



CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT

‘Master Course in Islands and Sustainability’ - ISLANDS



Contents

Article 1. Purpose of the Consortium Agreement and Consortium Universities	5
Article 2. Validity and amendments	5
Article 3. Obligations of the 'Consortium Coordinator'	6
Article 4. Obligations of the 'Full Partners'	6
Article 5. ISLANDS Consortium Structure and Governing Bodies	7
5.1 Admitting and Host Institutions	7
5.2 ISLANDS Governing Consortium Boards	7
5.2.1 The ISLANDS Coordinator	8
5.2.2 The ISLANDS Supervisory Board	8
5.2.3 The ISLANDS Management Board	9
5.2.4 The ISLANDS Sub-Committees	10
5.2.5 Eligibility and Selection Committee	10
5.2.6 Joint Admissions Board	11
5.2.7 Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)	11
Article 6. Content of the ISLANDS Master Degree and Degree Awards	11
6.1 Course Structure	11
6.2 Academic content, Mobility and Timetable	12
6.3 Joint Student Application, Selection and Admission Requirements	14
6.3.1 Application	14
6.3.2 Selection	14
6.3.3 Admission and Registration	16
6.4 Joint Assessment Methods	16
6.4.1 Assessment	16
6.4.2 Overall Assessment	17
6.4.3 The Joint Grading Scales and Performance Expectations for Students	17
6.5 The Joint Recognition Mechanisms and Final degrees Awarded	18
6.5.1 Joint Recognition	18
6.5.2 Modifications to the Programme	18
6.5.3 Degree Award	18



Article 7. Fees & Insurance	18
7.1 Participation Fees	18
7.2 Insurance	19
Article 8. Funding	19
8.1 Payment of Funds	19
8.2 Reimbursement of Grants:	19
Article 9. Publicity	20
9.1 Website	20
9.2 Prospectus Entries	20
9.3 Use of crests and logos	20
Article 10. Quality Assurance	20
10.1. Academic Standards	20
10.2 Examination Boards	20
10.3 Thesis Assessment	20
10.4 Quality Assurance Committee	21
Article 11. Programme information	21
11.1 Programme Handbook	21
11.2 Full Partner Institution Handbooks	21
Article 12. Student records	21
12.1 Host Institution Responsibilities	21
Article 13. Student issues	21
Article 14. Student Services	22
Article 15. Intellectual Property Rights	22
15.1	22
15.2	23
15.3	23
15.4	23
15.5	23
15.6	24
15.7	24
Article 16. Confidential Information	24



Article 17. Indemnity, Liability	25
Article 18. Force Majeure	26
Article 19. This Agreement	27
19.1 General	27
19.1 Review	27
19.2 Amendments	27
19.3 Expiry or Termination	27
19.4 Withdrawal	28
19.5 Disputes	28
19.6 Counterparts and digital copies of this agreement	28
Article 20. Application of Laws, Statutes	28
Signature page for for the Consortium Coordinator, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands	29
Signature page for the Full Partner university, University of the Aegean, Greece	30
Signature page for the Full Partner university, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain	31
Signature page for the Full Partner university, University of Iceland, Iceland	32
Appendix: Teaching and Examination Regulations of the ISLANDS Master Degree	33

Article 1. Purpose of the Consortium Agreement and Consortium Universities

This Consortium Agreement ('the agreement') is concluded between the following parties, together constituting the 'Master Course in Islands and Sustainability' Consortium, hereinafter referred to as ISLANDS Consortium:

The University of Groningen (RIJKSUNIVERSITEIT GRONINGEN, RUG, NL GRONING01), represented by Prof. Jouke de Vries, president

hereinafter referred to as the 'Consortium Coordinator', and

the University of the Aegean - (Panepistimio Aigaiou, UAEGEAN, G ATHINE41), represented by Professor Chryssi Vitsilaki, Rector.

the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria - (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, ULPGC, E LAS-PAL01), represented by Professor Jin Taira, Vice Chancellor for internationalisation, mobility and international outreach.

the University of Iceland - (Haskoli Islands, ICELAND, IS REYKJAV01), represented by Professor Jón Atli Benediktsson, Rector, Professor Sigurður Magnus Garðarsson, Dean of School of Engineering and Natural Sciences and Professor Snæbjörn Pálsson, Head of Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences.

henceforth each called the 'Consortium Partner' and together called the 'Consortium Partners' The Consortium Coordinator and each of the Consortium Partners are hereinafter referred to as a 'Full Partner' of the Consortium; together they are referred to as 'Full Partners' of the Consortium.

The purpose of the Agreement is to support the implementation and to guarantee effective management/cooperation mechanisms within the consortium of the Erasmus Mundus Master Degree (offered as a double degree programme and hereafter referred to as the ISLANDS Master Degree) **'Master Course in Islands and Sustainability'- ISLANDS**, hereinafter referred to as the *'Collaborative Project'*. This Agreement shall specify the respective rights and obligations of the Full Partners.

All Full Partners will be subject to the rules and regulations set up by the EDUCATION, AUDIOVISUAL AND CULTURE EXECUTIVE AGENCY (EACEA).

Article 2. Validity and amendments

This Agreement shall come into force on the day that it has been signed by each of the Full Partners but shall have retroactive effect from 1 September 2022.

This agreement is valid insofar as it is in conformity with the provisions of the Framework Agreement and the Specific Grant Agreement, after acceptance of the Collaborative Project.

Amendments to this Agreement shall be signed on behalf of each of the legal representatives of each of the Full Partners.

The Agreement shall be renewable and modifiable by mutual agreement of the Full Partners and/or following any new project proposal selected by the EACEA.

Article 3. Obligations of the 'Consortium Coordinator'

The '*Consortium Coordinator*' shall manage the administrative, legal and financial matters of the ISLANDS Consortium and the ISLANDS Master Degree towards the EACEA.

The '*Consortium Coordinator*' shall be responsible for all contacts with the EACEA.

The '*Consortium Coordinator*' shall report to the ISLANDS Consortium in such a way so as to give them comprehensive information of the administrative, legal, and financial matters of the Project.

