STUDY GUIDE

Master of Environmental and Energy Management (MEEM)

Academic year 2026-2027

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

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INTRODUCTION

The information in this guide is accurate as of August 2026, and is subject to change during the academic year.

MEEM is offered by the Section of Governance and Technology for Sustainability (CSTM), at the faculty of Behavioural, Management and Social Sciences (BMS). At a university known for its High Tech Human Touch approach, and as part of a faculty specialised in connecting social sciences with technology and engineering, it goes without saying that our involvement in UT education reaches far, and across many disciplinary boundaries.. MEEM graduates are not just professionals—they are changemakers who work in intercultural teams in business, government, consultancy, and research to advance sustainability worldwide.

Location
The MEEM programme has a special position within the UT. It is organised and run by CSTM's division in the city of Leeuwarden. This is rooted in historical factors and remains relevant today, considering the programme's activities are deeply integrated within the Province of Friesland. We have built a strong network with regional higher education institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and private sector companies and initiatives, all facilitating practical collaborations that align with local and global sustainability goals. These collaborations enrich the curriculum and enable our students to work on relevant, real-life challenges and engage with stakeholders, deepening their understanding of sustainable practices in diverse contexts.

During their studies, all MEEM students will be in Leeuwarden with offices and classrooms in the building of Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences.

Location	Visiting address	Phone	Email
MEEM office Leeuwarden CSTM Fryslân	Van Hall Larenstein Agora 1, Room B3.16	+31(0)534899000	meem-bms@utwente.nl
CSTM Enschede	University of Twente Drienerloolaan 5 Building Ravelijn	+31(0)534894377	Barbera van Dalm-Grobben secretariat-cstm-bms@utwente.nl

Programme Management

Programme Coordinators:

Mrs. Maia Lordkipanidze	meem-bms@utwente.nl	T: +31(0)534896080
Ms. Rinske Koster	meem-bms@utwente.nl	T: +31(0)534892396
Mrs. Hilde van Meerendonk-Obinna	meem-bms@utwente.nl	T:+31 (0)534892679
Study Adviser: Mrs. Sietie Zuidema	s.zuidema@utwente.nl	T: +31(0)534893514
Programme Director: Dr. Gül Özerol	g.ozerol@utwente.nl	

Specialisation Coordinators:

Environment	: Dr. Laura Franco Garcia	m.l.francogarcia@utwente.nl
Energy	: Dr. Ewert Aukes	e.j.aukes@utwente.nl
Water	: Dr. Kris Lulofs	k.r.d.lulofs@utwente.nl

The MEEM regulations are based on the UT Student Charter and the BMS Education and Examination Regulations for Masters Programmes. The official rules outlined in the Education and Examination Regulation, along with its programme-specific section, take precedence at all times. As a result, no rights can be derived from the information provided in this study guide. If you need more information or explanation on the content of the study guide, please feel free to contact the programme coordinators.

We wish everyone enrolled in and involved with the MEEM programme a successful and rewarding academic year, filled with valuable learning experiences!

MEEM CURRICULUM

Programme Structure

The MEEM programme is divided into three components:

1. Compulsory courses (Q1 and Q2)
2. Specialisation courses (Q3 and Q4)
3. Personal Development Electives (Q3)

MSc MEEM structure	EC
Compulsory Common Courses	30
Compulsory Specialisation Courses	25
Personal Development Electives	5
Total EC	60

MEEM CURRICULUM 2026-2027

Quartile	*Code*	*Name*	*EC*
COMPULSORY COURSES = 30 EC			
1A	202600008	Environmental Management and Governance	5
1A	202600009	Energy Management and Governance	5
1A	202600023	Water Management and Governance	5
1B	202600010	Policy and Law for Sustainability	5
1B	202600022	Rurban Commons	5
1B	202600024	Academic Research Skills	5
SPECIALISATION = 25 EC			
2A	202600011/12/13	Sustainability Challenges Lab in Environment/Energy/Water	7
2A	202600014	Research Proposal	3
2b	202600015/16/17	Master Thesis Environment/Energy/Water	15
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT ELECTIVES = 5 EC			
2A	202600019	Digitalisation and Sustainability	5
2A	202600018	Network Analysis and Sustainability Transitions	5
2A	202600021	Critical Sustainable Futures	5
ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL SKILLS WORKSHOPS			
1A		Academic Practice and Integrity	
1A		Intercultural Communication & Group Work	
1B		Challenge Based Learning	
1B		Unlock Your Career Potential	

