Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2018-2019

Paleobiology of Micro-organisms (C001584)

Course size
(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 5.0  Study time 140 h  Contact hrs 50.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020

A (semester 1)  English  practicum  30.0 h
lecture  20.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020

Louwye, Stephen  WE13  lecturer-in-charge
Vandenbroucke, Thijs  WE13  co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020 credits offering
Master of Science in Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management  6  A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords
Palaeobiology, fossil micro-organisms, morphology, evolution, palaeoenvironment, palaeogeography, dating

Position of the course
Knowledge and insight of the most important groups of fossil micro-organisms and their evolution since the Precambrian. Their use as proxies for the reconstruction of the palaeoenvironment, palaeogeography and palaeoclimate.

Contents
The palaeobiology of fossil microorganisms since the Precambrian: morphology and general characteristics, life strategies, palaeoproductivity, fossilisation and taphonomy, diversity and palaeogeography, evolution, radiation, and extinctions. Fossil micro-organisms as proxies for the palaeo-environment: principles and case studies.

Initial competences
Knowledge of phycology and protistology.

Final competences
1. Advanced knowledge of the discussed fossil microorganisms and their identification criteria.
2. To possess a fundamental insight in their evolution during the Phanerozoic.
3. Apply this knowledge to determine palaeoenvironmental parameters and to reconstruct the palaeogeography and palaeoclimatology.

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment.

Conditions for exam contract
This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract.

Teaching methods
Lecture, practicum

Learning materials and price

(Approved)
References

Course content-related study coaching
Possibility to ask questions about the oral teaching classes by email, via personal contact and during the practical exercises. Guidance during practical exercises by teachers and assistants.

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Written examination with open questions, assignment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Written examination with open questions, assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods
Written (theory) and report (practical exercises)
Form and contents of the examination are explained at the end of the course. A test evaluates whether students have internalized the final objectives.

Calculation of the examination mark
Work piece 25%, written exam 75%