



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 Master's Programme
Development Studies
at the University of Bayreuth
dated 10 August 2016, 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 regulations issued by the University of Bayreuth.

CONTENTS

§ 1	PURPOSE OF THE MASTER'S EXAMINATION	3
§ 2	ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME; QUALIFICATION	3
§ 3	STRUCTURE OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME STUDY AND THE MASTER'S EXAMINATION; STANDARD PERIOD OF STUDY	4
§ 4	BOARD OF EXAMINERS	6
§ 5	EXAMINERS AND CO-EXAMINERS	7
§ 6	DISQUALIFICATION DUE TO PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT; CONFIDENTIALITY	7
§ 7	ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATIONS	7
§ 8	CREDIT TRANSFER AND RECOGNITION	8
§ 9	TIMES FOR HOLDING EXAMINATIONS; ANNOUNCING EXAMINATION TIMES AND EXAMINERS	8
§ 10	ELEMENTS OF THE EXAMINATION	9
§ 11	FORMS OF EXAMINATION	9
§ 12	MASTER'S THESIS	12
§ 13	CREDIT POINT SYSTEM	13
§ 14	CONSIDERATION OF PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS	13
§ 15	CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR CHRONIC ILLNESS AND IN SPECIAL LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES	14
§ 16	GRADING OF EXAMINATIONS	14
§ 17	FINAL GRADE	15
§ 18	PASSING THE MASTER'S EXAMINATION	16
§ 19	REPEATING EXAMINATIONS	16
§ 20	NOTICE OF FAILING THE MASTER'S EXAMINATION	17
§ 21	ACCESS TO EXAMINATION DOCUMENTS	17
§ 22	DEFECTS IN THE EXAMINATION PROCEEDINGS	18
§ 23	NON-APPEARANCE, WITHDRAWAL FROM EXAMINATIONS, CHEATING, AND POLICY VIOLATIONS	18
§ 24	INVALIDATING THE MASTER'S EXAMINATION	19
§ 25	AWARDING THE MASTER'S DEGREE; DEGREE CERTIFICATE	19
§ 26	ACADEMIC ADVISING	20
§ 27	EFFECTIVE DATE	20
	ANNEX: MODULES, CREDIT POINTS, AND EXAMINATIONS	21

§ 1

Purpose of the master's examination

¹The bilingual (German/English) Master's program in Development Studies deals with the causes, framework conditions and effects of social, political and economic development, transition and globalization processes in selected regions (Latin America, Asia or Africa), predominantly developing and transition countries (the so-called "Global South"). ²By combining the subjects of development sociology/-politics, geography and economics, students are taught comprehensive methodological, scientific and practical professional skills in the field of development research. ³Students are taught the ability to analyze social, political and economic development problems and processes of change and to discuss them with recourse to social science and economic theories. ⁴The master's examination, as the culmination of the master's programme Development Studies, is designed to assess whether the candidate possesses the requisite understanding of subject-related and interdisciplinary connections to pursue further academic research. ⁵On the basis of passing the Master's examination, the University awards students of the Master of Development Studies with a major in Development Sociology/Politics and a major in International Business the academic degree of Master of Arts by the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences and students of the Master of Development Studies with a major in Geography the academic degree of Master of Arts by the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences.

§ 2

Admission to the programme; qualification

- (1) ¹Admission prerequisites for the master's programme are as follows.
1. a completed course of study with at least an examination grade of "2.5" in the Bachelor's program Applied African Studies, Culture and Society of Africa or International Business and Development or Geographical Development Studies of Africa or Philosophy & Economics or the B.Sc. Geography or Culture and Society with the subject Sociology at the University of Bayreuth or an equivalent degree and
 2. Evidence of English language skills at level C1 (or higher) of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.
 3. 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 German 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 a relevant work-related internship with a minimum duration of four weeks or professional experience in the field of qualified practice, in particular of organizations and institutions of development cooperation and internationally active business enterprises and -associations.

²In addition, subject-specific knowledge of the countries of the Global South and/or professionally relevant experience in the countries of the Global South is recommended. New students should already have a basic knowledge of either social, economic, or geosciences development studies and be able to discuss and evaluate the various approaches. ³Strongly recommended is also knowledge of another scientific language relevant to a developing region (e.g., Spanish, French, Portuguese).

