

The English version of this curriculum is not legally binding and is for informational purposes only.
The legal basis is regulated in the curriculum published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin on 29 April 2008, issue 39, No. 268, with changes published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin on 8 June 2011, issue 26, No. 458

Curriculum for the
Master's Degree Programme in Ecology and Biodiversity
at the Faculty of Biology of the University of Innsbruck

§ 1 Qualification profile

- (1) The Master's Degree Programme in Ecology and Biodiversity belongs to the group of studies in the Natural Sciences.
- (2) The Master's Degree Programme in Ecology and Biodiversity aims at deepening the students' general biological knowledge acquired in the Bachelor Programme in Biology and promoting independent innovative scientific working skills.
- (3) Graduates are able to work on research-related and practical issues on the basis of theoretical and experimental laboratory and in-field approaches.
- (4) Graduates are able to autonomously work on current subject-related issues on the basis of state-of-the-art theories, concepts and methods. This is proven in the Master's Thesis. In addition, graduates have excellent skills and special knowledge on in the fields and areas the faculty is specialised in.
- (5) The Master's Degree Programme also prepares students for doctoral studies.
- (6) The acquisition of scientific working methods and approaches through a well balanced selection of theoretical basics, teachings and practice also promotes creative thinking skills as well as knowledge-based problem solving skills in multidisciplinary contexts and unfamiliar situations, which is considered a relevant prerequisite for a successful career in scientific contexts and application-oriented areas.
- (7) Graduates of the Master's Programme in Ecology and Biodiversity
 - have a sufficient depth of special knowledge in Ecology in order to swiftly and independently familiarise themselves with new tasks;
 - are able to professionally apply their knowledge and skills in order to solve problems in their scientific field;
 - are capable of successfully applying the acquired methods in disciplinary and multidisciplinary research, critically scrutinising these methods, and further developing these methods;
 - have acquired professional and social competences which prepare them for leading positions and managerial responsibilities;
- (8) Graduates of the programme have career prospects in the following fields:
 - careers in scientific research as well as in application-oriented areas, such as activities as an expert or consultant in the fields of politics, administration and economy;
 - management positions and scientific work in private and public companies and institutions, e.g. in the fields of ecological risk management, nature and landscape conservation, biomonitoring, agricultural research, molecular ecological laboratories;
 - Activities as an expert or consultant for private and public companies;

- Research and teaching at universities and other national and international educational institutions.

§ 2 Duration and scope

A total of 120 ECTS credits are awarded for the Master's Degree Programme in Ecology and Biodiversity. This equals duration of 4 semesters. One ECTS credit equals a workload of 25 hours.

§ 3 Admission

- (1) Completion of a relevant University Bachelor Programme or a relevant Bachelor Programme at a university of applied science, or completion of other equivalent studies at an accredited Austrian or non-Austrian post-secondary educational institution is required for admission to the Master's Degree Programme. If equivalency is given in principle, and only a few elements are missing for full equivalency, the rector's office is entitled to combine the determination of equivalency with the obligation to pass certain examinations in the course of the Master's Programme
- (2) Completion of the Bachelor Programme in Biology at the University of Innsbruck shall be deemed relevant for the purposes of para. 1 in any case.

§ 4 Types of courses and maximum number of students per course

- (1) With the exception of lectures (VO), all courses are courses with continuous performance assessment. Decisive factors for the maximum number of students per course and the necessary support and mentoring to students are safety aspects, available space, and necessary equipment.
- (2) Courses are divided into the following types:
 1. **Lecture (VO):** In this type of course, significant content and schools of thought of a special area are presented and explained by a lecturer. Maximum number of students per course: 300
 2. **Lecture with integrated practical parts (VU):** Integrated course where lecture parts are combined with practical parts. Maximum number of students per course: 6
 3. **Practical course (UE):** Practical courses enable participants to study and apply scientific knowledge and working methods in practice. Maximum number of students per course: 6-8
 4. **Proseminar (PS):** Conveys basic skills in the respective subject, with active participation of students. Maximum number of participants: 15 – 20
 5. **Seminar (SE):** In guided self-study programmes, including lecture presentations, written contributions and/or scientific discussions, students reflect on subject matter and methods of a special area. Maximum number of participants: 12-30
 6. **Project study (PJ):** In these courses, selected scientific methods are applied in special projects. Maximum number of students per course: 10
 7. **Excursion (EX):** In excursions, issues and problems of a subject are demonstrated and treated outside the premises of the university. Maximum number of students per course: 20
 8. **Excursion with integrated practical parts (EU):** Integrated course where a field trip is combined with practical parts. Maximum number of students per course: 10

