

# Explanation Guide for Environmental and Resource Management (ERM) Master

Explanation on

**Specific ERM Programme Study and Examination  
Regulations  
(ExR 2021) (StPO 2021)**

and

**BTU Master General Examinations and Study Regulations  
(GExR 2016) (RahmenO. 2016)**

October 2022

## Introduction

The ERM Master programme is a 4 semester study programme. To complete it you have to achieve 120 ECTS credits, 30 each semester, whereat the last semester is considered for the Master thesis, giving 30 credits.

## Modules

The Master programme consists of different types of modules

- mandatory modules
- compulsory elective modules, divided in three fields of specialisation
- complementary modules

Modules have 6 credits, except for the Master Thesis (30 credits) and Study Project (12 credits). In order to finish a module successfully you need to pass all exams described in the assessment mode of the module description. Each module takes one semester, generally.

### Mandatory modules (§ 6 & Appendix 1 ExR)

1. *Introduction to Environmental and Resource Management II* (6 credits), offered every winter semester. It should be taken in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. The module gives you a global overview of the study programme and also gives you specific knowledge of scientific working and publishing.

2. *Study Project* (12 credits), considered for the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester. You are working on a scientific interdisciplinary topic within a team of other students. Communication, scientific knowledge, project management and problem-solving skills are required in order to develop the project goal by using your skills and social competence.

3. *Minimum of 7 Compulsory Elective Modules*, from the chosen specialisation.

3. *Master Thesis* (30 credits) in the 4<sup>th</sup> semester. The thesis has to be written supervised by a chair of BTU and a second supervisor. After handing in the thesis to the examination office you have to defend it.

### Compulsory elective modules (§ 6 & Appendix 1 ExR)

The ERM Master is organised in modular units. It comprises beside the study project and the Master thesis, three fields of specialisation;

- Environmental Science
- Environmental Economics, Planning and Law
- Environmental Engineering

All modules listed under these three fields of specialisation are Compulsory Elective Modules, where min of 7 modules has to be taken from the chosen specialisation to successfully finish the degree .

Note: A detailed description can be found in the [Information Portal: Teaching](#) and also on our ERM M.Sc website under “Module Description”

### **Complementary modules (§ 9 (1) ExR)**

Complementary modules may substitute 5 compulsory elective modules (30 credits). They need to be approved in advance by the head of the study programme and the head of the examination board. Complementary modules listed on the official timetable are already approved by the Examination Board.

Complementary modules can be taken at BTU or at a foreign university (e.g. as part of a semester abroad). If the modules are taken at a foreign university, the grades will not be incorporated into your overall grade.

### **Credits counting (§ 6 ExR)**

| <b>Modules</b>  | <b>Credits</b> |
|---|----------------|
| Compulsory elective modules in total (of which 5 (30 credits) can be replaced by complementary modules) | 72             |
| Introduction to ERM II (mandatory)  | 6              |
| Study Project (mandatory)   | 12             |
| Master Thesis (mandatory)   | 30             |
| <b>Sum</b>  | <b>120</b>     |

## **Proceedings**

### **Planning your curriculum (Appendix 2 ExR)**

The mandatory module Introduction to ERM II takes place every winter semester. This module must be taken and successfully completed.

In order to fulfil the requirements of the specialisation and to prepare the Master's thesis, at least 7 modules (42 CP) must be chosen and successfully completed. The modules can be freely chosen from a list of compulsory elective modules of the chosen specialisation.

5 compulsory elective modules can be taken from all three specialisations, Semester abroad, or complementary modules.

The study project (SP) plays an important role in the curriculum for writing your Master's thesis. You can register for the SP at the Student Registrar's Office at any time during the semester (not online). To register your SP, you should have a supervisor from the ERM teaching staff and a topic. It is possible to write the SP at an institute outside the university, but you still need a supervisor from the BTU.

### **Semester abroad (§ 9 (6) & (7) ExR)**

A semester abroad is a voluntary but a recommended part, considered for the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester. You can choose one of our partner universities or a suitable university of your own choice. Keep in mind

- to get the advance approval of the examination board for your learning agreement, indicating all subjects planned to take during semester abroad
- to attest your studies taken abroad with an official transcript of records
- maximum of 30 credits can be collected during semester abroad. The credits count as well to the possible substitutions of the 5 compulsory elective modules
- all classes from semester abroad will be counted as complementary modules, their grades will not count for the final grade

### **Changing of Specialisation**

You must submit an application by e-mail to [elhagmo@b-tu.de](mailto:elhagmo@b-tu.de)

Please send the following document all in PDF format:

- Letter of application
- Letter of motivation (explaining the reason for the application)
- Transcript of records of previous studies

Application deadline is the end of the first semester of your studies.

### **Registering for the Master Thesis (§ 8 ExR)**

The Master Thesis is considered for the fourth semester and shall be finished within six months. You have to apply for the thesis at the examination board proving that you have successfully passed the mandatory modules and collected at least 78 credits in total.

The written thesis has to be submitted to the Admission & Registrar's Office (not the primary examiner).

After formally passing the Master's thesis and thus the entire degree programme, you will be automatically exmatriculated at the end of the semester.

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## Two options beyond the regular Study Curriculum

### Option 1 - ERM RESEARCH-TRACK

Option, i.e. the formation of a specific research profile from the third semester of the standard programme length aimed at a targeted recruitment of the next generation of academics

It comprises:

- Mandatory Module "[13371 - ERM Research Module](#)" (18 CP), adjusted on the basis of current research projects of the chairs involved. It shall replace subject-related compulsory elective modules.
- Study Project (12 CP) and Master Thesis

Prerequisites; 54 CP by the end of the 2nd semester, average grade at least 1.3. Applications for admission to the research track can only be submitted to the programme coordinator by a professor of Faculty 2. This means that the supervisor of the selected students is the one who submits the application and proposes the students for the research track. The deadline for the application is the end of the second semester of the study candidate.

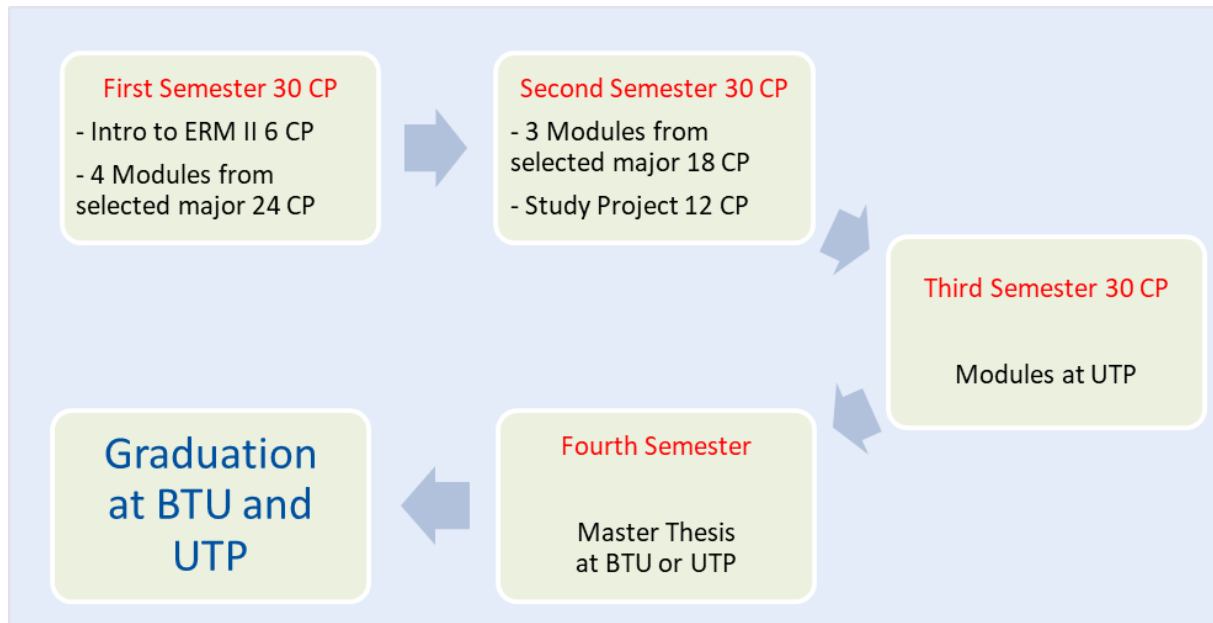
### Option 2 – Double-Degree Programme with Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira (UTP) in Colombia

An integrated international study programme that leads to gain national university degrees of two universities after having completed studies at the home university and partially at the partner university.

The UTP is awarding the Magister of Ecotecnología M.Eng. and the BTU the M.Sc.

Study requirements at UTP: Achievement of at least 30 ECTS credit points equivalent to 15 Colombian Academic Credits.

Applications for admission to the research track can only be submitted to the programme coordinator latest on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Dec for the summer term of the 15<sup>th</sup> Jul for the winter term.



### Grade Evaluation (§ 22 GExR)

- 1.0/1.3: very good - an excellent performance
- 1.7/2.3: good - a performance that lies above average requirements
- 2.7/3.0/3.3: satisfactory - a performance that meets average requirements
- 3.7/4.0: sufficient - a performance that meets the average requirements, though lacking
- 5.0: fail - a performance that lacks severely and therefore does not meet the average requirements

Single performance verification is passed if it receives at least 4.0 ("adequate")

### The grade calculation

Every examination, evaluated and graded, makes up part of the final grade, except for complementary modules; which have not been taken at the BTU.

The grade of Master Thesis consists of the grade for the written thesis (75%) and for the presentation/defence (25%). It is part of the final grade, which is a credit-weighted average of all modules.

### Note:

Please consider that these explanations just refer to specific parts of the Examination regulation (ExR) and the General Examination and Study Regulations (GExR) of the BTU, which needed some further annotations and explanations.

These explanations do not relieve you of the duty to read the [General Examination and Study Regulations](#) and the ERM Master [Examination and Study Regulations](#) carefully.

We do not take responsibility for any mistakes in the explanations offered.

### Registering for a module examination (§13 GExR)

Registration of a module examination in the online-portal implicates its examination. Students have to register for all modules within the registration period. According to the module examination (fixed in each module description), there are two different types of modules (table 1).

| REGISTRATION OF MODULE EXAMINATIONS* |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>types of module examinations</b>  | Continuous assessment ( <i>MCA</i> )  | Final Module Examination ( <i>MAP</i> )<br><b>Exception:</b><br>Prerequisite to take the Final Module Examination ( <b>Prerequisite + MAP</b> )** |
| <b>start of registration</b>         | beginning of the lecture period<br><b>modules with limited number of participants (TB):</b><br>registration within two weeks before start of lectures |   |
| <b>end of registration</b>           | three weeks after start of lecture period   |   |
| <b>end of deregistration</b>         | End of the third week of lecture period every semester  | one week before beginning of examination period in which the examination is offered for the first time  |
| <b>examination intervals</b>         | during semester   | 1. end of lecture period (one week preparation, two weeks examination)<br>2. two weeks before start of next lecture period                        |

Table 1: Registration of modules

\* Other rules apply to »Graduate Thesis/External Practical Trainings/Excursion«. Please consult the General Examination and Study Regulations.

\*\* Prerequisite to take the Final Module Examination (Prerequisite + MAP): Participation in an oral or written final module examination may be bound to the successful completion of prerequisites. Failure to acquire the prerequisites leads to automatic deregistration from the final module examination.

You can also find more information on examinations on the website of the Admissions and Registrar's Office (including repetition of failed exams or for the improvement of grades and retakes, irrevocable failing grade, illness and incapability, etc.).

There will be an introductory meeting about online registration in the beginning of the winter semester.



**Repetition of module examinations (§§16,17 GExR)**

| <b>REPETITION OF MODULE EXAMINATIONS</b>   |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | Continuous assessment ( <b>MCA</b> )  | Final Module Examination ( <b>MAP</b> )<br>Prerequisite to take the Final Module Examination ( <b>Prerequisite + MAP</b> ) |
| <b>Repetition after failure, absence or retake</b>                               | repetition of the whole module  | repetition of the final exam<br>prerequisites already acquired remain valid  |
| <b>Repetition When?</b>  | within the cycle of offer   | each semester  |
|  | 1. for 1 <sup>st</sup> repetition: within two semesters<br>2. for 2 <sup>nd</sup> repetition: latest two semesters after first repetition   |  |
| <b>Registration for repetition Where?</b>  | at the Registrar's ad Admissions Office   |  |
| <b>Registration for repetition When?</b>   | three weeks after start of lecture period   | one week prior to examination period in which the examination date is offered  |
| <b>Improvement attempt</b> (for grade improvement)                               | - if the first attempt was taken within the regular study time<br>- the better grade out of two counts  |  |
| <b>Free attempt</b> (a failed module examination counts as not done)             | - if first attempt was taken within the regular study time<br>- if first repeat examination was completed within the following two semesters<br>- registration before registering for the second repeat examination |  |
| <b>Registration for improvement and free attempt Where?</b>                      | at the Registrar's ad Admissions Office   |  |
| <b>Improvement attempts and free attempts may be used in total up to 2 times</b> |   |  |
| <b>A failed Master Thesis can only be repeated once</b>                          |   |  |

Table 2: Repetition of module examinations