

## International Master of Science in Sustainable and Innovative Natural Resource Management (SINReM) Student Agreement 2021-2023

This Agreement, drawn up for the SINReM programme, governs the relationship between

Ghent University, representing the SINReM Consortium

hereinafter referred to as «the Coordinating Organisation», represented by its Legal Representative: Prof. Dr. Ir. Rik Van de Walle, Rector, in this particular case represented by prof. dr. ir. Gijs Du Laing, Coupure Links 653, 9000 Gent, Belgium,

and Mr. /Ms. (first and last name) .....  
from (nationality) .....  
hereinafter referred to as «the student».

It has been agreed as follows:

### Article 1. Object

The Coordinating Organisation and the student undertake to carry out the activities referred to in this agreement, in the framework of the International Master of Science in Sustainable and Innovative Natural Resource Management (SINReM). This agreement, which all parties declare they have read and approved, governs the relationship between the parties and defines the rights and obligations associated with their participation in the above educational programme.

### Article 2. Study programme

The SINReM programme 2021 – 2023 starts 3 September 2021 at Ghent University and ends with the solemn graduation ceremony in September 2023.

To fully and successfully complete the programme, the student needs to complete the entire mobility scheme, pass all the courses the student has registered for, successfully complete the 10 ECTS credits internship, successfully defend the 30 ECTS credits master thesis, and obtain a minimum of 120 ECTS credits.

Upon a successful completion of the programme, the student will receive a joint diploma awarded by the SINReM Consortium carrying the degree of *International Master of Science in Sustainable and Innovative Natural Resource Management*, accompanied by a joint diploma supplement, entitling the student to bear the title of Master in Science. This joint diploma will also mention the second Swedish title *Naturvetenskaplig Masterexamen*, in order to comply with the Swedish legislation.

The SINReM mobility scheme is shown below:

Year	Semester	Start date	End date	Mobility	
1	1	03/09/2021	12/09/2021	<b>Ghent University</b> If applicable COVID19-related quarantine Arrival and introduction BEPrep programme	
		13/09/2021	14/09/2021	<b>Ghent University</b> Introduction to the Circular Economy, Economics and Management of Natural Resources	
		15/09/2021	15/09/2021	<b>Ghent University</b> SINReM Kick-Off Event	
		20/09/2021	08/10/2021	<b>TU Freiberg (Online)</b> Problems and Innovations in the Process Chain of Mineral Resources	
		11/10/2021	24/12/2021	<b>Ghent University</b> Clean Technology Environmental Inventory Techniques Rational Use of Materials Resource Recovery and Recycling Technologies	
		27/12/2021	07/01/2022	<b>Christmas holidays</b>	
		10/01/2022	14/01/2022	<b>Ghent University</b> Exams	
	2	2	17/01/2022	03/06/2022	<b>Uppsala University</b> Georesource Exploration and Characterisation Raw Materials Network Seminar Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship Environmental Assessment Physical–Chemical Properties of Rocks, Minerals and Materials African Mineral Resources: the Science and Politics of Sustainable Extraction of Mineral Resources
			06/06/2022	22/07/2022	<b>TU Freiberg</b> Resources Chemistry
	2	3	Subject choice to	Subject choice to	<b>TU Freiberg (Online)</b> Literature Review and Business Plan <b>Elective major</b> Resource Recovery and Sustainable Materials (UGent: start end September 2022) Circular Societies (UGent: start end September 2022) Sustainable Processes (TU Freiberg: start begin October 2022) Georesource Exploration (Uppsala University: start end August 2022) Sustainable Entrepreneurship (Uppsala University: start end August 2022)
4		Subject choice to	Subject choice to	Master Thesis Internship	

All aspects of the mobility scheme can be affected by COVID19-related measurements and students will at all times be well informed about potential changes.

The official study programme is published by Ghent University:

<https://studiekiezer.ugent.be/international-master-of-science-in-sustainable-and-innovative-natural-resource-management-en/programma/2021>

Detailed information concerning the choice of major, internship and master thesis can be found in the SINReM Student Handbook and will be provided before the start of the first semester.