§ 5 Procedure for the allotment of places in courses with a limited number of participants

The following criteria shall be applied for the allotment of places in courses with a limited number of participants:

1. Presence at the preliminary meeting (personal or represented by a proxy).
2. Regular students of the Master's Programme in Ecology and Biodiversity are to be given priority.
3. Date of fulfilment of the necessary admission requirement(s); students who fulfilled the admission requirement(s) at an earlier time are to be given priority
4. Number of semesters the student has been enrolled for the Master's Programme in Ecology and Biodiversity; students who have been enrolled for a longer time are to be given priority
5. By lot.

§ 6 Mandatory and elective modules

- (1) The following **mandatory modules** equalling a total of 30.0 ECTS credits must be completed:

Mandatory module 1: Selected Topics in Ecology	2.5 ECTS credits
Mandatory module 2: Ecological Project Study	12.5 ECTS credits
Mandatory module 3: Instruction to Scientific Work	12.5 ECTS credits
Mandatory module 4: Master's Thesis Defence (Defensio)	2.5 ECTS credits

Required total

30.0 ECTS credits

- (2) Furthermore, students have to complete a total of eight **elective modules** equalling 60 ECTS credits from the following list; students can select from all modules; from elective modules 16-19, a maximum of three modules can be selected.

Elective module 1: Quantitative Techniques and Data Analysis	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 2: Modelling and Developing Scenarios	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 3: Scientific Practice: Presentation and Publishing	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 4: Structure and Function of Ecosystems	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 5: Biodiversity of Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitats	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 6: Landscape Ecology	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 6A: Spatial Analyses using Geoinformation Systems	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 7: Functional Ecology	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 8: Aquatic Microbial Ecology (biennial)	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 8A: Aquatic Photobiology (biennial)	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 9: Biometeorology (biennial)	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 10: Molecular Ecology I: Phylogeny and Phylogeography	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 11: Molecular Ecology II: Population Genetics	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 11A: Molecular Ecology III: Trophic Interactions	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 12: Use and Protection of Mountain Ecosystems (bien.)	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 12A: Natural and Water Protection in Practice (bien.)	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 13: Interdisciplinary Analysis of the Environment: Situations and Problems	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 14: Assessment of Natural Environments and Biocenoses	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 15: Other Ecologically Relevant Disciplines	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 15A: Interdisciplinary Excursion in Respect of a Specific Habitat or Theme	7.5 ECTS credits

Elective module 15B: Global Change Ecology	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective module 16: Philosophy of Science and Gender Research	7.5 ECTS credits
Elective modules 17 and 18: Modules from other Master's Programmes of the Faculty of Biology	7.5 ECTS credits each
Elective module 19: Ecological Internship	7.5 ECTS credits
Required total	52.5 ECTS credits

§ 7 Courses of the mandatory and elective modules and ECTS Credits.

(1) The following mandatory modules equalling a total of 30.0 ECTS credits must be completed:

1.	Mandatory module: Selected Topics in Ecology	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	PS Current Topics in Ecology	1	1.0
b.	SE Ecological Seminar	1	1.0
c.	PS Ecological Colloquium Discussion of current international issues in Ecology.	1	0.5
	Total	3	2.5
	Learning objectives: Students are able to identify and present relevant issues in Ecology.		
	Admission requirements: none		

