

# STUDENT- AND EDUCATION STATISTICS 2020



*Aurora over Kjell Henriksen Observatory.*

*Photo: Mikko Syrjäsoo / UNIS*



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# 1. Preface

UNIS' overall vision is «*Arctic education and research for global challenges*». The main aim for the education is to offer higher education and conduct research based on Svalbard's geographical location in a high Arctic area. Svalbard's geographical location gives unique advantages through use of the Arctic environment as a laboratory for observations, collection and analyzing of data.

In the contribution letter for the University Centre in Svalbard from the Ministry of Education and Research, dated 11 December 2019, the following primary goal is defined for the grant to UNIS:

*“High quality in education and research, based on Svalbard's location in a high Arctic area”.*

Furthermore, the contribution letter states that “The educational offer shall be at university level and be a supplement to the education at the mainland universities. The educational offer shall be part of an ordinary course of study, leading to exams and degrees on bachelor-, master- and doctoral level. The ministry presupposes that UNIS will further develop the collaboration with universities and university colleges. (...) ***The grant shall contribute to UNIS developing an educational offer amounting to about 220 student years.*** The educational offer shall have an international profile, and the teaching shall be in English. There shall be a balance between Norwegian and international students.”

UNIS is supposed to report on the use of the allocated grant, including a description of results and degree of goal achievement. The report shall, among other factors, contain a description of activities carried out at UNIS. Furthermore, the report shall describe the cooperation with universities and university colleges, including the number of students from each educational institution.

This report is a contribution to document these reporting requirements. It should also contribute to document UNIS' own goals regarding high-quality education.

UNIS student- and education statistics is compiled in February each year for the preceding year and will together with UNIS' report on educational quality and UNIS' annual report, give a picture of the joint educational activities at UNIS.

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Longyearbyen 17.02.20.

Anne Bjørndal

## 2. Summary

In 2020, 299 students spent shorter or longer periods of stay at UNIS. The students are divided in course students and guest students. From 2020 onwards, ECTS production is reported for all guest student categories, both on bachelor-, master- and PhD level.

Following the introduction of Covid 19-restrictions in March 2020, UNIS cancelled all courses that were yet to start, in addition to all autumn semester courses. Ongoing courses were continued by means of digital teaching. The guest students were allowed to stay at UNIS, and an economic incentive was introduced for guest master students, in order to maintain or increase the number of students in this group. Due to the cancellation of courses, the number of students and ECTS production in 2020 was strongly reduced compared to previous years. As a consequence, some of the results from 2020 will not be comparable to corresponding results from previous years.

64 % of the students were registered at study programmes at Norwegian universities, while the percentage of Norwegian citizens was 43 %. This is a significant increase from previous years. The discrepancy between Norwegian citizens and students from Norwegian universities is due to foreign students registered at ordinary study programmes at Norwegian universities. UiT – The Arctic University of Norway is the Norwegian university sending the most students to UNIS. Their relative contribution has also increased compared to last year. Both the increase in the percentage of Norwegian degree students, Norwegian citizens, and students from UiT are all due to the Arctic Nature Guide (ANG) students from UiT. These students follow UNIS courses corresponding to 20 ECTS each year. This study was continued despite of the Covid 19-restrictions. The relative percentage of ANG students was therefore higher in 2020 than in previous years. Students from 32 nations were present at UNIS in 2020. As mentioned, 43 % of these were Norwegians, followed by students from Germany and Netherlands.

The originally planned educational offer at UNIS amounted in 2020 to 240 student years. Due to the cancellation of courses, the actual educational offer ended up with 93 student years.

97 student years were produced at UNIS in 2020. These are divided in 72 student years from completed courses, and 25 student years from guest students. While the production due to courses naturally has experienced a marked decrease, the production from guest students has increased significantly since 2019. Guest students accounted for 26 % of the total ECTS production at UNIS in 2020.

All scientific departments have experienced a reduced production in 2020. Department of Arctic Geology has still the highest production at UNIS and has also experienced the greatest increase in guest students.

The results from final exams have been generally good, with B as average grade. Due to changes in the teaching situation during spring, some courses changed grading scale from letter grade to “pass” / “fail”. The percentage of failing marks is still low (3 %), but somewhat higher than in previous years. This is primarily due to the course «The History of Svalbard», with 20 % of students failing the final exam.

UNIS has experienced a small decrease in the number of qualified applicants for the courses. The Department of Arctic geology has, like in previous years, the highest number of qualified applicants. The use of allocated quota places for the Norwegian universities was 46 %, a slight decrease from previous years.

UNIS had 25 PhD candidates in 2020, and five public defenses were arranged.

### 3. UNIS students

#### 3.1 Student data – course students and guest students

UNIS distinguish between course students and guest students. Course students are following one or more ordinary courses at UNIS. Guest students spend shorter or longer periods of time at UNIS while working on their bachelor-, master- or PhD theses. Some of them are also following courses at UNIS and are thus counted in both categories.

UNIS had **247 course students** in 2020. In addition, **73 guest students** were registered, divided in **6 guest bachelor students, 52 guest master students** and **15 guest PhD students**. In previous years, only guest master students were included in the reporting of ECTS production, but from 2020 onwards all guest student categories are included in the further reporting. Some of the guest students also followed courses during their stay at UNIS. In total, **299 students** were present at UNIS for shorter or longer periods of time in 2020.

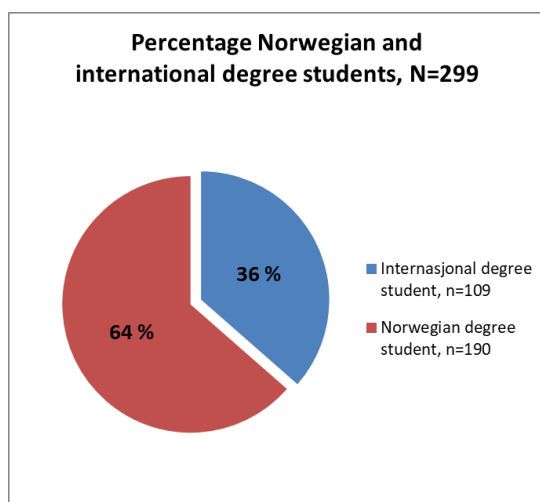
Following the introduction of Covid 19-restrictions in March 2020, all courses yet to start were cancelled for the rest of the spring semester. In addition, all autumn courses were cancelled at a later stage. Guest students could stay at UNIS and work towards their bachelor-, master- or PhD theses. From autumn semester onwards, an economic incentive was introduced to maintain or increase the number of guest master students, giving students staying for more than one month at UNIS a monthly scholarship of NOK 5000, -. The number of course students was therefore significantly lower in 2020 than in previous years, while the number of guest students increased compared to previous years.

#### 3.2 Norwegian and international degree students

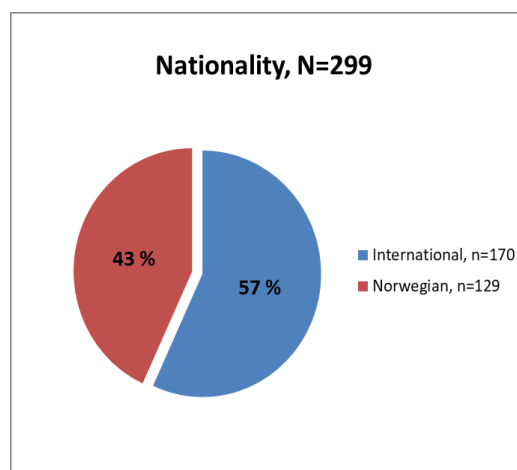
Norwegian degree students are defined as Norwegian citizens, and / or students admitted to an ordinary study programme at a Norwegian university. International degree students are foreign students admitted to study programmes at international universities. Students on exchange agreements (Erasmus+-agreements etc.) are counted as international degree students.

The percentage of Norwegian degree student has been stable around 50 % the latest years, in accordance with the conditions from the Ministry of Education and Research, stating that there shall be a balance between Norwegian and international students. In 2020, the percentage of Norwegian degree students increased significantly, to 64 % (fig. 1). The percentage Norwegian citizens has also increased from 32 % in 2019 to 43 % in 2020 (fig. 2). The discrepancy between the percentage of Norwegian degree students and Norwegian citizens is due to a considerable number of Norwegian degree students being foreign citizens admitted to ordinary study programmes at Norwegian universities, and thus counted as Norwegian degree students.

The increase in the percentage of Norwegian degree students in 2020 is primarily due to the relatively larger percentage of students from the Arctic Nature Guide-study (ANG) at UiT – The Arctic University of Norway. This one-year programme has its base at UNIS, and the students follow courses corresponding to 20 ECTS at UNIS (AS-203 «Arctic Safety and Field Leadership» and SH-201 «The History of Svalbard»), in addition to their courses at UiT. The study programme starts in August and ends in June, thus two classes are included in the reports each calendar year. All these students are Norwegian degree students registered at UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, and most of the students are normally Norwegian citizens. The students finished their studies digitally in spring 2020, and new students were admitted in autumn 2020. The physical teaching, including AS-203, were in autumn 2020 moved to UiT in Alta. In total, 49 ANG-students were registered at UNIS in 2020. When considering the low student numbers in 2020, the ANG-students comprise a relatively larger proportion of the students than they normally do.



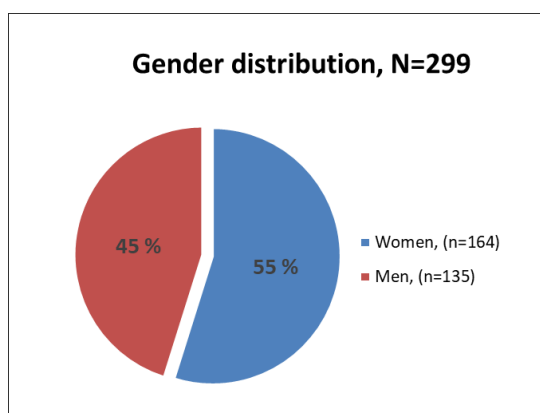
**Fig. 1.** Norwegian and international degree students at UNIS 2020. N=number of students.



**Fig. 2.** Norwegian and international citizens at UNIS 2020. N=number of students.

### 3.3 Gender distribution

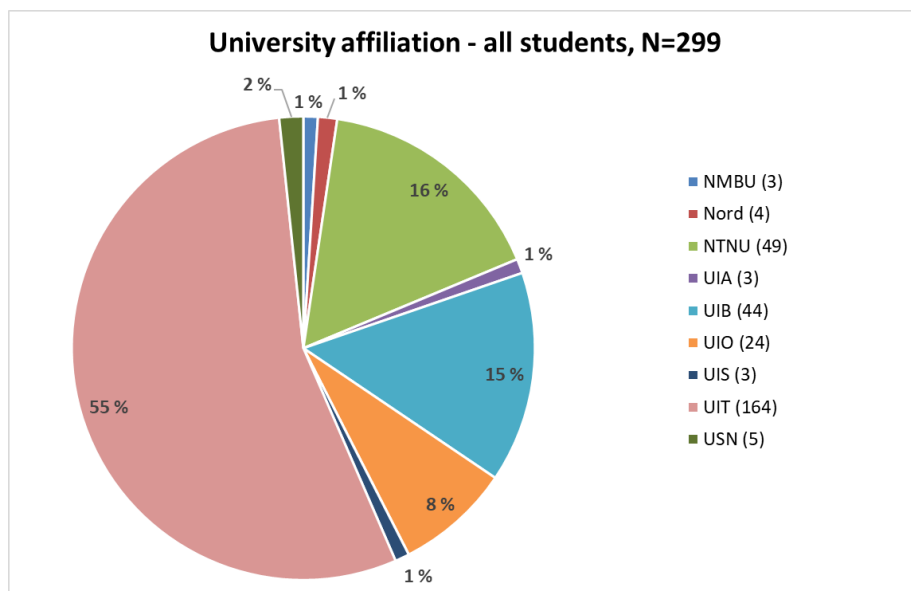
Over the latest years, UNIS has had a quite balanced gender distribution, with a small predominance of women. The gender distribution in 2020 is in accordance with previous years and shows that 55 % of the students are women (fig. 3).



**Fig. 3.** Gender distribution among UNIS' students 2020. N=number of students.

### 3.4 University affiliation

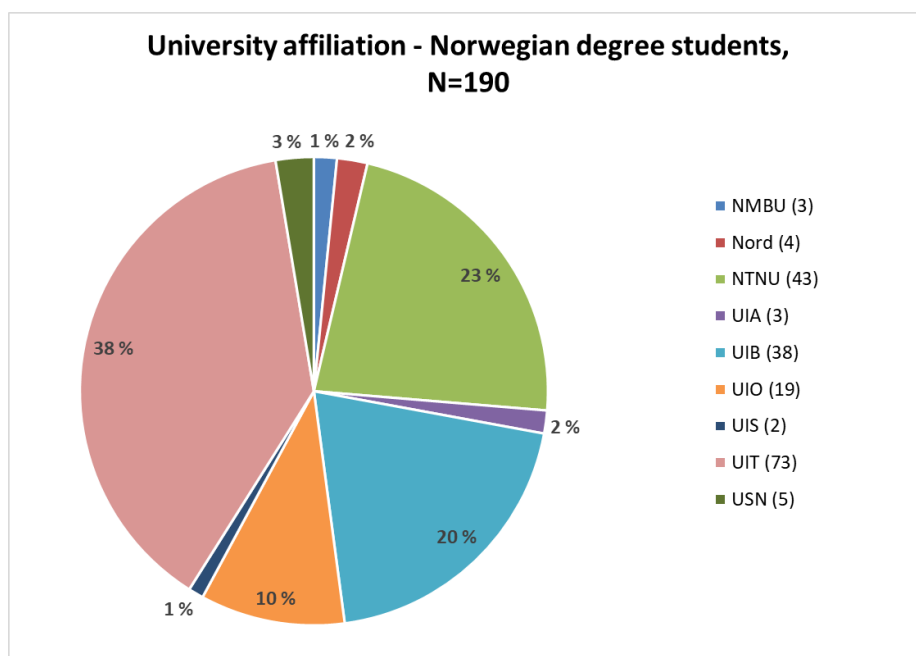
UNIS has entered into a cooperation agreement with eight of the Norwegian universities; University of Bergen, University of Oslo, NTNU, UiT – The Arctic University of Norway, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, University of Stavanger, University of Agder and Nord University. All these universities sent students to UNIS in 2020. In addition, students from the University in South-Eastern Norway (USN) and several Norwegian university colleges studied at UNIS. International students on exchange agreements are registered at their host university. All international students without an exchange agreement are registered at UiT – The Arctic University of Norway. Thus, UiT receives a great portion of the student mass when international students are included (fig. 4).



**Fig. 4.** University affiliation among UNIS' students 2020. All students included. N=total number of students, n=number of students from each university.

When considering only Norwegian degree students, UiT – The Arctic University of Norway is still the university sending most students to UNIS (38 %) (fig. 5). UiT has also experienced the greatest increase since last year, from 30 % in 2019. As described in chap. 3.2 this is due to the relatively greater percentage of ANG-students, registered at UiT.

In addition to UiT, UiB has also seen an increase in the percentage of students, from 16 % in 2019 to 20 % in 2020. NTNU has experienced a decrease from 29 to 23 %, and UiS has also experienced a decrease from 5 to 1 % of the students. A possible explanation can be that both these universities normally send a lot of student to the autumn course AT-327 «Arctic Offshore Engineering», which was cancelled in 2020. For the other universities, there are only minor changes from 2019.



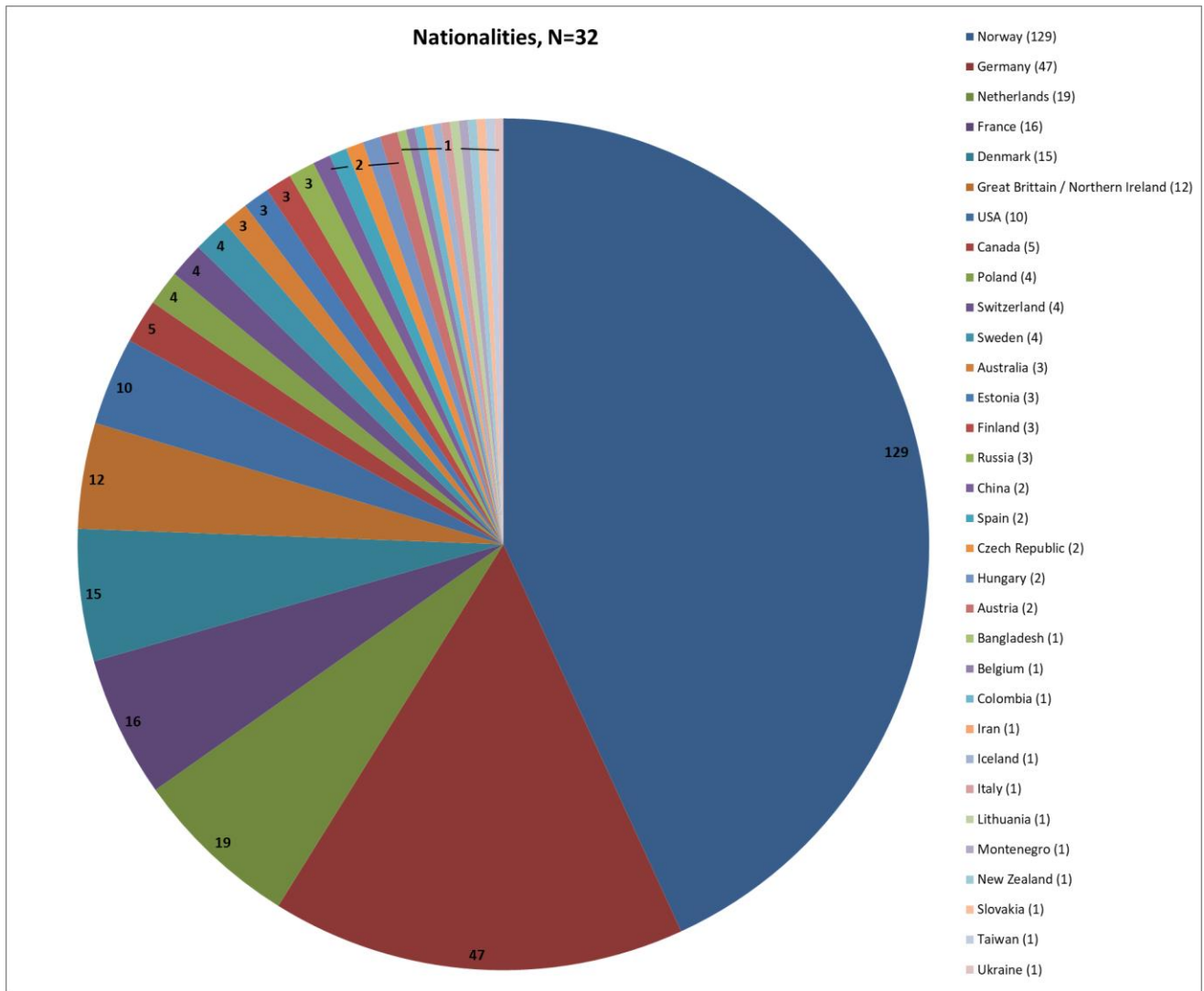
**Fig. 5.** University affiliation among UNIS' Norwegian degree students 2020. N=total number of students, n=number of students from each university.



