Programme-specific Section of the
Curriculum for the MSc Programme in
Environment and Development
at the Faculty of Science, University of Copenhagen
2012 (Rev. 2020)

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1 Title, affiliation and language
A shared section that applies to all BSc and MSc Programmes at the Faculty of Science is linked to this programme-specific curriculum.

1.1 Title
The MSc programme in Environment and Development with a specialisation in Agriculture and Ecology leads to a Master of Science (MSc) in Environment and Development with a specialisation in Agriculture and Ecology with the Danish title: Cand.scient. (candidatus/candidata scientiarum) i naturressourcer og udvikling med en specialisering i natur/biovidenskabelige aspekter.

The MSc programme in Environment and Development with a specialisation in Livelihoods and Governance leads to a Master of Science (MSc) in Environment and Development with a specialisation in Livelihoods and Governance with the Danish title: Cand.scient. (candidatus/candidata scientiarum) i naturressourcer og udvikling med en specialisering i integrerede samfunds- og miljøorienterede aspekter.

1.2 Affiliation
The programme is affiliated with the Study Board of Natural Resources, Environment and Animal Science, and the students can both elect, and be elected, to this study board.

1.3 Corps of external examiners
The following corps of external examiners is used for the central parts of the MSc Programme:
• Corps of External Examiners for Agricultural Science (jordbrugsvidenskab).

1.4 Language
The language of this MSc Programme is English.

2 Academic profile
2.1 Purpose
As graduates will face a great variety of situations in their professional lives, the general aim of the MSc Programme in Environment and Development is to enable students to work as professionals with critical aspects of natural resource management in countries in the Global South and elsewhere.

The aim is to give participants the scientific knowledge and skills required to implement and manage research or advisory activities related to agricultural production and renewable natural resources in a development context. Students are encouraged through interdisciplinary, multicultural real life experiences to see, understand, and engage with the whole context of the systems encountered.

2.2 General programme profile
The MSc Programme in Environment and Development encompasses all critical aspects of agriculturally related development activities, from soil fertility management to rural livelihood strategies. The learning approach is a combination of field-related experiences, teaching in traditions and methods related to data collection in complex real life situations, and discipline-based specialisations.

The MSc Programme in Environment and Development is a combination of:
• An interdisciplinary field-oriented common part which includes training in techniques for gathering data under a variety of field conditions combined with training in the research process.
• An elective part, which facilitates specialisation.
• The thesis must include fieldwork

Environment and Development is the key subject area of the programme.

2.3 General structure of the programme
The MSc Programme is set at 120 ECTS.

The MSc Programme in Environment and Development consists of the following elements:
• Specialisation 120 ECTS.

The student must choose one of the following specialisations:
• Agriculture and Ecology
• Livelihoods and Governance

2.4 Career opportunities
The MSc Programme in Environment and Development qualifies students to become professionals within business functions and/or areas such as:
• Development agencies (public or NGO) with national and international scope where graduates are involved in developing, implementing, managing and monitoring intervention programs or projects.
• Government bodies where graduates are involved in policy related activities.
• Private companies within food and agro-industry, e.g. in the sustainable sourcing of products from the Global South.
• Consultancy and project design and evaluation.
• A PhD programme
• Universities and research institutions where graduates are involved in research.

3 Description of competence profiles
Students following the MSc Programme acquire the knowledge, skills and competences listed below. Students will also acquire other qualifications through elective subject elements and other study activities.

