

# Course Brochure

## WINTER SCHOOL

### **Inclusive Water Management in Southern Africa for Improving Gender Equality and Reducing Poverty & Vulnerability**

**Rhine Waal University of Applied Sciences  
Kleve, 16-20 March 2026**



#### **Keywords**

Gender, improving gender equality, poverty, vulnerability, poverty and vulnerability reduction, livelihood improvement, sustainable water management, inclusive water management, Southern Africa

#### **Note**

The winter school presented in this brochure is a physical event, so it is not possible to participate online.

#### **Introduction**

Adequate water management may significantly improve the livelihoods of vulnerable groups like women and small farmers. With the increasing impact of climate change, sustainable water resource management has become a key issue in many regions of the world, including Southern Africa. In order to improve the effectiveness of their work, river basin management institutions in Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa have developed collaborative partnerships with their Dutch counterparts who have a long history in the field of water management.

Within these so-called Blue Deal collaborative partnerships, sustainable inclusive water management is pursued. So water management that is future-proof from the point of view of organizational sustainability and climate change, and that also takes into account the position of vulnerable groups. This winter school focuses on the gender and poverty & vulnerability aspects of making water management in Eswatini inclusive.

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## Why this winter school?

The winter school was developed on the initiative of two professors who both lecture in the master course Sustainable Development Management at Rhine Waal University. They noticed from the response of their students that there were many linkages between the subjects they were lecturing, i.e. the electives Gender & Development (M-SD 1 7111) and Poverty & Vulnerability (M-SD 2 7116). This was the incentive to combine the two electives into a joint winter school.

The winter school has been given for the first time in 2023, but did not have to be built from scratch. This is because the module Poverty & Vulnerability already had a three-day workshop in the period 2015-2022 with the participation of contributors from Eswatini and The Netherlands. Because these workshops were experienced as very inspiring and instructive by both the participating students and the contributors, the basic approach of these workshops has been integrated in the current winter school.

## Who is this winter school for?

The target groups of this winter school are: a) students of the master course Sustainable Development Management of Rhine Waal University, b) master students from the AGEP network, and c) students from the bachelor courses International Relations and Gender & Diversity of Rhine Waal University. Since the start of the winter school in 2023, students from universities in Berlin, Bonn, Darmstadt, Dortmund, Freiburg, Kleve, Passau, and Stuttgart have participated.

The maximum number of participants is 25 and the admission procedure is as follows: there is a maximum number of participants for each of the three categories mentioned above, and the admission per category is based on the moment of registration. These are the maximum numbers of participants: 10 in case of category a), 10 in case of category b), and 5 in case of category c).

## Concept

Two features characterize the winter school: the practice-oriented focus, and the high learning by doing content. In order to run such a winter school, several professionals from inside and outside Rhine Waal University are involved, some of which will be around all week. This is to be able to contribute optimally, but also to offer the participating students the opportunity to exchange ideas with these experts in an informal way during the breaks.

The winter school simulates the situation in which the participating students belong to a team of experts in the fields of gender and poverty that has accepted the invitation of the Blue Deal partnership to come to Eswatini for a one-week visit in order to advise on how to make water management in Eswatini more inclusive in relation to gender and poverty & vulnerability.

During the visit there are two key players in the field of water management in Eswatini that are available to discuss the development of water management, and gender and poverty & vulnerability issues in Eswatini with the team of experts. In addition the key players are also stand-by for field trips to offer the experts the opportunity to get their own impressions and gain their own experiences. In the course of the visit the experts present their ideas and advice, and the two key players respond to the quality and applicability of these ideas and advice.

Just for the sake of clarity: the professionals from outside the university are not just there for the benefit of the participating students, the intention is that the ideas and advice that the students come up with will also help them on their way towards more inclusive water management.

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## People involved

The people mentioned underneath are from outside Rhine Waal University and some of them will be around all week to contribute to the winter school. Ms Takhona Dlamini, Operations Manager of the JRBA-PB, the joint operational organisation of the River Basin Authorities in Eswatini. The new Managing Director of the JRBA, whose name was not yet known in mid-December 2025. Ms Marga Oosterveld and/or Ms Céline de Visser, partnership managers of the Blue Deal partnership between Eswatini and The Netherlands.

From the site of Rhine Waal University the two professors that have initiated the winter school will be there, these are Prof. Eva Hinteruber and Prof. Jan van der Molen. In addition one or two master students that have carried out research in the fields of Gender and Poverty & Vulnerability in Eswatini, for their master theses, will tell about their impressions and experiences.

## Workload

The table underneath gives an impression of the workload of the winter school.

Workload	Self-study (incl. Reporting)	Contact hours
150 h	90 h (incl. 20 h Reporting)	60 h

The self-study part of the workload concerns taking notice of the contents of compulsory and non-compulsory text and visual material in the fields of gender, poverty & vulnerability, and water management in Eswatini, as well as the reporting part. The reporting part of the workload is for writing a reflection report. In this report the student reflects on the studied text and visual material, the various components of the winter school, and the significance of the winter school for her/his development. The contact-hours part of the workload consist of a kick-off meeting (4 CH), 42,5 hours for the winter school itself and another 5 hours for additional interaction plus 8,5 CH following the week of the winter school, where the students have the opportunity to individually discuss their progress.

## Valuation

Participating students are assessed on the quality of the reflection report that they submit. Below is described what successful completion means for the different participant groups. Students of the master course Sustainable Development Management have passed one of the two above mentioned modules, i.e. Gender & Development (6 CP) or Poverty & Vulnerability (6 CP). Master students from the AGEP network will receive a certificate, it is up to themselves to arrange at their own university how they can use their CPs. Students from the bachelor courses International Relations and Gender & Diversity will receive a certificate but cannot obtain credits.

## Preparation

Going through the compulsory text and visual material prior to the winter school is a requirement to participate. An overview of this material will be put on Moodle six weeks before the winter school. Two weeks before the start of the winter school there will be an online Q&A session.

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## Registration

Students can register by completely filling out the registration form below, and emailing it to the address indicated on the registration form. Incomplete registration forms will not be accepted. Please note that the winter school is a five-day event, so participants are expected to attend all five days.

## Contact person

Prof. Dr. Jan van der Molen, email [jan.vandermolen@hochschule-rhein-waal.de](mailto:jan.vandermolen@hochschule-rhein-waal.de)

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## Registration form

### Note

The winter school is a five-day event, so participants are expected to attend all five days.

### To be filled in

First name student :  
Surname student :  
Matriculation number :  
Email address :  
University :  
Degree Program :  
Gender :  
Country of origin :  
Elective\* :

\*In case you are an M-SD student of Rhine Waal University, we ask you to fill in here for which elective you want to receive the Credit Points. So you have two options here: Gender & Development (M-SD 1 7111) and Poverty & Vulnerability (M-SD 2 7116). All other students don't have to fill in anything here.

### Registration

To register, you must complete the registration form above in full. Incomplete registration forms will not be accepted. You can register by sending the completed registration form by email to

- ✓ Prof. Dr. Jan van der Molen, email [jan.vandermolen@hochschule-rhein-waal.de](mailto:jan.vandermolen@hochschule-rhein-waal.de)
- ✓ And by giving your email the title: **Registration Winter School**.