

August 2026



Programme Catalogue 2026-2027

Master of Science

Geographical Information Management
and Applications (joined-degree)



Delft University of Technology TUD
University of Twente (UT)
Utrecht University (UU)
Wageningen University (WU)

Preface

This 2026-2027 GIMA Programme Catalogue describes the Master of Science programme 'Geographical Information Management and Applications' (GIMA). This program is the joint degree between Delft University of Technology, University of Twente - ITC, Utrecht University, and Wageningen University.

The catalogue starts with an insight into the GIMA organization and some practical information. The programme has a modular structure and uses a blended learning concept. Blended learning means a mixture of periods of face-to-face contact and distance education. The face-to-face periods are required periods of attendance, so please keep an eye on the overview with the required periods of attendance for the current year.

The first section of the catalogue (Part I: GIMA General Information) gives an overview of the programme, its structure, and provides some practical information. During the programme, each module coordinator will provide you with a detailed module study guide via Brightspace. The GIMA Brightspace site <https://uu.brightspace.com/> will always offer the most up-to-date information and overrules information provided in this document. Part I further presents GIMA staff, the venues – including route descriptions – and some frequently asked questions and answers.

The formal rights and obligations related to the programme follow in Part II: GIMA Education and Examination Regulations.

Hopefully, this GIMA Programme Catalogue provides you with answers to the most important questions you have as a student concerning your GIMA studies. For additional questions and remarks, please do not hesitate to contact the GIMA Education Coordinator(gima.geo@uu.nl) or the GIMA Programme Director directly.

Good luck and enjoy the GIMA studies!

Lukasz Grus
GIMA Programme Director
gima_pd@uu.nl

Address:

*Postal address: Utrecht University, Faculty of Geosciences P.O. Box 80.115, 3508 TC Utrecht

*Visiting address: Utrecht University, Faculty of Geosciences, Vening Meinesz Building A, Princetonlaan 8a, 3584 CB Utrecht

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Part I: GIMA General Information

General information

This chapter gives an overview of the organisation and administrative structure of the GIMA studies and student facilities.

GIMA Management

The management of GIMA consists of a Programme Board, a Programme Director, a Programme Committee, an Admission Committee and a Board of Examiners. The GIMA Education Coordinator supports their functions. The contact details for the members mentioned hereafter can be found in the staff information section.

Programme Board

Prof. Dr. Ir. Peter van Oosterom (TUD, Chair)
Dr. Marco Helbich (UU)
Prof. Dr. Raul Zurita-Milla (UT-ITC)
Prof. Dr. Ir. Sytze de Bruin (WUR)

Programme Director

Dr. Ir. Lukasz Grus (WUR)

Programme Committee

The Programme Committee consists of minimally four staff members and four student members.

Members:

Gerald Mollenhorst (Technical Chair)
Bastiaan van Loenen (TUD)
Frank Osterman (UT)
Erica Speelman (Jennifer Koch) (WUR)
Maarten Zeylmans van Emmichoven (UU)

Emma Melis (student cohort 2025)
Pelin Erginer (student cohort 2025)
2x Vacancy (student cohort 2026)

Admission Committee

Dr. Ir. Lukasz Grus (WUR)

GIMA Education coordinator

Sylvie Kersten

Any questions regarding this Programme Catalogue or other facets of GIMA may be directed to the GIMA education coordinator via e-mail: gima.geo@uu.nl.

Board of Examiners

The Board of Examiners can be contacted to request certain approvals e.g. for exemptions, substitutions, your study programme, or to take additional courses outside the Faculty of Geosciences. Send an email from your UU-email address (include your name, study programme and student number) to examencommissie.geo@uu.nl.

GIMA website: <https://students.uu.nl/en/geo/gima>

Student facilities

As a GIMA student, you are registered at all four universities. Utrecht University (UU) is the coordinating university. This means that all administration, registration of marks, study progress and information about graduation is done there. Also, the facilities of the Faculty of Geosciences of UU (and those of other partner universities) are accessible for GIMA students. Most questions regarding UU facilities can be addressed at: <https://www.uu.nl/en/organisation/faculty-of-geosciences/about-the-faculty/organisation/faculty-office> both English and Dutch).

Library

As a GIMA student, you are entitled to the use of the library of the Utrecht University, TU Delft, the University of Twente and Wageningen University. Please consult the websites of libraries of all 4 universities for detailed information about opening hours and available services.