The compulsory component focuses on socio-technical change for sustainable development from management, governance and policy perspectives. The three domain courses in quartile 1 provide knowledge in environmental, water, and energy management. Themes covered in these courses include, among others, social entrepreneurship, circular economy, renewable energy transition, energy innovations, water governance and climate adaptation – all from the perspectives of both the Global South and the Global North. This component also includes the interdisciplinary courses on Policy and Law for Sustainability, Rurban Commons, and the integrative Academic Research Skills course. The specialisation component consists of the Sustainability Challenges Lab, the MEEM Research Proposal, and the MEEM Master Thesis courses, where students focus on one of three tracks: Environmental Management and Governance, Energy Management and Governance, or Water Management and Governance. Finally, the personal development component offers three elective courses that are tailored to individual interests and foster integration across subjects.

Throughout the academic year, students are offered a variety of extracurricular workshops and activities to complement their studies. These initiatives aim to enhance academic performance, support personal development such as intercultural skills and effective group work, and prepare students for their professional careers. The structured build-up of academic skills across quartiles 2 to 4, combined with an academic integrity workshop in quartile 1, strengthens students' ability to conduct high-quality, ethical research.

Course information for the courses can be found in the Osiris Course Catalogue: Osiris Student Mobile

While the course-work period in quartiles 1 and 2 is common for all students, in quartiles 3 and 4, students specialise in one of the three tracks:

Environmental Management
The transition towards a green economy requires a fundamental change in economic systems, including industrial processes, resource use and consumption patterns. The specialisation in Environmental Management provides students with insight into the key concepts and principles that underpin management approaches aimed at enhancing environmental and social sustainability. This specialisation is designed for students who wish to understand how organisations can develop and implement strategies that contribute to sustainable development.

Energy Management
The specialisation in Energy Management helps students understand opportunities and problems related to the transition towards a more sustainable configuration of societal energy systems, including energy markets, regions, cities, communities, and industries. Students will dive deeper into the global energy system, including the underlying governance structures and interdependencies, and use these insights to find implications for change in the energy sector..

Water Management
The growing demand for water, together with population increases, climate change and environmental degradation, has made the management of water resources a central challenge for sustainable development and climate adaptation. The specialisation in Water Management provides students with insight into approaches for safeguarding the sustainability and resilience of water resources and water supply systems. It equips students to analyse and develop responsible strategies for the management of water resources and for adaptation to climate change.

ORGANISATION

Academic Calendar

The MEEM timetable is scheduled from September 1, 2026, to August 31, 2027. Any modifications or updates will be communicated in advance. Please note that days without scheduled lectures are not official holidays. These days are designated for self-study, exam preparation, MEEM activities such as site visits or guest lectures, or may be used to reschedule classes in case of unforeseen changes.

IMPORTANT: The timetable might change during the year due to unforeseen circumstances. You will be informed about any change ahead of time. When you plan to travel during your MEEM study, we ask you not to travel on days prior to or after the holidays or weekends. Even though these days might be free on the timetable now, this may be subject to change.

Student Support

The MEEM office in Van Hall Larenstein, opposite the lecture room, is open on lecture days only when a lecture is taking place in the classroom.

Consulting hours MEEM office: Every morning from 09.30 – 10.30

You are welcome to visit the MEEM office during consulting hours without an appointment. However, please be aware that time may be limited due to other students needing assistance. If you anticipate needing more time to discuss a particular issue, we encourage you to make an appointment. Additionally, if no lectures are scheduled for the day, staff may be working remotely. In such cases, please notify us in advance if you require access to the facilities on non-lecture days.

