

MSc EARTH SCIENCES 2026-2027

TRACK EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE (TC Kenneth Rijdsdijk)

Period 1		Period 2		Period 3	Period 4		Period 5		Period 6	Holiday	
September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August

Research variant	Year 1	Vulnerable Earth (12 EC)	Environments through Time (6 EC) <i>MSc BS course</i>	The Earth System (6 EC)	Analysis and Modelling Lab (6 EC)	Literature Review Workshop*	Biogeochemical Cycles, Environment and Global Change (6 EC)	Climate Change (6 EC)	Literature Review Workshop*	If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier	
			Optional early start of Research Project 1 -->			Research Project 1 (30-36 EC) or Literature Review (6 EC)					
			Research Workshop (3 EC)								
			Professional Skills (3 EC)								
	Year 2	Research Workshop continued (3 EC)									If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier
		If not done in year 1: Research Project 1 (30-36 EC) and/or Literature Review (6 EC) and/or Research Project 2 (24-36 EC) or Internship (24-36 EC)									
If not done in year 1: (restricted choice) elective courses and/or Professional Skills modules											

Major variant	Year 1	Vulnerable Earth (12 EC)	The Earth System (6 EC)	Literature Review Workshop*	Literature Review Workshop*	If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier	
		Research Project 1 (30 EC) and Literature Review* (6 EC)					
		Research Workshop (3 EC)					
		Professional Skills (3 EC)					
	Year 2	Research Workshop <i>continued</i> (3 EC)					If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier
		Major Teaching (60 EC)					

Minor variant	Year 1	Vulnerable Earth (12 EC)	Environments through Time (6 EC) <i>MSc BS course</i>	The Earth System (6 EC)	Analysis and Modelling Lab (6 EC)	Literature Review Workshop*	Biogeochemical Cycles, Environment and Global Change (6 EC)	Climate Change (6 EC)	Literature Review Workshop*	If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier
			GIS/RS Science in Ecosystem Dynamics (6 EC)							
		Optional early start of Research Project 1 -->			Research Project 1 (30-36 EC) or Literature Review (6 EC)					
		Research Workshop (3 EC)								
		Professional Skills (3 EC)								
	Year 2	Research Workshop <i>continued</i> (3 EC)								
Year 2	If not done in year 1: (restricted choice) elective courses, Professional Skills modules, Research Project 1 and/or Literature Review				Minor Teaching, Science for Sustainability** or Collective Futures (30 EC)					

 Compulsory courses

 Restricted choice elective courses

* Note that it is mandatory to follow the Literature Review Workshop (in February or in June) before writing your Literature Review.

Upon completing the workshop, the Literature Review can be written at any time.

** Note that the minor Science for Sustainability is not clustered in a single semester.

IMPORTANT: The curriculum needs to consist of a total of 120 EC. Note that 6 EC per month equals a fulltime workload. The Research Workshop, Professional Skills modules and the Literature Review Workshop can be done in parallel with other courses/projects. Also, take note of the following:

1. For the research and minor variant, the curriculum requires 18 EC of restricted choice elective courses (see above)
2. The curriculum of the research variant allows for 0-18 EC of elective courses (see below)
3. The curriculum of the minor variant requires 6-12 EC of elective courses (see below)
4. The size of individual projects (e.g. Research Project 1-2 and Internship) depends on the amount of elective courses
5. The timing of individual projects is flexible within the two-year programme

ELECTIVE COURSES

All compulsory and (restricted choice) elective courses from one track can be followed as elective courses in the other track. They are pre-approved as electives by the Examinations Board of the programme. In addition, the courses below can be followed as (pre-approved) electives.

Period 1		Period 2		Period 3	Period 4		Period 5		Period 6	Holiday	
September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August

Elective Courses for both tracks			Global Ecology and Biodiversity (6 EC) <i>MSc BS course</i>	Landscape Dynamics (6 EC)	Sustainable Mineral Resources (VU) (6 EC)		Field Course Geocological Systems* (12 EC)	If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier
				Environmental Chemistry (6 EC) <i>MSc CH course</i>				
				Benthic Ecosystems (6 EC) <i>MSc BS course</i>				
				Biological Oceanography (6 EC) <i>MSc BS course</i>				

 Pre-approved elective courses

 Time for individual projects/restricted choice elective courses/compulsory courses

For elective courses part of other MSc programmes, priority is given to students of their own programme. Therefore, placement in such courses cannot be guaranteed.

* Note that this course is given bi-annually, taking place in period 5-6 of even years.

Disclaimer: this curriculum schedule is a visual aid of the possibilities within your programme. Consult the TER 2026-2027 for more details as that document is binding.