3.1 Generic competence profile
On completion of the programme an MSc in Environment and Development has acquired the following regardless of the chosen specialisation:

Knowledge about:
• An overview of key theories and current debates related to agriculture, ecology, livelihoods, and governance
• An understanding of the relationship between development theory and practice
• An overview of key field data collection methods (both natural and social science methods)
• The values of scholarship: inquiry, reflection, integrity, open-mindedness, evidence-based thinking, and collegiality.
• Critical aspects of working at the agriculture, environment, and development nexus.
Skills in/to:
- Apply and assess own knowledge, skills, and competences in relation to complex, interdisciplinary problems
- Work in interdisciplinary and intercultural groups
- Apply selected methods in the field
- Analyse the validity and reliability of different types of natural and social science data
- Explore, understand, and challenge own disciplinary boundaries
- Apply intellectual, practical, numeracy, communication, information and communication technology, interpersonal/teamwork, self-management and professional development skills

Competences in/to:
- Critically reflect on and discuss approaches to development questions related to agriculture, ecology, livelihoods, and governance
- Reflect on the benefits and challenges related to practising interdisciplinarity
- Reflect on case-level results and generalize these to broader discussions and issues

3.2 Agriculture and Ecology
On completion of the programme, an MSc in Environment and Development with a specialisation in Agriculture and Ecology has acquired the following competence profile:

Knowledge about:
- Current research and advanced theories in relation to agriculture and sustainable use of natural resources in the Global South and countries with economies in transition.
- The most important natural science approaches to analysing agriculture and ecology
- The theoretical basis of qualitative and quantitative data collection methodology, including interviews, questionnaires, surveys, and rapid appraisal techniques.

Skills in/to:
- Apply relevant project planning, data collection, and evaluation methodologies in complex field settings and in research planning.
- Participate in academic and practical discussions on agricultural development and the environment.
- Critically identify sustainability issues in relation to natural resource management.
- Identify, analyse and communicate a research question from a complex setting to broader audiences, both professionals and non-professionals, at a variety of levels, using modern and appropriate information and communication tools.

Competences in/to:
- Plan and implement agricultural interventions as a professional capacity in private sector companies, government bodies, non-governmental organisations, research institutions, or development agencies.
- Display independence and integrity, as well as awareness of ethical and moral questions related to agriculture and ecology and take these into account when working in different cultural settings.
- Continuously acquire new skills and knowledge when working in complex field settings as well as in interdisciplinary teams in intercultural environments.
3.3 Livelihoods and Governance

On completion of the programme, an MSc in Environment and Development with a specialisation in Livelihoods and Governance has acquired the following competence profile:

Knowledge about:
- Social science theories and concepts related to analysing and understanding challenges at the nexus of agriculture, livelihoods, and governance at local and household levels.
- A philosophy of science basis for interdisciplinary and intercultural research and work across the social and natural sciences.

Skills in/to:
- Undertake high quality quantitative and qualitative data collection on local livelihoods, governance, and environments.
- Analyse and interpret different forms of data to generate consistent conclusions.
- Apply principles, theories, and frameworks to case studies and critically engage in research and debates related to local development and environmental resource governance.

Competences in/to:
- Display the competence, key skills, behaviour and attitudes required in a professional working life, including the ability to work in interdisciplinary and intercultural teams in both the private and public sectors.
- Communicate clearly, concisely and confidently in spoken and written format, including field-based reports to meet the objectives of multitudinous stakeholders.
- Develop the independent learning skills necessary for the foundation of lifelong learning.

4 Admission requirements

There is no BSc Programme with reserved access for this programme.

4.1 Applicants with a closely related Bachelor’s degree

Applicants with a Bachelor’s degree in the following are directly academically qualified for admission to the MSc Programme in Environment and Development:
- Agricultural Economics, Animal Science, Anthropology, Biochemistry, Biology, Biology-Biotechnology, Economics, Food and Nutrition, Geography and Geoinformatics, Landscape Architecture, Natural Resources, Sociology or within the field of social science from the University of Copenhagen.
- Agrobiology, Agriculture, Agricultural Economics, Animal Science, Anthropology, Biochemistry, Biology, Biotechnology, Development Studies, Economics, Environmental Science, Food Science, Forestry, Nutrition, Geography, Landscape Architecture, Natural Resources, Natural Science, Rural Development, Sociology or within the field of social science from other Danish or international universities.
- Professional Bachelor’s degree in Forestry and Landscape Engineering from the University of Copenhagen.

