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Curriculum for the master's programme in Global Demography

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University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 22 January 2021, 19th edition, number 60
1st (minor) amendment: University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 27 June 2022, 45th edition, number 288

§ 1 Objectives and qualification profile

(1) The master's programme in Global Demography at the University of Vienna aims to provide students with academic competences in the analysis and forecasting of demographic developments in different societies and in the analysis of potential effects on the economy, society and environment.

(2) Beyond a bachelor's qualification, graduates of the master's programme in Global Demography at the University of Vienna are qualified to independently carry out demographic analyses and forecasts. They have a general overview of international specialist literature and have acquired the necessary methodological abilities to carry out such analyses. Graduates have profound knowledge of the different demographic data sources as well as the necessary academic competence to put complex demographic developments into the context of global trends, also with regard to possible socio-political interventions.

§ 2 Duration and scope

(1) The workload for the master's programme in Global Demography comprises 120 ECTS credits. This is equivalent to a degree programme duration of four semesters.

(2) The programme is deemed completed if 90 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on compulsory modules, 25 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on the master's thesis and 5 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on the master's examination have been obtained.

§ 3 Entry requirements

(1) To be admitted to the master's programme in Global Demography

a. students must have completed an eligible bachelor's programme or an eligible degree programme at the same level of university education at a recognised Austrian or foreign post-secondary educational institution, and

b. applicants must have been selected in an admission procedure.

(2) The language of instruction of the master's programme in Global Demography is English. Therefore, students must have English language proficiency corresponding to level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). Regarding the level of language proficiency, the regulations of the University of Vienna apply.

(3) The bachelor's programme in Sociology or Statistics or Geography or Political Science or Economics at the University of Vienna are certainly eligible according to para. 1, sub-para. a).

(4) To compensate for significant disciplinary differences, supplementary examinations can be stipulated, which have to be completed by the end of the second semester of the master's programme. The Rectorate may specify which supplementary examinations are a prerequisite for taking examinations specified in the Curriculum of the master's programme.

(5) If the significant disciplinary differences according to para. 4 exceed the extent of 30 ECTS credits, this is not considered an eligible degree programme and the student is not admitted to the master's programme.

(6) Further regulations about the selection procedure will be specified in provisions by the Rectorate of the University of Vienna published in the University Gazette.

§ 4 Academic degree

Graduates of the master's programme in Global Demography are awarded the degree "Master of Science", abbreviated as MSc. Where the academic degree is stated this must be after the name.

§ 5 Structure – Modules with allocated ECTS credits

(1) Overview

The master's programme in Global Demography at the University of Vienna is structured as follows:

- Compulsory module 1: Demographic Theories, Global Demographic Trends and Drivers (24 ECTS credits)
- Compulsory module 2: Demographic Methods and Statistics for Social Scientists (20 ECTS credits)
- Compulsory module 3: Population and Global Human Capital (16 ECTS credits)
- Compulsory module 4: Population Change and Sustainable Development (12 ECTS credits)
- Compulsory module 5: Demographic Research Projects (18 ECTS credits)

(2) Module descriptions

PM 1	Compulsory module 1: **Demographic Theories, Global Demographic Trends and Drivers**	**24 ECTS credits**
Prerequisites	None	
Module outcomes	Upon completion of this module, students are familiar with the theoretical concepts of demography and have a comprehensive overview of the demographic developments in all parts of the world. They are informed about the latest literature on the determining factors of fertility, mortality and migration in all societies that are going through different stages of demographic transition. They also have knowledge of the history of demography in different academic traditions, including their problematic aspects in the German-speaking area. Students learn to independently construct arguments based on key academic findings on controversial issues that are of socio-political relevance and know where to obtain relevant data and analyses.	
Module structure	UE Propaedeuticum: Scientific Working, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) VO Introduction to Demographic Theories, Global Human Capital and Social Change, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., npi (non-continuous assessment) SE Fertility and Family, 6 ECTS credits, 3 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) SE Mortality, Health and Ageing, 6 ECTS credits, 3 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) VO Migration, Urbanisation and Spatial Distribution, 4 ECTS credits, 2	

	SSt., npi (non-continuous assessment)
Proof of performance	Passing of all courses (24 ECTS credits)
Language	English

PM 2	Compulsory module 2: **Demographic Methods and Statistics for Social Scientists**	**20 ECTS credits**
Prerequisites	None	
Module outcomes	Upon completion of this module, students are familiar with the central demographic methods and data sources. They are able to independently carry out demographic calculations and prepare forecasts using statistical software and to critically evaluate empirical studies. They understand the most important multivariate methods used for the demographic analysis of individual data.	
Module structure	SE Basic Methods of Demographic Analysis, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) VO Statistics for Social Scientists 1, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., npi (non-continuous assessment) SE Statistics for Social Scientists 2, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) SE Advanced Methods of Demographic Analysis (Intensive Hands-On Course), 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) UE Tutorial to Advanced Methods Course, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)	
Proof of performance	Passing of all courses (20 ECTS credits)	
Language	English	