### 3.5 Nationality

Students from 32 nations were present at UNIS in 2020 (fig. 6). This is a decrease from 43 nations in 2019 and is due to the lower total student number in 2020. The three nations representing most of the students are the same as in 2018 and 2019. Norwegian citizens had the largest number of students with 43 % of the students, followed by Germany with 16 % and Netherlands with 6 %.

UNIS recruit students from all parts of the world, leading to an international study environment. In their evaluation of UNIS, the students specifically emphasize the multicultural student environment, and the possibility for building networks across national borders as positive elements. Most of the students come from European countries, but we also have several students from USA and Canada, in addition to some from South America, Asia and Oceania. In 2020, we see a relative decline in number of students from our neighbouring countries Sweden, Finland, and Russia.



**Fig. 6.** Nationalities represented at UNIS 2020. N=number of nations, n=number of students from each nation.

## 4. Results – ECTS production

The ECTS production at UNIS is based on the number of ECTS accounted for in the courses during the year, in addition to the presence of guest students. One study year corresponds to 60 ECTS. For guest students, 5 ECTS is counted per month spent at UNIS working on their theses. If the guest students follow courses at UNIS during their stay, the ECTS for these courses are subtracted from the ECTS they receive for their stay. The number of student years is therefore based on the total ECTS production divided by 60 ECTS / year.

### 4.1 UNIS educational offer

UNIS' educational offer is calculated from the number of courses and the maximum number of students in each course. When reporting UNIS' educational offer, only the educational offer based on courses is reported. No educational offer is defined for guest students.

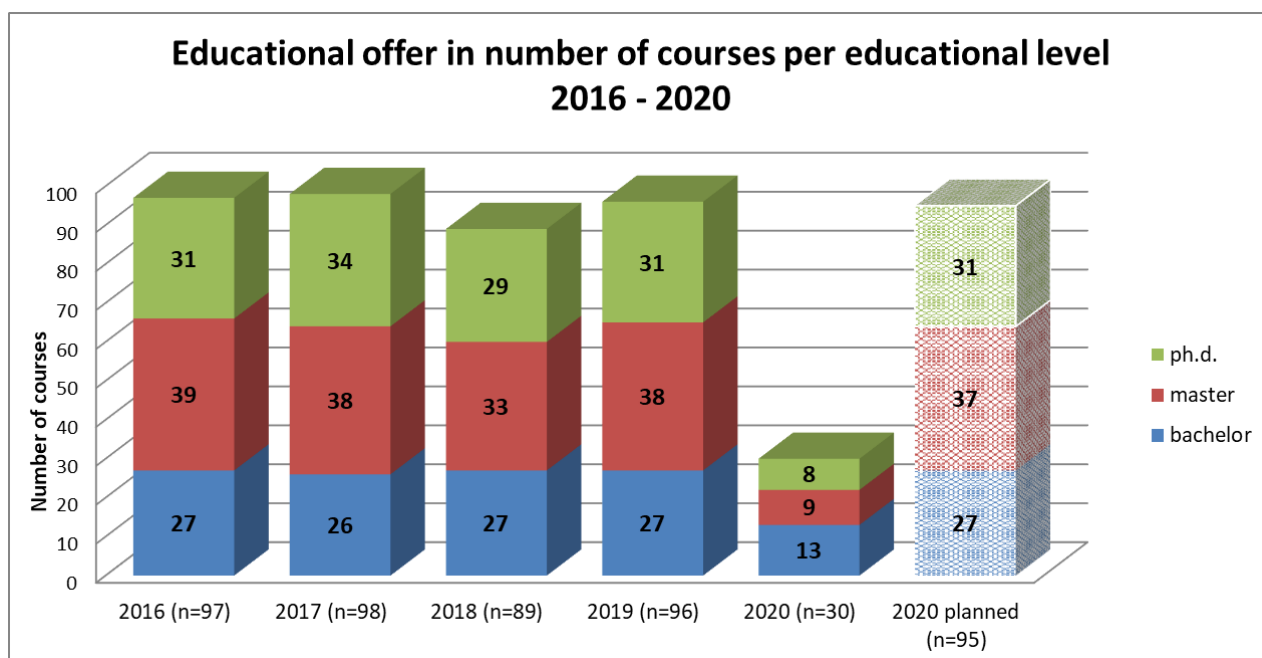
For courses without restricted admission (AGF-216 «The stormy sun and the northern lights», AS-101 «Arctic survival and safety» and SH-201 «The history of Svalbard», maximum number of students is set equal to the number of registered students.

UNIS' educational offer is shown in number of courses (fig. 7) and in student years per educational level (fig. 8). For 2020, both planned educational offer and actual educational offer following cancellation of courses due to the Covid 19-restrictions in March is shown.

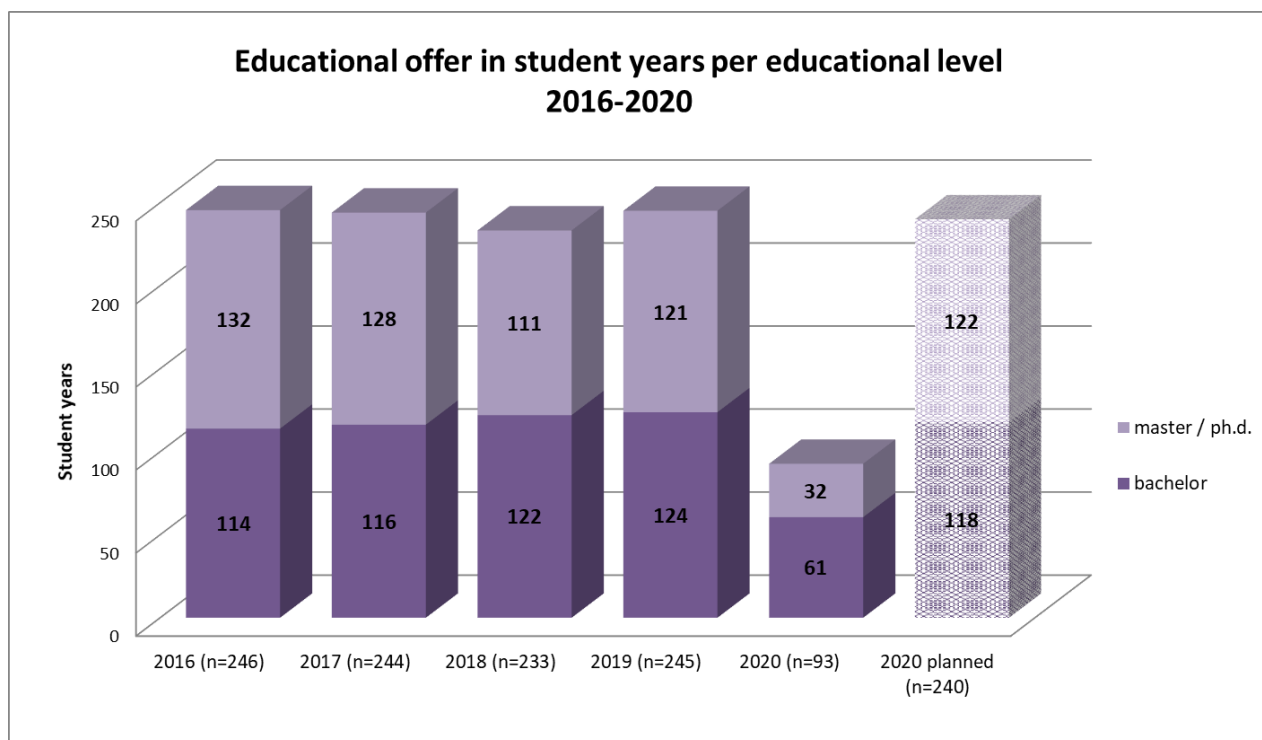
Following cancellation of parts of the spring semester and the entire autumn semester, the actual educational offer at UNIS is much lower than expected. When considering the planned educational offer, this is in line with previous years. There is a reduction in educational offer in student years on bachelor level compared to last year despite the same number of courses. This is due to a reduced maximum number of students in some of the courses, in addition to fewer students in courses without restricted admission (AS-101, AGF-216 and SH-201).

One new course was offered in 2020: AG-352 «Geohazards and geotechnics in high Arctic permafrost regions». However, this was an autumn course, and was cancelled due to the Covid 19-restrictions. Two courses were terminated in 2020: AT-209 «Arctic hydrology and climate change» and AT-210 «Arctic environmental pollution». These courses have not been offered the latest years but were formally terminated from autumn 2020 onwards.

In 2020, UNIS had a planned educational offer corresponding to 240 student years, well within the conditions set by the Ministry of Education and Research of about 220 student years.



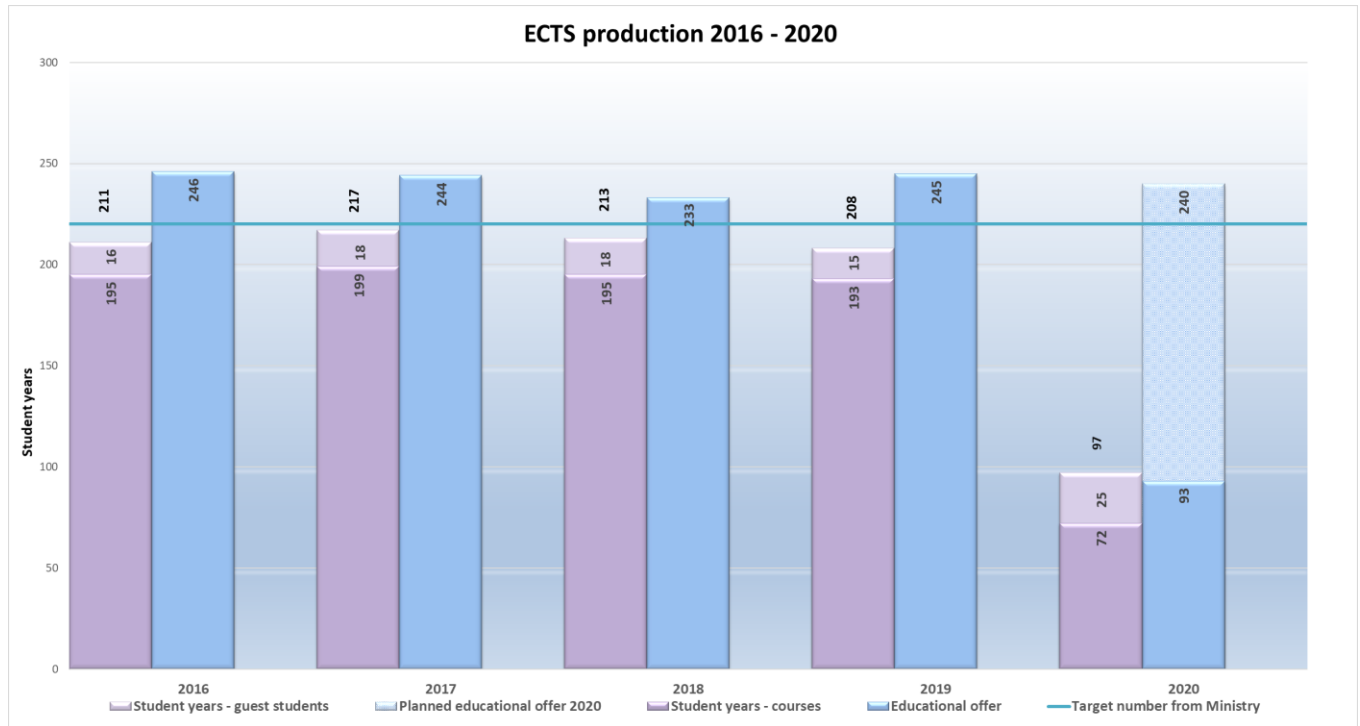
**Fig. 7.** Number of courses per educational level 2016-2020. n=number of courses.



**Fig. 8.** Educational offer in student years per educational level 2016-2020. n=number of student years.

## 4.2 ECTS production at UNIS 2020

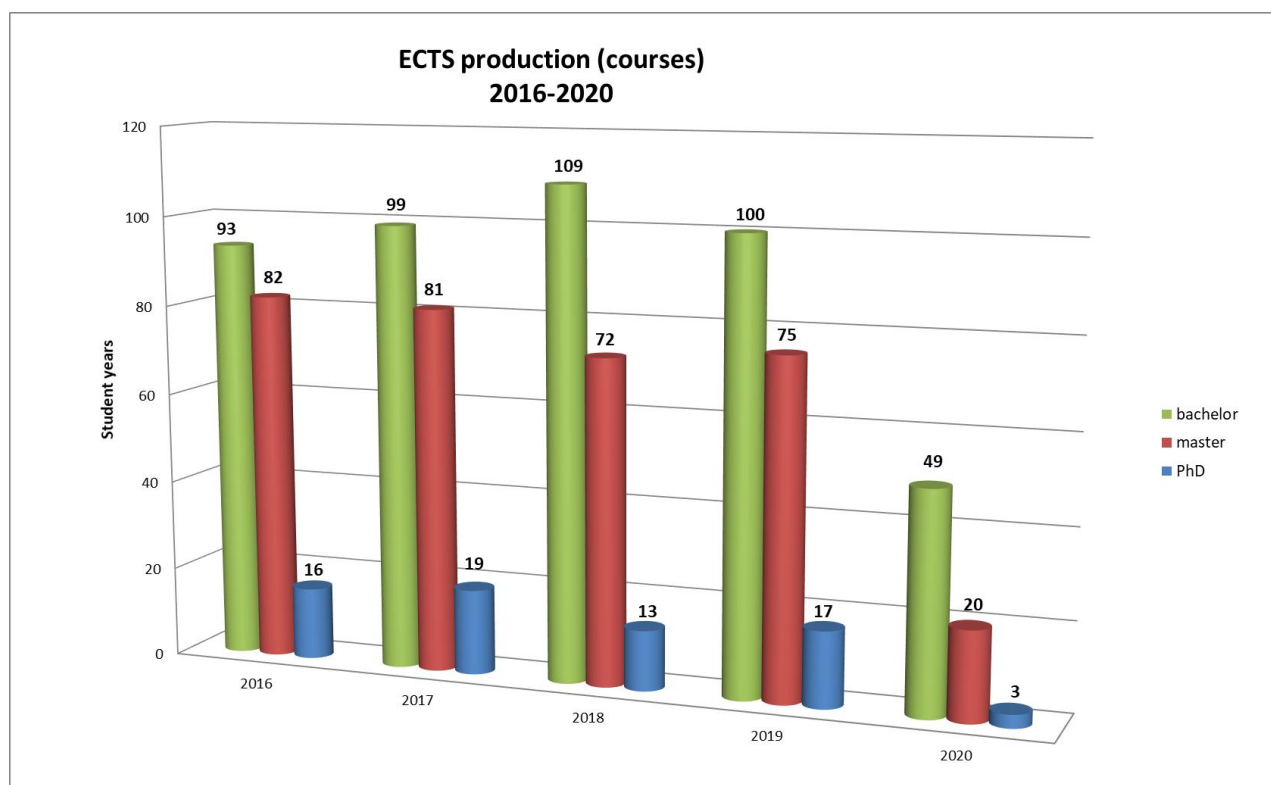
In 2020, 97 student years were produced at UNIS. This is distributed on 72 student years based on ECTS from passed courses, in addition to 25 student years based on guest students. Figure 9 shows the development of student years, target figures from the Ministry, and the educational offer (from courses) at UNIS for the period 2016 – 2020.



**Fig. 9.** Total ECTS production, target numbers from the Ministry and educational offer in student years at UNIS 2016 – 2020.

As expected, the ECST production was quite low at UNIS in 2020, due to the cancellation of all autumn courses and some of the spring courses. However, the production due to guest students was higher than ever, with 25 student years. This can partly be due to the guest students having less opportunity to follow courses during their stay at UNIS, and partly due to economic incentives introduced for guest master students in autumn 2020 (cf. chap. 3.1). In total, UNIS paid only just NOK 430 000 supporting 37 master students in autumn 2020.

Figure 10 shows the ECTS production from courses distributed on educational levels. As expected, the production on bachelor level was around half of the production in previous years, as the spring courses were continued by means of digital teaching. The production on master- and PhD level was more than halved, as some master- and PhD courses was cancelled also in spring semester, in addition to all autumn courses being cancelled.



