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**Examination and Study Regulations  
for the International Elite Program  
Global Change Ecology (M.Sc.)  
in the Bavarian Elite Network (ENB)  
at the University of Bayreuth  
dated 30 July 2020  
as amended on 25 February 2026**

Pursuant to Art. 13, para. 1, sentence 2, in conjunction with Art. 58, para. 1, sentence 1, and Art. 61, para. 2, sentence 1, of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (BayHSchG), the University of Bayreuth hereby enacts the following Examination and Study Regulations:

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## **§ 1**

### **Objective of the Program and Purpose of the Master's Examination**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The International Elite Program in Global Change Ecology within the Bavarian Elite Network is aimed at particularly highly qualified, capable, and motivated graduates of natural science programs from Germany and abroad. <sup>2</sup>The use of English as the language of instruction promotes the goal of internationalization as well as engagement with current research findings. <sup>3</sup>The diversity of students' foundational education and prior knowledge is addressed in this interdisciplinary program, which deepens existing individual knowledge and imparts a profound scientific understanding of ecological relationships and the societal consequences of global ecological change. <sup>4</sup>The program supports participants through intensive guidance from dedicated faculty, individual advising, and excellent learning conditions. <sup>5</sup>The elite program offers students the opportunity to establish an international presence while still in university. <sup>6</sup>Practical components of the program establish contacts with industry, government, renowned research institutions, and international organizations. <sup>7</sup>The International Elite Program offers an exceptional curriculum, the productive use of which, however, also demands creativity and a strong commitment from the students.
  
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The Master's examination, which concludes the academic university studies of the International Elite Program in Global Change Ecology within the Bavarian Elite Network, determines whether the candidate has met the particularly high standards expected of a highly qualified, capable, and motivated student and has acquired the skills specified in these regulations. <sup>2</sup>The Master's examination determines whether the candidate has a sufficient grasp of the subject-specific and interdisciplinary contexts to be capable of conducting further independent academic work. <sup>3</sup>Upon passing the examination, the University of Bayreuth, through the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences, confers the academic degree of Master of Science (abbreviated: M.Sc.).

## § 2

### **Admission to the Program, Qualifications**

- (1) The requirements for admission to the master's program are:
1. A university degree (or completed studies) in the Bachelor's program in Biology, Geography, or Geoecology - Environmental Sciences, Environmental and Resource Technology, International Economics and Development, Philosophy & Economics, Physics, Teaching at Public Schools (Bachelor's, First State Examination, Master's) or Law (Bachelor's, Diploma, First State Examination in Law) from the University of Bayreuth or an equivalent degree.
  2. Proof of successful completion of the aptitude assessment procedure as specified in Appendix 2.
  3. Proof of English language proficiency at a minimum of level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for applicants who have not obtained either their university entrance qualification or their first degree granting access to higher education in English. Applicants who cannot provide this proof will be enrolled on the condition that they submit proof of the required language proficiency by the end of the second semester at the latest.
  4. Proof of German language proficiency at a minimum of level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for applicants who have not obtained either their university entrance qualification or their first degree granting access to higher education in German. Applicants who cannot provide this proof will be enrolled on the condition that they submit proof of the required language proficiency by the end of the second semester at the latest.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>When assessing the equivalence of a degree, there must be no significant differences in the acquired competencies (learning outcomes) compared to the degrees listed in paragraph 1, no. 1. <sup>2</sup>Article 86 of the Bavarian Higher Education Innovation Act (BayHIG) applies to the determination of the eligibility for recognition of domestic and foreign degrees. <sup>3</sup>The decision on the equivalence of a degree is made by the board of examiners established pursuant to § 4.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>If the bachelor's degree certificate (or a certificate of an at least equivalent university degree) is not yet available, a transcript listing individual grades for all examinations and coursework completed by the application deadline must be submitted. <sup>2</sup>These examinations and coursework must total at least 135 ECTS credits. <sup>3</sup>Applicants who meet the requirement in sentence 2 and have successfully completed the procedure to determine special aptitude (aptitude assessment procedure) will be enrolled on the condition that they submit the relevant degree certificate by the end of the second semester.
- (4) The language of instruction is English.

