

Translation from University Bulletin (Mitteilungsblatt) 2026 / No. 06 from January 26, 2026

**Ordinance of the University for Continuing Education KREMS on the Curriculum of the continuing education master´s program „Inclusivity in Urban Climate Adaptation“  
(Faculty of Education, Arts and Architecture, Department for Building and Environment)**

**Study program according to § 56 (2) and 54d UG, Master of Science / MSc, 120 ECTS credits**

**§ 1. Qualification profile**

The joint master study programme ‘Inclusivity in Urban Climate Adaptation’ takes a holistic look at the challenges, opportunities and risks that people in precarious housing conditions worldwide and urban communities as a whole face as a result of global climate change, and the comprehensive social changes that are necessary to create dignified and socially inclusive housing and living conditions in the face of these challenges.

The aim of this joint master study programme is to support students in addressing complex social problems related to housing under the conditions of climate change worldwide. Low-income residents are the most exposed and least resilient to the effects of climate change. Holistic measures need to be developed taking into account their lived experiences. However, many local, regional and national authorities do not have the necessary skills, such as participatory methods, to interact with marginalised populations in a trustworthy manner. Due to this lack, authorities often tend to introduce technology-based and bureaucratic solutions that do not sustainably improve the living conditions of residents and do not make them more resilient to climate-related shocks.

Against this background, the joint master study programme ‘Inclusivity in Urban Climate Adaptation’ pursues a transdisciplinary approach that integrates urban planning, social sciences and technical sciences. Students, as future urban professionals, learn how to work with communities in a transdisciplinary way, empower them, prioritise necessary improvements based on data-driven insights and advocate, negotiate and implement these improvements.

After completing the master study programme, graduates are able to:

- Explain phenomena and forms of planetary urbanisation processes and global climate change;
- Assess climate-related risks in the built environment and vulnerabilities of marginalised groups;

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- Design measures for increased resilience and social-ecological transformation that incorporate multiple governance perspectives;
- Explain relevant context-specific physical processes, their spatial dimensions and the associated socio-technical challenges in order to realise socio-ecological transformations;
- Design transdisciplinary processes using the principles and theories of participatory planning;
- Integrate relevant literature with empirical data from the fields of urban development and climate adaptation to answer a central scientific research question.

**§ 2. Form and duration of study**

The joint master study programme lasts 4 semesters and comprises a total of 120 ECTS credits. The joint master study programme is taught in English.

The master study programme is offered as a joint study programme with the following universities at the following locations:

- Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway
- University Twente (UT), Enschede, The Netherlands
- XIM-University (XIM), Bhubaneshwar, India
- University of Nairobi (UoN), Nairobi, Kenya
- University for Continuing Education Krems (UWK), Krems, Austria

**§ 3. Study Program Director(s)**

- (1) The Consortium Board is responsible for the management of the study programme and is composed of Study Program Directors. One academically and organizationally qualified person from each of the partner universities shall be appointed as Study Program Directors. In the case of more than one person, a coordinator must be appointed. All Study Program Directors must fulfill the academic requirements by providing proof of a completed relevant PhD or doctoral degree.
- (2) The Study Program Directors decide on all matters relating to the joint master study programme, unless another person is responsible in this regard. If there are several persons in the function of Study Program Director, decisions are made by simple majority. In the event of a parity of vote, the coordinator shall have the casting vote.
- (3) One academically and organizationally qualified person from the University for Continuing Education Krems assumes the position as coordinator. The coordinator must

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fulfill the academic requirements by providing proof of a completed relevant PhD or doctoral degree.

**§ 4. Admission requirements**

- (1) Prerequisite is the completion of a relevant university degree programme at Bachelor's level with a minimum duration of 3 years or 180 ECTS credits.
- (2) Persons whose native language is not English must provide proof of English language proficiency at a level of at least B2 of the European Framework of Reference for Languages prior to admission. The type of proof must be determined by the Consortium Board and published accordingly.
- (3) Positive completion of a selection procedure, which is determined by the Consortium Board and communicated before the start of the admission period.

**§ 5. Study places**

- (1) Admission to the joint master study program is subject to the number of places available.
- (2) The maximum number of study places available for the start of a study program shall be determined by the Study Program Directors on the basis of pedagogical and organizational considerations.

**§ 6. Admission**

The Rectorate is responsible for the final decision and admission of students who meet the requirements of § 4 and § 5 in accordance with § 60 para. 1 UG.