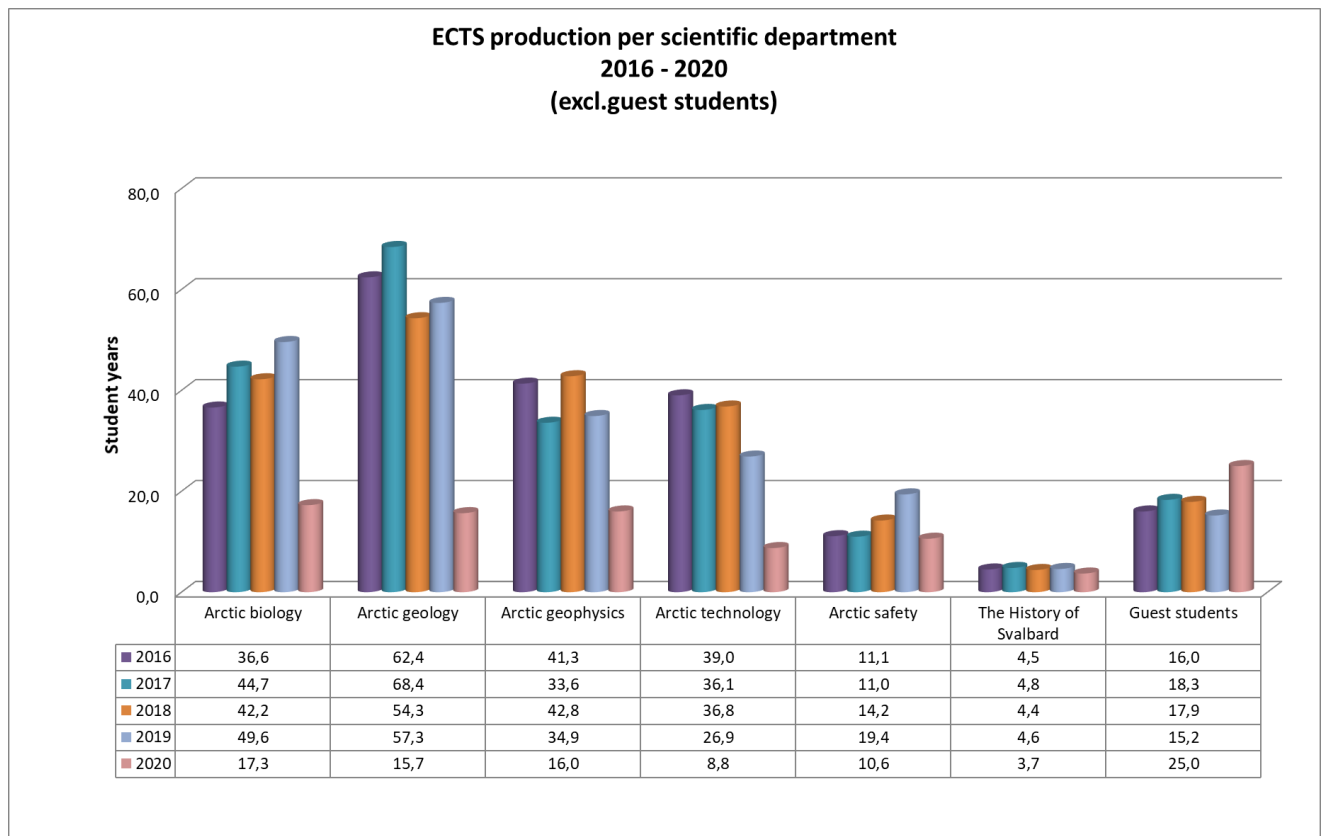
**Fig. 10.** ECTS production in student years from courses, distributed on the educational levels, for the period 2016-2020.

### 4.3 ECTS production in the scientific departments

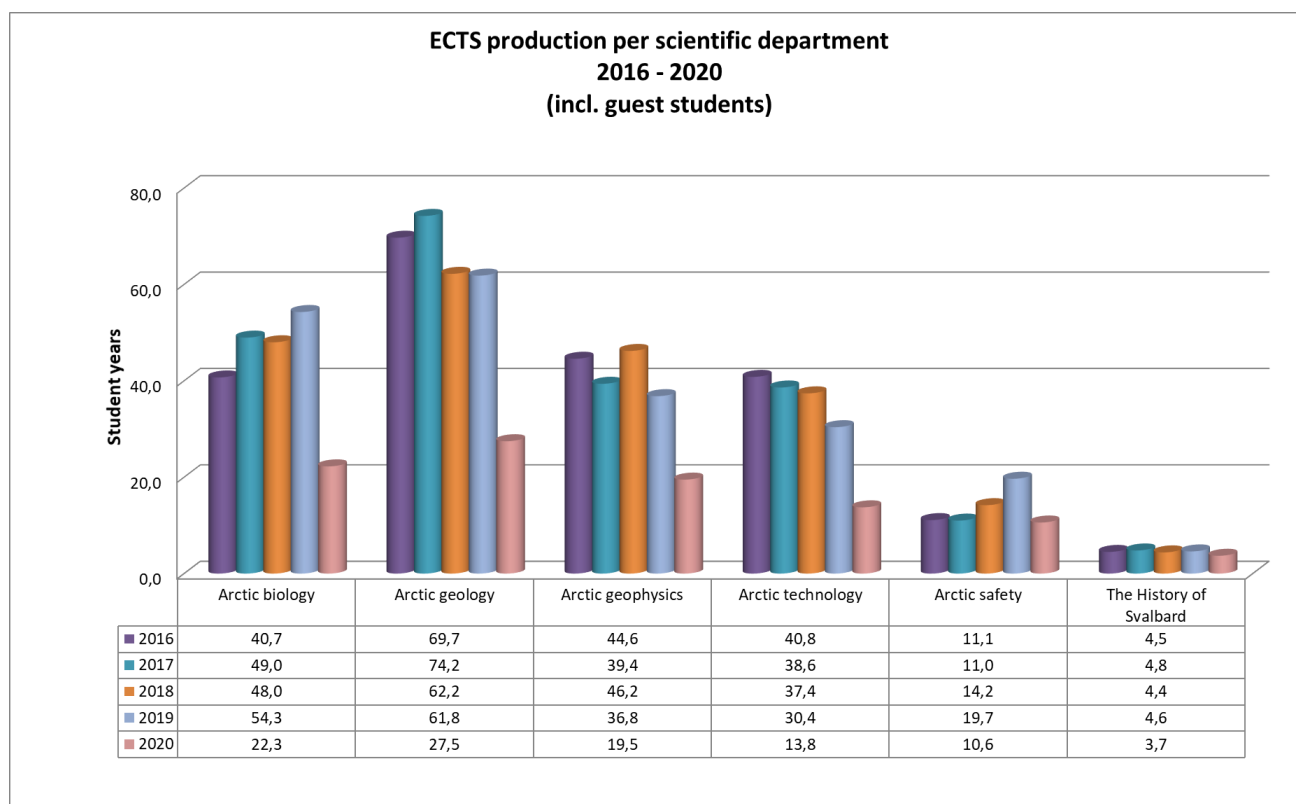
Figure 11 a) and b) show student years per scientific department for the period 2016 – 2020. Figure a) shows the production based on courses, when guest students are shown in a separate group, and fig b) shows the total production per scientific department when guest students are included in the result from the departments.

It should be taken into account that several of the scientific departments have an educational offer that varies between odd and even years, and conclusions from one year to the other should be drawn with caution. The development in the separate scientific departments will be discussed in further chapters. Even though Arctic safety is not a scientific department at UNIS, specific courses are offered within this scientific field, and these are therefore reported as a separate group. The History of Svalbard is reported separately.

In general, all groups except the History of Svalbard, which was completed prior to the Covid 19- restrictions have experienced a marked decline in production in 2020. On the other hand, production due to guest students has increased significantly, as discussed in chap. 4.2.

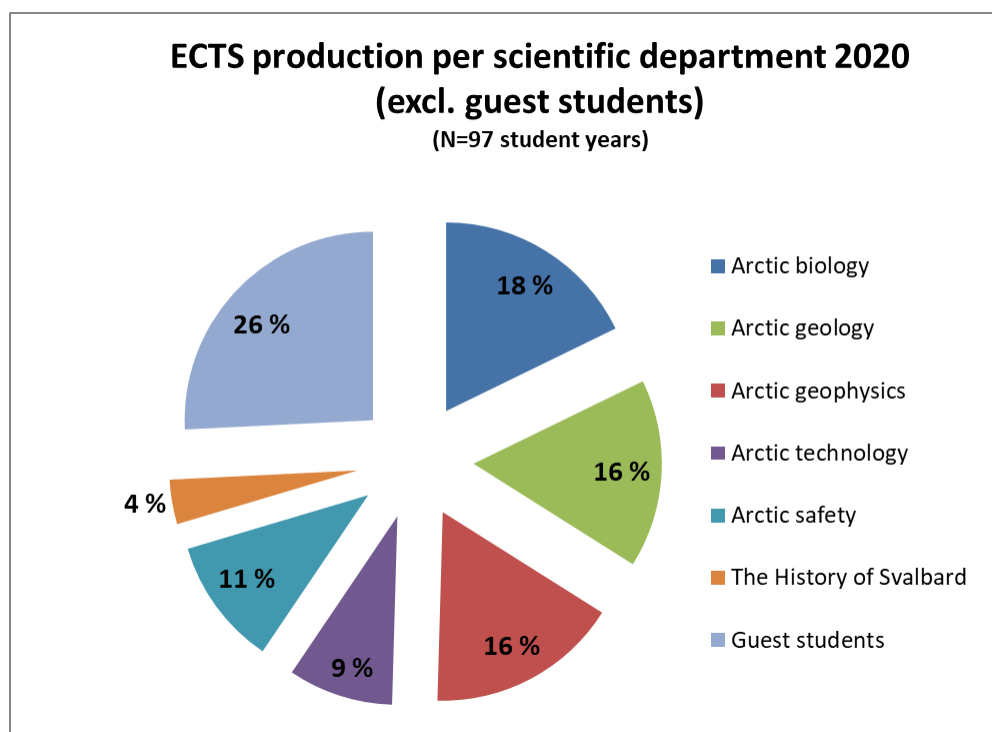


**Fig. 11a.** ECST production in student years per department 2016 - 2020. Guest students reported as a separate group.

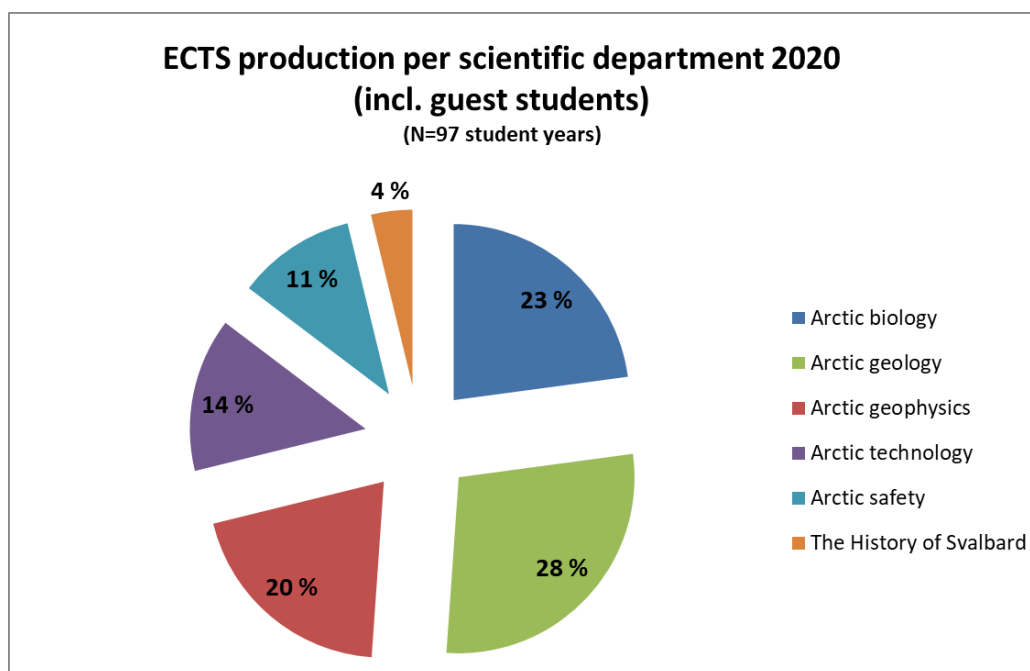


**Fig. 11b.** ECTS production in student years per department 2016 - 2020. Guest students included in each department

Figure 12a) shows the percentage of student years for each department. Guest students are here reported in a separate group, *i.e.* the percentage given for each department is based on courses only. Figure 12b) shows the same distribution when guest students are included in the result for each department.



**Fig. 12a.** Percentage of ECTS production for each scientific department 2020. Guest students reported as a separate group. N=total number of student years.



**Fig. 12b.** Percentage of ECTS production for each scientific department 2020. Guest students included in the production for each department. N=total number of student years.

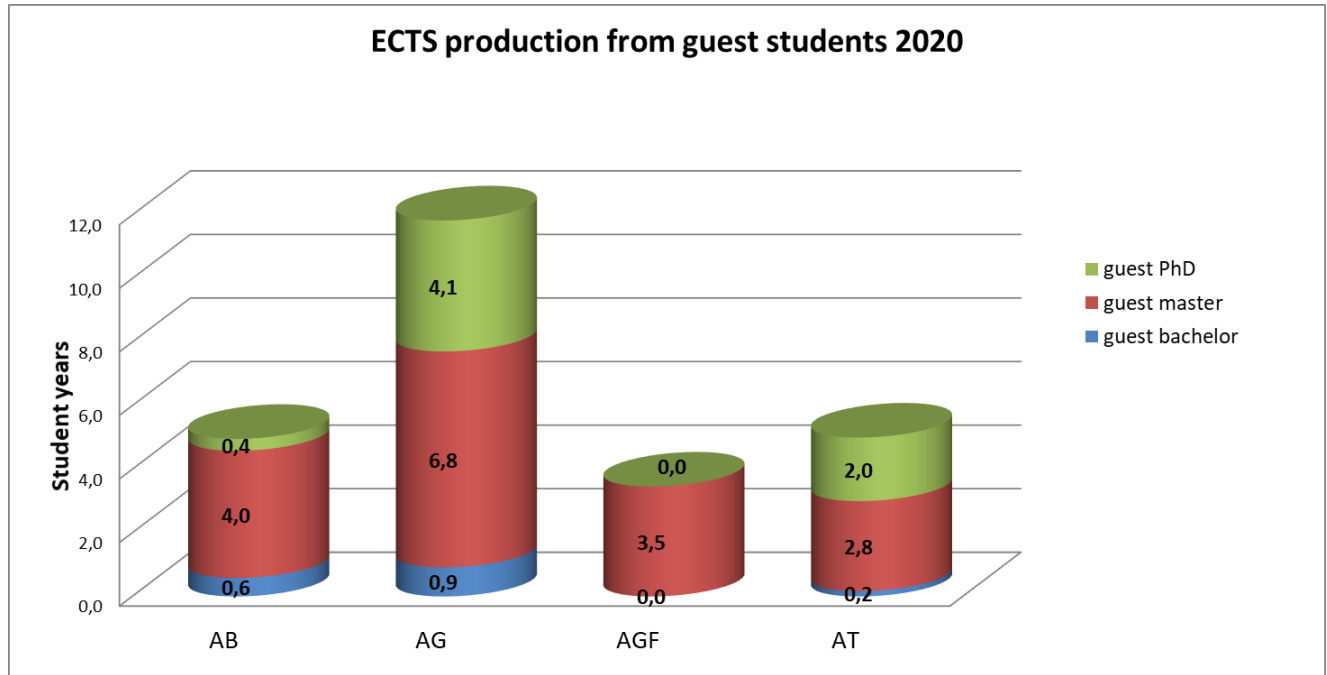
Figure 12a) shows that guest students accounted for 26 % of the ECTS production at UNIS in 2020. This number has normally been below 10 % of the total production. This illustrates once again the importance guest students have had for the production at UNIS in 2020, relatively speaking.

Department of Arctic geology had, in accordance with previous years, the highest ECTS production among UNIS scientific departments, with 28 % of the production (including guest students). These are followed by Department of Arctic biology, accounting for 23 % of the production. Both these departments experience a small reduction in their relative proportion of the production, from 30 % and 26 % respectively, in 2019. Department of Arctic geophysics and Department of Arctic technology are on the same level as in 2019. Arctic safety courses and the History of Svalbard have both experienced a relative increase of 2 % since last year. This can be due to the fact that the “big” courses AS-101 «Arctic Survival and Safety» and AS-203 «Arctic Safety and Field Leadership», as well as SH-201 «The History of Svalbard» was fulfilled prior to, or despite, the Covid 19-restrictions.



#### 4.4 Guest students

Figure 13 and table 1 shows ECTS production from guest students at bachelor-, master- and PhD level for each scientific department. As mentioned, 5 ECTS are registered per month the guest students are present at UNIS working on their theses. If they follow courses during the same period as they are registered as guest students, these ECTS are subtracted from the ECTS they earn for presence / thesis work. Guest students at master level dominate in all scientific departments. Department of Arctic geology has the highest number of guest students and highest ECTS production.



**Fig. 13.** ECTS production from guest students, distributed on the educational levels and scientific departments at UNIS in 2020.

