

**Examination and Study Regulations
for the Master's Programme
M.Sc. Environmental Geography
at the University of Bayreuth
(version date: 7 September 2022)**

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.

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§ 1

Purpose of the master's examination

¹The master's examination, as the culmination of the master's programme Environmental Geography, is designed to assess whether the candidate possesses the requisite understanding of subject-related and interdisciplinary connections to pursue further academic research. ²On the basis of well-founded understanding of the subject matter, the candidate gains problem-solving competence in geographical issues relating to space in the context of environment—society and is able to comprehensively analyse and assess complex environmental systems. ³A well-founded understanding of the subject matter includes an advanced understanding of the functions and processes of complex environmental systems at different spatial and temporal scales. ⁴The candidate is also able to make and assess connections between aspects of environmental systems relating to the natural sciences and cultural studies. He or she has an understanding of the most modern techniques of environmental analytics, data collection, data analysis, and modelling used to grasp and assess environmental systems. ⁵Upon 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.). ⁶The 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 bachelor's degree with a grade of "gut" ["good"] (2,5) or better in Geography or Geo-Ecology at the University of Bayreuth, or an equivalent degree, and
 2. evidence of having passed the aptitude assessment process described in Annex 2.
 3. proof of English language skills at least at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for applicants who neither earned their higher education entrance qualification nor their initial degree that gained them admission to the programme in the English language.

4. Proof of German language skills at least at level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for applicants who have neither acquired their higher education entrance qualification nor their initial degree in German; the required German language skills can also be proven by a final thesis in German in a degree programme. Applicants who cannot provide this proof will be enrolled on the condition that they submit proof of the required language skills by the end of the second semester of study at the latest.
- (2) ¹When assessing the equivalence of a qualification, there must be no significant differences in the skills acquired (learning outcomes) compared to the qualifications referred to in para 1 no. 1. ²Decisions regarding the equivalence of a degree shall be made by the board of examiners established in accordance with § 5.
- (3) 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 135 ECTS points 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 the second semester of study. ⁴Upon request, the board of examiners can extend the submission deadline for the relevant degree certificates to up to the end of the second semester, as long as the reasons for the extension are beyond the student's control. ⁶This holds, in particular, if the student has already completed all examinations but the grades have not yet been disclosed and the certificate not yet issued.

§ 3

Structure of full-time and part-time study; standard period of study

- (1) ¹The master's programme Environmental Geography is divided into modules in the following areas:
1. Compulsory areas: General Environmental Geography (GEG) with the modules A1 and A2; Advances in Environmental Geography (AEG) with the modules B1, B2, C1, and C2; Research in Environmental Geography (REG) with the modules R1, R2, and R3
 2. Core elective areas: Methods in Environmental Geography (MEG) with the modules M; Environment and Society (ES) with the modules S

3. free choice of elective modules F

4. Internship I

5. Master's Thesis (T).

²All modules are given in the overview in Annex 1.

³Students can take the following elective modules: Modules that were not previously taken; other courses offered at the University of Bayreuth.

⁴A mandatory element in the programme is completion of an internship of at least 4 weeks in duration at relevant environmental organizations.

⁵Foreign languages other than English can be taken comprising up to five credit points in an elective module if language certificate level I or UNICERT® II is reached at the conclusion of the course.

⁶The fourth semester of full-time study or the 7th and 8th semesters of part-time study are for writing the master's thesis (30 credit points).

(2) ¹The master's programme Environmental Geography can be completed as a full-time or part-time student. ²Upon enrolment, the applicant must decide whether he or she wants to complete the programme of study as a full-time or part-time student. ³Changing from full-time to part-time study or from part-time to full-time study is only possible within the enrolment period of each new semester. ⁴The programme comprises four semesters of full-time study including the master's thesis (standard period of study). ⁵The programme comprises eight semesters of part-time study including the master's thesis. ⁶Unless special provisions are made in the present regulations, the deadlines specified for full-time study also apply to part-time study. ⁷Details concerning the course of instruction are based on the relevant curriculum guide.

(3) A total of 120 credit points must be earned in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

(4) New students can begin the programme in the winter semester.

