

Student Agreement

for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master program



Co-funded by
the European Union

International Master of Mechanics of Sustainable Materials and Structures (MS²), Master of Science

offered by

Technische Universität Dortmund (TUDO),
Università di Trento (UniTrento),
École Centrale de Nantes (ECN)



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TRENTO



The MS² consortium, represented by the program coordinator Prof. Dr. Angela Madeo from TU Dortmund University, and [Mr./Mrs. XXX], hereafter referred to as the student, agree upon the following.

§1 The MS² program

MS² is a second-cycle joint degree Master of Science that is offered by TU Dortmund University, University of Trento, and École Centrale de Nantes. The 2-year program comprises a workload of 120 credits and focuses on topics of advanced mechanics for the modeling and design of sustainable materials and structures in the field of Civil Engineering. Fundamentals and specializations are taught in the first three semesters by all three involved Universities. In addition, each of the three universities is associated with a methodological topic, which can be identified as follows:

- “Advanced Mechanics for Innovative Materials and Structures” at TU Dortmund University,
- “Materials and Structures under Extreme Conditions” at University of Trento and
- “Materials and Structures in their Environment” at École Centrale de Nantes.

§2 Consortium

The MS² consortium comprises of three partners, namely TU Dortmund University, University of Trento, and École Centrale de Nantes, as well as several associated partners from different countries.

§3 Mobility scheme and activities

Students will spend the first semester in Dortmund, the second semester in Trento and the third semester in Nantes. The fourth semester is dedicated to research in the form of an internship that can be conducted at the student's choice at any of the consortium institutes or elsewhere with an associated partner. The internship results in a research thesis.

Several activities complement the university-based education, e.g. a summer school in Nantes as well as excursions.

§4 Degree

Students who have successfully completed the final examination will obtain the following degrees from all three universities including a diploma supplement:

- "Master of Science" ("M. Sc.") in Germany,
- "Laurea Magistrale in Ingegneria Civile" (class LM 23) in Italy and
- "Master sciences, technologies, santé, mention génie civil / Civil engineering" in France.

§5 Language

The medium of instruction is English. Students are encouraged to participate in the language courses at the three universities.

§6 Registration and tuition fees

Students enroll at TU Dortmund University, and they register at University of Trento, and École Centrale de Nantes. They can make full use of the facilities and services offered by the three universities. The tuition fees have to be paid by the semester to TU Dortmund University. Students need to fulfill the enrollment requirements, in particular concerning health insurance.

§7 Academic focus

A focus is placed on teaching. Lecturers will continuously participate in advanced training and seek to improve their academic performance in close collaboration with the students. All courses have a defined scope and topic and will be supported by exercise or hands-on sessions where appropriate.

§8 Expected academic output and performance evaluation

The common examination regulations are the central set of rules for the examination system. They control the performance requirements and are also the benchmark for the legality of examination procedures. All courses and academic offers are structured in modules, summarized in the common examination regulations and the module handbook. The modules are divided into compulsory modules and compulsory elective modules. Students are expected to actively participate in the modules (in-class, homework, exercises, laboratory work) and to complete the examinations scheduled according to the common examination regulations within the framework of the regular study period. Most of the modules are graded modules that include an examination. The examination type and expectations will be announced with ample time before the examination.

§9 Evaluation

The modules of the MS² program will be evaluated as a measure for quality assurance. Students are obliged to participate in such evaluations and surveys. Students who are financially supported, e.g. by scholarships from the EU, are obliged to participate in evaluations and surveys of the funding agency.

§10 Internships

All MS² students will conduct an internship during which they will work on a scientific topic with a supervisor and summarize their research in a Master thesis. The potential supervisors and possible topics for internships will be presented in a summer school during the third semester. The students will apply for a project in written form.

§11 Code of conduct

Students are obliged to actively participate in the course activities; to strive for an average of 30 ECTS per semester and at least 120 ECTS over the duration of the program; follow the mobility schedule outlined in §3 including the summer schools; refrain from plagiarism and cheating; notify the consortium immediately in case of prematurely resigning from the program or major delays.

Students, supervisors, and teachers are obliged to follow the rules of good scientific practice and the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (<https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/>).

§12 Scholarship

- (1) Selected students will be offered an Erasmus Mundus scholarship to cover living expenses, the increased travel costs as well as participation costs. The scholarships will be paid on a monthly basis, about 1400€ for a duration of two years. Scholarship holders do not have to pay tuition fees for the time they are supported. Scholarship holders also benefit from a health and accident insurance scheme.
- (2) They are awarded after this agreement has been signed and after the student has enrolled at TU Dortmund University.
- (3) The scholarship holder is obligated to notify the university immediately of any changes in facts that are relevant to the awarding and the amount of the scholarship. This includes, for example, changes in personal circumstances (address, bank details, etc.) as well as exceeding the standard period of study of the degree program and, if applicable, the interruption, termination, or discontinuation of studies.
- (4) The scholarship holder assures that he/she will not make use of any other support services not coordinated with the university for the duration of the scholarship. Double funding is excluded, i.e. multiple funding for the same purpose is not permitted.
- (5) If the scholarship holder interrupts his/her studies (e.g. in case of longer periods of illness, maternity/parental leave, etc.), he/she shall inform the program coordinator immediately. The payment of the scholarship is to be suspended from the time of the interruption. If the scholarship holder indicates the end of the interruption, the payment can be resumed; the approval can be extended by the period of the interruption.

If, due to the duration of the interruption, doubts arise as to whether the studies can be completed, a new decision must be made on the re-approval and/or extension of the approval.

- (6) If there is an important reason, the scholarship relationship is to be terminated by the scholarship provider. The scholarship benefits shall be discontinued immediately. Important reasons shall be deemed to exist in particular if
 - a. The scholarship holder has obtained the scholarship through deliberate or grossly negligent deception about significant facts (false or incomplete information or concealment),
 - b. the scholarship has not been used for the intended purpose as defined in this Student Agreement, and the scholarship holder was aware of this or was only unaware of it due to gross negligence,
 - c. facts show that the scholarship holder does not fulfill or comply with the expectations defined in §8 and the code of conduct described in §11 to the required and reasonable extent,
 - d. the purpose of the scholarship as defined in this Student Agreement can no longer be achieved.

In the case of the reasons according to a. and b., the amounts already paid out must be repaid, and interest must be paid on them.

- (7) If the scholarship holder terminates his/her scholarship stay prematurely for reasons for which he/she is responsible, either intentionally or through gross

negligence, he/she must repay the scholarship. If the scholarship holder discontinues his/her studies, he/she must repay the scholarship.

§13 Complaint procedure

In case of conflicts, complaints, or suggestions for improvement in the area of teaching and studying, TU Dortmund University offers a central Complaints Office for you to use (<https://www.tu-dortmund.de/en/students/during-your-studies/complaints-office/>) as well as decentralized offices. The Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering offers one such office (<https://ab.tu-dortmund.de/en/study/qualitaet-verbessern/>). The contact persons in the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering work closely with the Dean's Office. They have a very good overview, have a great deal of detailed knowledge about the courses of study in the department and can deal with complaints quickly.

§14 Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA)

Students and alumni of MS² can become members of the Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA). Candidates need to prove their acceptance/completion of the MS² program for the membership to be approved. The detailed criteria for EMA memberships can be found in the EM's Internal Regulations on their website (www.em-a.eu).

§15 Further information

Detailed information about the MS² Master program can be found on the MS² website (<https://www.ms2master.com>).

Student
Place and date

Program coordinator
Place and date