## **§ 2a**

### **Early Qualification for a Doctorate**

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

## **§ 3**

### **Structure of the Program and Master's Examination, Standard Period of Study**

- (1) The International Elite Program Global Change Ecology within the Bavarian Elite Network is structured in modules, and the respective areas are listed in the appendix.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The program must be completed as a full-time program. <sup>2</sup>The duration of study, including the master's thesis and examination periods, is four semesters (standard period of study).
- (3) The number of credit points to be earned is 120 in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).
- (4) The program may be started at the beginning of the winter semester.
- (5) <sup>1</sup>The master's program is generally divided into three semesters during which courses are taken. <sup>2</sup>This is followed by a semester for writing the master's thesis.
- (6) <sup>1</sup>It is possible to take additional exams in the subjects of the T&C Theories & Concepts module area beyond the required scope; § 17, para. 1 must be observed. <sup>2</sup>There is no obligation to retake additional exams that were not passed.

## **§ 4**

### **Board of examiners**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>A board of examiners shall be formed to make the necessary decisions regarding admission to the Master's program and to oversee the organizational conduct of the Master's examination. <sup>2</sup>The Board of examiners shall conduct the examination process in accordance with these regulations and shall make all necessary decisions, with the exception of the examinations themselves and their grading. <sup>3</sup>It shall consist of four members and one deputy for each member. <sup>4</sup>At least two members of the board of examiners and their deputy representatives shall be elected by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences from among the university faculty members (Art. 19, Para. 1, Sentence 1 BayHIG) of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth

Sciences who are involved in teaching the degree program, for a term of three years.<sup>5</sup>One member is elected from among the research staff for a term of three years.<sup>6</sup>The board of examiners elects a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its university lecturers.<sup>7</sup>Students may be invited to participate as guests.

- (2) <sup>1</sup>The Board of examiners has a quorum if, following written notice to all members with at least three days' notice, a majority of the members are present and eligible to vote. <sup>2</sup>It makes decisions by a majority of the votes cast in meetings. <sup>3</sup>Abstentions, secret ballots, and the transfer of voting rights are not permitted. <sup>4</sup>In the event of a tie, the chairperson's vote shall be decisive.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>The chairperson of the Board of examiners shall ensure that the provisions of these regulations are observed. <sup>2</sup>The chairperson shall convene the meetings of the Board of examiners and preside over all deliberations and decision-making of the Board of examiners. <sup>3</sup>The chairperson is authorized to make urgent decisions on behalf of the Board of examiners. <sup>4</sup>He or she must inform the other members of the Board of examiners of this immediately, at the latest by the next meeting. <sup>5</sup>Furthermore, unless these regulations provide otherwise, the Board of examiners may revocably delegate the performance of individual tasks incumbent upon the Board of examiners to the chairperson. <sup>6</sup>The chairperson may delegate tasks to members of the Board of examiners.
- (4) The Board of examiners shall report regularly to the Faculty Council on the progress of examinations and study periods and shall make recommendations for the reform of these regulations.
- (5) <sup>1</sup>The Board of examiners shall issue the decisions required under these regulations in writing, stating the reasons and providing information on legal remedies. <sup>2</sup>Decisions on appeals shall be issued by the President after consultation with the Board of examiners.

## **§ 5**

### **Examiners and Assessors**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>Any person authorized to administer university examinations pursuant to Art. 85 BayHIG and the Higher Education Examiner Ordinance (HSchPrüferV), as amended, may serve as an examiner. <sup>2</sup>Any member of the University of Bayreuth who has successfully completed a relevant or comparable academic program may be appointed as an assessor.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>If a member of the University of Bayreuth who is authorized to conduct examinations leaves the University, the Board of examiners may, upon the member's request, decide that the member may continue to serve as an examiner for a reasonable period of time. <sup>2</sup>As a rule, the authorization to conduct examinations shall remain in effect for up to three years.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>Unless otherwise determined by the chair of examiners, the responsible lecturer shall also serve as the examiner. <sup>2</sup>If the lecturer does not belong to the group of persons authorized to conduct

examinations pursuant to paragraph 1, the chair of examiners shall appoint an examiner at the beginning of the respective semester.