- (5) ¹The examinations in modules A1, A2, B1, and C1 must be completed in the first semester - otherwise they are considered to be failed on the first attempt - unless the reasons for non-appearance were beyond the student's control. ²Modules B2, C2, and R1 cannot be taken until modules A1, A2, B1, and C1 were passed (Foundations and Orientation Phase). ³If module examinations in modules A1, A2, B1, or C1 are failed, each examination must be repeated within six months.

§ 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 administer the examination proceedings in accordance with the present regulations and make all decisions with the exception of the examinations and the assessment thereof. ³It shall consist of at least three members as well as three substitute representatives from among the professors (Art. 2 para 1 sentence 1 no. 1 Bavarian Higher Education Personnel Act) of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences, one research associate together with one substitute representative and one student (with an advisory vote) as well as one substitute representative and shall normally have no more than seven members.⁴The members of the board of examiners and their substitutes shall be elected by faculty council of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences for a term of two years. ⁵In the event that a member of the group of professors is prevented from attending or leaves, the faculty council shall at the same time determine a fixed order in which the members of the board of examiners shall be represented or permanently replaced by the substitute representatives. ⁶The board of examiners shall elect a chair and deputy chair from among the professors. ⁷If the chair or the deputy chair resigns, a decision of the faculty council in accordance with sentence 4 shall be brought about for the remaining term of office.
- (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's vote shall be decisive.
- (3) ¹The chair 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 can delegate tasks to members of the board of examiners.

- (4) The board of examiners shall regularly report to the faculty council concerning updates to examination schedules and study periods and may make suggestions for reforming the present regulations.
- (5) ¹Any notices the board of examiners issues under the terms of the present regulations are to be published together with a rationale and information concerning legal remedies available. 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 *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 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 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 para 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 2 of the *BayHSchG*.

§ 7

Admission to the examinations

Students who are enrolled in the master's programme Environmental Geography 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) If 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 from the other higher education institution are to be converted by the board of examiners using the Modified Bavarian Formula:

$$x = 1 + 3 \cdot (N_{\max} - N_d) / (N_{\max} - N_{\min})$$

where x is the grade to be calculated, N_{\max} is the highest possible grade, N_{\min} is the highest passing grade, and N_d is the actual grade; in this calculation, the grade to be calculated is only given to one decimal place and is not adjusted to fit the grading scale given in § 16. ³If a conversion according to sentence 2 is not possible, the board of examiners shall determine an appropriate key for the conversion of grades. ⁴If a grade is not available and cannot be determined, the remark "passed" is entered; in this case, it is not included in the overall examination grade. ⁵The board of examiners in consultation with the relevant representative from the subject area shall decide whether the requirements have been met for credit transfer.

⁶If credit transfer is denied, the person concerned can appeal the decision by submitting a request for the University Governing Board to review the decision within four weeks of notification of denial. ⁷The 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 registering for the relevant module.

§ 9

Times for holding examinations; announcing examination times and examiners

- (1) ¹The module examinations are to be carried out shortly after the conclusion of the module, and the examination schedule and time line for submitting graded assignments is to be published university-wide by the examiner prior to the start of the course. ²An additional examination time may be scheduled for the beginning of the following semester.
- (2) ¹If not listed in the annex, the examination times and the form and duration of examinations shall be determined by the relevant examiner and generally announced university-wide 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 of the individual modules.

§ 11

Form of examinations

- (1) ¹Module examinations are held in the form of written examinations, oral examinations, presentations, and reports. ²The possible forms of examination in the modules are given in the annex.
- (2) ¹Assessment of examinations at the University of Bayreuth is to be carried out according to the process announced by the board of examiners. ²Notifications will not be 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 in a timely manner.
- (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) ¹Written examinations are to be between one and four hours in duration. ²The relevant examiner shall decide which resources may be used during the examination. 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 may be relevant to determining the grade.
- (5) ¹If a candidate arrives to the examination late, he or she shall not be given additional time to finish the examination. ²Candidates may 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.
- (6) ¹Written examinations are generally graded by the examiner who was appointed by the chair of examiners. ²The relevant examiners are to determine the grades for the individual examinations under the terms of § 16. ³An assessment of each written examination shall be provided no later than four weeks after the examination. ⁴If an examinee receives the grade "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"] for a written examination, a second examiner shall also provide an assessment. ⁶The graded written examination shall remain in the examination records.