Study Advisor

Since the GIMA coordinating university is Utrecht, the GIMA Study Advisor is based here as well. The Study Advisor can advise you on all (study-related) matters. Please also check <https://students.uu.nl/en/geo/gima/contact/study-advisor> how to make an appointment.

- Email address: studieadviseur.sgpl@uu.nl
- Phone number: +31 (0)30 253 3739

Housing

Students who plan on staying in the Netherlands for the entire duration of the programme can request to arrange housing via the international office of UU (international.geo@uu.nl) or via the [website](#). But arranging housing yourself somewhere else in the Netherlands is also possible.

Social life

NODE

NODE is the student association of GIMA. NODE was founded in 2015 by a group of GIMA students. NODE wants to create and become part of a network between (GIMA) students, alumni, and external parties. In order to do this, it has created several objectives. It strives to improve communication, integration and interaction between students in different GIMA years. Additionally, it wants to create a foundation for informal social interaction between GIMA students by organising social activities during the GIMA contact weeks. On top of that, it wants to establish a network between GI master students in the Netherlands and beyond. NODE can be contacted via email address: gima-node@uu.nl.

Erasmus Student Network

International students staying in the Netherlands during the entire GIMA programme receive information about the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) together with their acceptance letter. This will help students to overcome any cultural differences and to establish a social network in the Netherlands. Also, Utrecht has a very active entity of the European Geography Association for students and young geographers (EGEA), which organises a lot of extra-curricular activities.

Computers & computer facilities

Due to the blended-learning nature of the GIMA Master programme, all students are required to have a laptop, starting their first day at GIMA in September, which meets the requirements stated below in order to properly execute the software used during the master. Software that is required for all GIMA participants will be provided. Microsoft Office is also required. Once you have been registered at the Utrecht University, you can download it for free [via this URL](#).

It is also important to mention that service and computer help at the universities, as well as most of the software needed during the master course, is based around Windows operating systems. Although you are free to make your choice of laptops, you need to be aware that services and software often might not work for, for instance, a Mac.

Hardware and operating system requirements

We recommend choosing a computer with system requirements similar to those listed for the most common GIS software requirements such as:

- <https://qgis-windows.github.io/system-requirements.html>
- <https://doc.esri.com/en/arcgis-pro/latest/get-started/arcgis-pro-system-requirements.html>

Computers available at the universities

It is also possible to get access to computers in the labs of the different universities. At Utrecht University, computers with GIS software can be accessed. The GIS-lab in Utrecht is located in the Vening Meinesz Building A (Princetonlaan 8a). Login for the GIS-lab can be obtained via Maarten Zeylmans Van Emmichoven (m.j.zeylmansvanemmichoven@uu.nl).

Registration of marks: Osiris (accessible via www.osiris.universiteitutrecht.nl)

Osiris is the education registration system of Utrecht University for student information, marks, study progress and course registration. Via the Internet, you can log in and see your **official marks**. For login you have to use your UU student number and password.

Brightspace (accessible via <https://uu.brightspace.com>)

Brightspace is the education platform used by Utrecht University to share information about the programme and modules content. It will be used extensively in GIMA. Via the Internet you can log in with the username (student number) and password you have received from UU. This system will be used for all GIMA modules; here you can find information on the modules, lectures, a discussion board, the most current regulations, etc. It is also used for communication between staff and students, either via email or announcements in the GIMA General Information community on Brightspace. This contains information that is not specific for a particular GIMA module. Amongst others, the timetables of the contact days are published here. The Programme Catalogue is also accessible via the GIMA General Information community.

Each module of GIMA has its own Brightspace space. The naming convention is as follows: [Course year] [module number] / [module name] / [exam code]. This means that each year, a new Brightspace module will be created for every module. The only exceptions to this rule are module 7 (Thesis) and 8 (Internship). These remain the same every year, but are continuously updated. All registered GIMA course participants have access to Brightspace modules 7 and 8 (right from the start of the GIMA programme), where you can find, for instance, all GIMA theses which have been produced over the past 15 years, newly suggested thesis research topics plus an overview of the current GIMA thesis researchers and their topics, and internship options.

If you don't have access to a certain module, you may contact the GIMA Education Coordinator at gima.geo@uu.nl.

Student mail

As a GIMA student, you receive an email account from Utrecht. As the UU account is linked to Brightspace, **this UU email account will always be used for communication between students and GIMA staff**. To prevent missing any important information, it is advised to automatically forward emails from the UU to

your personal email address.