- (2) ¹The qualifications may not differ substantially in terms of the qualification from the qualifications referred to in para 1 number 1. ²If there are substantial compensable differences, applicants may be admitted subject to the proviso that, in addition to the assessment components to be completed in the master's programme, they also successfully complete additional coursework and examinations in the amount of up to 30 credit points in the relevant bachelor's program within one year; otherwise, the prerequisites for admission to the programme are deemed not to have been fulfilled. ³In such cases, the examination and study regulations for the relevant bachelor's programme (as amended) shall apply. ⁴Art. 86 BayHIG applies to determining the eligibility of domestic and foreign degrees.
- (3) Decisions such as those described in paragraph 2 are to be made by the board of examiners established under the terms of § 4.
- (4) ¹If the bachelor's certificate or equivalent diploma has not yet been issued, a confirmation of all individual grades and examinations for courses completed up to the date of registration must be submitted. ²Such coursework must amount to at least 150 ECTS points and correspond to a final grade of 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 "2.5" ["good"] or better by the end of their second semester of study.

§ 3

Structure of full-time and part-time study and the master's examination; standard period of study

- (1) ¹The master's programme Development Studies is divided into modules, with credit point requirements as follows:

	Credit Points (CP)
A Foundations (compulsory)	45
B - D Core Electives (individual focus): Development Sociology/Politics (B) or Geography (C) or International Economics (D)	20
E Project-Focused Unit (compulsory)	30
Master's thesis	25
Total	120

²One of the three concentrations "Sociology of Development/Politics" (B), "Geography" (C), or "International Economics" (D) must be chosen. ³A change of focus is possible once up to six weeks after the beginning of the second semester by application to the chair of examiners. ⁴Failed examination attempts that are no longer relevant due to the change of concentration need not be repeated. ⁵It is possible to take additional examinations in the other concentrations. ⁶There is no obligation to repeat failed examinations taken for the purpose of earning additional credits. ⁷Passing grades from other concentrations will be shown on the transcript unless the student requests otherwise; the grades earned will not be included in the calculation of the final grade.

- (2) ¹The master's programme Development Studies 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 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 curriculum guide.
- (3) A total of 120 credit points must be earned in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).
- (4) ¹New students can begin the programme in the winter semester. ²Departing from sentence 1, a start of studies is possible for the summer semester 2021.

§ 4

Board of examiners

- (1) ¹A 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. 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. ³The board is made up of a chair and two additional members; the chair and the additional members shall each have one substitute. ⁴The members of the board of examiners and their substitutes shall be elected by the faculty council of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences from the professors (Article 57 paragraph 1 of the BayHIG) from the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences (Chair of Development Sociology / Junior Professor of Developmental Politics and Politics in Africa), the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences (Department of Earth Sciences), or the Faculty of Law, Business & Economics (Business Administration/VWL IV; EO) to serve a two-year term. ⁵The board of examiners shall elect a chair and deputy chair from among its members.
- (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 of examiners shall ensure that the provisions of these regulations are followed. ²He or she shall convene the meetings of the board of examiners and shall act as chair of its proceedings and decisions. ³With regard to matters that cannot be postponed, he or she is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the board of examiners. ⁴He or she must promptly inform the other members of any such decision - at the next meeting at latest. ⁵In addition, unless otherwise provided by the present regulations, the board of examiners can transfer (until revoked) the right to perform other duties of the board to the chair. ⁶The chair can delegate tasks to members of the board of examiners.
- (4) The board of examiners shall regularly report to the faculty council of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences 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 how to appeal. 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 85 BayHIG or HSchPrüferV, as amended, may serve as examiner. ²Instructors from foreign universities may serve as examiners, as long as they fulfil the qualification requirements in sentence 1. ³Any 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 two years.
- (3) ¹Unless otherwise decided by the chair of examiners, the relevant instructor shall also serve as examiner. ²If that instructor is not authorized to administer examinations as laid out in sentence 1, the chair of examiners shall appoint an examiner at the beginning of the semester in which the examination is to be held.

§ 6

Disqualification due to personal involvement; confidentiality

- (1) Disqualification from consultation and voting on the board of examiners as well as other activities relating to examinations on the basis of personal involvement is governed by Article 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 BayHIG.

§ 7

Admission to the examinations

Students who are enrolled in the master's programme Development Studies are considered ipso facto to be admitted to the examinations.

§ 8

Credit transfer and recognition

- (1) The recognition and crediting of competencies shall be determined in accordance with Art. 86 BayHIG.
- (2) ¹If 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. ²If the grading system for the competencies to be transferred does not correspond to the grading system given in § 16, the grades received at the other higher education institution are to be converted using the Modified Bavarian Formula:
$$x = 1 + 3 \cdot (N_{\max} - N_d) / (N_{\max} - N_{\min})$$
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 a corresponding key for the grade conversion. ⁴If 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. 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) recognition of credit requests are to be submitted to the board of examiners as soon as possible following enrolment and in any event prior to the commencement of 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) The 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.
- (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 published university-wide, generally at the start of

the semester. ²A change of examiner on short notice shall only take place if there are urgent grounds for doing so.

