

The University of Bayreuth's consolidated version:

Care was taken to ensure the text of these regulations is accurate and up-to-date; the present version may nevertheless contain errors. The official, legally binding version can be viewed in the Examinations Office, the Student Advising Office, or online at http://www.uni-bayreuth.de/de/universitaet/organisation/abt1/amtliche-bekanntmachungen/index.html.

Please note the effective dates of the amendments.

Examination and Study Regulations for the Master's Programme Experimental Geosciences (M.Sc.) at the University of Bayreuth

dated 10 May 2017

as amended on 5 October 2017

Article 13 para 1 sentence 2 in conjunction with Article 58 para 1 sentence 1 and Article 61 para 2 sentence 1 of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (*BayHSchG*) forms the framework for the following regulations issued by the University of Bayreuth.

The University of Bayreuth is not liable for inaccuracies or mistakes in this English translation. In case of doubt, the German originals are to be used in a court of law.

Contents

- § 1 Purpose of the master's examination
- § 2 Admission to the programme; qualification
- § 3 Structure of the programme and the master's examination; standard period of study
- § 4 Board of examiners
- § 5 Examiners and co-examiners
- § 6 Disqualification due to personal involvement; confidentiality
- § 7 Admission to the examinations
- § 8 Credit transfers
- § 9 Times for holding examinations; announcing examination times and examiners
- § 10 Elements of the examination
- §11 Forms of examination
- § 12 Master's thesis
- §13 Credit point system
- § 14 Consideration of extenuating life circumstances
- § 15 Consideration of the special needs of disabled persons
- § 16 Grading of examinations
- § 17 Final grade
- § 18 Passing the master's examination
- § 19 Repeating a module examination or the master's thesis
- § 20 Notice of failing the master's examination
- § 21 Access to examination documents
- § 22 Defects in the examination proceedings
- § 23 Non-appearance, withdrawal from examinations, cheating, and policy violations
- § 24 Invalidating the master's examination
- § 25 Awarding the master's degree; diploma
- § 26 Academic advising
- § 27 Entry into effect and termination
- Annex 1: Modules, credit points, and examinations

Annex 2: Aptitude assessment process

§ 1 Purpose of the master's examination

¹Using research-based training, the master's programme Experimental Geosciences seeks to train its graduates in such a way that they can, to a large extent, independently address and work on issues in research and appropriately identify methods. ²The master's examination at the end of the master's programme Experimental Geosciences determines whether the candidate has acquired specialist knowledge in the experimental geosciences and a minor subject and has an overview of specialist and interdisciplinary interrelationships to such an extent that he or she is capable of carrying out further independent scientific work. ³Upon the candidate's passing of the examination, the University of Bayreuth, by way of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences, awards the academic degree Master of Science (abbreviated as M.Sc.). ⁴The programme of study is held in the English language.

§ 2 Admission to the programme; qualification

- (1) Admission prerequisites for the master's programme are as follows.
 - 1. A university degree with at least the examination grade "good" (2,5) in a bachelor's programme in the natural sciences at the University of Bayreuth or a comparable degree from a domestic or foreign higher education institution.
 - 2. Proof of academic achievements or equivalent achievements as follows:
 - Physics or geophysics, at least 8 credits.
 - Chemistry or geochemistry, at least 8 credits.

Applicants who do not meet these requirements will be enrolled on the condition that they submit proof of the required achievements within the first two semesters; the required credit points are to be included within the scope of a maximum of 12 credit points as specified in para 2 sentence 1.

- 3. Evidence of having passed the aptitude assessment process described in Annex 2.
- 4. A strong command of English. Applicants who have neither obtained their higher education entrance qualification nor their first degree in English can prove their knowledge of the English language by writing a thesis in an English-taught degree programme at a higher education institution or by providing evidence of level B2 in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Applicants who do not meet these requirements will be enrolled on the condition that they submit the required evidence by the end of their second semester of study at latest. Notwithstanding § 6 para 1 number 15 of the Enrolment Statutes, a basic knowledge of German is recommended.

- (2) If previous study is not found to be equivalent in content and scope to a bachelor's programme in the natural sciences at the University of Bayreuth, the applicant may be accepted on the condition that he or she is to complete up to 12 credits from a bachelor's programme in the natural sciences within one year in addition to the master's programme requirements; otherwise, the requirements for admission are not to be considered as fulfilled. ²In such cases, the examination and study regulations for the bachelor's programme in the natural sciences (as amended) shall apply.
- (3) Decisions such as those described in paragraph 2 are to be made by the board of examiners established under the terms of § 4.
- (4) 1If the bachelor's certificate or equivalent diploma has not yet been issued, a confirmation of all individual grades and examinations for courses completed up to the date of registration must be submitted. ²Such coursework must amount to at least 150 credit and correspond to a final grade of "gut" (2,5) or better. ³Applicants who fulfil the requirements of sentence 2 are to be enrolled on the condition that they submit the relevant degree certificate with a grade of "gut" ["good"] or better by the end of their first semester of study.

§ 3 Structure of the programme and the master's examination; standard period of study

- (1) 1Study within the master's programme Experimental Geosciences is divided into modules in the areas of Experimental Methods, Research Techniques, core elective modules, and master's thesis. ²All modules are included in the calculation of the final grade for the master's degree. ³All modules are given in the overview in Annex 1.
- (2) 1The master's programme Experimental Geosciences is a full-time programme. ²The programme comprises four semesters of full-time study including the master's thesis (standard period of study).

- (3) A total of 120 credit points must be earned in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).
- (4) New students may begin the programme in the winter semester or the summer semester.