PM 3	Compulsory module 3: **Population and Global Human Capital**	**16 ECTS credits**
Prerequisites	None	
Module outcomes	Upon completion of this module, students have a thorough understanding of the long-term demographic development from the beginning of human history and the development of educational structures and labour market participation (human capital) to the economic causes and consequences of demographic change in all parts of the world.	
Module structure	SE Population History: The Long Run, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) SE Human Capital and Economic Demography, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) VO Policy Research: Public Health, Fertility and Migration, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., npi (non-continuous assessment) VO Electives in Social Sciences, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., npi (non-continuous assessment)	
Proof of performance	Passing of all courses (16 ECTS credits)	
Language	English	

PM 4	Compulsory module 4: **Population Change and Sustainable Development**	**12 ECTS credits**
Prerequisites	None	
Module outcomes	Upon completion of this module, students have profound knowledge of the interdependencies between demographic, social and economic developments as well as environmental changes, in particular climate change. Based on models of system analysis, they are able to assess the long-term consequences of different demographic scenarios and to evaluate their implications for countries with different social and economic systems.	
Module structure	SE Population Forecasting, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) VO Population, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., npi (non-continuous assessment) SE Fertility, Mortality and Human Capital Trends in a Global Systemic Perspective, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)	
Proof of performance	Passing of all courses (12 ECTS credits)	
Language	English	

PM 5	Compulsory module 5: **Demographic Research Projects**	**18 ECTS credits**
Prerequisite	Successful completion of compulsory modules 1 and 2	
Module outcomes	Upon completion of this module, students have experience in the critical evaluation of data and forecasts. They are able to represent and independently further develop academically well-founded views on complex and controversial issues relating to demographic developments. They have carried out comparative analyses of the demographics of countries of their choice as part of empirical case studies and have learnt to discuss issues based on facts during debate sessions.	
Module structure	SE Research Seminar: Empirical Study, 10 ECTS credits, 3 SSt., pi (continuous assessment) SE Research Seminar: Demographic Debate: Literature Review and Contemporary Demographic Debates, 8 ECTS credits, 3 SSt., pi (continuous assessment)	
Proof of performance	Passing of all courses (18 ECTS credits)	
Language	English	

§ 6 Master's thesis

(1) The master's thesis serves to demonstrate the student's ability to achieve adequate standards of content and methodology when independently addressing academic topics. The assignment for the master's thesis must be chosen in a way that the student can reasonably be expected to complete it within six months.

(2) The topic of the master's thesis must be taken from one of the compulsory modules. If a different topic is selected or if there is uncertainty regarding allocation of the selected topic, the competent body responsible for study matters should decide on whether or not it is admissible.

(3) The master's thesis must be written in English and comprises 25 ECTS credits.

§ 7 Master's examination

(1) To be admitted to the master's examination the student must have successfully passed all required modules and examinations and the master's thesis must have been positively assessed.

(2) The master's examination is conducted before an examination committee in accordance with the section of the Statutes of the University of Vienna governing university studies. The examination is conducted as a public defence. This form of examination consists of a defence and an examination on the academic disciplines related to the master's thesis. Grading will be conducted as stipulated in the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

(3) The master's examination comprises 5 ECTS credits.

§ 8 Mobility during the master's programme

The competent body responsible for study matters is responsible for the recognition of academic achievements completed abroad.

§ 9 Course classification

(1) The following non-continuous assessment (npi) courses are offered in the programme:

- Lectures (*Vorlesung*, VO) serve the presentation of theories, concepts, research designs and findings from the subject area of demographic research. Lectures take the form of oral presentations. Lectures are completed with an oral or written examination.

(2) The following continuous assessment (pi) courses are offered:

- Exercises (*Übung*, UE) serve the acquisition and practical application of methods relevant for demographic research. This is usually done by means of examples and analysis software. Exercises are completed with written assignments.

- Seminars (*Seminar*, SE) serve the detailed investigation of demographic theories and methods. Students acquire knowledge of the teaching contents, read relevant literature and give short presentations about the literature they have read. The focus is on the discussion of the literature that students have read and/or the practical application of the knowledge acquired. Assessment in seminars is based on active participation, presentations and exams (several short, written exams) and/or a written paper.