- (7) ¹Oral examinations are to be held over a period of 20 to 40 minutes, depending on the requirements of the particular taught session. ²Oral examinations are to be conducted in English, and are to be 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); names of the two examiners or of the examiner and co-examiner; and any noteworthy incidents. ⁴The record sheet is to be signed by the two examiners or by the examiner and co-examiner. ⁵The examiners are to determine the grades for performance in the oral examinations under the terms of § 16.
- (8) ¹Presentations and reports are completed during the seminar or tutorial in which they were assigned. ²The topic is assigned by the relevant examiner. ³The report is to be submitted no later than three weeks after the conclusion of the course; the presentation is to be given in the context of the seminar or tutorial. ⁴The topic of the work is to be such that it can be completed within this time limit. ⁵The chair of examiners may extend this deadline by up to one week at the request of the candidate and after having heard the supervisor in case of reasons beyond the candidate's control. ⁶If the candidate demonstrates via a medical certificate that he or she was unable to work on the thesis, the deadline is to be extended accordingly. ⁷Assignments that are not submitted by the stated deadline are to be graded as "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"]. ⁸The examiner shall determine the grade under the terms of § 16. ⁹One copy of the relevant presentation or the report (data storage medium) shall remain in the records for five years.

§ 12

Master's thesis

- (1) ¹The candidate's master's thesis 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. ²The topic may include interdisciplinary issues.

- (2) ¹The chair of examiners is to determine an examiner to act as supervisor and assessor, if possible in consideration of the candidate's wishes. ²The topic of the master's thesis is generally to be assigned by an examiner (§ 5 para 1) from the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences who is active in the appropriate field by way of the chair of examiners. 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 (full-time study) or the seventh and eighth semesters (part-time study).
- (3) ¹The master's thesis is to be integrated into the programme of study and shall correspond to a workload of 900 hours. ²The master's thesis is to be submitted no later than six months after the topic was assigned in the case of full-time study or 12 months in the case of part-time study. ³The chair of examiners may extend this deadline by up to twelve weeks in the case of full-time study or 24 weeks in the case of part-time study at the request of the candidate and after having heard the supervisor if there are reasons beyond the candidate's control. ⁴If the candidate demonstrates via a medical certificate that he or she was unable to work on the thesis, the deadline is to be extended accordingly. ⁵Term papers 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 is to be submitted to the chair of examiners or his or her deputy or the Examinations Office by the deadline given. ²Record is to be made of the date on which the thesis was submitted.
- (6) ¹Three 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 itself in pdf format are to be submitted on a data storage medium 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 shall forward the thesis to the appropriate assessor and appoint an additional assessor from among the examiners described in § 5. ²The grades shall be made available no later than two months after submission of the thesis. ³Each assessor shall provide a recommendation as to whether the thesis is to be accepted or rejected and assign 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. ⁵External assessors are to be admitted once it has been confirmed by the board of examiners that they have comparable qualifications (as described in § 5 para 2).
- (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). ³§ 11 para 2 applies *mutatis mutandis*.
- (10) ¹The content of the master's thesis is to be presented in a 15-minute talk (defence). The talk is followed by a 15-minute discussion that places the content of the master's thesis in a broader context. ²The talk is carried out publicly before the supervisor of the thesis and an additional examiner. ³Upon request, the talk may not be public. ⁴Assessment is to be carried out on a pass/fail basis. ⁵In the case of a failing grade, the talk can be repeated once. ⁶The defence is not taken into account when calculating the final grade for the master's examination.
- (12) 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.
- (13) One copy of the master's thesis is to remain on record.