§ 4 Board of examiners

- (1) ¹A board of examiners shall be formed to make the necessary decisions with regard to admission to the master's programme and the organizational execution of the master's examination. ²The board of examiners shall carry out the examination procedure in accordance with the present regulations and make all decisions with the exception of the actual examinations and the assessment thereof. ³It is to be made up of at least three professors from among the professors (Article 2 para 1 sentence 1 number 1 *BayHSchPG*) in the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences, and a research associate, and shall not generally have more than seven members. ⁴The members of the board of examiners and their substitutes are elected for a period of five years by the faculty council of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences on the recommendation of the Department of Earth Sciences. ⁵Re-election is permissible. ⁶The board of examiners shall elect a chair and deputy chair from among the professors.
- (2) 1The board of examiners constitutes a quorum if the majority of members are present and entitled to vote after an invitation had been sent to all members at least three days prior to the meeting. ²The decisions taken by the board of examiners in its meetings are to be made on the basis of majority vote. ³Vote abstention, secret voting, and proxy voting are prohibited. ⁴If votes are equally divided among its members, the chair shall have the casting vote.
- (3) ¹The chair of examiners shall ensure that the provisions of these regulations are followed. ²He or she shall convene the meetings of the board of examiners and shall act as chair of its proceedings and decisions. ³With regard to matters that cannot be postponed, he or she is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the board of examiners. ⁴He or she must promptly inform the other members of any such decision - at the next meeting at latest. ⁵In addition, unless otherwise provided by the present regulations, the board of examiners can transfer (until revoked) the right to perform other duties of the board to the chair. ⁶The chair may delegate tasks to the members of the board of examiners.

- (4) The board of examiners shall regularly report to the faculty council of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences concerning updates to examination schedules and study periods and may make suggestions for reforming the present regulations.
- (5) 1Notices the board of examiners issues under the terms of the present regulations include a rationale and information concerning the right to appeal the decision. ²Notices of appeal shall be issued by the president in consultation with the board of examiners.

§ 5 Examiners and co-examiners

- (1) 1Any person who is authorized to administer examinations at institutions of higher education according to the Bavarian Higher Education Act (*BayHSchG*) and the *HSchPrüferV*, as amended, may serve as examiner. ²Any member of the University of Bayreuth who is a graduate of an equivalent or comparable academic programme of study may serve as co-examiner.
- (2) 1If a member of the University of Bayreuth who is an authorized examiner leaves the University, he or she may - if his or her request is approved by the board of examiners remain an examiner for a reasonable period. ²Authorization to administer examinations shall generally remain valid for up to three years.
- (3) 1Unless otherwise decided by the chair of examiners, the relevant instructor shall also serve as examiner. ²If that instructor is not authorized to administer examinations as laid out in sentence 1, the chair of examiners shall appoint an examiner at the beginning of the semester in which the examination is to be held.

§ 6

Disqualification due to personal involvement; confidentiality

- (1) Disqualification from consultation and voting on the board of examiners as well as other activities relating to examinations on the basis of personal involvement is governed by Article 41 para 2 of the *BayHSchG*.
- (2) The non-disclosure obligation that holds for members of the board of examiners, as well as examiners, co-examiners, and anyone else involved in the examination process is governed by Article 18 para 3 of the *BayHSchG*.

§ 7 Admission to the examinations

Students who are enrolled in the master's programme Experimental Geosciences are considered *ipso facto* to be admitted to the examinations.

§ 8 Credit transfer

- (1) Awarding credit for competencies (learning outcomes) is governed by Article 63 para 1 and 2 of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (*BayHSchG*).
- (2) 1If credits are awarded for competencies, the grades are to be carried over and included when calculating the final grade, as long as the grading systems are analogous. ²If the grading system for the competencies to be transferred does not correspond to the grading system given in § 16, the grades received at the other higher education institution are to be converted using the Modified Bavarian Formula:

$$\begin{array}{l} x = 1 + 3 \cdot \underline{N_{\text{MAX}} - N_d} \\ N_{\text{MAX}} - N_{\text{MIN}} \end{array}$$

³Here x is the grade you are looking for, N_{MAX} the best achievable grade, N_{MIN} the lowest passing grade, and N_d the actual grade achieved. ⁴In this calculation, the calculated grade shall only be given to one decimal place; the remaining digits are to be truncated (not rounded). ⁵There shall be no adjustment made to the grade levels mentioned in § 16. ⁶If the grading systems are not analogous, the remark "*bestanden*" ["passed"] will appear; in such cases, the grade shall not be taken into account when calculating the final grade. ⁷The board of examiners in consultation with the relevant representative from the subject area shall decide whether the requirements have been met for credit transfer. ⁸If credit transfer is denied, the person concerned can appeal the decision by submitting a request for the University Board to review the decision within four weeks of receiving notification of denial. ⁹The University Governing Board shall provide the board of examiners with a recommendation on how to proceed with the request.

(3) Credit transfer requests are to be submitted to the board of examiners as soon as possible following enrolment and in any event prior to completing the examination proceedings in the relevant module.

§ 9 Times for holding examinations; announcing examination times and examiners

- (1) ¹The module examinations are held promptly following the conclusion of the modules. ²The type of examination, as well as the time and duration is to be announced universitywide at the beginning of the course, and no later than four weeks prior to the examination. ³An additional examination time may be scheduled for the beginning of the following semester.
- (2) 1The examination dates, the form of examination if not specified in Annex 1 and duration of examinations shall be determined by the relevant examiner and announced universitywide, generally at the start of the semester. ²A change of examiner on short notice shall only take place if there are urgent grounds for doing so.
- (3) Students are to register for examinations by the published deadline, according to the process determined by the board of examiners.

§ 10 Elements of the examination

- (1) The master's examination comprises the module examinations listed in Annex 1 and the master's thesis.
- (2) The examinations serve to demonstrate that the examinee has satisfied the desired learning outcomes.

