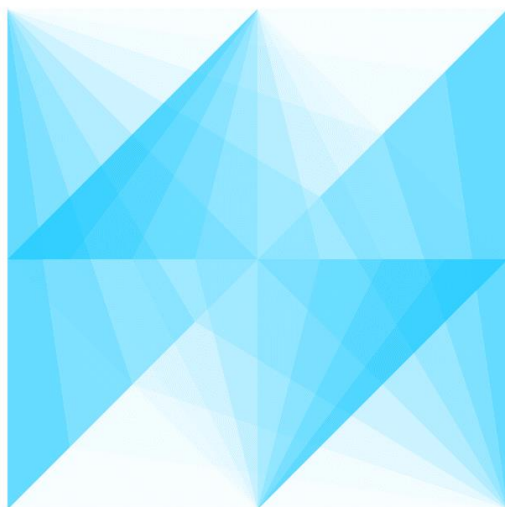


EnCHiL Handbook for students



EnCHiL

Version v.1 December 2020

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Why EnCHiL?

The joint Nordic Master in Environmental Changes at Higher Latitudes (EnCHiL) is a two-year MSc degree programme, aimed at providing high quality multidisciplinary research-based education in Earth and Environmental Sciences.

High latitude ecosystems and societies are changing at an accelerated rate, due to climate change, more tourism, increasing trans-polar transport and other economic activities. There is therefore an increasing need for experts with a multidisciplinary training in environmental sciences to work towards the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

To better understand the effects of changes in nature and society at high latitudes, it is critical to identify the processes underlying these changes. The EnCHiL programme will present the student with different natural, physical, biological and social processes operating at high latitudes, and how they interact to shape arctic environments.

EnCHiL offers international and Nordic students unique hands-on experience to address these issues in a multidisciplinary environment and gives them opportunities to work with relevant Arctic topics in the wide network of the EnCHiL partners. All EnCHiL teachers and lecturers are active researchers, ensuring a real research-based education. Teaching focuses on thinking and learning, and training of critical and analytical skills is central to the EnCHiL programme. The curriculum contains a mandatory mobility period of at least one semester, which is instrumental to reach one of the EnCHiL programme's objectives, that is, that the students attain first-hand, personal and deep multidisciplinary knowledge on the ongoing environmental changes taking place at higher latitudes, and their effects on both nature and society.

If you are interested in understanding and developing skills for addressing the changes that are happening at higher latitudes, then EnCHiL is for you.

EnCHiL received the Nordic Master Programme acknowledgement from the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2019. You can find up to date information about the EnCHiL programme on the programme website: <https://enchil.net/>

EnCHiL partners

The EnCHiL consortium is formed by seven partners: three degree-awarding institutions and four associated partners. As an EnCHiL student you will receive a MSc diploma from two of the degree awarding partners, but you will be able to take courses or develop your thesis work at any of the associated partners. This large consortium was put in place as a long standing collaboration between the consortium partners,

by offering individual online and field-based MSc and PhD courses in Iceland and Greenland over the past decade. The partners of the EnCHiL consortium have a long experience in process-based research and teaching, ensuring that the education provided by EnCHiL conforms to the highest standards.

The three EnCHiL degree-awarding institutions are the Agricultural University of Iceland (AUI), the University of Helsinki (UH) and Lund University (LU).



Agricultural University of Iceland (AUI)

The Agricultural University of Iceland was founded in 2005, as a result of merging the Agricultural University, the Agricultural Research Institute and the Horticulture School. AUI is an educational and research institution in the field of agriculture and environmental sciences. The main focus is on the conservation and sustainable use of land and animal resources, including traditional agriculture, horticulture and forestry, environmental planning, restoration sciences, rural development and sustainable development. AUI has been described as the "University of Life and Land", where focus is set on all kinds of land use, breeding, production protection and sustainable management of land resources. It is vital for Iceland to be able to provide food for the nation and AUI strives to keep up with the latest technology and methods in agriculture at the uncertain times of global warming and its effect on Icelandic agriculture. You can learn more about the Agricultural University of Iceland on their website: http://www.lbhi.is/study_aui



University of Helsinki (UH)

The University of Helsinki is Finland's largest and oldest academic institution. Since 1640, it has contributed to the establishment of a fair and equal society that is considered the best in the world according to a number of indicators. Today, this multidisciplinary academic community solves problems that concern all of us, also on the global scale. At UH teaching is based on research, and both teaching and research are of the highest standard. UH is an international academic community of 40,000 students and staff members, operating on four campuses in Helsinki and at 17 other locations in Finland. You can read more about the University of Helsinki on their website: <https://www.helsinki.fi/en>



Lund University (LU)