The '*Consortium Coordinator*' is responsible for the following:

- Taking all the steps necessary to prepare for, perform and correctly manage the '*Collaborative Project*' set out in this contract and its annexes, in accordance with the objectives of the project as set out by the EACEA.
- Sending to the Consortium Partners copies of the Agreements signed with the EACEA together with annexes and any other official document concerning the '*Collaborative Project*'.
- To notify and provide the Consortium Partners with any amendments made to this Agreement.
- To comply with all the provisions binding the '*Consortium Coordinator*' to the EACEA.
- To nominate the ISLANDS Master Degree Programme Director and the Administrative Coordinator of the '*Collaborative Project*'.
- To nominate its representatives to the Supervisory Board and Management Board.

Article 4. Obligations of the 'Full Partners'

The '*Full Partners*' are subject to the Erasmus Mundus Grant Agreement Project 101050349 — ISLANDS.

The '*Full Partners*' are responsible for the following:

- Taking all the steps necessary to prepare for, perform and correctly manage the '*Collaborative Project*' set out in this contract and its annexes, in accordance with the objectives of the project as set out in the Agreements concluded between the EACEA and the legal representative of

the '*Consortium Coordinator*' of the **ISLANDS** Consortium.

- Complying with all the provisions of Agreements binding the Consortium Coordinator to the EACEA.
- Communicating to the '*Consortium Coordinator*' any information or document required by the latter that is necessary for the management of the '*Collaborative Project*'.
- Accepting responsibility for all information communicated to the '*Consortium Coordinator*', including details of costs claimed and, where appropriate, expenses that are difficult to justify.
- Nominating their own representatives to the Supervisory Board and Management Board.
- Promptly notifying any delay in performance or any event that may impact the joint programme to the Management Board.
- Informing the Management Board of relevant information received from third parties in regards to the ISLANDS Master Degree course.
- Acting at all times in good faith and in a manner that reflects the good name, goodwill and reputation of the other Full Partners and in accordance with generally-accepted standards of scientific and academic ethics.
- Participating in a cooperative manner at the meetings of the different bodies established under this Partnership Agreement.

Article 5. ISLANDS Consortium Structure and Governing Bodies

5.1 Admitting and Host Institutions

As the Full Partner at which all students shall register for the **ISLANDS** Master Degree, RUG — the '*Consortium Coordinator*' — shall be referred to as the '**Home Institution**'.

Any other **Full Partner** at which the students are resident at any one time shall be referred to as the '**Host Institution**'.

At any given point in time throughout the duration of their participation in the ISLANDS programme, students shall be associated with one '*Host Institution*'.

5.2 ISLANDS Governing Consortium Boards

Appointed representatives from each of the Full Partners to this Agreement shall form the ISLANDS Consortium Boards *as outlined in the Grant Agreement signed between the ISLANDS consortium and the European Commission in December 2021*. The ISLANDS Consortium Boards shall support the '*Consortium Coordinator*' and '*Consortium Partners*' in managing the '*Collaborative Project*'

The ISLANDS Consortium structure shall be composed of:

- **The ISLANDS Coordinator**



- **A Supervisory Board**
- **A Management Board**
- **The ISLANDS Committee (comprising six sub-committees and the Joint Admissions Board)**
- **A Education Quality Assurance Committee**
- **Joint Technical Secretariat**

5.2.1 The ISLANDS Coordinator

The University of Groningen is the ISLANDS Coordinator and represents the Consortium in legal and administrative actions and is responsible towards the EACEA. The academic coordinator will be a senior scientist (also acting as the overall ISLANDS academic programme director) from the University of Groningen and shall coordinate the operation of the governing bodies (boards and committees) of ISLANDS. The University of Groningen will also appoint a deputy academic coordinator (also a senior scientist), as well as an administrative coordinator (also see section 5.2.7 on Joint Technical Secretariat below).

5.2.2 The ISLANDS Supervisory Board

The ISLANDS Supervisory Board shall be responsible for all decisions regarding the supervision of the educational and scientific purposes of the Collaborative Project.

The ISLANDS Supervisory Board is responsible for the following tasks:

- Undertaking a periodic (at least annually) review of the participation costs of the ISLANDS Master Degree.
- Conducting a review and amendments of the scholarship conditions, if necessary.
- Taking any relevant actions to ensure quality assurance of the ISLANDS Master Degree.
- Taking and relevant actions to ensure agreement on the adaptation and update of the joint curriculum in line with ongoing developments.
- Implement the ISLANDS double degree programme and agree on the adaptation and update of the joint curriculum.
- Review admission criteria in relation to the award of scholarships and partial participation fee waivers on the programme annually and make necessary changes and agree on the allocation of evaluation tasks.

The ISLANDS Supervisory Board shall be composed of six (6) full members:

- One (1) senior scientist appointed by each of the Full Partners
- The ISLANDS Coordinator
- One (1) external member recognised for their expertise who will be selected by the other

full members of the ISLANDS Supervisory Board

The ISLANDS Supervisory Board shall meet at least twice per year. Meetings of the ISLANDS Supervisory Board require the presence of a quorum of two-thirds (2/3) of the full members, while absentees are allowed to vote by proxy. Meetings of the ISLANDS Supervisory Board can also be held by video-conferencing means.

Voting rules: one vote per representative, while the ISLANDS Coordinator shall exercise a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes; decisions are to be taken by a simple majority vote.

5.2.3 The ISLANDS Management Board

The ISLANDS Management Board shall be responsible for the implementation of the decisions taken by the Supervisory Board. The annual preselection of incoming students shall be among its duties.

The ISLANDS Management Board will be composed by five (5) members as follows:

- The **ISLANDS Academic Coordinator**
- The **ISLANDS Master Degree Directors (one (1) appointed by each Full Partner) including the University of Groningen Research Master programme director:** Each Full Partner shall appoint a local ISLANDS Master Degree Director. The ISLANDS Master Degree Director of each Full Partner shall liaise with her or his counterparts appointed by the other Full Partners on all matters concerning the curriculum, assessments, student progress and quality issues. The ISLANDS Master Degree Directors of each Full Partner shall ensure that the programme of study at their institution is consistent with the objectives of the programme curriculum.

Concerning the selection of the students, the Management Board shall:

- Review admission criteria annually and advise to adopt necessary changes;
- Agree on the allocation of evaluation tasks between the Full Partners;
- Select the students for the scholarship and establish the proposed list of scholarship holders to be sent to the EACEA;
- Validate the ISLANDS Master Degree thesis projects.

