

# ANNUAL REPORT BOARD OF STUDIES MSC APPLIED GEOPHYSICS 2023-2024

TU Delft  
ETH Zürich  
RWTH Aachen

## Introduction

This annual report of the Board of Studies Applied Geophysics provides an overview of the actions of the Board during the academic year 2023-2024. This review serves to inform people and bodies within Delft University of Technology, ETH Zürich and RWTH Aachen concerned with the program about the status of recent and ongoing items within the Board of Studies. This document also gives new members of the Applied Geophysics program insight into recent and ongoing items, and it supports the progress of actions in the coming year.

The Board of Studies Applied Geophysics is a committee that actively, and in a constructive-critical manner, works to ensure the highest quality of education in the Master Applied Geophysics. The Board of Studies is a formal committee under the Dutch law (*see Annex 1: Formal tasks of the Board*). The Board interacts regularly with lecturers, students, the Joint Examination Board, Education & Student Affairs, and the Program Coordinator and Director of Studies.

## Members Board of Studies Applied Geophysics

The Board of Studies consists of six members: three staff members and three student members. The following members were involved in the academic year 2023-2024:

### Staff members:

Evert Slob (Chair, TU Delft)  
Florian Wagner (RWTH Aachen)  
Cédric Schmelzbach (ETH Zürich)

### Student members:

Jordi Gómez Jodar  
Malte Schade  
Carleyn den Ouden

The Board of Studies was supported by the Secretary to the Board, Nazli Can (Program Coordinator Applied Earth Sciences). Deyan Draganov is the Director of Studies.

## Important items 2023-2024

In 2023-2024 the Board had twelve meetings, regarding the following subjects:

1. Housing issues
2. Evaluation of the education
3. Advertising the program
4. TER and annex master Applied Geophysics
5. Grade transfer between universities
6. Ambassador program

### 1. Housing issues

The housing issue in Delft has a negative impact on the choice of thesis project proposals from Delft. The Director of Studies, Deyan Draganov, did have contact with the rector about this. Unfortunately, the TU Delft cannot interfere or arrange something with the housing company DUWO. It seems to be an ongoing issue. There is also a problem with overlapping house contracts; sometimes students need to pay double. Fortunately, TU Delft International office has agreed to make the necessary reservations for the non-Dutch students who want to do their master thesis work at TU Delft.

### 2. Evaluation of the education

During 2023-2024, the Board of Studies Applied Geophysics evaluated the education after and during every quarter.

The Board proposed points for improvement for the JMAG courses at TU Delft, on for example providing pre-study material and having more balance between the amount of reading material and lectures.

The Board also monitored how RWTH Aachen made improvements in response to the feedback. The semester in Aachen went well, the Board observed that the students had positive feedback. There were some critical points on the alignment of the modules that are offered at RWTH Aachen. In response to this, there will be a new module which will fill the gaps in the links.

The semester in ETH Zurich went well, the evaluations are done every other year. This year, there were no evaluations. But ETH Zurich is in contact with the students and might involve them in smaller questionnaires. The student members of the BoS also expressed that there were no major complaints.

### 3. Advertising the program

To react to the low number of students that started in 2023, to revise current promotional activities and adapt to new communication channels, and to keep the programme attractive by adjusting to changing activity fields and the perception of Applied Geophysics, the JMAG management decided to reach out to IDEA League for financial support for an extensive promotional campaign. One of the efforts was establishing JMAG's LinkedIn and Instagram channels, where information about the programme and events is posted regularly. Furthermore, we are revising all promotional material, and a new promotional video will be created soon in collaboration with the marketing strategy and communication company Walvis & Mosmans, which is already advising IDEA League.

### 4. TER and annex master Applied Geophysics

For each TU Delft (TUD) program, the dean must establish the teaching and examination regulations (hereinafter: TER) before the start of each new academic year. The TER contains the current procedures, and rights and obligations regarding education and examinations. Section 7.13 of the WHW (Dutch Law on Higher Education) describes the minimum components that must be included.

Part of the TER is a program specific Annex. The main purpose of the Annex is to establish the curriculum for the upcoming cohort of students.

The BoS Applied Geophysics was asked if they had suggestions on the proposed TER and annex MSc Applied Geophysics 24-25 and if they approve the TER and annex. The Board gave their input on the

proposed TER and annex, which was published on the TU Delft website.

#### **5. Grade transfer between universities**

The student members of the BoS Applied Geophysics mentioned that there are issues with the grade transfer between universities. The procedure is that ETH and RWTH will send the grades to TU Delft. For the cohort this works fine after the first round of exams. When individual students take the exam at a second moment or do a resit, the grades do not always get sent on time. Sometimes, TU Delft level gets grades from ETH and RWTH: Sometimes students hand in a ToR (Transcript of Records). This explains why some grades are earlier than others in Osiris and MyStudyPlanning (MSP). Different review deadlines for lecturers apply at the different universities. The individual program of each student needs to be approved. For the academic year 2024-2025, the Board will keep a close eye on the timely transfer of grades.

#### **6. Ambassador program**

Because the ambassador system works well, the Board agrees that the program does not need a mentoring system.

It would be good to have a local ambassador at every university. This could also be a staff member or a PhD student at that university. During 2023-2024, the BoS Applied Geophysics contacted several people to ask them to fulfil the role of ambassador for the MSc Applied Geophysics program.

### **Attention points for 2024-2025**

1. Evaluation of the education
2. Advertisement program
3. Grade transfer between universities

## **Annex 1: Formal Tasks of the Board**

The tasks of the Board of Studies are described in the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW, Article 9.18). These tasks are:

1. To exercise its right of approval of the Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER) of each of the three MSc programs of the faculty insofar as these regulations concern: (a) the way in which the teaching in the program is evaluated, (b) the contents of the program, (c) the final attainment levels of the program, (d) the organization of practical exercises, insofar as necessary, (e) the study load of the program and of its components, (f) the assessment of whether the program exceeds a size of 60 EC, and (g) the way students are selected for the tracks of the program, insofar as the program has tracks.
2. To advise on the TER concerning all remaining aspects.
3. To annually assess how the TER has been implemented.
4. To advise the Program Directors of the three MSc programs and the Dean on all matters that concern the teaching in the three MSc programs.