- (3) Students are to register for examinations by the published deadline, according to the process determined by the board of examiners.

§ 10

Elements of the examination

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

§ 11

Forms of examination

- (1) ¹Examinations are taken in the form of presentations, written examinations, oral examinations, assignments, reports, and essays. 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.
- (3) ¹If 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. ²In the case described in paragraph 8, sentence 1 does not apply.
- (4) ¹Written examinations are to be held over a period of at least one hour and at most two hours. 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 are 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 relevant examiner. ²The relevant examiners are to determine the grades for the individual examinations under the terms of § 16. ³The assessment is to be available at latest by the beginning of the following semester. ⁴If an examinee receives the grade "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"] for a written examination, a second examiner shall also provide an assessment. ⁵The graded written examination shall remain in the examination records.
- (7) ¹Written examinations may be conducted fully or in part using multiple choice testing. ²If written examinations are conducted only in part using multiple choice testing, the terms of paragraphs 4 and 6 sentences 1,2, and 4 apply for the portion that is not multiple choice. ³The questions in the multiple choice section are to be written by the first and second examiners. ⁴Prior to the examination time, the examiner shall decide which answers are correct and how many points are to be awarded for each correct answer, i.e. how to weight correct answers in relation to the total points. ⁵If the written examination is conducted only in part by using multiple choice testing, weighting for the individual parts must also be stipulated. ⁶Grading of examinations may be carried out with the help of an optical mark sense reader.
- (8) ¹A multiple choice examination is considered passed, if the examinee achieves a certain absolute number of correct answers (at least 50% of the total points) or on a relative basis. ²The relative cut-off grade is to be determined by taking the average of the points achieved by those examinees taking the examination for the first time, less 10%. ³The relative cut-off grade is only to be taken into account if it is below the absolute cut-off grade. ⁴Cut-off grades that are not whole number values shall be rounded in favour of the student. ⁵An examination is considered passed if a grade of "*ausreichend*" [sufficient] (4,0) or better is achieved. ⁶In an answer-choice examination in which the minimum passing score (relative passing score, if lower, or absolute passing score) has been earned, the grade is
- 1.0 (very good), if at least 90 percent
 - 1.3 (very good), if at least 80 percent but less than 90 percent
 - 1.7 (good), if at least 70 but less than 80 percent
 - 2.0 (good), if at least 60 but less than 70 percent
 - 2.3 (good), if at least 50, but less than 60 percent
 - 2.7 (satisfactory), if at least 40 but less than 50 percent
 - 3.0 (satisfactory), if at least 30 but less than 40 percent
 - 3.3 (satisfactory), if at least 20 but less than 30 percent
 - 3.7 (sufficient), if at least 10 but less than 20 percent
 - 4.0 (sufficient), if the passing grade has been achieved but less than 10 percent of the possible points above the passing grade have been earned. ⁷Cut-off grades that are not whole number values shall be rounded in favour of the student.
- ⁸If the lowest passing grade (cut-off grade) is not reached, a grade of 5,0 ("*nicht ausreichend*" / insufficient") is assigned. ⁹If an examination is conducted using multiple choice testing, the following details are to be included when determining the results:

- cut-off grades,
- points achieved,
- percentage of the number of points exceeding the lowest passing grade or percentage of the number of points.

¹⁰If the examination is only carried out in part via multiple choice testing, grades shall be assigned for the individual parts. ¹¹In this connection, § 16 para 2 applies accordingly. ¹²The details above also apply to the multiple choice portion.

- (9) ¹Oral examinations are to be held over a period 20 to 30 minutes, depending on the requirements of the particular course. ²Oral examinations are to be conducted in German or 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: the 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. ⁶Discussion and announcement of the examination results (grade) shall not be conducted in public.
- (10) ¹Presentations are to be held part of the courses on which they are based. ²The topic, scope, and duration of the presentation is to be chosen together with the instructor responsible for the course. ³Presentations can last between 20 and 90 minutes, depending on the workload. ⁴The examiner shall determine the grade under the terms of § 16.
- (11) ¹Assignments and Essays are to be completed during or following the relevant course. ²The aim of a term paper is to address a relevant question using the techniques of scientific work. ³In the essay, on the other hand, the emphasis is on the subjective point of view and a coherent argument, so that critical evaluation and the weighing of positions in a larger overall context are more essential than the complete presentation of a topic. ⁴The topic is to be assigned by the relevant examiner in consideration of the candidate's wish. ⁵The processing time for assignments and essays is three weeks. ^{6A}A term paper is a special form of assignment. ⁷It clearly exceeds the requirements in terms of scope and demand of a normal assignment. ⁸The processing time for a term paper is six weeks accordingly. ⁹The topics for assignments or essays are to be such that they can be completed within this time limit. ¹⁰The 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. ¹¹If the candidate demonstrates via a medical certificate that he or she was unable to work on the paper, the deadline is to be extended accordingly. ¹²Theses that are not submitted by the stated deadline are graded as "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"]. ¹³The examiner shall determine the grade under the terms of § 16. ¹⁴If an assignment is graded as "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"], a second examiner shall provide an assessment. ¹⁵One graded copy of the term paper shall remain in the records.