2.	Mandatory module: Ecological Project Study	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VU Methods in the Advanced Research Project Introduction into experimental design, conception and cross-linking of methodical approaches for the realisation of an integrated project study.	3	4.5
b.	PJ Ecological Project Study Design and implementation of a specific project (also interdisciplinary) based on a current issue from a terrestrial or aquatic area. Different subareas will be investigated by project groups and the results will be cross-linked in the frame of a workshop.	5	8.0
	Total	8	12.5
	Learning objectives: Students are able to formulate an issue, select suitable methods of investigation and analyse and evaluate the results in teams. Furthermore, they are able to explain the results to peers and critically discuss them.		
	Admission requirements: positive evaluation of mandatory module 1		

3.	Mandatory module: Instruction to Scientific Work	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
	PJ Instruction to Scientific Work Students are introduced to scientific methods for the design, realisation, interpretation and presentation of the Master's Thesis.	5	12.5
	Total	5	12.5

	Learning objectives: Ability to design, elaborate and assess complex trials in the frame of the Master's Thesis
	Admission requirements: none

4.	Mandatory module: Master's Thesis Defence (Defensio)	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
	Oral defence of the Master's Thesis before an examination board.		2.5
	Total		2.5
	Learning objectives: Students are able to assess their Master's thesis in the overall context of the Master's Programme in Zoology.		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of all other mandatory and elective modules and positive evaluation of the Master's Thesis		

(2) Eight elective modules equalling a total of 60.0 ECTS credits must be completed:

1.	Elective module: Quantitative Techniques and Data Analysis	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VU Quantitative Techniques and Data Analysis in Ecology Experimental design and evaluation for laboratory and in-field studies in the field of Ecology.	3	4.5
b.	PS Quantitative Techniques and Data Analysis in Ecology Elaboration and presentation of case examples.	2	3.0
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning objectives: On the basis of mutually selected issues students are able to solve statistical problems under supervision.		
	Admission requirements: none		

2.	Elective module: Modelling and Developing Scenarios	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
	VU Modelling and Developing Scenarios Development and application of mathematical models and scenarios in Ecology.	5	7.5
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning objectives: Students are able to identify the requirements concerning modelling techniques in Ecology and adapt and apply them based on selected case examples.		
	Admission requirements: none		

3.	Elective module: Scientific Practice: Presentation and Publishing	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	PS Presentation Basic skills and practice in scientific presentations.	2	3.0
b.	PS Publishing Basic skills and practice in scientific publishing.	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning objectives: Students are able to analyse scientific contents, and present and communicate them to peers in scientifically correct oral presentations and written publications. They are familiar with and have critically reflected on the ethical standards and rules of good scientific practice. They are able to correctly put the rules into practice.			
Admission requirements: none			

4.	Elective module: Structure and Function of Ecosystems	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VO Structure and Function of Ecosystems and Landscapes In-depth aspects on the structure and function of ecosystems and landscapes.	2	3.0
b.	EU Structure and Function of Ecosystems and Landscapes In-depth analyses on the basis of practical issues.	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning objectives: Students are able to characterise and classify the structure and function of selected aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and landscapes.			
Admission requirements: none			

5.	Elective module: Biodiversity of Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitats	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VO Biodiversity of Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitats Diversity of selected groups of organisms in terrestrial and aquatic habitats, causal relationships and significance for biocenoses and processes in ecosystems.	3	4.5
b.	UE Biodiversity of Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitats Deepening of the contents of the lecture on the basis of practical issues and case examples.	2	3.0
	Total	5	7.5
Learning objectives: Students are able to analyse and evaluate local, regional and global patterns of biodiversity in terrestrial and aquatic habitats as well as their causes, adaptations and significance for ecoprocesses.			
Admission requirements: none			

6.	Elective module: Systematics – Landscape Ecology	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VO Landscape Ecology Latest findings and quantitative methods in landscape ecology and landscape structure analysis.	2	3.0
b.	UE Landscape Ecology - Tutorial Deepening of the contents of the lecture on the basis of practical issues and case examples.	2	3.0
c.	PS Landscape Ecology - Introductory Seminar Autonomous analysis of given issues based on current scientific publications and the methods presented in the lecture.	1	1.5
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning objectives: Students are able to compare and autonomously apply current concepts and quantitative methods in landscape ecology and landscape structure analysis in the context of new and unfamiliar issues.		
	Admission requirements: none		