## **§ 6**

### **Exclusion due to personal involvement, duty of confidentiality**

- (1) Exclusion from deliberations and voting in the board of examiners, as well as from examination duties, due to personal involvement is governed by Art. 51 para 2 of the Bavarian Higher Education Innovation Act (BayHIG).
- (2) The duty of confidentiality of the members of the board of examiners, the examiners, the examination assessors, and other persons involved in examination matters is governed by Art. 26, para. 2 of the Bavarian Higher Education Innovation Act (BayHIG).

## **§ 7**

### **Admission to Examinations**

Upon enrollment in the International Elite Program in Global Change Ecology within the Bavarian Elite Network, the student is deemed admitted to the examinations.

## **§ 8**

### **Recognition and Transfer of Competencies**

- (1) The recognition and transfer of competencies are governed by Art. 86 BayHIG.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>If competencies are recognized, the grades—provided the grading systems are comparable—shall be adopted and included in the calculation of the overall grade. <sup>2</sup>If the grading system for the competencies to be recognized does not correspond to the grading system specified in § 16, the grades from the other institution shall be converted by the board of examiners using the modified Bavarian formula
$$x = 1 + 3 * (N_{\max} - N_d) / (N_{\max} - N_{\min})$$
with the desired conversion grade  $x$ , the highest achievable grade  $N_{\max}$ , the lowest passing grade  $N_{(\min)}$ , and the achieved grade  $N_d$ ; in this process, only one decimal place is taken into account for the calculated grades, and no adjustment to the grade levels specified in § 16 is made. <sup>3</sup>If conversion pursuant to sentence 2 is not possible, the board of examiners shall establish an appropriate conversion scale for the grades. <sup>4</sup>If a grade is not available and cannot be determined, the notation “passed” shall be recorded; in this case, it shall not be included in the overall examination grade. <sup>5</sup>The Board of examiners shall decide on the fulfillment of the requirements for recognition in consultation with the relevant subject representative. <sup>6</sup>If recognition is denied, the affected

person may request a review of the decision by the university administration within four weeks of receiving notice of the denial. <sup>7</sup>The university administration shall provide the board of examiners with a recommendation regarding the further handling of the request.

- (3) Applications for the recognition of competencies must be submitted to the Board of examiners as soon as possible after enrollment, but no later than the start of the initial registration for the respective module.
- (4) Paragraphs 2 and 3 apply mutatis mutandis to the recognition of prior learning, subject to the maximum limit specified in Art. 86 para 2 sentence 2 of the Bavarian Higher Education Innovation Act (BayHIG).

## **§ 9**

### **Exam Dates, Announcement of Exam Dates and examiners**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>Module examinations shall take place shortly after the completion of the module. <sup>2</sup>An additional examination date may be set at the beginning of the following semester.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The course-specific exam dates, the deadlines for submitting graded written assignments, the respective exam format—unless specified in the appendix—and the duration of an exam are determined by the respective examiner and are generally announced to the university community at the beginning of the semester. <sup>2</sup>A last-minute change of examiner is permitted only for compelling reasons.
- (3) Registration for individual examinations must be completed within the announced deadline in accordance with the procedure established by the Board of examiners.

## **§ 10**

### **Exam Components**

- (1) The Master's examination consists of the module examinations for the modules listed in the appendix and the Master's thesis.
- (2) The examinations serve to demonstrate that the examinee has achieved the respective competency objectives of the individual modules.

