



*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 <https://www.amtliche-bekanntmachungen.uni-bayreuth.de/de/>. Please note the effective dates of the amendments.*

**Examination and Study Regulations  
for the International Degree Programme  
Global Change Ecology (M.Sc.),  
part of the Elite Network Bavaria (ENB),  
at the University of Bayreuth  
dated 30 July 2020, as amended  
on 09 January 2023**

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 examination and study regulations issued by the University of Bayreuth.

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## § 1

### **Aim of the study program and purpose of the Master's examination**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The International Elite Study Program Global Change Ecology in the Elite Network Bavaria, is aimed at particularly highly qualified, capable and performance-oriented graduates of natural science programmes from Germany and abroad. <sup>2</sup>The language of instruction English promotes the claim of internationalization as well as the examination of current research results. <sup>3</sup>The diversity of basic education and previous knowledge is taken up in the interdisciplinary course of studies, individually existing knowledge is deepened and a profound scientific understanding of ecological interrelationships and social consequences of global ecological change is imparted. <sup>4</sup>The program encourages participants with intensive support from dedicated faculty, individual counseling and excellent framework conditions. <sup>5</sup>The elite program offers students the chance to position themselves internationally while still studying. <sup>6</sup>Practical training parts establish contacts with industry, administration, renowned research institutions as well as international organizations. <sup>7</sup>The International Elite Program offers an extraordinary range of courses, but its productive use also demands students' creativity and willingness to perform.
  
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The master's examination as the conclusion of the scientific university studies of the International Elite Study Program Global Change Ecology in the Elite Network Bavaria determines whether the candidate has shown the particularly high requirements for a highly qualified, capable and willing student and has acquired the skills specified in these statutes. <sup>2</sup>The master's examination should also be determined whether the candidate possesses the requisite understanding of subject-related and interdisciplinary connections to pursue further academic research. <sup>3</sup>Upon 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.).

## **§ 2**

### **Admission to the programme; qualification**

- (1) Admission prerequisites for the master's programme are as follows.
  1. a university degree (or completed studies) in the bachelor's degree program in biology, geography or geoecology - environmental sciences, environmental and resource technology, international economics and development, philosophy & economics, physics, public school teaching (bachelor's degree, first state examination, master's degree) or law (bachelor's degree, diploma, first state examination in law) at the University of Bayreuth or a degree equivalent thereto.
  2. evidence of having passed the aptitude assessment process described in Annex 2.
  3. proof of English skills at level B2 or better of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for applicants who neither earned their higher education entrance qualification nor their initial degree in the English language. applicants who are unable to provide proof of these skills will be enrolled on the condition that they submit the proof by the end of the second semester of study at the latest; and
  4. proof of German language skills at level A1 or better of the Common European Framework of Reference for applicants who neither earned their higher education entrance qualification nor their initial degree in the German language; applicants who are unable to provide proof of these skills will be enrolled on the condition that they submit the proof by the end of the second semester of study at the latest; and
- (2) <sup>1</sup>In the review of degree equivalence, the qualifications may not differ substantially in terms of the earned competences (learning outcomes) from the qualifications referred to in para 1 number 1. <sup>2</sup>Art. 86 BayHIG applies to determining the eligibility of domestic and foreign degrees. <sup>3</sup> Decisions regarding degree equivalence are to be made by the board of examiners established under the terms of § 4.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>If the bachelor's certificate (or at least equivalent degree certificate 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. <sup>2</sup>Such credit for examinations and coursework must amount to a total of at least 135 ECTS points. <sup>3</sup>Applicants who fulfill the prerequisite according to sentence 2 and have successfully completed the procedure for determining special aptitude (aptitude procedure) shall be enrolled on the condition that they submit the relevant degree certificate by the end of the second semester of study.
- (4) The language of courses is English.

## § 2a

### Early transition to doctoral research

<sup>1</sup>Students who have completed a university degree program related to a doctoral program with a performance well above average and have studied at least one semester in a master's degree program related to a doctoral program may be admitted to the Bayreuth Graduate School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences/Bayreuth Graduate School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences (BayNAT). <sup>2</sup>Further details are determined by the doctoral regulations of the Bayreuth Graduate School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (BayNAT) dated 15 October 2009, as amended.

## § 3

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

(1) The study of the International Elite Program Global Change Ecology in the Elite Network Bavaria is modularly structured into the following sub-areas:

- (O) Overview Global Change Ecology (not graded)
- (A) Environmental Change (graded)
- (B) Ecological Change (graded)
- (C) Societal Change (graded)
- (M) Methods (not graded)
- (F) Free Choice Module (individual elective, not graded)
- (I) Internship (practical training, not graded)
- (S) Science Schools (summer/winter school, not graded)
- (T) Master's thesis (graded)

(2) <sup>1</sup>The master's programme is to be completed as a full-time degree programme. <sup>2</sup>The standard period of study is four semesters, including the examination periods and the master's thesis.

