

## Environmental Risk Assessment (1002606)

**Cursusomvang** *(nominale waarden; effectieve waarden kunnen verschillen per opleiding)*

**Studiepunten 5.0** **Studietijd 150 u**

**Aanbodsessies en werkvormen in academiejaar 2024-2025**

A (semester 1)	Engels	Gent	hoorcollege groepswerk werkcollege practicum
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**Lesgevers in academiejaar 2024-2025**

De Schamphelaere, Karel	LA22	Verantwoordelijk lesgever
Asselman, Jana	LA22	Medelesgever
Janssen, Colin	LA22	Medelesgever
Verougstraete, Violaine	LA22	Medelesgever

**Aangeboden in onderstaande opleidingen in 2024-2025**

	stptn	aanbodsessie
<a href="#">Bachelor of Science in Environmental Technology</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering (afstudeerrichting Control Engineering and Automation)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering (afstudeerrichting Electrical Power Engineering)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering (afstudeerrichting Maritime Engineering)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering (afstudeerrichting Mechanical Construction)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering (afstudeerrichting Mechanical Energy Engineering)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">International Master of Science in Agro- and Environmental Nematology</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Biology</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Chemical Engineering</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in de bio-ingenieurswetenschappen: milieutechnologie</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in de ingenieurswetenschappen: chemische technologie</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in de ingenieurswetenschappen: materiaalkunde</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Environmental Science and Technology</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in Sustainable Materials Engineering</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Uitwisselingsprogramma bio-ingenieurswetenschappen: milieutechnologie (niveau master-na-bachelor)</a>	5	A

**Onderwijstalen**

Engels

**Trefwoorden**

risks and safety of chemicals, environmental toxicology, toxicology, ecotoxicology, toxicity, ecotoxicity tests, risk assessment of chemicals, dose-response evaluation, environmental pollution, human health, effects analysis, exposure analysis

**Situering**

The aim of this course is to introduce the students in the theoretical foundations of (eco)toxicology of chemicals and in the principles of exposure, effects and risk assessment of chemicals for ecosystems and humans. A strong focus is on understanding how different physical, chemical, biological and ecological processes

contribute to chemicals exposure, effects and, ultimately, risk. Finally, the various aspects of the theory will be brought into practice by means of hands-on training into exposure and effects testing in the laboratory ('practicum') and quantitative (real-life) chemicals risk assessment ('PC exercises', 'group work').

## Inhoud

### LECTURES

#### 1. General Introduction

- Chemicals are everywhere... concerns, examples, risks
- The bigger picture: planetary boundaries, sustainable development goals
- The dawn of (eco)toxicology: the case of DDT and effects on bird populations
- What is (Eco)toxicology?
- Human vs. ecological risk assessment
- General scheme of risk assessment: hazard, exposure, effects and risks
- Risk assessment vs. risk management
- Overview of worldwide legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals (e.g., REACH, water framework directive)
- Risk characterisation
- Marine pollution and risks

#### 2. Environmental Exposure Assessment

- Emission: sources, scenarios, estimation
- Equilibrium partitioning: principles, examples
- Intra- vs. inter-media transport
- Inter-media transport: sedimentation, leaching (PMT substances), volatilisation
- Transformation of chemicals: general introduction and modeling
- Abiotic degradation: hydrolysis, photolysis
- Biodegradation: persistence, measurement, examples, application (PBT substances)
- External Exposure assessment: predicting concentrations in water, air, soil & sediment
- Internal Exposure assessment: bioconcentration, bioaccumulation, biomagnification; the case of PFOS

#### 3. (Eco)toxicology at sub-organism level

- Hierarchical response scales to chemical stress
- Human toxicology and ecotoxicology integration
- Uptake, biotransformation, detoxification and elimination: metals and organic chemicals
- Molecular and cellular effects (oxidative stress, DNA damage, enzyme dysfunction, epigenetic effects)
- Adverse outcome pathways: framework, examples, development, regulatory significance

#### 4. Ecotoxicology at organism and supra-organism levels and effect assessment

- Ecotoxicity testing: design, exposure systems, acute and chronic toxicity, data analysis, animal alternatives
- Effect assessment: PNEC derivation, Assessment Factors, Species Sensitivity Distribution
- Contaminants of emerging concern: examples
- Increasing ecological realism: bioavailability and temperature effects, mixture toxicity
- Increasing ecological realism: population, community, and ecosystem-level effects

#### 5. Human toxicology and risk assessment

- Introduction, objectives, general framework
- Effects (hazard) assessment: toxicity testing (in vivo, in vitro), epidemiological & other data
- Exposure assessment: occupational, environmental & consumer exposure
- Risk characterisation: compares exposure with DNEL
- Risk management and communication

### PRACTICUM (WETLAB)

- Biodegradation test
- Ecotoxicity test

### **PC EXERCISES (PCLAB)**

- Biodegradation and dose-response data analysis
- Environmental exposure, effects and risk assessment
- Human exposure, effects and risk assessment

### **GROUPWORK**

Students need to search environmental fate, exposure and effects data on a certain chemical, critically review and interpret the dataset, perform a risk assessment, and present this to the entire group.

