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**Budapest University of Technology and Economics
Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences**

REGIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMIC STUDIES

**Full-Time MA programme
in English**

Academic Pre-requisites, Course Guide and Programme Plan

From 2023/24

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Basic information

Faculty:	Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences
Programme name:	Regional and Environmental Economic Studies
Level of studies:	MA
Language of instruction:	English
Qualification:	Economist, specialisation in Regional and Environmental Economic Studies
Duration of the programme:	4 semesters
Location:	Budapest (Hungary)
Webpage:	http://www.gtk.bme.hu/en/study/master-programmes-in-english/master-in-regional-and-environmental-economic-studies

Short description of the programme

The programme aims to train experts in environmental and regional economics, competent in analysing regional and sustainability-related problems, and propose novel solutions by putting their theoretical knowledge and acquired expertise to practice. Regional economics and management aspects of sustainability are important parts of the programme as well. Courses are highly workshop-oriented, where students may work together to focus local and regional aspects of actual global sustainability challenges.

Our experts will be capable of creatively and innovatively contributing to sustainability and regional policy-making, strategic planning and project programming, both in governments and in private enterprises.

Admission requirements

- BSc/BA in the field of either Economics and/or Management or Engineering or Natural Sciences
- In case of BA/BSc in Engineering or Natural Sciences, completion of a minimum of 60 ECTS (or equivalent) should be proven in the following areas of study:
 - 20 ECTS in Quantitative Studies
 - Mathematics
 - Statistics
 - Computer Science/programming
 - *any other relevant area of study* (subject to authorisation)
 - 20 ECTS in Economics and Management Studies:
 - Micro- and Macroeconomics
 - International Economics

- Environmental Economics
 - Economic Theory
 - Economic Statistics (Econometrics)
 - Economic Modelling
 - Economic Policy
 - Regional Economics
 - European Economic Policy
 - Public Policy
 - Business/Corporate Economics
 - Accounting
 - Controlling
 - Human Resource Management
 - Business Law
 - Marketing
 - Management and Organisational Studies
 - Production Management
 - Decision Theory and Methodology
 - *any other relevant area of study* (subject to authorisation)
- 20 ECTS in Natural or Social Sciences
- Biology
 - Physics
 - Chemistry
 - Geography
 - Earth Sciences
 - *any other relevant natural science* (subject to authorisation)
 - International or European Studies
 - General Law and Business/Corporate Law
 - Sociology
 - Psychology
 - Philosophy
 - *any other relevant social science* (subject to authorisation).
- Applicants may be admitted with having completed 40 ECTS from the disciplines listed above; the remaining 20 ECTS need to be completed during the first year of the programme. A proof of completion of the required ECTS credits is compulsory for all applicants, regardless their preliminary studies or the field of study (discipline) of their BA/BSc diploma.
 - B2 level command of English: a TOEFL iBT score of 88 and above, IELTS overall band 6.5 or above

Minimum level of language proficiency:

Oral	B2
Written	B2
Entrance type	Both
Type of exam	Electronic

Selection and recruitment process

Applicants will have to take an on-line entrance examination, consisting of two parts. Firstly, an entry assignment will have to be completed and submitted in writing electronically, which needs to be submitted and reviewed before the second part of the entrance exam. Secondly, a motivational interview will be conducted on-line, where students are expected to give an account of their prior interest, skills and trainings, but also, to express their motivation for joining the programme.

Programme structure

During the 1st semester, students can obtain 28 ECTS by successfully accomplishing five compulsory course units and one elective. Compulsory courses cover the basics of economics, regional and environmental economics and quantitative methods, geoinformatics, and economic and social geography as well. These courses provide a solid knowledge base for further semesters and studies.

During the 2nd semester, 26 ECTS are linked to compulsory courses (plus a 3-ECTS-course is planned to be accomplished by an elective) with a strong emphasis on regional and environmental policies, basics of natural resource management, urban sociology and urban economics. Beside the theory-oriented lessons, students can learn about methods for regional and environmental analysis and planning aspects of urban development regarding social, economic and environmental dimensions.