6A.	Elective module: Spatial Analyses using Geoinformation Systems	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VO Spatial Analyses GIS and remote sensing	1	1.5
b.	PJ Spatial Analyses Deepening of the contents of the lecture on the basis of a concrete project.	4	6
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning objectives: Students are able to transfer current space-time analysis methods in landscape ecology onto smaller interdisciplinary issues, as well as analyse and critically question the results.		
	Admission requirements: none		

7.	Elective module: Functional Ecology	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VO Functional Ecology Interplay between Individuals, populations and species and communities with available resources and abiotic environment factors. Trophic interactions, food webs and their interpretation.	3	4.5
b.	SE Functional Ecology Deepening of the contents of the lecture on the basis of current scientific publications.	2	3.0
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning objectives: Students are able to analyse, evaluate and communicate functional interrelations in Ecology on the level of individuals, populations and species and communities in the interplay with available resources and abiotic environment factors and apply their knowledge on unfamiliar issues.		
	Admission requirements: none		

8.	Elective module: Aquatic Microbial Ecology	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VO Aquatic Microbial Ecology Methods for the analysis of biomass, activity, production and makeup of microbiological communities, including molecular methods.	2	3.0
b.	UE Aquatic Microbial Ecology Deepening of the contents of the lecture on the basis of practical measurements.	2	3.0
c.	SE Aquatic Microbial Ecology Presentation of current research topics in the area of Aquatic Microbial Ecology.	1	1.5
Total		5	7.5
Learning objectives: Students are able to functionally categorise and evaluate bacteria and other microorganisms in the aquatic food web and carbon cycle and communicate the results to peers.			
Admission requirements: none			

8A.	Elective module: Aquatic Photobiology	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VO Aquatic Photobiology Aspects of sun radiation (particularly UV radiation) in water bodies. Properties, effects, protective mechanisms, evolutive aspects.	2	3.0
b.	UE Aquatic Photobiology Deepening of the contents of the lecture on the basis of practical measurements.	2	3.0
c.	SE Aquatic Photobiology Presentation of current research topics in the area of Aquatic Photobiology.	1	1.5
Total		5	7.5
Learning objectives: Students are able to understand and analyse properties, effects, protective mechanisms and evolutive aspects of UV radiation and communicate their knowledge to peers.			
Admission requirements: none			

9.	Elective module: Biometeorology	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VO Biometeorology Interactions between biosphere and atmosphere.	2	3.0
b.	UE Biometeorology Interactions between biosphere and atmosphere. Deepening of the contents of the lecture on the basis of practical issues and case examples.	2	3.0
c.	SE Biometeorology Discussion of current scientific issues.	1	1.5

	Total	5	7.5
	Learning objectives: Students are able to understand and evaluate theory and current findings on interactions between biosphere and atmosphere and apply adequate methods.		
	Admission requirements: none		

10.	Elective module: Molecular Ecology I: Phylogeny and Phylogeography	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	SE DNA-Sequences in Molecular Ecology Discussion of recent publications on the application of DNA-sequences in molecular ecology	1	1.5
b.	VO DNA-Sequences in Molecular Ecology Background to DNA sequence analysis, fields of application in ecology, e.g. concerning biodiversity research, coevolution, invasion biology, forensics, environmental genomics	1	1.5
c.	UE Laboratory Work and Analysis of DNA-Sequences in Molecular Ecology Extraction, PCR, electrophoresis, sequencing, primer design, analysis, e.g. base-calling, databases, alignments, phylogenetic reconstruction.	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning objectives: Students are able to analyse as well as generate issues and hypotheses in the field of Molecular Ecology and apply suitable methods, generate data, and evaluate and autonomously interpret results.		
	Admission requirements: none		

