

CIEWS 1. Study commission: Friday, 19th June, 2020, 11:00-13:30 (Online, Zoom)

Members

1. IUG
 - a. Prof. Axel Bronstert
 - b. Prof. Sascha Oswald
2. IPA
 - a. Prof. Ralf Metzler
 - b. Prof. Arkady Pikovsky
3. UFZ, Prof. Sabine Attinger
4. Students
 - a. Dominik Ehlert (MSc)
 - b. Matthias Kemter (PhD)
 - c. Shubham Mamgain (MSc)
 - d. Lisa Rüter (BSc)
 - e. Paul Voit (MSc)
5. Coordinator, Dr. Ugur Öztürk

Agenda

1. Inspecting all modules and their module descriptions (Modulbeschreibungen);
2. Deciding what to do with the modules that have no description;
3. Whether to leave selective modules independent or create study streams connecting some of them;
4. Preparing the draft of the study regulation (Studienordnung);
5. Based on the previous points we also need to fill a draft form that is called "Selbstdokumentation" (attached).

Protocol

Questions of the students are marked in ***bold+italic***, the answers from CIEWS coordinator are given in **bold** only. Some of the questions are answered collectively, hence, in this document they are combined to a unified answer.

1. Motivation of the program

Arkady Pikovsky & Sascha Oswald: The concept of climate change is explored in the last decades and we have a fair knowledge basis. The coming two decades will be crucial for mitigating the negative impacts of climate change. We need to define sustainable counteractions and find adoptive mitigation solutions. Although climate change is an interdisciplinary issue, water is a key aspect that unites those branches in finding sustainable solutions. In Potsdam, there are several research institutes that engage research on all the aspects of the climate change impacts on a global scale. Hence with the CIEWS program (Climate, Earth, Water, Sustainability) we aim to mobilize this potential and be a leader in this emerging field.

Matthias Kemter: What kind of background from the bachelor students does the CIEWS program seek? And how to handle the interested students from different branches?

Arkady Pikovsky & Axel Bronstert: Admission Regulation (Zulassungsordnung) will be the main document to answer this question, which is in preparations for the moment. The CIEWS targets bachelor students with a strong physics and mathematics knowledge. Primarily the Physics and Environmental Science bachelor programs should be appropriate. With proper support students with meteorology background could also benefit from the study program.

2. Module catalogue (Modulbeschreibungen) and curriculum

Paul Voit: Unlike several general master programs in University of Potsdam, CIEWS seems to focus on mathematics, physics, and modelling. This might increase the load on the students, how to deal with it?

Axel Bronstert, Sascha Oswald, & Ralf Metzler: This is one of the main reasons that we target on international students with a proper background. Certainly, the program might not be particularly suitable for biology or chemistry students, unless they show exceptional/comparable mathematics and physics competence. We will define and list percentage of previous bachelor modules in the Admission Regulation (Zulassungsordnung) that should be acquired prior to applying to the CIEWS program.

Shubham Mamgain: This rather focus curriculum might make it harder for international students to fit that have broader study programs.

Arkady Pikovsky, Sascha Oswald & Sabine Attinger: We expect about 50% of students outside of EU, so we have a rather good pool with 50% of students that are from coming from EU states. In the meantime with expanding the module descriptions (Modulebeschreibungen) with involving also the main goals of the entire study programs of CIEWS. This should help students, who want to apply, to better position themselves before applying.

Paul Voit: An internship during a master program helps students to improve their practical skills. However, the curriculum of the CIEWS do not list any internship, although there are several research institutes are partnered with the program.

Arkady Pikovsky: Although there is no direct internship demand on the curriculum, Com6b "Introduction to Research (Traineeship)" and Sel21 "External supplementary modul (Recent Advances in CIEWS)" offers internship options.

Following the above mentioned concerns:

- We decided together to decrease the technical load by the compulsory modules in the first semester of the program by moving the Com01 "Fluid Dynamics in Earth System Sciences" and Com2a "Numerical Mathematics (Programming)" to the second semester.
- Com5a is found rather not fitting to the study program, **Axel Bronstert** suggested to direct the students, who has a weak profile on environmental sciences to take two 3ECTS (3LP) courses from the existing Geoecology master program.

- We agreed to remove Sel18 “Physics and Chemistry of Atmosphere” by Markus Rex (AWI) from the curriculum temporarily, while it is not possible to reach the caretaker to get ready for the pressing deadlines for the program.
- **Arkady Pikovsky** agreed contact Anders Levermann one last time to get his module descriptions within the following weeks.

3. Study regulations (Studienordnung)

Matthias Kemter: From student perspective giving triple weight to the master thesis might devalue the modules in the program.

We agreed upon this point to keep it as double weight, which is 40% of the total program.

4. Important dates to match the goal to start the program on October 2021.

- By the end of July, we need the final draft of the module catalogue (Modulbeschreibungen) and Study regulations (Studienordnung), which should be agreed by the study commission (Studienkommission).
- By the end of June, Self-documentation (Selbstdokumentation zur Konzeptakkreditierung) should also be filled for the 2. Perspektivgespräch.
 - o 1st full draft of the self-documentation should be ready by Tuesday, 23th June.
 - o Section of the self-documentation and the responsible to fill it.
 - Axel Bronstert: A, B, F, G, I
 - Arkady Pikovsky: C, E, G, H
 - Sascha Oswald: G, H
 - Sabine Attinger: C
 - Ugur Öztürk: D
- 7th July 10am: Arkady and Sascha will present the CIEWS concept and inform about the assembly of the study commission to the faculty management.

5. Other topics that were mentioned

Axel Bronstert: In Berlin there is an initiative to start a competitor master program, called “Climate Change Impact Assessment”

6. Questions to discuss in the 2nd or the 3rd meeting

- o 2nd meeting is on 3rd July 11:00-13:00.
- o 3rd meeting is planned to happen in the week of 20th-24th July.
- **Matthias Kemter:** Can students get ECTS from courses outside of the program/field (e.g. German courses for the international students). This is possible in the geoscience Master for example.
 - o Although this topic was only discussed superficially, it is possible upon agreeing with the program coordinators. The course in question should fit to the general framework of the CIEWS program
- **Matthias Kemter:** There doesn't seem to be an obligatory internship. I think it would be great to have one, because if it is not obligatory it is hard to get one in Germany, because the company or research institute would have to pay you minimum wage (as far as I know).
 - o Although **Arkady Pikovsky** mentioned that the internship will be offered within certain modules. We have not discussed any obligatory internship program.
- **Matthias Kemter:** In general, I don't see a lot of cooperation with the Potsdam research institutes (GFZ, PIK, IASS, etc.) in terms of on-site

exercises. These could be a great opportunity to get to know these facilities and establish contacts for the Master thesis or a future PhD.

- **Matthias Kemter:** Will students from other programs (also PhDs) be able to attend these courses, if they are not fully booked yet?