## **§ 11**

### **Exam formats**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>Exams are administered in the form of written exams, oral exams, portfolio assessments, presentations, assignments completed throughout the semester, essays, contributions, or written reports. <sup>2</sup>They relate to the learning objectives of the corresponding course(s). <sup>3</sup>In individual cases, the assessment may be completed as a group project. <sup>4</sup>The possible examination formats for the modules are listed in the appendix.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>Exam grades are announced in accordance with the procedure established by the Board of examiners. <sup>2</sup>Individual notifications are not issued. <sup>3</sup>Students are required to independently and in a timely manner familiarize themselves with the repeat examination regulations of these regulations; it is their responsibility to independently and in a timely manner inform themselves of their exam results.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>If an examination is graded by multiple examiners, the grade is determined by the average of the grades awarded; only the first decimal place is taken into account; all subsequent places are omitted without rounding. <sup>2</sup>If a written examination is graded as “failed” or “unsatisfactory,” it must be re-evaluated by a second examiner.
- (4) <sup>1</sup>Written exams shall last at least one hour and no more than two hours. <sup>2</sup>The permissible aids are determined by the respective examiner. <sup>3</sup>A record must be prepared regarding the examination. <sup>4</sup>The proctor must confirm the accuracy by signature. <sup>5</sup>All incidents that may be relevant to the determination of the examination results must be recorded in the protocol.
- (5) <sup>1</sup>If a candidate arrives late for the examination, he or she may not make up for the lost time. <sup>2</sup>Leaving the examination room is permitted with the supervisor’s permission. <sup>3</sup>The time and duration of the absence must be noted on the examination paper.
- (6) <sup>1</sup>Exams are generally graded by the respective examiner. <sup>2</sup>Individual exam performances are graded by the respective examiner in accordance with § 16 or evaluated in accordance with Para. 12. <sup>3</sup>The evaluation shall be available no later than four weeks after the respective written exam has been completed. <sup>4</sup>The corrected copy of the written exam remains with the examination records.
- (7) <sup>1</sup>In the case of an oral examination, the duration of the examination shall be between 20 and 30 minutes, depending on the requirements of the corresponding course. <sup>2</sup>The oral examination is conducted in English by two examiners and/or by one examiner with the assistance of an assessor. <sup>3</sup>An examiner or the assessor shall prepare a record of the oral examination, which shall include: the place, time, and duration of the examination; the subjects and result of the examination; the names of the examiners or the examiner and the assessor, the candidate; and any special occurrences. <sup>4</sup>The minutes shall be signed by the examiners or by the examiner and the assessor.

- <sup>5</sup>The oral examinations shall be graded by the examiners or by the examiner in accordance with § 16 or evaluated in accordance with paragraph 12.
- (8) <sup>1</sup>During the oral examination, students who intend to take the same examination within the next two semesters shall, as a matter of preference and subject to available space, be admitted as observers. <sup>2</sup>At the request of the candidate, observers shall be excluded. <sup>3</sup>The deliberation and announcement of the examination results shall take place in camera.
- (9) <sup>1</sup>Written papers are prepared as part of the relevant course. <sup>2</sup>The topic is assigned by the responsible examiner, taking into account the candidate's preference. <sup>3</sup>The deadline for the written papers is generally between two and eight weeks; this is set when the topic is announced. <sup>4</sup>The topic of the paper must be such that it can be completed within this timeframe. <sup>5</sup>In justified exceptional cases, upon the candidate's request, the chair of examiners may, after consulting the supervisor, extend this deadline by a maximum of two weeks. <sup>6</sup>If the candidate provides a medical certificate proving that he or she is prevented from working on the thesis due to illness, the deadline is suspended. <sup>7</sup>If the thesis is not submitted by the deadline, it shall be graded "unsatisfactory." <sup>8</sup>The written thesis shall be graded by the examiner in accordance with § 16 or evaluated in accordance with paragraph 12. <sup>9</sup>If the grade is "unsatisfactory," Paragraph 6, sentences 2 and 4, apply accordingly. <sup>10</sup>A graded copy of the respective paper remains with the examination file. <sup>11</sup>Written papers may be supplemented by a seminar presentation in which the written paper is presented.
- (10) <sup>1</sup>For presentations, the topic, the type of written work (if applicable), duration, deadline, and scope must be clarified with the respective examiner. <sup>2</sup>Depending on the amount of work involved, a presentation may last between 15 and 45 minutes. <sup>3</sup>Paragraph 7 sentences 2 through 4 apply accordingly. <sup>4</sup>If the presentation is graded, the examiner determines the grade based on the oral presentation and, if applicable, the accompanying written material.
- (11) <sup>1</sup>Contributions (e.g., tests, minutes, reports, learning portfolios, research papers, posters, research proposals, response papers, concepts) are written presentations of subject-specific content according to specified criteria. <sup>2</sup>The format, deadline, and scope of the assignment, as well as the evaluation criteria, must be communicated to the students by the respective instructor at the beginning of the course. <sup>3</sup>Paragraph 8, sentences 6 through 8, apply accordingly.
- (12) <sup>1</sup>In a portfolio examination for a module, students submit work items (partial examination components) that are thematically related to one another and pertain to the same subject matter, as specified by the examiners. <sup>2</sup>The individual partial examination components may be written, oral, and/or practical components of the respective degree program, which together constitute the module examination for the module in question. <sup>3</sup>The subject of the assessment in a portfolio examination is all partial examination components pursuant to § 16, paragraph 2.