11.	Elective module: Molecular Ecology II: Population Genetics	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	SE DNA Fragment Analysis in Molecular Ecology Discussion of recent publications on the application of DNA fragment analyses in molecular ecology	1	1.5
b.	VO DNA Fragment Analysis in Molecular Ecology Background to DNA fragment analysis, fields of application in ecology, e.g. concerning behavioural ecology, social biology, conservation genetics, fishery science, mutualism	1	1.5
c.	UE Laboratory Work and Analysis of DNA Fragment Analyses in Molecular Ecology Extraction, PCR, genotyping (microsatellites or AFLPs) Analysis, e.g. allele-calling, population differentiation, gene flow, lineage analysis	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning objectives: Students are able to autonomously perform a DNA fragment analysis in accordance with current state of knowledge in Molecular Ecology and evaluate and communicate the results to peers.		
	Admission requirements: none		

11A.	Elective module: Molecular Ecology III: Trophic Interactions	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	SE Molecular Analysis of Trophic Interactions Seminar on the molecular analysis of trophic interactions, discussion of current issues regarding the molecular analysis of feeding relations on the basis of original publications.	1	1.5
b.	VO Molecular Analysis of Trophic Interactions Theoretical basics for the molecular analysis of feeding relations. Furthermore, other areas regarding molecular identification as well as DNA Barcoding and Ancient DNA will be treated.	1	1.5
c.	UE Molecular Analysis of Trophic Interactions Molecular diagnostic working techniques (e.g. DNA extraction, DNA quantification, PCR, electrophoretic techniques, sequencing, sequence processing and identification, primer design)	3	4.5
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning objectives: Students understand the methodical and conceptual basics of the molecular analysis of feeding relations, of molecular identification and of DNA Barcoding and have a command of diagnostic molecular working techniques. They are able to summarise and present as well as critically analyse subject-related original scientific publications.		
	Admission requirements: none		

12.	Elective module: Use and Protection of Mountain Ecosystems	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VO Use and Protection of Mountain Ecosystems Basics on natural conservation, management and monitoring in alpine regions.	3	4.5
b.	PS Environment Protection and Limnology Preparation of current issues, discussion with experts from research and practice	2	3.0
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning objectives: Students are able to understand the basics of natural conservation and transfer their knowledge onto practical tasks.		
	Admission requirements: none		

12A.	Elective module: Natural and Water Protection in Practice	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	PS Natural and Water Protection in Practice Framework conditions and concrete implementation of habitat and species conservation projects, nature- and water-legislative processes	3	4.5
b.	EU Natural Planning Conception and implementation of a nature and water conservation project	2	3.0
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning objectives:		

	Students are able to understand processes in the context of nature and water conservation on the basis of case examples and apply the acquired knowledge in the frame of a concrete project.
	Admission requirements: none

13.	Elective module: Interdisciplinary Analysis of the Environment: Situations and Problems	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VO Interdisciplinary Analysis of the Environment: Situation and Problems Common concepts, advanced methods and interdisciplinary approaches to solve global environmental problems.	1	1.5
b.	PJ Interdisciplinary Analysis of the Environment: Situation and Problems Reflection on the applicability of interdisciplinary methods on the basis of concrete issues and case examples	4	6.0
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning objectives: Students are able to contrast common concepts and advanced methods for the analysis of environmental problems, adapt these to new inter- and/or transdisciplinary issues in teamwork, and identify, apply, assess and critically discuss a suitable combination of methods		
	Admission requirements: none		

14.	Elective module: Assessment of Natural Environments and Biocenoses	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VO Ecological Assessment Ecological assessment of water bodies, terrestrial biotopes and landscape (national and international approaches, methods for the characterisation and assessment of natural habitats and their biotic and landscape features, monitoring)	3	4.5
b.	UE Ecological Assessment - Tutorial Deepening of the contents of the lecture: field surveys, data evaluation, computer-assisted assessment	2	3.0
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning objectives: Students are able to identify, contrast, evaluate and practically apply national and international standards, guidelines and indicators for the assessment of natural environments and biocenoses		
	Admission requirements: none		

15.	Elective module: Other Ecologically Relevant Disciplines	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VO Ecologically Relevant Disciplines Issues from other relevant disciplines as an interface for interdisciplinary scientific questions (e.g. environmental economics, environmental law, spatial planning, ecotoxicology, social sciences)	2	3.0
b.	EU Ecologically Relevant Disciplines - Excursion	2	3.0