Department	Guest bachelor (student years)	Guest master (student years)	Guest PhD (student years)	Total production from guest students (student years)
AB	0,6	4,0	0,4	5,0
AG	0,9	6,8	4,1	11,8
AGF	0,0	3,5	0,0	3,5
AT	0,2	2,8	2,0	5,0
<b>Total production</b>	<b>1,7</b>	<b>17,1</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>25,3</b>

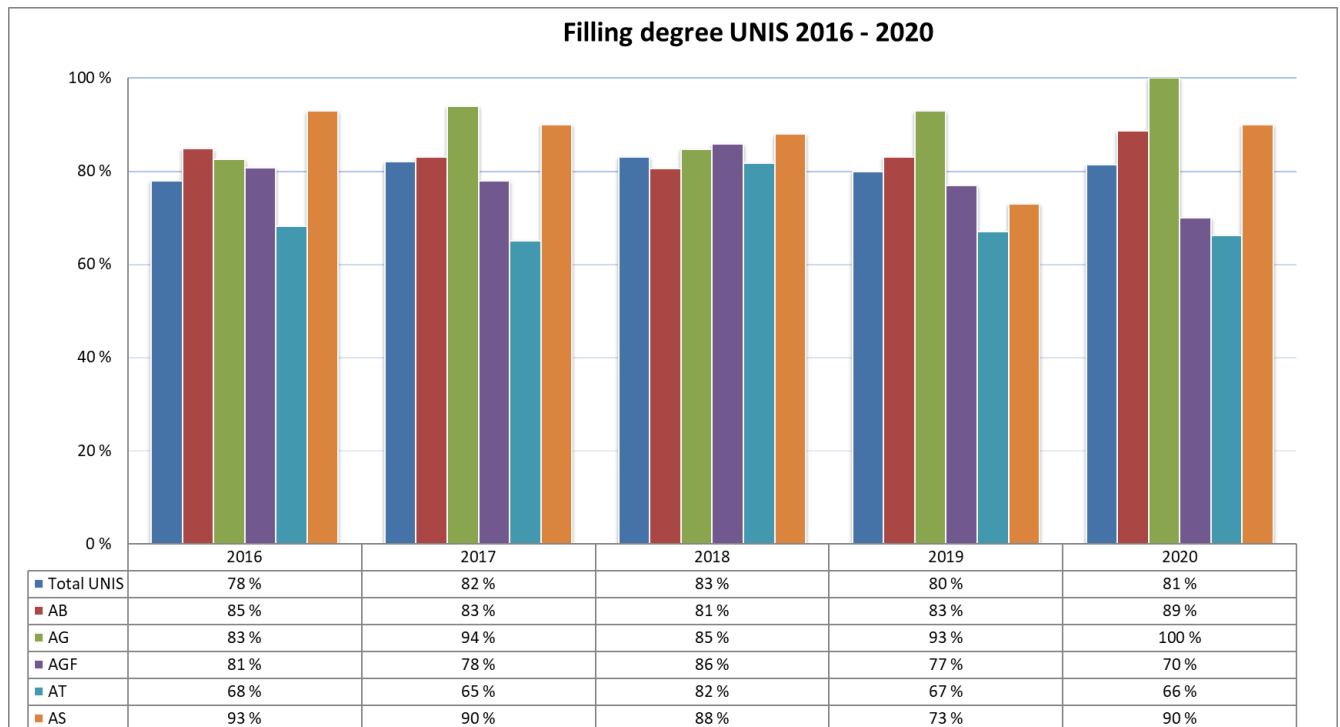
**Tab. 1.** ECTS production from guest students, distributed on the educational levels and scientific departments at UNIS in 2020.

## 4.5 Filling degree

To what extent the courses are filled with students is of course crucial for the ECTS production. The filling degree shows the percentage of the maximum educational offer being realized, *i.e.* the number of students actually showing up at course start in the different courses, divided on the maximum number of study places. In situations where more students are admitted than the given maximum number of places in the course, the filling degree is reported as > 100 %. Courses without restricted admission (AGF-216 «The Stormy Sun and the Northern Lights», AS-101 «Arctic Survival and Safety» and SH-201 «The History of Svalbard») are not included in the result.

The filling degree for the period 2016 – 2020 is given in fig. 14. In 2020 the filling degree for UNIS in total was 81 %. This is in accordance with previous years.

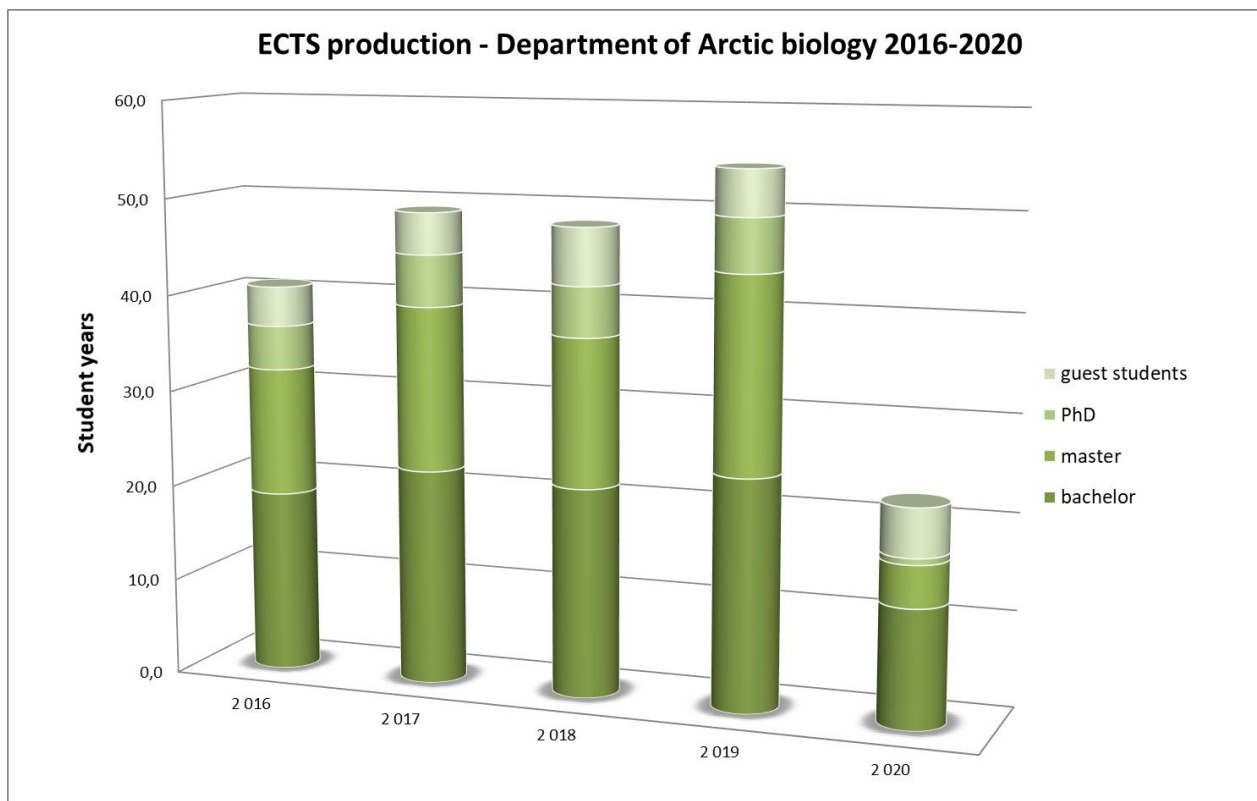
The scientific departments had somewhat different filling degrees in their courses. Department of Arctic Geology had a filling degree of 100 %. This was due to both bachelor courses having a filling degree of 90 %, as well as AG-325 «Glaciology» admitting more students than the given maximum number and thus reported with a filling degree of 120 %. Department of Arctic Biology also had a filling degree above UNIS as a whole (89 %), while Department of Arctic Geophysics had a lower filling degree than previous years (70 %). Department of Arctic Technology had the lowest filling degree; 66 %. The filling degree for courses within Arctic safety (90 %) includes only the course AS-203 «Arctic Safety and Field Leadership».



**Fig. 14.** Filling degree in UNIS courses in the different scientific departments 2016-2020.

## 4.6 ECTS production – Department of Arctic biology

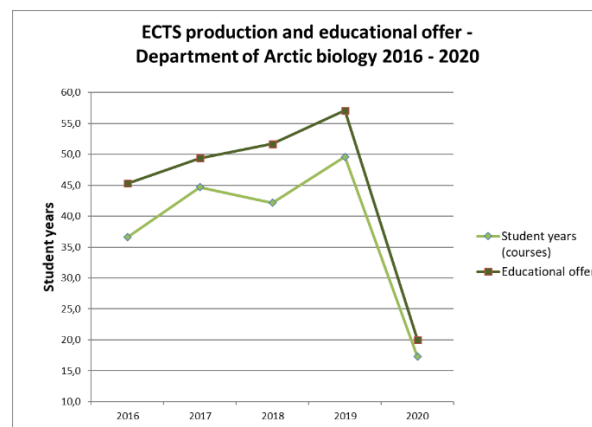
As expected in 2020 the Department of Arctic biology experienced a decrease in ECTS production at all levels, and especially at master- and PhD level. Only two master / PhD courses were completed in 2020. The number of guest students has been stable (fig. 15, tab. 2). The bachelor courses had a filling degree of 100 %. The two completed master / PhD courses, however, had a filling degree below UNIS as a whole. When comparing ECTS production based on courses with the educational offer over the years, these follow each other quite well (fig. 16). A list of the number of students in each course, number of student sitting and passing the final exam, as well as ECTS production and filling degree for each course is found in table 3.



**Fig. 15.** ECTS production in student years, Department of Arctic biology 2016 – 2020.

AB	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bachelor	18,8	22,3	21,7	23,9	12,3
Master	13,2	17,0	15,3	20,2	4,3
PhD	4,6	5,3	5,2	5,5	0,7
Guest students	4,1	4,3	5,9	4,7	5,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,7</b>	<b>49,0</b>	<b>48,1</b>	<b>54,3</b>	<b>22,3</b>
Courses	36,6	44,7	42,2	49,6	17,3
Educational offer	45,3	49,4	51,7	57,1	20,0

**Tab. 2.** ECTS production in student years, Department of Arctic biology 2016-2020.



**Fig. 16.** Student years and educational offer, Department of Arctic biology 2016-2020.

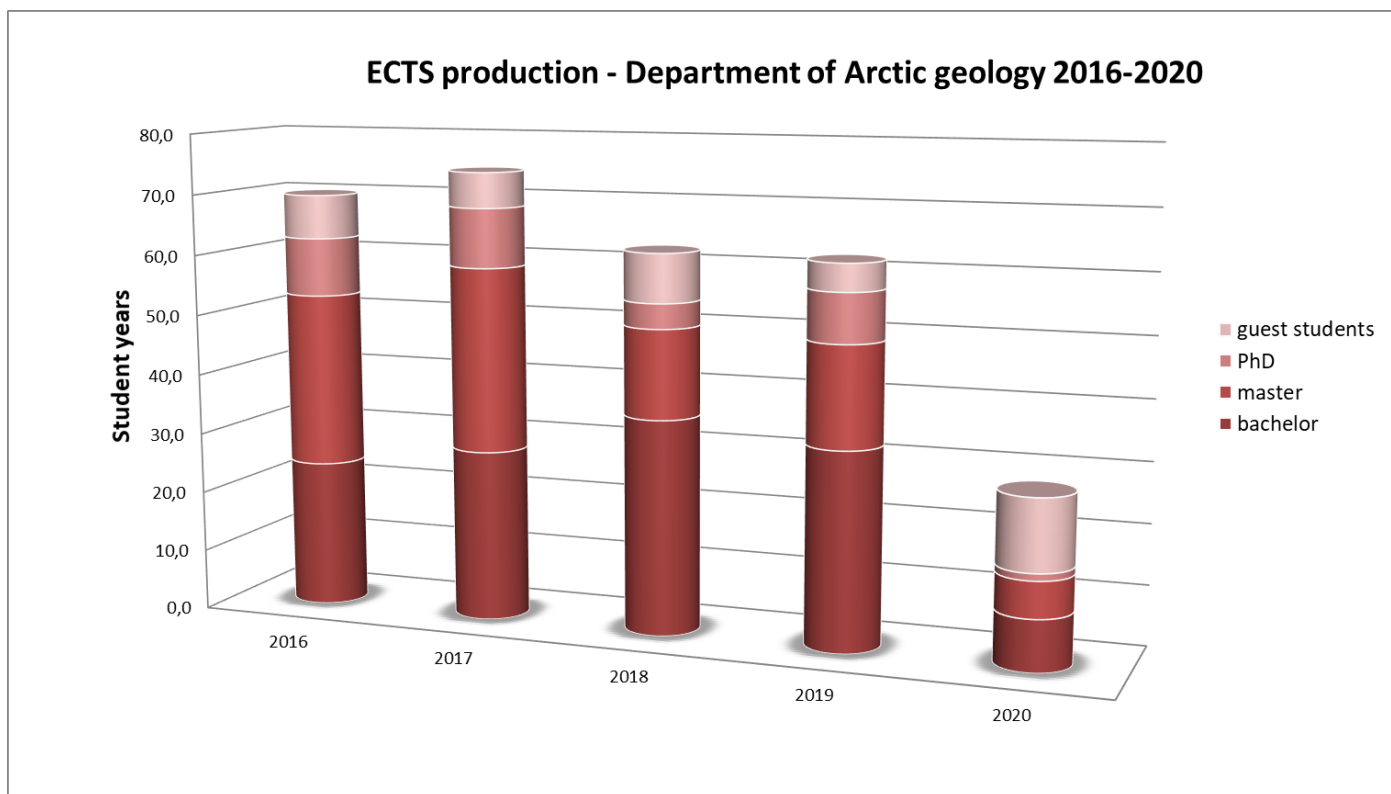
Arctic biology													
Course code	ECTS	Max number	Autumn / spring	No. candidates	Showed up	Passed	ECTS showed up	ECTS passed	Fail in ECTS	No show in ECTS	Level	Student years	Filling degree*
AB-202	15	20	6	20	20	20	300	300	0	0	bachelor	5,0	100 %
AB-203	15	25	6	25	25	24	375	360	15	0	bachelor	6,0	100 %
AB-208	15	5	6	5	5	5	75	75	0	0	bachelor	1,3	100 %
AB-333	10	20	6	14	12	12	120	120	0	20	master	2,0	75 %
AB-340	10	25	6	14	14	14	140	140	0	0	master	2,3	68 %
AB-833	10	-	6	1	1	1	10	10	0	0	ph.d.	0,2	-
AB-840	10	-	6	3	3	3	30	30	0	0	ph.d.	0,5	-
<b>Total</b>				<b>82</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>1035</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>17,3</b>	<b>89 %</b>
Guest students								297,5				5,0	
<b>Total production AB department</b>								<b>1332,5</b>				<b>22,3</b>	

\* For master- / PhD courses with common teaching, the filling degree is given for both courses together.

**Tab. 3.** List of the number of students in each course, the number of students sitting and passing the exam, as well as ECTS production and filling degree for each course in the Department of Arctic biology 2020.

## 4.7 ECTS production – Department of Arctic geology

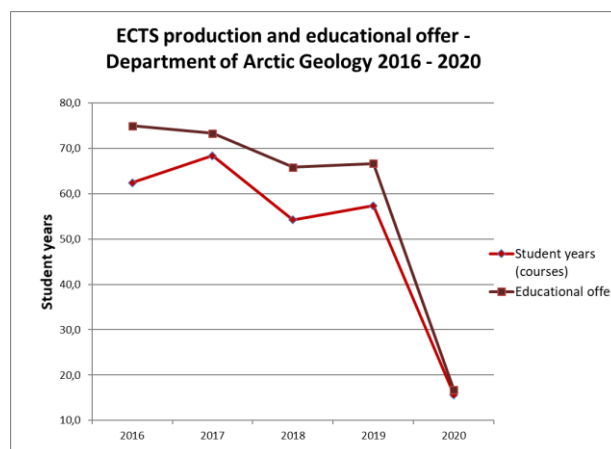
Like the other scientific departments, also the Department of Arctic geology experienced a marked reduction in ECTS production at all educational levels in 2020. Only two master / PhD courses were completed in 2020. It is worth noting that the department has increased its production from guest students significantly from previous years (fig. 17, tab. 4). All courses had a high filling degree; in AG-325 «Glaciology» more students were accepted than the given maximum number of places and is thus reported with a filling degree above 100 %. Figure 18 shows that the educational offer and the ECTS production follow each other quite well. A list of the number of students in each course, number of student sitting and passing the final exam, as well as ECTS production and filling degree for each course is found in table 5.



