

Annual report 2022–2023

Board of Studies Msc Geomatics

Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment
Delft University of Technology



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1 Position of the BoS MSc Geomatics within the A+BE Faculty

The Board of Studies (BoS) for the program *MSc Geomatics* was established on 2023-01-01 as a separate and independent board of studies at the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment (A+BE).

Before 2023-01-01, there were two members from the MSc Geomatics (one teacher and one student) in the BoS of the Faculty A+BE. This BoS covered 5 different programmes (at both the BSc and MSc levels, on different topics, and having different teaching languages (Dutch and English)). The general feeling was that since the program MSc Geomatics is different from the other ones, a specific BoS that would address the particularities of the MSc Geomatics programme would be better for ensuring that the quality of the Geomatics education stays high.

We therefore present the activities and advices we gave during the period 2023-01-01 to 2023-08-30.

2 Members of the BoS for the academic year 2022-2023

Teachers:

- Hugo Ledoux (chair, teacher)
- Clara García-Sánchez (teacher)
- Martijn Meijers (teacher)
- Azarakhsh Rafiee (teacher)

Students:

- Dimitrios Mantas (chair, student)
- Carolin Bachert (student)
- Oliver Post (student)
- Siebren Meines (student)

Secretary

- Martine de Jong-Lansbergen (secretary)

Listeners

- Mirjam Albertz-Paalvast (A+BE educational advisor, quality of education)
- Bastiaan van Loenen (Director of Studies MSc Geomatics)

3 Overview of advices and improvements

3.1 Evaluation of courses

We discussed the official evaluations of the courses (made by the A+BE faculty) and took the initiative to add evaluations, done by the students, for every course each year (since these made by the faculty are every 3-4 years). These extra evaluations will be shorter than the official ones, but we believe that this will help keep an overview on the quality of the courses.

We also decided to add one evaluation after the first year of the programme is completed, we believe this gives a better idea of the coherence and the potential gaps in the programme. This will be also carried out by the students of the programme.

3.2 Visibility and communication

The BoS made a webpage on the MSc Geomatics Brightspace environment (an intranet for staff and students) listing the members and the tasks of the BoS.

3.3 Plan to improve the IT-skills of students

We discussed in several meetings that several students are struggling with IT-skills (programming, accessing servers, using complex libraries, etc) and discussed how to improve this. On 2023-02-21 we discussed an IT-competence plan and looked into the possibility to add a course introducing these skills into the programme.

While it was judged important, adding a new mandatory course to an already full programme was deemed too complex and the solution of teaching those skills in a special 2-day course was proposed and accepted by the Director of Studies.

This resulted in the so-called *geogeeks workshop* (<https://tudelft3d.github.io/geogeeks/>) that was held on 2023-11-13/14 for the new students, all normal education was cancelled during those days. Several teachers and staff from the faculty joined effort to prepare the material and supervise the workshops.

3.4 Communication and information

The fact that MSc Geomatics students can take several courses outside the A+BE faculty has brought some confusion to students: what course can they take? When? Etc.

This has been discussed and reported to the Director of Studies, and better information, on the Brightspace intranet, for the electives and the JIP-project have been added.

We also discussed the entry requirements regarding programming (this discussion was also added as a topic in the coming education visitation in May 2024), and we tried to improve the communication to potential future students about this by sending extra emails.

4 Other relevant information

During our first year, the BoS did not invite the A+BE Director of Education (MaartenJan Hoekstra) to attend one or two of its meetings, but we will do so during the 2024 period. We would like to discuss with him the alignment of electives with other A+BE MSc programmes.