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Eco-friendly Built Environment

RECOGNITION MECHANISMS AND MOBILITY SCHEME



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RECOGNITION MECHANISMS

To make national education systems comparable, mechanisms have been developed to support students mobility among three universities (Riga Technical University, University of Genoa, and University of Belgrade) involved in the implementation of the ECOBUILT programme, making their academic qualifications, and study periods abroad recognised.

The General agreement between ECOBUILT universities, Memorandum of Understanding and Partnership Agreement regulate the recognition mechanisms. The Host Institution must send the transcripts of each joint degree student to their Home Institution. The ECOBUILT partners agree that coursework will be assessed and graded, and credits will be issued, in accordance with the Host institution's norms.

Coordinator agrees to recognize credit points taken at the partner universities.

CREDIT SYSTEMS

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) will be used for credit recognition. It facilitates the recognition and transfer of credits earned by students while on mobility abroad. ECTS also contributes to the clarity and use of other documents, such as the Diploma Supplement, in different countries.

ECOBUILT Masters study programme follows the credit system described in the Table 1.

Table 1

National Credit systems

No.	University	National Credits		ECTS
1.	Riga Technical University	CP	1	1,5
2.	University of Genoa	CFU	1	1
3.	University of Belgrade	ESPB	1	1

Student must acquire at least 60 ECTS credits in one academic year, equating to an average total commitment within the 40-hour working week. One ECTS credit equals 25-30 hours of work. Each year, 60 ECTS credits are granted for 1500-1800 working hours in all sorts of training and independent study in order to completely grasp the topic. The student workload in total consists of lectures, design studios, field excursions, conferences, seminars, and internship, as well as independent work, colloquia, exams, final work.

GRADING SYSTEMS

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) will be used also to make comparable national grading systems (Table 2).

Table 2

National Grading systems

University	Level of acquisition	Grading	Explanation
Riga Technical University	Very high	10	with distinction
		9	excellent
	High	8	very good
		7	good
	Medium	6	almost good
		5	satisfactory
		4	almost satisfactory
	Low	3-1	unsatisfactory
University of Genoa	Excellent	30 cum laude	With distinction
	High	28-30	Excellent
	Medium	24-27	Good
	Low	20-23	Almost good
	Sufficient	18-19	Sufficient
	Fail	0-17	Insufficient
University of Belgrade	Excellent	10	Outstanding. Performance with only minor errors, corresponds to 91-100 points
	High	9	Excellent. Above the average standard but with some errors, corresponds to 81-90 points
	Medium	8	Very good. Generally sound work with a number of notable errors, corresponds to 71-80 points
	Medium	7	Good. Fair but with significant shortcomings, corresponds to 61-70 points
	Low	6	Sufficient. Performance meets the minimum criteria, corresponds to 51-60 points
	Fail	5	Insufficient. Performance does not meet the minimum criteria, corresponds to less than 51 points

There are differences between grading systems in ECOBUILT partner countries but comparison is possible (Table 3).

Table 3

Grading Systems Comparison

Level of acquisition	Grading			Description
	Latvia	Italy	Serbia	
Very high	10	30 cum laude	10 91-100	Outstanding. Performance with only minor errors
	9	30	9 81-90	Excellent. Above the average standard but with some errors
High	8	28-29	8 71-80	Very good Above the average standard but with some errors
	7	24-27	7 61-70	Good. Fair but with significant shortcomings
Medium	6	20-23	6 51-60	Sufficient. Performance meets the minimum criteria
	5	18-19		Satisfactory
	4			Almost satisfactory
Low	3-1	0-17	5 less than 51	Unsatisfactory Performance does not meet the minimum criteria

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND EXAM REGULATIONS

Student assessment will be carried out in accordance with the national legislation and approved methodological recommendations of each ECOBUILT partner country, and students will be required to be acquainted and perform in accordance with them depending on where the studies will take place (see “Mobility Scheme” in this document).

Latvia

The following fundamental concepts are observed while assessing the acquisition of the study curriculum.

