

**Joint Master Programme Agreement between
RWTH Aachen University,
Indian Institute of Technology Madras
and
TUD Dresden University of Technology
concerning the
Joint Master Programme in
“Water Security and Global Change”**

This Joint Master Programme Agreement (“Agreement”) entered into.

1. Scope of the agreement

This agreement describes the setup and general rules governing the Joint Master Programme in “Water Security and Global Change” (Programme). The Programme is the shared responsibility of:

- the Faculty of Civil Engineering of RWTH Aachen University (RWTH),
- the Department of Civil Engineering of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM),
- the Faculty of Civil Engineering of TUD Dresden University of Technology (TUD),

hereafter referred to as the partner universities.

Details regarding the programme governance, admission process, the selection procedure, language requirements and convergence courses are specified in the General Programme Regulations (see separate document).

2. Overview and Structure of the Programme

The Joint Master Programme has a scope of 120 ECTS-Points / 213 IITM credits in total. It consists of three semesters of course work with 90 ECTS-Points / 159 IITM credits in total and a fourth semester of thesis of 30 ECTS / 53 IITM credits. Each semester consists of 30 ECTS-Points / 53 IITM credits of course work with courses of 5 or 7.5 ECTS-Points. Thirty ECTS (51–54 IITM credits) per semester may change according to the agreed schedule (see Table 1).

Course work consists of mandatory and elective courses. Courses are offered equally by all 3 partner universities that sum up to 30 ECTS-Points / 53 IITM credits provided by each partner university. The programme enables to define up to 30 ECTS-Points / 53 IITM credits elective courses. Associated partner universities will play a crucial role in enhancing the programme academic offerings through the contribution of specialized modules and valuable thesis co-supervision (see Annex 1).

The curriculum offering is based on the mobility concept that students start their first semester at IITM in Chennai, India, and then move to Dresden, Germany, for their second semester at TUD. For the third semester, students will move within Germany to conduct their third semester at RWTH Aachen. For the fourth semester, students are free to choose the location for their master thesis. Regardless of their location during the programme, students will follow the courses online or in presence depending on the course structure according to the General Programme Regulations (separate document). IITM provides courses in the first semester and first half of second semester (from August to April the following year) and German partners provide courses from the first semester onwards until the beginning of the thesis work.

3. Programme governance

3.1 Executive Committee (ExeCom)

The Programme is managed by the Executive Committee which is formed by one senior academic from each of the partner universities. The members of the Executive Committee, each have one vote. The position of an Executive Committee Chairperson rotates on a two-yearly basis between the partner universities. The Executive Committee meets at least on a yearly basis. Its duties are specified either explicitly or implicitly in this Agreement as well as the General Programme Regulations (see Annex 1).

3.2 Advisory Committee (AdviCom)

The Executive Committee nominates members from relevant groups of prospective employers for participation in the Advisory Committee. Involvement of stakeholders from industry, ministries, NGOs is also desirable for funding scholarships, as well as input on curriculum, guest lecturing, providing opportunities for internships and thesis work.

3.3 Joint Examination Board

The Joint Examination Board is responsible for all decisions concerning credit examinations, which are not part of local rules and regulations. It is formed by the members of the Executive Committee as well as one person nominated by each of the partner universities. The members of the Joint Examination Board each have one vote. As a rule, the position of Joint Examination Board Chairperson rotates on a two-yearly basis between the partner universities. The Joint Examination Board Chairperson holds the tie splitting vote.

Local boards at each partner university are responsible for local credit examinations. Details are specified in the local rules and regulations of each partner university.

3.4 Selection Committee

The selection committee is responsible for the selection of students who are admitted to the study programme. The selection committee consists of 6 members (2 from RWTH, 2 from IITM and 2 from TUD) with the Chair from IITM.

3.5 Teaching and student supervision

In all 3 partner universities professors, senior lecturers, postdoctoral and other research professionals are the primary lecturers and supervisors of the students. However, in addition associated partners (as stated in Annex 1) will be incorporated in point 3.5 mentioned activities as feasible and in coordination of the Executive committee. One academic tutor at each university shall be responsible for tutoring and mentoring the entire group of students while they are at the respective university. The academic tutor should be accessible via a functional email-address which acts as a single point of contact (SPOC). One Central Advisor will co-ordinate with the academic tutors to support the specific cohorte. The central advisorship shall be rotated among the academic tutors of all partner universities every 2 years. The local administrations shall offer advice for non-academic problems. IITM is responsible for the period before entrance to the Programme.