The ISLANDS Management Board shall meet when necessary, and at least once per semester. Meetings of the ISLANDS Management Board require the presence of a quorum of two-thirds (2/3) of its members, while absentees are allowed to vote by proxy. Meetings of the ISLANDS Management Board can also be held by video- conferencing means. Vote rules: one vote per representative, while the ISLAND Coordinator shall exercise a casting vote in the event of an equality

of in cases of equal votes; decisions are to be taken by simple majority vote.

5.2.4 *The ISLANDS Sub-Committees*

The ISLANDS Consortium shall set up the ISLANDS Sub-Committees, led by different full partners of the Consortium.

- **Sub-Committee 1: 'Internal and External Communication Sub-Committee'** led by *ICELAND*: This shall elaborate the specifications for the ISLANDS Master Degree website, and shall be responsible for the creation of alumni tools, promotional material for the organisation of different events, and the design and maintenance of the ISLANDS website (<https://islandsmaster.eu/>), as well as the production of newsletters about the ISLANDS Master Degree. This Sub-Committee shall propose the communication policy (communication- dissemination plan) for the purposes of promoting the ISLANDS Master Degree worldwide.
- **Sub-Committee 2: 'Education and Training'** led by RUG: This shall be responsible for the management of the scientific and transferable courses (by updating and centralising the information from each Full Partner, reflect on the formation of new courses, and the following up of the Double degree curriculum.
- **Sub-Committee 3 'Mobility'** led by UPLGC: This shall be responsible for centralising and harmonising information about mobility in relation to the ISLANDS Master degree (including, among others, the orientation of students, student welfare issues such as accommodation, etc.). It shall also monitor mobility periods undertaken within the ISLANDS Master Degree.
- **Sub-Committee 4 'Evaluation - Student Services'** led by UAEGEAN: this shall be responsible for the evaluation of the course and the staff by students, services relating to student insurance, visa assistance and the like.
- **Sub-Committee 5 'Career opportunities'** led by RUG: this shall be responsible for the following up of the ISLANDS Master Degree curriculum, proposing tools for students' auto-evaluations, as well as for working with professional networks, centralising and communicating information, analyses, and career trends that may be of relevance to ISLANDS Master Degree participants.

5.2.5 *Eligibility and Selection Committee*

Additionally, the ISLANDS consortium will set up an *Eligibility and Selection Committee*, which will meet annually to evaluate and process all applications and will preselect students for the programme. This committee will be led and chaired by the coordinator (RUG) and will consist of at least one (1) representative of each Partner.



5.2.6 Joint Admissions Board.

Furthermore, the ISLANDS consortium will also set up a ***Joint Admissions Board***. This Board will make decisions regarding admission to the degree programme, to be confirmed by the local RUG board and final decisions on the awarding of scholarships. The Joint Admissions Board will have one representative from each university and it will be chaired by the ISLANDS Academic Coordinator (also acting as academic programme director).

5.2.7 Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)

The JTS will be hosted by the 'Consortium Coordinator' with the support of the Consortium Partners. The JTS staff will include an administrative coordinator and study advisor who will handle all administrative matters and who will be in charge of practical issues, such as: arrival of students (including visa issues), mobility arrangements, administrative tasks concerning study progress, collecting the marks of students (subject to and after asking and obtaining permissions from students in accordance with GDPR regulations), organisation of the preselection procedure for the programme and the selection procedure for the grant, organisation of meetings of the managing bodies, communication, financial reporting and report writing. The JTS shall work closely together with the partner in charge of the design and the further development of the ISLANDS website (currently ICELAND; also heading the Internal and External Communications Sub-committee as outlined above). This secretariat will work under the guidance of the ISLANDS Coordinator.

Article 6. Content of the ISLANDS Master Degree and Degree Awards

The Master Degree in Islands and Sustainability (ISLANDS) will be achieved over two years through the allocation of 120 European Credit Transfer System units (EC) by means of a Double Degree arrangement. Students will obtain one Master Degree from the Home University (University of Groningen) and one Master Degree from the island-based partner University, where the student undertakes the compulsory periods of mobility. Students study at the Home University in the first semester of the first year and in the first semester of the second year of the ISLANDS Master Degree, and will study at one island-based partner University in the second semester of the first year and the second semester of the second year. Additionally, on receipt of both diplomas, the University of Groningen will also issue a certificate stating that they have completed the double degree on the basis of having completed the two constituent single degree programmes (which will be named in this certificate).

6.1 Course Structure

The programme consists of four semesters (two years), in total 120 EC, 30 EC in each semester with one compulsory period of mobility in the second semester (30 EC) and another one throughout the second semester of the second year (30 EC) In particular, based on the existing University of Groningen Research Master, the ISLANDS study programme will be delivered in English, organised

in four half semesters: 1a (from 1 September to mid-November), 1b (from mid November to end of January), 2a (1 February – end of March) and 2b (1 April until the end of the academic year). In the cases where there are Academic Calendar differences in the start and end dates between the ISLANDS partner universities there will be appropriate support to facilitate a transition that is as smooth as possible.

6.2 Academic content, Mobility and Timetable

Each student on the ISLANDS Master programme will study at the Home Institution and at one of the three Consortium Partner universities, obtaining at the end of the programme a diploma from both universities. The structure of the programme over the two years is visualised in the following table (white : study at RUG, grey : compulsory mobility in UAEGEAN, ULPGC or ICELAND). Students are free to plan the order of taking Methods Courses (A&SRM) and Thematic Courses (TTS) in line with their preferences. See the [Ocasys page](#) for more information.