4.2 Other applicants

The Faculty may also admit applicants who, after an individual academic assessment, are deemed to possess educational qualifications equivalent to those required in Subclauses 4.1.

4.3 Language requirements
Applicants must as a minimum document English language qualifications comparable to a Danish upper secondary school English B level or English proficiency corresponding to the tests and scores required. Accepted tests and required minimum scores are published online at www.science.ku.dk.

4.4 Supplementary subject elements
The qualifications of an applicant to the MSc program are assessed exclusively on the basis of the qualifying bachelor’s degree. Supplementary subject elements passed between the completion of the bachelor’s program and the admission to the MSc program cannot be included in the overall assessment.

However, subject elements passed before the completion of the bachelor’s program may be included in the overall assessment. This includes subject elements completed as continuing education as well as subject elements completed as part of a former higher education program. A maximum of 30 ECTS supplementary subject elements can be included in the overall assessment.

Subject elements passed before completing the BSc programme which are to form part of the MSc programme to which the student has a legal right of admission (§9-courses) cannot be included in the overall assessment.

5 Prioritisation of applicants
If the number of qualified applicants to the programme exceeds the number of places available, applicants will be prioritised as follows:

1) All applicants.

If the number of qualified applicants within a category exceeds the number of places available, applicants will be prioritised according to the following criteria (listed below in prioritized order):

- An individual assessment of their BSc programme relevance and the grade-point average achieved in their Bachelor’s degree.
6 Structure of the programme
The compulsory subject elements, restricted elective subject elements and the thesis constitute
the central parts of the programme (Section 21 of the Ministerial Order on Bachelor and
Master’s Programmes (Candidatus) at Universities).

6.1 Agriculture and Ecology
The specialisation is set at 120 ECTS and consists of the following:

- Compulsory subject elements, 30 ECTS.
- Restricted elective subject elements, 30 ECTS.
- Elective subject elements, 15 ECTS
- Thesis, 45 ECTS.

6.1.1 Compulsory subject elements
All of the following subject elements are to be covered (30 ECTS):

- NIFK20006U Practising Interdisciplinarity Block 1 7.5 ECTS
- NIGK20000U Environment and Development - from theory to practice Block 2 7.5 ECTS
- NIFK18003U Thematic Course: Interdisciplinary Land Use and Natural Resource Management Block 3 15 ECTS

6.1.2 Restricted elective subject elements
30 ECTS are to be covered as subject elements from the following list:

- NPLK14008U Plant Infection and Disease Management Block 1 7.5 ECTS
- LPLK10367U Tropical Crop Production Block 1 7.5 ECTS
- NPLK14019U Plant Nutrition and Soil Fertility Block 1 7.5 ECTS
- NIFK18001U Planning Interdisciplinary Research Block 1 7.5 ECTS
- LPLK10287U Agroforestry Block 2 7.5 ECTS
- NPLK14020U Sustainable Agricultural Development Pathways* Block 2 7.5 ECTS
- NPLK18001U Applied Insect Ecology and Biological Control Block 2 7.5 ECTS
- NPLK14011U Tropical Botany B Block 2 7.5 ECTS
- NMAK14003U Applied Statistics Block 2 7.5 ECTS
- NIGK13003U Tropical Forest Restoration Block 4 7.5 ECTS
- LNAK10010U Environmental Impact Assessment Block 4 7.5 ECTS

*Kurset udbydes ikke i 2020/21

6.1.3 Elective subject elements
15 ECTS are to be covered as elective subject elements.
All subject elements at MSc level may be included as elective subject elements in the MSc Programme.

BSc subject elements corresponding to 15 ECTS may be included in the MSc Programme.

Projects outside the course scope may be included in the elective section of the programme
with up to 15 ECTS. The regulations are described in Appendix 5 to the shared section of the
curriculum.