- (13) <sup>1</sup>Assignments throughout the semester in the form of written, oral, and/or practical work (e.g., completing worksheets, programming exercises, reading cards, homework, drawings) are assigned and completed alongside the module and carried out as individual or group assignments. <sup>2</sup>The individual components are completed during or at the end of the semester and, taken together, constitute the examination. <sup>3</sup>The format, scope, and assessment criteria must be communicated to the students by the examiner at the beginning of the course.
- (14) <sup>1</sup>Essays shall be no longer than ten pages. <sup>2</sup>The topic selection and supervision shall be based on this. <sup>3</sup>The examiner shall specify the completion period when assigning the topic. <sup>4</sup>In full-time programs, the completion period may not exceed four weeks; in part-time programs, it may not exceed eight weeks. <sup>5</sup>Paragraph 9, sentences 4 through 8, apply accordingly.

## **§ 12**

### **Master's Thesis**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>In the master's thesis, the candidate shall demonstrate that he or she is capable of independently addressing a topic within the discipline using scientific methods and presenting it in writing in an appropriate manner, with the use of suitable resources. <sup>2</sup>Interdisciplinary questions may be incorporated into the topic.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The chair of examiners shall appoint an examiner to serve as supervisor and reviewer, taking the candidate's preference into account whenever possible. <sup>2</sup>The topic of the master's thesis is generally assigned at the end of the third semester by an examiner (§ 5 Para. 1) of this degree program. <sup>3</sup>The topic and the date of assignment must be recorded by the chair of examiners.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>The master's thesis is typically completed during the fourth semester and requires a maximum of 900 hours of work. <sup>2</sup>The period from the assignment of the topic to the submission of the master's thesis may not exceed six months. <sup>3</sup>In cases where the candidate is not at fault for exceeding the deadline, the chair of examiners may, upon the candidate's request and after consulting the advisor, extend the submission deadline by a maximum of twelve weeks. <sup>4</sup>If the candidate provides a medical certificate proving that he or she is prevented from working on the thesis due to illness, the deadline is suspended. <sup>5</sup>If the thesis is not submitted by the deadline, it will be graded "unsatisfactory."
- (4) <sup>1</sup>The master's thesis must be submitted in English. <sup>2</sup>The master's thesis must include, at the end, a statement by the author confirming that he or she has written the thesis independently, has used no sources or resources other than those cited, and has not previously submitted the thesis to obtain 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 made by uploading the document to the form server. <sup>3</sup>The submission deadline must be recorded by the Examinations Office.
- (6) <sup>1</sup>The thesis must include a table of contents and a bibliography. <sup>2</sup>At the request of the primary examiner, up to two additional copies of the master's thesis, typed, bound, and paginated, must be submitted to the examiners.
- (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 through 6 apply accordingly to the assignment and processing of a new topic.
- (8) <sup>1</sup>The Examination Office forwards the thesis to the appointed reviewer (advisor). <sup>2</sup>The reviews must be submitted no later than two months after receipt of the thesis. <sup>3</sup>Each reviewer shall recommend to the board of examiners that the thesis be accepted or rejected and shall simultaneously assign one of the grades listed in § 16. <sup>4</sup>In special cases, the board of examiners may consult an additional reviewer, particularly if the different grades differ by more than one grade.
- (9) <sup>1</sup>In the event of differing evaluations, the grade for the master's thesis is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the evaluations. <sup>2</sup>Only the first decimal place is taken into account; all subsequent places are omitted without rounding.
- (10) If the master's thesis is graded "unsatisfactory," the chair of examiners or the chair's deputy shall notify the candidate of this decision.
- (11) A copy of the master's thesis shall remain in the examination file.

### **§ 13**

#### **Credit Point System**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>For each student enrolled in the degree program, a "credit point" account is established at the Examinations Office to record the credits earned for completed modules. <sup>2</sup>The respective credit points are identical to the credit points under the European Credit Transfer System (see Appendix 1). <sup>3</sup>One credit point is based on 30 hours of work.
- (2) The credit points for the modules are listed in the Appendix.