Lund University was founded in 1666 and is ranked among the world's top 100 universities (placed among the top 0.4% of the world's universities). LU has 40 000 students and 7 600 staff based in Lund, Helsingborg and Malmö. LU offers one of the broadest ranges of programmes and courses in Scandinavia, based on cross-disciplinary and cutting-edge research. LU plays an important role internationally, nationally and regionally at a time when major global challenges such as health, the environment, human rights and sustainable

development call for an ability to understand and explain the world in order to improve it. You can read more about Lund University on their website: <https://lunduniversity.lu.se/>

In addition to the degree-awarding institutions, EnCHiL has four associated partners: Aarhus University (AU), Greenland Institute of Natural Resources (GINR), University of Oulu (UO) and the Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMU).



Aarhus University (AU)

Aarhus University was established in 1928 as a small private initiative and has since grown to become a leading public research university with international reach covering the entire research spectrum. The university offers unique opportunities to conduct research in an environment that promotes creativity and autonomy, and where interdisciplinary collaboration is a natural part of all research activities. Aarhus University's research is widely acknowledged within the international research community. During the last decade, the university has consolidated its position as one of the world's top-ranked universities with a very high research impact and several research areas belonging to the absolute world elite. You can learn more about Aarhus University on their website: <https://international.au.dk/>



Greenland Institute of Natural Resources (GINR)

The Greenland Institute of Natural Resources is located in the capital of Greenland, Nuuk, and offers high quality research facilities and the opportunity to work with a staff of experienced and enthusiastic researchers. GINR integrates research in natural, technological, and social sciences in order to understand the effects of natural variability and climate change on Arctic ecosystems and society. GINR conducts research on Arctic ecosystems, monitors the living resources and the environment in Greenland and advises the Government of Greenland and other authorities on sustainable exploitation of living resources and safeguarding the environment and biodiversity. The Institute takes part in the monitoring program Greenland Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) in the High Arctic at Zackenberg/Daneborg and the Low Arctic at Nuuk. You can read more about the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources on their website: <http://www.natur.gl/en/>



University of Oulu (UO)

The University of Oulu was founded in 1958 and is today one of the leading universities in Finland. Currently the University of Oulu has about 16 000 students and employs over 3 000 staff. The University of Oulu is an international research university, whose central mission is to promote culture and well-being, especially in northern Finland. One of the main multidisciplinary research focus areas of the University of Oulu is Environment, Natural Resources and

Materials, including environmental issues, natural resources and energy economy. The University of Oulu provides a high-quality learning environment, in which both specialists and generalists are given a thorough grounding for demanding tasks in the national and international arena. You can read more about the University of Oulu on their website: <https://www.oulu.fi/university/>



Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMU)

The Estonian University of Life Sciences was founded in 1951 as the Estonian Academy of Agriculture, which would become in 1991 the Estonian Agricultural University, and changed its name to Estonian University of Life Sciences in 2005. The priorities of EMU in academic and research activities aim at providing for the sustainable development of natural resources necessary for humans, as well as the preservation of heritage and habitat. According to QS World University Rankings by Subject (2019), the Estonian University of Life Sciences is one of top 100 universities in the world in the field of agriculture and forestry, ranked 51 out of 100. The university also belongs to the top 1% most cited research facilities in the world. You can read more about the Estonian University of Life Sciences on their website: <https://www.emu.ee/en/>

Structure of the EnCHiL programme

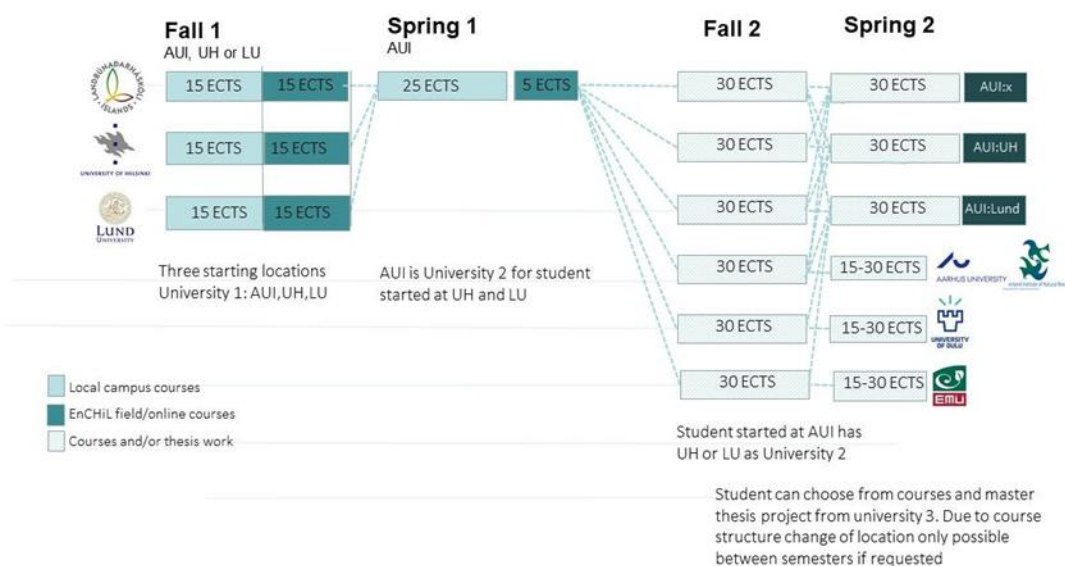
The EnCHiL programme is a two-year MSc programme (120 ECTS) offered jointly by the EnCHiL consortium. These ECTS are divided into 90 ECTS coursework and a 30 ECTS research thesis, to be developed under the supervision of an expert from one of the EnCHiL partners. The programme has a mandatory mobility scheme, where all students will at least spend one semester at another EnCHiL university.

