

Grade equivalence explained for GEM graduates in 2026

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 students graduating in 2026, UCLouvain and ITC have provided grade translation tables to convert grades obtained in the 1st year universities (University of Tartu and Lund University) to the UCLouvain and ITC grading system used in the 2nd year. More information can be found here for

- a. UC Louvain: <https://sites.uclouvain.be/gprlouvain/erasmus.html>.
- b. ITC: <https://www.gem-msc.eu/student-experience/> - General Programme Information – Joint Course Record.

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 447 records for grades in courses followed by GEM students at Lund, 15.9% of students in Lund received a VG (A) grade, 35.6% received a VG (B) grade, 24.8% received a G (C) grade, 15.9% received a G (D) grade, and 7.8% received a G (E) grade. For ITC, based on a total of 1,214 records for grades obtained by Master students in the M-GEO programme, 0.3% received a 10, 2.2% received a 9.5, 6.4% received a 9, and 12.5% obtained an 8.5, and so on.

This example shows that the statistical distribution of grades differs between the two systems. For instance, 15.9% of students at Lund received a VG (A), while only 0.3% of students at ITC received a 10. This means that there is no simple one-to-one alignment between the grading systems. Instead, the equivalence table needs to find the best fit between grade bands in the two systems.

In this case, the best alignment shows that ITC grades 8.5, 9, 9.5 and 10 together account for 21.5% of all passing grades. These grades are deemed broadly equivalent to a VG (A) at Lund, which accounts for 15.9% of all passing grades. **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 2026.

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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 over the academic years 2021 through to 2026

Grade	Count	Percentage	Accumulative % until lowest passing grade
VG (A)	71	15.7	15.9
VG (B)	159	35.2	51.5
G (C)	111	24.6	76.3
G (D)	71	15.7	92.2
G (E)	35	7.7	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>452</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 2023/24 and 2024/25

Grade	Count	Percentage	Accumulative % until lowest passing grade
A	162	46.3	46.3
B	142	40.6	86.9
C	29	8.3	95.1
D	10	2.9	98.0
E	7	2.0	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>350</i>		

University of Twente – Faculty ITC Grades obtained in the Master of Science for Geoinformation Science and Earth Observation programme over the academic years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 (1-9-2023 until 31-8-2025)

Grade	Count	Percentage	Accumulative % until lowest passing grade
10.0	4	0.3	0.3
9.5	27	2.2	2.6
9.0	78	6.4	9.0
8.5	152	12.5	21.5
8.0	200	16.5	38.0
7.5	203	16.7	54.7
7.0	233	19.2	73.9
6.5	150	12.4	86.2
6.0	167	13.8	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,214</i>	<i>100</i>	

Université Catholique de Louvain Based on the grading table statistics for five intakes (2016/17, 2017/18, 2019/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21) published at <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/natacha2985/viz/EGRACONStablesdeconversion/Tableaudebord12> 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	2,603	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>16,807</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	7.5 8 8.5 9 9.5 10
B	6.5 7
C	6
D	6
E	6
F (fail)	< 6 (fail)
P (pass)	P (pass)

Note 1: ITC publishes a grade translation at <https://www.gem-msc.eu/student-experience> under the General Programme Information – Joint Course Record section, from the Tartu University grading system to the ITC grading system. This JCR grade equivalence table provides additional information to permit translation from ITC to the Tartu University grading system.

Track 2 grade equivalence table

University of Tartu grading system	Université Catholique de Louvain grading system
A	15 16 17 18 19 20
B	13 14
C	12
D	11
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 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)

Note 1: ITC publishes a grade translation at <https://www.gem-msc.eu/student-experience> under the General Programme Information – Joint Course Record section, from the Lund University grading system to the ITC grading system. This JCR grade equivalence table provides additional information to permit translation from ITC to the Lund University grading system.

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>.