(3) <sup>1</sup>A total of 120 credit points must be earned in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). <sup>2</sup>The credit points are distributed among courses of the module areas (O), (A), (B), (C), (M) and (F) mentioned in para. 1 (together 75 ECTS) as well as internships (I) and schools (S) (15 ECTS) and the master's thesis with a processing time of six months (30 ECTS).

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

(5) <sup>1</sup>The master's program is generally divided into three semesters in which courses are attended. <sup>2</sup>This is followed by one semester for the preparation of the master's thesis.

## **§ 4**

### **Board of examiners**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>A board of examiners shall be formed to make the necessary decisions with regard to the admission to the master's programme and the organizational execution of the master's examination. <sup>2</sup>The 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. <sup>3</sup>The board is made up of a chair and two additional members; the chair and the additional members shall each have one substitute. <sup>4</sup>Three members of the board of examiners and their substitute representatives shall be elected by the faculty council of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences from among the university professors (Art. 19 para 1 sentence 1 BayHIG) of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences for a period of three years. <sup>5</sup>One external member each may be appointed to represent the Faculty of Applied Computer Science at the University of Augsburg and the Faculty of Geosciences at the University of Würzburg. <sup>6</sup>The board of examiners shall elect a chair and deputy chair from among its members.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The 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. <sup>2</sup>The decisions taken by the board of examiners in its meetings are to be made on the basis of majority vote. <sup>3</sup>Vote abstention, secret voting, and proxy voting are prohibited. <sup>4</sup>If votes are equally divided among its members, the chair's vote shall be decisive.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>The chair of examiners shall ensure that the provisions of these regulations are followed. <sup>2</sup>He or she shall convene the meetings of the board of examiners and shall act as chair of its proceedings and decisions. <sup>3</sup>With regard to matters that cannot be postponed, he or she is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the board of examiners. <sup>4</sup>He or she must promptly inform the other members of any such decision - at the next meeting at latest. <sup>5</sup>In 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. <sup>6</sup>The 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) <sup>1</sup>Any notices the board of examiners issues under the terms of the present regulations are to be published together with a rationale and information concerning how to appeal. <sup>2</sup>Notices of appeal shall be issued by the president in consultation with the board of examiners.

## § 5

### Examiners and co-examiners

- (1) <sup>1</sup>Any person who is authorized to administer examinations at institutions of higher education according to 85 BayHIG or HSchPrüferV, as amended, may serve as examiner. <sup>2</sup>Any member of the University of Bayreuth who is a graduate of an equivalent or comparable programme of study may serve as co-examiner.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>If 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. <sup>2</sup>Authorization to administer examinations shall generally remain valid for up to three years.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>Unless otherwise decided by the chair of examiners, the relevant instructor shall also serve as examiner. <sup>2</sup>If 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 51 para 2 BayHIG.
- (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 26 para 2 of the BayHIG.

## § 7

### Admission to the examinations

Students who are enrolled in the master's programme and of study Global Change Ecology are considered *ipso facto* to be admitted to the examinations.

## § 8

### Credit transfer

- (1) The recognition and crediting of competencies shall be determined in accordance with Art. 86 BayHIG.

- (2) <sup>1</sup>If credits are recognized for competencies, the grades are to be carried over and included when calculating the final grade, as long as the grading systems are analogous. <sup>2</sup>If 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:

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

where x is the grade to be calculated, N<sub>max</sub> is the highest possible grade, N<sub>min</sub> is the highest passing grade, and N<sub>d</sub> 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. <sup>3</sup>If a conversion according to sentence 2 is not possible, the board of examiners shall determine a corresponding key for the grade conversion. <sup>4</sup>If a grade is not available and cannot be determined, the remark "passed" will be entered; in this case, it will not be included in the calculation of the final grade. <sup>5</sup>The board of examiners in consultation with the relevant representative from the subject area shall decide whether the requirements have been met for credit transfer. <sup>6</sup>If 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. <sup>7</sup>The 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.
- (4) Paragraphs 2 and 3 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the crediting of competencies, subject to the maximum limit pursuant to Art. 86 para 2 Sentence 2 BayHIG.