**Fig. 17.** ECTS production in student years, Department of Arctic geology 2016 – 2020.

AG	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bachelor	24,3	28,3	35,5	32,6	8,5
Master	28,6	30,4	14,7	16,7	6,0
PhD	9,6	9,8	4,1	8,1	1,2
Guest students	7,2	5,8	8,0	4,5	11,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,7</b>	<b>74,2</b>	<b>62,3</b>	<b>61,8</b>	<b>27,5</b>
Courses	62,4	68,4	54,3	57,3	15,7
Educational offer	75,0	73,3	65,8	66,7	16,7

**Tab. 4.** ECTS production in student years, Department of Arctic geology 2016-2020.



**Fig. 18.** Student years and educational offer, Department of Arctic geology 2016-2020.

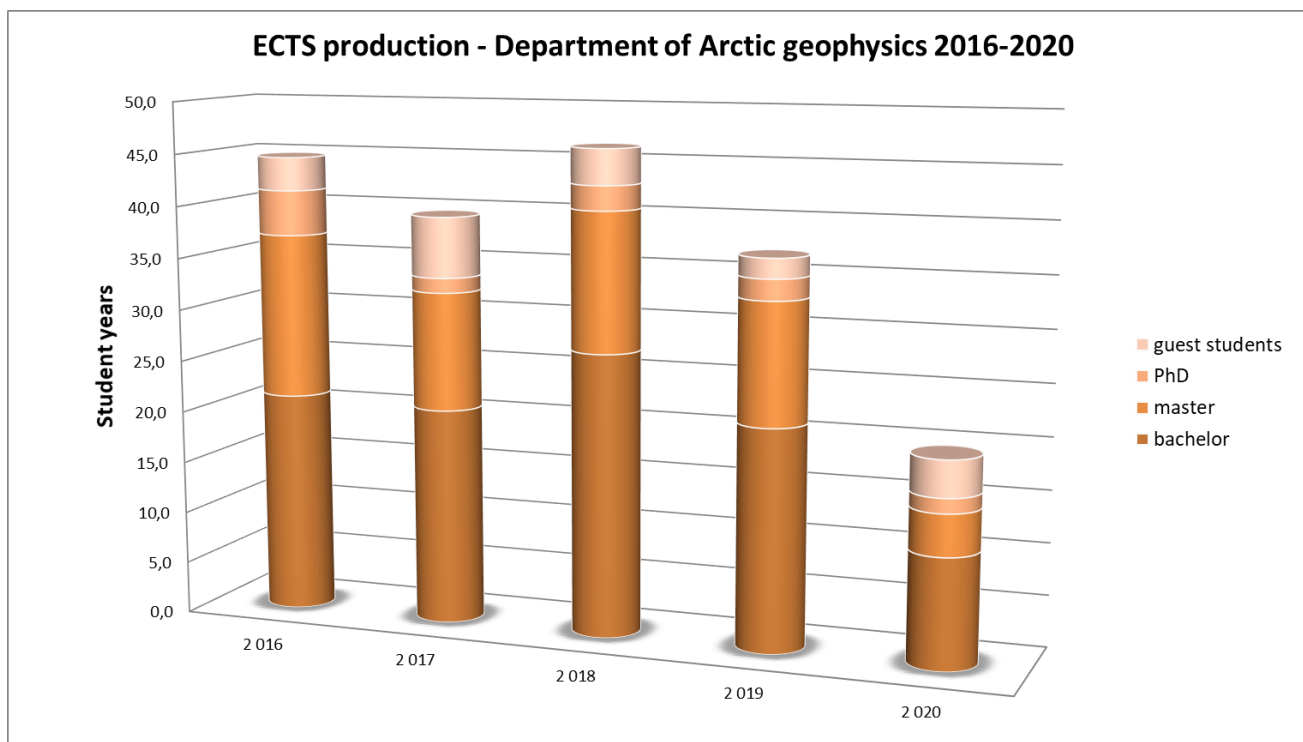
Arctic geology													
Course code	ECTS	Max number	Autumn / spring	No. candidates	Showed up	Passed	ECTS showed up	ECTS passed	Fail in ECTS	No show in ECTS	Level	Student years	Filling degree*
AG-209	15	20	6	18	17	17	255	255	0	15	bachelor	4,25	90 %
AG-222	15	20	6	18	17	17	255	255	0	15	bachelor	4,25	90 %
AG-325	10	20	6	24	24	24	240	240	0	0	master	4	120 %
AG-335	10	20	6	13	12	12	120	120	0	10	master	2	100 %
AG-835	10	-	6	7	7	7	70	70	0	0	ph.d.	1,2	-
<b>Total</b>				<b>80</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>		<b>15,7</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Guest students</b>							<b>710</b>					<b>11,8</b>	
<b>Total production AG department</b>							<b>1650</b>					<b>27,5</b>	

\* For master- / PhD courses with common teaching, the filling degree is given for both courses together.

**Tab. 5.** List of the number of students in each course, the number of students sitting and passing the exam, as well as ECTS production and filling degree for each course in the Department of Arctic geology 2020.

## 4.8 ECTS production – Department of Arctic geophysics

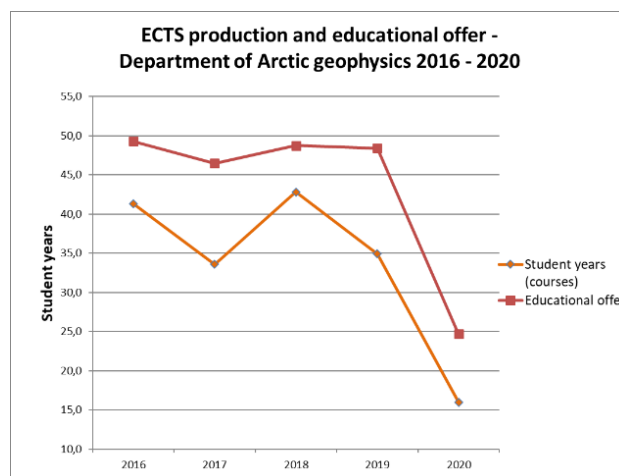
The Department of Arctic geophysics also experienced a marked reduction in ECTS production at all educational levels compared to previous years. The production from guest students has been stable, and is higher than last year (fig. 19, tab. 6). The Department of Arctic geophysics completed two large master- / PhD courses, AGF-301 / 801 «The Upper Polar Atmosphere» and AGF-304 / 804 «Radar Diagnostics of Space Plasma» during spring 2020, in addition to AGF-350 / 850 «The Arctic Atmospheric Boundary Layer and Local Climate Processes». These courses had a filling degree of only 50-55 %, leading to lower production than could ideally have been the case. The bachelor courses had a high filling degree. Figure 20 shows that the educational offer and the ECTS production follow each other, but the variation is greater than in the other departments. A list of the number of students in each course, number of student sitting and passing the final exam, as well as ECTS production and filling degree for each course is found in table 7.



**Fig. 19.** ECTS production in student years, Department of Arctic geophysics 2016 – 2020.

AGF	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bachelor	21,3	20,8	27,2	21,3	10,6
Master	15,8	11,3	13,3	11,7	4,0
PhD	4,3	1,4	2,3	2,0	1,4
Guest students	3,2	5,8	3,4	1,9	3,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,6</b>	<b>39,4</b>	<b>46,2</b>	<b>36,8</b>	<b>19,5</b>
Courses	41,3	33,6	42,8	34,9	16,0
Educational offer	49,3	46,5	48,8	48,4	24,7

**Tab. 6.** ECTS production in student years, Department of Arctic geophysics 2016-2020.



**Fig. 20.** Student years and educational offer, Department of Arctic geophysics 2016 – 2020.

Arctic geophysics													
Course code	ECTS	Max number	Autumn / spring	No. candidates	Showed up	Passed	ECTS showed up	ECTS passed	Fail in ECTS	No show in ECTS	Level	Student years	Filling degree*
AGF-211	15	20	6	20	20	20	300	300	0	0	bachelor	5,0	100 %
AGF-212	15	20	6	19	18	18	270	270	0	15	bachelor	4,5	95 %
AGF-216	5	-	6	40	13	13	65	65	0	135	bachelor	1,1	-
AGF-301	15	16	6	6	6	6	90	90	0	0	master	1,5	50 %
AGF-304	15	16	6	6	6	6	90	90	0	0	master	1,5	50 %
AGF-350	10	20	6	7	6	6	60	60	0	10	master	1,0	55 %
AGF-801	15	-	6	2	2	2	30	30	0	0	ph.d.	0,5	-
AGF-804	15	-	6	2	2	1	30	15	15	0	ph.d.	0,3	-
AGF-850	10	-	6	4	4	4	40	40	0	0	ph.d.	0,7	-
<b>Total</b>				<b>106</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>160</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>70 %</b>
Guest students								207,5				3,5	
Total production AGF-department								1167,5				19,5	

\* For master- / PhD courses with common teaching, the filling degree is given for both courses together.

\*\* AGF-216 «The stormy sun and the northern lights» » is omitted when calculating the filling degree, as this course does not have restricted admission.

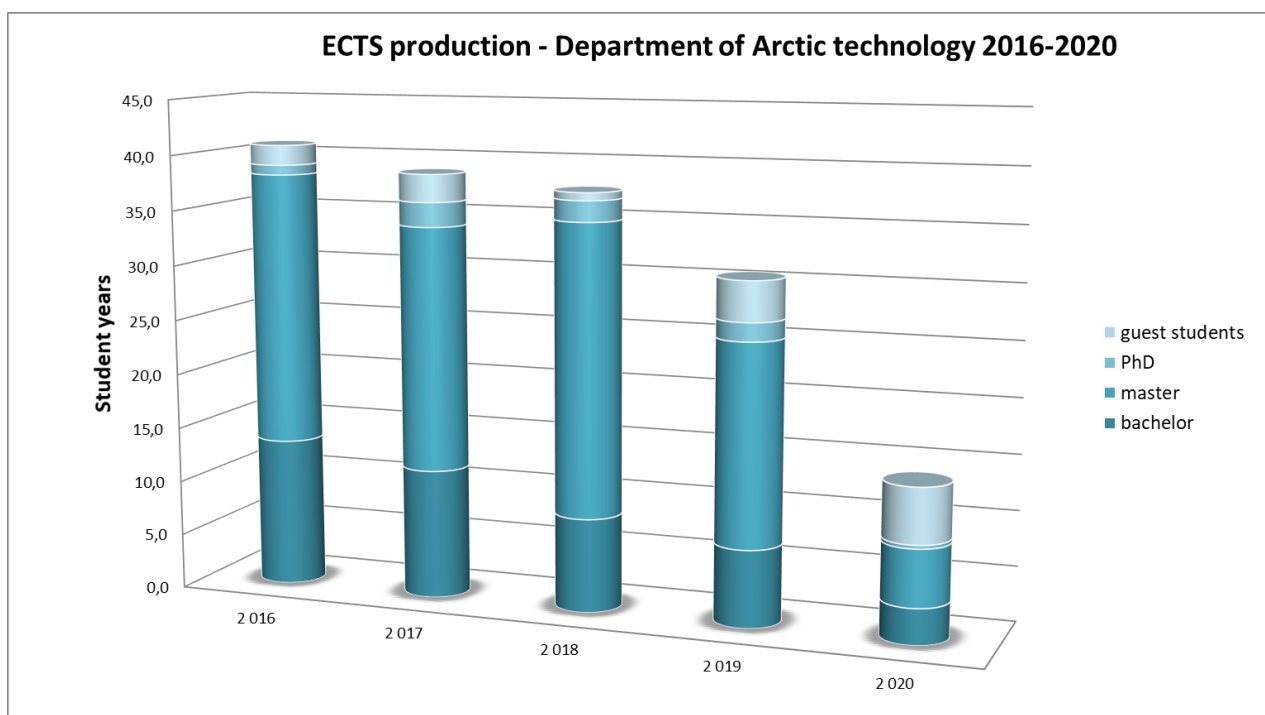
**Tab. 7.** List of the number of students in each course, the number of students sitting and passing the exam, as well as ECTS production and filling degree for each course in the Department of Arctic geophysics 2020.



## 4.9 ECTS production – Department of Arctic technology

Like the other scientific departments, the Department of Arctic technology also experienced a marked reduction in ECTS production at all educational levels in 2020. However, the production from guest students has increased from previous years (fig. 21, tab. 8). At the AT department, bachelor courses are only offered in spring semester (AT-205 «Frozen Ground Engineering for Arctic Infrastructures» and AT-211 «Ice Mechanics, Loads on Structures and Instrumentation»). These courses were carried out in spring 2020, but with relatively low filling degree and a large dropout rate (tab. 9). Two master / PhD courses were carried out in spring 2021.

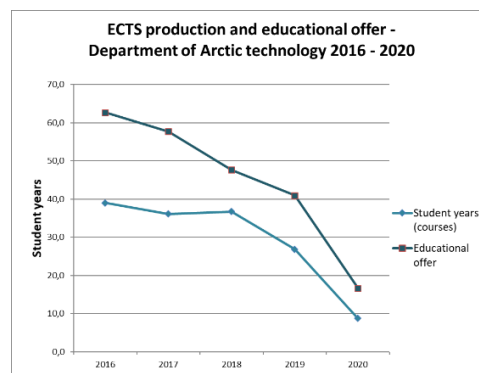
The department has experienced a reduction in both educational offer and ECTS production over the last years (fig. 22). The peak year was in 2015, when 46,2 student years were produced. The reduction in educational offer has been greater than the reduction in production. Possible reasons can be termination of bachelor courses in autumn semester, reduction in maximum number of students in AT-327 / 827 «Arctic Offshore Engineering» from 60 to 20 from 2019 onwards, and few permanent scientific staff in the department. A list of the number of students in each course, number of student sitting and passing the final exam, as well as ECTS production and filling degree for each course is found in table 9.



**Fig. 21.** ECTS production in student years, Department of Arctic technology 2016 – 2020.

AT	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bachelor	13,5	11,8	8,5	7,0	3,3
Master	24,6	22,2	26,4	18,2	5,2
Ph.d.	0,9	2,2	1,9	1,7	0,3
Guest students	1,8	2,5	0,7	3,6	5,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,8</b>	<b>38,6</b>	<b>37,5</b>	<b>30,5</b>	<b>13,8</b>
Courses	39,0	36,1	36,8	26,9	8,8
Educational offer	62,7	57,7	47,7	41,0	16,7

**Tab. 8.** ECTS production in student years, Department of Arctic technology 2016 – 2020.



**Fig. 22.** Student years and educational offer, Department of Arctic technology 2016 – 2020.

Arctic technology													
Course code	ECTS	Max number	Autumn / spring	No. candidates	Showed up	Passed	ECTS showed up	ECTS passed	Fail in ECTS	No show in ECTS	Level	Student years	Filling degree*
AT-205	15	20	6	10	6	6	90	90	0	60	bachelor	1,5	50 %
AT-211	15	20	6	11	7	7	105	105	0	60	bachelor	1,8	55 %
AT-327	10	30	06U	1	1	1	10	10	0	0	master	0,2	rescheduled exam
AT-330	10	20	6	16	16	16	160	160	0	0	master	2,7	90 %
AT-331	10	20	6	14	14	14	140	140	0	0	master	2,3	70 %
AT-830	10	-	6	2	2	2	20	20	0	0	ph.d.	0,3	-
<b>Total</b>				<b>54</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>120</b>		<b>8,8</b>	<b>66 %</b>
<b>Guest students</b>								300				5,0	
<b>Total production AT department</b>								<b>825</b>				<b>13,8</b>	

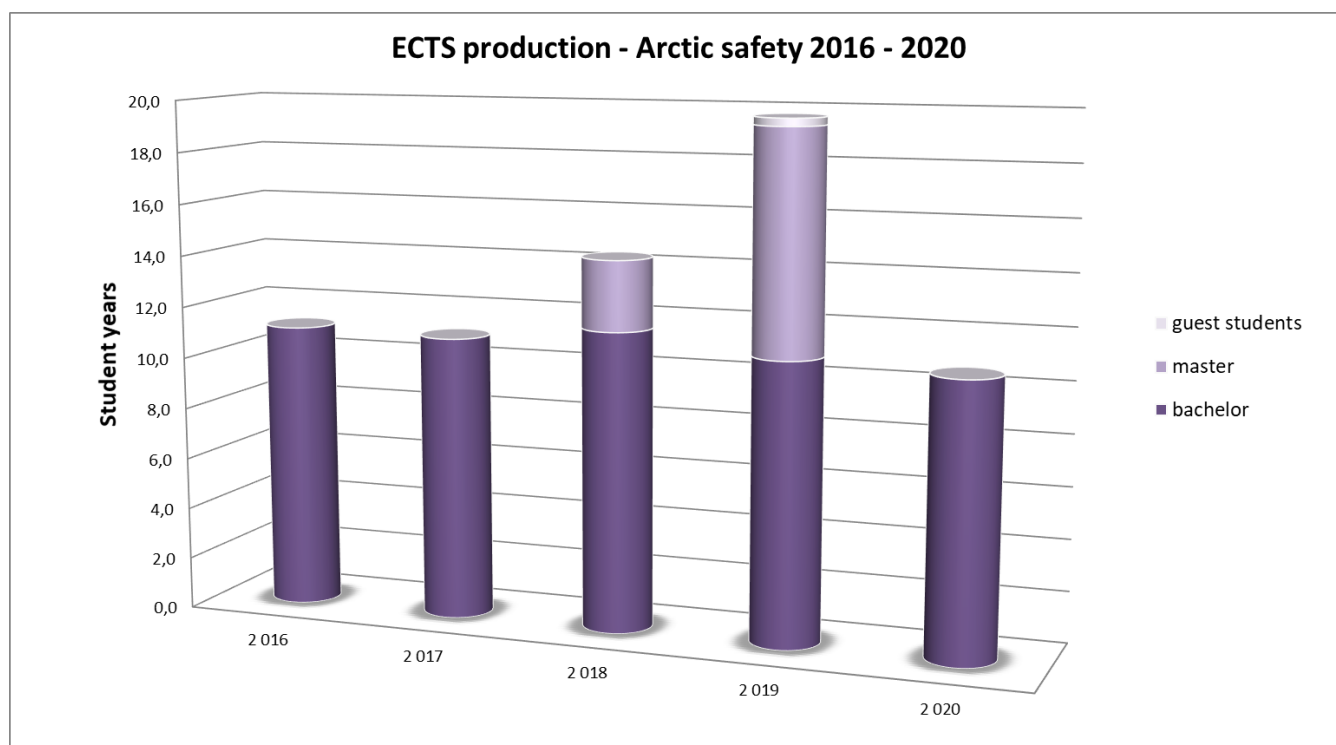
\* For master- / PhD courses with common teaching, the filling degree is given for both courses together.

**Tab. 9.** List of the number of students in each course, the number of students sitting and passing the exam, as well as ECTS production and filling degree for each course in the Department of Arctic technology 2020.

## 4.10 ECTS production – Arctic safety

Even though Arctic safety is not a scientific department at UNIS, courses within this group is still of such a magnitude that it is appropriate to report these as a separate group. This year only two courses within Arctic safety were carried out: AS-101 «Arctic Survival and Safety» and AS-203 «Arctic Safety and Field Leadership».