After more theory-oriented basic courses in the first two semesters, from the 3rd semester onwards, students can gain knowledge about applied sciences by focusing on development activities on the regional and local level. Beside development-oriented courses, students can gain knowledge about spatial economic theories and analytical practice, and regional marketing practices. During the 3rd semester, students begin to prepare their Diploma Project (10 ECTS) by further deepening their knowledge base and by revisiting key literature.

During the final semester, urban planning, sectoral sustainability studies and local development and social policies are woven into compulsory courses. Beside these above mentioned topics, competitiveness analyses are also introduced, by applying previously acquired theoretical and practical knowledge. In parallel with accomplishing 18 ECTS regarding compulsory courses, students' main aim is to finish their thesis work (15 ECTS).

Abbreviations in the Programme Plan

Course Unit Type

C: Compulsory (Core) Unit

CE: Compulsory Elective Unit (*students may choose course units from a pre-selected list*)

E: Elective Unit (*students may choose course units from the entire university portfolio*)

CR: Criterion Requirement

Final Examination Course Units

FC: final examination course unit (*a course unit whose topics constitute some of the topic questions on the final examination*)

Weekly Hours

Weekly Hours = Lectures + Practicals/Seminars + Laboratory work

Assessment Type

e: examination

t: term grade

s: signature (*proof of completion only, no evaluation of performance required*)

Credits (ECTS)

An indicator corresponding to the estimated total time required for acquiring the course material and for the completion of all course unit requirements.

Example of Notation

E.g.: Quantitative Methodology C – 4/e/5

Meaning: Compulsory (Core) Unit, 4 contact hours a week, performance assessed by means of examination, totalling 5 ECTS credits.

Miscellaneous Remarks to the Programme Plan

The Programme Plan outlines the recommended scheduling of course units based on the contents and ECTS requirements. The framework and rules and regulations are contained in the university's Academic and Examination By-Laws, and other documentation on the Programme and the Course Units. The Programme Plan contains course units whose successful completion requires prior knowledge of the course material of previous course units. The completion of these pre-requisites are defined by the list of pre-requisites of the programme.

Keeping up with the recommended schedule and the list of pre-requisites outlined in the Programme Plan is highly recommended, as the timetable for each semester is prepared based on the Programme Plan. Deviating from the Programme Plan may result in unexpected timetable clashes. Furthermore, it must be noted that certain course units are offered exclusively in either the Autumn or the Spring semester, but not both.

Programme Plan

For studies commencing in the Autumn semester

Name of Course Unit	Type	FC	1.	2.	3.	4.
Semester 1						
Economics	C		2/t/3			
Quantitative Methods	C		4/t/5			
Environmental Economics	C	FC	3/e/5			
Regional Economics	C	FC	4/e/5			
Geoinformatics	C		3/t/4			
Economic and Social Geography	C		2/t/3			
Elective Course Unit 1	E		2/t/3			
Semester 2						
Methods of Regional and Environmental Analysis	C			2/t/3		
Data Analytics	C			2/e/3		
Sustainable Environmental and Natural Res. Econ.	C	FC		4/e/5		
Environmental and Regional Policy of the EU	C			4/t/5		
Environmental and Urban Sociology	C			4/t/5		
Municipal Management and Local Governance	C			4/e/5		
Elective Course Unit 2	E			2/t/3		
Semester 3						
Sustainable Regional Development	C	FC			2/e/3	
Intensive Seminar	C				0/s/2	
Project Management	C				4/e/5	
Environmental Management Systems	C	FC			4/e/5	
Regional and Municipal Marketing	C				4/t/5	
Diploma Project	CE				9/t/10	
Semester 4						
Local Development and Social Policy	C					2/t/3
Urban Development and Urbanism	C					4/e/5
Sectoral Sustainability Studies	C					4/t/5
Competitiveness Evaluations	C					4/e/5
Thesis Work	CE					14/t/15
Total			22/2e/28	22/3e/29	24/3e/30	28/2e/33
Language courses (refer to separate documentation)	E	4/t/0	4/t/0			
Physical Education and Sports (refer to separate documentation)	E	2/s/0	2/s/0			

(For studies commencing in the Spring semester, the recommended order of semesters is Semester 2, Semester 1, Semester 4 and Semester 3 of the Autumnal schedule, with Diploma Project in the penultimate semester, and Thesis Work in the final semester.)