## § 9

### **Times for holding examinations; announcing examination times and examiners**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The examinations in the programme are held promptly following the conclusion of the modules. <sup>2</sup>An additional examination time may be scheduled for the beginning of the following semester.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>If not listed in the annex, the course-related examination times, the deadlines for submitting written assignments and the form and duration of examinations shall be determined by the relevant examiner and announced university-wide at the start of the semester. <sup>2</sup>A 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 the annex 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**

### **Forms of examination**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>Examinations are carried out in the form of written examinations, oral examinations, presentations, contributions, or written work. <sup>2</sup>They are based on the desired learning outcomes of the respective courses. <sup>3</sup>In individual cases, the assessment component may be prepared in teamwork. <sup>4</sup>The possible forms of examination in the modules are given in the annex.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>Assessment of examinations is to be carried out according to the process announced by the board of examiners. <sup>2</sup>Notifications will not be sent individually. <sup>3</sup>Students are required to familiarize themselves independently and in due time with the terms of the present regulations pertaining to repeating examinations; they are responsible for informing themselves of examination results.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>If a written examination is assessed as "failed" or "unsatisfactory", it must be assessed by a second examiner.
- (4) <sup>1</sup>Written examinations are to be between one and four hours in duration. <sup>2</sup>The relevant examiner shall decide which resources may be used during the examination. <sup>3</sup>A written record of the examination is to be made. <sup>4</sup>The invigilator shall confirm the accuracy of the record by providing his or her signature. <sup>5</sup>The examination record sheet is to include all aspects of the examination that are relevant to determining the grade.
- (5) <sup>1</sup>If a candidate arrives to the examination late, he or she shall not be given additional time to finish the examination. <sup>2</sup>Candidates may leave the room during an examination if permission is granted by the invigilator. <sup>3</sup>The time and duration of absence are to be noted on the question paper.

- (6) <sup>1</sup>Written examinations are generally graded by the relevant examiner. <sup>2</sup>The individual examination components shall be graded by the respective examiner in accordance with § 16 or assessed in accordance with Para. 12. <sup>3</sup>An assessment of each written examination shall be provided no later than six weeks after the examination. <sup>4</sup>The graded written examination shall remain in the examination records.
- (7) <sup>1</sup>Oral examinations are held over a period of 20 to 30 minutes, depending on the requirements of the particular taught session. <sup>2</sup>Oral examinations are conducted in English, and are administered by two examiners or one examiner and one co-examiner. <sup>3</sup>One 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. <sup>4</sup>The record sheet is to be signed by the two examiners or by the examiner and co-examiner. <sup>5</sup>The examiners are to determine the grades for performance in the oral examinations under the terms of § 16 or according to para 12.
- (8) <sup>1</sup>If the audience for an oral examination must be limited due to room capacity, those students who wish to take the same examination within the next two semesters are to be given preference. <sup>2</sup>The examination can be conducted without an audience if so requested by the candidate. <sup>3</sup>Discussion and announcement of the examination results (grade) shall not be conducted in public.
- (9) <sup>1</sup>Written assignments are to be completed as part of the courses on which they are based. <sup>2</sup>The topic is to be assigned by the relevant examiner in consideration of the candidate's wish. <sup>3</sup>The processing period for the written assignments is usually between two and eight weeks; this period is set when the topic is announced. <sup>4</sup>The topic of the work is to be such that it can be completed within this time limit. <sup>5</sup>The chair of the board of examiners may extend this deadline by up to two weeks at the request of the candidate and after having heard the supervisor in case of reasons beyond the candidate's control. <sup>6</sup>If 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. <sup>7</sup>Theses that are not submitted by the stated deadline are graded as "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"]. <sup>8</sup>The written work shall be graded by the examiner in accordance with § 16 or assessed in accordance with Paragraph 12. If a grade of "unsatisfactory" ("*nicht ausreichend*") is assigned, paragraph 6 sentences 2 and 4 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. <sup>10</sup>One graded copy of the work shall remain in the records. <sup>11</sup>Written papers may be supplemented by a seminar presentation in which the written paper is presented.
- (10) <sup>1</sup>In the case of written presentations, the topic, duration and scope must be clarified with the examiner. <sup>2</sup>The duration of a presentation can be 15 to 45 minutes, depending on the workload. <sup>3</sup>The performance is to be evaluated either according to the scheme "passed" or "failed" (alternative 1) or graded according to § 16 (alternative 2). <sup>4</sup>If alternative 1 of sentence 3 applies, the examination result shall not factor into the final grade.

- (11) <sup>1</sup>Contributions are the written or oral presentation of technical contents to a scientific discussion according to given criteria which are performed as individual or group performance (short lectures of 5 to 10 minutes, short poster presentations of 5 to 10 minutes, conference simulation, workshop simulation by elaboration of projects and problem solutions, debates, discussions or elaboration of project proposals etc.). <sup>2</sup>The topic, form and scope will be announced to the student in advance by the respective examiner. <sup>3</sup> A contribution is graded according to the "pass" or "fail" scheme.
- (12) <sup>1</sup>The examinations in the module areas O (Global Change Ecology Overview), M (Methods), F (Free Choice), I (Internships) and S (International Science Schools) will only be graded as "passed" or "failed". <sup>2</sup>Inclusion in the calculation of the overall grade in accordance with § 17 does not take place.