Staff mail

As a joint programme across four universities, members of all four universities make up the GIMA staff. When trying to reach a member of staff, you should use **their primary institutional email**.

Student Service Centre

GIMA students can turn to [Student Affairs](#) of the Faculty of Geosciences of Utrecht University for information, advice and services on studying. Student Affairs is located at Budapestlaan 4a-b, Utrecht. Also, you can submit questions regarding admission requirements and registration via studentaffairs.geo@uu.nl.

Surfspot

You are entitled to buy software at a discount at Surfspot (<https://www.surfspot.nl>). For login, use your UU student account.

Other Practical Information

Completion of MSc GIMA programme

Upon completion of the GIMA programme, you can apply for graduation by filling in the exam registration form, which you will receive from the UU exam administration office. You can use the form to indicate how you would like to receive your diploma: at an official graduation ceremony, or you can collect it yourself at Student Affairs Geosciences.

Wait with de-registering until you have received a confirmation! All information about graduation can be found on the students website: <http://students.uu.nl/en/geo/gima/practical-information/graduation>

Termination of the MSc GIMA Programme

If, for some reason, you choose to stop with GIMA while you have not finished the entire programme, you should inform the Programme Director. Before you make this decision we advise you to contact the [study advisor](#) first.

Tuition fee refund

It is possible to get a refund of part of your tuition fee if you finish the MSc programme before the end of the academic year. You are advised to have a look at the [Financial matters - Students UU - Students UU](#) website; the steps required to stop with GIMA and possibly have a refund of tuition fees are all described there.

Required periods of attendance


GIMA
 Global Innovation Management Association

GIMA Schedule 2026-2027

Week	Date	Activity	Where
36	Monday, 31 August 2026	GIMA Introduction	ITC/UT Enschede
	Tuesday, 01 September 2026		
	Wednesday, 02 September 2026		
	Thursday, 03 September 2026		
	Friday, 04 September 2026		
37	Monday, 07 September 2026	Module 1 start	
	Tuesday, 08 September 2026	Module 4 start	
	Wednesday, 09 September 2026		
	Thursday, 10 September 2026		
	Friday, 11 September 2026		
38-48	Distance Learning		
49	Monday, 30 November 2026	Module 1 end	Utrecht University
	Tuesday, 01 December 2026	Module 4 end	
	Wednesday, 02 December 2026		
	Thursday, 03 December 2026		
50	Friday, 04 December 2026	Module 2 start	
	Monday, 07 December 2026	Module 5 start	
	Tuesday, 08 December 2026		
	Wednesday, 09 December 2026		
	Thursday, 10 December 2026		
Friday, 11 December 2026			
51	Distance Learning		
52-53	No Teaching		
1-10	Distance Learning		
11	Monday, 15 March 2027	Module 2 end	Wageningen University
	Tuesday, 16 March 2027	Module 5 end	
	Wednesday, 17 March 2027		
	Thursday, 18 March 2027		
	Friday, 19 March 2027		
12	Monday, 22 March 2027	Module 6 start	
	Tuesday, 23 March 2027		
	Wednesday, 24 March 2027		
	Thursday, 25 March 2027		
	Friday, 26 March 2027	Good Friday - no activity	
13-24	Distance Learning		
25	Monday, 21 June 2027	Module 3 end	TU Delft
	Tuesday, 22 June 2027	Module 6 end	
	Wednesday, 23 June 2027		
	Thursday, 24 June 2027		
	Friday, 25 June 2027	Module 7 and 8: introduction	
26	Monday, 28 June 2027	Preparing for Module 7 and 8	Self study
	Tuesday, 29 June 2027		
	Wednesday, 30 June 2027		
	Thursday, 01 July 2027		
	Friday, 02 July 2027		

*Midterm presentations, thesis defenses, graduation ceremony (Thursday week 37, 49, 11, 25)

Reserve day for midterm presentations and thesis defenses (Wednesday week 37, 49, 11, 25)

The Programme

Content

There are a number of special features that give the GIMA programme a unique character: a large part of the programme is offered as distance learning. Only the first and the last week of each module are classroom learning. The remaining time, you will work from your home, campus or office, whether in the Netherlands or somewhere else. The interactivity will be guaranteed by the use of electronic communication (Brightspace e-learning environment, Microsoft Teams, and other means), by which you regularly interact with your teachers and fellow students. The use of various ICT means and didactic tools adds to the attractiveness of the programme.