The EnCHiL programme has three main entry points. EnCHiL students will start their studies at one of the three degree-awarding institutions (AUI, UH or LU), for one semester (30 ECTS). Then, they will have a mobility period to Iceland and Greenland during the second semester (30 ECTS). During the second year, EnCHiL students can return to their home university (where they started their studies) or visit any other of the EnCHiL associated partners to take courses and develop their thesis work. EnCHiL students who had AUI in Iceland as their home university in the first semester will have their mandatory mobility period during the second fall semester when they will have to visit one of the other degree-awarding universities (UH or LU); in addition, if they wish, they can take courses or develop their thesis work in any of the other EnCHiL associated partners.

This structure, although complex at first sight, is aimed at ensuring that EnCHiL students will have at least one mobility period, visiting a minimum of two EnCHiL degree-awarding institutions in two Nordic countries. While the different entry points provide different curricular strengths, all EnCHiL study pathways ensure the student a solid scientific and technological knowledge base, while offering great flexibility in

terms of curriculum. This gives EnCHiL students the opportunity to design and organize a programme that fits with their preferences. Decisions on the study plan for each EnCHiL student will be made in close consultation with the local coordinators at each of the degree-awarding institutions.

An overview of the general curriculum and mobility structure of the EnCHiL programme is provided below, and described in more detail in the following sections for the first and second year.



Mobility during the programme

The EnCHiL programme will facilitate travel arrangements for students between consortium partners during the compulsory mobility period (first spring semester for UH and LU students travelling to Iceland, or AUI students travelling to UH or LU in the second fall semester). Funding for travel costs will be sought through the bilateral ERASMUS agreements between the consortium universities, from NordPlus network travel grants or from other sources available through the bilateral agreements and mobility programmes between the EnCHiL universities. These funds will be sought on an individual student basis, with the help of the local EnCHiL coordinators and the international offices of the three degree-awarding universities.

Accommodation during the programme is the students' own responsibility. However, during the compulsory mobility period in Iceland (first spring semester for EnCHiL students starting at UH and LU), AUI will help all students find suitable housing at the AUI campus in Hvanneyri (see section on the first EnCHiL spring semester below). During the first spring semester, there will also be a visit to Greenland, for which all travel costs, including travel and accommodation, will be covered by the EnCHiL programme or through travel funding sought by the international offices.

Students starting the EnCHiL programme at AUI will have their mandatory mobility period in the second autumn semester to UH or LU, where they will be treated as ERASMUS exchange students, with all the associated benefits to find accommodation and access to student services.

Further mobility during the second year will also be sought for through the international offices of the three degree-awarding universities

Governance of EnCHiL

The EnCHiL programme is coordinated by the Agricultural University of Iceland. There is a Programme Board that includes representatives from each of the EnCHiL partners, the local academic coordinators from the degree-awarding parties, and two student representatives.

Before your studies

To become an EnCHiL student, the first step is to apply for the programme. You can find information about the deadlines for applications on the EnCHiL website. The programme starts in the fall semester only, so application deadlines are in early spring of the same year; please note that for students from non- EU/EEA countries the application deadline is earlier than for students from EU/EEA countries.

For the EnCHiL programme starting in the fall 2021, the application deadlines are January 31, 2021 (for students from non-EU/EEA countries) and April 15, 2021 (for students from EU/EEA countries).

EnCHiL has joint admission criteria and procedures, that have been developed to accommodate the requirements of the EnCHiL degree-awarding partners. The admission procedure for the EnCHiL programme is centralized, through the joint application portal on the EnCHiL website (<https://enchil.net/enchil-application-portal/>). All applications must be submitted through the EnCHiL online application portal and by sending some requested documents by post.