**§ 7. Structure and organization**

The curriculum of the joint master study programme 'Inclusivity in Urban Climate Adaptation' consists of three parts, which are held at three different locations. The first and second semesters are completed at:

- 1) Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway
- 2) University for Continuing Education Krems (UWK), Krems, Austria

An internship must be completed after the second semester. For the third and fourth semesters, the joint master study programme includes three optional specialisations in 'Sustainable Urban Management and Governance' at XIM University (XIM), 'Spatial Knowledge for Climate Transitions and Liveable Cities' at the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) at the University of Twente or 'Urbanism and Climate Change Adaptation' at the University of Nairobi (UoN).

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In each of these specialisations, students complete two semesters at the same location. The choice of a specialisation by students must be made at the time of application and requires the approval of the Consortium Board. Elective courses are offered in accordance to minimum numbers of participants.

Module		Studien-ort	ECTS-Punkte
<b>Compulsory modules</b>			
<b>Urban Ecological Planning, from Theory to Practice</b>			<b>30</b>
I.1	Urban Form	NTNU	7,5
I.2	Climate Action and Urban Planning	NTNU	7,5
I.3	Climate responsive urban regeneration	NTNU	7,5
I.4	Planning theory and practice	NTNU	7,5
<b>Precarious Housing &amp; Climate Change Adaptation</b>			<b>30</b>
II.1	Climate and Built Environment	UWK	9
II.2	Socio-Economic Dimensions of Precarious Housing	UWK	3
II.3	Research Design for the Master Thesis Research Proposal	UWK	3
II.4	Internship	UWK	15
<b>Elective modules - one specialization must be chosen</b>			
<b>Sustainable Urban Management and Governance</b>			<b>60</b>
III.1	Informalities and Livelihoods in Southern Urbanism	XIM	4,5
III.2	Gender, Space and the City	XIM	4,5
III.3	Inclusive Local Governance and Partnerships	XIM	4,5
III.4	Financing Sustainability and Green Transitions	XIM	4,5
III.5	Electives (Select 2 out of 4 Elective Courses)	XIM	7
	Elective 1: Housing and Housing Finance	XIM	3,5
	Elective 2: Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation	XIM	3,5
	Elective 3: Sustainable Transportation	XIM	3,5
	Elective 4: Urban Risk Resilience and Disaster Management	XIM	3,5

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Module		Studien-ort	ECTS-Punkte
IV.1	Dialogical Spaces with CSOs: Societal Impact (Internationalisation)	XIM	5
IV.2	Master Thesis	XIM	30
	<b>Urbanism and Climate Change Adaptation</b>		<b>60</b>
III.1	Urbanism in Africa: Urban Concepts, Policies & Practices	UoN	5
III.2	Affordable Housing and Climate Adaptation in Africa	UoN	5
III.3	Environmental Design for Climate Change	UoN	5
III.4	Elective Course: (Select 2 out of 4 Elective Courses)	UoN	10
	Elective 1: Climate Change Lessons from African Traditional Settlements & Heritage Management	UoN	5
	Elective 2: Disaster, Risk and Infrastructure Management for Climate Adaptation	UoN	5
	Elective 3: Building Information Technology for Climate Adaptation	UoN	5
	Elective 4: Urban Safety and Security for Climate Adaptation	UoN	5
IV.1	Dialogical Spaces with CSOs: Societal Impact (Internationalisation)	UoN	5
IV.2	Master Thesis	UoN	30
	<b>Spatial Knowledge for Climate Transitions and Liveable Cities</b>		<b>60</b>
III.1	Fundamentals of Geo-Spatial Science	UT / ITC	1
III.2	Introduction to Remote Sensing	UT / ITC	1
III.3	Planning for Livable Cities	UT / ITC	5
III.4	Spatial Knowledge Management	UT / ITC	1
III.5	Volunteered Geographic Information	UT / ITC	1
III.6	Spatial Data Visualisation	UT / ITC	1
IV.1	Dialogical spaces with CSOs: Societal Impact (Internationalisation)	UT / ITC	5

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Module		Studien-ort	ECTS-Punkte
IV.2	Climate Transition in the Ijssel Delta	UT / ITC	15
IV.3	Academic and Research Phase (Master Thesis)	UT / ITC	30
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>120</b>

### § 8. Courses

- (1) The modules may consist of several courses. Information on the courses must be announced by the Study Program Directors before the respective study programme starts. Detailed information can be found in the module and course descriptions.
- (2) Courses may be offered as distance learning units, provided this is pedagogically and didactically appropriate. The achievement of the teaching objective must be ensured by the planned sequence of classroom supervision and self-study by students using suitable teaching materials. The breakdown of the distance learning units into classroom supervision and self-study, the timetable and the intended learning materials shall be made known to the students in an appropriate manner before the start of the courses.