§ 11 Forms of examination

- (1) ¹Examinations are carried out in the form of written examinations, oral examinations, oral presentations, and research reports. ²The possible forms of examination in the modules are given in Annex 1. ³All examinations are held in the English language.
- (2) 1Grades for examinations are announced according to the process determined by the board of examiners. ²Notifications are not sent individually. ³Students are required to familiarize themselves independently with the terms of the present regulations pertaining to repeating examinations; they are responsible for informing themselves of examination results.

- (3) If an examination is assessed by more than one examiner, the grade shall be determined by taking the average of the grades assigned and truncating (not rounding) the number to one decimal digit.
- (4) 1If a candidate arrives to the examination late, he or she shall not be given additional time to finish the examination. ²Candidates may only leave the room during an examination if permission is granted by the invigilator. ³The time and duration of absence are to be noted on the question paper.
- (5) 1Written examinations are to held over a period of at least one hour and no longer than two hours; the duration of the examination should be appropriate to the requirements of the corresponding course. ²The relevant examiner decides which resources may be used. ³A written record of the examination is to be made. ⁴The invigilator shall confirm the accuracy of the record by providing his or her signature. ⁵The examination record sheet is to include all aspects of the examination that could be relevant to determining the grade. ⁶Written examinations are generally graded by the relevant examiner. ⁷The relevant examiners determine the grades for the individual examinations in accordance with § 16. ⁸An assessment of each written examination should be provided no later than four weeks after the examination. ⁹If an examinee receives the grade "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"] on a written examination, a second examiner shall also provide an assessment. ¹⁰The board of examiners may decide to appoint an additional examiner. ¹¹The graded written examination shall remain in the examination records.
- (6) 1Oral examinations are be held over a period of 30 to 45 minutes, depending on the requirements of the particular course. ²Oral examinations are conducted in English, and are administered by two examiners or one examiner and one co-examiner. ³One examiner or the co-examiner shall complete an examination record sheet for the oral examination that includes the following: location, start time, and duration of the examination; examination subject-matter and results (grade); the names of the two examiners or of the examiner and the co-examiner; the name of the candidate; and any noteworthy incidents. ⁴The record sheet is to be signed by the two examiners or by the examiner and co-examiner. ⁵The examiner/examiners determine the grades for performance in the oral examinations under the terms of § 16.
- (8) 1Oral presentations are held during the courses on which they are based. ²The deadline, scope, and duration of the oral presentations are to be determined by the relevant examiner when assigning the topic. ³The oral presentation

is to be given in the context of the associated course. ⁴A record sheet is to be filled out for each graded presentation including the candidate's name, the name of the examiner, the place, time, duration, subject matter, and any noteworthy incidents during the presentation. ⁶The record sheet is to be signed by the examiner(s). ⁷The examiner(s) shall determine the grades for performance in the graded presentation under the terms of § 16. ⁸Assessment of the presentation should be carried out within four weeks of the end of the course.

- (9) 1A research report is an extended written elaboration on one's own laboratory work. ²They are written in the style of a scientific publication during or directly following the laboratory training course. ³The research report is assigned by an examiner via the chair of examiners at the beginning of each semester. ⁴The length of a research report should not exceed 30 pages. ⁵The period for working on it ends at the end of the semester of the laboratory training course. ⁶In justified, exceptional cases, the chair of examiners may extend this deadline by up to three weeks at the request of the candidate and after having heard the supervisor. ⁷If the candidate demonstrates via a medical certificate that he or she was unable to work on the research report due to illness, the deadline is to be extended accordingly.
- (10) Assessment of research reports is generally carried out by two examiners appointed by the chair of examiners. ²Assessment by a second examiner may be omitted if none is available or if his or her participation would lead to unreasonable delays in the grading process. ³If an examinee receives the grade "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"] for the research report, a second examiner shall also provide an assessment. ⁴The relevant examiners determine the grades for performance in the individual examinations under the terms of § 16.⁵If an examination is assessed by more than one examiner, the grade shall be determined by taking the average of the grades assigned and truncating (not rounding) the number to one decimal digit. ⁶An assessment shall be provided no later than four weeks after the research report. ⁷In special cases, the board of examiners may call upon an additional examiner, especially if the grades assigned vary by more than one point. ⁸If the research report is not submitted in due time for reasons for which the student is responsible, the examination performance shall be graded as "unsatisfactory". ¹⁰Grades for the research report will be announced at the latest four weeks after they have been determined by sending an individual notification to the candidate.

§ 12 Master's thesis

- (1) The master's thesis of the candidate should demonstrate that he or she is able to utilize relevant resources and adequately address and write about current issues in the field using scientific methods.
- (2) 1The chair of examiners is to determine an examiner to act as supervisor and first assessor and an additional examiner to serve as second assessor, if possible in consideration of the candidate's wishes. ²The topic of the master's thesis is generally assigned by an examiner (§ 5 para 1) from the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences who is active in the appropriate field. ³Record is to be made of the date on which the topic was assigned. ⁴It is recommended that the master's thesis be completed in the fourth semester. ⁵The prerequisite for receiving a topic of the master's thesis is the completion of modules with a minimum of 80 credit points and the successful completion of modules 5 and 7 to 9.
- (3) 1The master's thesis is integrated into the programme of study and corresponds to a workload of 780 hours. ²The master's thesis is to be submitted no later than five months after the topic was assigned. ³In cases in which the candidate was not at fault for missing a deadline, at the request of the candidate, the chair of examiners may, after having heard the supervisor, extend the deadline by up to six weeks. ⁴If the candidate demonstrates via a medical certificate that he or she was unable to work on the thesis due to illness, the deadline is to be extended accordingly. ⁵Theses that are not submitted by the stated deadline are to be graded as "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"].
- (4) ¹The master's thesis is to be submitted in the English language. ²In addition to the actual body text, the thesis must also include an abstract, a table of contents, and a bibliography. ³The master's thesis shall contain a statement at the end in which the author confirms that he or she wrote the thesis independently and did not make use of any sources or materials that are not cited in the thesis; it shall also be confirmed that the thesis had never before been submitted toward fulfilment of an academic degree.
- (5) ¹The thesis must be submitted in good time to the chair of examiners. ²Record is to be made of the date on which the thesis was submitted.
- (6) 1Four typewritten, paginated, and bound copies of the master's thesis are to be submitted. ²All raw data and evaluated data collected, any illustrations, and the thesis in pdf format are to be submitted in electronic format along with the printed copy of the thesis.