Year 1 (60 EC)

1a	1b	2a	2b
Advanced and Specialized Research Methods (A&SRM) (5 EC)	Thematic Theoretical Specialisation (TTS) (5 EC)	Individual Research Training (IRT) (10 EC)	Research Internship at a renowned Research Institute (RIRI) (10 EC or 15 EC (Iceland))
Islands, Insularity and Islandness (5 EC)	Thematic Theoretical Specialisation (TTS) (5 EC)		
Joint Multidisciplinary Research Project (JMRP) (5 EC)		Advanced and Specialised	Thematic Theoretical Specialisation (TTS) 3 (5 EC)



Scientific Reading Debating and Reflecting (SRDR 1) (5 EC)

Research Methods (A&SRM) 2 (5 EC)

(Gran Canaria and Lesvos)

Monthly joint 1st and 2nd year students' sessions: books and diaries (in 2a and 2b these sessions will take place in a hybrid form (students based in the three islands will be joined via video conference with the staff and other Faculty of Spatial Sciences Research Master students at RUG)

Year 2 (60 EC)

1a	1b	2a	2b
Advanced Research Skills (A&SRM) (5 EC)	Research Process and Proposal Writing (RPPW) (5 EC)	Master Thesis (30 EC) taken at the same Consortium Partner as in Year 1	
Thematic Theoretical Specialisation (TTS) (5 EC)	Thematic Theoretical Specialisation (TTS) (5 EC)		
Advanced and Specialised Research Methods (A&SRM) (5 EC)			
<p>Scientific Reading Debating and Reflecting (SRDR 2) (5 EC)</p> <p>Monthly joint 1st and 2nd year students' sessions: Islands and Sustainability workshops and scientific diaries</p>			

The first semester of the first year all ISLANDS students will be based at the University of Groningen, but during this same period there will be teaching staff mobility from the Consortium Partner universities to Groningen in addition to external guest lectures contributing to the modules described in section 6.3 above. In particular, ***this teaching staff mobility will be designed to support the delivery of the course on Islands, Insularity and Islandness***, as well as to facilitate informal teaching sessions and meetings between ISLANDS staff and students (including social events during the weeks that island-based university scholars visit Groningen). These visits will also prepare the ground for the compulsory periods of mobility in the island-based university as they will provide an opportunity for a first and substantial meeting between students and visiting staff from these island-based universities.

The second semester of the first year will be the ***first compulsory period of mobility for the students and they will be based in one of the three ISLANDS Consortium Partner universities***.

In the second half of the second year, the second compulsory period of mobility will take place in the same ISLANDS Consortium Partner university as in the second semester of the first year; ISLANDS students will work on their Master thesis during this period. Throughout the second year there will also be monthly meetings and workshops on Scientific Reading, Debating and Reflecting (which, as it will also be the case in the second semester of the first year, will take place in hybrid mode in the second semester of the second year as well, with students from all islands joining a video conference session with RUG staff and other University of Groningen Spatial Sciences Research Master students).

6.3 Joint Student Application, Selection and Admission Requirements.

6.3.1 Application

Students shall apply for admission through the programme through the dedicated ISLANDS website (<https://islandsmaster.eu/>) and after selection to the programme through the University of Groningen Studielink website (<https://www.rug.nl/education/master/international-students/admission-and-application/>). All applications will be processed by the Coordinator and shared between all members of the *Programme Eligibility and Selection Committee*.

6.3.2 Selection

The selection of students will be based on criteria based on the selection criteria of the Master programme of the RUG as detailed in the table below. All applications shall be processed by the Programme's Eligibility and Selection committee consisting of at least one representative of each Full Partner (also see article 5; section 5.2.3).

Decisions will be taken in accordance with joint student eligibility and selection criteria, which

include a Bachelor degree (of comparable level to a Dutch academic bachelor degree obtained at a Dutch Research University) in disciplines such as Environmental Science and/or Engineering, Geography, Economics, Tourism, Political Science or related fields and an English Language Certificate (for non-native speakers of English only), as the language of instruction is exclusively English. Admission to the degree programme and decisions on the awarding of scholarships will be determined by the Joint Admissions Board (also see article 5; section 5.2.3), which has one representative from each university, and has the Joint Programme Coordinator as its chairperson. Students will be selected based on the following criteria, which will be periodically reviewed by the ISLANDS Management Board (also see article 5):

Specific requirements	More information (this is and will always be identical to the requirements for the Research Master in Spatial Sciences at RUG as can be found on the official RUG website)
assessment interview	Generally, an interview with the applicant — in which attitude, motivation, orientation and competence for a career in (scientific) research are evaluated — forms part of the admission procedure. The interview is scheduled after the required documents have been received and evaluated by the Admissions Board.
grade average	Excellent study results and high grades at university level (A range, typically top 10%); Comparable to Dutch grading system: typically the expectation is that there is an average grade of at least 7.0 and for a Bachelor thesis of at least 7.5.
language test	English on VWO level; Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (A, B or C). Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (A, B or C); Minimum of 6.5 for the International English Language Testing System (Academic version) (IELTS). With a minimum of 6.5 on listening, reading, writing and speaking; Minimum of 90 on the internet based version of Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL); Minimum of 580 on the written version of Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL); Minimum of 237 on the interactive version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL); ; Exemptions: native speakers or students with education from countries listed in the relevant section of the Home Institution (RUG) Teaching Terms and Regulations (TER) documents for the Research Master in Spatial Sciences (see the Appendix). There is also a possibility of exemptions for students with educational qualifications from University programmes taught in English, subject to the presentation of relevant evidence to the satisfaction of the Admissions Board.



previous education	Academic bachelor degree (of comparable level to a Dutch academic bachelor degree obtained at a Dutch Research University) in human geography and/or urban and regional planning or comparable qualifications, including at least 10 EC in statistics or equivalent statistical knowledge.
written request	All applicants have to submit a detailed CV, list of grades, motivation letter and optionally (if they wish to be considered for a scholarship and/or a partial participation fee waiver) one or two reference letters (to be considered in the assessment of applications for scholarships and/or partial fee waivers) to the Admissions Office. The motivation letter should also include, but not be restricted to, a motivated choice for the partner university where the student will study at the end of year 1 and in the second half of year 2.

6.3.3 Admission and Registration

The number of students admitted to the programme shall be agreed on annually by the Full Partners. On admission, students will register for the two year MSc Research Master in Spatial Sciences at the Home Institution and the Consortium Partner, where they will undertake the periods of compulsory mobility. Students will be enrolled at the University of Groningen throughout the programme and at the Islands-based partner for at least the length of their mobility periods there.

