



Universität
Salzburg

UNIGIS MSc & Diploma Geographic Information Science & Systems

*concepts,
achievements
and
challenges*



Z_GIS

ZENTRUM FÜR GEOINFORMATIK SALZBURG

CENTRE FOR GEOINFORMATICS SALZBURG

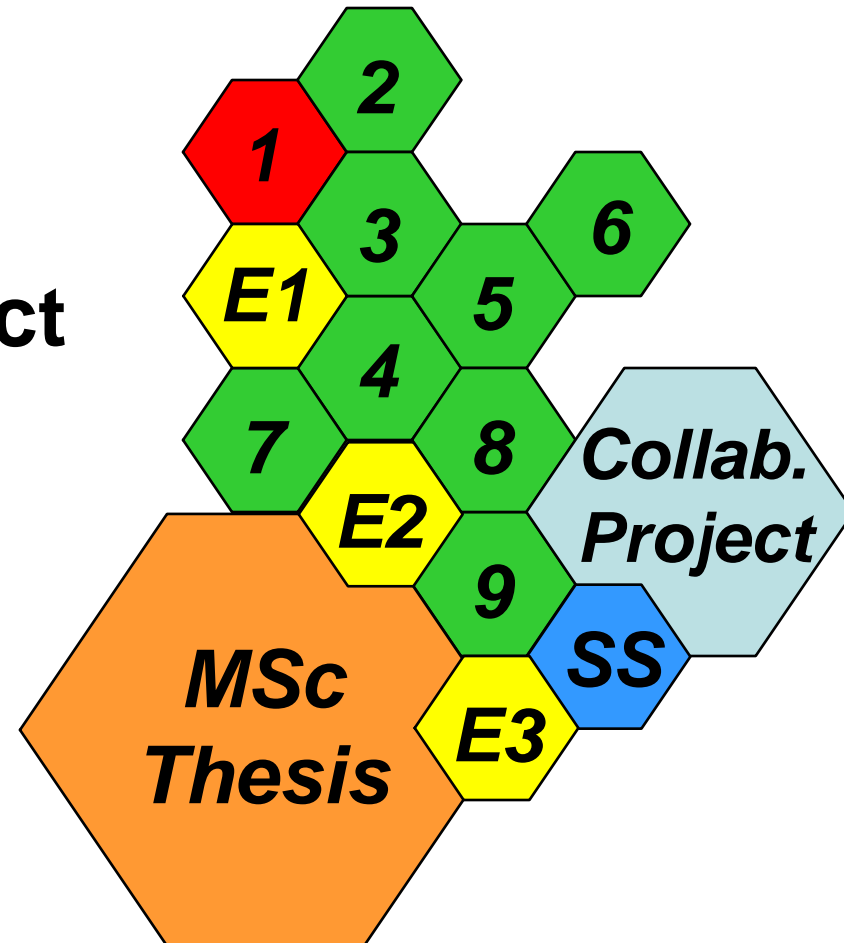


UNIGIS Background

- **ODL program since 15+ years**
- **In-service, continuing education**
- **Now all online**
- **Network of partner institutions**
- **Worldwide, several languages**
- **Thousands of alumni**