- (7) ¹The candidate may return the topic to the board of examiners once within the first two weeks. ²Paragraphs 1 to 6 also apply when assigning and working on a new topic.
- (8) 1The chair of examiners passes the work on to the appointed assessors. ²The reviews shall be made available no later four weeks after submission of the thesis. ³Each assessor provides a recommendation to the board of examiners as to whether the thesis is to be accepted or rejected and assigns a grade in accordance with § 16. ⁴In special cases, the board of examiners may call upon an additional assessor, especially if the grades assigned vary by more than one point.
- (9) 1If different grades are assigned, the grade for the master's thesis shall be the arithmetic mean of the assessments. ²In this calculation, the grade shall only be given to one decimal place; the remaining digits are to be truncated (not rounded).
- (10) If the master's thesis is deemed "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"], the chair of examiners or his or her deputy shall inform the candidate of the decision.
- (11) One copy of the master's thesis is to remain on record.
- (12) 1An oral final examination on the topic of the master's thesis and the underlying contents of the master's programme is administered by two examiners as part of the examination for the master's thesis module (see Annex 1). ²The final oral examination is to be carried out within four weeks after submission of the master's thesis. ³The date will be set by the chair of examiners, if possible taking into account the candidate's wishes. ⁴If the final oral examination is graded "unsatisfactory", the master's thesis module is considered to be failed.
- (13) 1With the consent of the candidate, students enrolled in the programme can be admitted as listeners. ²The evaluation is to be disclosed to the candidate following the examination. ³Discussion and announcement of examination results (grade) shall not be conducted in public.
- (14) 1The module grade in the master's thesis module is calculated from a weighted average of the grade for the master's thesis (weighting 2/3) and the grade for the final examination (weighting 1/3).²In this calculation, the grade shall only be given to one decimal place; the remaining digits are to be truncated (not rounded).

§ 13 Credit point system

- (1) ¹A record of credit points for completed assessment components is kept by the University of Bayreuth's Examinations Office for each student who is enrolled in the programme of study. ²The credit points that appear on the transcript are identical with credit points as stipulated in the European Credit Transfer System (see Annex 1). ³One credit point corresponds to a workload of 30 hours.
- (2) The credit points for the modules are given in Annex 1.

§ 14

Consideration of extenuating life circumstances

- (1) 1Upon request, the following are to be observed with regard to dates and deadlines: §§ 3, 4, 6 and 8 MuSchG, dated 20 July 2002, BGBI p. 2318 as amended), periods set aside under the laws concerning parental leave (BEEG, dated 5 December 2006, BGBI p. 2748 as amended), and periods reserved for care of a family member (as stipulated in PflegeZG, dated 28 May 2008, BGBI pp. 874, 896 as amended) who requires care as described in §§ 14 and 15 of SGB XI, dated 26 May 1994 (BGBI pp. 1014 and 1015), as amended. ²The appropriate evidence must be furnished; any changes in status are to be reported immediately.
- (2) 1If duly requested, periods during which study was impossible or only possible to a limited extent for reasons beyond the student's control shall not be taken into account with regard to the examination schedule. ²Corresponding evidence must be furnished; medical certificates must be presented in the case of illness. ³Any changes in status are to be reported immediately.

§ 15

Consideration of the special needs of disabled persons

¹For the sake of ensuring equal opportunities, the particular needs of disabled examinees are to be appropriately accommodated. ²Upon written request, the board of examiners shall determine on the basis of the degree of disability in what form a disabled examinee is to take the examination; alternatively, an extension may be granted. ³Evidence of disability is to be provided by way of a medical certificate, which confirms that the candidate is unable (entirely or in part) to take the examination in its usual form due to a lasting or permanent disability.

⁴The request is to be submitted together with the examination registration. ⁵If the request is submitted later, it shall only be valid for subsequent examinations.

§ 16 Grading of examinations

(1) The following grading scale will be used in the assessment of the individual assignments and examinations; the digit to the right of the comma enables a more differentiated assessment between the whole-number values.

"sehr gut" (excellent)	= 1,0 or 1,3
"gut" (considerably better than average)	= 1,7 or 2,0 or 2,3
"befriedigend" (average performance)	= 2,7 or 3,0 or 3,3
"ausreichend" (performance that meets the minimum requirements despite deficiencies)	= 3,7 or 4,0
"nicht ausreichend" (performance that does not meet the minimum requirements due to considerable deficit	iencies) = 5,0

(2) 1If a greater module examination is made up of multiple examinations, the grade for the module shall be established by calculating the arithmetic mean after weighting the components based on credit points as given in Annex 1. ²In this calculation, the grade shall only be given to one decimal place; the remaining digits are to be truncated (not rounded). ³Module grades are as follows:

average grade of 1,5 or better	= "sehr gut"
for an average grade of 1,6 up to and including 2,5	= "gut"
for an average grade of 2,6 up to and including 3,5	= "befriedigend"
for an average of 3,6 up to and including 4,0	= "ausreichend"
an average of 4,1 up to and including 5,0	= "nicht ausreichend".

§ 17 Final grade

 1The overall grade for the examination is calculated as the arithmetic mean of points 1 and 2. ²In this calculation, the grade shall only be given to one decimal place; the remaining digits are to be truncated (not rounded).