- openness of knowledge and skills assessment - a set of requirements for positive assessment of study achievements has been determined in accordance with the set goals and objectives of the programmes, as well as the goals and objectives of the study courses;
- the principle of compulsory assessment - it is necessary to obtain a positive assessment of the acquisition of the compulsory content of the programme.

An exam is the most basic form of programme acquisition evaluation. The study course must have a minimum of two (2) credit points (3 ECTS) to organise the exam. The acquisition of the programme is graded on a 10-point scale in both the exam and the final examination (Table 2).

The level of acquisition of the program, which is not lower than 4 (almost satisfactory), is considered positive. Credit points are credited for each study course, study paper, Master thesis/project, if the level of their acquisition is positive (Table 3).

The State Examination Commission evaluates the final examination.

The lecturer, fixing it in the calendar plan of the study course, determines criteria for knowledge assessment in study courses, examination form and procedure. Calendar plans are issued to students at the beginning of the semester.

In developing the evaluation criteria, the lecturer relies on the Cabinet Regulation No. 240 “Regulations on the State Academic Education Standard”, the RTU approved methodological recommendations “Assessment of Study Quality at RTU”, RTU Regulation on the Assessment of Study Outcomes and Regulation on Final Examinations at RTU”.

Italy

The student completes the study program of Master Academic Studies – Architecture by earning 120 ECTS credits, through exams, laboratories and Thesis defence. As explained in the Master Curriculum and Programme Statement Document to complete the study plan students must earn a specific number of ECTS in specific subjects, to have a complete knowledge and be awarded with the licence.

Each subject has a specific number of ECTS according to student workload. Each ECTS corresponds to 25h of work. Progresses of the student are monitoring during classes, but the evaluation happens during the exam at the end of the class.

It is regulated by the Regolamento didattico di ateneo D.R. n. 1281 del 28.03.2022, published the 29.03.2022.

Marks are in a scale of 30. 30 cum laude is the maximum mark that can be achieved. From 0 to 17 it is insufficient and the subject is not passed, the student must re-do the exam. It is not necessary to re-attend the class, except for laboratories. 18 is sufficient, marks are explained in Table 2.

The result of the examination is recorded, with the mark obtained, on the spot. If the examination involves written tests, the student has the right to see his papers before the result of the examination is recorded. In the event that the examination does not conclude with an oral test, the result of the test is notified to the student electronically: the deadlines for viewing and discussing the paper with the teacher as well as the deadlines for official registration are governed by the University regulations for students.

Student's overall success in the subject is explained in Table 3 that links a correspondence between Italian marks and ECTS, as explained also in the University website: <https://www.studenti.unige.it/orientamento/sistema-di-votazione/>

Serbia

The student completes the study program of Master Academic Studies – Architecture by passing the exam, thus earning a certain number of ECTS credits, in accordance with the study programme. Each subject in the programme carries a certain number of ECTS credits that a student earns when passing the exam successfully. The number of ECTS credits is determined based on the workload of a student in mastering a particular subject and applying the unique methodology of a higher education institution for a specific program of study.

The student earns points in a subject through the work during lessons and by fulfilling the pre-examination obligations and taking the exam. Student's success in mastering a particular subject is continuously monitored during classes and expressed by points. The minimum number of points a student can achieve by completing pre-examination obligations is 30, and the maximum is 70. The maximum number of points a student can earn in a subject is 100 (Table 2).

Pre-examination obligations for students are realized in different ways, depending on the type and content of the subject per study programme: tests, colloquiums, evaluation of exercises, presentation, workshops, etc. Attending knowledge tests during the semester is compulsory. The exam form and points acquisition rules are adapted to the subject education field. The exam can include written or oral form, seminar paper, semester elaborate of the project, or exercises essays with an oral defence, etc., appropriately chosen according to the type of subject and content of the course.

The student's assessment is based on the total number of points that a student has earned by fulfilling the pre-examination obligations and taking the exam according to the quality of the acquired knowledge and skills.

Student's overall success in the subject is expressed by grades 5 (failed) to 10 (excellent) (Table 3), following the Rulebook on Student evaluation on Exams (*Gazette of the University of Belgrade, No. 136, 168 and 180*).