Each programme has a dedicated study adviser with in-depth knowledge of the curriculum. For MEEM, this is Mrs. Sietie Zuidema (s.zuidema@utwente.nl; +31 (0)53 489 3514).
The study adviser is your first point of contact for questions or concerns related to your programme, such as choosing or planning your studies, monitoring your progress, maintaining motivation, or dealing with study delays caused by personal circumstances. All information you share will be treated confidentially. If you encounter any problems, please contact your study adviser as soon as possible.

In case of personal circumstances, it is advised to contact your study adviser as soon as possible, even before you start your study programme at the UT.
Appointments (also online): Each Thursday and Friday
https://szuidema.planner.utwente.nl/#/en

At the UT, we highly value your well-being, as it is essential to fully enjoy student life. To provide help and support in tough times, we offer a variety of initiatives: More information about well-being can be found here.

If you need assistance but aren't sure where to turn to, don't hesitate to reach out to the MEEM study adviser.

Examination Board

According to the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (WHW), each educational programme or group of programmes has an Examination Board. The Examination Board is the body that determines whether a student has fulfilled the requirements with regard to knowledge, insight and skills stated in the Education and Examination Regulations (EER) of the UT to receive a degree in one of the BMS programmes.
The Examination Board has several other duties and competences according to the WHW and the EER. One of these competences is to make exceptions to certain rules in the EER for students, such as granting exemptions, and giving extra exam or test opportunities. To qualify, students can submit a request to the Examination Board.

The Examination Board also judges cases of fraud (including irregularities and plagiarism) and determines the sanctions. Furthermore, the Examination Board is commissioned to safeguard the quality of testing and examination. It appoints examiners for administering and grading tests and exams, monitors the relationship between final attainment levels, learning goals and tests, and safeguards the quality of the assessment of theses.

More information can be found trough the following link.

Programme Committee

The Programme Committee is an advising body consisting of an equal number of students and teachers, chaired by a teacher. The committee advises the Programme Director about all educational affairs. The relevance is in the practical experience that is brought into consideration. The Programme Director takes the advice seriously and always clarify their decision making. An important contribution of the Programme Committee is the evaluation of courses and programme in many ways.

The current MEEM Programme Committee consists of a chair, a secretary, 3 staff members, and 3 student members to be recruited in September from the MEEM student population.

EDUCATIONAL APPLICATIONS

Student information

The Student Services Contact Centre contains quick links to your application and admission process, tuition fees, student card and personal well-being.

ICT Account

Each student enrolled at the UT receives an email address. This email address is your login name with associated password. The account provides access to various educational applications.
The ICT checklist for students offers information about how to set up your account(s) for all educational applications: ICT Services Checklist for Students | IT Support Guide | University of Twente | Service Portal | University of Twente

Student Communication

The Programme Coordinators are responsible for the day-to-day management of MEEM, and their office serves as the programme's central hub. They primarily communicate with students through Canvas or email, especially to communicate unexpected events, such as delay of lecturers, and changes in the timetable. Therefore, you should **always pay attention to emails** from them.

Always use your UT email account when communicating with MEEM staff. Emails sent from personal accounts (such as Gmail, Yahoo, or Hotmail) are often blocked by the University's strict security filters and may never reach the intended recipient. Messages from non-UT accounts may therefore go unanswered. To ensure your email is received and handled, you must use your UT email at all times.

Canvas

In Canvas you will find all the information about the courses (modules/subjects) that you take: course information (substantive information, assignments, etc.), course materials, course announcements from teachers, exams and grades, etc.

To participate in the education, you need to register for the courses you want to take. This is possible until one day before the start of the quarter via Osiris for the course in question. Once you register for a course, you will automatically be registered in Canvas

Osiris

Osiris is the Student Information System in use at the UT. All information regarding enrolment, study progress and payments by students is registered in Osiris. It is also connected to other systems at the UT, such as the national enrolment application (Studielink), Canvas and Mobility Online. Osiris is used both by students and employees.