### **§ 14**

#### **Consideration of Protective Provisions**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The right to take protective leave under the Maternity Protection Act must be guaranteed. <sup>2</sup>Upon request, the right to take parental leave under the Federal Parental Allowance and Parental Leave

Act, as well as time off to care for a close relative within the meaning of § 7 para 3 of the Care Leave Act who is in need of care within the meaning of §§ 14, 15 of Book XI of the Social Code, must be guaranteed.<sup>3</sup>The relevant documentation must be maintained; any changes in the eligibility requirements must be reported immediately.

- (2) <sup>1</sup>Upon request, periods of study during which studies are not possible or only possible to a very limited extent for reasons beyond the student's control shall not be counted toward the examination deadlines. <sup>2</sup>The relevant documentation must be maintained; in the case of illness, medical certificates must be submitted. <sup>3</sup>Changes in the circumstances must be reported immediately.

## **§ 15**

### **Consideration of Special Needs of Students with Disabilities or chronic illness and in special life circumstances**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>To ensure equal opportunity, appropriate consideration must be given to the special needs of students with disabilities or chronic illnesses as defined by the Bavarian Disability Equality Act. <sup>2</sup>Upon written request by the examinee, the board of examiners shall determine, based on the severity of the documented examination disability or chronic illness, the form in which the examination is to be taken, or shall grant an extension of the examination time or other accommodations to compensate for the disadvantage. <sup>3</sup>Proof of the examination disability or chronic illness must be provided by a medical certificate stating that, due to a long-term or permanent disability or a chronic illness, the examination cannot be taken in whole or in part in the prescribed form. <sup>4</sup>The application must be attached to the examination registration. <sup>5</sup>If the application is submitted later, it applies only to future examinations.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>Students in special circumstances may apply to the Board of examiners for accommodations in accordance with Paragraph 1 for examinations. <sup>2</sup>The Board of examiners shall decide on the existence of special circumstances and the extent of the accommodations.

## **§ 16**

### **Exam Grades**

- (1) The following grading scale is used to evaluate individual examination performances; the intermediate grades are intended to allow for a differentiated assessment of examination performances:

"very good" (an outstanding performance)	= 1.0 or 1.3
"good" (a performance that significantly exceeds average requirements)	= 1.7 or 2.0 or 2.3

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| “Satisfactory” (performance that meets average requirements)  | = 2.7 or 3.0 or 3.3 |
| “sufficient” (a performance that, despite its shortcomings, meets the requirements)                 | = 3.7 or 4.0        |
| “unsatisfactory” (a performance that, due to significant failures no longer meets the requirements) | = 5.0               |
- (2) <sup>1</sup>If a module examination consists of multiple examination components, the module grade is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the grades weighted by the credit points. <sup>2</sup>Only the first decimal place is taken into account; all subsequent decimal places are discarded without rounding. <sup>3</sup>The module grade is:
- |                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| for an average of 1.5 or lower     | = very good    |
| with an average of 1.6 through 2.5 | = Good         |
| with an average of 2.6 through 3.5 | = satisfactory |
| with an average of 3.6 through 4.0 | = sufficient.  |

## **§ 17**

### **Overall exam grade**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The overall grade for the Master’s examination is calculated as the average of the module grades in the T&C Theories & Concepts area and the grade for the Master’s thesis, weighted by their respective credit points. <sup>2</sup>Only the first decimal place is taken into account; all subsequent decimal places are omitted without rounding. <sup>3</sup>If more than the required number of modules are completed in the T&C Theories & Concepts module area, only the modules with the highest grades are included in the calculation of the overall grade.
- (2) For the overall grade of the passed master’s examination, candidates receive the grade “excellent” for a grade point average up to 1.2, “very good” up to 1.5, “good” up to 2.5, “satisfactory” up to 3.5, and “sufficient” up to 4.0.
- (3) The calculation of the overall examination grade must be clearly identifiable from the transcript or from a record attached to the transcript.
- (4) <sup>1</sup>In addition to the transcript, an ECTS grading table in accordance with the ECTS Guidelines in the version dated February 6, 2009, shall be issued. <sup>2</sup>This table specifies, for each level of the overall examination grade as defined in paragraph 2, the proportion of graduates of the program who completed their studies with that grade during the reference period. <sup>3</sup>The comparison group consists of the degrees awarded in the program over the previous four semesters, with a minimum