## § 12

### Master's thesis

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The 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. <sup>2</sup>The topic may include interdisciplinary issues.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The chair of examiners is to determine an examiner to act as supervisor and assessor if possible in consideration of the candidate's wishes. <sup>2</sup>The topic of the Master's thesis is usually issued at the end of the third semester by an examiner (§ 5 Para. 1) of this degree program. <sup>3</sup>The subject and the date of issue shall be made a matter of record via the chairperson of the board of examiners.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>The master's thesis is usually written in the fourth semester and involves a maximum workload of 900 hours. <sup>2</sup>The master's thesis is to be submitted no later than six months after the topic was assigned. <sup>3</sup>In 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 12 weeks. <sup>4</sup>If 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. <sup>5</sup>Theses that are not submitted by the stated deadline are graded as "nicht ausreichend" ["unsatisfactory"].
- (4) <sup>1</sup>The master's thesis is to be submitted in the English language. <sup>2</sup>The 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) <sup>1</sup>The master's thesis must be submitted in electronic form (printable PDF document) by the deadline. <sup>2</sup>Submission is carried out by uploading the document via the form server. <sup>3</sup>The Examinations Office will make a note of the date on which the thesis was submitted.
- (6) <sup>1</sup>The thesis must contain a table of contents and bibliography. <sup>2</sup>Up to two copies of the Master's thesis in typescript, bound and paginated, must also be submitted to the examiners at the request of the first examiner.
- (7) <sup>1</sup>The candidate may return the topic to the board of examiners once within the first two weeks. <sup>2</sup>Paragraphs 1 to 6 also apply when assigning and working on a new topic.
- (8) <sup>1</sup>The Examinations Office shall forward the thesis to the relevant assessor (supervisor). <sup>2</sup>The grades shall be made available no later than two months after submission of the thesis. <sup>3</sup>Each assessor shall provide a recommendation as to whether the thesis is to be accepted or rejected and assign a grade in accordance with § 16. <sup>4</sup>In special cases, the board of examiners may call upon an additional assessor, especially if the grades assigned vary by more than one point.
- (9) <sup>1</sup>If different grades are assigned, the grade for the master's thesis shall be the arithmetic mean of the assessments. <sup>2</sup>In 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.

## § 13

### Credit point system

- (1) <sup>1</sup>A 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. <sup>2</sup>The credit points that appear on the transcript are identical with credit points as stipulated in the European Credit Transfer System (see Annex 1). <sup>3</sup>One credit point corresponds to a workload of 30 hours.
- (2) The credit points for the modules are given in the annex.

## § 14

### Consideration of protective provisions

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The utilization of protection periods of the Maternity Protection Act (MuSchG) shall be guaranteed. <sup>2</sup>Upon request, the claiming of parental leave in accordance with the Federal Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (Bundeselterngeld- und Elternzeitgesetz, BEEG) as well as periods for the care of a close relative within the meaning of § 7 para 3 of the Nursing Care Act (PflegeZG) who is in need of care within the meaning of § 14 and § 15 of the Eleventh Book of the Social Code (Sozialgesetzbuch, SGB XI) shall be guaranteed. <sup>3</sup>The appropriate evidence must be furnished; any changes in status are to be reported immediately.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>If 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. <sup>2</sup>Corresponding evidence must be furnished; medical certificates must be presented in the case of illness. <sup>3</sup>Any changes in status are to be reported immediately.

## § 15

### Consideration of Special Needs of Students with Disabilities or Chronic Illness and in Special Life Circumstances

- (1) <sup>1</sup>For the sake of ensuring equal opportunities, the particular needs of examinees with disabilities or chronic illnesses are to be appropriately accommodated. <sup>2</sup>Upon written request, the board of examiners shall determine on the basis of the degree of disability or chronic illness in what form the examination is to be taken; alternatively, an extension or other reasonable accommodations may be granted. <sup>3</sup>Proof of the examination disability or chronic illness must be furnished in the form of a medical certificate stating that, due to a long-term or permanent disability or chronic illness, the examination cannot be taken in whole or in part in the intended form. <sup>4</sup>The request is to be submitted together with the examination registration. <sup>5</sup>If the request is submitted later, it shall only be valid for subsequent examinations.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>Students in special circumstances may apply to the board of examiners for compensation for disadvantages in examinations in accordance with paragraph 1. <sup>2</sup>The board of examiners shall decide on the existence of a special life situation and the extent of the compensation for disadvantages.

## § 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) = 2,7 or 3,0 or 3,3

"ausreichend" (fulfils the minimum requirements despite deficiencies) = 3,7 or 4,0

"nicht ausreichend" (unsatisfactory due to considerable deficiencies) = 5,0

- (2) <sup>1</sup>If 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. <sup>2</sup>In this calculation, the grade shall only be given to one decimal place; the remaining digits are to be truncated (not rounded). <sup>3</sup>Module grades are as follows:

an average of 1,5 or better = sehr gut

an average of 1,6 up to and including 2,5 = gut

an average of 2,6 up to and including 3,5 = befriedigend

an average of 3,6 up to and including 4,0 = ausreichend.