Students register for courses and minor programmes in Osiris, and can view notes their study adviser leaves for them.

REGULATIONS

General

The BMS faculty and the UT have various regulations that teachers and students have to take into account. The Student Charter describes the rights and obligations of students on the one hand and of the UT on the other. It consists of 2 parts:

- UT-wide student charter can be found here: Student charter | Regulations | SGW
- Faculty component: the Education and Examination Regulations with programme specific annexes (EER).

Degree, Specialisation and Study load

The MEEM programme offers the opportunity to develop advanced expertise in one of three key sustainability domains: environment, energy, or water. Some students start the programme already knowing which track they want to pursue, while others decide after following the three main courses in quartile 1.

Your specialisation will be listed on your diploma supplement and is highly valued by employers in government, industry, and NGOs. At the same time, the programme ensures you gain solid knowledge across all domains, reflecting their increasing interconnection.

The programme comprises 60 EC (1680 hours of study; 1 EC equals 28 hours) and leads to a Master of Science degree upon completion.

Examination Regulations

This Study Guide has been carefully compiled; however, the authors cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions. The official regulations as stated in the Education and Examination Regulations (EER) take precedence. As such, no rights can be derived from the contents of this Study Guide.

Scientific Integrity

Exams and assessments evaluate your knowledge, skills, and insights. You must always submit your own, original work. Plagiarism, fraud, free-riding in group work, and improper use of AI tools (not following the MEEM AI guidelines) are all considered academic misconduct.
Suspected cases are reported to the Examination Board, which investigates and may impose sanctions.

In the first weeks of MEEM, you are required to attend a mandatory workshop on scientific integrity and academic practice, in line with UT regulations. This workshop also addresses the responsible use of AI in your studies and covers the principles of good academic conduct, research, and writing.

Guidelines for MEEM students on the responsible Use of Generative AI

The use of generative AI is permitted to support the achievement of learning objectives and to enhance the quality and clarity of assessed work across all courses within the MEEM master's programme, unless specified otherwise in the course syllabus.

PERMITTED AND PROHIBITED USES

Generative AI may be used for course work, provided its use aligns with the learning objectives and academic integrity guidelines. Students must apply a critical mindset when using AI outputs and remain aware of limitations such as bias, hallucinations, and inaccuracies.

Permitted uses include searching for information or sources, proofreading for grammar, spelling, and style, and rephrasing or translating text for clarity. Final submission of all **assessed course work (assignments, presentations, reports, research proposal, master thesis, etc.)** must always reflect the student's own understanding, reasoning, and writing.

AI use should follow these core principles from Living guidelines on the responsible use of generative AI in research | Research and innovation

- **Responsibility:** AI output must be verified, fact-checked, and assessed for quality, accuracy, and potential bias.
- **Transparency:** Any use of AI must be clearly disclosed. Students may not present AI-generated content as their own original work.
- **Respect:** Students must respect privacy, intellectual property, confidentiality, and the broader societal impact of AI use.
- **Accountability:** Students remain responsible for all submitted work. Human judgement and understanding must guide all decisions, interpretations, and conclusions. AI should be avoided in activities where fairness, accuracy, or confidentiality is critical
- **Sustainability:** AI should be used responsibly, with awareness of its environmental and societal implications.

Prohibited practices about the use of generative AI are as follows:

- Submitting AI-generated text without disclosure, proper citation, or meaningful intellectual contribution from the student.
- Using generative AI to generate entire paragraphs, pages, sections, chapters or the full assignment/test.
- Using generative AI to collect, select or fabricate data, references, or results.
- Substituting generative AI output for literature review or critical argumentation.
- Relying on generative AI to interpret findings or make academic conclusions.
- Any other use of generative AI that undermines originality, academic rigor, or ethical research standards.

For any assessed work that involves at least one draft version and a final submission, the initial version must be written in the student's own words and should not be overly polished. Rephrasing tools are not permitted at this stage. AI tools may be used later for editing or refining language, while preserving the student's original thinking and writing style.