Applications must include:

- The applicant's CV
- A motivation letter
- Transcripts of the applicant's bachelor diploma
- Proof of the applicant's English language proficiency
- A copy of the applicant's passport

Please read the application instructions carefully before proceeding to the online application form (see below).

All applications will be pre-screened for eligibility, to ensure they include all required documents and fulfil the minimum degree requirements. Incomplete or late applications will not be processed. Eligible applications will be evaluated by a joint board including representatives of the three EnCHiL degree-awarding parties, based on the applicant's grades and motivation letter. The outcome of the evaluation will be based on a joint decision by the Consortium and the admission requirements (see below), but the final decision on admission will be at the discretion of each degree-awarding party.

Admission requirements

To be eligible, applicants need to have a Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS) from an internationally recognised university, including a minimum of 90 ECTS of studies in natural sciences and technology, with a minimum average grade of at least C on the ECTS grading scale. Students in the final year of their bachelor's studies

are eligible to apply, provided they complete their degree by the start of the EnCHiL programme. As well, since the EnCHiL programme is taught in English, non-native English speaking students need to demonstrate proficiency in English (see language requirements below).

The admission criteria are reviewed annually by the EnCHiL programme board and subjected to the formal approval procedures of the degree-awarding parties. The admission criteria will be updated when necessary and will be made available through the EnCHiL website. Student complaints pertaining to admission decisions are handled by the Consortium coordinator according to its rules and procedures in consultation with the relevant degree-awarding parties.

Tuition and other fees

The program fees will differ for EU/EEA students and non- EU/EEA students, because at European universities non- EU/EEA students are required to pay additional tuition fees. Tuition fees differ between universities, but the agreement between the EnCHiL degree-awarding parties is that the same tuition fee will be required from non- EU/EEA students irrespective of their entry point to the programme.

Program fees common for all students include student union, semester fees or course fees. In Iceland, all Icelandic and foreign university students are required to pay an annual registration fee of 85.000 ISK. In Finland all university students have to pay annual student union fee of 103 EUR.

Since all EnCHiL students will be jointly registered at UH:AUI or LU:AUI, the universities have reached the following agreement:

EEA/EU students: annual fee consisting of ½ of the normal annual registration fee at AUI and the UH student union fee for those who have UH:AUI as joint registration (currently ≈ 300 EUR and ± 103 EUR). Therefore, for EEA/EU students registering at UH:AUI the programme fee will be ~403 EUR per year, and for those registering at LU:AUI the programme fee will be ~300 EUR per year.

Non-EEA/EU students: an annual flat-rate tuition fee of 9.000 EUR, which includes all the registration and student union fees.

Application instructions and online application form

In the online application form you will be required to fill out some personal information and to upload the following documents: your CV, a motivation letter, a copy of your transcripts, a proof of English proficiency and a scanned copy of your passport. Please upload all files as PDF files, including your name in the file name, along with a descriptive title, for example "Jane_Smith_passport.pdf".

Curriculum vitae (CV)

In your CV, please include your personal contact information and educational history (some of this information will overlap with the information you provide on the online application form). Please list your teaching experience, conference and other presentations and publications, employment history, honours and awards, as well as any relevant extracurricular activities. For academic degrees completed, indicate your cumulative grade-point average (GPA); if you have not completed your degree, state your current grade-point average.

Motivation letter

The motivation letter is a statement of your academic interests and future career goals. It should be written in English and it should *not exceed 2000 words*. Please pay special attention to the motivation letter, as together with your grades, it will be one of the main criteria when evaluating your application. Please address the following points in your motivation letter in order:

- **Academic background.** Describe the academic experience that motivates you to pursue graduate studies on environmental issues in the high North. Explain how your academic background has prepared you for this graduate programme by: 1) listing the academic courses (with course codes and course names as they appear on your transcript) completed or in progress that have prepared you and given you solid foundation for graduate work in this field, 2) describing projects or papers or that you have completed or that you have read outside of class that you found particularly useful and rewarding, and 3) discussing any other activity or training that has prepared you for the EnCHiL programme.
- **Academic interests within EnCHiL Programme.** Describe your main academic interests within the EnCHiL Programme. Which area(s) would you like to concentrate on in your course work and for your MSc thesis. Note that you are expected to state and explain your current interests, but this is not binding in any way.
- **EnCHiL entry point and 3rd and 4th semesters.** Please indicate in your letter which entry point of the EnCHiL program you would prefer (AUI, UH or LU), if possible, and why. See further information on the entry points below. Also indicate where you could foresee you would like to spend your 3rd and 4th semesters (those who choose AUI as their entry point have to select LU or UH for the 3rd semester, to comply with their mandatory mobility period). Please explain how your choice relates to your academic goals. Please note that you are expected to state and explain your preference, but this is not a binding decision.
- **Career goals.** Briefly describe your future career goals. Why is doing a Nordic Master in Environmental Changes at Higher Latitudes important for your future goals?

