WAT Survey 2023

This WAT Survey focuses on your first year of study at our WAT Master's Programme, including our own common and advanced courses.

The survey includes four parts:

A) Background information, including the amount of credits you have done as well as possible working during the studies

B) The expertise gained during your WAT studies, divided into knowldge, skills, and identity skills

C) Your views on the WAT Course in the 1st period, and on the portfolio and mentoring process

D) Your experiences and feedback on the entire WAT Master's Programme.

Responding to the survey takes approximately 1 hour, and particularly the part about your expertise (knowledge, skills, identity skills) requires some serious thinking: please be prepared for this. For the same reason, we recommend you to first write your responses into a separate document, and then copy-pasting them into this survey.

The final page of the survey allows you also to view and save your responses: you can also choose to edit/update them still.

We have planned the survey questions so that they help you to reflect your learning. Thus, this survey also supports planning your further studies and we encourage you to use your responses when revising your portfolio (so please do save them for yourself, too).

In addition, your answers will help us to understand how well the programme is working and what you learned during its first year. This information is critically important to develop the programme further. We may also use the survey answers for research purposes.

The survey is anonymous.

Thank you for your responses!

A. Background information

(Kindly note that all the answering options may not be visible automatically in your view: use the slider to move left/right)

1. Your previous degree (before WAT Master's Programme) is from: *

○ Aalto University ○ Other Finnish university ○ Finnish university of applied sciences ○ International university

2. The approximate number of credits you have achieved during the first year in WAT Master's Programme: *

○ 0-20   ○ 20-40   ○ 40-50   ○ 50-60   ○ 60-70   ○ >70

3. Please, elaborate shortly on the number of your credits: Why have you studied this amount of courses, and are you satisfied with it? Does the number of credits correspond the planned amount? Why/why not? *

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4. Have you worked during your studies? *

○ Yes   ○ No

5. Please, select the option that best describes your working, and specify in the text box: *

○ Temporary, short-term job. When did you start and finish this work (month/year), and how many hours/week was it: _____

○ Regular, part-time, 1-10 hours/week. When did you start this work (month/year): _____

○ Regular, part-time, 10-20 hours/week: When did

○ you start this work (month/year):

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○ Regular, part-time, > 20 hours/week. When did you
start this work (month/year):

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○ Full-time, 36-40 hours/week. When did you start
this work (month/year):

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6. Is your work related to WAT field? *

○ Yes. Please specify:

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○ No. Please specify:

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7. Has your work affected your studies (benefited/hindered)? Please specify your answer(s) to the text box after your answer(s). *

☐ Has benefited my studies

_____

☐ Has hindered my studies

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☐ Has not affected my studies

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B. My own expertise: knowledge, skills and identity skills

In this section we will focus on what your have learned during your first year, and what kind of expertise this has provided you with. Your expertise is discussed in following two parts, so please specify your answer according to those:

1. KNOWLEDGE, questions 8-9 = information about a certain field/issue

2. SKILLS and IDENTITY SKILLS, Q 10-11 = skills refer to a specific set of practical tools and methods you have learned and that give you specific expertise (e.g. GIS, modelling, governance analysis), while identity skills are more general working life skills that everyone must have (e.g. group working skills, critical thinking).

KNOWLEDGE

8. What are the most central pieces of knowledge you have learned during your first year of studies, and why do you consider those important? *

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9. Is there some knowledge you expected/wanted to get but did not get? What is it, and why you did not get it during your studies? *

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SKILLS and IDENTITY SKILLS

10. What are 1) the key skills (practical tools and methods), and 2) the key identity skills (working life skills, values, attitudes) you have learned during your first year of studies, and why you consider those important? *

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11. Are there some 1) skills and/or 2) identity skills you expected/wanted to learn but did not? What they are, and why you did not learn those during your studies? *

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C. WAT Course, Portfolio process and academic mentoring

12. WAT programme has special structure, with only 15 credits of common courses i.e. the WAT Course. Such a structure has three main aims:

1) to provide you with a comprehensive set of knowledge and skills in just one period (WAT Course), thus facilitating choosing your individual study path,

2) to help you to learn to know your fellow students and to work as a group (during WAT Course), and

3) to allow you to start individual study paths already in the 2nd period.

On the other hand, such a structure means that WAT Course is very intensive and includes a variety of themes.

Given these aims, how do you feel the WAT Course concept worked? How would you change it? *

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13. Our WAT portfolio and mentoring process includes:

1) Writing the Personal Learning Portfolio
2) Meetings with your peer group and your mentor

How do you feel this process works? Do you find it beneficial? What could be left out? How would you improve the portfolio process so that it would have more relevance for your learning and career planning? *

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14. How well did the portfolio & mentoring process facilitate you to think about your learning and to select suitable courses? *

	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Not at all *	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	It was the best tool ever

15. The objective of the WAT mentor group (formed at the beginning of your studies) is to provide you a peer support, and also to gain understanding on the diverse expertise you have due to your different backgrounds. Do you

think these objectives were met? Why/why not? How do you generally view the WAT mentor group? *

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16. Do you feel you are starting to establish your own professional profile / identity in water and environmental engineering field? Why / why not *

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D. General feedback for the Master's Programme

This last section focuses on your feedback about the whole WAT Master's Programme.

17. How satisfied are you with the WAT Master's Programme as a whole? *

○ Not at all satisfied　　○ Only little satisfied　　○ Somewhat satisfied　　○ Very satisfied　　○ Extremely satisfied

18. How satisfied are you with the teachers and teaching methods as a whole? *

○ Not at all satisfied　　○ Only little satisfied　　○ Somewhat satisfied　　○ Very satisfied　　○ Extremely satisfied

19. Please, elaborate on your previous responses shortly:

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20. Teaching practices and platforms: How did you experience the usage of different digital platforms (MyCourses, Teams, Zoom, MIRO, etc.) and possible hybrid teaching arrangements in the WAT programme? What worked well and what should have been done differently? *

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21. During the whole academic year, have you been able to receive help and support from WAT staff members? *

| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Never - it has been very difficult *	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	Always - it has been very easy and effortless

22. What do you think should be changed in the WAT Master's Programme? Why? *

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23. What are the things we should maintain in the programme, and why? In other words, what is already working well in the programme? *

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24. Has the master's programme met your expectations (you can choose several options)? *

☐ Yes, why?

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☐ No, why?

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25. Any other comments or greetings?

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