### **Begincompetenties**

Bachelor of science level knowledge of mathematics, chemistry, biology, and ecology

### **Eindcompetenties**

- 1 Understand physical, chemical, biological and ecological processes that determine exposure, effects and risks of chemical to man and the environment
- 2 Know how theoretical foundations of risk assessment are brought into practice in legislation
- 3 Apply quantitative techniques for dose-response, exposure, effect and risk evaluation
- 4 Interpret, critically analyze and report on scientific literature on (eco)toxicology and risk assessment

### **Creditcontractvoorwaarde**

Toelating tot dit opleidingsonderdeel via creditcontract is mogelijk na gunstige beoordeling van de competenties

### **Examencontractvoorwaarde**

Dit opleidingsonderdeel kan niet via examencontract gevolgd worden

### **Didactische werkvormen**

Groepswerk, Werkcollege, Hoorcollege, Practicum

### **Studiemateriaal**

Type: Syllabus

Naam: Environmental Risk Assessment - Practicum  
Richtprijs: Gratis of betaald door opleiding  
Optioneel: nee  
Taal : Engels  
Beschikbaar via studentenvereniging : Nee

Type: Slides

Naam: Environmental Risk Assessment  
Richtprijs: Gratis of betaald door opleiding  
Optioneel: nee  
Taal : Engels  
Beschikbaar op Ufora : Ja  
Online beschikbaar : Nee  
Beschikbaar in de bibliotheek : Nee  
Beschikbaar via studentenvereniging : Nee

Type: Audiovisueel materiaal

Naam: Environmental Risk Assessment  
Richtprijs: Gratis of betaald door opleiding  
Optioneel: nee  
Taal : Engels  
Beschikbaar op Ufora : Ja  
Online beschikbaar : Nee  
Beschikbaar in de bibliotheek : Nee  
Beschikbaar via studentenvereniging : Nee  
Gebruik en levensduur binnen het opleidingsonderdeel : regelmatig  
Gebruik en levensduur na de opleiding : niet

Type: Labomateriaal

Naam: Environmental Risk Assessment

Richtprijs: Gratis of betaald door opleiding

Optioneel: nee

Beschikbaar via studentenvereniging : Nee

Gebruik en levensduur binnen het opleidingsonderdeel : eenmalig

## Referenties

van Leeuwen C.J., Vermeire T.G. (2007) Risk Assessment of Chemicals: An Introduction. Springer, 2nd edition, 688p; ISBN 978-1-4020-6101-1.

## Vakinhoudelijke studiebegeleiding

Lecturers and academic assistants can be consulted (after electronic appointment only) for additional guidance

## Evaluatiemomenten

periodegebonden en niet-periodegebonden evaluatie

## Evaluatievormen bij periodegebonden evaluatie in de eerste examenperiode

Vaardigheidstest, Schriftelijke evaluatie met meerkeuzevragen, Schriftelijke evaluatie met open vragen

## Evaluatievormen bij periodegebonden evaluatie in de tweede examenperiode

Vaardigheidstest, Schriftelijke evaluatie met meerkeuzevragen, Schriftelijke evaluatie met open vragen

## Evaluatievormen bij niet-periodegebonden evaluatie

Participatie, Peer en/of self assessment, Werkstuk

## Tweede examenkans in geval van niet-periodegebonden evaluatie

Examen in de tweede examenperiode is enkel mogelijk in gewijzigde vorm

## Toelichtingen bij de evaluatievormen

### Period-aligned evaluation (during examination period):

- Theory: closed book exam with open questions and multiple choice questions focusing on a detailed and integrated understanding of the theoretical foundations of (eco)toxicology and risk assessment.
- Skills test: closed book exam; students will need to solve one or more 'integrated problems' for which integrated knowledge obtained during the lectures, practicals and PC exercises classes is required

### Permanent evaluation:

- Group Work: Groups of 3-6 students will have to gather environmental fate, exposure, and effects data on a certain chemical, critically review and analyse it and perform a risk assessment. They need to submit a report and present their findings to all other students and need to be able to discuss these with them as well as with the lecturers. In the case that a second chance exam is needed for this part, the work has to be improved, presented to the lecturer and defended individually.
- Participation during practicals, PC exercises, and group work (including peer assessment)

## Eindscoreberekening

The calculation of the global examination mark will be as follows:

1. Period-aligned evaluation: 60% of the total mark (12 points of the 20)

1.1 Theory: 40% of the total mark (8 points of the 20)

1.2 Skills test: 20% of the total mark (4 points of the 20)

2. Permanent evaluation: 40% of the total mark (8 points of the 20)

2.1 Group work: 40% of the total mark (8 points of the 20)

For group work: if there is a clear difference of input between the different group members, the examination mark for this part can be different by up to 5/20 between the different group members.

To pass, the students must score at least half of the points on periodic (6/12) and permanent evaluation (4/8). Students who score less than half of the maximum score for either periodic or permanent evaluation, will only be able to receive a maximum global examination mark of 9/20.

Students who eschew period aligned (periodic) or non-period aligned (permanent) evaluations or who eschew participation in practicum, PC exercises, or groupwork

(Goedgekeurd)

for this course unit may only be able to receive a maximum global examination mark of 6/20.