MSc EARTH SCIENCES 2026-2027

TRACK ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (TC Elly Morriën)

Period 1		Period 2		Period 3	Period 4		Period 5		Period 6	Holiday	
September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August

Research variant	Year 1	Vulnerable Earth (12 EC)	Integrated Coastal Dune Management (6 EC)		Literature Review Workshop*	Metropole Ecology (6 EC)	Science-Based Geo-Ecological Management (6 EC)	Literature Review Workshop*	If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier					
					System Innovation and Transition Management (6 EC)									
			Energy and Climate Change: Science, Policy, and Ethics (6 EC)		GIS/RS Science in Ecosystem Dynamics (6 EC)									
					Human Environment Interactions (6 EC)									
			Optional early start of Research Project 1-->					Research Project 1 (30-36 EC) or Literature Review (6 EC)						
			Research Workshop (3 EC)											
			Professional Skills (3 EC)											
	Year 2	Research Workshop continued (3 EC)								If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier				
		If not done in year 1: Research Project 1 (30-36 EC) and/or Literature Review (6 EC) and/or Research Project 2 (24-36 EC) or Internship (24-36 EC)												
		If not done in year 1: (restricted choice) elective courses and/or Professional Skills modules												

Major variant	Year 1	Vulnerable Earth (12 EC)	Literature Review Workshop*	Literature Review Workshop*	If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier
		Research Project 1 (30-36 EC) and Literature Review* (6 EC)			
		Research Workshop (3 EC)			
	Professional Skills (3 EC)				
	Year 2	Research Workshop <i>continued</i> (3 EC)			If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier
		Major Teaching (60 EC)			

Minor variant	Year 1	Vulnerable Earth (12 EC)	Integrated Coastal Dune Management (6 EC)		Literature Review Workshop*	Metropole Ecology (6 EC)	Science-Based Geo-Ecological Management (6 EC)	Literature Review Workshop*	If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier
			Energy and Climate Change: Science, Policy, and Ethics (6 EC)		System Innovation and Transition Management (6 EC)				
					GIS/RS Science in Ecosystem Dynamics (6 EC)				
					Human Environment Interactions (6 EC)				
			Optional early start of Research Project 1-->		Research Project 1 (30-36 EC) or Literature Review (6 EC)				
		Research Workshop (3 EC)							
		Professional Skills (3 EC)							
	Year 2	Research Workshop continued (3 EC)							If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier
		If not done in year 1: (restricted choice) elective courses, Professional Skills modules, Research Project 1 and/or Literature Review			Minor Teaching, Science for Sustainability** or Collective Futures (30 EC)				

	Compulsory courses
	Restricted choice elective courses
	Time for individual projects or elective courses

* Note that it is mandatory to follow the Literature Review Workshop (in February or in June) before writing your Literature Review.

Upon completing the workshop, the Literature Review can be written at any time.

** Note that the minor Science for Sustainability is not clustered in a single semester.

IMPORTANT: The curriculum needs to consist of a total of 120 EC. Note that 6 EC per month equals a fulltime workload. The Research Workshop, Professional Skills modules and the Literature Review Workshop can be done in parallel with other courses/projects. Also, take note of the following:

- For the research and minor variant, the curriculum must comprise of 24 EC of restricted choice elective courses (see above)
- The curriculum of the research variant allows for 0-18 EC of elective courses (see below)
- The curriculum of the major variant allows for 0-6 EC of elective courses (see below)
- The curriculum of the minor variant requires 6-12 EC of elective courses (see below)
- The size of individual projects (e.g. Research Project 1-2 and Internship) depends on the amount of elective courses
- The timing of individual projects is flexible within the two-year programme

ELECTIVE COURSES

All compulsory and (restricted choice) elective courses from one track can be followed as elective courses in the other track. They are pre-approved as electives by the Examinations Board of the programme. In addition, the courses below can be followed as (pre-approved) electives.

Period 1		Period 2		Period 3	Period 4		Period 5		Period 6	Holiday	
September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August

Elective Courses for both tracks			Global Ecology and Biodiversity (6 EC) <i>MSc BS course</i>	Landscape Dynamics (6 EC)	Sustainable Mineral Resources (VU) (6 EC)		Field Course Geoecological Systems* (12 EC)	If the summer months are used for the study, students take their holidays earlier
				Environmental Chemistry (6 EC) <i>MSc CH course</i>				
				Benthic Ecosystems (6 EC) <i>MSc BS course</i>				
				Tropical Ecosystems Field Course (6 EC) <i>MSc BS course</i>				

	Pre-approved elective courses
	Time for individual projects/restricted choice elective courses/compulsory courses

For elective courses part of other MSc programmes, priority is given to students of their own programme. Therefore, placement in such courses cannot be guaranteed.

* Note that this course is given bi-annually, taking place in period 5-6 of even years.

Disclaimer: this curriculum schedule is a visual aid of the possibilities within your programme. Consult the TER 2026-2027 for more details as that document is binding.