### Article 3. Obligations of SINReM Consortium

The Coordinating Organisation and the partner universities undertake to:

- award a joint diploma carrying the degree of **International Master of Science in Sustainable and Innovative Natural Resource Management** and also the Swedish degree **Naturvetenskaplig Masterexamen** upon successful completion of the study programme;
- provide a complete diploma supplement mentioning in detail the course units completed and the credits and grade obtained;
- fully recognise the academic programme proposed by the different universities as the official programme of SINReM;
- take all measures necessary for the preparation, implementation and efficient operation of the studies;
- provide to the students following the SINReM programme with all the conditions and facilities included in the proposal, including offering assistance with (= providing information on) visas and permits, housing, coaching, an insurance scheme as provided by SINReM, a Student Handbook, student guides and advisors, counselling and monitoring services, access to libraries, a designated website providing all necessary information about the course etc.;
- assist the student to fulfil the administrative formalities required;
- provide, if, where and when possible, the students with logistical support to facilitate the mobility and installation to and in each of the partner universities;
- provide the student with health insurance within the regular duration of the programme (24 months) or the duration of the programme according to the European minimum requirements.

### Article 4. Obligations of the student

The undersigned student undertakes to:

- respect the discipline, guidelines and regulations imposed by the participating universities concerning courses, tasks, working hours, ECTS, mobility, the rules in force, and any other legal provisions in order to obtain the SINReM diploma;
- provide at any time in the process of application, study and thesis research, correct and timely information to the Coordinating Organisation pertaining to academic and administrative issues of interest to the proper management of the SINReM programme;
- attend and actively participate in the joint programme (lectures, seminars, training courses, etc.) in accordance with the relevant requirements;

- accept that attendance to classes is mandatory;
- deliver the expected outputs (examinations, projects, essays, publications, etc.) in accordance with the joint programme's requirements;
- obtain the expected performance results in order to be allowed to continue the SINReM programme;
- inform the Coordinating Organisation in advance if he/she wishes to withdraw from the programme;
- pay the yearly programme participation cost as described below.

## Article 5. Programme participation cost & other costs

Students are expected to pay the full yearly programme participation cost of SINReM before the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> academic years, and before 15 October or 15 February preceding the start of any additional semester(s). Details on the programme participation cost can be found on <https://sinrem.eu/fees-and-scholarships/>.

The payment of the programme participation cost covers tuition fees, institutional enrolments, insurance and the extra costs for organising the programme (including laboratory work and excursions, project and master thesis research). Costs related to participation in the elective language courses and other costs (e.g., costs related to internal mobility) are at the charge of the students. The student must cover travel, living and subsistence costs.

The student also takes notice of the insurance scheme coverage, and agrees that additional insurance aspects that may not be covered by this insurance are at his/her own expenses. Accompanying spouses and/or children can be covered by this insurance scheme at cost of the student, after having informed the coordination secretariat.

The programme participation cost is paid at Ghent University. The programme cost at all other partner universities will be divided based on the SINReM Consortium Agreement between all the SINReM partner universities.

The student understands that he/she shall be excluded from the SINReM programme

- if the student cannot justify his/her absence from mandatory lectures, practical sessions, field trips and official meetings with a valid medical certificate from a health practitioner or an explicit permission by the lecturer via e-mail (to ensure permission, the student must ask in advance);
- if the student fails to validate a year of study;
- if the student is the subject of disciplinary measures leading to his/her exclusion from the SINReM partner universities;
- if the student is the subject of legal prosecutions that prevent him/her from attending the SINReM programme;
- if the student withdraws from the SINReM programme, on his/her own decision or by force majeure.

## Article 6. Re-registration beyond the regular duration (24 months) or leave of absence

Students who have not successfully completed at least 120 ECTS at the end of 24 months of regular study programme need to re-enrol for at least one additional semester.

If a student needs to be enrolled for one or more additional semester(s) after the fourth semester, the programme participation cost to be paid is the regular programme participation cost, but reduced to one semester of the annual programme cost.

A student can address the SINReM Management Board to request a (partial) waiver for an additional semester but needs to do so before 1 October (fall semester) or 1 February (spring semester). The SINReM Management Board will decide case per case whether or not a waiver is possible or advisable.

The payment of the additional tuition fee covers the institutional enrolments but **not** the insurance. In this case, students are no longer automatically subscribed to the European insurance scheme. Students can in this case choose to continue the insurance on their own financial means.

## Article 7. Withdrawal from the programme or leave of absence

If a registered student decides to withdraw permanently from the programme, or wants to take a leave of absence from the programme, the student needs to inform the SINReM Management Board in writing. If a student withdraws from the programme or if a student is granted a leave of absence during either semester of the academic year will be eligible for a refund in accordance with the conditions set forth below.

The effective date is the date the student files a written request for withdrawal or leave of absence. A student who is required to withdraw because of a violation of regulations will not receive a participation cost refund.