- 1. The average grade of modules 1 to 10 and 12. This grade is calculated as the arithmetic mean of all individual grades of the examination elements of modules 1 to 10 and 12, weighted with the credit points (see Annex 1). Only the graded examination elements are included in the calculation of the overall examination grade. If more than the required number of examination elements as given in the present examination regulations are taken in one area, only the best examination elements are included in the calculation, the grade is only given to one decimal place; the remaining digits are truncated (not rounded).
- 2. The grade for the master's thesis module (module 11).
- (2) Candidates with a grade average of up to 1,2 receive the grade "excellent" as the overall grade for the master's examination, up to 1,5 the grade "very good", up to 2,5 "good", up to 3,5 "satisfactory", up to 4,0 "sufficient".
- (3) 1The calculation of the final grade for the master's examination is carried out by the chair of examiners. ²The certificate or an attached document shall indicate how the final grade was calculated.
- (4) In addition to the degree certificate, an ECTS grading table will be issued as stipulated in the ECTS guidelines in the version dated 6 February 2009. ²This table displays what percentage of programme graduates in a given time frame received the same final grade as described in para 2. ³Those programme graduates who were awarded their diplomas in the previous eight semesters shall serve as the reference group as long as it includes at least 30 persons. ⁴The date of the last examination shall be decisive in assigning graduates to a particular semester. ⁵If the minimum number of graduates is not reached, the number of previous semesters is to be extended until the minimum number is reached. ⁶If the programme has not yet produced the number of final semesters planned for the comparison group, an ECTS grading table is issued as soon as the minimum number of degrees is reached. ⁷For degrees awarded before the minimum number is reached, an ECTS grading table will be issued at a later date upon request once the minimum number has been reached. ⁸The graduate's own graduating class is also to be included in the reference group. ⁹The size of the reference group and the time frame is to be included.

§ 18

Passing the master's examination

(1) Passing the master's examination requires a grade of "ausreichend" ["sufficient"] or better or "bestanden" ["passed"] for the master's thesis and each module; in addition, all 120 credit points must be earned and all requirements mentioned in § 2 para 2 must be fulfilled.

- (2) 1If the candidate has not fulfilled the requirements given in para 1 by the end of his or her sixth semester due to reasons under his or her control, then the candidate shall be considered as having failed the master's examination on the first attempt. ²Module examinations that were taken on time and for which the candidate received a passing grade need not be repeated.
- (3) 1If the missing examinations are not passed by the student within a year of the deadline given in para 2 sentence 1 for reasons under his or her control, or if all possibilities to repeat the examinations have been exhausted, then the master's examination is to be considered as having been failed on the final attempt. ²The deadline shall not take into account periods of leave and periods during which the candidate withdrew from study. ³Notice shall be sent to inform the candidate that he or she has failed an examination on the final attempt in accordance with § 4 para 5 in conjunction with Article 41 of the Bavarian Administrative Procedures (*BayVwVfG*) as amended. ⁴The board of examiners may grant the student an extension of the deadline for circumstances beyond his or her control if the student submits a request prior to the deadline described in sentence 1.

§ 19

Repeating a module examination or the master's thesis

- (1) 1Any module examination that was failed on the first attempt can be repeated once. ²In case of modules with multiple examination elements, only those elements are to be repeated for which the grade "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"] was assigned.
- (2) 1Repeating an examination for a second time is only permitted for up to three module examinations. ²Students who fail the second repetition of a module examination are to be considered as having failed the master's examination on the final attempt. ³The second resitting of an examination can be carried out in oral form, even if the previous examinations were in written form, as determined by the examiner.
- (3) ¹The master's thesis can be repeated with a new topic if the student receives a failing grade for the thesis. ²Repeating the master's thesis for a second time is not permitted.
- (4) 1If the final oral examination for the master's thesis is not passed, it is possible to repeat the final oral examination. ²A second repetition of the final oral examination is not permissible. ³If the master's thesis is repeated with a new topic in accordance with para 3 sentence 1, there is again the possibility of repeating the oral part of the final examination once.
- (5) Administrative measures shall be taken to ensure that it is possible to repeat the failed examinations or a failed master's thesis within six months.

(6) Voluntarily repeating module examinations that were already passed or the master's thesis is not permitted.

§ 20 Notice of failing the master's examination

If a candidate has failed the master's examination on the final attempt, then a written notice shall be sent to him or her within two weeks upon request; the notice shall include a list of the individual examination grades as well as the missing examination elements.

§ 21 Access to examination documents

- (1) Following the conclusion of the examinations process, the candidate may upon request be granted access to his or her graded examination documents including the assessor's report as well as the record sheets for the examination.
- (2) 1Such requests are to be made no later than one month after the degree certificate is awarded. ²If the candidate was prevented from meeting the deadline in sentence 1 due to reasons beyond his or her control, Article 32 of the Bavarian Administrative Process Act (*Bayerisches Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz*) shall apply.

§ 22 Defects in the examination proceedings

- (1) If it is shown that there were defects in the examination proceedings which influenced the examination results, the candidate or the board on its own initiative shall request that the relevant examinations be repeated.
- (2) Any defects in the examination proceedings or circumstances preventing the candidate from completing the examination are to be reported to the examiner or the chair of examiners without delay, and in general, prior to notice being given of the examination results.
- (3) Claims under the terms of paragraph 1 must be made within six months of the examination's conclusion.