	Insight into the working practice of other ecologically relevant disciplines (e.g. spatial planning, avalanche protection, hydrology, water power, sports and environment)		
c.	PS Ecologically Relevant Disciplines - Introductory Seminar Interdisciplinary working methods and projects between Ecology and other relevant disciplines.	1	1.5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning objectives: Students are able to identify ecological, legal and social components of an issue and select and apply suitable methods for resolving the issue.			
Admission requirements: none			

15A.	Elective module: Interdisciplinary Excursion in Respect of a Specific Habitat or Theme	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
	EU Interdisciplinary Excursion in Respect of a Specific Habitat or Theme Analysis of a habitat or an ecological theme using a multidisciplinary approach.	5	7.5
	Total	5	7.5
Learning objectives: Students are able to identify multi- and transdisciplinary interactions between a specific habitat and its social as well as political context on the basis of a particular theme, abstract general interrelations and transfer them onto new situations.			
Admission requirements: none			

15B.	Elective module: Global Change Ecology	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VO Global Change Ecology Current findings on global changes and their interrelations with ecological processes.	3	4.5
b.	PS Global Change Ecology Deepening of the contents of the lecture on the basis of recent scientific publications	2	3.0
	Total	5	7.5
Learning objectives: Students are able to interlink, evaluate and communicate backgrounds and current findings on global changes and their interrelations with ecological processes.			
Admission requirements: none			

16.	Elective module: Philosophy of Science and Gender Research	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VO Nature as a Political Subject Concept of and reference to nature in the context of science, culture and society.	2	3.0
b.	VO Philosophy of Science and Ethics	2	3.0

	Introduction to Science Theory and its relation to other scientific disciplines, Science Theory in Biology (particularly Evolution Biology) as well as basics in Scientific and Environmental Ethics under consideration of gender aspects.		
c.	SE Philosophy of Science and Ethics In-depth discussion of selected problems treated in the lecture “Philosophy of Science and Ethics”.	1	1.5
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning objectives: Under consideration of gender aspects, students will acquire a basic knowledge of the Science Theory in Biology, its relation to other scientific disciplines and its historical development, as well as a basic instrument of terms and concepts related to ethics, which will enable them to autonomously reflect on ethical questions related to science and the application of their knowledge in Biology.		
	Admission requirements: none		

17. 18.	Elective module: Modules from other Master's Programmes of the Faculty of Biology	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
	A maximum of two modules (7.5 ECTS credits each) from the Master's Programmes in "Botany", "Microbiology", "Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology" or “Zoology” at the University of Innsbruck can be selected.		7.5 each
	Total		15
	Learning objectives: Students will acquire an insight into other areas of Biology according to the learning objectives defined for the respective module.		
	Admission requirements: Students must meet the admission requirements defined in the respective curricula.		

19.	Elective module: Ecological Internship	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
	Ecologically relevant internship at a non-university institution for a period of about 4 weeks (160 hours). Students have to submit a written report providing an overview of the tasks and responsibilities and the competences they have gained during the internship.		7.5
	Total		7.5
	Learning objectives: Students are able to contrast the skills they have acquired in the course of their university studies with practices in the working world, apply their knowledge in unfamiliar contexts and put their skills to test in tasks that are related to their future professional careers.		
	Admission requirements: none		

§ 8 Master's Thesis

Students of the Master's Degree Programme in Ecology and Biodiversity have to write a Master's Thesis equalling 30.0 ECTS credits. The Master's Thesis is a scientific piece of work which serves to prove the student's ability to autonomously cope with scientific questions using adequate scientific methods. Possible topics include all questions related to knowledge creation in modern research in Ecology.

§ 9 Examination regulations

- (1) A module is completed when the student has passed all the required courses.
- (2) For lectures, the lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods and criteria (oral and/or written) before the course starts.
- (3) The evaluation of courses with continuous performance assessment (VU, UE, PS, SE, EX, EU, PJ) is based on the student's regular, written and/or oral and/or practical contributions. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods and criteria before the course starts.
- (4) Elective module 19 (Ecological Internship) is evaluated by the director of studies based on a written report by the student and certification of duration, scope and content of the student's work. Positive evaluation is "mit Erfolg teilgenommen" ("successful completion"), negative evaluation is "ohne Erfolg teilgenommen" (unsuccessful completion").
- (5) The evaluation of the student's final dissertation defence (Defensio) is based on an oral exam before an examination board which is made up of three examiners including the Master's Thesis supervisor.

