

International Master of Science in Sustainable and Innovative Natural Resource Management (SINReM) Student Agreement 2025-2027

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 (first and last name)

born on (birth date).....

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 2025 – 2027 starts on 3 September 2025 at Ghent University and ends with the solemn graduation ceremony in September 2027.

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 and courses
1	1	02/09/2025	05/09/2025	Ghent University Arrival, CheckIn, OnBoarding SINReM Kick Off Event on 03/09/2024
		08/09/2025	26/09/2025	TU Freiberg Chemical Principles and Sustainable Technologies along the Raw Materials Value Chain (part I)
		30/09/2025	20/12/2025	Ghent University Introduction to the Circular Economy, Economics and Management of Natural Resources Clean Technology Sustainable Development and Multicriteria Decision-making Rational Use of Materials Resource Recovery and Recycling Technologies
		23/12/2025	02/01/2026	Christmas holidays
		03/01/2026	09/01/2026	Ghent University Exams
	2	19/01/2026	7/06/2026	Uppsala University Mineral Exploration Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship One of the elective courses below: Environmental Assessment Physical–Chemical Properties of Rocks, Minerals and Materials African Mineral Resources: the Science and Politics of Sustainable Extraction of Mineral Resources Geological Field Work Project including exams
		June 2026 TBC	July 2026 TBC	TU Freiberg Chemical Principles and Sustainable Technologies along the Raw Materials Value Chain (part II)
2	3	Subject to choice	Subject to choice	TU Freiberg (Online) Financial and Sustainability Reporting, Financial Planning and Business Valuation Elective major Resource Recovery and Sustainable Materials (UGent: start end September 2025) Circular Societies (UGent: start end September 2025) Sustainable Processes (TU Freiberg: start begin October 2025) Georesource Exploration (Uppsala University: start end August 2025) Sustainable Entrepreneurship (Uppsala University: start end August 2025)
	4	Subject to choice	Subject to choice	Master Thesis Internship

The study programme with detailed course descriptions is published by Ghent University:

<https://studiekiezer.ugent.be/2025/international-master-of-science-in-sustainable-and-innovative-natural-resource-management-en/programma>

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. The master thesis work should be supervised by an academic supervisor affiliated with the partner university where you follow your major.

Article 3. Obligations of the 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, including a complete diploma supplement mentioning in detail the course units completed and the credits and grade obtained;
- 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) visa and residence permits, housing, coaching, an insurances as provided by SINReM, a Student Handbook, student guides and advisors, counselling and monitoring services, access to libraries, a designated website and digital learning platforms providing all necessary information about the course etc.;
- assist the students 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 Secretariat pertaining to academic and administrative issues of interest to the proper management of the SINReM programme;

- attend and actively participate in the SINReM programme (lectures, seminars, training courses, etc.) in accordance with the relevant requirements;
- accept that attendance to classes is mandatory;
- do everything possible to deliver the expected outputs (examinations, projects, essays, publications, etc.) in accordance with the programme's requirements;
- do everything possible to obtain the expected performance results in order to graduate;
- inform the Coordinating Secretariat 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

If no exception is granted, students are expected to pay the full yearly programme participation cost of SINReM before the start of the 1st and 2nd 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/scholarships-fees/>.

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 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 by the official end date of the academic year at Ghent University of the second SINReM year, 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 per extra semester is the annual programme participation cost, divided by two.

For European students (EU, European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland) the annual programme participation cost is EUR 6,000; these students pay EUR 3,000 per extra semester.

For non-European students the annual programme participation cost is EUR 12,000; these students pay EUR 6,000 per extra semester.

A student can address the SINReM Management Board to request a (partial) programme participation cost waiver for an additional semester before 1 October or 1 February. The SINReM Management Board will decide case per case and only award (partial) waivers in case your graduation delay is caused by reasons beyond your control (force majeure, medical reasons, ...).

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	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	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.

The partner university's rules and regulations:

- [Ghent University](#)
- [Uppsala University](#)
- [TU Freiberg](#)

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

During the SINReM programme the personal curriculum submitted in oasis.ugent.be is the one and only valid curriculum for this student. Students should never register for different courses at TU Freiberg or Uppsala University than the courses in their Oasis curriculum.

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.
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

Based on the decision of the SINReM Scholarship Selection Committee on 19 March 2025 the Committee proposes to award the student an EIT Added Value Student Activity Scholarship (AVSA) of EUR 15,000. The scholarship is strictly linked to the full time participation to the SINReM programme cohort 2025-2027.

In line with the stipulations of EIT Raw Materials, the scholarship will be managed by the SINReM Secretariat and distributed to the student in the following structure:

Amount	Timing	Purpose
EUR 15,000	March 2026: 1,500 EUR April 2026: 1,500 EUR May 2026: 1,500 EUR June 2026: 1,500 EUR July 2026: 1,500 EUR August 2026: 1,500 EUR September 2026: 1,500 EUR October 2026: 1,500 EUR November 2026: 1,500 EUR December 2026: 1,500 EUR	Subsistence, living & travel

The EIT AVSA scholarship does not cover the programme participation cost.

By signing this agreement, the student:

- declares to not benefit from other scholarships funded by bodies of the European Commission
- commits to repay the financial support in case of fraud or false declaration.

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.

The European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), in the context of managing the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees, collects and processes the personal data of some of the candidates.

In particular, certain data of the scholarship holders, non-scholarship holders and reserve list candidates is shared with the Agency through the EACEA Mobility Tool and treated according to the following [privacy statement](#).

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: 03 September 2025

Date:.....

Signature: prof. dr. ir. Gijs Du Laing

Name and signature:.....

