

Grade equivalence explained for GEM graduates in 2024

Master of Science degree

Geo-information Science and Earth

Observation for Environmental

Modelling and Management (GEM)

GEM is a double degree programme. Upon graduation a GEM student receives two diplomas, one from each of the two universities in your chosen track. Each university has its own grading system. These grades are recorded on the Transcript of Records that accompanies each diploma.

The GEM programme issues a Joint Course Record (JCR), an unofficial document that reports the courses and grades from the 1st and 2nd year universities in one document. The JCR also provides a table that shows the equivalence between the grading systems of the 1st and 2nd-year universities. The JCR does not provide an official translation of grades; however, the equivalence table can be used to **either** interpret the grades obtained in the 1st year university using the grading system of the 2nd year university **or** to interpret the grades obtained in the 2nd year university using the grading system of the 1st year university.

This document explains how the equivalence tables were made for each track and provides the underlying statistics from each GEM partner university. The principle here is transparency. The equivalence tables will align with any grade conversions made by GEM universities in Transcripts of Records, and otherwise, they follow the good practices for **using statistical grade distribution tables as set out in Section 4.3 and Annex 2 of the ECTS user's guide 2015**.

Method for generating the equivalence tables

1 If a GEM partner university has provided official grade conversions in their Transcript of Records and/or diploma supplement, then the grade equivalence table in the JCR for that track will agree with that official grade conversion. For 2023, UCLouvain has provided grade translation tables to convert grades obtained in the 1st year universities (University of Tartu and Lund University) to the UCLouvain grading system used in the 2nd year <https://sites.uclouvain.be/gprlouvain/erasmus.html>.

2 For all other cases, the GEM Programme obtains historical statistics on the grades from the courses and/or overall degree programme from all partner universities and use those to generate the equivalence tables. **These statistics are provided on page 2.**

3 The GEM Programme compares the cumulative distribution of the grades provided by each partner to align the grading systems. For example, based on a total of 261 records from the past two years for grades in the courses followed by GEM students at Lund, 16.9% of students in Lund received an A grade, 32.6% received a B grade, and so on. For ITC, based on a total of 2106 records from the past two years of grades obtained by Master students in the M-GEO programme, 0.5% received a 10, 2.9% received a 9.5, 7.6% received a 9, and 11.7% obtained an 8.5, and so on. It is clear from this example that there is a large difference in the statistical distribution of the grades (compare how many students get an A in Lund to those who get a 10 in ITC for example) and there is an overlap in grades. This means there is no one-to-one alignment, and we need to find the best fit between the two systems. The best alignment in this case shows that ITC grades 8.5, 9, 9.5 and 10 add up to 23% of all passing grades which are deemed equivalent to an A (17% of all passing grades) in Lund. **The resulting equivalence tables for all tracks are provided on page 3.**

4 The tables are updated each year as and when new historical statistics become available. This document is then updated and published on the GEM website. This means that this explanation belongs to the Joint Course Record students received in 2024.

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Lund University Grades for the courses taken by GEM students in the Master Programme in Geo-information Science and Earth Observation for Environmental Modelling and Management for the last 3 years

Grade	Count	Percentage	Accumulative % until lowest passing grade
VG (A)	44	16.9	16.9
VG (B)	85	32.6	49.4
G (C)	67	25.7	75.1
G (D)	46	17.6	92.7
G (E)	19	7.3	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>100</i>	

University of Tartu Grades for the courses taken by GEM students in the Master Programme in Geoinformatics for Urbanised Society over the academic years 2022/23 and 2023/24

Grade	Count	Percentage	Accumulative % until lowest passing grade
A	177	44.7	49.6
B	117	29.5	82.4
C	41	10.4	93.8
D	16	4.0	98.3
E	6	1.5	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>357</i>	<i>100</i>	

University of Twente – Faculty ITC Grades obtained in the Master of Science in Geoinformation Science and Earth Observation programme over the academic years 2021 and 2022 (01-09-2021 until 31-08-2023).

Grade	Count	Percentage	Accumulative % until lowest passing grade
10.0	10	0.5	0.5
9.5	62	2.9	3.4
9.0	161	7.6	11.1
8.5	246	11.7	22.7
8.0	395	18.8	41.5
7.5	365	17.3	58.8
7.0	336	16.0	74.8
6.5	217	10.3	85.1
6.0	314	14.9	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,106</i>	<i>100</i>	

Université Catholique de Louvain Based on the grading table statistics for 2022-2023 published at <https://uclouvain.be/en/study/gerer-votre-programme-de-formation.html#ECTS-Grading> for Masters in the **Faculty of Bioscience Engineering**.

Grade	Count	Percentage	Accumulative % until lowest passing grade
20	44	0.3	0.3
19	259	1.5	1.8
18	722	4.3	6.1
17	1,714	10.2	16.3
16	2,791	16.6	32.9
15	2,830	16.8	49.7
14	2,602	15.5	65.2
13	2,127	12.7	77.9
12	1,596	9.5	87.4
11	1,167	6.9	94.3
10	954	5.7	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>16,806</i>	<i>100</i>	

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Track 1 grade equivalence table	
University of Tartu grading system	University of Twente – Faculty ITC grading system
A	8 8.5 9 9.5 10
B	6.5 7 7.5
C	6
D	6
E	6
F (fail)	< 6 (fail)
P (pass)	P (pass)

Track 2 grade equivalence table	
University of Tartu grading system	Université Catholique de Louvain grading system
A	17 18 19 20
B	15 16
C	13 14
D	11 12
E	10
F (fail)	0 (fail)
P (pass)	P (pass)

Note 1: Université Catholique de Louvain publishes a grade translation <https://sites.uclouvain.be/gprlouvain/erasmus.html> from the Tartu University grading system to the Université Catholique de Louvain grading system. This JCR grade equivalence table provides additional information to permit translation from the Université Catholique de Louvain grading system to the Tartu University grading system.

Note 2: The methodology behind the JCR grade equivalence table is published on the GEM website <https://www.gem-msc.eu>.

Track 3 grade equivalence table	
Lund University grading system	University of Twente – Faculty ITC of Twente grading system
VG (A)	8.5 9 9.5 10
VG (B)	7.5 8
G (C)	7
G (D)	6.5
G (E)	6
U (F) (fail)	< 6 (fail)
P (pass)	P (pass)

Track 4 grade equivalence table	
Lund University grading system	Université Catholique de Louvain grading system
VG (A)	17 18 19 20
VG (B)	15 16
G (C)	13 14
G (D)	11 12
G (E)	10
U (F) (fail)	0 (fail)
P (pass)	P (pass)

Note 1: Université Catholique de Louvain publishes a grade translation <https://sites.uclouvain.be/gprlouvain/erasmus.html> from the Lund University grading system to the Université Catholique de Louvain grading system based on the VG, G, U classification of Lund University grades. This JCR grade equivalence table provides additional information to permit translation from the Université Catholique de Louvain grading system to the Lund University grading system.

Note 2: The methodology behind the JCR grade equivalence table is published on the GEM website <https://www.gem-msc.eu>.