Advanced Master of Water Sustainability:

Integrating Technology and Nature-based Solutions | Think Water

2025-2026

Discover technological and nature-based solutions that contribute to global water sustainability



I Let's shape the future

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Water problems are very complex. Addressing them, requires understanding of natural sciences, for instance what is the ecological functioning of the water system. It also requires incorporating engineering skills and taking into account their effect on economy and society.

Prof. Patrick Meire

In brief

The Advanced Master of Water Sustainability: Integrating Technology and Nature-based Solutions (Think Water) is a **unique** interdisciplinary and internationally oriented programme aimed at students and professionals with an initial Master's degree.

In one academic year, you will:

- Attain thorough knowledge of the whole water system
 - Learn to **combine** state-of-the-art technology and nature-based solutions
- Explore **real life applications** and the many uses of our water system through close collaboration with companies and research institutes
- Find **innovative solutions** to all types of water management problems.

In detail

Water is essential in a sustainable world

Water problems are one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. Water is important for growing food, generating energy and good health for both people and the environment, affecting the lives of millions of people worldwide. Due to climate change and overpopulation, water reserves are under severe pressure. Water bodies, such as rivers and lakes, are in poor ecological condition. It is logical that the United Nations has included water as a central theme in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Be part of the solutions

Unique and innovative. That is how you can describe this Advanced Master Think Water. The programme does not approach water problems from one specific discipline, but brings together knowledge from fundamental and applied sciences. This allows you to develop a broad understanding of the water system and the various, often complex, problems we face. Think Water is structured in such a way that you learn to integrate scientific knowledge and skills from these different disciplines. In this way you can contribute to a better future by designing and implementing sustainable solutions for water problems.

International and diverse

Think Water offers you an attractive international and diverse learning environment. The programme is completely taught in English and internationally oriented. During classes, lecturers share examples of sustainable water management from all over the world. You can also expect fellow students with a very diverse background, both in terms of nationality and previously obtained Master's degrees. Working in groups is ideal for learning from your fellow students and sharing your knowledge with them.

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This is why we really need an integrated approach towards solving water problems and decided to make it the scope of this Advanced Master.

Prof. Patrick Meire, Programme promotor

High-tech and low-tech strengthen each other

Think Water is an interdisciplinary programme. The philosophy of Think Water is that water problems can only be solved sustainably if you combine high-tech and low-tech. The high-tech solutions are based on expertise from engineering sciences. Low-tech solutions are nature-based applications from the biological sciences. Think Water teaches you how to apply the various high-tech and low-tech solutions, how to ensure cross-pollination and how you can achieve win-wins for the various functions of the water system.

Applied and close to practice

If you choose to study Think Water, you can count on a solid academic basis, but you will also immediately get started with real-life applications and projects. The classes are very interactive: much attention is given to assignments where the student is put central, such as presentations and supervised group work. The emphasis is on applied skills that you acquire through laboratory work, computer exercises and case studies.

Close cooperation with the professional field (companies, research institutions and governments) is considered highly important and is strongly embedded in the programme through excursions, company visits and guest speakers. The showpiece is the course Case River 21 in the second semester, where guest speakers from the field, field trips, group work, and integration of knowledge and skills come together.



The combination of practical sessions in state-of-the-art laboratories and hours of clinical internship placements gave me the opportunity to translate my acquired skills into solving clinical problems.

Usman Sani Dankoly, Nigeria

Programme structure

The full learning path of this Advanced Master equals 60 ECTS credits and is completed in one academic year (although part-time studies are also possible). The programme starts with an introduction, consisting of two courses. This is followed by a specialisation, consisting of four mandatory courses with room to select elective courses based on interest and previous background. Further, the programme focuses on integration, with two dedicated courses and a Master's thesis with internship. The internship is linked to the topic of the dissertation and carried out in a research group within the university or in collaboration with a company.



Curriculum

ECTS credits 30

Introduction courses

Compulsory courses

Global Water Problems and Integrated Water Management 3 Integrated Assessment of Water and Sediment Quality 3

Specialisation courses

Advanced Water Treatment Technology	6
Groundwater Management and Remediation	3
Nature-based Solutions	3
World of work 3: Integrated Project	3

Integration courses

Integrated Modelling and Design of Basin	
Management Plans	3
Integrated Water Management: Advanced Case River 21	6

Elective courses

ECTS credits 6

6 ECTS credits to be chosen from a list of 4 electives (Please consult the course catalogue on www.watertechnology.be)

Master's thesis including internship	ECTS credits 24
Total	ECTS credits 60

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I recommend Think Water because it is interesting to meet people with different backgrounds, academically and culturally. You learn a lot from this experience that you can apply in your future job.