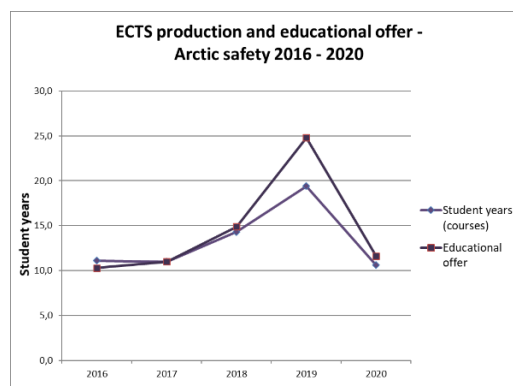
ECTS production at bachelor level was approximately on the same level in 2020 as earlier, as both bachelor courses were carried out in 2020. All master courses are scheduled in autumn semester, thus none of these were carried out in 2020. No courses on PhD level are offered within Arctic safety. No guest students were affiliated with Arctic safety in 2020 (fig. 23, tab. 10). Figure 24 shows that the educational offer and ECTS production follow each other quite well. A list of the number of students in each course, number of student sitting and passing the final exam, as well as ECTS production and filling degree for each course is found in table 11.



**Fig. 23.** ECTS production in student years, Arctic safety 2016 – 2020.

Arktisk sikkerhet	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bachelor	11,1	11,0	11,6	10,9	10,6
Master	0,0	0,0	2,7	8,5	0,0
Guest students	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,3	0,0
Total	11,1	11,0	14,3	19,7	10,6
<b>Courses</b>	<b>11,1</b>	<b>11,0</b>	<b>14,3</b>	<b>19,4</b>	<b>10,6</b>
Educational offer	10,3	11,0	14,9	24,8	11,6

**Tab. 10.** ECTS production in student years, Arctic safety 2016-2020.



**Fig. 24.** Student years and educational offer, Arctic safety 2016-2020.

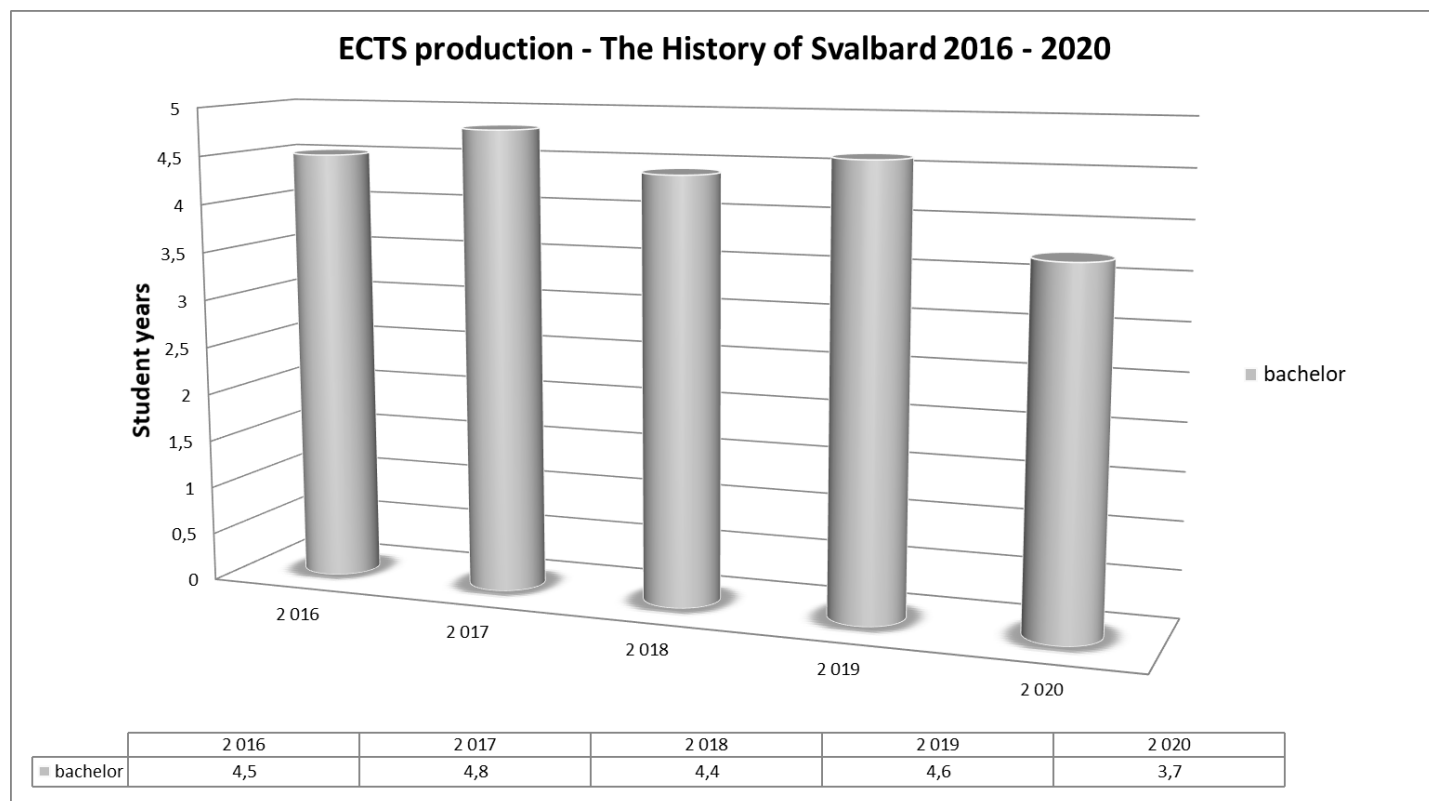
Arctic safety													
Course code	ECTS	Max number	Autumn / spring	No. candidates	Showed up	Passed	ECTS showed up	ECTS passed	Fail in ECTS	No show in ECTS	Level	Student years	Filling degree*
AS-101	3	-	6	91	87	86	261	258	3	12	bachelor	4,3	-
AS-203	14	30	6	27	27	27	378	378	0	0	bachelor	6,3	90 %
<b>Total</b>				<b>118</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>10,6</b>	<b>90 %</b>
<b>Guest students</b>								0				0,0	
<b>Total production - Arctic safety</b>								<b>636</b>				<b>10,6</b>	

\* AS-101 «Arctic survival and safety» is omitted when calculating the filling degree. AS-101 does not have restricted admission, and is open for all new semester students at UNIS in spring semester.

**Tab. 11.** List of the number of students in each course, the number of students sitting and passing the exam, as well as ECTS production and filling degree for each course within Arctic safety 2020.

## 4.11 ECTS production – The History of Svalbard

The course SH-201 «The history of Svalbard» is mandatory for the Arctic Nature Guide students, and open for all other UNIS students. The ECTS production has been relatively stable over the years, and the course accounts for 4-5 student years annually. This year, the course experienced a somewhat lower production than previous years, but there is no marked reduction like in the scientific departments, as the course was carried out prior to onset of the Covid 19-restrictions (fig. 25). Possible causes for the somewhat lower production can be a higher percentage of failing grades than in previous years (jfr. chap. 5.7). As there is no restricted admission in this course, it is not meaningful to report filling degree. A list of the number of students in the course, number of student sitting and passing the final exam, as well as ECTS production is found in table 12.



**Fig. 25.** ECTS production in student years, SH-201 «The history of Svalbard» 2016-2020.

The History of Svalbard												
Course code	ECTS	Max number	Autumn / spring	No. candidates	Showed up	Passed	ECTS showed up	ECTS passed	Fail in ECTS	No show in ECTS	Level	Student years
SH-201	6	-	6	61	41	35	246	210	36	120	bachelor	3,5
SH-201	6	-	06K	5	4	1	24	6	18	6	bachelor	0,1
SH-201	6	-	06U	2	1	1	6	6	0	6	bachelor	0,1
<b>Total</b>				<b>68</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>132</b>		<b>3,7</b>
Total production The History of Svalbard												

**Tab. 12.** List of the number of students in the course SH-201 “The History of Svalbard”, the number of students sitting and passing the exam, as well as ECTS production 2020.

## 5. Grade statistics – results from final assessment

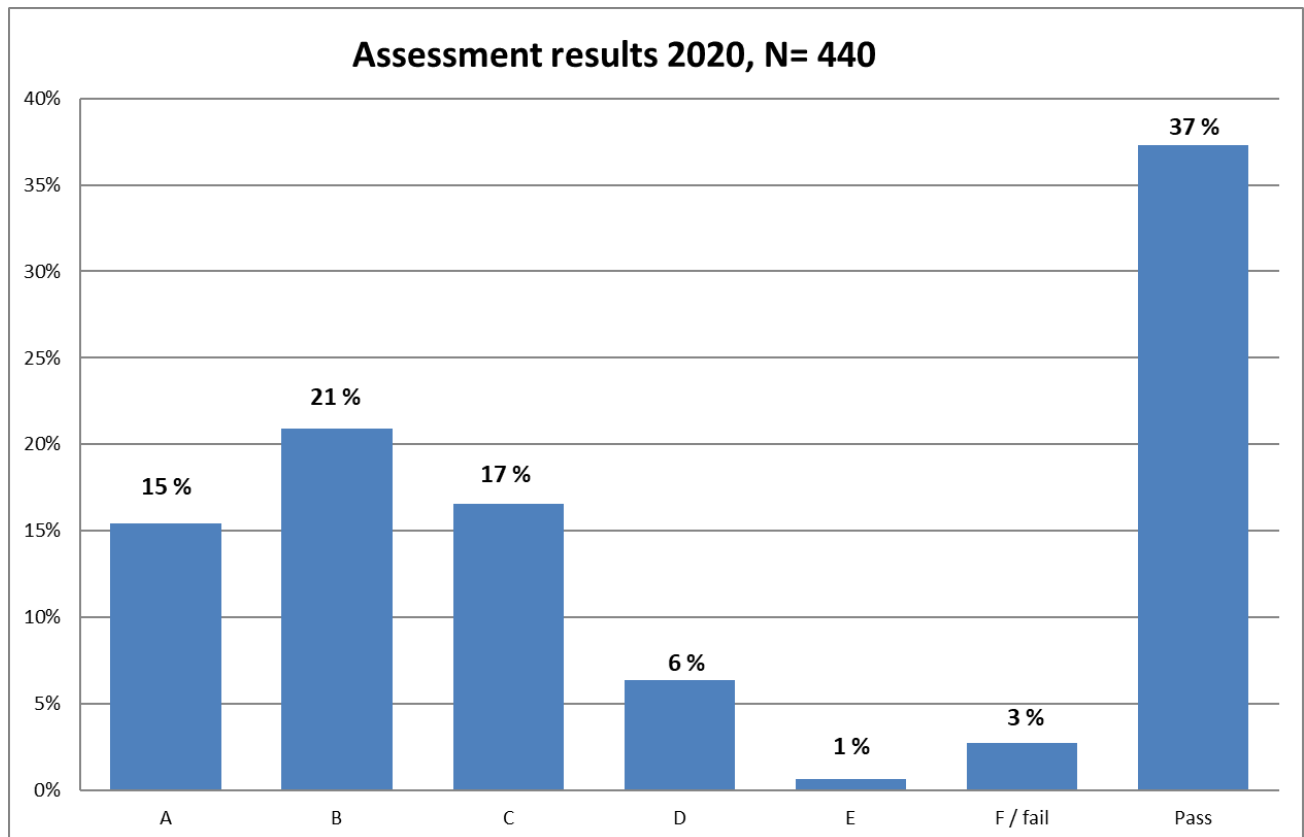
Several assessment forms exist when assessing a course at UNIS. Examples are written or oral exams, practical exercises, reports, presentations, posters, take-home exams, or a combination of these. In some courses only the final result is reported. In other courses, part grades for the different assessment forms are reported, in addition to the final grade. In the following, only final results are reported, *i.e.* one grade per candidate per course.

The results are reported either by the grading scale A-F, or as «pass / fail». The grade «fail» is in the following combined with the grade F, while the grade «pass» is reported separately.

Guest students finishing their degree will have the result registered at their home university. These results are not registered at UNIS and are therefore not included in this report.

### 5.1 Assessment results for UNIS as a whole

In 2020, 440 final assessments were arranged at UNIS. This is of course a lower number than in previous years, where just above 1100 final assessments were normally arranged. This should be seen in elucidation of the reduced educational offer in 2020. A summary of the results for 2020 is found in fig. 26.



**Fig. 26.** Assessment results for UNIS 2020. N= number of final assessments.

Following the introduction of Covid 19-restrictions in March with subsequent great changes in teaching activities, temporary regulations to UNIS' Study regulations were formulated and approved by the UNIS Board 17 March 2020. These temporary regulations opened for *e.g.* changing the assessment forms in the courses. Following this, several courses changed their assessment form from letter grade to «pass / fail». The percentage of students with «pass» as final result is therefore much higher in 2020 (37 %) than in previous years, with a percentage typically between 10 and 15 %.

For courses assessed with letter grades, the grading scale is skewed towards high grades, with a mean value around the grade B. This is in accordance with the results from previous years.

The percentage of failing grades at UNIS in 2020 was 3 %. This is higher than the three previous years, when the overall failing percentage was 1 %. The percentage of failing grades is still low compared to the Norwegian universities. It is possible that the somewhat higher percentage of failing grades is due to a high number of failing grades in a single course, SH-201 «The History of Svalbard», cf. chap. 5.8.

Seen over several years with such a high number of grades, a normal distribution with mean value around the grade C should be expected. There might be several reasons behind UNIS' students receiving quite good grades, but the following can be mentioned:

- When applying for admission to UNIS courses, the students compete for admission based on their GPA from previous university education. Thus, primarily students with a high GPA will be admitted.
- UNIS has an expressed strategy to include students in field based authentic research. Several studies show that such authentic research experiences lead to increased motivation and better understanding of scientific processes. This is also confirmed in the students' own course evaluations.
- UNIS is partner in two centers for excellent education, BioCeed and iEarth. These are working actively with the development of new teaching methods improving student learning.
- Students are taught in small groups, with close follow-up from course responsables and lecturers.

## 5.2 Dropout rate

16,1 % of the students starting at UNIS' courses finished without a passed result. As mentioned, 3 % of these were students failing the final assessment. UNIS had a dropout rate of 13,4 %. These consisted of 5,1 % not showing up for the final assessment, and 8,3 % who had their exam registration cancelled during the course (tab. 13a).

Students registered with «no show» as final result are either students not showing up for their final assessment, or students failing to submit their report, take-home exam etc. within the given deadline. Students who have their exam registration cancelled are either students who withdraw from the course, or students who do not fulfil the mandatory learning activities necessary to be registered for the final assessment.

By omitting AGF-216 «The Stormy Sun and the Northern Lights» and SH-201 «The History of Svalbard», the dropout rate decreases markedly (tab. 13b). AGF-216 is voluntary for all students and is followed in addition to normal study progression. SH-201 is mandatory for ANG-students, but voluntary for the other students. In both courses, an attendance of at least 80 % is required to be registered for the final assessment. The results show that a large part of the students who had their exam registration cancelled were students in AGF-216 and SH-201 who either withdrew or failed to fulfil the attendance requirements.

The dropout rate is higher than previous years. Last year, the dropout rate was 9,8 % (including all courses) and 3.5 % excluding AGF-216 and SH-201. A higher dropout rate after introduction of the Covid 19-restrictions in March could be expected. The results still show that most of the dropouts at UNIS is due to the voluntary courses AGF-216 and SH-201, and especially due to students withdrawing from the courses before the final assessment. All in all, we are satisfied that the dropout rate for ordinary courses remained low despite the thorough changes in study situation after introduction of the Covid 19-restrictions and subsequent transition to digital teaching.

Students without passed result	% of students	Student years
Fail	2,7 %	1,5
No show	5,1 %	3,8
Illness	0,0 %	0,0
Cancelled exam registration	8,3 %	4,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,1 %</b>	<b>9,5</b>

**Tab. 13a.** Students without passed result for final assessment, divided in «fail» and dropout categories.

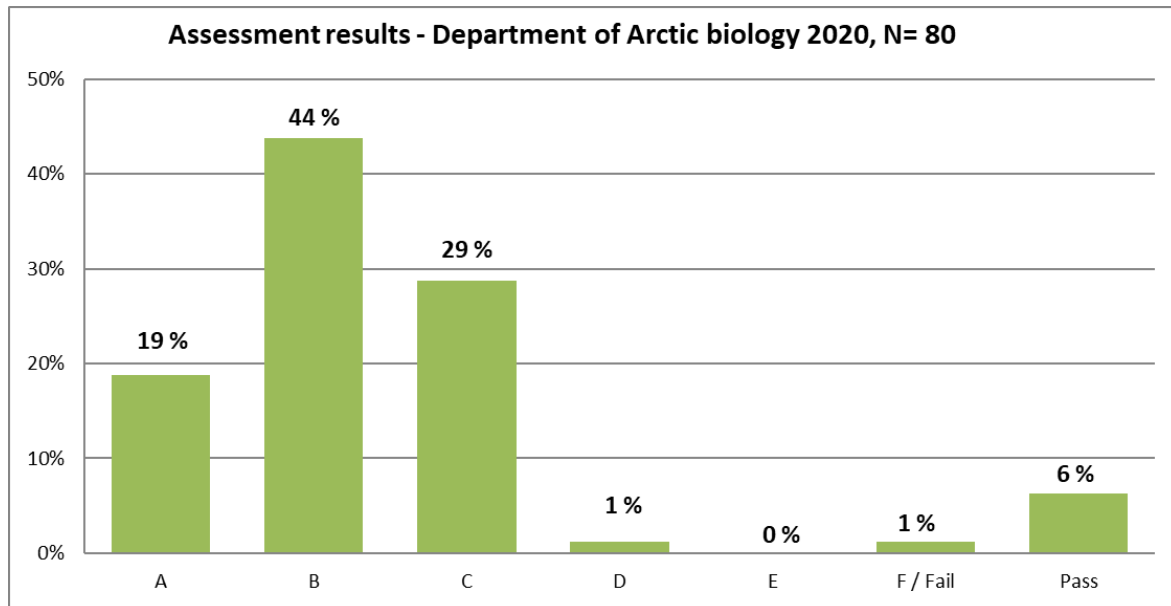
Students without passed result, excl. AGF-216 and SH-201	% av stud	Student years
Fail	0,7 %	0,6
No show	2,2 %	2,5
Illness	0,0 %	0,0
Cancelled exam registration	1,6 %	1,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,4 %</b>	<b>4,2</b>

**Tab. 13b.** Students without passed result for final assessment, divided in «fail» and dropout categories, excl. the courses AGF-216 and SH-201.