§ 23

Non-appearance, withdrawal from examinations, cheating, and policy violations

- (1) 1Candidates who have registered for an examination may withdraw without providing a rationale by submitting a written statement of withdrawal by the deadline announced by the board of examiners. ²If the candidate fails to appear for an examination for which he or she was registered for reasons under his or her control or withdraws subsequent to the deadline stated in sentence 1, he or she will be considered to have failed the examination.
- (2) 1The grounds for failing to appear or as long as para 1 sentence 1 does not apply for withdrawal must be submitted to the board of examiners without delay and substantiated by *prima facie* evidence. ²The same applies to inability to take the examination due to circumstances arising before or during the examination. ³Inability to take the examination due to illness must be documented with a medical certificate. ⁴If the board of examiners accepts the reasons given, a new examination time is to be offered under the terms of § 9 within six months.
- (3) If withdrawal or failure to appear is caused by reasons beyond the candidate's control, examination elements completed up to that point are to be recognized.
- (4) 1If the candidate attempts to influence the result of an examination by cheating or making use of materials that are not permitted, he or she shall be given the grade "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"]. ²A candidate who causes considerable disruption to the course of an examination may be removed by the invigilator and barred from continuing the examination; in this case, he or she shall be given the grade "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"].
- (5) 1Research reports and the master's thesis present the results solely of a student's own work. ²Thoughts, records, and illustrations of third parties must be properly cited in research reports and the master's thesis; otherwise, it is a case of plagiarism. ³If a candidate plagiarizes, the relevant examination is to be graded as "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"]. ⁴The board of examiners decides in such cases whether repetition is permissible.

§ 24 Invalidating the master's examination

- (1) If a candidate cheats or plagiarizes during an examination and this fact does not come to light until after the degree certificate is issued, the board of examiners may retroactively change the relevant grades and declare the master's examination to be failed either in part or entirely.
- (2) If the registration requirements for the examinations were not met by the candidate without this having involved any cheating on the part of the candidate, and if this fact does not come to light until after the degree is issued, then this fault shall be considered rectified via the candidate's passing of the master's examination. ²If the candidate registered by intentionally providing false information, the board of examiners shall decide whether to revoke any unlawful administrative acts on the basis of the general principles of administrative law.
- (3) The candidate shall be permitted to make a statement prior to the decision according to para 1.
- (4) The inaccurate degree certificate is to be taken away and, if applicable, replaced with a new one.

§ 25 Awarding the master's degree; diploma

- (1) ¹A diploma and a degree certificate for successful completion of the master's examination are issued within four weeks of demonstrating completion of the required module credits. ²The diploma is to include the title of the programme of study. ³It is to be signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences and stamped with the seal of the University. ⁴Upon issuance of the diploma, the graduate is given the right to bear the title "Master of Science". ⁵This title is to be abbreviated "M.Sc." and placed behind the surname.
- (2) 1The certificate is to include the title of the programme of study, the final grade for the master's examination, all completed modules and the titles of the relevant courses, grades and credit points, as well as the topic of the master's thesis and the grade received for the thesis. ²The certificate is to be signed by the chair of examiners. ³The date to be used is the day of the last assessment component. ⁴An English translation of the diploma and a Diploma Supplement are issued in addition; the Diploma Supplement is signed by the chair of examiners. ⁵In addition to the certificate, an ECTS grading table is to be issued under the terms of § 17 para 4.

(3) Revoking the degree "Master of Science" is governed by Article 69 BayHSchG.

§ 26 Academic advising

- (1) General student advising is offered by the University of Bayreuth's Student Advising Office.
- (2) The programme coordinator for the master's programme Environmental Geosciences is responsible for questions relating to the master's programme (i.e. structure of the programme, organization of studies, course selection, and questions concerning examinations).
- (3) 1In the course of the semester, the programme coordinator offers advising for all students enrolled in the master's programme. ²Programme-specific advising is recommended especially for the following persons:
 - 1. new students,
 - 2. students who recently failed an examination,
 - 3. students who have considerably less than 30 credit points per semester,
 - 4. students transferring from a different degree programme or university,
 - 5. those about to choose their core elective modules or the topic of their master's theses.

§ 27 Entry into effect and termination

- (1) ¹These regulations go into effect on 11 May 2017. ²They shall be valid for those students enrolling in this programme for the first time in Winter Semester 2017/2018 or later. ³Those students who were enrolled in the master's programme Experimental Geosciences at the University of Bayreuth prior the effective date of the present regulations are to carry out their studies under the terms of the previous examination regulations for the master's programme Experimental Geosciences at the University of Bayreuth dated 1 August 2007 (AB UBT 2007/137), last amended on 22 September 2016 (AB UBT 2016/061).
- (2) The examination regulations for the master's programme Experimental Geosciences at the University of Bayreuth dated 1 August 2007 (AB UBT 2007/137), amended on 22 September 2016 (AB UBT 2016/061), shall cease to apply subject to the provision in para 1 sentence 3.*)

These examination regulations take effect on 1 October 2017.

^{*)} The set of amendments contains the following provisions with regard to the effective date:

Annex 1: Modules, credit points, and examinations

¹Module examinations are as described in § 11 para 1, meaning written examinations (abbreviated "WE"), oral examinations (OE), presentations (P), and research reports (R). ²A diagonal slash in the "examination" column indicates a choice; the module is only assessed using one of the forms of examination given.

SWS = semester hours, CP = credit points V = Vorlesung (lecture), Ü = Übung (tutorial); P = Praktikum (lab/internship).

Module group	Semester hours	Credit points	Examination
Module	nours	points	
Module Group A: Experimental Methods			
Module 1: Diffraction Methods	3	5	WE
Module 2: Spectroscopic Methods	3	5	WE
Module 3: High Pressure Experimental Techniques	3	5	WE
Module 4: Geochemical Thermodynamics	3	5	WE
Module Group B: Research Techniques			
Module 5: Literature Research I	4	6	Р
Module 6: Literature Research II	4	6	Р
Module 7: Research Practice I	20	15	R
Module 8: Research Practice II	20	15	R
Module 9: Research Practice III	20	15	R
Module Group C: Core Elective Modules	8 - 10	11	WE/OE
Module Group D: Master's Thesis			
Module 11: Master's thesis with oral examination	-	26	Thesis + OE
Module 12: Scientific Seminar	4	6	Р

For Module Group C: Core Elective Modules (min. 11 CP):

Modules should be selected with a view to the intended specialization area. Core elective modules should be taken in the first three semesters of study.