Transcripts

You are required to submit official transcripts of your academic record and officially certified copies of the diploma and diploma supplements (when available) bearing the seal of the institution and the signature of the registrar or other appropriate official. These transcripts and diploma supplements should be in the original language and in English, as a certified English translation. Note that a translation cannot be submitted in lieu of the original records; the original records must be submitted as well.

Transcripts of academic record are to be submitted as follows:

A complete scanned version (clear and readable, colour or black and white) should be uploaded and submitted as a PDF file together with your online application. Make sure to include the transcript legend (often found on the reverse page of the transcript).

AND

The official, original hard copy should be mailed directly to:

Agricultural University of Iceland
Kennsluskristofa – EnCHiL Admission Office
Hvanneyri, IS-311 Borgarnes
ICELAND

Language requirements

The language of the EnCHiL programme is English. Non-native English speaking students need to demonstrate proficiency in English, by either taking a language test or providing evidence about previous studies in English. Those requirements can be proven in different ways:

1. What is considered adequate foreign English studies is specified per country and follows the entry rules of Lund University for international MSc students. Please check the specific requirements for your country of origin on: <https://www.universityadmissions.se/en/entry-requirements/english-language-requirements/>
2. Non-native English speaking applicants can also demonstrate proficiency in English by means of an internationally recognised test, e.g. TOEFL, IELTS or equivalent (level 6), not older than two years.
 - a. TOEFL: Paper-based (PBT): Min score of 580 (written section grade 4.5) / Paper: (rPDT) Min score of 20 in each section (22 in written section) / Internet-based test (IBT): Min total score of 92 (written section 22)
 - b. IELTS: 6.5, no section lower than 5.5 (only IELTS Academic Training accepted).
 - c. PTE Academic. Min of 62; where of 54 in communication skills section.

3. A university degree (Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral degree, or polytechnic/university of applied science degree) completed in English in one of the EU/EEA countries or Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland or the USA is an acceptable way of demonstrating academic English language skills. The degree must include a minimum of 60 ECTS (or equivalent) of studies given in English language. Online studies or studies completed on offshore campuses outside the accepted countries cannot be used to indicate language skills, even if the degree-awarding institution is located in one of the accepted countries. Online language studies or open university studies are not acceptable when indicating language skills.

Choice of entry point for the EnCHiL programme

The EnCHiL Nordic Master program has three main entry points. Depending on your interests and approach to studying environmental changes at higher latitudes one of the degree-awarding universities will offer their expertise best suited to your needs. During the online application process you will be asked what is your preference for the entry point to the EnCHiL programme. Please note, that this is only a preference. The EnCHiL consortium aims at having a balanced distribution of students starting at each degree-awarding party, so students admitted to the programme may therefore be offered to start their studies at their second or third preferred option for entry point. All entry points have the same admission requirements.

Agricultural University of Iceland

If you have an interest in ecosystem level processes and changes that happen at the nature-social interface the Agricultural University of Iceland will be your entry point. In Iceland you will gain first-hand experience studying in a sub-arctic environment. If you choose AUI as your entry point you will spend the first two semesters of the programme in Iceland, including the second semester when all other EnCHiL students will be in Iceland as well. Your obligatory mobility period will happen in the second year, when you go to one of the other degree-awarding universities (LU or UH; where from you can select among five different study tracks). In the last semester you can choose to come back to AUI, stay at LU or UH or do a thesis project at any of the other EnCHiL associated partner institutions. If the Agricultural University of Iceland is your entry point you will obtain a diploma from AUI and the other degree-awarding partner you choose to visit in the second year.

University of Helsinki

If you have an interest in regional scale processes, and changes that happen in the atmosphere, the University of Helsinki offers excellent courses. You will gain a comprehensive overview of atmospheric processes. After your first semester at the University of Helsinki you will spend one semester in Iceland (AUI) and participate in Arctic field work. In the second year, you can come back to Helsinki, stay in Iceland or go to any of the EnCHiL associated partners. If University of Helsinki is your entry point you will obtain a diploma from UH and AUI.

Lund University

If you have an interest in landscape scale processes, Lund University offers excellent courses. You will gain a comprehensive overview of processes occurring at a landscape scale. After your first semester at Lund University you will spend 1 semester in Iceland (AUI) and participate in Arctic field work. In the second year, you can come back to Lund, stay in Iceland or go to any of the EnCHiL associated partners. If Lund University is your entry point you will obtain a diploma from LU and AUI.