N.B.: Topics that constitute the topic questions of the final examination (Regional Economics, Sustainable Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, and Environmental Performance Assessment) shall be composed of the course materials of course units marked with FC in the table above.

Compulsory Elective course units and Elective course Units

The Compulsory Elective (CE) course units in this Programme are Diploma Project 1 and Thesis Work.

Students may take any Masters level course unit, offered by the faculty, or by other faculties of the university, as an Elective (E). The completion of a total of at least 6 ECTS credits is required. Recommended elective courses lead by the Department of Environmental Economics that can provide additional knowledge e.g. Climate Change – Advanced Level, Local Sustainable Development, Environmental Evaluation, Financing Innovative Entrepreneurs.

Diploma Project, submission of the Thesis Work

Diploma candidates prepare their Thesis Work under supervision of their supervisors, within the framework of course units Diploma Project and Thesis Work. These course units are allocated an ECTS value and performance is evaluated by grading. These course units are completed and the results of the research presented in order to demonstrate the competence of diploma candidates in implementing theoretical knowledge in practice and performing autonomous work.

In Diploma Project, diploma candidates choose a topic and a supervisor. Diploma candidates declare their intent to pursue their diploma project work by completing and submitting a Diploma Project Assignment by the deadline specified by the Department. An outline of the main research topics and problem areas within the competence of the Department is provided to assist students in selecting their research topic/question. However, the finalisation of the research question/topic must be done under supervision of the internal supervisor related to the Department. External supervisor is optional.

Diploma candidates are required to conduct regular consultation sessions with their consultants/supervisors. Face-to-face sessions as well as e-mail interactions should be logged by means of a Consultation Log. Diploma candidates must also abide by the formatting requirements when preparing their Diploma Project and Thesis Work.

Submissions of the completed Diploma Project document and the finalised Thesis Work document are to be sent electronically to the supervisors by the deadlines specified in the beginning of the semester. Diploma Project research works are to be presented in front of a panel of supervisors (lecturers) at the end of semester.

The development of a Thesis Work is supervised by the internal supervisor. In this phase, a high degree of autonomy, proactivity and initiatives are desired from students. During the semester, students are to regularly consult with their supervisors individually, as many times as desirable. Additionally, group consultations are also organised, with the objective of providing

practical information about the development of Thesis Works, and preparing students for the final examinations.

Thesis Works are to be submitted by the specified deadline and through the specified means and channels. Once students have fully completed all of the programme course requirements (and thus, have obtained an *Absolutorium*), submitted final Thesis Works will be distributed to referees for evaluation. The final assessment of the Thesis Works is performed during the Final Examination. The grade conferred to the Thesis Work will be taken into account in determining the Final Examination grade obtained by the student.

Academic Pre-requisites

Course Unit:	Pre-requisite Course Unit(s):
Sustainable Regional Development	Regional Economics, Environmental Economics
Environmental Management Systems	Environmental Economics
Regional and Municipal Marketing	Regional Economics, Regional Policy
Diploma Project	<i>A total of 45 ECTS credits (from Compulsory and Elective course units) shall have been obtained before taking this course unit.</i>
Thesis Work	Diploma Project

Requirements for obtaining qualification

Obtaining 120 ECTS during the programme, and successfully taking the final examination.

Absolutorium

Upon having absolved the requirements specified in the Programme Plan - i.e. having obtained a total of at least 120 ECTS credits - the student is issued with a Certificate of Completion of Studies (Absolutorium). Obtaining the Absolutorium is a pre-requisite of being admitted to the final examination.

Once the student obtains an Absolutorium, regardless of having taken the final examination or not, they shall lose their legal status as a student, on the last day of the next final examination period following the completion of studies.

Final Examination

The Final Examination is a complex assessment of the knowledge obtained by the student, which marks the end of studies of the student. The Final Examination consists of:

1. a public presentation and defence of the Thesis Work;
2. written and oral examination on the topic questions compiled from the topics of Final Examination Course Units, demonstrating a complex understanding and knowledge.

Rules and regulations governing final examinations are contained in the Code on Education and Examination. The topics covered in the Final Examination are determined by the Department or institute in charge of managing the MA programme. Unsatisfactory (failed) Thesis Work may be re-submitted once. Unsatisfactory (failed) Final Examinations may be re-taken once.