6.4 Joint Assessment Methods

6.4.1 Assessment

The mechanisms for performance assessment will follow the established approach of the University of Groningen Research Master in Spatial Sciences. The programme already has detailed Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER) that set out the specific rights and obligations that apply to each programme taught at the Faculty of Spatial Sciences for both the students and the faculty. The TER document is written by the Spatial Sciences Faculty Board and approved by the Faculty Council and the appropriate Programme Committee. Based on the TER – which contains the intended learning outcomes – the programme management drafts an assessment plan, which constitutes the intended learning outcomes, the modes of assessment of all courses in the programme, and a matrix clarifying the relationship between the learning outcomes and the courses of the curriculum. Apart from the assessment plan at the level of the programme as a whole, a standardised course guide is available for each course unit, as defined by the responsible lecturer(s). This overview is a systematic description of the links between learning outcomes, modes of instruction, and modes of assessment and marking, as well as the students' background and the position of the course unit within the curriculum. The course guide also gives information on the modes of assessment and assessment procedures and is available via the University of Groningen online learning platform.



The quality of the exam is assessed in advance through peer review by another member of staff. Assessment is also part of the course- and programme evaluations that are conducted retrospectively. In the course evaluations, students can indicate the extent to which the assessment ties in with the learning objectives of a course. The course coordinator(s) and the relevant programme committee reflect upon this evaluation, and it is also made publicly available to students. The progress of students as measured by the intended learning outcomes is monitored through means of the assessment plan. The Board of Examiners, including a member dedicated to quality assurance, guarantees the quality of assessment. The Board of Examiners also safeguards the quality and suitability of assessment and acts as arbiter in the case of disagreement.

The Master thesis forms the final component of the ISLANDS Programme. The thesis reports on research carried out under the supervision of academic staff members involved in the ISLANDS programme. In order to assess the Master thesis, a standard assessment form is used and at least two supervisors are involved. The ISLANDS Master thesis will be produced and completed at one of the island-based universities but there will also be at least one University of Groningen supervisor involved as well (and possibly supervisors from the other Consortium Partners, depending on the topic).

The thesis project culminates in the Graduate Research Day at the University of Groningen, which is a biannual congress during which students present their Master Thesis work to professionals, students, staff members but also to family and friends. There are parallel presentation sessions, a poster market, and four key-note lectures done by students who are writing an excellent thesis. The event is faculty-wide and all faculty's Master's programmes participate in it. The congress provides students with a serious and attractive podium to present themselves and their work, which show a recognition of their work. ISLANDS students will also be invited to present their work during the Graduate Research Day (with relevant travel support covered by the programme if the student is based in the island-based university at the time of the presentation and also with the alternative possibility of a hybrid/online presentation).

6.4.2 Overall Assessment

At the end of each degree programme, student results will be reviewed and processed by the ISLANDS Management Board.

6.4.3 The Joint Grading Scales and Performance Expectations for Students

All modules (taught and project/coursework) are weighted according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) , hereafter referred to as EC. Relevant information about each module on the course is listed on the ISLANDS Master Degree website and documentation (with relevant hyperlinks to the Full Partners website with more information as appropriate). This procedure will be transparent, as institutional and EC grading scales will be



available with student transcripts from each Full Partner.

6.5 The Joint Recognition Mechanisms and Final degrees Awarded

6.5.1 Joint Recognition

Each Full Partner has formally considered and approved this Erasmus+ Master Programme as set out in the Double Degree Agreements.

6.5.2 Modifications to the Programme

Changes to the programme must be formally agreed on by revisiting formal degree recognition procedures.

6.5.3 Degree Award

The Erasmus + Master Degree on Islands and Sustainability will be awarded as a double degree programme after two years on the completion of 120 EC in two of the Full Partner universities. The students must obtain 30 EC from each semester in which they study. Upon successful completion of the joint programme, students will receive a degree from the University of Groningen (with an acknowledgement that this is an ISLANDS programme) and a degree from the island-based Consortium Partner University where the student undertook the compulsory periods of mobility. In addition, on receipt of both diplomas, the University of Groningen will also issue a certificate stating that they have completed the double degree based on having completed the two constituent single degree programs (which will be named in this certificate).

While the project develops, the Management Board will look into the possibility of setting up a Joint ISLANDS Master degree that would be issued on behalf of all Full Partners after completion of the ISLANDS programme.

Article 7. Fees & Insurance

7.1 Participation Fees

The ISLANDS student participation fee is set at €9,000 per year for students from EU partner countries and at €4,500 per year for students from non-EU programme countries (and, in cases of any partial fee waivers, the adjusted participation fee after the waiver is applied). The ISLANDS Consortium will compensate each full partner with participation fees prorated on an EC basis according to the number of student-terms hosted by this full partner. In particular, the share of the fee balance per student allocated to each of the Full Partners will be proportional to the fee normally expected for a 120 EC Master Degree at each of the respective Full Partners. The division of fees

shall be updated yearly, to specify the exact financial scheme according to the number of students in each category admitted to the Programme. The participation fees will be used to cover costs related to the successful implementation of the programme including teaching, management, impact, and administration, as well as student and staff travel in relation to research project and internship related activities (and to cover all necessary student insurance costs).

7.2 Insurance

The consortium will select a suitable insurance policy for students that is 100% compliant with the EACEA minimum requirements. This insurance will include travel insurance, medical coverage and medical and legal liability.

Article 8. Funding

8.1 Payment of Funds

The EACEA is funding the Collaborative Project. The funds, referenced in the Framework Partnership Agreement, are paid to the Consortium Coordinator and then allocated to partners to cover relevant implementation costs (at consortium and partner level) in accordance with the EACEA Grant Agreement.

8.2 Consortium Coordinator Responsibilities

The students involved in the programme pay participation costs (including tuition fees). Scholarship holders will have their participation costs (including tuition fees) paid via the EACEA grant allocated to the Consortium Coordinator. The annual rate of the participation costs are determined for the duration of the EACEA Grant Agreement. The participation fees shall be paid to the Consortium Coordinator, who is responsible for the proper disbursement of fees (including payment of the appropriate prorated tuition fees by the Faculty of Spatial Sciences for these students to the University of Groningen). The Consortium Coordinator is also responsible for the timely transfer of scholarships to the host institutions as documented in 8.3 below.