Projects in practice may be included in the elective section of the programme with up to 15
ECTS. The regulations are described in Appendix 4 to the shared section of the curriculum.
Thesis preparation projects may not be included in the elective section of the programme. The regulations are described in Appendix 6 to the shared section of the curriculum.

### 6.1.4 Thesis
The MSc Programme in Environment and Development with a specialisation in Agriculture and Ecology includes a thesis corresponding to 45 ECTS, as described in Appendix 2 to the shared curriculum. The thesis must be written within the academic scope of the programme.

The thesis must be based on at least two months of field work in the Global South or countries with economies in transition. Field work country must be approved by the Head of Studies. The data for the thesis are expected to be collected during this period. The fieldwork may be combined with an internship at international organisations, NGOs, universities, or similar.

Students will obtain financial support from the supervising department in connection with thesis fieldwork if funding criteria are met.

### 6.1.5 Academic mobility
The curriculum makes it possible to follow subject elements outside the Faculty of Science.

The academic mobility in the MSc Programme in Environment and Development with a specialisation in Agriculture and Ecology is placed in block 1+2 or block 3+4 of the 1st year.

Academic mobility requires that the student follows the rules and regulations regarding pre-approval and credit transfer.

In addition the student has the possibility to arrange similar academic mobility in other parts of the programme.

### 6.2 Livelihoods and Governance
The specialisation is set at 120 ECTS and consists of the following:

- **Compulsory subject elements**, 30 ECTS.
- **Restricted elective subject elements**, 30 ECTS.
- **Elective subject elements**, 15 ECTS
- **Thesis**, 45 ECTS.

#### 6.2.1 Compulsory subject elements

All of the following subject elements are to be covered (30 ECTS):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Element</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIFK20006U</td>
<td>Practising Interdisciplinarity</td>
<td>Block 1</td>
<td>7.5 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGK20000U</td>
<td>Environment and Development - from theory to practice</td>
<td>Block 2</td>
<td>7.5 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIFK18003U</td>
<td>Thematic Course: Interdisciplinary Land Use and Natural Resource Management</td>
<td>Block 3</td>
<td>15 ECTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 6.2.2 Restricted elective subject elements

30 ECTS are to be covered as subject elements from the following list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Element</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LNAK10037U</td>
<td>Applied Ethnobotany</td>
<td>Block 1</td>
<td>7.5 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIFK15004U</td>
<td>Political Ecology</td>
<td>Block 1</td>
<td>7.5 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGK14009U</td>
<td>Land Use Transitions in the Global South</td>
<td>Block 1</td>
<td>7.5 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOJK10272U</td>
<td>Applied Econometrics</td>
<td>Block 1</td>
<td>7.5 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIFK14013U</td>
<td>Tropical Forests, People, and Policies</td>
<td>Block 1</td>
<td>7.5 ECTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.2.3 Elective subject elements

15 ECTS are to be covered as elective subject elements.
All subject elements at MSc level may be included as elective subject elements in the MSc Programme.

BSc subject elements corresponding to 15 ECTS may be included in the MSc Programme.

Projects outside the course scope may be included in the elective section of the programme with up to 15 ECTS. The regulations are described in Appendix 5 to the shared section of the curriculum.

Projects in practice may be included in the elective section of the programme with up to 15 ECTS. The regulations are described in Appendix 4 to the shared section of the curriculum.

Thesis preparation projects may not be included in the elective section of the programme. The regulations are described in Appendix 6 to the shared section of the curriculum.

6.2.4 Thesis

The MSc Programme in Environment and Development with a specialisation in Livelihoods and Governance includes a thesis corresponding to 45 ECTS, as described in Appendix 2 to the shared curriculum. The thesis must be written within the academic scope of the programme.

The thesis must be based on at least two months of field work in the Global South or countries with economies in transition. Field work country must be approved by the Head of Studies.

The data for the thesis are expected to be collected during this period. The fieldwork may be combined with an internship at international organisations, NGOs, universities, or similar.