§ 10 Academic degree

Graduates of the Master's Programme in Ecology and Biodiversity are awarded the academic degree of "Master of Science", or "MSc", in brief.

§ 11 Implementation

- (1) This curriculum shall come into effect on 1 October 2008.
- (2) The changes to the curriculum in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 8 June 2011, Issue 26, No. 458, shall come into effect on 1 October 2011 and shall be applied to all students.

§ 12 Transitional provisions

- (3) Regular students who enrolled in the "Magister" Programme in Ecology (Curriculum of 7 July, 2003) at the University of Innsbruck before 1 October 2008 shall be entitled to complete their studies within a period of six semesters following the implementation of this curriculum.
- (4) Unless the student completes the "Magister" Programme in Ecology (Curriculum of 7 July, 2003) within this period, he/she shall be subjected to the Curriculum for the Master's Degree Programme in Ecology and Biodiversity.
- (5) Students shall be entitled to choose to be subjected to the Curriculum for the Master's Degree Programme in Ecology and Biodiversity at any time.

For the Curriculum Committee:

a.Univ.Prof. Mag. Dr. Johanna Wagner

For the Senate:

Univ.Prof. Dr. Ivo Hajnal

Appendix:

Course examinations according to the Curriculum for the Master's Programme in Ecology and Biodiversity in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 29 April 2008, Issue 39, No. 268, shall correspond to course examinations according to the Curriculum in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 8 June 2011, Issue 26, No. 458, as follows:

Curriculum MA Ecology and Biodiversity (University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 29.04.2008, Issue 39, No.268)		Curriculum MA Ecology and Biodiversity (University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 8 June 2011, Issue 26, No.458)	
Any course from elective module 1-15 according to University of Innsbruck Bulletin No. 458 §7(2)	2.5	Mandatory module 1: Selected Topics in Ecology	2.5
Mandatory module 1: Methods in Ecology	7.5	Any elective module from §6 (3)	7.5
Methods in Ecology VO1	1.5		
Methods in Ecology - Tutorial UE 4	6.0		
Mandatory module 2: Ecological Project Study	10.0	Mandatory module 2: Ecological Project Study	12.5
Methods in the Advanced Research Project VO1	1.5	Methods in the Advanced Research Project VU3	4.5
Methods in the Advanced Research Project - Tutorial UE1	1.5		
Ecological Project Study PJ5	7.0	Ecological Project Study PJ5	8.0
Mandatory module 3: Interdisciplinary Excursion in respect of a Specific Habitat or theme	7.5	Elective module 15A: Interdisciplinary Excursion in respect of a Specific Habitat or theme	7.5
Elective module 3: Scientific Practice	7.5	Elective module 3: Scientific Practice: Presentation and Publishing	7.5
Elective module 8: Aquatic Ecology	7.5	Elective module 8: Aquatic Microbial Ecology or Elective module 8A: Aquatic Photobiology	7.5
Elective module 9: Terrestrial Ecology	7.5	Elective module 9: Biometeorology	7.5
Elective module 10: Molecular Ecology I	7.5	Elective module 10: Molecular Ecology I: Phylogeny and Phylogeography	7.5
Elective module 11: Molecular Ecology II	7.5	Elective module 11: Molecular Ecology II: Population Genetics	7.5

The content of mandatory module 1 [2011] is new, thus no equivalence with 2008 is given. A course equalling 2.5 from the elective modules listed in §7(2) can be recognised.

Mandatory module 1 [2008] (7.5 ECTS credits) replaces one elective module [2011]. The number of elective modules to be completed is thus reduced by 1 elective module to 7 elective modules.

Mandatory module 2 [2008] (10.0 ECTS credits) is equivalent to mandatory module 2 [2011] (12.5 ECTS credits).