4. Administrative matters

4.1 Administrative responsibilities of each partner university

Table 2: Administrative responsibilities of each partner university

Topic	Responsibility
Central student administration (including handling of admission process) ²	IITM
Coordination and preparation of consortium meetings	IITM
Marketing and communication including the maintenance of the programme website	All partners
Monitoring of mobility activities and budget planning for DAAD supported students	TUD
Quality Assurance of the programme	RWTH
Information consolidation (collecting applications, maintaining academic records, etc.)	IITM
Monitoring and documentation of all examinations including examination admission and consolidation of examination results as well as necessary conversions due to different grading scales for all student	IITM
Student Admission (Pre-Selection coordinated by IITM)	IITM
Management of the Master thesis selection process	All partners
Support of students in basic necessities (accommodation, health insurance etc.)	All partners
Travel advice (visa etc.)	All partners

4.2 Registration and exchange of student information

The partner universities are responsible for registering the results of practical training and credit examinations and for all other information relating to the individual student progress. These results and this information are forwarded to the overall administration body at IITM. This overall administration body also registers exemptions, declarations and certificates extended to the student by the Joint Examination Board.

On request, any notifications concerning information registered on a student will be passed on from the administration units to the (i) student in question, (ii) the overall administration body at the IITM, (iii) the respective appeal boards, (iv) members of the Executive Committee, (v) members of the Joint Examination Board, (vi) the examiners, (vii) the coordinators and (viii) any other individual within the partner universities who are involved in the education or supervision of the student in question.

For data protection reasons, all students are asked at the beginning of their studies to sign a declaration allowing the partner universities to use their data for student administration purposes.

5. Finances

All students need to pay the obligatory fees and/or student service fee of all three partner universities during their entire time in which they are enrolled in the study programme. The fees have to be paid in full amount directly to the respective university. The partner universities may reduce or reimburse fees for those semesters in which a student is not physically present at the concerned universities if this is in accordance with their local regulations.

6. Graduation

6.1 Award of degree

A student is eligible for the award of his/her Master degree once his/her grade list is complete and all the final grades are passes.

6.2 Degree to be awarded: **Master of Science (M.Sc.)**

The degree is equivalent to the degree **Master of Technology (M.Tech.)** in India.

6.3 Documents and title

As proof that candidates have successfully gained their Master degree, the students receive a joint certificate issued by coordinating Institution (IITM) with logos and signatures/seals from all 3 degree awarding partners. The final certificate will be accompanied by a joint diploma supplement including all credits and grades earned by each partner issued by IITM.

Since the issuing of the final certificate may take time, IITM provides all successful candidates with a preliminary course completion certificate on request, specifying the successful completion of the programme, the awarded degree as well as the final grade.

7. Appeals

Appeals with regard to the admission fall under the appeal regulations of IITM. All other appeals, including appeals regarding the master thesis project, fall under the appeal regulations of the institution where the incident occurred.

8. Logistics and student support

8.1 Moving to and living in the partner cities

All partner universities will advise and assist students in moving between countries and living in the different cities with reasonable effort.

8.2 Student visas

Obtaining the necessary visa lies in the responsibility of the admitted student.

8.3 Health and other insurances

Students are responsible for taking out proper and sufficient health insurance for the countries they are staying in at the time of their studies. The partner universities will provide information on applicable local regulations.

9. Quality assurance and accreditation

The Programme shall be evaluated following the local legal regulations. Quality assurance shall be organised in cooperation of all partners in accordance with the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes. The partner universities develop a guideline for quality assurance of the programme.

10. Final provisions

10.1 Validity of the agreement

The agreement is valid for an unlimited period following the signatures of all partner universities. The agreement can be cancelled by each partner university by July 31 of each year by official letter to the senior management of the partner (with copy to the executive committee with a cancellation period of 12 months. After the expiration of the cancellation period

- a) there will be no admission and enrolment of new students;
- b) for students who are already enrolled in the Programme the current programme will be continued until their graduation but no longer than by 4 years.

10.2 Modification of the agreement

All modifications of the agreement have to be approved by the Executive Committee of the Programme as well as the executive boards (or the respective bodies) of each partner university.

11. Settlement of Disputes

In case any disagreement or dispute subsists between the partner universities for a period beyond 30 days, such dispute shall be referred to and amicably settled by the respective partner universities authorized representatives or their nominees.