Admission letter

Once the application has been submitted, the applicant will receive a mail from the EnCHiL admission office verifying that the application has been received.

Decisions on admissions to the EnCHiL programme will be notified by email, so it is very important that you indicate your permanent contact email address in the online application. A formal letter of admission will follow.

If you are a non-EU/EEA student you will have to start processing your residence permit at this point (see below, under Practicalities of living abroad). Please get in touch with the local coordinator at your entry point.

During your studies

Practicalities of living abroad

Residence permits (non-EU/EEA students)

Non-EU/EEA students need to apply for a residence permit to study in Iceland, Sweden or Finland. Please get in touch with your local coordinator as soon as possible. As well, it is advisable that you start processing your residence permit for Sweden or Finland for the second year of the programme as soon as possible after you start the programme, given the long processing time at the immigration offices in these countries.

Insurance and health care

All EnCHiL students will be insured for the duration of the programme. In Sweden and Finland, universities provide insurance for all students. In Iceland, additional insurance is needed for the six first months of the programme, as after that the national social security system covers all individuals who have resided in Iceland for six months or longer. Insurance for the first six months in Iceland will be covered by the EnCHiL programme.

Accommodation

EnCHiL students are responsible for arranging their own accommodation at each of the partner universities. Some of the degree-awarding universities offer on-campus accommodation, and the local coordinators can help in facilitating some of these procedures.

You can find more information about housing in the following links:

- AUI: http://www.lbhi.is/student_housing
- UH: <https://guide.student.helsinki.fi/en/article/housing>
- LU: <https://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/student-life/housing>

Academic year

The academic year differs slightly between the degree-awarding universities. For example, the academic year at AUI generally starts in mid-August, whereas in LU and UH the starting date is generally a bit later. Please pay special attention to the starting date at your entry point (for UH you can check: <https://guide.student.helsinki.fi/en/article/academic-year-and-teaching-periods>). As above, the local coordinator at your entry point can help you with this too.

Useful links

- Iceland
 - ⇒ Agricultural University of Iceland: http://www.lbhi.is/new_student
 - ⇒ [Study in Iceland](#)
- Sweden (Lund University): <https://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/student-life>
- Finland (University of Helsinki): <https://guide.student.helsinki.fi/en/article/student-services>

Rights and status of the students

EnCHiL students will be registered at two degree-awarding parties for the whole duration of the programme. During their mobility periods, students may take courses or thesis course at any other consortium party as exchange students.

Students will be subject to the regulations and procedures of the university where they attend courses and sit for examinations in a given semester. Students will be provided with the same resources and support services that are available to regular students at that degree-awarding university, or as regular ERASMUS or exchange students at an associated party. In addition, students will have a local academic coordinator at the degree-awarding party where they are registered for a given semester.

The local academic coordinators are responsible for acting as institutional contact persons for the EnCHiL programme at the degree-awarding parties. The local academic coordinators will help the students to make a study plan for the second year when they have selected a thesis topic and approve that the selected courses have minimal overlap with each other and with EnCHiL courses the student has already taken. Changes to the study plan of individual students must be approved by both local academic coordinators of the two degree-awarding universities at which the EnCHiL student is registered and reported according to local procedure.

Courses and modules included in the student's study plan will be recognized fully by the two degree-awarding parties issuing the double degree, so there is no need to apply for credit transfers between universities. The two degree-awarding partners will produce a transcript of records and report them directly to each other; these transcripts will include grades and dates of finished courses and thesis project.

A prerequisite for transfer between universities is that the student has successfully completed all compulsory courses prior to that transfer, including compulsory assignments such as laboratory work, group work, attendance to lectures and tutorials, as specified by the course outlines. Should a student fail to complete the required courses, an evaluation of the situation and a decision on transfer possibilities will be made on a case by case basis by the two universities.

During the first year of EnCHiL

Course registration and enrolment

The study plan for EnCHiL students will be made in close collaboration with the local academic coordinators at each of the degree-awarding parties. During the first year, coursework is more streamlined, offering EnCHiL students courses that will cover more general knowledge, while in the second year students will specialize into their research areas. During the first year of EnCHiL, the online courses offered in the second part of the fall semester and the courses offered in the spring semester at AUI and Greenland will be common for all students in the EnCHiL programme, for a total of 45 ECTS of compulsory courses.

Each entry point has its own deadlines for course registrations, so make sure you are in good contact with your local coordinator.

Spring semester in Iceland and Greenland

During the first spring semester all EnCHiL students will be located in Iceland and will visit Greenland to take the *215162U001 Sea Ice Ecology* (5 ECTS) course. During their time in Iceland students will be located at the AUI campus in Hvanneyri.