of 30 degrees. <sup>4</sup>The date of the last academic achievement determines the assignment to the respective semester. <sup>5</sup>If the minimum number of degrees has not been reached, the comparison group is extended by one semester at a time until this is the case. <sup>6</sup>If the program has not yet produced the number of graduates intended for the comparison group, an ECTS grading table will be issued as soon as the minimum number of degrees is reached. <sup>7</sup>For degrees awarded before the minimum number of degrees is reached, an ECTS grading table will be issued upon request as soon as the minimum number of degrees is reached at the end of a semester. <sup>8</sup>For this purpose, the semester in which the degree was awarded is also included in the comparison group. <sup>9</sup>The size of the respective comparison group and the time period used to form it must be specified.

## **§ 18**

### **Passing the Master's Examination**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The Master's examination is considered passed only if the grade for the Master's thesis and each module is at least "satisfactory" or "passed," and all 120 required credit points have been earned. <sup>2</sup>There is no requirement to retake additional examinations that were not passed.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>If a candidate has not met the requirements specified in paragraph 1 by the end of the sixth semester for reasons attributable to him or her, the master's examination is deemed to have failed for the first time. <sup>2</sup>Examinations that have already been passed and taken within the prescribed time limit do not need to be retaken.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>If the missing examinations are not passed within one year of the deadline specified in paragraph 2, sentence 1, for reasons attributable to the student, or if the opportunities to retake the examinations have been exhausted beforehand, the master's examination is deemed to have been definitively failed. <sup>2</sup>The deadline is not interrupted by withdrawal from the university or a leave of absence. <sup>3</sup>A decision regarding the final failure is issued in accordance with § 4 paragraph 5 in conjunction with Article 41 of the Bavarian Administrative Procedure Act (BayVwVfG), as amended. <sup>4</sup>The Board of examiners may grant the student an extension upon submission of a request before the expiration of the period specified in sentence 1, provided that the student can demonstrate special reasons beyond their control.

## **§ 19**

### **Retaking an Exam**

- (1) Any failed examination may be retaken within the time limit specified in § 18.

- (2) <sup>1</sup>Up to two passed exams may be voluntarily retaken to improve grades. <sup>2</sup>Beyond this, voluntary retaking of a passed exam is not permitted. <sup>3</sup> Voluntary retaking of the master's thesis is not permitted.
- (3) Exams may be retaken orally, even if the previous exam was written; this is determined by the examiner.
- (4) <sup>1</sup>If the master's thesis is not passed, a retake with a new topic is possible. <sup>2</sup>A second retake of the master's thesis is not permitted.
- (5) Measures related to the organization of studies shall ensure that the retake of a failed examination or a failed master's thesis is generally possible within a period of six months.

## **§ 20**

### **Certificate of Failure of the Master's Examination**

A decision regarding the final failure of the master's examination shall be issued in accordance with § 4(5) in conjunction with Art. 41 of the Bavarian Administrative Procedure Act (BayVwVfG).

## **§ 21**

### **Access to Examination Records**

- (1) Upon completion of the examination process, the candidate may inspect his or her examination papers, the related examination reports, and the examination records.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>Inspection is possible for up to six months after the certificate is issued. <sup>2</sup>If the candidate was prevented from meeting the deadline in sentence 1 through no fault of their own, Art. 32 BayVwVfG applies.

## **§ 22**

### **Defects in the Examination Procedure**

- (1) If it is found that the examination procedure was marred by defects that influenced the examination result, the respective examination shall be ordered to be repeated upon the request of a candidate or ex officio.
- (2) Defects in the examination procedure must be reported immediately, as a rule before the announcement of the examination results, to the chair of examiners or to the examiner.

- (3) Six months after the completion of the examination, orders pursuant to paragraph 1 may no longer be issued.