The programme has a high degree of flexibility and “knowledge on demand”. The programme is developed in co- cooperation between four renowned universities, each with its own tradition:

- Utrecht University (UU), with a focus on geography and planning;
- Delft University of Technology (TUD), with a focus on the legal, organisational and technical aspects of geo- geo-information handling with an emphasis on large-scale applications;
- University of Twente (Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation) (UT-ITC), with a focus on technical and application-oriented courses, all dealing with GIS and Remote Sensing, mainly for developing countries;
- Wageningen University (WUR), with a focus on geo-information items related to land use, agricultural and environmental applications.

The different approaches of the four universities will provide you with an optimal mix of GI knowledge and skills.

The programme is offered in a full-time mode of 2 years (study load approx. 40 hrs per week) and a part-time mode of 4 years (study load approx. 20 hrs per week).

Aim and learning outcomes

The aim of this inter-university MSc-GIMA programme is to educate suitable candidates to become highly skilled and all-round geo-information managers and/or application specialists. Therefore, the candidates will be introduced into the theoretical, methodological, technological, and organisational principles of working with geographical information (GI), together with the use of GI-technology in spatial applications. The learning outcomes are described below.

The graduate is able to:

DOMAIN SPECIFIC

1. Identify and understand geo-information concepts, methods and techniques.
2. Use appropriate concepts, methods and techniques for the management and application of geo-information.
3. Analyse the quality and usability of geo-information processes.
4. Evaluate solutions for societal problems by applying knowledge of geo-information.
5. Design and implement proof-of-concept geo-information-based solutions for societal problems.

SCIENTIFIC

1. Independently formulate and execute research in accordance with academic standards within the field.
2. Communicate clearly (both orally and in writing) with specialists and non-specialists to present and discuss the outcomes of research and design projects.
3. Show awareness of the need to keep in touch with relevant developments within the discipline and show the ability to recognise, understand and apply new concepts and approaches as they emerge.
4. Demonstrate understanding of the moral and ethical dimensions of scientific research and its applications, and the importance of intellectual integrity.

GENERAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Effectively organize, structure and plan phases in multidisciplinary teamwork.
2. Critically reflect on own performance and results, as well as on those of colleagues.
3. Design and plan a path to study in Geo-Information Science in a manner that is largely self-directed or autonomous.

Labour market perspectives

The MSc-GIMA programme aims at educating students to become all-round managers of geo-information or all-round geo-information application specialists. They will work in the private sector (utilities, oil companies, geo-marketing, consulting), the public sector (research institutes, municipalities, central and regional government services) and all combinations of these two. In recent years the demand for managers and application specialists in geo-information on the professional GIS market increased enormously.

With the MSc programme Geographical Information Management and Applications (GIMA) you can qualify for these professions, as you will acquire:

- Knowledge and skills of management; 'how to manage geo-information (projects/organisations),
- Knowledge of geo-information application fields; 'where to apply geo-information',
- Technological and methodological geo-information skills; 'how to use geo-information technology'

Programme Structure

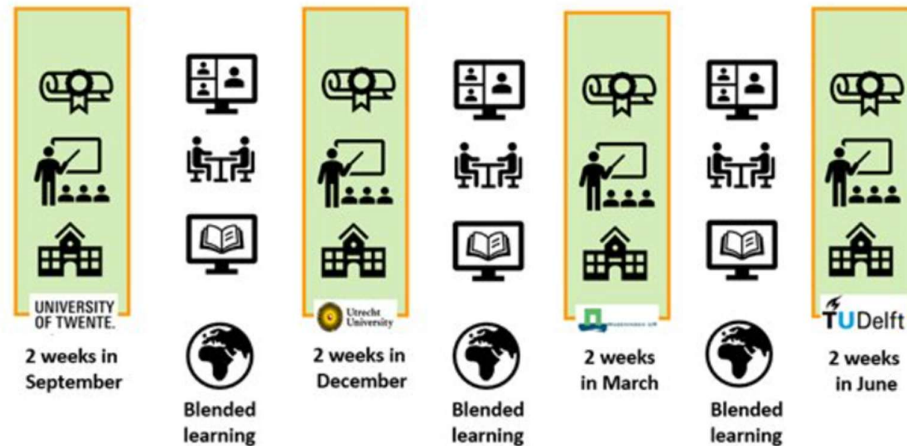
The programme can be followed full-time or part-time.