§ 13

Credit point system

- (1) ¹A record of credit points for completed modules is to be 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) ¹The use of protection periods of the Maternity Protection Act (MuSchG) must be guaranteed. ²On application, the use of parental leave in accordance with the Federal Parental Benefit and Parental Leave Act (BEEG) as well as of the periods for the care of a close relative, within the meaning of § 7 para 3 of the Care Time Act (PflegeZG), who is in need of care within the meaning of §§ 14, 15 of Book XI of the Eleventh Book of the Social Security Code (SGB XI), must be guaranteed. ³The corresponding evidence must be kept; changes in the circumstances must 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 persons with a disability or chronic illness

¹In order to ensure equal opportunities, the special situation of candidates with disabilities or chronic illnesses must be taken into account in an appropriate manner. ²Upon written application by the examinee, the board of examiners shall determine, according to the severity of the proven examination disability, the form in which the examination is to be taken or shall grant an extension of the working time or some other reasonable accommodations. ³Proof of the examination disability or chronic illness shall be furnished in the form of a medical certificate stating that, due to a prolonged or permanent disability or chronic illness, the examination cannot be taken in whole

or in part in the prescribed form.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

Examination grades

- (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 deficiencies) | = 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 average grade after weighting the components based on credit points. 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 to 3,5 | = "befriedigend" |
| for an average of 3,6 up to and including 4,0 | = "ausreichend." |

§ 17

Final grade

- (1) The final grade for the master's examination is calculated as follows:

¹Modules A1 and A2 account for 2.5 % each; modules B1, B2, C1, and C2 account for 5 % each; method modules M account for a total of 15%; modules S account for a total of 10%; module R1 accounts for 10 %; and the master's thesis accounts for 40 % of the final grade.

²In this calculation, the grade shall only be given to one decimal place; the remaining digits are to be truncated (not rounded).

- (2) Candidates who pass the master's examination are to receive a final grade as follows: an average grade of 1,2 or better is "*ausgezeichnet*" ["excellent"], up to 1,5 is "*sehr gut*" ["very good"], up to 2,5 is "*gut*" ["good"], up to 3,5 is "*befriedigend*" ["satisfactory"], up to 4,0 "*ausreichend*" ["sufficient"].

- (3) Calculation of the final grade is to be carried out by the chair of examiners; the certificate or an attached document shall indicate how the final grade was calculated.

- (4) ¹In 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 four 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 of study does not yet have as many graduates as the minimum number required of the reference group, an ECTS grading table will be issued as soon as the minimum number 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 for the master's thesis and each module; in addition, all 120 credit points must be earned.
- (2) ¹If the candidate has not fulfilled the requirements given in para 1 by the end of his or her sixth semester in full-time study or twelfth semester in part-time study 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. ²Examinations 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 candidate shall be considered as having failed the master's examination 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 Act (*BayVwVfG*) as amended. ⁴The board of examiners may grant the student an extension of the deadline stated in sentence 1 for circumstances beyond his or her control.

§ 19

Repeating examinations

- (1) Any examination that was failed on the first attempt can be repeated once.
- (2) Voluntarily repeating module examinations (or elements thereof) that were already passed or the master's thesis is not permitted.
- (3) ¹Repeating an examination for a second time is only permitted for up to three examinations. ²Students who fail the second repetition of an 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.

- (4) 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.
- (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.

§ 20

Notice of failing the master's examination

Decisions on failing the master's examination on the final attempt are issued in accordance with § 5 para 5 in conjunction with Art. 41 BayVwVfG.

§ 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 BayVwVfG 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 do 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 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, examinations completed up to that point are to be recognized.
- (4) ¹If the candidate attempts to influence the result on an examination by cheating or making use of materials that are not permitted, he or she shall be given the grade "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"]. ²Any 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) ¹If cheating in the form of plagiarism is detected, the examination result will be assessed as "unsatisfactory". ²The accusation of plagiarism is justified if the candidate has attempted to influence the result of the examination in a way that is favourable to him or her by failing to identify passages that have been used verbatim from other authors and also by failing to identify passages that are closely related to the ideas of other authors. ³The decision shall be made by the respective examiner or supervisor and shall be recorded. ⁴In serious cases or in the case of repetition, the entire examination may be declared failed, and in particularly serious cases, the right to repeat the examination may

be revoked and the entire examination declared to have been failed on the final attempt.

⁵The decision on this is made by the board of examiners. ⁶When deciding on the imposition of the sanction, both the quantity of the plagiarism and its significance for the work must be assessed in each individual case.

