
Language	English

PM-DA-EPS	Data Assimilation and Ensemble Methods (compulsory module)	6 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	Students are familiar with methods in data assimilation and ensemble forecasts. They understand the underlying concepts and are able to apply these. They also have profound knowledge of observation operators, Ensemble Kalman filter, adjoint models, 3D-VAR and 4D-VAR and ensemble perturbations.	
Module structure	VU, 6 ECTS credits, 4 SSt. (pi)	
Proof of performance	Passing of the course (6 ECTS credits)	
Language	English	

PM-FluidDyn	Fluid Dynamics of the Atmosphere (compulsory module)	6 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	Students are familiar with the concepts of fluid dynamics of the atmosphere. They understand the approximations and solutions of primitive equations on all scales of the atmosphere. They have, among others, profound knowledge of dynamic instabilities, internal gravity waves and the observation of atmospheric dynamics from the perspectives of vorticity and potential vorticity.	
Module structure	VO, 6 ECTS credits, 4 SSt. (npi)	
Proof of performance	Passing of the course (6 ECTS credits)	
Language	English	

PM-ModAna	Modelling and Data Analysis (compulsory module)	6 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	Students understand the conception and structure of numerical weather and climate models. They know the properties of different numerical procedures and are familiar with physical approaches of the different parametrisation schemes. They are able to run models in a high-performance computing environment and to analyse and visualise simulation data.	
Module structure	VU, 6 ECTS credits, 4 SSt. (pi)	

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Course types and their abbreviations: see § 9.

Proof of performance	Passing of the course (6 ECTS credits)
Language	English

(2.2) Group of elective modules B (Specialisation)

In these modules, individual courses may be held in German. For these courses, language proficiency in German corresponding to level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference is recommended.

Students can complete the WM-AdvEnv module either according to option A or according to option B subject to availability.

Option A:

WM-AdvEnv	Environment (elective module)	10 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Recommended prerequisite	PM-EnvMet, PM-ModAna	
Module outcomes	Students know the basic concepts, models and methods in the area of aerosol physics and are able to apply these to disciplinary physical issues. They are familiar with the concepts and structure of transport models. They have specialised competences, e.g. in the area of Lagrangian transport modelling, the analysis of tracer experiments and inverse methods to determine sources.	
Module structure	<p>In preparation for the written examination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VO: 4 ECTS credits, 3 SSt. • PUE: 3 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. <p>Course with continuous assessment:</p> <p>VU, 3 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. (pi)</p>	
Proof of performance	Combined module examination consisting of 1.) Written examination (7 ECTS credits) 2.) VU (3 ECTS credits)	
Language	English and German	

or

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Course types and their abbreviations: see § 9.

Option B:

WM-AdvEnv	Environment (elective module)	10 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Recommended prerequisite	PM-EnvMet, PM-ModAna	
Module outcomes	Students know the basic concepts, models and methods in the area of aerosol physics and are able to apply these to disciplinary physical issues. They are familiar with the concepts and structure of transport models. They have specialised competences, e.g. in the area of Lagrangian transport modelling, the analysis of tracer experiments and inverse methods to determine sources.	
Module structure	Subject to availability, students choose courses comprising 10 ECTS credits in total, such as: VU 5 ECTS credits each, 3 SSt. (pi) VO 5 ECTS credits each, 3 SSt. (npi) The courses currently eligible for this elective module are listed in the course directory.	
Proof of performance	Passing of the courses (10 ECTS credits)	
Language	English	

WM-AdvCli	Climate (elective module)	10 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Recommended prerequisite	PM-ClimDynDia, PM-ModAna	
Module outcomes	Students are familiar with the physical relation between different climate parameters and are equipped with a broad repertoire for the statistical analysis of climate data. They are qualified to run climate models and to analyse and interpret the results in a scientific manner. Moreover, they have broad knowledge of the role of atmospheric processes in a planetary climate system.	

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Course types and their abbreviations: see § 9.

Module structure	Subject to availability, students choose courses comprising 10 ECTS credits in total, such as: VU 5 ECTS credits each, 3 SSt. (pi) EX 5 ECTS credits each, 3 SSt. (pi) VO 5 ECTS credits each, 3 SSt. (npi) The courses currently eligible for this elective module are listed in the course directory.	
Proof of performance	Passing of the courses (10 ECTS credits)	
Language	English	
WM-AdvWea	Weather (elective module)	10 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Recommended prerequisite	PM-DA-EPS, PM-ModAna •	
Module outcomes	Students acquire profound knowledge in different areas of weather forecasting. They are familiar with ensemble and hybrid methods in data assimilation, are able to implement these and analyse the results in a scientific manner. They are able to react to special requirements in weather forecasting and are familiar with local climate conditions in the mountains, as learned during a practical course or an excursion.	
Module structure	Subject to availability, students choose courses comprising 10 ECTS credits in total, such as: VU 5 ECTS credits each, 3 SSt. (pi) PR 5 ECTS credits each, 3 SSt. (pi) EX 5 ECTS credits each, 3 SSt. (pi) VO 5 ECTS credits each, 3 SSt. (npi) The courses currently eligible for this elective module are listed in the course directory.	
Proof of performance	Passing of the courses (10 ECTS credits)	
Language	English	
WM-AdvComMet	Computational Meteorology (elective module)	10 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	

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Course types and their abbreviations: see § 9.