### § 9. Examination regulations

The following achievements are required for positive completion of the joint master study programme:

- Module I.1: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (written group work, written individual work).
- Module I.2: Successful completion by passing a module examination (written).
- Module I.3: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (written group work, oral presentation).
- Module I.4: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 3 parts (oral presentation, written individual work, oral examination).
- Module II.1: Successful completion through participation in 3 courses with continuous assessment.
- Module II.2: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (oral presentation, written work).
- Module II.3: Successful completion by passing a module examination (written).

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- Module II.4: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (practical work, written work).
- Module IV.1: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (practical work, written individual work).

**Specialisation “Sustainable Urban Management and Governance”**

- Module III.1: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (written individual work, practical work).
- Module III.2: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (oral presentation, written group work).
- Module III.3: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 3 parts (written exam, written individual work, practical work).
- Module III.4: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (written individual work, written group work).
- Module III.5a: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (oral presentation, practical work).
- Module III.5b: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (written exam, written group work).
- Module III.5c: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 3 parts (written exam, written individual work, practical work).
- Module III.5d: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (written exam, written work).
- Module IV.2: Positive assessment and presentation/defence of the proposal and Master Thesis.

**Specialisation “Urbanism and Climate Change Adaptation”**

- Module III.1: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (written individual work, written exam).
- Module III.2: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (written exam, written group work).
- Module III.3: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (written exams).
- Module III.4a: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (written exam, oral presentation).

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- Module III.4b: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (written exam, oral presentation).
- Module III.4c: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (written exams).
- Module III.4d: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (written exam, oral presentation).
- Module IV.2: Positive assessment and defence of the Master Thesis.

**Specialisation "Spatial Knowledge for Climate Transitions and Liveable Cities"**

- Module III.1: Successful completion by passing a module examination (written).
- Module III.2: Successful completion by passing a module examination (written).
- Module III.3: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 3 parts (oral presentation, oral exam, written exam).
- Module III.4: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 2 parts (written exam, oral presentation).
- Module III.5: Successful completion by passing a module examination (practical work).
- Module III.6: Successful completion by passing a module examination (written).
- Module IV.2: Successful completion by passing a module examination in 4 parts (oral presentation, written group work, written individual work, oral exam).
- Module IV.3: Positive assessment and defence of the Master Thesis.

The detailed examination modalities can be found in the module and course descriptions.

**§ 10. Evaluation and quality development**

All programmes are integrated into the UWK's quality management system, which is certified in accordance with the Higher Education Quality Assurance Act. The courses and the entire master study programme are regularly evaluated by students and graduates. The feedback from students and lecturers is decisive for the further quality development of the study programmes offered.

**§ 11. Graduation**

- (1) After the positive assessment of all academic achievements, the student shall be granted a degree certificate.

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- (2) For the specialization 'Sustainable Urban Management and Governance' mentioned in § 7 the graduate shall be awarded as multiple degree:
- "Master of Science in Urban Ecological Planning" by Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU),
  - "Master of Science" by University for Continuing Education KREMS (UWK),
  - "Master of Science" by XIM-University (XIM).
- (3) For the specialization 'Urbanism and Climate Change Adaptation' mentioned in § 7 the graduate shall be awarded as multiple degree:
- "Master of Science in Urban Ecological Planning" by Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU),
  - "Master of Science" by University for Continuing Education KREMS (UWK),
  - "Master of Science" by University of Nairobi (UoN).
- (4) For the specialization 'Spatial Knowledge for Climate Transitions and Liveable Cities' mentioned in § 7 the graduate shall be awarded as multiple degree:
- "Master of Science in Urban Ecological Planning" by Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU),
  - "Master of Science" by University for Continuing Education KREMS (UWK),
  - "Master of Science in Geospatial Engineering" by International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) at the University of Twente.

**§ 12. Coming into force**

The present curriculum comes into force with the summer semester 2026.