- (12) Reports are completed during or following the interactive modules (project-focused unit or conference participation).²The report documents the contents of the module.³A report thus summarizes essential information, structures and processes and establishes references to the study.⁴Depending on the workload of the module, the report can be between 2 and 10 pages in length.

§ 12

Master's thesis

- (1) The master's thesis of the candidate should demonstrate that he or she is able to utilize relevant resources and adequately address and write about current issues in the field using scientific methods.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 to be assigned by an examiner (§ 5 paragraph 1) from the Faculty Humanities & Social Sciences (Sociology and Politics), the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences (Earth Sciences), or the Faculty of Law, Business & Economics (Economics IV; E) who is active in the appropriate field, via 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 sixth semester (part-time study).
- (3) ¹The master's thesis is integrated into the programme of study and corresponds to a workload of 600 hours.²The master's thesis is to be submitted no later than five months after the topic was assigned in the case of full-time study or ten 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.⁵Theses that are not submitted by the stated deadline are graded as "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"].
- (4) ¹The master's thesis may be written in German or English.²The 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 master's thesis must be submitted in electronic form (printable PDF document) by the deadline.²Submission is carried out by uploading the document via the form server.³The Examinations Office will make a note of the date on which the thesis was submitted.

- (6) ¹The thesis must contain a table of contents and bibliography. ²The master's thesis should not exceed 120,000 characters (not including annexes, bibliography, and the statement described in para 4 sentence 2).
- (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 appointed assessor (supervisor) and shall 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.
- (9) ¹If different grades are assigned, the grade for the master's thesis shall be the arithmetic mean of the assessments. ²In this calculation, the grade shall only be given to one decimal place; the remaining digits are to be truncated (not rounded).
- (10) ¹If 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) 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 protective provisions

- (1) ¹The utilization of protection periods of the Maternity Protection Act shall be guaranteed. ²Upon request, the claiming of parental leave in accordance with the Federal Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (Bundeselterngeld- und Elternzeitgesetz), as well as periods for the care of a close relative within the meaning of § 7 para 3 of the Nursing Care Act who is in need of care within the meaning of § 14 and § 15 of the Eleventh Book of the Social Code (Sozialgesetzbuch),

shall be guaranteed. ³The appropriate evidence must be furnished; any changes in status are to be reported immediately.

- (2) ¹If duly requested, periods during which study was impossible or only possible to a limited extent for reasons beyond the student's control shall not be taken into account with regard to the examination schedule. ²Corresponding evidence must be furnished; medical certificates must be presented in the case of illness. ³Any changes in status are to be reported immediately.

§ 15

Consideration of special needs of students with disabilities or chronic illness and in special life circumstances

- (1) ¹In order to maintain their equal opportunities, the special needs of students with disabilities or chronic illnesses within the meaning of the Bavarian Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act shall be taken into account in an appropriate manner. ²Upon 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. ³Proof 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. 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.
- (2) ¹Students in special circumstances may apply to the board of examiners for compensation for disadvantages in examinations in accordance with Paragraph 1. ²The 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) ¹If a greater module examination is made up of multiple examinations, the grade for the module shall be established by calculating the arithmetic mean after weighting the components based on credit points. 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:

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) ¹The overall grade of the Master's examination is calculated from the average of the five best module grades from A (A1-8) at 35%, the average of the module grades from the chosen area (area B: B1, B2, B3 or Area C: C1, C2, C4 or Area D: D1, D2, and D3 or D4) at 30% and the grade of the master's thesis at 35%. ²In the average of sections A to D and in calculating the final grade, 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", 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) 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 and all requirements mentioned in § 2 para 2 must be fulfilled.
- (2) ¹If the candidate has not fulfilled the requirements given in paragraph 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 the examination on the final attempt in accordance with § 4 para 5 in conjunction with Article 41 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) ¹In order to improve grades in module areas B, C and D, the grade of an already passed module examination can be replaced by the grade of an equivalent performance from an additionally attended course upon application to the chair of examiners. ²The substituted component is then

treated as an additional service without assignment to the modules. ³In addition, a voluntary repetition of a passed examination is not possible. ⁴Repeating the master's thesis voluntarily 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