The following modules are offered specifically for the master's programme Experimental Geosciences offered by lecturers from the Bavarian Research Institute of Experimental Geochemistry & Geophysics.

Module	Semester hours	Credit points	Examination
Geophysics and Geodynamics (V+Ü)	4 + 1	5	WE/OE
Basic Physics for Experimental Geosciences (V+Ü)	2 + 2	5	WE/OE
Crystal Chemistry of Geophysical Materials (V)	4	5	WE/OE
Geodynamical Modelling (V+Ü)	1 + 2	3	WE/OE
Finite Difference Methods (V+Ü)	1 + 2	3	WE/OE
Planetary Sciences (V)	4	5	WE/OE
Polarization Microscopy (V+Ü)	1 + 2	3	WE/OE
Electron Microscopy (V+Ü)	1 + 2	3	WE/OE

It is also possible to take modules from other degree programmes at the University of Bayreuth. For examinations in these modules, the regulations of the relevant degree programme apply.

Module	Semester hours	Credit points	Responsible degree programme
Experimental Physics C (V+Ü)	8 + 4	16	B.Sc. Physics
Introduction to Astronomy and Astrophysics I (V)	2	3	M.Sc. Physics
Computational Chemistry (V+P)	2 + 8	9	M.Sc. Materials Chemistry & Catalysis (MuK)
Solid Inorganic Materials (V+P)	2 + 8	9	M.Sc. MuK
Programming concepts (V+Ü)	4 + 4	8	B.Sc. Computer Science
Computer Architecture and Computer Networks (V+Ü)	4 + 4	8	B.Sc. Computer Science
Operating Systems (V+Ü)	2 + 1	5	B.Sc. Computer Science
Crystallography in Solid State Physics (V+Ü)	4	6	M.Sc. Physics
Hydrosphere (V+Ü)	4 + 1	6	B.Sc. Geo- Ecology
Aquatic Geochemistry (V+Ü)	2+2	5	M.Sc. Environmental Chemistry

With the agreement of the chair of examiners, other modules or courses may be taken depending on the area of specialization.

Annex 2: Aptitude assessment process

1. Purpose of the aptitude assessment process

¹The applicant's aptitude for studying in the master's programme Experimental Geosciences (M.Sc.) at the University of Bayreuth is determined on the basis of the process under the terms of Article 43 para 5 BayHSchG in accordance with § 2 para 1 number 3 of the present regulations. ₂Aptitude parameters are as follows:

- 1. The confident mastery of subject-specific knowledge from the initial degree in a scientific subject or related disciplines that are relevant for the understanding and analysis of questions in the field of experimental geosciences.
- 2. A keen interest in issues of geochemistry, geophysics, petro- logy, or mineralogy, as well as the ability to reflect and abstract in order to understand a research-related programme of study.
- 3. The ability to delve deeply into the subject area, passively and actively, in the English language.

2. Board responsible for the aptitude assessment process

The board of examiners is responsible for preparing and conducting the aptitude assessment process in accordance with § 4.

3. Process for determining aptitude

- 3.1 The aptitude assessment process is administered twice a year. ²Applications for admission to the aptitude assessment process must be submitted to the Bavarian Research Institute of Experimental Geochemistry & Geophysics at the University of Bayreuth by 15 June for the start of the winter semester and by 15 December for the start of the summer semester (deadlines) using the forms published by the University of Bayreuth. ³If the final documents, especially the documents given in number 3.2.2, are not yet available, provisional certificates can be submitted with the application for admission to the aptitude assessment process.
- 3.2 The following are to be enclosed with the completed application as described in number 3.1 sentence 2:
 - 3.2.1 1A written rationale of up two pages in the English language explaining the applicant's choice of the master's programme Experimental Geosciences, in which the applicant explains the specific talents and interests that make him or her particularly suitable for the programme of study.

- 3.2.2 ¹The bachelor's certificate with an examination grade of "gut" (2,5) or better in addition to a confirmation with individual grades for the coursework and examinations completed during the applicant's studies. ²If the bachelor's certificate is not yet available, confirmation containing the individual grades for all examinations and courses up to the registration deadline must be submitted. ³Such coursework must amount to at least 150 ECTS points and correspond to a final grade of "*gut*" (2,5) or better. ⁴The bachelor's certificate is to be submitted by the end of the first semester of study.
- 3.2.3 A list of modules from the applicant's bachelor's studies for which evidence of completion cannot yet be submitted.
- 3.2.4 A Curriculum Vitae in the English language (up to two pages) as supplementary information.
- 3.2.5 Evidence of a strong command of English as described in § 2 para 1 number 4 of the present regulations.
- 3.2.7 If available, evidence of special qualifications relevant to the programme of study, e.g. vocational training, awards such as scholarships or prizes, internships, or stays abroad.
- 3.2.8 If applicable, a request for compensation for disadvantages as described in § 15 of the present regulations.

4. Admission to the aptitude assessment process

- 4.1 Admission to the process requires that the documents described in number 3.2 or the provisional certificates as described in number 3.1 sentence 3 be submitted in the proper form and by the stated deadline.
- 4.2 The aptitude assessment process (number 5) is to be administered to those applicants who fulfil the requirements.
- 4.3 Applicants who are not admitted are to be sent a notice of denial with a rationale and information concerning legal remedies available; number 6.1 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

5. Overview of the aptitude assessment process

5.1 1On the basis of the application documents submitted, the committee examines whether the applicant is suitable for the master's programme Experimental Geosciences with respect to his or her proven qualifications and the specific talents and abilities described.