The programme consists of six modules: 1) basic GI-methods and techniques; 2) basic GI-applications; 3) management in organisations; 4) management of GI-projects; 5) advanced GI-methods and techniques; 6) advanced GI- applications. Thereafter the MSc-GIMA programme consists of an MSc-thesis and an internship.

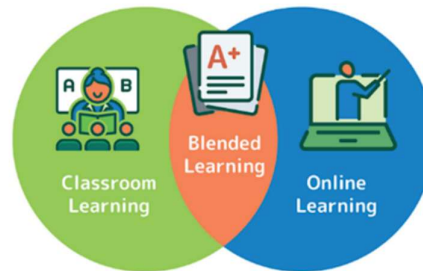
half-time	week 35	week 35-49	week 49-13	week 13-26	full-time
year 1	introduction	module 1 methods and techniques	module 2 basic applications	module 3 management in organisations	year 1
year 2		module 4 project management	module 5 advanced meth. and techniques	module 6 advanced applications	
year 3	MSc - thesis				year 2
year 4	internship				

Blended learning

The GIMA programme is built on blended learning. That means most of the time you can study wherever works best for you, whether at home or at one of the four participating universities. We kick off each module with two weeks of live sessions that you are expected to attend in person. These on-campus sessions feature lectures, mid term presentations, assignments and explanations of the upcoming program activities. The next ~ 12 weeks are devoted to remote learning, during which you can study under the guidance of our lecturers using our electronic learning environment from any location. You can also choose to study on-campus and work on the (group) assignments there. Each module concludes with on-campus sessions at one of the four universities. In total, you will have four on-campus periods of two weeks during the first year, alternated with four 12-week periods of remote learning.



In the second year you will write your thesis and do internship as at any other classical programme. You can write your thesis from wherever you like consulting your supervisor regularly. And naturally, you must be physically present at the geo-information company or institute when you do an internship.



In the Osiris course catalogue (Utrecht University course system) you will find general information about each GIMA module.

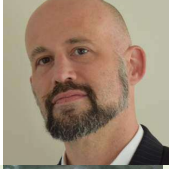
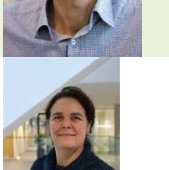
Course code	Title	ECTS-credits
GEO4-GIMA1	Methods and Techniques for Geo-information Management and Application	10.0
GEO4-GIMA2	Basic Geo-information Application Project	10.0
GEO4-GIMA3	Spatial Data Management in Organisations	10.0
GEO4-GIMA4	Introduction to Geo-information Project Management	10.0
GEO4-GIMA5	Advanced Methods and Techniques	10.0
GEO4-GIMA6	Advanced Geo-information Applications	10.0
GEO4-GIMA7	Thesis GIMA	30.0
GEO4-GIMA8	Internship GIMA	30.0
GEO4-GIMA9	Internship GIMA + additional courses	20.0 + 10.0

Evaluations

All GIMA Modules include an evaluation at the end of the module in order to improve the education programme. A specific protocol is being followed. It consists of an anonymous online evaluation survey by students via Caracal, and for some modules, oral student evaluation, for Modules 1-6. Since Modules 7 and 8 divert in nature they will follow their own evaluation procedures. Evaluations are to be discussed in the Programme Committee and published on Brightspace in the General Information community. We strongly encourage students to fill in the Caracal evaluations.

Programme management and main staff information

Institute	Title	Name	Role	Picture	Email
WUR	Prof. Dr	Sytze de Bruin	Programme Board		syitze.debruin@wur.nl
UU	Dr.	Marco Helbich	Programme Board		m.helbich@uu.nl
TUD	Prof. Dr. Ir.	Peter van Oosterom	Programme Board		P.J.M.vanOosterom@tudelft.nl
UT-ITC	Prof. Dr.	Raúl Zurita-Milla	Programme Board		r.zurita-milla@utwente.nl
WUR	Dr. Ir.	Lukasz Grus	Programme Director		gima_pd@uu.nl
UT-ITC	Dr.Ir.	Ellen-Wien Augustijn	Module 1 Coordinator		p.w.m.augustijn@utwente.nl
UU	Dr.	Deyu Li	Module 2 Coordinator		d.li1@uu.nl
TUD	Dr. Ir.	Bas van Loenen	Module 3 Coordinator		B.vanLoenen@tudelft.nl
UU	Dr.	Eric Top	Module 4 Coordinator		e.i.top@uu.nl