§ 24

Invalidating the master's examination

- (1) If a candidate cheats 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 accordingly and declare the master's examination to be failed either in part or entirely.

- (2) ¹If 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.
- (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 certificate for successful completion of the master's examination are to be 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, all module examinations and examination elements undertaken (including credit points and grades achieved), 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 examination or the date on which the last graded assignment was submitted. ⁴In addition, an English translation of the diploma and a Diploma Supplement are to be issued; the translation of the diploma is to be signed by the dean, and the Diploma Supplement is to be 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 to be carried out in accordance with the legal regulations (Article 69 *BayHSchG*).

§ 26

Academic advising

- (1) General student advising is offered by the University of Bayreuth's Student Advising Office.
- (2) The programme advisor for the master's programme Environmental Geography is to be 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 advisor shall offer 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 in full-time study or 15 credit points per semester in part-time study,
 4. students transferring from a different degree programme or university,
 5. those changing from full-time study to part-time study or from part-time study to full-time study,
 6. those about to choose their core elective modules or the topic of their master's theses.

§ 27

Effective date

¹These regulations go into effect on 8 September 2022. ²They shall be valid for those students enrolling in this programme for the first time in the winter semester of 2022/23 or later. ³By way of derogation from this, No. 2 a) shall apply to students who enter this degree programme in the winter semester of 2023/2024 or later.

Annex 1: Modules, Credit Points, and Examinations

The following provides an overview of the modules and corresponding examinations.

Module examinations are as described in § 11 para 1, i.e. written examinations (abbreviated "WE"), oral examinations (OE), presentations (Pres), and reports (Rep). A diagonal slash indicates a choice. If additional elements are incorporated in the examination, they are given in the module handbook.

Two modules are to be selected for the area ES Environment and Society. Modules with a total of 15 credit/ECTS points are to be selected from the range of methods of the Earth Sciences; for "free choice", courses at the University of Bayreuth will be selected, with a total of 10 credit/ECTS points; a maximum of 5 credit/ECTS points can be shifted from "free choice" to the professional internship if the professional internship is longer than four weeks.

| Area modules | Contact hours | Credit points | Examination |
|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| General Environmental Geography | | 10 | |
| A1 Theories in Environmental Geography/ Scientific Working | 2 | 5 | Pres+Rep |
| A2 Debated Topics in Environmental Geography | 2 | 5 | Pres+Rep |
| Advances in Environmental Geography | | 20 | |
| B1 Earth, Soil, Surface | 3/4 | 5 | WE/OE/ Pres+Rep |
| B2 Earth, Soil, Surface | 2 | 5 | WE/OE/ Pres+Rep |
| C1 Climate, Water, Vegetation | 3/4 | 5 | WE/OE/ Pres+Rep |
| C2 Climate, Water, Vegetation | 2 | 5 | WE/OE/ Pres+Rep |

| | | | |
|---|---|-----------|--------------------|
| Environmental Geography | | 20 | |
| R1 Research Training I | 4 | 10 | Rep |
| R2 Research Training II | 2 | 5 | Pres+ Rep |
| R3 Scientific workshop, conference, school | 2 | 5 | Pres/Rep |
| Environment & Society (two out of three) | | 10 | |
| S1 Geographies of Environment and Development | 2 | 5 | WE/OE/ Pres+Rep |
| S2 Emergence and Development of "the Environment" as a Social and Political Issue | 2 | 5 | WE/OE/ Pres+Rep |
| S3 Ecosystem Services | 4 | 5 | WE/OE |

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----------|-----|
| MEG Methods (Methods in Environmental Geography) | | 15 | |
| M1 Methods | 2/4 | 5 | Rep |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----------|--------------------|
| M2 Methods | 2/4 | 5 | Rep |
| M3 Methods | 2/4 | 5 | Rep |
| Free Choice | | 10 | |
| F1 Free Choice | 2 | 5 | WE/OE/ Pres/Rep |
| F2 Free Choice | 2 | 5 | WE/OE/ Pres/Rep |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------|-------------------------|
| Non-University Internship | | 5 | |
| I Internship | 2 | 5 | Rep |
| T Master's Thesis | | 30 | |
| T Master's Thesis & Defence | | 30 | Master's Thesis+Pres |
| Total: | | 120 | |