During the preparation of the research proposal and master thesis, students must have a clear record of communication with their first supervisor. They must be able to show a **'paper trail'** that the supervisor was involved in key stages, such as draft reviews and important decisions.

Submitting a complete proposal or thesis without prior discussion or supervisor input is not allowed. Examples of acceptable documentation include email exchanges, meeting notes, or the use of shared working environments (e.g., Microsoft Teams or OneDrive), where feedback, revisions, and decisions can be tracked in a clear and complete manner.

If the use of generative AI is allowed for any assessed work, students must declare their use of AI in an Appendix titled "Declaration on the Use of Generative AI".
***If any form of generative AI is used by the student, the following template must be used for the appendix text**: "During the preparation of this work [Choose as appropriate: assignment, presentation, report, research proposal, master thesis], I used [NAME OF THE AI TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON FOR USING AI]. After using this tool/service, I reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the work."*
***If there is nothing to declare, a statement must still be included in an appendix that no AI was used**: "During the preparation of this work [Choose as appropriate: assignment, presentation, report, research proposal, master thesis] I have used no AI tools."*

Students are responsible for ensuring that their course work reflects their own independent research and intellectual contribution. Using generative AI without the explicit consent of their teacher/ supervisor and without proper acknowledgment in an appendix will be considered a violation of these guidelines and treated as academic misconduct.

Completion and Assessment of Courses

Exams and assignments

The separate parts of the programme will be concluded with an exam, an assignment or a combination of both. The assessment method of a course is laid down in Osiris and in the syllabus.

All results of a study unit are expressed in half grades from 1,0 up to and including 5,0 and from 6,0 up to and including 10,0. The rounding is done in accordance with the following scheme:

Grade ≥ 5,00 and < 5,50	5,0
Grade ≥ 5,50 and < 6,00	6,0
In case n≠5	
Grade ≥ n,00 and < n,25	n,0
Grade ≥ n,25 and < n,75	n,5
Grade ≥ n,75 and < (n+1),00	(n+1),0

Grades will only be rounded in the last phase of the assessment of the study unit. In other words, the above rounding scheme will be applied when the final grade of the study unit is determined. More information about the Dutch grading system can be found here. A study unit with multiple assessment components is successfully completed if the final result is sufficient and all component grades are ≥ 5.5 or Pass (P)

Examination opportunities

The MEEM programme has a duration of one year. For the coursework component (all courses in the joint part of the programme, excluding the Sustainability Challenges Lab, and Master's thesis), students are offered two opportunities to pass each assessment: an initial attempt and a resit (exam or assignment). For the Sustainability Challenges Lab, an improvement opportunity is offered. If a student fails the group work due to free-riding or insufficient contribution, an additional (individual) assignment may be required.

If a student does not attend an (re-)examination or fails to submit an (re-)assignment without informing the Study Adviser and/or lecturer in advance, this will still count as a used examination opportunity.
For assignments a division is made between improvement of an assignment and creating a new assignment. In the course descriptions for each course it will be clearly mentioned which option is applicable:

1) Short assignments, approximately 1 – 1.5 page. For these assignments improvement is not possible, but students should create a complete new assignment if they failed the first assignment.
2) Assignments which allow the possibility for a feedback moment to improve the end result. For these assignments it will not be possible to create a new assignment, improvement should be made using the instructions during the feedback moment.

If a unit of study has been completed (passed with 6.0 or higher) this grade is final. If a student would like to upgrade his grade (only in the case of exceptional circumstances), they must have a written confirmation from the Examination Board.

In circumstances of serious illness, accidents or other personal circumstances, the student should discuss with the Study Adviser how the student could complete the programme and course requirements. The Study Adviser might consult the Examination Board on the issue.

For practical exercises and projects, e.g., Sustainability Challenges Lab and Master Thesis, there is no second opportunity to repeat all the elements of the course. In cases of serious illness, accidents or other situations beyond control of the student, the Examination Board and programme management will try to find a solution. In the case where a student fails to meet the requirements, but has shown considerable effort and dedication to his or her study, the management may give the student a chance to improve the work to a standard sufficient to be regarded as a pass. The requirements for the improvements in the submitted work are specified by the lecturing staff responsible.