## § 17

### Final grade

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The overall grade of the Master's examination is calculated from the average of the module grades from the module areas A (Environmental Change), B (Ecological Change) and C (Societal Change) and the grade of the Master's thesis, which are weighted with the respective credit points. <sup>2</sup>In this calculation, the grade shall only be given to one decimal place; the remaining digits are to be truncated (not rounded). <sup>3</sup>If more than 11 modules are completed in the compulsory elective areas A, B, C, the modules with the best grades are included in the calculation of the overall grade. <sup>4</sup>Voluntary additional examinations in the elective areas A, B, C are not included in the overall grade calculation.
- (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", up to 1,5 is "sehr gut", up to 2,5 is "gut", up to 3,5 is "befriedigend", up to 4,0 "ausreichend".

- (3) The certificate or an attached document shall indicate how the final grade was calculated.
- (4) <sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>This table displays what percentage of programme graduates in a given time frame received the same final grade as described in para 2. <sup>3</sup>Those 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. <sup>4</sup>The date of the last examination shall be decisive in assigning graduates to a particular semester. <sup>5</sup>If the minimum number of graduates is not reached, the number of previous semesters is to be extended until the minimum number is reached. <sup>6</sup>If 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. <sup>7</sup>For 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. <sup>8</sup>The graduate's own graduating class is also to be included in the reference group. <sup>9</sup>The 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" or better or "bestanden" for the master's thesis and each module; in addition, all 120 credit points must be earned. <sup>2</sup>There is no obligation to repeat failed examinations taken for the purpose of earning additional credits.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>If 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. <sup>2</sup>Examinations that were taken on time and for which the candidate received a passing grade need not be repeated.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>If 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. <sup>2</sup>The deadline shall not take into account periods of leave and periods during which the candidate withdrew from study. <sup>3</sup>Notice 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 *BayVwVfG* as amended. <sup>4</sup>The 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 examinations

- (1) Each failed examination may be repeated multiple times within the period specified in § 18.
- (2) Up to two examinations may be repeated voluntarily for the purpose of improving one's grade.  
<sup>2</sup>In addition, voluntary repetition of a passed examination is not possible. <sup>3</sup>Repeating the master's thesis voluntarily is not permitted.
- (3) The resitting of an examination can be carried out in oral form, even if the previous examination was in written form, as determined by the examiner.
- (4) <sup>1</sup>The master's thesis can be repeated with a new topic if the student receives a failing grade for the thesis. <sup>2</sup>Repeating 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

Notice shall be sent to inform the candidate that he or she has failed the master's examination on the final attempt in accordance with § 4 para 5 in conjunction with Article 41 BayVwVfG as amended.

## § 21

### Access to examination documents

- (1) Following the conclusion of the examinations process, the candidate may be granted access to his or her graded examination documents including the reviewer's report as well as the record sheets for the examination.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>Such requests are to be made six months after the degree certificate is awarded. <sup>2</sup>If the candidate was prevented from meeting the deadline in sentence 1 due to reasons beyond his or her control, Article 32 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 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) <sup>1</sup>Candidates 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. <sup>2</sup>If 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) <sup>1</sup>The grounds for failing to appear - or as long as paragraph 1 sentence 1 does not apply - for withdrawal must be submitted to the board of examiners without delay and substantiated by *prima facie* evidence. <sup>2</sup>The same applies to inability to take the examination due to circumstances arising during the examination. <sup>3</sup>Inability to take the examination due to illness must be documented with a medical certificate. <sup>4</sup>If 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 elements completed up to that point are to be recognized.
- (4) <sup>1</sup>If 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"]. <sup>2</sup>Any 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) <sup>1</sup>If cheating in the form of plagiarism is detected, the examination will be graded as "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"]. <sup>2</sup>The accusation of plagiarism is justified if the examinee has attempted to influence the result of the examination in a way that is favourable to him or her by

failing to specifically mark passages taken verbatim from other authors and also explanations of his or her work that are closely based on the thought processes of other authors.<sup>3</sup>The determination shall be made by the relevant examiner or invigilator and shall be recorded in the files.<sup>4</sup>In serious cases or in the case of repetition, the entire module examination can be declared failed and, in particularly serious cases, the right to repeat the examination can also be withdrawn and the entire module examination can be declared failed on the final attempt.<sup>5</sup>The decision on this is taken by the board of examiners.<sup>6</sup>In 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) <sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>If 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; degree certificate**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>A 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. <sup>2</sup>The diploma is to include the title of the programme of study. <sup>3</sup>It is to be signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences and stamped with the seal of the University. <sup>4</sup>Upon issuance of the diploma, the graduate is given the right to bear the title "Master of Science". <sup>5</sup>This title is to be abbreviated "'M.Sc." and placed behind the surname.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The degree certificate is to include the title of the programme of study, the final grade, the module examinations undertaken (including credit points and grades achieved), as well as the topic of the master's thesis and the grade received for the thesis. <sup>2</sup>The certificate is to be signed by the

chair of examiners. <sup>3</sup>The date to be used is the day of the last examination or the date on which the last graded assignment was submitted. <sup>4</sup>An English translation of the diploma and a Diploma Supplement shall be issued in addition; the Diploma Supplement shall be signed by the chair of examiners. <sup>5</sup>In 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 101 BayHIG).