Annex 2: Aptitude assessment process

1. Purpose of aptitude test

The applicant's aptitude for studying in the master's programme Environmental Geography 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 2 of the present regulations. Aptitude parameters are as follows:

1. a secure grasp of the subject matter from the applicant's first degree programme in geography, geo-ecology, or an equivalent branch of environmental science, which is relevant to understanding and analysing issues in the field of environmental geography.
2. a profound interest in issues relating to environmental science in addition to the ability to reflect and think abstractly to follow an interdisciplinary 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 ¹The aptitude assessment process is administered once every year, in the summer semester. ²Applications for admission to the aptitude assessment process via the forms published by the University of Bayreuth are to be submitted to the Dean of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences by 15 June of that year (application deadline). The bachelor's certificate can be submitted up to 15 August. ⁴If the final documentation given in number 3.2.3 is 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 to two pages in the English language explaining the applicant's choice of the master's programme Environmental Geography, in which the applicant explains the specific talents and interests that make him or her particularly suitable for the programme of study. ²For example, the specific motivation may be borne out by participation in professional training relating to the programme of study, internships, stays abroad, or subject-related supplementary courses taken during one's bachelor's studies beyond the required courses.

³The relevant evidence is to be enclosed.

3.2.2 A statement that the cover letter containing the applicant's motivation for choosing the programme of study was written independently, without the help of others, and that any thoughts taken from other sources were identified as such.

3.2.3 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 registration deadline must be submitted. ³Such coursework must amount to at least 135 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. ⁵Upon request, the board of examiners can extend the submission deadline for the relevant degree certificates to up to the end of the second semester, as long as the reasons for the extension are beyond the student's control. ⁶This holds, in particular, if the student has already completed all examinations but the grades have not yet been disclosed and the certificate not yet issued.

3.2.4 a list of modules from the applicant's bachelor's studies for which evidence of completion cannot yet be submitted.

3.2.5 a Curriculum Vitae in the English language (1 A4-sized page) as supplementary information.

3.2.6 evidence of a strong command of English as described in § 2 para 1 number 3 of the present regulations.

3.2.7 if available, evidence of the following:

a) special qualifications (e.g. professional training relevant to the programme of study, accolades such as scholarships or prizes, internships, stays abroad) or

b) interdisciplinary study skills

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 provisional certificates as described in number 3.1 sentence 4 - be submitted in the proper form and by the stated deadline.

4.2 The aptitude assessment process is to be administered under the terms of number 5 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 board of examiners shall determine whether the applicant is suited for studies in the master's programme Environmental Geography in view of his or her qualification and the specific talents and abilities he or she described. ²The assessment is carried out on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst score and 10 is the best score. ³The total number of points for the assessment is calculated as the sum of the individual assessments (number 5.1.1 to 5.1.3). ⁴The points are to be awarded by two committee members of the board, independently of one another. ⁵The number of points is calculated as the sum of the individual assessments divided by two and rounded to the nearest whole number value. ⁶Points are awarded according to the following criteria:

5.1.1 Written rationale (as described in 3.2.1) and special qualification (as described in number 3.2.7 item a)

¹Up to 4.0 points are assigned for the qualifications in the documents as described in numbers 3.2.1 and 3.2.7 item a. ²The assessment is based on the extent to which the documents submitted indicate a genuine interest in the field of environmental geography and the extent to which the potential to work in an interdisciplinary and international way can be discerned.

1. Verbal skills (up to 2 points): The applicant is able to express himself/herself precisely and comprehensibly in the English language.

2. Interest (up to 1 point): The connection between personal interest and the interdisciplinary and international character of the programme of study can be explained in a structured way.

3. Special qualifications (up to 1 points): The applicant has relevant qualifications that go beyond the skills and qualifications earned over the course of the initial degree programme, e.g. prizes, scholarships, relevant professional training, internships, stays abroad (as described in number 3.2.6).