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

§ 21

Access to examination documents

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

§ 22

Defects in the examination proceedings

- (1) If it is shown that there were defects in the examination proceedings which influenced the examination results, the candidate or the board on its own initiative shall request that the relevant examinations be repeated.
- (2) Any defects in the examination proceedings or circumstances preventing the candidate from completing the examination are to be reported to the examiner or the chair of examiners without delay, and in general, prior to notice being given of the examination results.
- (3) Claims under the terms of para 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 withdrawing 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 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. 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.
- (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) 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 shall be given invigilator and barred from continuing the examination. In this case, he or she shall be given the grade "*nicht ausreichend*" ["unsatisfactory"].

§ 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; degree certificate

- (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 and the selected focus. ³They are to be signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences for master's students of Development Studies with a focus on Development Sociology/Politics or International Economy and by the Dean of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences for master's students of Development Studies with a focus on Geography, and they are to include the seal of the university. ⁴Upon issuance of the diploma, the graduate is given the right to bear the title "Master of Arts". ⁵This title is to be abbreviated "M.A." and placed behind the surname.
- (2) ¹The certificate is to include the title of the programme of study, the focus selected, the final grade, all completed modules, all 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. 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. ⁴An 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. 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 Arts" 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 advisor for the master's programme Development Studies 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. ²Advising 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 subject, 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 choosing their focus or the courses in their core elective module.

§ 27

Effective date

¹These regulations go into effect on 10 August 2016. ²They shall be valid for all students enrolling in this programme for the first time in the winter semester of 2016/2017 or later.)

*) The set of amendments dated 9 January 2023 contains the following provisions with regard to the effective date:

These examination regulations shall take effect on 2 January 2023.

Annex: Modules, Credit Points, and Examinations

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

The programme is made up of the following compulsory and core elective areas:

		Department Responsible for the Module	Form of Examination	ECTS points	
A	Foundations (mandatory)			45	
	A1	Development Studies between Concepts and Practice: An Interdisciplinary Perspective	Interdisciplinary	Presentation & written exam	6
	A2	Regional Geography: Africa / Asia / Latin America	Geography	Presentation & assignment	5
	A3	Geographies of Environment and Development	Geography	Presentation & assignment	5
	A4	Development Theories	Development Sociology / Politics	Oral exam	5
	A5	Social and Political Processes in Africa and Beyond I	Development Sociology / Politics	Presentation & assignment (term paper)	8
	A6	Economics, Governance and Development	Economics	Presentation & written exam	6
	A7	Macroeconomics	Economics	Written exam	5
	A8	Development Anthropology	Anthropology	Presentation and essay	5
Elective Courses (individual focus): Advanced Development Sociology/Politics (B) or Advanced Geography (C) or Advanced International Economy (D)					
B	Advanced Development Sociology/ Politics (B)			20	
	B1	Actors in Development Politics	Development Sociology / Politics	Presentation & assignment	5
	B2	Development Policies: Selected Issues		Presentation & assignment	5
	B3	Social and Political Processes in Africa and Beyond II		Presentation & oral exam	5
	B4	Deepening or Catching up: Technical or methodological in-depth knowledge within development sociology or policy		according to deepening or catching-up course requirements	5
Advanced Geography (C)		Geography			
C1	Socio-economic Development Processes		Presentation & assignment	6	
C2	Development Cooperation/Development Planning		Presentation & report	4	
C3	Attendance of a Conference of Experts		Report	4	
C4	Political Ecology of Global Environmental Change		Presentation & assignment	6	
D	Advanced International Economy (D)¹		Economics		
	D1	Economic Progress and Institutional Change		Written exam	6
	D2	Corporate Governance: Theoretical Aspects of Corporate Governance		Written or oral exam	6
	D3	Topics in Economics and Governance		Presentation & written exam	2/6
	D4	Development Economics		Presentation & assignment	2/6
E	Project-focussed units (mandatory)			30	
	E1	Project preparation	Interdisciplinary	Presentation or essay	10
	E2	Research project or internship		Report	20
M:	Master's Thesis			25	
	M1	Master's Colloquium		Presentation	5
	M2	Master's Thesis		Thesis	20

¹Students take an exam in three modules, including modules D1 and D2 and either D3 or D4 (3x 6 ECTS).

²In the remaining module (D3 or D4) active participation (1x 2 ECTS) is sufficient to achieve a total of 20 ECTS.