### 5.3 Assessment results – Department of Arctic biology

Assessment results for the Department of Arctic biology are given in fig. 27.



**Fig. 27.** Assessment results, Department of Arctic biology 2020. N= number of final assessments.

Students at the Department of Arctic biology generally received high grades. The grade distribution is approximately like previous years. There are slightly more C's and fewer A's than last year, but the difference is slight. The percentage of failing grades was lower than UNIS as a whole; 1,3 %. None of the courses changed grading scale following the Covid 19-restrictions.

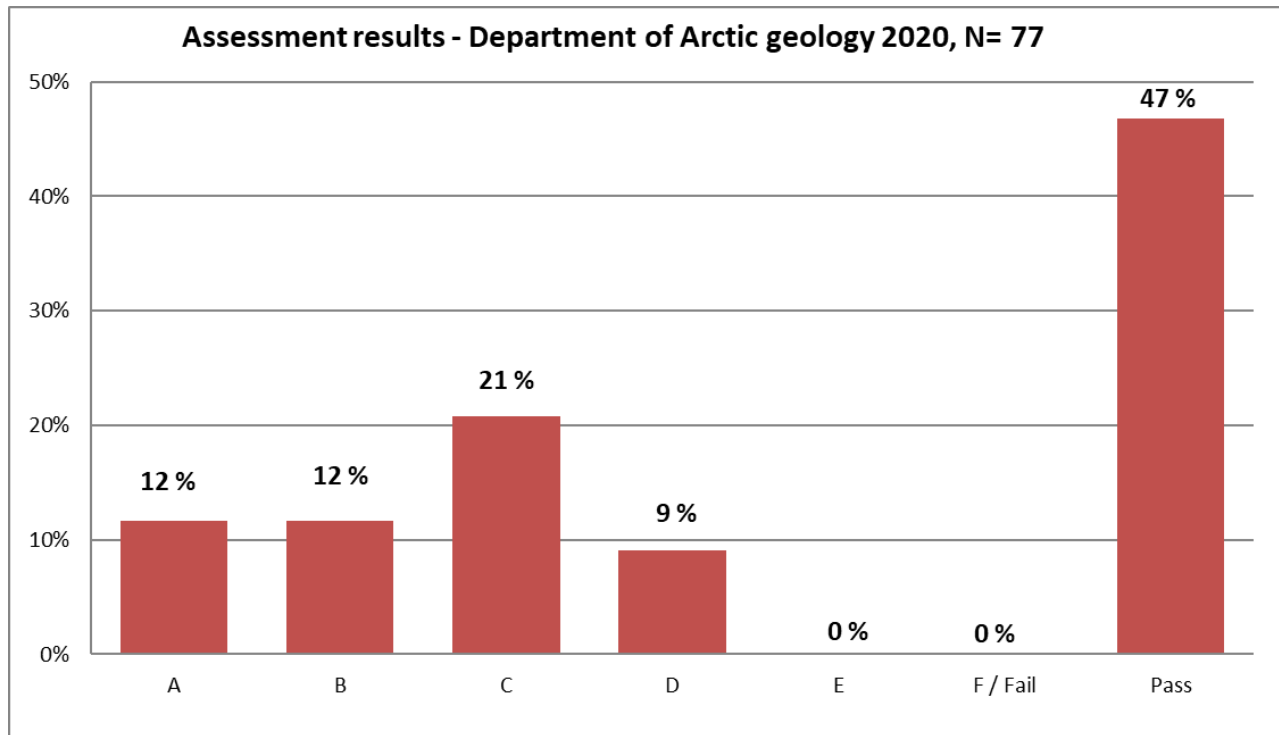
An overview of students finishing without passed result is given in table 14. An explanation of the different dropout categories is found in chap. 5.2. See also table 3 for course details.

Students without passed result	% of students	Student years
Fail	1,3 %	0,3
No show	2,4 %	0,3
Illness	0,0 %	0,0
Cancelled exam registration	0,0 %	0,0
Total	3,7 %	0,6

**Tab. 14.** Students finishing without passed result, Department of Arctic biology, divided in «fail» and dropout categories.

## 5.4 Assessment results – Department of Arctic geology

Assessment results for the Department of Arctic geology are given in fig. 28.



**Fig. 28.** Assessment results, Department of Arctic geology 2020. N= number of final assessments.

The grade distribution at the Department of Arctic geology differs from previous years. The grades are distributed around the middle of the grading scale, with mean value around the grade C. In previous years the mean value has been around B. No students failed final assessment. One bachelor course and one master / PhD course changed from letter grade to «pass / fail».

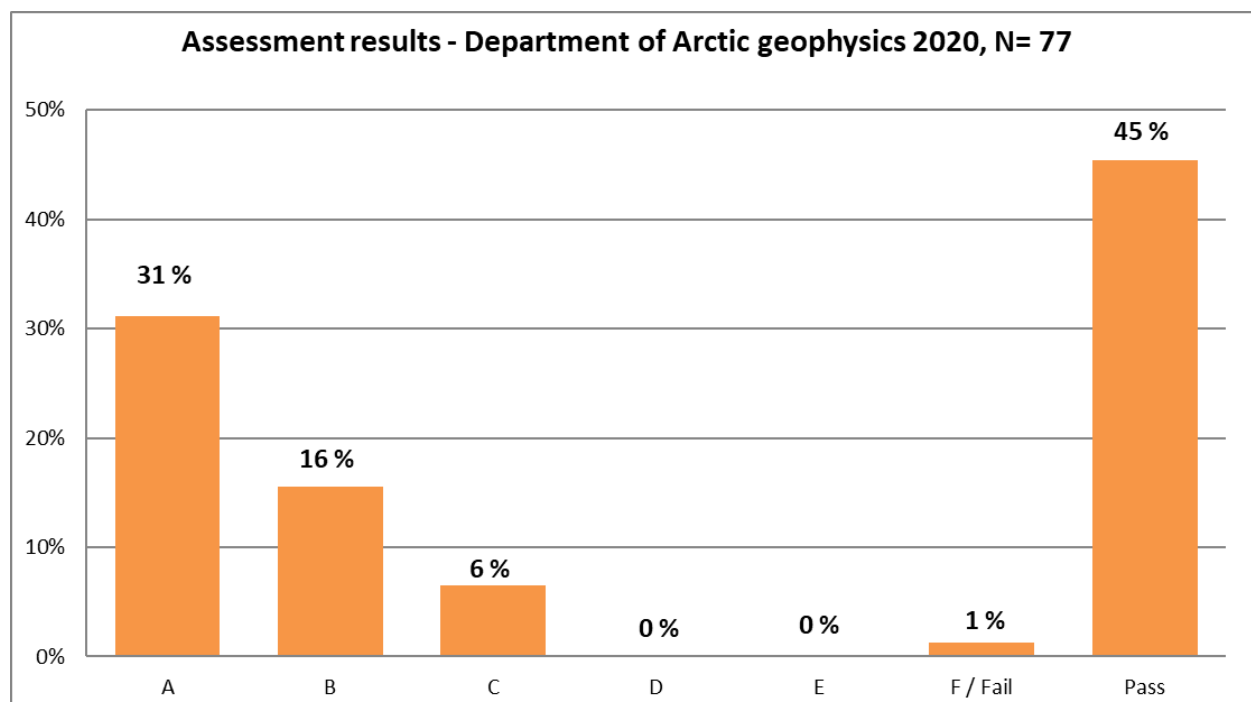
An overview of students finishing without passed result is given in table 15. An explanation of the different dropout categories is found in chap. 5.2. See also table 5 for course details.

Students without passed result	% of students	Student years
Fail	0,0 %	0,0
No show	1,3 %	0,2
Illness	0,0 %	0,0
Cancelled exam registration	2,5 %	0,5
Total	3,8 %	0,7

**Tab. 15.** Students finishing without passed result, Department of Arctic geology, divided in «fail» and dropout categories.

## 5.5 Assessment results – Department of Arctic geophysics

Assessment results for the Department of Arctic geophysics are given in fig. 29.



**Fig. 29.** Assessment results Department of Arctic geophysics 2020. N= number of final assessments.

Department of Arctic geophysics also shows a somewhat different grade distribution than previous years. Normally, the mean value has been around C, but this year the grade distribution is skewed towards higher grades with A as the most frequent result. The percent of failing grades is lower than for UNIS as a whole (1,3 %). One bachelor course and two master- / PhD courses changed from letter grade to «pass / fail».

An overview of students finishing without passed result is given in table 16a. The department had a high percentage of students not showing up for exam or withdrawing their exam registration. This was mainly students in AGF-216, which is voluntary for all UNIS students, and can be followed in addition to normal study progression. Table 16b shows students finishing without passed result, but where this course is omitted. When omitting this course, the Department of Arctic geophysics had the lowest dropout rate at UNIS. See also table 7 for course details.

	% of students	Student years
<b>Students without passed result</b>		
Fail	1,3 %	0,3
No show	10,4 %	1,1
Illness	0,0 %	0,0
Cancelled exam registration	17,0 %	1,6
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,7 %</b>	<b>2,9</b>

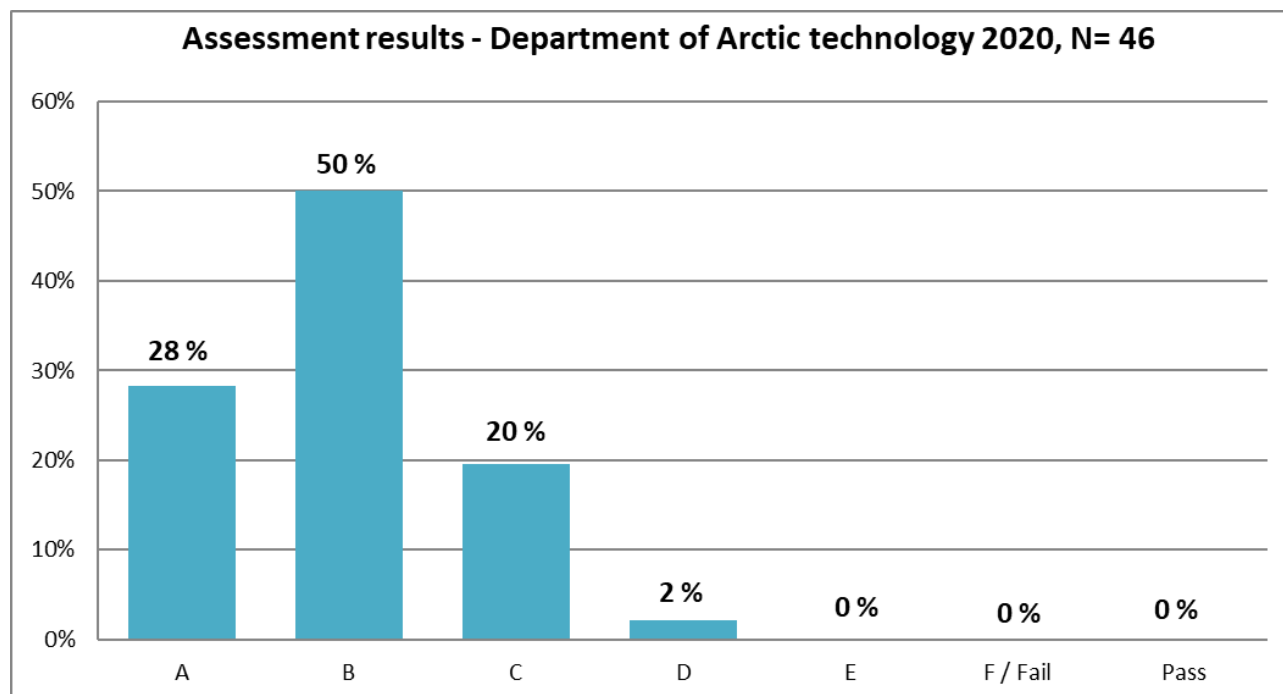
**Tab. 16a.** Students finishing without passed result, Department of Arctic geophysics; divided in «fail» and dropout categories.

	% of students	Student years
<b>Students without passed result (excl. AGF-216)</b>		
Fail	1,3 %	0,3
No show	0,9 %	0,3
Illness	0,0 %	0,0
Cancelled exam registration	0,9 %	0,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,2 %</b>	<b>0,7</b>

**Tab. 15b.** Students finishing without passed result, excl. AGF-216, Department of Arctic geophysics; divided in «fail» and dropout categories.

## 5.6 Assessment results – Department of Arctic technology

Assessment results for the Department of Arctic technology are given in fig. 30.



**Fig. 30.** Assessment results Department of Arctic technology 2020. N= number of final assessments.

The Department of Arctic technology had a grade distribution approximately in line with the total UNIS result, however there were some more Bs than UNIS as a whole. The grade distribution is skewed towards higher grades when comparing with last year. No students failed final assessment. None of the courses changed grading scale following the Covid 19-restrictions.

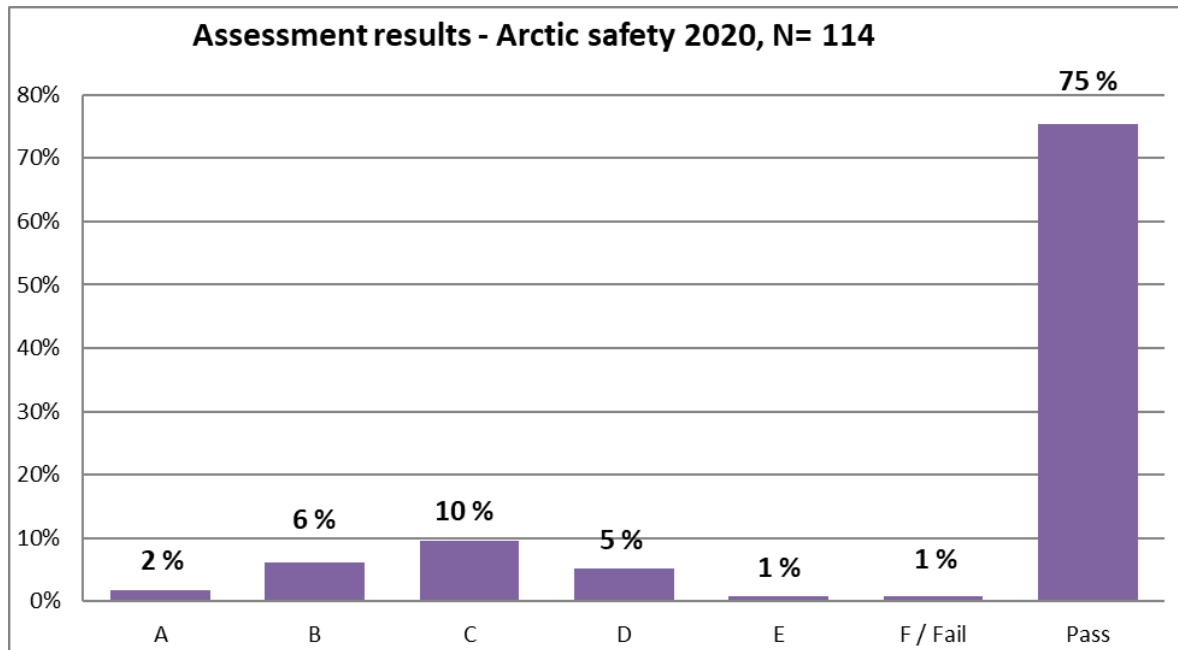
An overview of students finishing without passed result is given in table 17. An explanation of the different dropout categories is found in chap. 5.2. There was a relatively high percentage of students not showing up for the final exam in this department (7 students in total). See also table 9 for course details.

Students without passed result	% of students	Student years
Fail	0,0 %	0,0
No show	13,0 %	1,8
Illness	0,0 %	0,0
Cancelled exam registration	1,9 %	0,3
Total	14,8 %	2,0

**Tab. 17.** Students finishing without passed result, Department of Arctic technology, divided in «fail» and dropout categories.

## 5.7 Assessment results – Arctic safety

Assessment results for the courses within Arctic safety are given fig. 31.



**Fig. 31.** Assessment results, courses in Arctic safety 2020. N= number of final assessments.

The course AS-101 with 87 candidates is graded as «pass / fail». AS-203 «Arctic Safety and Field Leadership» is graded with letter grades. For the latter, the results are distributed with C as the most frequent grade. The results are slightly lower than last year, when the most frequent grade was B. The courses within Arctic safety had 0,9 percent failing grades. This is lower than for UNIS as a whole, and is also lower than previous years.