UT-ITC	Dr.	Rob Lemmens	Module 5 Coordinator		r.l.g.lemmens@utwente.nl
WUR	Dr. Ir.	Arend Ligtenberg	Module 6 Coordinator		arend.ligtenberg@wur.nl
UT-ITC	Dr.	Frank Ostermann	Module 7 Coordinator		f.o.ostermann@utwente.nl thesis.gima@uu.nl
TUD	Ir.	Edward Verbree	Module 7 Coordinator		E.Verbree@tudelft.nl thesis.gima@uu.nl
WUR	Dr.	Maryam Ghodsvali	Module 8 Coordinator		maryam.ghodsvali@wur.nl internship.gima@uu.nl
TUD	Dr. Ir.	Dr. Ir. Bas van Loenen	Module 8 Coordinator		internship.gima@uu.nl
UU		Sylvie Kersten	GIMA Education Coordinator		gima.geo@uu.nl

Course Venues

University of Twente - ITC

Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth
Observation Hallenweg 8, 7522NH Enschede, Building 19
(Langezijds).

<http://www.itc.nl>

Download the campus app to navigate around campus:

<https://www.utwente.nl/en/service-portal/communication/websites-portals/campusapp>

Route description

<https://www.utwente.nl/en/itc/about-itc/contact/route-and-campus-map/>



Utrecht University

Vening Meinesz Building A Princetonlaan 8a
3584 CB Utrecht

<https://www.uu.nl/organisatie/faculteit-geowetenschappen>

Route description and an interactive map:

<https://www.uu.nl/en/organisation/campus/maps/map-campus-utrecht-science-park>



Wageningen University & Research

Droevendaalsesteeg 3

Building: 102

6708 PB Wageningen The Netherlands

<https://www.wur.nl/en/location/forum-building-102>

Route description

<https://www.wur.nl/en/about-wur/campus-locations>



Delft University of Technology

Delft University of Technology
Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment
Building 8 on the campus map
Julianalaan 134
2628 BL Delft, The Netherlands

Route description

<https://www.tudelft.nl/en/architecture-and-the-built-environment/about-the-faculty/contact-and-map>



FAQ

Where can I see what marks I have?

You can see your marks in the Brightspace or Osiris environment of the specific module. The official marks are sent to the Student Administration of the UU, and will be accessible via Osiris. Please check these marks on Osiris, UU.

I would like to ask for exemption of the GIMA internship. What do I have to do?

Have a look at the GIMA work placement regulations (in the Course Catalogue for the Module 8). There are the conditions needed to substantiate your request. Send the documents plus accompanying letter to the chairman of the Examination Committee.

Where can I reach the chair of the Examination Committee?

GIMA Examination Committee can be contacted under: examencommissie.geo@uu.nl

How do I change my address after moving?

You can do that via <http://www.studielink.nl>.

I want to graduate before a specific date. When do I have to hand-in my internship report?

You have to make agreements with your supervisor on this matter, as he/she will need time to assess your report. The final hand-in dates and the procedures of the UU can be found [here](#).

Can I get software at a discount through one of the four universities?

You can go to [Surfspot](#) and use your login of the Utrecht University to get software at a lower price.

I want to do an ArcGIS web-course. How do I arrange that?

As a student you have free access to the Esri Virtual Campus web courses. For access login with your solis-id to uni-utrecht.maps.arcgis.com (choose solis-id sign in).

At the top right of the screen under your login name, expand the pulldown menu and pick "Training". You will have Free access to the web courses: choose catalog → course catalog. Under "FORMATS" select "Web Courses".

All web courses should be "Free". If they do not show as free, please send an email to m.j.zeijlmansvanemmichoven@uu.nl with your name and solis-id to verify your account details.

Is it possible to go abroad during the GIMA programme?

Yes, you are free to do your internship and/or thesis anywhere you like. You can find more information in the thesis and internship modules on [Brightspace](#). You may also checkout <https://students.uu.nl/en/geo/gima/academics/study-abroad>

Where can I find the year schedule, timetable etc?

You can find these documents on Brightspace under the GIMA General Information Community.

Part II: GIMA regulations (OER)



Education and Examination Regulations for the Master Joint degree Geographical Information Management and Applications

2026-2027