Each subject from a study program has a precise and published method of earning points. The way of earning points during teaching includes the number of points a student receives based on each type of activity during the course or by fulfilling the pre-examination obligations and taking the exam.

IN CASE OF FAILURE

If courses are failed, student must repeat the appropriate tests and meet the entrance or evaluation committee's criteria. If necessary, the ECOBUILT universities will work to conduct remote catch-up examinations.

THESIS DEFENCE

Minimum 10 days before defending the Master's thesis, student must have successfully passed all the exams completed laboratory work, developed the required study works, etc. according to study programme.

At the end of the studies, a master's thesis is developed independently with an integrated diploma project on a current topic of environmental creation and development, in which the student proves the knowledge and skills acquired during the studies. The master's thesis with an integrated diploma project is defended at an open meeting of the State Examination Commission. The commission consists of both ECOBUILT universities teaching staff and representatives of the profession.

DEGREE AWARDING

Each ECOBUILT institution determines whether student have met all of the prerequisites for a degree based on its own internal criteria. Each ECOBUILT university gives to student credit transfer from the other institution in accordance with the applicable rules, laws, and regulations.

Student must have defended a master's thesis with the following minimum grades in order to be awarded a Joint Master's degree in Architecture: Latvia – 5 (five), Serbia 6 (six) – 51/100 points, Italy – 66/110 points.

MOBILITY SCHEME

The ECOBUILT Programme's academic curriculum will be delivered in-person at Riga Technical University, the University of Genoa, and the University of Belgrade (Figure 1). All students must relocate three times and attend at least one semester at three separate universities, with the first semester at the University of Genoa, the second semester in Belgrade, and the third semester in Riga. Elective study courses may be available online.

While the fourth semester is devoted to Master Thesis development and defence, programme participants are free to continue their studies at any university of their choice. In this situation, studies might be face-to-face or blended. Students will select a Master's Thesis topic and a faculty member from any of the partners, depending on availability.

Attendance at courses, design studios, field excursions, conferences, seminars, and internship is mandatory. Attendance of less than 75% (minimum 75%) will not be permitted.

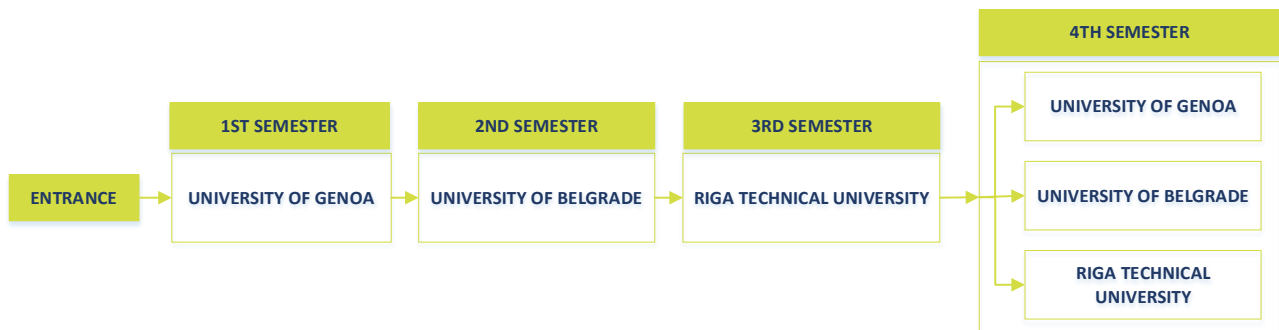


Figure 1. Mobility Scheme of the ECOBUILT programme

Students would have to meet the standards of the different universities in terms of documents for registration processes as well as documentation for visa reasons. Students will be bound by the rules and regulations in effect at the universities where they will spend their mobility term.

The mobility of ECOBUILT teaching staff will be required during master's thesis defences to ensure the participation of at least one representative from ECOBUILT universities. If mobility cannot be implemented for objective reasons, teaching staff will be able to remotely connect to the defence via MS Teams or ZOOM. Students must be physically present during the master's thesis defence.