Students will obtain financial support from the supervising department in connection with thesis fieldwork if funding criteria are met.

6.2.5 Academic mobility

The curriculum makes it possible to follow subject elements outside the Faculty of Science.

The academic mobility in the MSc Programme in Environment and Development with a specialisation in Livelihoods and Governance is placed in block 1+2 or block 3+4 of the 1\textsuperscript{st} year.
Academic mobility requires that the student follows the rules and regulations regarding pre-approval and credit transfer.

In addition the student has the possibility to arrange similar academic mobility in other parts of the programme.

7 Exemptions
In exceptional circumstances, the study board may grant exemptions from the rules in the curriculum specified solely by the Faculty of Science.

8 Commencement etc.
8.1 Validity
This subject specific section of the curriculum applies to all students enrolled in the programme – see however Appendix 2.

8.2 Transfer
Students enrolled on previous curricula may be transferred to the new one as per the applicable transfer regulations or according to an individual credit transfer by the study board.

8.3 Amendment
The curriculum may be amended once a year so that any changes come into effect at the beginning of the academic year. Amendments must be proposed by the study board and approved by the Dean.

Notification about amendments that tighten the admission requirements for the programme will be published online at www.science.ku.dk one year before they come into effect.

If amendments are made to this curriculum, an interim arrangement may be added if necessary to allow students to complete their MSc Programme according to the amended curriculum.
### Appendix 1 Tables

#### Table – Specialisation in Agriculture and Ecology (thesis, 45 ECTS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Block 1</th>
<th>Block 2</th>
<th>Block 3</th>
<th>Block 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st year</td>
<td>Practising Interdisciplinarity</td>
<td>Environment and Development – from theory to practice</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Land Use and Natural Resource Management</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restricted elective</td>
<td>Restricted elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd year</td>
<td>Restricted elective</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thesis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table illustrates the recommended academic progression. The student is allowed to plan an alternative progression within the applicable rules.

#### Table – Specialisation in Livelihoods and Governance (thesis, 45 ECTS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Thesis</td>
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The table illustrates the recommended academic progression. The student is allowed to plan an alternative progression within the applicable rules.
Appendix 2 Interim arrangements

The Shared Section of the BSc and MSc Curricula for Study Programmes applies to all students.

The interim arrangements below only consist of parts where the current curriculum differs from the rules and regulations that were previously valid. Therefore, if information about relevant rules and regulations are missing, it can be found in the curriculum above.

1 General changes for students admitted in the academic year 2019/20 and 2018/19

Students admitted to the MSc Programme in the academic year 2019/20 and 2018/19 must finish the programme as listed in the curriculum above with the following exceptions.

1.1 Agriculture and Ecology

The specialisation is set at 120 ECTS and consists of the following:

- Compulsory subject elements, 30 ECTS.
- Restricted elective subject elements, 30 ECTS.
- Elective subject elements, 15 or 30 ECTS
- Thesis, 30 or 45 ECTS.

Table – Specialisation in Agriculture and Ecology (thesis, 45 ECTS)

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<td></td>
<td>Restricted elective</td>
<td>Restricted elective</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd year</td>
<td>Restricted Elective</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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Table – Specialisation in Agriculture and Ecology (thesis, 30 ECTS)

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1.2 Livelihoods and Governance

The specialisation is set at 120 ECTS and consists of the following:

- Compulsory subject elements, 30 ECTS.
- Restricted elective subject elements, 30 ECTS.
- Elective subject elements, 15 or 30 ECTS
- Thesis, 30 or 45 ECTS.

Table – Specialisation in Livelihoods and Governance (thesis, 45 ECTS)

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<tr>
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Table – Specialisation in Livelihoods and Governance (thesis, 30 ECTS)

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The table illustrates the recommended academic progression. The student is allowed to plan an alternative progression within the applicable rules.