Written notice of withdrawal	Programme cost % that can be refunded upon request
Before start of academic activities first semester	100% of annual programme participation cost for the first academic year
Between first and last day of academic activities first semester	No more than 50% of annual programme participation cost for the first academic year
Between first day and last day of academic activities second semester	No refund possible
Between first and last day of academic activities third semester	No more than 50% of annual programme participation cost for the second academic year
Between first day and last day of academic activities fourth semester	No refund possible

## Article 8. Examination and education regulations

Students following SINReM courses at any of the partner universities are bound by the examination and education regulations of the partner university where the student is taking the course.

This refers to and includes all rules, guidelines, regulations and information regarding course work, project work, internship, master thesis, methodologies used in education, criteria for admission to courses and timetables, as well as all information regarding thresholds for passing examinations and re-sits, additional semesters, or any other relevant information linked to any form of educational or research activity linked to the SINReM programme.

Students are not allowed to retake exams for a course to obtain a higher grade when they have already passed for this course.

Copies (or links to) the partner university's rules and regulations:

- Ghent University: <https://www.ugent.be/student/en/class-exam-exchange-intern/class-exam/education-examination-code/oeren20212022.pdf>
- Uppsala University: <https://www2.uu.se/en/students/your-rights/examination>
- TU Freiberg: <https://tu-freiberg.de/en/international/examinations>

All [regulations concerning study progress monitoring and binding conditions](#) apply to all SINReM students during the complete SINReM programme.

## Article 9. Appeal

In case a student wishes to discuss a problem, difficulty or issue, or if the student wishes to make an appeal, then the following actions need to be taken:

1. Contact the Local Secretariat of the SINReM programme at the partner university.
2. If the issue is related to local rules and regulations, and the student finds no satisfactory solution with the SINReM Local Secretariat, the ombudsperson of the local faculty or partner university must be contacted.
3. When the issue is related to SINReM rules and regulations, and the SINReM Local Secretariat cannot offer a solution or if the issue is related to local rules and regulations, and you find no satisfactory solution at the partner university ombudsperson, then address the SINReM Management Board in writing, through [sinrem@ugent.be](mailto:sinrem@ugent.be).
4. In case no satisfactory solution has been reached with the SINReM Management Board, one can finally opt to contact the Ghent University ombudsperson. Consult the examinations and educational of Ghent University for further information, available on the UGent website.

The student must provide the Coordinating Organisation immediately with any information he/she may require about the execution of the activities governed by this agreement.

## Article 10. Student representation

Students are represented in the programme management through two elected student representatives per cohort who are invited in each of the SINReM Programme Steering Committee meetings for the parts where no confidential information is discussed.

## Article 11. Scholarship

In this article, all modalities concerning the scholarship the student may receive are stipulated.

## Article 12. Privacy

The student

- declares that he/she was informed that images will be taken by the SINReM Consortium, during activities of the SINReM programme;
- declares that he/she was informed that he/she might be portrayed recognisable and identifiable in these images;
- declares that he/she gives his/her express consent to the SINReM Consortium, to take his/her image during activities in the framework of the SINReM programme;
- irrevocably gives the right to SINReM Consortium, to use, publish, reproduce and distribute his/her image without any restriction;
- declares that he/she was informed that these images will be used by the SINReM Consortium in regard to SINReM;
  
- declares that he/she fully and definitively waives any claim to any right, title or interest relating the aforementioned images and/or elements of these images. All intellectual and property rights remain with SINReM Consortium;
- gives the SINReM Consortium explicit consent for the use of his/her academic e-mail address by a third party;
- gives SINReM explicit consent to provide EIT Raw materials with the academic records of the students to be saved in a database.

## Article 13. Liability

Each contracting party must exonerate the other from any civil liability for damages suffered by him or his staff as a result of performance of this agreement, provided such damages are not the result of serious and deliberate misconduct on the part of the other party or his staff.

## Article 14. Jurisdiction clause

Where no amicable agreement can be reached, the courts of Belgium will have sole jurisdiction in any disputes between the contracting parties concerning this agreement. The law applicable to this Agreement is the law of the country of the Coordinating Organisation (Belgium).

## Article 15. Amendments or additions to the Agreement

Amendments to this agreement may be made only by codicil signed on behalf of each of the parties by the signatories to this agreement.

This agreement was signed in duplicate, and all parties receive a copy.

SINReM Coordinating Organisation

Student

Date:

Date:.....

Signature: prof. dr. ir. Gijs Du Laing

Name and signature:.....

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