## **§ 26**

### **Academic advising**

- (1) General student advising is offered by the University of Bayreuth's Student Advising Office.
- (2) The programme coordinator for the International Elite Study Programme Global Change Ecology in the Elite Network Bavaria 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) <sup>1</sup>In the course of the semester, the programme coordinator shall offer advising for all students enrolled in the master's programme. <sup>2</sup>Advising is recommended especially for the following persons:
  1. of first-year students, 2. after failed examinations, 3. if the course of study clearly falls short of 30 credit points per semester, 4. in the case of a change of subject, course of study or university, 5. before the choice of specialization, 6. before taking up an internship or study abroad.

## **§ 27**

### **Effective date and transitional provisions**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The present regulations go into effect on 31 July 2020. <sup>2</sup>They shall be valid for all students enrolling in this programme for the first time in the winter semester of 2020/2021 or later. <sup>3</sup>The remaining students design their studies according to the previous examination and study regulations for the International Elite Study Programme Global Change Ecology (M.Sc.) within the framework of the Elite Network Bavaria (ENB) at the University of Bayreuth dated 20 December 2012 (AB UBT 2012/076), last amended by statute dated June 7, 2019 (AB UBT 2019/015); upon application, they may design their studies according to these regulations.
- (2) The Examination and Study Regulations for the International Elite Study Programme Global Change Ecology (M.Sc.) within the framework of the Elite Network Bavaria (ENB) at the University

of Bayreuth dated 20 December 2012 (AB UBT 2012/076), last amended on 07 June 2019 (AB UBT 2019/015), shall cease to apply subject to the provision in para 1 sentence 3.

\*) The set of amendments dated 09 January 2023 contains the following provisions with regard to the effective date:

These examination regulations shall take effect on 2 January 2023.

## Annex 1: Modules, Credit Points, and Examinations

Slashes ("/") between exam forms indicate alternative exam forms.

Area / Modules	LP/ECTS	Examinations
<b>O Global Change Ecology Overview</b>	<b>5</b>	Contribution
<b>A Environmental Change</b>	<b>at least 15</b>	
A1 Climate Change	5	oral exam + Contribution
A2 Ecological Climatology	5	written composition + presentation + written elaboration
A3 Extreme Events and Natural Hazards	5	Contribution + presentation
A4 Changes in Aquatic Ecosystems	5	Written exam + presentation
A5 Changes in Agroecosystems	5	Written exam + presentation
A6 Biogeochemical Fluxes	5	Written elaboration + presentation
A7 Rhizosphere Biogeochemistry	5	oral exam + presentation
A8 Biodiversity in the Tropics	5	Seminar presentations
A9 Mathematical Modeling for Climate and Environment	5	Oral examination
A10 Land Use Change and Microclimate	5	Written elaboration + presentation
<b>B Ecological Change</b>	<b>at least 15</b>	
B1 Biogeography and Macroecology	5	Presentation + exam
B2 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning	5	Written assignment
B3 Disturbance Ecology	5	Presentation + exam
B4 Spatial Ecology	5	presentation + written elaboration
B5 Global Change Impacts on Species Distributions	5	Contribution + written elaboration
B6 Soil Carbon and Global Change	5	Written exam + written paper + presentation
B7 Remote Sensing in Landscape Ecology	5	Written assignments
B8 Dynamic Vegetation Ecology	5	presentation + written elaboration

Area / Modules	LP/ECTS	Examinations
B9 Paleoecology and Paleobiology	5	written elaboration / presentation / written exam / oral exam
<b>C Societal Change</b>	<b>at least 15</b>	
C1 Climate Policies and Economics	5	Contribution + written elaboration
C2 Ecosystem Services	5	Written exam + contribution
C3 Global Economy	5	Contribution + presentation + written elaboration
C4 Global Policy and Governance	5	Presentation + contribution
C5 Socio-Economic and Political Dimensions of Global Change	5	Contribution (passed), written elab- oration
C6 Sport Ecology	5	written elaboration / presentation / written exam / oral exam
C7 Land Use Policies, Markets and Ecosystems	5	Written elaboration + contribution
C8 Biodiversity, Climate Change and Health	5	written work + contribution +presentation
<b>Sum of areas A, B, C (including 2 modules of specialization from A, B or C)</b>	<b>55</b>	

If more than 11 modules are completed in areas A, B, C, the modules with the best grades are included in the calculation of the overall grade in each case. At least 3 modules must be included in each of the areas A, B and C.