During this time, students will take joint EnCHiL courses covering various aspects of changes happening at higher latitudes.

Preparation of MSc thesis topic

During the EnCHiL programme, EnCHiL students will have the opportunity to work on thesis topics related to the research excellence of the different consortium parties. While most of the thesis work will be developed during year 2, EnCHiL students will need to start planning on their thesis topic already during the first year. The topic of the thesis will be discussed with the local academic coordinators and the potential supervisors. These discussions will be facilitated by some of the courses and activities during the first semesters of the EnCHiL programme, like *08.xx.xx EnCHiL forum* during the spring semester at AUI, where different researchers from EnCHiL partner institutions will introduce their work.

By the end of the spring semester, EnCHiL students will have to give a seminar on their ideas for their thesis project (07.12.01 First thesis presentation). What is presented in this seminar will not be binding, but will ensure students have to think about their thesis topic.

Table 1. Programme courses during year 1 of the EnCHiL programme. Cells highlighted in orange indicate courses that are common to all EnCHiL students and represent the 45 ECTS of obligatory curriculum. Number of ECTS credits is indicated in brackets. At UH, during the first fall semester students can select between two study tracks.

FALL 1			
AUI	UH	LU	
EnCHiL program I: e- welcome (0)			
07.93.03 Icelandic Nature (5)	ATM 301 Atmospheric and Earth Sciences today (5)	NGEN14 Greenhouse gases and biogeochemical cycles (15)	
07.36.01 Arctic Circle (2)	ATM347 Boundary Layer Physics I (5)		FOR228 Biogeochemical cycles and forest management interactions (5)
07.94.01 Icelandic Nature field course (2)	ATM357 Atmospheric Radiation (5)		FOR218 Basics of biometeorology (3)
07.85.03 Ecosystem Ecology and Sustainable Management (6)			FYS2034 Basics of climatology (2)
ATM308 Statistical tools for climate and atmospheric science (5) [distance learning]			
ECGS031 Climate Change in the Arctic (5) [distance learning]			
ATM302 Climate Now (5) [distance learning]			
SPRING 1: AUI and Greenland			
08.31.03 Arctic forum (5)			
08.32.01 EnCHiL forum (1)			
07.06.03 Ethics and Philosophy of Science (6)			
05.85.02 Communication in Environmental and Natural Resource Issues (4)			
UAU201F Environmental Governance (6)			
08.33.01 Arctic Planning and Environmental Changes (2):			
07.12.01 First thesis presentation (1)			
215162U001 Sea Ice Ecology (5)			

During the second year of EnCHiL

Course registration and enrolment

During the second year of the EnCHiL programme, students will conduct research-based thesis and courses that best support their thesis specialization, either at their home university (AUI, UH or Lund) or as exchange students at any of the associated partners. The EnCHiL programme as a whole offers the student more than 55 courses to choose from (see EnCHiL Programme Curriculum on the course website for an overview). As courses offered by the consortium partners can overlap to some extent, the study plan for EnCHiL students in year 2 will be made in close collaboration with the local academic coordinators at each of the degree-awarding parties. The study plan needs to ensure that the selected courses have minimal overlap with each other and with the EnCHiL courses that the student has already taken. As well, courses are often offered simultaneously, so it will generally not be possible for the student to combine courses from different locations within one semester. As well, it is important to keep in mind that deadlines for registration vary between the different universities, so they may differ from the previous year.

During the second fall semester, students who started the EnCHiL programme at AUI will have their compulsory mobility period at LU or UH (see Table 2 for a list of courses available to EnCHiL students in the second year).

Table 2. Programme courses during the second fall semester for EnCHiL students starting at AUI, but doing their mandatory mobility semester at LU or UH. Number of ECTS credits is indicated in brackets. At AUI:UH students can select between two study tracks (ST-1 or 2) but the AUI:LU students can select between three tracks (ST-1, 2 or 3). These tracks are indicative, but course selection within each track can also be modified in light of the student background and thesis topic, in collaboration with the local academic coordinators.