8.2 Reimbursement of Grants:

Should an enrolled student fail to participate fully in the programme and they are not replaced by another student, the Consortium Coordinator shall have to return part or the totality of the grant to the EACEA. If explicitly required by EACEA, the host institutions shall renounce the funds due, and shall return the corresponding funds to the Consortium Coordinator.

Article 9. Publicity

The Full Partners shall agree to work together to deliver publicity for the programme.

9.1 Website

There shall be a single website for the programme. The Coordinating institution shall maintain this programme website in collaboration with the Full Partner, who has responsibility for this task as specified in the EACEA Grant Agreement (and any amendments to this agreed by the partners and EACEA) and all Full Partners will maintain links to that website on their own websites.

9.2 Prospectus Entries

Each Full Partner shall be responsible for making entries in its own prospectus and other publicity material.

9.3 Use of crests and logos

If a Full Partner Party institution wishes to include the crest, logo or other identifying mark of another Full Partner Party institution in any publicity material, then this use must be approved in advance by the Full Partner Party institution that owns the logo, crest or mark to be reused.

Article 10. Quality Assurance

10.1. Academic Standards

The maintenance of academic standards and the management and enhancement of both procedures for quality assurance and control are the collective responsibility of the Full Partners in accordance with their Charters, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

10.2 Examination Boards

Examination Boards of the Full Partners are separate. Each Full Partner shall use its existing Board of Examiners for its existing Master's Degree programmes. Details of the operation of examination boards shall be provided in relevant handbooks and other course materials to all students and other written literature published by the Full Partner. While the project progresses, the Managing Board will look into the possibility of setting-up an overarching ISLANDS Board of Examiners.

10.3 Thesis Assessment

In addition to the normal project assessment processes of the host institution, each thesis shall be

scrutinised by an examiner from a different Full Partner who will advise the Examinations Board of the standard of the project. This advice shall not be binding.

10.4 Quality Assurance Committee

As noted above, a separate quality assurance committee made up of at least one member from each Full Partner and at least one external member shall review standards and practices of each Full Partner annually and shall make recommendations to ensure that compatibility of standards is maintained.

Article 11. Programme information

11.1 Programme Handbook

The Home Institution shall produce an ISLANDS Master Degree handbook, which details the rules and regulations of the Programme. This shall serve as an introductory handbook for the entire programme.

11.2 Full Partner Institution Handbooks

Each Full Partner Institution shall also produce an ISLANDS handbook and/or mobility pack, according to their own regulations and standards, detailing information about the components of the programme that they offer.

Article 12. Student records

12.1 Host Institution Responsibilities

With relation to assessment and reporting, the Host Institution has the primary and ultimate responsibility for obtaining from the instructors and transmitting to the Home Institution and other host institution, in a timely fashion, assessment records for all participating students. Records shall be transmitted to the other Institution by an agreed date and process via the International Office of Faculty of Spatial Sciences of the University of Groningen as soon as possible after the assessment period.

Article 13. Student issues

Students shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges (including academic and library resources, and student support services), as students normally enrolled at the Full Partner Institution at which they would be following their studies at a given point in time.

Each student shall enjoy the privileges and be subject to the regulations of the Full Partner Institution at which they would be following their studies at a given point in time.

The Full Partner Institutions assume no responsibility whatsoever for any property of the students or the persons under the care of another Full Partner Institution in connection with this Agreement and are hereby expressly released and discharged from any and all liability for any loss, injury or damage to persons or property that may be sustained by reason of activities pursuant to this Agreement.

Local policies of the given Full Partner Institution at which students would be following their studies at a given point in time shall apply for the resolution of complaints and appeals.

Article 14. Student Services

Students shall benefit from the same services as students normally enrolled at the Full Partner Institution at which they would be following their studies at a given point in time.

Article 15. Intellectual Property Rights

15.1

For the purposes of this article and this Agreement, the following definitions shall apply:

'Background Intellectual Property' means all and any Intellectual Property (excluding Foreground Intellectual Property) created, developed or otherwise in existence prior to the commencement date of this Agreement;

'Foreground Intellectual Property' means all and any Intellectual Property created or developed by a full partner Institution or by any Student in the course of the implementation of the ISLANDS Master Degree Programme; and

'Intellectual Property' means copyright works, patents, discoveries, improvements, inventions, trademarks, designs, information, data, formulae, specifications, results of tests and field trials, diagrams, expertise, techniques, technology, know-how, and other intellectual property of any nature whatsoever, including applications and the right to apply for registration of any of the foregoing rights.

Each Full Partner hereby grants to the other Full Partners a non-exclusive, non-transferable, royalty free licence to use their respective names and logos including trademarks, solely for the purpose of performing their obligations and exercising their rights under this Agreement. Each instance of such use of the names and logos shall be in such form as agreed in writing upfront with the Full Partners in question. The ownership and, or control of Foreground Intellectual Property generated in connection with the ISLANDS Master Degree shall apply as follows:

- If generated by the student, it is subject to the arrangements made with the Full Partner



Institution where the student was based at the time the Foreground Intellectual Property was created, provided that it is hereby agreed that any Intellectual Property being created or developed by a Student shall be owned by the given student, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Full Partner Institution the student was based at the time the Foreground Intellectual Property was created

- If generated by staff, it shall be subject to the rules of the employing Full Partner.

15.2

Any Background Intellectual Property shall at all times remain the sole and exclusive property of the Full Partner to whom that Background Intellectual Property belonged prior to the commencement date of this Agreement. Each of the Full Partners hereby grants to the other Full Partners a non-exclusive and non-transferable licence to use the first Full Partner's Background Intellectual Property to the extent necessary to fulfill the other Full Partner's obligations under this Agreement, for the purposes of the implementation of the ISLANDS Master Degree.

15.3

Any Foreground Intellectual Property shall be, subject to any written agreement between the Full Partners to the contrary, and subject to this article, the sole and exclusive property of the Full Partner creating or developing it. All of the Full Partners hereby grant to the other Full Partners a non-exclusive and non-transferable licence to use the first Full Partner's Foreground Intellectual Property to the extent necessary to fulfil their obligations under this Agreement for the purposes of the implementation of the ISLANDS Master Degree. In the light of the foregoing, should Foreground Intellectual Property be owned by a student, the Full Partner Institution where the student was based at the time the Intellectual Property was created shall ensure that full assignments of Intellectual Property are obtained by the concerned Full Partner Institution.