- Seminars entitled 'research seminar' (SE *Forschungsseminar*) serve the intensive independent analysis of specific research questions and the oral presentation and discussion of the findings in a group, as well as in writing.

§ 10 Courses with a limited number of participants and registration for courses

(1) The following general limits on the number of students apply in the following courses:
Seminars and exercises: 30 participants

(2) Modalities concerning the registration for courses and examinations as well as the allocation of places in courses are governed by the stipulations in the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

§ 11 Examination regulations

(1) Proof of performance in courses
The lecturer of a course is responsible for making the necessary announcements according to the stipulations in the Statutes.

(2) Examination content
The examination content relevant to preparing and holding examinations must be in line with the required number of ECTS credits. This also applies to module examinations.

(3) Examination procedure
The examination procedure is subject to the stipulations of the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

(4) No double recognition and no dual use
Courses taken and examinations passed in the degree programme, which constitute entry requirements for the master's programme, cannot be recognised again in the master's programme. If courses taken in the degree programme, which constitute an entry requirement for the degree programme, are compulsory according to the Curriculum, the competent body responsible for study matters can determine what courses must be attended in place of the others. Courses taken and examinations passed from another compulsory or elective module of the degree programme cannot be recognised within another module within the same degree programme. This also applies to recognition procedures.

(5) Examination results must be allocated to the relevant module by the stated ECTS figure and must not be allocated to different proofs of performance.

§ 12 Entry into force

(1) This Curriculum will enter into force upon announcement in the University Gazette of the University of Vienna as of 1 October 2021.

(2) The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of 27 June 2022, number 288, 45th edition enter into force on 1 October 2022.

§ 13 Transitional provisions

(1) This Curriculum applies to all students who commence their degree programme as of the winter semester of 2021/2022.

(2) If, at a later stage of the degree programme, courses are no longer offered which were compulsory under the original curricula, the competent body responsible for study matters decides ex officio (equivalence regulation) or at the request of the participant which courses and examinations have to be completed instead.

(3) The competent body responsible for study matters specified in the organisational regulations is entitled to determine in general or on a case-by-case basis which of the courses taken and examinations passed will be recognised for this Curriculum.

Appendix

Recommended path through the programme:

Propaedeuticum: Introduction to Scientific Working (4 ECTS credits)	Semester 1
M1: Demographic Theories, Global Demographic Trends and Drivers M1.1: Introduction to Demographic Theories, Global Human Capital and Social Change (4 ECTS credits) M1.2: Fertility and Family (6 ECTS credits) M1.3: Mortality, Health and Ageing (6 ECTS credits) M1.4: Migration, Urbanisation and Spatial Distribution (4 ECTS credits)	 Semester 1 Semester 1 Semester 1 Semester 1
M2: Demographic Methods and Statistics for Social Scientists M2.1: Basic Methods of Demographic Analysis (4 ECTS credits) M2.2.a: Statistics for Social Scientists 1 (4 ECTS credits) M2.2.b: Statistics for Social Scientists 2 (4 ECTS credits) M2.3: Advanced Methods of Demographic Analysis (Hands-On Intensive Course) (4 ECTS credits) Tutorial for M2.3 (4 ECTS credits)	 Semester 1 Semester 1 Semester 2 Semester 2 Semester 2
M3: Population and Global Human Capital M3.1: Population History: The Long-Run (4 ECTS credits) M3.2: Human Capital and Economic Demography (4 ECTS credits) M3.3: Policy Research: Public Health, Fertility and Migration (4 ECTS credits) **Electives in Other Social Sciences** (4 ECTS credits)	 Semester 2 Semester 2 Semester 2 Semester 2
M4: Population Change and Sustainable Development M4.1: Population Forecasting (4 ECTS credits) M4.2: Population, Climate Change and Sustainable Development (4 ECTS credits) M4.3: Fertility, Mortality and Human Capital Trends in a Global Systemic Perspective (4 ECTS credits)	 Semester 3 Semester 3 Semester 3
M5: Research Projects M5.1: Empirical Study (10 ECTS credits) M5.2: Demographic Debate: Literature Review and Contemporary Demographic Debates (8 ECTS credits)	 Semester 3 Semester 3
Master's Thesis and Public Defence	Semester 4
Planned ECTS credits per semester: Semester 1: 24 ECTS credits M1 + 8 ECTS credits M2 = 32 ECTS credits Semester 2: 12 ECTS credits M2 + 12 ECTS credits M3 + 4 ECTS credits Electives = 28 ECTS credits Semester 3: 12 ECTS credits M4 + 18 ECTS credits M5 = 30 ECTS credits Semester 4: 30 ECTS credits Master's Thesis and Public Defence = 30 ECTS credits	