Area / Modules	LP/ECTS	Examinations
<b>M Methods</b>	<b>10</b>	
M Methods	10	Written exam / oral exam / presentation / contribution / written paper
<b>F Free Choice</b>	<b>5</b>	
F Free Choice	5	Written exam / oral exam / presentation / contribution / written paper

Area / Modules	LP/ECTS	Examinations
<b>I Internships</b>	<b>at least 5</b>	
I1 Internship in Economy	5/10 <sup>*)</sup>	written elaboration
I2 Internship in Science	5/10 <sup>*)</sup>	written elaboration
I3 Internship in Administration	5/10 <sup>*)</sup>	written elaboration
I4 Internship in International Organization	5/10 <sup>*)</sup>	written elaboration
<b>S International Science Schools</b>	<b>at least 5</b>	
S1 Science School (one week)	2	written elaboration
S2 Science School (one week with preparation and/or follow-up)	3	written elaboration
S3 Science School (two weeks)	5	written elaboration
S4 Science School (four weeks; two weeks with preparation and/or follow-up)	10	written elaboration
<b>Total areas I, S</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>T Master's Thesis</b>	<b>30</b>	Master's thesis
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>120</b>	

\*) An internship of at least 6 weeks duration will be awarded 5 LP/ECTS and an internship of at least 12 weeks duration will be awarded 10 LP/ECTS.



## **Annex 2: Aptitude assessment process**

Pursuant to Art. 90 para 1 sentence 2 BayHIG, the eligibility of applicants for the study in the International Elite Program Global Change Ecology (M.Sc.) in the Elite Network Bavaria (ENB) at the University of Bayreuth is determined according to § 2 para 1 No. 2 of the present regulations.

### **1. Purpose of aptitude test**

<sup>1</sup>The objective of the programme of study Global Change Ecology is to educate graduates up to the degree Master of Science (M.Sc.), putting them in a position to develop strategies of dealing with predicted global changes. <sup>2</sup>Only students who have a strong knowledge of the causes and processes of global environmental change (climate, material turnover, etc.) and the resulting ecological effects (biodiversity loss, impaired ecosystem functions, etc.) as well as the related societal and political adaptation and mitigation (international treaties, laws, etc.), excellent relevant previous education, linguistic fluency in English, and the necessary ability to reflect and reason are suitable for the program.

### **2. Selection Committee**

<sup>1</sup>A committee is responsible for preparing and conducting the aptitude assessment process. <sup>2</sup>The committee is composed of at least three university professors involved in the study programme, who are appointed by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences for a period of five years. <sup>3</sup>At least one additional university lecturer is to be appointed as a substitute. <sup>4</sup>The board may include additional persons principally employed as academic staff members who are authorized to administer examinations. <sup>5</sup>The university professors must form a majority on the committee. <sup>6</sup>The committee elects a chair who is a university lecturer from among its members.

### 3. Process for determining aptitude

3.1 <sup>1</sup>The aptitude assessment process is administered once every year, in the summer semester. <sup>2</sup>The application for admission to the aptitude assessment process must be submitted online to the University of Bayreuth. <sup>3</sup>The online application for admission is made available on the website of the University of Bayreuth. <sup>4</sup>The online application for admission must be received electronically by the University of Bayreuth by June 15 of each year for admission to the following winter semester (cut-off deadline).

3.2 <sup>1</sup>The following are to be enclosed with the completed application as described in number 3.1 sentence 2:

- a) a detailed statement in English (max. 2 DIN-A4 pages), based on which specific competences a special aptitude for the study program exists,
- b) the certificate of the relevant first degree as well as a confirmation with individual grades of the examination and study achievements in the course of studies; if the certificate of the relevant first degree is not yet available, a confirmation with individual grades of all examination and study achievements (total amount of at least 135 ECTS credits) completed by the registration date must be submitted,
- c) if applicable, proof of stays abroad, internships and foreign language courses,
- d) Names and addresses of two scientific reviewers from whom information may be obtained,
- e) a copy of the proof of the higher education entrance qualification as supplementary information,
- f) A CV as supplementary information to serve as a basis for the interview (see 5.2).
- g) if applicable, a request for compensation for disadvantages as described in § 15 of the present regulations.

<sup>2</sup>Documents in accordance with sentence 1 letters b and c may be submitted subsequently by July 15 of a year.