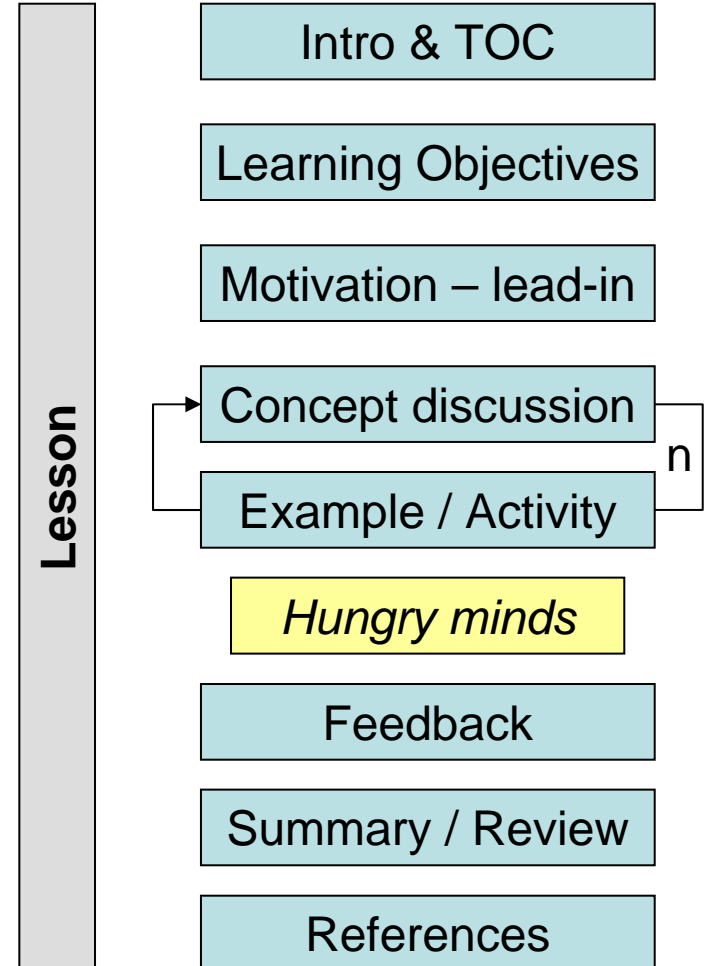
Modular structure

- **9+ Modules**
- **Options / electives**
- **Collaborative project**
- **Master thesis**



Lesson Structure

- **Type of current element and position within lesson needs to be obvious**
- **Of course there can be more optional elements than just *‘Hungry minds’***
- **Feedback: quiz, exercise, assignment**





Challenges

- **Level of prior studies**
- **Experience with postgrad education**
- **Mix of academic cultures**
- **Prerequisites**
- **Language skills**
- **Computer access&skills for eLearning**
- **Scheduling**

- **‚Right‘ from the beginning**
- **Difficult to change**
- **Adjust for a variety of regions?**
 - Cost for central elements
- **Scalable?**
 - *Fixed*: development&update, platform, mgmt
 - *Variable/local*: instruction, support, ...
- **Critical factor for sustainability!**



Language

- **An issue in international settings**
- **Learning materials vs support**
- **Software language environments**
- **Exam language**
- **Related to QA**



Online learning environments

- **Learning materials**
 - Use of a ‚learning platform‘
- **Communication**
 - Critical success factor!
 - Supervising, advising, tutoring
 - Mutual support, group work



Learning as a Social Activity

- **Building communities**
 - During coursework
 - Alumni
- **Study groups (some virtual)**
- **Synchronous course elements**
- **Collaborative assignments**
- **Lifelong Learning**

Worldwide Study Centres

- **Z_GIS is offering**
 - Materials, Software
 - Teacher Training and Certification
 - Second Level Support
 - Formal Qualifications
- **Regional Study Centre**
 - Student Advising and Registration
 - Instruction and Assessment

Elements of Inter-Institutional Collaboration

- **Curriculum and Syllabus**
- **Media and Materials (some)**
- **Branding and Communication**
- **ODL Pedagogy**
- **Technology Assessment**
- **Quality Management**



Certification

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- **Certification vs Accreditation vs Licensing**
- **Competence Orientation**
- **Knowledge vs Skills (Communication!)**
- **Professional vs Academic Bodies**
- **Benchmark Standards?**
- **Expiry? ... LLL!**

- **Process vs Outcome Orientation**
- **Accreditation of Study Centre**
- **„complete feedback cycles“**
- **Standardisation ...**
- **Academic Integrity**
- **Continuous Quality Management**



UNIGIS

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The Global Virtual University for GIScience ...



... Educating GIS Professionals Worldwide!

Z GIS

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UNIGIS: Global Network

- **Cooperation in development of curricula, media and general innovation**
- **Exchange in GIScience and eLearning**
- **Mutual recognition of degrees and credits (ECTS)**
- **Contributions to international curricula and standards development**
- **The only sustained international program!**

Education via Internet:

- „just in case“
- „just in time“
- „just for myself



*anytime * anywhere **
anybody



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10 Golden Rules for UNIGIS

- 1. Be clear about your own aims!**
- 2. Develop your own personal learning strategy!**
- 3. Learn together!**
- 4. Implement a suitable and realistic schedule! („jour fixe“?)**
- 5. Pursue „Active Learning“!**



10 Golden Rules for UNIGIS

- 6. Get used to working online!**
- 7. Ask questions right away, be specific about problems!**
- 8. Seek out professional ,overlap‘!**
- 9. Develop a LifeLongLearning strategy and framework!**
- 10. Have fun with learning!**



Success through *active* participation!

