

Title of the micro-credential	Heavy Metal Sustainability. On the rocky road to a circular economy: Tracing the life cycle of metals from the past to the future
Offering period	Winter Semester 2026/2027
Language of instruction	English
Required prerequisites / entry qualifications	Admission to a study degree programme at Master level at Universität Innsbruck or equivalent; basic knowledge in archaeology and chemistry is required.
Target group(s)	Master students of all disciplines incl. international students and students from universities of the Aurora European Universities Alliance; especially students interested in sustainability, circular economy and interdisciplinary perspectives on the use of metals.
Workload in ECTS credits	5
Component / Cours	Winter semester 2026/2027, 800874 EU Heavy Metal Sustainability (on-site with online components, compulsory attendance)
Registration	01.07. – 19.07.26 Registration takes place separately for each course under the following link: https://www.uibk.ac.at/de/international/aurora/kursangebote/universitat_innsbruck/ An extension of the registration period is only possible for students of Universität Innsbruck!
Retention period	Online briefing: 28.09.26, 11:30 – 12:30 on-site: 05.10. – 09.10.2026 Online debriefing: 13.10.26, 11:30 – 12:30
Enquiries	aurora-courses@uibk.ac.at course director: Aydin.Abar@uibk.ac.at
Learning outcomes Graduates of the micro-credential “Heavy Metal Sustainability. On the rocky road to a circular economy: Tracing the life cycle of metals from the past to the future” are able to clearly explain key sustainability issues related to the extraction, use and recycling of metals, tracing the life cycle of metals from prehistory to future scenarios and considering relevant disciplinary, historical, scientific, technical and societal perspectives (Critical Thinking - Explanation of Issues; Influence of Context and Assumptions). They can read and evaluate scholarly and practice-oriented information on metal extraction, energy resources, global material cycles, planetary boundaries, climate change and the circular economy, and extract key insights from these sources (Information Literacy - Evaluate Information and its Sources Critically; Reading - Comprehension). Graduates are able to transfer knowledge across disciplinary contexts and apply it to concrete cases along the metal life cycle, analyse complex questions of sustainable metal use and formulate justified approaches or research questions (Integrative Learning - Transfer; Inquiry & Analysis - Analysis, Conclusions, Limitations and Implications). They can critically reflect on expert input, museum visits, field trips and site visits, examine assumptions and evidence, and communicate results in group settings and to a wider public through posters and video contributions (Critical Thinking - Evidence; Oral and Written Communication).	