#### **4. Admission to the aptitude assessment process**

- 4.1 Admission to the assessment process requires that the documents listed in number 3.2 be submitted on time and in the required form.
- 4.2 The aptitude assessment process 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 6.3 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

#### **5. Overview of the aptitude assessment process**

##### **5.1. Preselection (first stage of the aptitude assessment process)**

<sup>1</sup>On the basis of the application documents submitted, the board of examiners shall determine whether the applicant is suited for the elite international programme Global Change Ecology (M.Sc.) in the Elite Network of Bavaria (ENB) in view of his or her qualification and the specific competencies he or she described. <sup>2</sup>The evaluation is to be conducted on the basis of the following criteria:

- 5.1.1. <sup>1</sup>The grade of the relevant final examination or the average grade of the performance achieved to date, if the certificate of the relevant first degree is not yet available, shall be given a single weighting. <sup>2</sup>Specific conversion factors may be applied for foreign applicants.
- 5.1.2. The written presentation according to No. 3.2 letter a, if applicable together with the evidence according to No. 3.2 letter. c, are evaluated according to a grading scale of 1 to 5 (1 = very good, 2 = good, 3 = satisfactory, 4 = sufficient, 5 = unsatisfactory) and given a single weighting; according to No. 1 sentence 2, the evaluation criteria are the extent to which the written presentation demonstrates distinctive knowledge and skills in ecological and social issues as well as a very good ability to express one-self linguistically.
- 5.1.3 The sum of the single-weighted previous academic performance and the single-weighted evaluation of the written presentation is used to form an unrounded point value calculated to one decimal place.

- 5.1.4 <sup>1</sup>Applicants whose score is more than 4.0 points or whose written presentation has not been evaluated with at least the grade 2 (good) will no longer be involved in the further procedure. <sup>2</sup>They shall be sent a notice of denial with a rationale and information concerning legal remedies available; Nr. 6.3 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

## 5.2 Aptitude interview (second stage of the aptitude assessment process)

- 5.2.1 <sup>1</sup>The remaining applicants will be invited to an aptitude interview. <sup>2</sup>The date and time of the interview are to be announced at least one week in advance. <sup>3</sup> Anyone who fails to appear on the date and time announced will be denied admission. <sup>4</sup>If 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.
- 5.2.2 <sup>1</sup>The aptitude interview is conducted by two committee members or by one committee member and one assessor (research associate) with one applicant each. <sup>2</sup>The interview lasts a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 30 minutes, is conducted in English and is intended to show whether the applicant can be expected to achieve the goal of the degree programme. <sup>3</sup>In this interview, the applicants are to be questioned on the basis of their application documents and it is to be determined whether the applicants have distinctive knowledge and skills in ecological and social issues according to No. 1 sentence 2 and whether they have the required ability to reflect and argue for this elite course of studies. <sup>4</sup>In this connection, verbal ability in the English language is considered as well. <sup>5</sup>The interview is to be evaluated on a grading scale of 1 to 5 (1 = very good, 2 = good, 3 = satisfactory, 4 = sufficient, 5 = unsatisfactory) by each of the examiners. <sup>6</sup> If the grades diverge, the average is to be taken to one decimal place. <sup>7</sup> A written record of the interview is to be made for the interview including details about the participants, time, location, duration, and evaluation as described in § 5.2.3. <sup>8</sup> The record must show the topics of the interview with the applicant and the rationale for the assessment. <sup>9</sup>The topics and the reasons may be listed in brief. <sup>10</sup>The record must be signed by both examiners.
- 5.2.3 The sum of the single-weighted grade of the previous academic performance according to No. 5.1.1 and the single-weighted evaluation of the interview according to No. 5.2.2 sentences 5 and 6 is used to form a point value, not rounded, calculated to one decimal place.
- 5.2.4 The aptitude test is successfully completed if the point value according to No. 5.2.3 does not exceed 4.0 points and the aptitude test is rated at least 2 (good).

## **6. Determining and announcing results**

- 6.1 The course of the aptitude assessment process must be documented; in particular, the decisions of the committee in accordance with the present regulations and the overall outcome must be evident.
- 6.2 The decision on the suitability of the applicants is made by the committee on the basis of the results determined according to No. 5.1.4 and No. 5.2.4.
- 6.3 <sup>1</sup>The applicants shall receive notification of the result of the aptitude assessment process. <sup>2</sup>Notices of denial are to include a rationale and information concerning information on how to appeal. <sup>3</sup>As part of its supervisory duties in accordance with Article 30 para 3 sentence 1 BayHIG, the chair of the selection committee, on behalf of the University Governing Board, shall check a random sample of 10 % of denials of admission.
- 6.4 Admission based on the aptitude assessment process for the master's programme Global Change Ecology (M.Sc.) in the Elite Network of Bavaria 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 have not provided proof of eligibility for the Master's programme Global Change Ecology (M.Sc.) within the framework of the Elite Network Bavaria (ENB) may re-apply once for the aptitude assessment process.
- 7.2 Applicants who are not yet able to present a certificate of the relevant first degree and who have not passed the aptitude test may be enrolled for two semesters if there is a possibility that they will still be able to achieve a point value of no more than 4.0 according to No. 5.2.4 by the end of the second semester after presenting the relevant degree certificate.