RIGHT OF INSPECTION: Students are entitled to review their test results. A specific date and time will be announced by the programme coordinators. The goal of the inspection is for the student to gain feedback on how they performed on their exam. Especially if a student has failed the first exam, reviewing the test results will give insight into what they did well and where they still need to develop.

Master Thesis

The programme leads to one academic diploma, the Master of Science degree in Environmental and Energy Management The Master of Science degree is obtained only upon successfully completing all the examinations of the study units, including the Master Thesis. The Master Thesis must be completed within a maximum period of three years. Failure to do so will require the student to start a new thesis topic.
The Master Thesis guidelines give more information about completion of the master thesis. These guidelines will be shared in the 2nd quartile. To be able to start with the master thesis, all the compulsory courses in quartiles 1 and 2, as well as the Research Proposal course should be successfully completed.

Conducting your Master's thesis with an external organisation is not part of the MEEM curriculum, but it is allowed. Such projects must be approved by your supervisors based on relevance, academic level, scope, and feasibility within the allotted time.
If you plan to collaborate with an external organisation, you must do so in consultation with your first supervisor, specialisation coordinator, and study adviser. The research proposal is developed together with the host organisation and your first supervisor.
UT has strict guidelines for external collaborations, including standard contracts. Students and supervisors are not permitted to sign agreements themselves. Contact the study adviser for the latest procedures and regulations.
Internships that are not or only minimally related to your thesis and the MEEM curriculum are not supported. As they are not part of the curriculum, UT cannot sign contracts or accept responsibility.

Attendance Obligation

Teachers of specific courses can impose an attendance obligation. In some cases, graded in-class assignments may take place. When students cannot be present during a lecture with an attendance obligation, they must report this in advance to the teacher AND study adviser.

In the case of significant periods of absence, the examiner of the course may require the student to complete additional assignments to ensure that the learning objectives are met.

Submission through Canvas

For all educational items, students are obliged to hand in their assignments and project reports through Canvas.

Graduation with Distinction

If upon sitting the final master's examination, the student has shown evidence of exceptional capability, 'cum laude' will be recorded on the degree certificate.
A student is considered to have exceptional capability if each of the following conditions is met:

- **a.** all requirements for completion of the Master programme have been fulfilled;
- **b.** the non-weighted average grade for the coursework (not including the Master Thesis and courses that are assessed using 'Pass' or 'Fail') is 8.0 or higher;
- **c.** in the determination of this average, the study units that were not evaluated with a numerical grade or for which an exemption was granted are not considered;
- **d.** for the units of study that are assessed using grades, the minimum grade is a 7.0, and on no more than 2 units was the final grade a 7.0 or 7.5.
- **e.** no graded work was re-done in an official re-sit.
- **f.** the grade for the Master Thesis is 9.0 or higher;
- **g.** The programme is completed within a period of 15 months;
- **h.** the student has not committed fraud during the entire duration of the programme, as evidenced by the Fraud Registry of the examination boards of BMS.

USEFUL LINKS

- University of Twente: www.utwente.nl
- MEEM: www.utwente.nl/meem
- CSTM: www.utwente.nl/mb/cstm
- Van Hall Larenstein: http://www.vanhall-larenstein.com/
- Canvas: https://canvas.utwente.nl
- Student counselling service: https://www.utwente.nl/en/ces/sacc/
- Examination Board: https://www.utwente.nl/en/bms/examboard/
- Students' Charter & Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER): https://www.utwente.nl/en/bms/education/regulations/
- Study in Holland: http://www.studyinholland.nl/
- AON Students insurance: https://www.aonstudentinsurance.com/
- The International Welcome Center North (IWCN): https://iwcn.nl/?cn-reloaded=1
- The Northern Times; All the latest Dutch news in English: https://northerntimes.nl/
- Leeuwarden Student City: Leeuwarden Student City - Nicest city in the Netherlands for studying