5.1.2 Previous studies (as described in numbers 3.2.3 and 3.2.4)

¹The subject-specific coursework and examinations from the bachelor's programme or an equivalent programme of study are to be graded on a scale of "0" to "4.0" as given in § 2.

²In doing so, the curricular analysis is to be based on competencies, not carried out via a schematic comparison of the modules. ³The assessment of competencies is carried out in consideration of the identifiable spectrum of skills on the basis of a close connection to the elementary subject areas, including the natural science foundations of geography, geo-ecology, or an different branch of environmental science relating to atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere, and pedosphere.

5.1.3 Interdisciplinary study skills (as described in 3.2.7 item b)

¹The programme of study Environmental Geography requires an especially high degree of interdisciplinary, solution-oriented thought and action in an international context. ²For this reason, up to 2.0 points are awarded for interdisciplinary coursework, e.g. supplementary studies, courses attended abroad, language courses, or other courses beyond the scope of the curriculum of the applicant's subject area.

5.2 ¹Applicants who received as least 7 points shall be sent a confirmation - signed by the chair of examiners - of having passed the aptitude assessment process.

5.3 ¹Applicants who received 4 points or less shall not be involved in the remainder of the process. ²Applicants who received between 4 and 7 points but who were awarded less than 3 points for their subject-related coursework and examinations shall not be involved in the remainder of the process. ³They shall be sent a notice of denial with a rationale and information concerning legal remedies available; number 6.1 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

5.4 ¹The remaining applicants with an assessment of between 4 and 7 points are to be invited to an interview, as long as the subject-specific coursework and examinations in the bachelor's studies (number 5.1.2) were assessed with at least 3 points. ²The interview is to be conducted online, e.g. via Skype.

³The date and time of the interview are to be announced at least one week in advance. ⁴The applicant is to comply with the date and time of the interview. ⁵Anyone who fails to appear on the date and time announced will be denied admission. ⁶If a reason beyond the applicant's control prevents him or her from participating in the interview, a new appointment is to be scheduled no later than two weeks prior to the start of lectures upon justified request.

5.5 ¹An individual interview is to be conducted with each applicant in English. ²The interview is to last 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 to be conducted by two members of the committee.

⁵Each member is to assign a grade for the interview on a scale of 1 to 5. The arithmetic mean of the individual grades is to be calculated and rounded to one decimal place. ⁶Applicants who receive a grade of "good" (2,5) or better are to be considered eligible.

5.6 ¹A written record shall be made of the interview, indicating the date, duration, location, name of committee members involved, the name of the applicant, the assessment of the committee members involved, 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.

6. Notification of the outcome

6.1 ¹The result 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. ³ A notice of denial containing a rationale and information concerning legal remedies available is to be signed by the chair of the board. ⁴As part of its supervisory duties in accordance with Article 20 para 3 sentence 1 *BayHSchG*, the chair of examiners, on behalf of the University Governing Board, shall check a random sample of 10% of denials of admission.

6.2 Admission based on the aptitude assessment process for the master's programme Environmental Geography 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. Repetition and conditional enrolment

7.1 Applicants who did not provide evidence of aptitude for the master's programme Environmental Geography may register for the aptitude assessment process one more time.

7.2 ¹Applicants 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 least 7 points as described in 5.2 and an overall examination grade of "gut" (grade: 2,5) or better as described in § 2 para 1 number 1. ²Upon request, the board of examiners can extend the submission deadline for the relevant degree certificates to up to the end of the second semester, as long as the reasons for the extension are beyond the student's control. ³This holds, in particular, if the student has already completed all examinations but the grades have not yet been disclosed or the certificate not yet issued.

Issued on the basis of the decision of the University of Bayreuth's Senate of 27 July 2022 and the approval of the President of the University of Bayreuth of 5 September 2022, Ref. No. A 3396/17 - I/1.

Bayreuth, 7 September 2022

[university seal]

University of Bayreuth

[signature]

Professor Dr. Stefan Leible

These regulations were enacted at the university on 7 September 2022.

This was announced on 7 September 2022 by posting a notice at the university. The date of the announcement is 7 September 2022.

Bayreuth, 7 September 2022

[university seal]

University of Bayreuth, the President

[signature]

Professor Dr. Stefan Leible