15.4

Where Foreground Intellectual Property is developed jointly between students and, or staff of two or more Full Partners, and if the features of such joint Foreground Intellectual Property are such that it is not possible to separate them for the purpose of applying for, obtaining and/or maintaining the relevant patent protection the Full Partners shall agree which of them shall manage the generated Intellectual Property and for this purpose shall ensure that full assignments of Intellectual Property are obtained.

15.5

Each Full Partner Institution shall promptly and fully notify the other Full Partner Institution of any actual, threatened or suspected infringement of the other Full Partner's Intellectual Property Rights which comes to the first Full Partner Institution's notice, and of any claim by any third party coming to its notice that the marketing and, or offering of the ISLANDS Master Degree infringes any rights of any third party.

15.6

The Full Partners shall ensure that all goodwill resulting from the use by a Full Partner under this Consortium Agreement of the Intellectual Property owned by other Full Partners shall be of benefit to the owner of such Intellectual Property . In case of commercial use of joint Foreground Intellectual Property or Foreground Intellectual Property owned by other Full Partners, financial compensation according to market based conditions shall be given to the other Full Partners concerned.

15.7

The Full Partners each individually confirm that strict confidentiality be observed in all communications relating to the portable or potentially- commercially valuable Intellectual Property created within the ISLANDS Master Degree. No disclosures of Intellectual Property shall be made to third parties without permission of the appropriate authorities or persons.

Article 16. Confidential Information

All data and other documents and information supplied in writing by any Full Partner (the 'Disclosing Party') to another Full Partner (the 'Receiving Party') under this Agreement and marked as 'Confidential Information' (hereinafter referred to as 'Confidential Information') shall remain the property of the Disclosing Party and shall be treated as confidential, both during the performance of this Agreement and for an indefinite period thereafter.

The Receiving Party shall not, during the term of this Agreement or at any time thereafter, use any Confidential Information, or disclose any Confidential Information to any third party, save to the extent as may be reasonably necessary for the fulfilment of the Receiving Party's duties and obligations under this Agreement.

Without prejudice to the above, the Receiving Party's obligations under the preceding clause shall nevertheless cease to apply in the following cases:

- where any Confidential Information which becomes available to the public generally other than through a breach of this clause;
- where the Receiving Party can prove that the Confidential Information was lawfully known to them at the time of receipt from the Supplying Party without any existing obligation of confidentiality or that the Confidential Information was already in the public domain at such time;
- where the Confidential Information was lawfully received from a third party without restriction or breach of any obligation of confidentiality;
- where the Receiving Party is required to disclose any Confidential Information pursuant to a court, judicial or other lawful order; and
- where the disclosure of Confidential Information is required to enable the Receiving Party to comply with the information disclosure obligations required by national legislation.



Each Full Partner shall use reasonable efforts to promptly advise the other Full Partner in writing of any unauthorised disclosure or misuse of Confidential Information after it becomes aware of such unauthorised disclosure or misuse.

Each Full Partner shall take measures to comply with and to bind its employees and subcontractors to comply with the confidentiality obligations stipulated above, which may be waived only by the prior written authorisation of the Disclosing Party concerned.

The parties will comply with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other applicable legislation and regulations concerning the processing of personal data. With regard to the personal data processed by parties in the context of application and admission to the ISLANDS programme, enrolment, examination and sharing student data with the European Commission under this agreement, parties are joint controllers within the meaning of article 26 of the GDPR. Their respective responsibilities for fulfilling the obligations under the GDPR, as well as the technical and organisational measures implemented, will be determined by means of a joint controller agreement.

The provisions of this article and the data sharing agreement shall remain valid following termination or expiration of this Agreement

Article 17. Indemnity, Liability

Should it occur that the application for European Commission recognition within the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree scheme is unsuccessful, no Full Partner shall in any case be held responsible to any other Full Partner for any damage caused thereby.

Each Full Partner generally undertakes to perform its scope of work relating to the Agreement, at its own risk and under its own sole liability and shall bear all consequences in compliance with the provisions hereunder.

Each Full Partner shall indemnify the other Full Partners and their employees, agents and contractors against any and all expenses, liabilities, losses, claims, damages, costs, litigation attorney fees (including legal costs) and proceedings, arising from complaints about modules or the ISLANDS Master Degree programme as a whole, or any other complaint of professional negligence arising in connection with the performance of this Agreement, provided that the same shall be due to the gross negligence or deliberate omission or wilful misconduct of the first Full Partner, its employees, agents or contractors.

Each Full Partner shall release the other Full Partners from all civil liability arising from loss, damage or cost, liability, litigation, expenses, injury to the person or injury resulting in death or as a result of the its performance of this Agreement, unless such loss, damage or cost, liability, litigation, expenses, injury to the person or injury resulting in death is due to gross negligence or deliberate omission or wrongful act on the part of the other Full Partner or its staff.

No Full Partner shall be responsible to another for indirect or consequential loss or damages such as but not limited to loss of profit, loss of revenue, or loss of funding, provided that the foregoing shall not apply to injury, damage, or loss suffered by third parties.

Each Full Partner in respect of any claim for which it will seek indemnity within the terms of the Agreement shall:

- as soon as reasonably practicable after becoming aware of the claim, provide the other with reasonable details of it and thereafter provide the other in a timely manner with such information relating to the claim as may reasonably be requested from time to time by the other;
- not make, and use its reasonable endeavours to procure that there is not made, any admission of liability, except with the prior written consent of the other, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed;
- keep the other reasonably informed of all material developments relating to, and regularly informed of the progress of, the claim;
- use its reasonable endeavours to procure that the handling of the claim, including without limitation any resistance of or defence to it, is carried out and conducted in all material respects in accordance with such reasonable written directions as may be given by the other; and
- not settle or compromise the claim, and procure that the claim is not settled or compromised, except with the prior written consent of the other, which consent shall not be unreasonable, withheld or delayed.

With respect to defaults and/or difficulties in the performance of this Agreement, obligations that may give rise to a claim and/or to the application of liquidated damages for default or delay, the Full Partners agree to inform each other of foreseeable delays and/or failures in the performance of their works, so that any action likely to mitigate the expected delay and/or failure, or of avoiding the application of liquidated damages or any other indemnity, herein provided, may be taken forthwith.