Learning Languages and Studying Culture

The Institute of Foreign Languages offers Hungarian language courses to students with no or little command of the Hungarian language, and on Hungarian culture to facilitate their integration into Hungarian society.

Physical Education and Sport

Whilst there are no explicit requirements for participating in Physical Education (P.E.) or Sports, facilities are open to students. However, some facilities may be offered to student for a fee. Further information about P.E. and sports facilities may be obtained directly from the Centre for Physical Education. Approximately 30 different sports are available for students. Completion of course units offered by the Centre for Physical Education is attested by a signature.

Fundamental rules and regulations on education

General rules on studying and residing abroad

Rules on the conditions of travelling to, and residing in a foreign country for pursuing an educational programme are outlined both in international treaties and national legislation. Prospective students should inform themselves about possible visa and residence requirements through agencies and consulates.

Regular students from EU and EEA countries

A study visa is not required for regular students from EU and EEA countries. Tuition fees apply.

Regular students from 3rd countries

Nationals of countries that are not members of the EU or EEA are to pay a fee for their education. Student visas are available. A residence permit is required by the authorities for the duration of the studies. Information on student visas and residence is available through consulates.

Scholarships

Various scholarships are available for students. Some scholarships are offered by the Government of Hungary, other scholarships are offered by the government of the country of citizenship of the student (home country), whilst yet other scholarships may be offered by businesses or non-profit/charitable organisations.

Scholarships offered by the Government of Hungary, including, but not limited to *Stipendium Hungaricum*, covering the expenses of education, are available for students. As these scholarships are subject to an agreement/contract between the Government of Hungary (through its agencies) and the Student, the terms and condition of obtaining, retaining and forfeiting these scholarships does in no way depend on the university, and it is solely the student's responsibility to be aware of and to meet the requirements of the scholarship. Besides carefully studying the terms and conditions of such scholarships, students should also be well informed about practical aspects of studying abroad - including costs and circumstances of living, travel costs and other foreseeable and unforeseeable overheads.

Some scholarships are offered by the governments of the country of citizenship, or the home country, of the student. In this case, an agreement/contract is signed between the student and their home country's government (or an agency thereof). In such a case, the university is not informed about the terms and conditions of obtaining, retaining and forfeiting such a scholarship. Therefore it is solely the student's responsibility to be aware of and to meet the requirements of this scholarship. Again, besides being aware of the legal requirements set by the scholarship agreement, students should be well informed about the practical aspects of studying abroad - including costs and circumstances of living, travel costs and other foreseeable and unforeseeable overheads.

Businesses and non-profit/charitable organisations may also offer scholarships to students. In this case, the student is solely responsible for being informed about the terms and conditions of the scholarship, but also, about the practical aspects of studying abroad.

Whilst the university and its lecturers will do their best to assist students with a scholarship to complete their education in a timely and appropriate manner, academic integrity and the aim to preserve a high level of education and the value of our diplomas commands that we do not bend, nor disobey the rules under any circumstances.

Academic and Examination By-laws

The University's Academic and Examination By-laws were set up based on the legal requirements of the Law on National Higher Education and other relevant laws. These by-laws govern university life, education, examinations and research, and various other aspects of university life. Students should be informed about their rights, duties and obligations, outlined in these by-laws.

Expanding knowledge and managing young talent

The Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences is home to two vocational colleges - on economic and social sciences, and communications and media studies. Furthermore, there is a vocational college on management, run by the University Student Council.

Our faculty has over 70 Erasmus+ and academic/administrative staff mobility agreements. Hundreds of students have taken part in Erasmus+ mobilities over the past years, and almost the same number of students have spent one or two semesters at our faculty. This adds a very international flavour to the faculty's everyday life. Most students going on Erasmus+ mobilities went to Germany, Italy, Austria, Portugal and Spain, whilst most students are from France, Germany, Spain and Portugal.

Students who are interested in trying their wings as young researchers, have the chance to do so on the Students' Scientific Conference (SSC). This is a highly important step towards becoming a researcher, whether that research career is pursued in a doctoral school or in a company.

Talented students, who are interested in becoming researchers or academics, may begin their careers at the Doctoral School of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences.