

Administration in the Master Ecology, Evolution and Conservation (ECC) - HowTo for students

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Why do we need the new study regulations?

The new study regulation was due to the **internationalization** of the former German-language study program Master in Ecology, Evolution and Nature Conservation (M ÖEN) – **now Master in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation (EEC)**. The new system enhances cross-compatibility with other international degrees.

What are important differences to the old study regulations?

The new study regulations [*Studienordnung*] achieve better **study ability** through a smaller number of equivalent modules with **standardization** of the elective modules [*Wahlpflichtmodule*] with 6 credit points (CP) each. In total you must earn 66 CP from taking electives: From area A (courses offered by the Institute of Biochemistry and Biology [*Wahlpflichtmodule aus Bereich A_ WPM A*]) you chose 6 modules (in sum: 36 CP). Furthermore, you must select 5 additional elective modules from area A **or** B. Area B [*Wahlpflichtmodule aus Bereich B_ WPM B*] comprises courses offered by the Faculty of Science (in sum: 30 CP).

The 2 compulsory modules [*Kernmodule=Pflichtmodule*] are also rated with 6 credit points (CP) each (in sum: 12 CP). The specialization modules [*Vertiefungsmodule*] to prepare the Master thesis will remain unchanged with 12 CPs each.

An overview of the new study plan [*Studienverlaufsplan*] is here:

<https://www.uni-potsdam.de/de/moen/studienverlaufsplan.html>

Where can I find the new study regulations with the official module catalogue of the "PULS-modules" on the Internet?

The new study regulations [*Studienordnung*] are linked at

<https://www.uni-potsdam.de/de/moen/bewerbung-zulassung-ordnungen.html>

Where can I find more answers about EEC?

We have answered other frequently asked questions (FAQ) here:

<https://www.uni-potsdam.de/de/moen/faqs.html>

Whom are the contact persons in EEC?

Contacts are listed on our webpage:

<https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/moen/contact.html>

CONTENT MODULES AND PULS-MODULES

What is a content module?

“Content modules” are **actual courses** in EEC. These bundled groups of courses are all part of elective modules from the Institute of Biochemistry and Biology (=area A) and now each yield a total of 6 credit points. The PULS-modules, in contrast, are rather generically described “containers” for content modules. In the container of a PULS-module, several alternative "content modules" can be booked. Vice versa, a specific content module can be booked into alternative PULS-modules (see **table in Fig. 1** and Fig 2.). This creates flexibility for students who want to specialize on certain research areas.

The “content modules” already existed in the “old” German master degree program, but they no longer appear in PULS. They are only visible in the module **manual [Modulhandbuch]** (but not in the module **catalogue!**) Therefore the teaching staff can – if needed and desired – easily adjust them every year (including adding new “content modules” and deleting existing ones) to further develop the Master programme.

Please note: “Content modules” can consist of different courses. This means for example: The “content module” Geobotany consists of **lecture/ seminar + exercise** (in PULS: lecture = **VL** for “Vorlesung”, seminar = **Se** for “Seminar” and Exercise = **Ü** for “Übung”) to yield 6 CP in total. If you attended all of them successfully you proved your competence for this “content module” and the you have to select one PULS module into which the content module is booked (for details see below). To understand which types of courses you have to attend to for completing one “content module”, please read **section 4.2 of the ENGLISH module manual:**

<https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/moen/module-manual.html>

What is a PULS-module?

A **PULS-module is a container module in which various “content modules” can be booked.** It has a generic module name that appears in the electronic administration software of the University of Potsdam called “PULS”. The PULS-modules are firmly anchored in the study regulations [*Studienordnung*] of the **module catalogue [Modulkatalog]** and can therefore only be changed with the approval of the university committees and the ministry (takes about 18 months).

What is the difference between the module catalogue and the module manual?

The **module catalogue is part of the study regulations** and contains the names, abbreviations and brief descriptions of the PULS-modules. The short descriptions include a list of the **types of courses** offered, e.g. Lecture (in PULS: VL for “Vorlesung”), Exercise (in PULS: Ü for “Übung”), and Seminar (in PULS: Se for “Seminar”). These course types are listed line by line with the respective contact time in semester hours (SWS), but do **not** provide very specific information about the content of the courses. The module names, course types and descriptions in PULS stay fixed for the duration of the currently valid study regulation.

The **module manual**, on the other hand, is an **annotated course directory**. The module manual describes the assignment between the “content modules” (= contents of the related courses) and the PULS-modules. The module manual is linked to our website and is continuously updated (at least every semester) by the teaching staff.

Again: here is where you find concrete explanations of course contents:

<https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/moen/module-manual.html>

How do I assign “content modules” to the PULS-modules to obtain my credit points?

The **assignment of courses to PULS-modules is explained via the module manual** in section 3 ‘Assignment from course contents to modules’ as well as in Fig. 1 of this document. The figure indicates which “content module” can be booked in which PULS-modules. In PULS, this assignment is not visible because the management system only “knows” the PULS-modules (recognizable by the module abbreviations e.g., BIO-O-xxxx).

What applies to specialization modules?

As before, the specialization modules are listed in the study regulations as well as in PULS and consist of practical research projects with 12 credit points each.

| Course list / module title | LP | Assessor (Prüfer/in) | BIO-O-WM1: Organismic ecology | BIO-O-WM2: Basics of ecology | BIO-O-WM3: Concepts of ecology | BIO-O-WM4: Applied ecology | BIO-O-WM5: Data acquisition and analysis | BIO-O-WM6: Experimental ecology | BIO-O-WM7: Biodiversity research | BIO-O-WM8: Ecology of specific habitats 1 | BIO-O-WM9: Ecology of specific habitats 2 | BIO-O-WM10: Aquatic environmental biology | BIO-O-WM11: Conservation biology | BIO-O-WM12: Appl. nature conservation | BIO-O-WM13: Biology of plants and fungi | BIO-O-WM14: Ecology of plants and fungi | BIO-O-WM15: Theoretical ecology – 1 | BIO-O-WM16: Theoretical ecology – 2 | BIO-O-WM17: Interactions ecology – 1 | BIO-O-WM18: The central role of evol. biology – 1 | BIO-O-WM19: Microevolution |
|--|----|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Experimental plankton ecology | 6 | Weithoff | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lake microbiology | 6 | Grossart | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Basics in limnology | 6 | Weithoff | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aquatic ecology | 6 | Weithoff | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wetland eco-hydrology | 6 | Pusch | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Molecular microbial ecology | 6 | Dittmann | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Geomicrobiology | 6 | Wagner | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Astrobiology | 6 | de Vera | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Geobotany | 6 | Heinken | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Vegetation ecology of central Europe | 6 | Heinken | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Ecology of the mediterranean vegetation | 6 | Kummer | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Taxonomy and biodiversity of fungi and lower plants | 6 | Kummer | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Biogeography | 6 | Schmitt | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Plant ecology | 6 | Jeltsch | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Dryland ecology | 6 | Blaum | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Crop plants and domestic animals | 6 | Heinken | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Scientific nature conservation | 6 | Jeltsch | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Regional and applied nature conservation | 6 | Jeltsch | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Conservation genetics | 6 | Fickel | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Behavioural ecology | 6 | Eccard | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Experimental animal ecology | 6 | Eccard | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Anthropology basics | 6 | Scheffler | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Anthropology advanced | 6 | Scheffler | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Basic theoretical ecology | 6 | Klauschies | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Advanced theoretical ecology | 6 | Guill | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Ecological modelling with computer simulations | 6 | Jeltsch | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| System ecology and evolution | 6 | Tiedemann | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| The central role of evolutionary biology in bioscience | 6 | Tiedemann | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Microevolution/Conserving the evolutionary process | 6 | Tiedemann | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Terrestrial palaeoecology | 6 | Herzschuh | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Analysis of high throughput sequencing data | 6 | Kappel (Lenhard) | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Bioimage analysis and extended phenotyping | 6 | Kappel (Lenhard) | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Genetic and genomic basis of evolutionary change | 6 | Barlow (Hofreiter) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |

Fig.1: The matrix explains which courses you may assign to which of the 19 modules from area A (A = offered by the Institute of Biochemistry and Biology). The vertical column lists the courses. Each vertical entry yields 6 CP and may include a mixture of lectures, seminars, and practical field or lab courses. The horizontal row lists the modules. Modules are credit point “containers” filled with actual course contents (further explanation: **see module manual!**)

Note: The color legend gives a first orientation. Actual course content may include several subjects, e.g. a combination of aquatic and terrestrial ecology or topics from both fundamental and applied ecology.

| |
|-----------------------------|
| Aquatic ecology |
| Microbial ecology |
| Plant and landscape ecology |
| Applied ecology |
| Theoretical ecology |
| Evolutionary biology |

Can several “content modules” be booked in a PULS-module?

Yes. PULS provides the assignment "several content modules -> 1 PULS-module" (Fig. 2, upper panel). The PULS system works on "competences", not on specific courses. This means that if there are several “content modules” with 6 credit points each, all serving the same goal: you prove to your assessor in the module examination that you have reached the PULS-module goal. The “content module” exam is a kind of confirmation that you have acquired the competencies of the PULS-module - which way (by different types of lectures/ seminars, etc. sometimes with different lecturers in one course) does not matter.

Can a “content module” alternatively be booked in several PULS modules?

Yes. The assignment "1 content module -> several PULS modules" is possible (Fig. 2, bottom panel), **but** you need to know in which alternative PULS-Modules you can book the “content module” into using the table shown in Fig. 1 (copied from the module manual). If the PULS-module is already "fully booked", you must find an alternative PULS-module where the “content module” also fits in. We made sure that there are enough alternatives in this case (see Fig. 1). Each “content module” can only be taken into account **once** in any PULS-module.

How do I collect my credit points in the related courses for a PULS-module?

You first have to collect 6 CP in a “content module” and see in your individual transcript of records [*Leistungsübersicht* -> *available in PULS*] which distinct PULS modules are already completed. The names of the individual courses are marked with their own exam number. The exam number always refers to the course **type** in a PULS-module, but not the actual course name. **This means that the same course has a different exam number in another PULS-module. Conversely, several alternative courses of the same course type (for example, two different lectures) in a PULS-module have the same exam number!**

When 6 credit points have been collected, you approach the assessor and register for the module exam in a suitable PULS-module of your choice. Admission to the module examination takes place via the assessor.

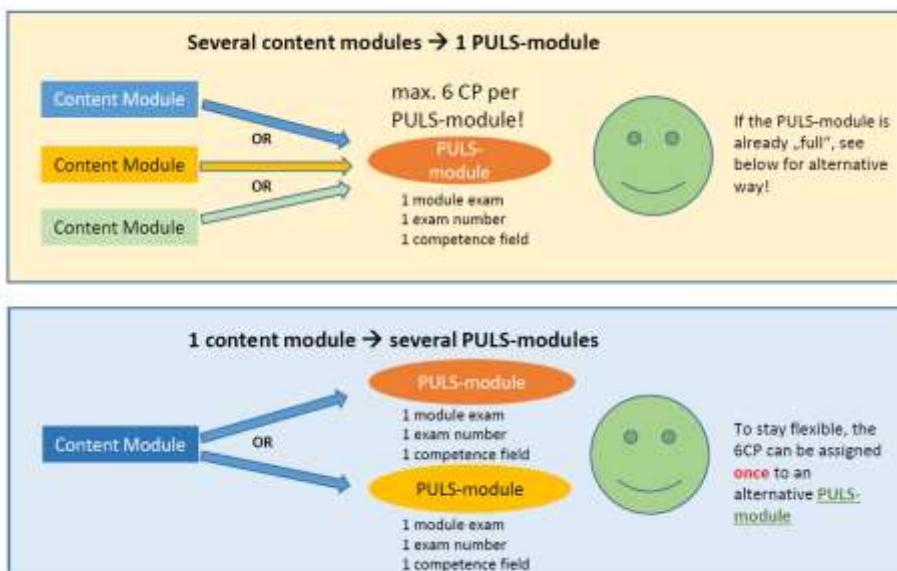


Fig. 2: Two ways in which the assignment of “content modules” and PULS-modules (= competence acquisition) is mapped in PULS. Giving you more choice regarding the course participation and prove of competences as in PULS required, EEC offers you the bottom pathway.

Study: What happens if I take more courses (content modules) than necessary?

1. Formation of the final grade

If students have taken more elective courses, they have time to decide which completed modules are to be included in the final grade by means of a so-called grade picking process **before** submitting their final thesis.

If the student has not been nominated when submitting the final paper, the compulsory elective modules count in the order of their completion (priority principle) until the required number of compulsory elective credit points has been achieved. For more information, see page 37 https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin01/projects/studium/docs/03_studium_konkret/07_rechtsgrundlagen/kommunikation_bama-o_studierende_2013.pdf

2. Presentation of additional benefits on certificate

The additional benefits are not displayed on the certificate, but only on the transcript of records, which is also part of the final documents.

Study: Course attendance - assignment to pulse module

If you register on PULS for a course, you have to decide which official module this course is assigned to when you enter the TAN. Is this choice then binding or can the course be moved to another official module afterwards?

- The choice of the module when registering via PULS is binding. The choice **can only be changed during the period of occupancy**. Not later.