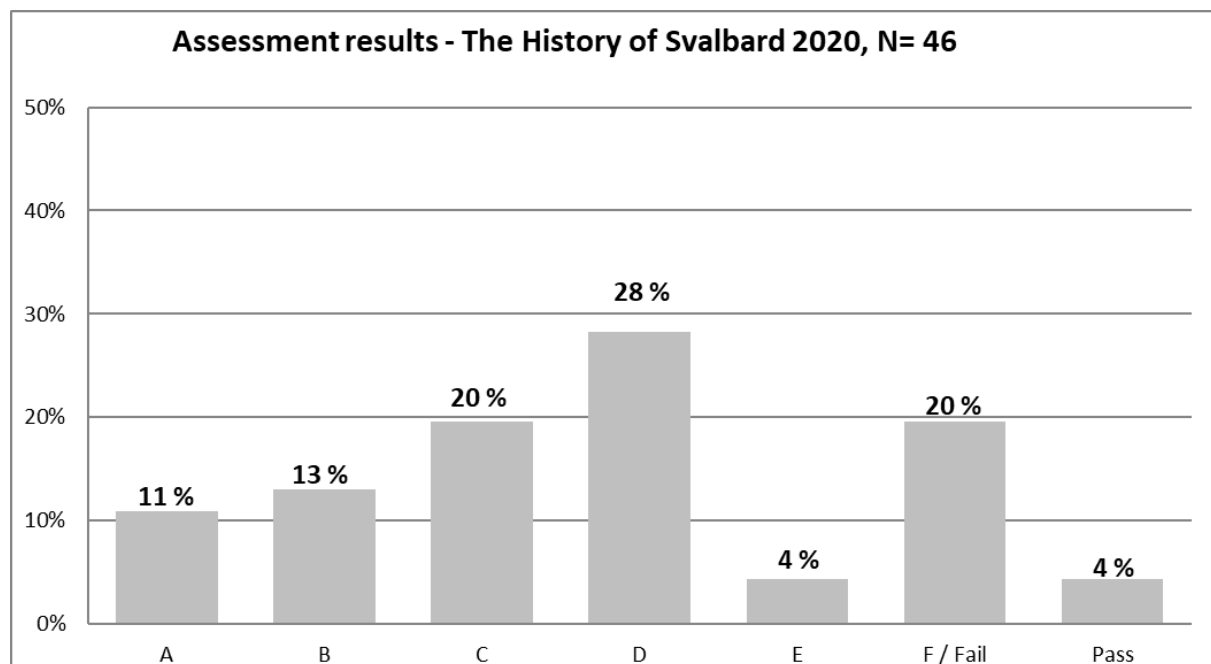
An overview of students finishing without passed result is given in table 18. An explanation of the different dropout categories is found in chap. 5.2. See also table 11 for course details.

Students without passed result	% of students	Student years
Fail	0,9 %	0,1
No show	0,0 %	0,0
Illness	0,0 %	0,0
Cancelled exam registration	3,4 %	0,2
Total	4,3 %	0,3

**Tab. 18.** Students finishing without passed result, Arctic safety, divided in «fail» and dropout categories.

## 5.8 Assessment results – The History of Svalbard

Assessment results for the course SH-201 «The history of Svalbard» are given in fig. 32.



**Fig. 32.** Assessment results SH-201 «The history of Svalbard» 2020. N= number of final assessments.

The course SH-201 «The history of Svalbard» is mandatory for students at the Arctic Nature Guide-study, and voluntary for the other students at UNIS. Just above half of the students sitting the exam in SH-201 were ANG-students. The grade distribution for this course is lower than for UNIS as a whole and had as much as 20 percent failing grades. This is probably due to the course being followed in addition to ordinary study progression for approximately half of the students. Furthermore, our students normally have limited or no scientific background in history. The course was graded with letter grade, but the make-up exam and postponed exams were assessed by «pass / fail», as these were arranged after introduction of the Covid 19-restrictions.

An overview of students finishing without passed result is given in table 19. An explanation of the different dropout categories is found in chap. 5.2. Quite a few students withdrew from the course or did not fulfil the attendance requirements for sitting the exam. See also table 12 for course details.

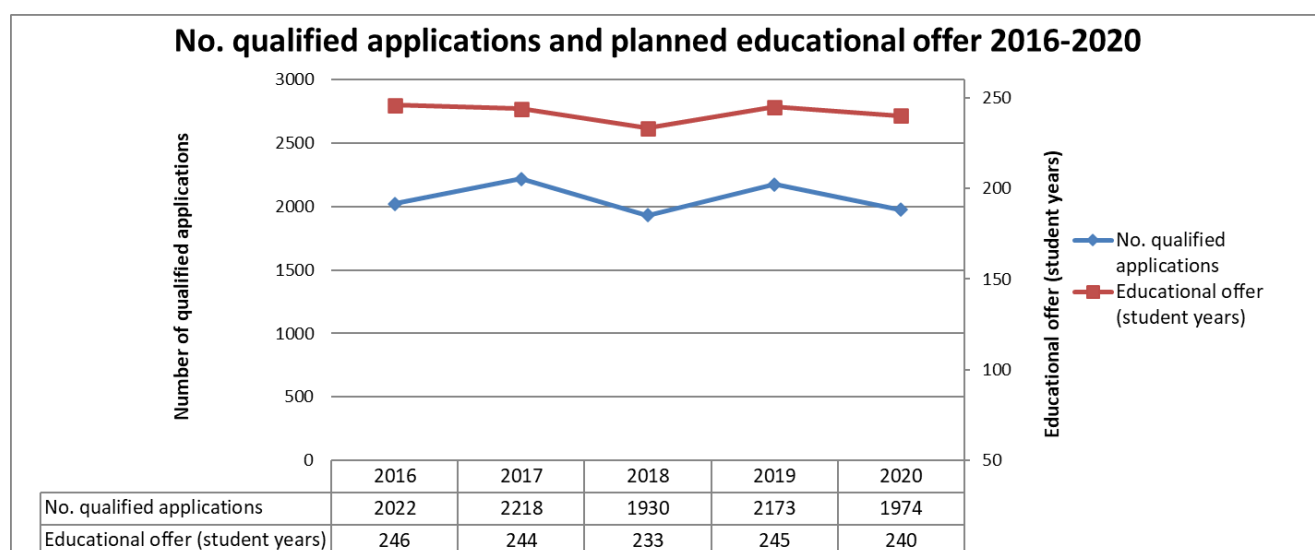
Students without passed result	% of students	Student years
Fail	19,6 %	0,9
No show	7,4 %	0,5
Illness	0,0 %	0,0
Cancelled exam registration	25,0 %	1,7
Total	51,9 %	3,1

**Tab. 19.** Students finishing without passed result, SH-201 «The history of Svalbard», divided in «fail» and dropout categories.

## 6. Admission statistics

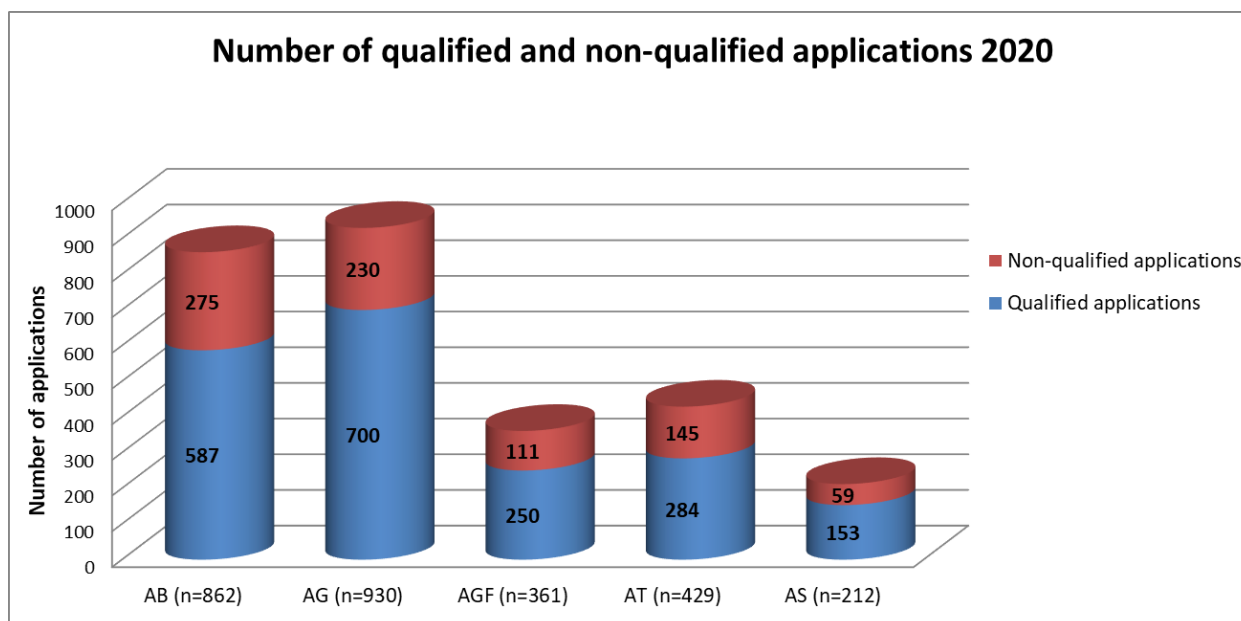
### 6.1 Applicants

In 2020, UNIS received 2794 course applications, whereof 1974 were found qualified for admission to the courses applied for. This is a small decline compared to last year and can partly be due to the Covid 19-restrictions. Even though all UNIS courses were open for application in 2020 and cancellation of courses were done subsequently, students were probably more skeptical towards travelling than before. Naturally the number of applicants varies with the total educational offer at UNIS (fig. 33). In this figure, the planned educational offer is presented. When reporting application numbers, the courses AS-101, AGF-216 and SH-201 are omitted, as students register for these courses after arrival at UNIS. The application number for AS-203 is set equal to the admission number, as these students apply for admission to the ANG-study at UiT – The Arctic university of Norway, and the applications are processed there.



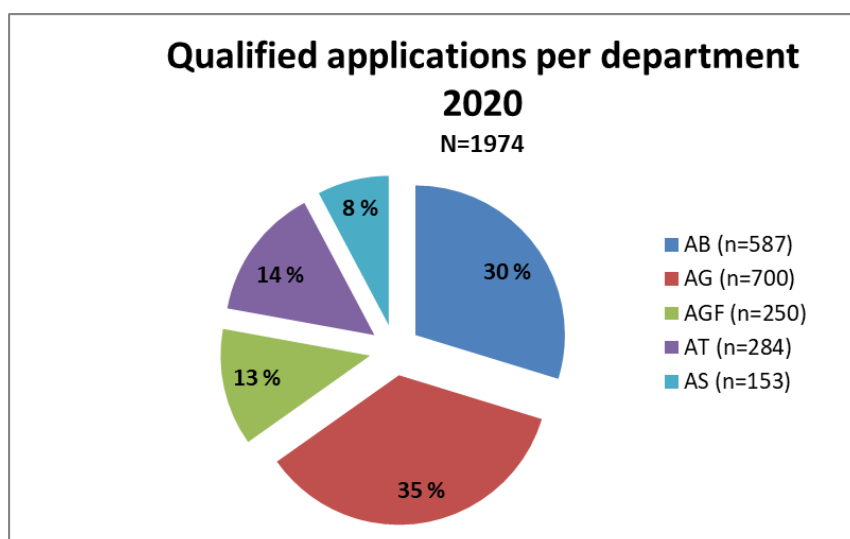
**Fig. 33.** Number of qualified applications for courses, and planned educational offer in student years, 2016 – 2020.

Figure 34 shows the number of qualified and non-qualified applications for each department based on the admission criteria for each course. The proportion of qualified and non-qualified applicants has been quite unchanged over the last years. The application numbers should be viewed in connection with the total educational offer in each department (chap. 4.6 – 4.10).



**Fig. 34.** Number of qualified and non-qualified applications for each department 2020. n= number of applications.

Figure 35 shows the percentage of qualified applications per department. The Department of Arctic geology had the highest percentage of applications, but has experienced a small reduction from 37 to 35 % since 2019. These are, like last year, followed by the Department of Arctic biology, which increased their percentage of applications from 27 to 30 %. The Department of Arctic Geophysics has 13 % of the applications, more or less like last year (12 %). The percentage of applications at the Department of Arctic Technology has decreased from 22 to 16 % from 2018 to 2019, and further to 14 % in 2020. Arctic safety accounted for 8 % of the qualified applications to UNIS; the same percentage as in 2019. For AS-203, the application number is set equal to the admission number (27 students), as this admission process is done by UiT – The Arctic university of Norway.



**Fig. 35.** Percentage of qualified applications for each department 2020. N= total number of qualified applications. n= qualified applications for each department.

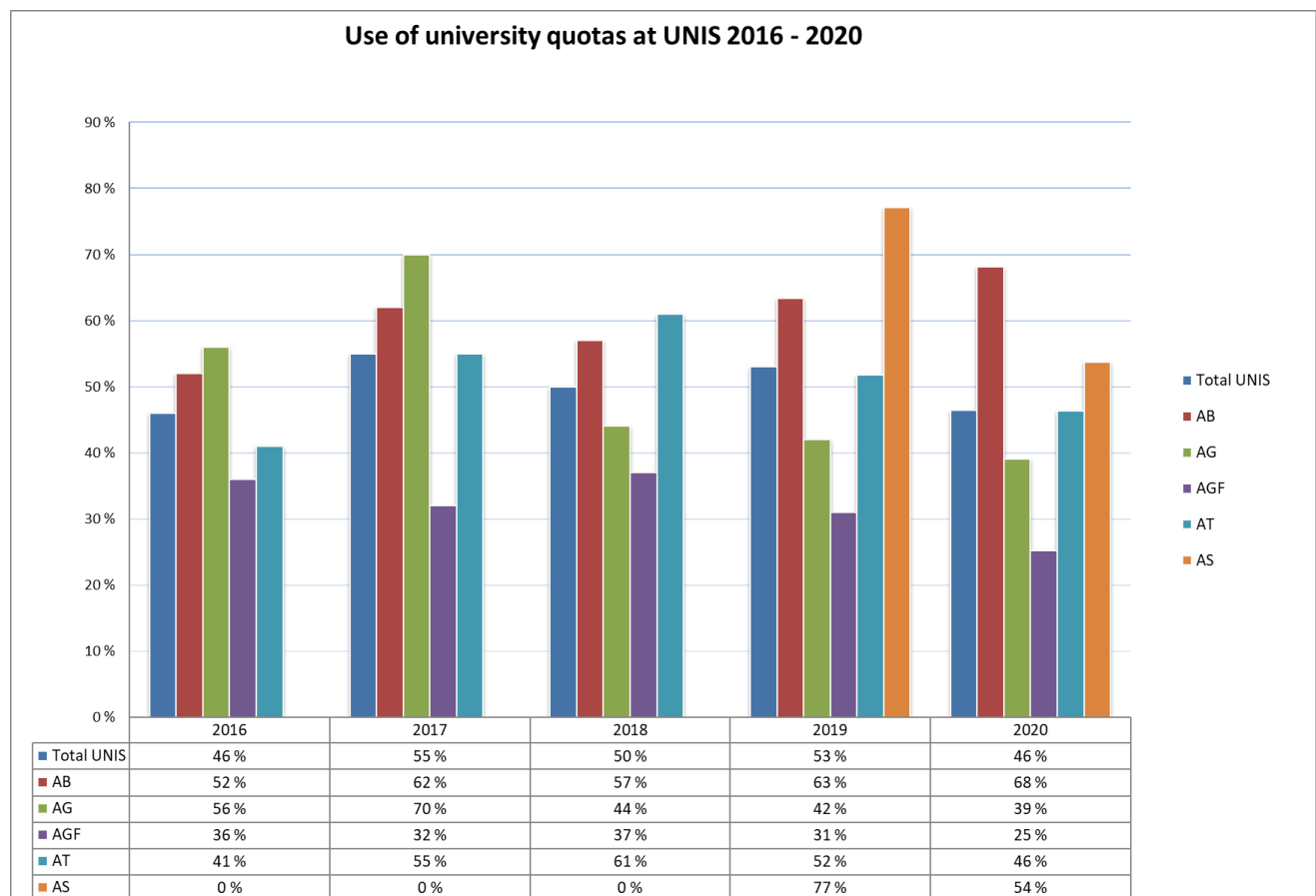


## 6.2 Quotas

From 2015 onwards, the Norwegian universities were given the opportunity to have allocated quota places in UNIS' courses. The quota places were renegotiated in 2016 and 2019. Figure 36 shows that 46 % of the universities' quota places were used in 2020. This is a small reduction from previous years. The numbers are based on actual admissions, regardless of subsequent cancellations due to the Covid 19-restrictions.

The use of quotas has always been around 50 %, but it will of course be advantageous to increase the use of quota places. Despite renegotiations of quota places both in 2016 and 2019, there is still a discrepancy between the universities' wishes for quota places in the specific courses, and the actual number of applicants. Sometimes, the universities have asked for a lot of quota places in a course, but the actual number of applicants is low. In other cases, there might be a lot of applicants, but few or no quota places. It can be difficult for the universities to predict the number of applicants from year to year, and a continuous effort to further calibrate these numbers should be done. Still, allocating quota places to the universities enhances the predictability in terms of incorporating the courses in the universities' study programmes.

There is great variation between the UNIS departments when it comes to the use of quota places. In the Department of Arctic Biology, there is a small increase in the use of quota places over the last years. The Department of Arctic Geophysics experiences a reduction in the use of quota places; in 2020 only 25 % of the quota places were used. Use of quotas is not reported for Arctic safety prior to 2019, as the first course with quotas was established in 2018.



**Fig. 36.** Percentage of quota places used, 2016-2020.

## 7. Public defenses and PhD candidates 2020

25 PhD candidates were affiliated with UNIS in 2020. 18 of these were doctoral research fellows financed fully or partly by the Ministry of education and research, the others were financed by other sources – through the Research Council of Norway (RCN) or external projects.

Three doctoral research fellows were employed and started their PhD period at UNIS in 2020. Two of these were employed at the Department of Arctic biology, both financed by the ministry. The third research fellow was employed at the Department of Arctic geology, financed by RCN.

Five public defenses were arranged at UNIS in 2020: two at the Department of Arctic biology, one at the Department of Arctic geology, and two at the Department of Arctic geophysics (tab. 20). Three of the candidates were affiliated with UiB, while the two others were affiliated with UiT – The Arctic university of Norway.

Due to the Covid 19-restrictions, only one of the public defenses were arranged as an ordinary public defense with an audience present. The other four were arranged digitally, where the candidate and / or the committee participated through Teams or Zoom. At one of the defenses a limited audience were present in the auditorium.

Two of UNIS' PhD candidates were delayed beyond their PhD period during the entire year. Three more finished their PhD period in 2020 without having defended their theses. One candidate resigned from her PhD agreement and employment at UNIS without having defended her thesis.

2020				
Department	Dept. of Arctic biology	Dept. of Arctic geology	Dept. of Arctic geophysics	Dept. of Arctic technology
No. candidates	8	10	6	1
Public defenses	2	1	2	0

Tab. 20. PhD candidates and public defenses in each department 2020.