AUI:UH Autumn 2	
ST-1 Physical sciences	ST-2 Ecological sciences
ATM 301 Atmospheric and Earth Sciences today (5)	ATM 301 Atmospheric and Earth Sciences today (5)
ATM357 Atmospheric Radiation (5)	FYS2034 Basics of climatology (2)
ATM347 Boundary Layer Physics I (5)	FYS 2031 Basics of meteorology (5)
FOR-208 Basics of Biometeorology (5)	FOR-208 Basics of Biometeorology (3-5)
ATM306 Basics of atmospheric chemistry (5)	FOR-228 Biogeochemical cycles and forest management interactions (5)
ATM309 Analysis of atmosphere-surface interactions and feedback (5)	ATM309 Analysis of atmosphere-surface interactions and feedback (5)

AUI:LU Autumn 2		
ST-1 GIS skills	ST-2 Measuring and scaling skills	ST-3 Modelling skills
NGE-A11 GIS I (15)	NGE-N16 Biosphere-atmosphere interaction (15)	NEGEN13 Programming for Applications in Geomatics, Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science (15)
NGE-A12 GIS advanced (15)	NGEN17 Global Ecosystem Dynamics (15)	MS-thesis work (15)

MSc thesis

The EnCHiL programme includes a 30 ECTS research-based thesis work that can be conducted at any of the EnCHiL partners. The topic of the thesis must be approved by the local academic coordinators of the student's two degree-awarding parties and the supervisor from one of the EnCHiL partners. The student will complete the thesis following the requirements of the EnCHiL partner where the student is located during the last semester (**Table 3**). The thesis assessment procedures will vary somewhat depending on which consortium party will evaluate the thesis, but the degree-awarding partners agree to accept the outcome of the evaluation by the corresponding EnCHiL partner where the thesis is developed. The format of the published thesis has to comply to the format that is defined by Programme Board and made available on the Programme website.

For the MSc thesis, you will have to give two seminars during the programme, one at the beginning of the programme in spring 1 at AUI, and another towards the end of the programme.

Table 3. How MSc theses or thesis courses are defended at the different consortium universities

EnCHiL partner	Supervision	Evaluation
AUI	MSc committee of up to 4 members. At least one (co)supervisor must be AUI academic staff member.	The MSc thesis evaluation consists of a double defence: (1) a closed defence with the examiner: the student gives a 20 min oral presentation and the examiner discusses the thesis with the student. The MSc committee and a faculty representative attend this defence and jointly with the examiner request changes in oral presentation or thesis (if any) and decide on the preliminary grade. (2) a public MSc talk: the student submits a final version of the thesis and gives a public talk 1-4 weeks later, where he/she is officially graduated. The final grade and written evaluation are given at this point.

LU	<p>One or two supervisors; the main supervisor has a PhD degree. In case of external thesis project, the student has one external supervisor and one LU supervisor.</p>	<p>Examination committee of two persons: examiner (teacher) and member (expert in the subject topic). The thesis is presented for evaluation 1-2 weeks before the examination seminar. In the seminar, the student presents their work in 20-30 minutes and another student is opponent; the exam committee also asks questions. After the seminar, the exam committee and supervisor set the grade with support of the examination criteria that have been communicated to students in advance. The examiner has the final decision. After examination, the student has time to prepare the thesis for publication based on the suggestions made by the opponent and the exam committee.</p>
UH	<p>At least one, but usually two, or even three supervisors. Generally, a supervision agreement is made between the main supervisor and the student</p>	<p>The thesis is assessed on a scale of 0–5. There are two examiners, one of whom must be a full or associate professor at the Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research (INAR) at UH. The other one can be in principle anyone holding a doctoral degree. Usually one of the examiners is a supervisor, but this is not a requirement.</p>
OU	<p>One main supervisor and, if needed, one or two co-supervisors.</p>	<p>Once the supervisor considers that the MSc thesis is ready, gives the permission for the student to upload the thesis into Laturi system (http://laturi oulu.fi). The head of the degree programme or the vice-dean of education nominates the evaluators of the exam. Another evaluator is usually the (main) supervisor of the thesis. Evaluators have to give their statement concerning the thesis to the board of the degree programme within three weeks from the upload of the thesis into Laturi system. In their statement, evaluators must propose either a grade for the thesis or that the thesis is failed. Once the evaluators have given their statement the thesis is graded by the head or board of the MSc programme based on the statement of the evaluators. If the student disagrees with the evaluation, s/he can make a written request to the University of Oulu board of degrees (tutkintolautakunta) within 14 days.</p>

AU	One supervisor	<p>An MSc thesis contract has to be signed between the student and the supervisor prior to commencing work on the thesis, and it must be approved by the student, the supervisor and the degree programme coordinator. The thesis is assessed and graded with external co-examination. The exam must take place at Aarhus University. If the student does not submit the thesis by the appointed time, a new submission deadline of three months is determined, up to two times. In special cases the university can rule, that the student must write a new thesis with a new subject and new deadline as if it is the first attempt.</p>
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After your studies

EnCHiL diploma

After successful completion of the EnCHiL programme, students will obtain a double MSc degree from two of the EnCHiL degree-awarding institutions; that is, students will get two separate diplomas, one from each university, both including information about the joint EnCHiL Nordic Master programme.

Contact

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