² The evaluation is given as a grade with one digit after the decimal point. ³The overall grade is the arithmetic average of the individual grades given in numbers 5.1.1 and 5.1.2. ⁴In this calculation, the grade shall only be given to one decimal place; the remaining digits are to be truncated (not rounded). ⁵Grades are awarded according to the following criteria:

5.1.1 Written rationale (as described in 3.2.1) and special qualifications (as described in number 3.2.7)

¹The written justification with the special qualification is evaluated from a weighted average according to points 1 to 3. ²The grades are to be awarded by two committee members of the board, independently of one another. ³The final grade of the written rationale is the average of the two individual grades.

- 1. Linguistic ability (weighting 20 %): The applicant is able to express himself/herself precisely and comprehensibly in the English language.
- 2. Interest (weighting 70 %): The connection between personal interests, educational background, and the research-related character as well as the contents of the study programme can be presented in a structured way.
- 3. Special qualifications (weighting 10 %): The applicant has qualifications relevant to the programme of study according to number 3.2.7.
- 5.1.2 Coursework and examinations (according to number 3.2.2)
 - ¹The coursework and examinations from the bachelor's programme or an equivalent programme of study are applied as long as the grading systems are comparable. ²Otherwise, grades are converted in accordance with § 8.
- 5.1.3 Candidates who obtain an average grade of 1.5 or better for numbers 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 will receive a certificate confirming their successful completion of the aptitude assessment process, to be signed by the chair of examiners.
- 5.1.4 1Candidates who receive a grade of 2.2 or lower for numbers 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 will not be admitted to the next stage of the procedure. ²They shall be sent a notice of denial with a rationale and information on how to appeal; number 6.1 applies *mutatis mutandis*.
- 5.2 1The remaining candidates with average grades of between 1.6 and 2.1 for numbers 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 will be admitted to the next stage of the procedure. ²The further assessment process includes a written aptitude test and a personal interview. ³The examinations are held in the English language.

⁴The dates for the written aptitude test and the interview will be announced at least one week in advance. ⁵The applicant is to comply with the scheduled dates and times. ⁶Anyone who fails to appear on the scheduled dates will be denied admission. ⁷If a reason beyond the applicant's control prevents him or her from attending the written aptitude test or the interview, a new appointment is to be scheduled no later than two weeks prior to the start of lectures upon justified request.

- 5.2.1 In the written aptitude test, subject-specific knowledge must be demonstrated. ²Basic knowledge of geosciences, physics, and chemistry is tested, as well as the ability to critically analyse texts in the field. ³The written aptitude test will be graded according to the grading system of § 16.
- 5.2.2 1The interviews are to be conducted individually in the English language for each applicant. ²The interview lasts between 20 and 30 minutes for each applicant and should demonstrate whether it is to be expected that the aim of the programme of study can be achieved given the applicant's previous education. ³The interview should corroborate the impression that he or she is suited for the programme of study. ⁴The interview is conducted by two members of the board of examiners. ⁵The interview is evaluated as the weighted average of the individual grades in the grading system given in § 16 according to the following two criteria:
 - 1. Linguistic ability (weighting 20 %): The applicant is able to express himself/herself orally in a precise and comprehensible manner in the English language.
 - 2. subject-specific suitability (weighting 80 %): The applicant is able to analyse and address fundamental issues in the Earth Sciences sciences in an appropriate manner.

⁶The grades are to be assigned by two members of the board of examiners, independently of one another. ⁷The final grade for the interview is the average of the two individual grades.

5.2.3 1A written record shall be made of the interview, indicating the date, time, duration, location, name of committee members involved, the name of the applicant, the assessment of the committee members, and the overall outcome. ²The record must show the topics of the interview with the applicant and the rationale for the assessment. ³The reasons and topics may be listed in note form. ⁴The record sheet is to be signed by the committee members who were involved.

- 5.2.4 The final grade for the aptitude assessment process is the average of the 1x weighted grade of the written aptitude test (number 5.2.1) and the interview (number 5.2.2) as well as the 2x weighted coursework and examinations from the bachelor's programme (number 5.1.2). ²Candidates who achieve a final grade of 2.0 or better will be considered suitable.
- 5.2.5 1Applicants who achieve a final grade of 2.1 or lower are not eligible for the master's programme Experimental Geosciences. ²They shall be sent a notice of denial with a rationale and information on how to appeal; number 6.1 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

6. Notification of the outcome

- 6.1 The outcome of the aptitude assessment process is to be sent to the applicant in writing. ²The notice is to be signed by the chair of examiners. ³A notice of denial containing a rationale and information on how to appeal is to be signed by the chair of examiners. ³As part of its supervisory duties in accordance with with article 20 para 3 sentence 1 *BayHSchG*, the University Governing Board shall check a random sample of 10 % of denials of admission; the corresponding number of samples shall be submitted to the University Governing Board by the chair of examiners.
- 6.2 Admission based on the aptitude assessment process for the master's programme Experimental Geosciences shall remain valid for future applications to this programme of study as long as the content and goals of the programme do not change so significantly that aptitude for this programme can no longer be demonstrated by having undergone the aptitude assessment process at an earlier date.

7. Repeating the process

- 7.1 Applicants who did not succeed in providing evidence of aptitude for the master's programme Experimental Geosciences may register for the aptitude assessment process one more time.
- 7.2 Applicants who are not yet able to submit a bachelor's certificate or a degree certificate that has been recognized as equivalent and who do not pass the aptitude assessment process may enrol for one semester if it is possible for them to submit the degree certificate by the end of the first semester and to earn at described in number 5.1.3 final grade of at least 2.0 as described in 5.2.2 for the aptitude assessment process and an overall examination grade of "gut" (grade: 2.5) or better as described in § 2 para 1 number 1.