Cesar Herrera



Job opportunities

A job that is fascinating and relevant for society

Think Water is a **valuable addition** to your Master's degree. In one academic year you learn about advanced technologies and the services that natural water systems provide. Sustainable water management is of great importance all over the world and there is a need for well-trained young professionals. Would you like to work in the water sector? Then this specialised master is an **excellent preparation** for an exciting (international) career as a researcher, with the government or with a company.

Why choose UAntwerp

Our university is located in the **city of Antwerp**, in the heart of Belgium and Europe. The port of Antwerp is one of the biggest in the world. Antwerp is not just an ancient medieval and baroque city, full of history. It is also a bustling metropolis with a vibrant social scene, impressive architecture and cultural contrasts. Over 170 nationalities live here, more than in New York! This cosmopolitan vibe is also reflected at the University of Antwerp. English is widely spoken in Antwerp, though if you learn Dutch during your stay here you will become a local in no time.

First-rate research and education make the University of Antwerp a wonderful place to study and to work. We foster the nexus between research and education. Internationalisation is key to our mission. It is no coincidence that the University of Antwerp is a partner in a highly promising European university network, the Young Universities for the Future of Europe www.YUFE.eu.

As home away from home to over **20,000 students**, the University of Antwerp prides itself on operating on a human scale. Our faculty and staff will welcome you into top-notch infrastructure on one of our four campuses. While you're here you are also invited to enjoy our vibrant cultural programme, sports facilities and many student services.

The University of Antwerp **scores extremely well** in Young University Rankings



Testimonial

Excursions are part of the Advanced Master Think Water, for example to wastewater treatment plants. I appreciate the exposure as it helps to widen my perspective. I can experience how theory is put into practice and that it can actually work. This will make it easier for me to transport the knowledge I acquired to my home country.

In the second semester an intensive and international course on integrated water management was organised: Case River 21. Working with students from other universities and/or countries with different backgrounds was a truly great experience.



Eve Radam, Philippines



Admission criteria

Graduates from scientific disciplines and engineers with an interest in water are the target group of Think Water.

Diploma requirements

You must have a Master's degree in the field of:

 Sciences	

Applied Sciences

Applied Biological Sciences

__ Nautical Sciences

Applicants with other Master's degrees only receive admission to the programme after approval of the application showing previously acquired and proven competences in one of the above mentioned study areas.

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I learned a lot from all the Think Water courses and can 100% recommend this programme to other students.

Edson Panana Villalobos

Language requirements

The working language of Think Water is **English**. To ensure active participation, a good command of English in all aspects (written, spoken and comprehension) is a prerequisite. Applicants can prove their proficiency in English:

- Either by submitting proof they have studied at least one academic year (or 60 ECTS credits) in an Englishlanguage Master's programme;
 - Or by submitting one of the following **language certificates** with a test validity of maximum 2 years:
 - TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language): paper-based TOEFL level of minimum 550 or an internet-based TOEFL level of minimum 80
 - IELTS (International English Language Testing System): a minimum score of at least 6.5, and on each part minimum 6.0
 - **Level B2** of the Common European Framework.

Students holding a degree issued by a recognised educational institution in Belgium, the Netherlands or Luxemburg, are **exempt** from the English language test.

Application procedure

Candidates with a Master's degree from a higher education institution in Belgium, the Netherlands or Luxembourg can enrol directly. Candidates who do not fulfil this condition or who need of a visa must submit an online application through the online application tool **Mobility Online**. Application files for the academic year 2025-2026 can be uploaded in Mobility Online as from early November 2024 onwards.

Application deadlines

To submit an application through Mobility Online

 For non-EEA * nationals and for students who need a visa: before 1 March 2025

For EEA nationals: before 1 June 2025

Application deadlines for students with a **Flemish** or **Dutch** degree

Master students with a Flemish or Dutch degree that does not give direct access to the programme: 17 September 2025

Master students with a Flemish or Dutch degree that gives direct access tot the programme: 22 September 2025

Enrolment deadline

Early October Enrolments start on 1 July 2025.

The academic year 2025-2026 starts on Monday 22 September 2025.

* EEA = European Fconomic Area Member states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden

ECTS credits

The University of Antwerp applies the '**European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System**' (ECTS) in all its degree programmes.

A full-time one-year study programme amounts to **60 ECTS credits** (30 ECTS credits per semester), which implies a student workload of about 1500 to 1800 hours. One ECTS credit stands for 25 to 30 hours of work including contact hours, preparatory work, study and assessment.



Quick facts

Level Advanced Master

Language English

Credits 60 ECTS credits

Number of years

Tuition fee per year * EUR 2990

Campus Campus Groenenborger and Campus Drie Eiken

Faculty Science Institute of Environment & Sustainable Development (IMDO)

More information www.watertechnology.be



* subject to yearly revision

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This brochure was published in September 2024. As all information is subject to change, please check our website for the latest updates.