Declaration of Accession to the Joint Master Programme Agreement

Signature Page (1 page for each partner)

The undersigned hereby consents to become a Party to the Joint Master Programme Agreement identified above and accepts all the rights and obligations of a Party as of the day and year first below written.

This document has been duly signed by the undersigned authorised representative(s).

Name of legal entity: **RWTH AACHEN UNIVERSITY**

		Witness
<p>Signature/Date: 26/4/24</p>  <p>Name: Univ.-Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Dr. h.c. mult. Ulrich Rüdiger Title: Rector</p>	<p>Signature/Date: 26.4.2024</p>  <p>Name: Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Sven Klinkel Title: Dean of Faculty of Civil Engineering of RWTH Aachen University</p>	<p>Signature/Date: 27.4.24</p>  <p>Name: Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Holger Schüttrumpf Title: Director of the Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Water Resources Management</p>

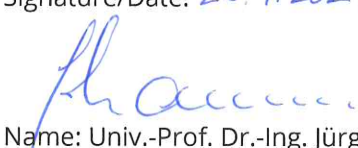
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Name of legal entity: **TUD Dresden University of Technology**

<p>Signature/Date: 24.04.24</p>  <p>Name: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ronald Tetzlaff Title: Chief Officer Technology Transfer and Internationalization</p>	<p>Signature/Date: 23.4.2024</p>  <p>Name: Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jürgen Stamm Title: Spokesman of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering</p>	<p>Witness</p> <p>Signature/Date: 22.4.2024</p>  <p>Name: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Andreas Hartmann Title: Managing Director at the Institute for Groundwater Management</p>
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Declaration of Accession to the Partnership Agreement

Signature Page (1 page for each partner)

The undersigned hereby consents to become a Party to the Partnership Agreement identified above and accepts all the rights and obligations of a Party as of the day and year first below written.

This document has been duly signed by the undersigned authorised representative(s).

Name of legal entity: **INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS (IIT Madras)**

<p> Signature/Date: 26/4/24</p> <p>Name: Prof. Veezhinathan Kamakoti Title: Director, Indian Institute of Technology Madras</p>	<p> Signature/Date: 26/4/24</p> <p>Name: Prof. Mahesh V Panchagnula Title: Dean, Alumni and Corporate Relations, Indian Institute of Technology Madras</p>	<p>Witness</p> <p> Signature/Date: 25/04/24</p> <p>Name: Prof S.A. Sannasiraj Title: Professor, Dept of Ocean Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Madras</p>
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निदेशक / Director
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DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN ENGINEERING
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS
CHENNAI - 600 036, INDIA.

Annex 1

Associated Partners

Associated partner universities would play a crucial role in enhancing the programme academic offerings through the contribution of specialized modules and valuable thesis co-supervision. While operating within a framework of non-binding commitment, their participation would entail collaborative engagement in e. g. designing and delivering specific modules that draw upon their unique expertise. Furthermore, they would provide guidance and support for students' thesis research, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives and enhancing the programme's academic rigor. This cooperative approach envisions a dynamic and comprehensive learning experience that benefits from the collective strengths of each partner university, thereby enriching the quality and global appeal of the joint Master's degree programme.

Currently associated partners are:

The **AIT Bangkok** is a valued partner within the Global Water and Climate Adaptation Center-project funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. The Global Water and Climate Adaptation Centre – Aachen, Bangkok, Chennai, Dresden (ABCD-Centre) addresses the pressing issue of humanity's adaptation to the consequences of climate change with a special focus on water. As a joint effort between leading scientific institutions, ABCD-Centre enables a global dialogue, the transfer of research results into practice and the education of future environmental leaders. Contributions to teaching in the study program by the AIT are very welcome, as they are integrated into the joint research and transfer activities as partners within the ABCD-Centre and can thus intensify and further qualify the teaching exchange in the project network.

As strategic partner of TUD **UNU-FLORES** is one of 14 institutes and programmes, located in 12 different countries, which together comprise the United Nations University (UNU)—a global think tank and postgraduate teaching organisation, headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. UNU-FLORES acts as the central node and bridge between the United Nations System, and an organised network of university research groups, government agencies, NGOs, and specialist companies with the goal of disseminating ideas, techniques, and good practices for advancing a Nexus Approach to the sustainable management of environmental resources around the world: the Resource Nexus. UNU-FLORES contributes regularly to the programme by offering courses.