Article 18. Force Majeure

Without prejudice to that provided in the previous article of this Agreement, none of the Full Partners shall be responsible to another Full Partner for any delay in performance or non-performance due to Force Majeure (which, for the purpose of this Agreement, means any cause preventing any Full Partner from performing any or all of its obligations which arise from or are attributable to the acts, events, omissions or accidents beyond the reasonable control of the Full Partner so prevented, including without limitation, any strike, lock-out or other form of industrial action, war, riot, civil commotion, terrorism, malicious damage, compliance with law or governmental order, rule, regulation or direction, accident, breakdown of plant or machinery, fire, flood, storm or other natural disasters).

The affected Full Partner shall promptly upon occurrence of any such causes inform the other Full

Partners, stating that such cause has delayed or prevented its performance hereunder and thereafter such Full Partner shall take all action within its power to comply with the terms of this Agreement as fully and promptly as possible. Should the Force Majeure in question prevail for a continuous period in excess of one (1) month, the Full Partners shall enter into discussion with a view to alleviating its effects or to agreeing upon such alternative arrangements as may be fair and reasonable. Throughout the duration of the Force Majeure event/s, the affected Full Partner shall use its reasonable efforts to cure or reduce the effect thereof.

Article 19. This Agreement

19.1 General

This Agreement represents the complete understanding of the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereto, subject to any additional information provided in handbooks agreed in writing by the Full Partners. In the event of any terms of the agreement being found to be invalid, the remainder of the terms shall remain in full force and effect.

19.1 Review

This Agreement will be reviewed each academic year. It may only be amended or modified by a document in writing, signed by all the Full Partners.

19.2 Amendments

This Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual consent or may be terminated by a Full Partner for any cause by six months written advance formal notice of a given Full Partner to the other Full Partners. Any termination or alteration shall be made without prejudice to any student whose studies extends beyond the termination date, all of whom shall be enabled to complete the studies for which they are registered.

19.3 Expiry or Termination

Following the expiry or termination of this Agreement for any reason, each Full Partner shall return to the other Full Partners at its own expense all materials in its possession belonging to the other Full Partners relating to this Agreement or the ISLANDS Master Degree and shall return or destroy (at the option of the other Full Partners) all confidential information of the other Full Partners then in their possession or control provided always that each Full Partner shall be entitled to retain copies of confidential information as may be required by it in order to comply with any law or regulatory requirement.

19.4 Withdrawal

Withdrawal of the ISLANDS Master Degree during the Term of this Agreement may only be made by written agreement between all Full Partners and in accordance with the timescales and any other limitations set out in the policies of the Consortium Coordinator. Should withdrawal of the ISLANDS Master Degree be necessary, and where the student has been offered and has accepted a place, all Full Partners shall agree in writing arrangements to continue to offer the ISLANDS Master Programme to accepted Students or to offer a suitable alternative, taking into account the personal and reputational impact of a withdrawal.

Termination of this Agreement will not affect the rights of each Full Partner against the other in respect of the period up to and including the date of termination.

19.5 Disputes

The Full Partners agree that any disputes arising from the performance of this Agreement that cannot be settled amicably shall be resolved in the courts of the domicile of the defendant Full Partner.

19.6 Counterparts and digital copies of this agreement

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when executed (and delivered) will constitute an original of this Agreement, but all counterparts will together constitute the same agreement. No counterpart will be effective until each Party has executed at least one counterpart. Parties accept digital (PDF or any other format) copies via email.

Article 20. Application of Laws, Statutes

The Full Partners agree that every person connected with the ISLANDS Master degree in relation to the mutual undertakings with each other shall respectively abide by, conform to, and comply with all of the laws of their respective jurisdictions as well as the statutes, regulations and disciplinary rules promulgated by their respective Full Partner. Each Full Partner shall provide students access to a hard or electronic copy of its statutes, regulations and disciplinary rules.

The laws of The Netherlands shall govern the construction and performance of this Agreement when RUG is the respondent in a dispute. The laws of Greece shall govern the construction and performance of this Agreement when UAEGEAN is the respondent in a dispute. The laws of Spain shall govern the construction and performance of this Agreement when ULPGC is the respondent in a dispute. The laws of Iceland shall govern the construction and performance of this Agreement when ICELAND is the respondent in a dispute.



Signature page for for the Consortium Coordinator, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands

Name and position of the legal representative: prof. dr. Jouke de Vries, President

Place: Groningen

Date: 19 JUN 2023

Prof. dr. Jouke de Vries
 President of the
 University of Groningen



signature:



Stamp:





Signature page for the Full Partner university, University of the Aegean, Greece

Name and position of the legal representative: Professor Chryssi Vitsilaki, Rector

Place: Mytilene

Date: 12/6/2023

signature:

Stamp:





Signature page for the Full Partner university, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

Name and position of the legal representative: Professor Luis Serra Majem, Rector

Place: LAS PALMAS DE G.C.

Date: 7. JUL. 2023



signature:

Stamp:



Duly represented PROF. JIN TAIRA, VICE RECTOR OF INTERNATIONALIZATION

Place: LAS PALMAS DE G.C.

Date: 7. JUL. 2023



signature:

Stamp:





Signature page for the Full Partner university, University of Iceland, Iceland

Name and position of the legal representatives: Professor Jón Atli Benediktsson, Rector,
 Professor Sigurður Magnus Garðarsson, Dean of School of Engineering and Natural Sciences
 and Professor Snæbjörn Pálsson, Head of Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences

Place:

Date:

Reykjavík, ICELAND

June 20, 2023

signature:

Stamp:

Snæbjörn Pálsson
 Sigurður Magnus
 Jón Atli Benediktsson





Appendix: Teaching and Examination Regulations of the ISLANDS Master Degree

For the most updated version of the TER as drafted by the University of Groningen, Faculty of Spatial Sciences: [Teaching and Examination Regulations \(TER\) | Education | University of Groningen](#)

While the project progresses, the Managing Board will look into the possibility of setting-up an overarching ISLANDS Teaching and Examination Regulations document (TER).