Recommended prerequisite for participation	PM-ModAna
Module outcomes	Students are familiar with the challenges of high-performance computing. They are able to implement, compile and effectively run a model independently. They are able to use big data and can process these by means of methods, such as machine learning and data mining.
Module structure	Subject to availability, students choose courses comprising 10 ECTS credits in total, such as: VU 5 ECTS credits each, 3 SSt. (pi) VO 5 ECTS credits each, 3 SSt. (npi) The courses currently eligible for this elective module are listed in the course directory.
Proof of performance	Passing of the courses (10 ECTS credits)
Language	English

(2.3) Group of compulsory modules C:

PM-PapClub	Paper Club (compulsory module)	6 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	Students are qualified to research, read and understand relevant academic literature for a specific topic. They are able to present the knowledge acquired from literature in academic discourse.	
Module structure	Subject to availability, students choose courses comprising 6 ECTS credits in total, such as: SE 3 ECTS credits each, 2 SSt. (pi) The courses currently eligible for this elective module are listed in the course directory.	
Proof of performance	Passing of the courses (6 ECTS credits)	
Language	English	

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Course types and their abbreviations: see § 9.

PM-Special	Specialisation (compulsory module)	15 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Recommended prerequisite for participation	PM-EnvMet, PM-ClimDynDia, PM-DA-EPS, PM-FluidDyn, PM-ModAna	
Module outcomes	Students are qualified to familiarise themselves with a current research topic, to formulate relevant academic questions and to approach them systematically. They are able to identify and critically assess relevant academic literature. They are able to apply the necessary academic methods to answer the research questions. Students are able to present academic findings and discuss them with specialists. The additional knowledge acquired by students qualifies them to prepare and write the master's thesis immediately after completing this module. Subject to availability, students are involved in ongoing research projects.	
Module structure	KU, 10 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. (pi) SE Scientific Communication, 5 ECTS credits, 3 SSt. (pi)	
Proof of performance	Passing of all courses (15 ECTS credits)	
Language	English	

PM-RelSci	Related Sciences (compulsory module)	9 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	According to their choice, students acquired advanced knowledge in disciplines that complement their degree programme in a meaningful way.	
Module structure	Subject to availability, students select courses (npi and/or pi) comprising 9 ECTS credits in total from a list issued by the competent body for study matters. Courses from the group of elective modules B that were not taken can be recognised for this module. However, double recognition is not permitted.	
Proof of performance	Passing of all courses (9 ECTS credits)	
Language	English. Individual courses from other curricula that students attend as part of this Curriculum may be offered in German as well.	

§ 6 Master's thesis

(1) The master's thesis serves to demonstrate the student's ability to achieve adequate standards of content and methodology when independently addressing an academic topic. The assignment for the master's thesis must be

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so chosen that the participant can reasonably be expected to complete it within six months.

(2) The topic of the master's thesis must be taken from one of the compulsory modules and/or elective modules. If a different topic is selected or if there is uncertainty regarding allocation of the selected topic, the competent body responsible for study matters should decide on whether or not it is admissible.

(3) The master's thesis comprises 27 ECTS credits.

§ 7 Master's examination

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

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

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

(4) The master's examination comprises 3 ECTS credits.

§ 8 Mobility during the master's programme

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

§ 9 Course classification

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

Lectures (Vorlesung, VO) [non-continuous assessment] serve the purpose of imparting knowledge primarily through lectures by a teacher. Students must consolidate the course contents beyond the classes through self-study. Instructions for self-study and/or supplementary literature facilitate continuous and detailed learning. In lectures, the proof of performance is a written or an oral examination.

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

Combined lectures and exercises (Vorlesungen und Übungen, VU) [continuous assessment] are courses with continuous assessment that combine the acquisition of subject-specific knowledge and/or methodological knowledge in the lecture part with their application in the exercise part. A VU is a lecture (VO) accompanied by exercises. The lecturer decides on the temporal sequence of lecture-type and exercise-type parts as needed. The lecture part and the exercise part must be completed simultaneously. Achieving the learning outcomes of a VU also requires independent study outside the designated course hours. The proof of performance is based on multiple

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written or oral student assignments during the course or on independently completing and submitting assignments as well as on a final written or oral examination.

Exercises (*Übungen, UE*) [continuous assessment] are courses with continuous assessment that serve the application of already acquired knowledge and the consolidation of skills that are required for understanding the course contents. Students work independently or as a team on concrete tasks and issues. Students are supervised in small groups. Lecturers are mainly tasked with guiding and monitoring students' work and implementing a sophisticated feedback culture. The proof of performance are multiple independent written or oral partial achievements. The attendance requirement for course dates can only be used as a minimum criterion for a positive assessment but not for performance assessment itself.

Preparatory exercises for exams (*prüfungsvorbereitende Übungen, PUE*) [continuous assessment] serve the application of already acquired knowledge and the consolidation of skills that are required for understanding the course contents. Students work independently or as a team on concrete tasks and issues. Students are supervised in small groups. Lecturers are mainly tasked with guiding and monitoring students' work and implementing a sophisticated feedback culture. PUEs prepare students for the module examination and are courses with continuous assessment. The ECTS credits specified for these are not part of the 120 ECTS credits specified for this master's programme.

The proof of performance necessary for the modules is to pass the module examination. The skills acquired during preparation exercises for examinations are a central element of the module outcomes and are inherently checked in the module examination.

Seminars (*SE*) [continuous assessment] serve as guidance for the independent work on and discussion of academic questions taking current specialist literature into account. Seminars aim at giving students the ability to gain detailed knowledge of a problem of meteorology through the study of specialist literature and data sources. Students also learn to present their findings in an intelligible manner in an oral presentation. Students are assessed on the basis of multiple written or oral assignments during the course.

Courses (*Kurse, KU*) [continuous assessment] serve the purpose of acquiring knowledge of and consolidating selected themes, academic problems and solutions or acquiring basic, intermediate and specialised knowledge and knowledge of methods or addressing special topics. Courses aim at giving students the ability to gain detailed knowledge of a problem of meteorology through the study of current specialist literature and data sources. Students also learn to present their findings in an intelligible manner in an oral presentation. The assessment is based on multiple oral contributions by the participants during the course.

Practical courses (*Praktika, PR*) [continuous assessment] complement lectures, exercises and seminars and aim at consolidating practical skills and knowledge. In practical courses, students work on small projects in the lecture hall, laboratory and/or the field. The tasks are carried out under supervision over several consecutive days. Usually, participants have to submit a written report that conforms to the requirements of a full-fledged research paper regarding form and content. Practical courses may also be held in periods when there are no classes.

Field trips (*Exkursionen, EX*) allow students to acquire and deepen subject-specific knowledge in the field. Usually, participants have to submit a written interim and/or final report. Field trips may also be held in periods when there are no classes.

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

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

Lecture with exercises (<i>Vorlesung verbunden mit Übungen, VU</i>)	20
Exercises (<i>Übungen, UE</i>)	20
Seminars (<i>Seminare, SE</i>)	20
Practical courses (<i>Praktika, PR</i>)	16
Field trips (<i>Exkursionen, EX</i>)	16
Courses (<i>Kurse, KU</i>)	4

For courses including exercises, only the exercise parts are subject to a limited number of participants.

(2) Courses with continuous assessment from other curricula that students attend as part of this Curriculum are subject to the limited number of participants as specified in the related curriculum.

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

§ 11 Examination regulations

(1) Proof of performance in courses

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

(2) Examination content

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

(3) Examination procedure

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

(4) No double recognition and no dual use

Courses taken and examinations passed in the degree programme, which constitute entry requirements for the master's programme, cannot be recognised again in the master's programme. If courses taken in the degree programme, which constitute an entry requirement for the degree programme, are compulsory according to the Curriculum, the competent body responsible for study matters can determine what courses must be attended in place of the others. Courses taken and examinations passed from another compulsory or elective module of the degree programme cannot be recognised within another module within the same degree programme. This also applies to recognition procedures.

(5) Examination results must be allocated to the relevant module by the stated ECTS figure and must not be

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allocated to different proofs of performance.

§ 12 Entry into force

This Curriculum will enter into force upon announcement in the University Gazette of the University of Vienna as of 1 October 2022.

§ 13 Transitional provisions

(1) This Curriculum applies to all students who commence their degree programme as of the winter semester of 2022.

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

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

(4) Students who pursue the master's programme in Meteorology, which entered into force prior to this Curriculum (University Gazette of 24 June 2008, 35th edition, no. 300 as amended), are entitled to complete their degree programme by 31 October 2024. Students who are subject to the above-mentioned curriculum will be governed by the current Curriculum from the said date irrespective of their progress, and their admission will remain valid.

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

On behalf of the Senate:
The Chair of the Curriculum Committee
K r a m m e r

Appendix

To complete the master's programme in Meteorology in the specified study period, it is recommended that students follow the following semester path:

1st semester	ECTS credits	2nd semester	ECTS credits	3rd semester	ECTS credits	4th semester	ECTS credits
PM-EnvMet	6	PM-PapClub	3	PM-PapClub	3	Master's Thesis	27

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PM-ClimDynDia	6	To be selected from group of elective modules B	30	PM-Special	15	Master's Examination	3
PM-DA-EPS	6			PM-RelSci	9		
PM-FluidDyn	6						
PM-ModAna	6						
	30		33		27		30

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