Restricted elective subject elements

30 ECTS are to be covered as subject elements from the following list:

- Restricted elective subject elements offered as part of this curriculum (see above)
- NIFK14015U Topics in Development Studies Discontinued* 7.5 ECTS
- LFKK10258U Qualitative Methods in Agricultural Development Discontinued* 7.5 ECTS
- NIFK18002U Interdisciplinary Approaches to Rural Livelihoods Discontinued* 7.5 ECTS
- NIGK17009U Livelihoods and Rural-Urban Connections in the Global South Discontinued* 7.5 ECTS

2 General changes for students admitted in the academic year 2018/19

Students admitted to the MSc Programme in the academic year 2018/19 must finish the programme as listed in the curriculum above with the following exceptions.

Title

From the academic year 2019/20 the programme has changed title. Students admitted to the Msc Programme in the academic year 2018/19 can choose between the new and the previous title. The previous titles of the programme were:
The MSc programme in Agricultural Development with a specialisation in Agriculture and Ecology leads to a Master of Science (MSc) in Agricultural Development with a specialisation in Agriculture and Ecology with the Danish title: *Cand.scient. (candidatus/candidata scientiarum) i naturressourcer og udvikling med en specialisering i natur/biovidenskabelige aspekter.*

The MSc programme in Agricultural Development with a specialisation in Livelihoods and Governance leads to a Master of Science (MSc) in Agricultural Development with a specialisation in Livelihoods and Governance with the Danish title: *Cand.scient. (candidatus/candidata scientiarum) i naturressourcer og udvikling med en specialisering i integrerede samfunds- og miljøorienterede aspekter.*

### 3 Course specific changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discontinued course</th>
<th>Interim arrangement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Approaches to Rural Livelihoods (NIFK18002U), 7.5 ECTS</td>
<td>The course was restricted elective in the academic year 2019/20 and earlier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The course was offered for the last time in the academic year 2019/20.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The course is identical to the course Livelihoods and Environmental Change (NIFK20007U), 7.5 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods and Rural-Urban Connections in the Global South (NIGK17009U), 7.5 ECTS</td>
<td>The course was restricted elective in the academic year 2019/20 and earlier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The course was offered for the last time in the academic year 2019/20.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The course is identical to the course Rural-Urban Transformations in the Global South (NIGK20001U), 7.5 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicing Interdisciplinarity (NIFK18000U), 15 ECTS</td>
<td>The course was compulsory in the academic year 2019/20 and 2018/19.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The course was offered for the last time in the academic year 2019/20.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students who have not passed the course when the last exam has been offered, must pass the course Practicing Interdisciplinarity (NIFK20006U), 7.5 ECTS and an elective course of their own choice of 7.5 ECTS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualitative Methods in Agricultural Development (LFKK10258U), 7.5 ECTS</td>
<td>The course was a restricted elective course in the academic year 2018/19 and a compulsory course in 2017/18 and earlier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The course is identical to Qualitative Methods (NIFK19002U), 7.5 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Botany A (NPLK14010U), 15 ECTS</td>
<td>The course was a restricted elective course in the academic year 2018/19 or earlier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The course was offered for the last time in the academic year 2018/19 and a third exam is offered in the academic year 2019/20.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 3 Description of objectives for the thesis

After completing the thesis, the student should have:

Knowledge about:
- Bordering subject areas to main specialization.
- Alternative approaches or methods.

Skills in/to:
- Collect empirical data using preselected tools.
- Analyse collected data using appropriate framework, including statistical methods.
- Present objectives, methods and results in a clear and comprehensive way.
- Discuss results in relation to literature in the subject area.
- Draw general conclusions from results, and respect the limitations of the specific data set.

Competences in/to:
- Plan, perform and evaluate an empirical study in a developing country.
- Critically evaluate data quality and appropriateness of methods.
- Operationalize an objective, via development of testable research questions, selection of appropriate methods and relevant sources of information.
- Put an empirical study into a wider development perspective.