## **§ 23**

### **Absence, Withdrawal, Deception, Misconduct**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>Candidates who have registered for an examination may withdraw by written declaration without stating reasons no later than a date announced by the board of examiners. <sup>2</sup>An examination is considered failed if the candidate, for reasons attributable to him or her, does not appear at an examination date for which he or she has registered or withdraws after the deadline specified in sentence 1 has expired.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The reasons for the absence or—unless paragraph 1, sentence 1 applies—the withdrawal must be reported to the Board of examiners in writing without delay and substantiated. <sup>2</sup>The same applies to an inability to take the examination occurring before or during the examination. <sup>3</sup>In the event of absence due to illness, a medical certificate must be submitted. <sup>4</sup>If the board of examiners accepts the reasons, a new examination date must be offered within six months in accordance with § 9.
- (3) In the event of absence or withdrawal for reasons beyond the candidate's control, any examination performance already submitted shall be recognized.
- (4) <sup>1</sup>If a candidate attempts to influence the result of an individual examination through deception or the use of unauthorized aids, the examination performance in question shall be graded as "unsatisfactory." <sup>2</sup>A candidate who significantly disrupts the proper conduct of the examination may be excluded from continuing the examination by the respective examiner or by the proctors; in this case, the examination in question shall be graded as "unsatisfactory."
- (5) <sup>1</sup>If deception in the form of plagiarism is detected, the examination performance shall be graded as "unsatisfactory." <sup>2</sup>An accusation of plagiarism is justified if the examinee has attempted to influence the outcome of the examination in a manner favorable to him or her by failing to clearly identify passages verbatim from other authors or statements in his or her work that closely follow the lines of reasoning of other authors. <sup>3</sup>The determination is made by the respective examiner or proctor and recorded in the official file. <sup>4</sup>In serious cases or in the event of a repeat offense, the entire module examination may be declared a failure; in particularly serious cases, the right to retake the examination may also be revoked, and the entire module examination may be declared a definitive failure. <sup>5</sup>The decision on this matter is made by the board of examiners. <sup>6</sup>When deciding on the severity of the sanction, both the extent of the plagiarism and its significance for the work must be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

## **§ 24**

### **Invalidity of the Master's Examination**

- (1) If the candidate has cheated on an examination and this fact becomes known only after the certificate has been issued, the Board of examiners may subsequently correct the relevant grades accordingly and declare the examination wholly or partially failed.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>If the requirements for admission to the examination were not met, without the candidate intending to deceive in this regard, and this fact becomes known only after the certificate has been issued, this deficiency is remedied by the successful completion of the examination. <sup>2</sup>If the candidate intentionally obtained admission under false pretenses, the board of examiners shall decide on the revocation of unlawful administrative acts in accordance with general principles of administrative law.
- (3) The candidate shall be given an opportunity to comment before a decision is made.
- (4) The incorrect examination certificate shall be withdrawn and, if necessary, replaced with a new one.

## **§ 25**

### **Awarding of the Master's Certificate, Diploma**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>Upon receipt of all module grades, a certificate and a transcript of records shall be issued within four weeks of the successful completion of the Master's examination. <sup>2</sup>The certificate shall include the name of the degree program. <sup>3</sup>It shall be signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences and bear the university seal. <sup>4</sup>Upon receipt of the certificate, the graduate is entitled to use the academic degree "Master of Science." <sup>5</sup>This degree is to be abbreviated as "M.Sc." and placed after the graduate's last name.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The transcript shall include the name of the degree program, the overall examination grade, the module examinations with their respective grades and credit points, and the topic and grade of the master's thesis. <sup>2</sup>Other examination results shall be listed on the transcript unless the student requests otherwise. <sup>3</sup>The transcript shall be signed by the chair of examiners. <sup>4</sup>The date to be stated is the day on which the last requirement was fulfilled. <sup>5</sup>An English translation of the certificate and a Diploma Supplement shall be issued in addition; the Diploma Supplement shall be signed by the chair of examiners. <sup>6</sup>In addition to the certificate, an ECTS grading scale shall be issued in accordance with § 17, para. 4.
- (3) The revocation of the "Master of Science" degree is governed by Art. 101 BayHIG.

## **§ 26**

### **Academic Advising**

- (1) General academic advising is provided by the Student Advising Office of the University of Bayreuth.
- (2) For questions regarding the International Elite Program in Global Change Ecology within the Bavarian Elite Network—i. e., the structure of the program, academic organization, selection of courses, and examination questions—advice is provided by the program coordinator responsible for the International Elite Program in Global Change Ecology within the Bavarian Elite Network.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>During the semester, the program coordinator provides academic advising for all students in the master's program. <sup>2</sup>Students should take advantage of this advising in particular
  1. by first-year students,
  2. after failing exams,
  3. if the student's academic performance falls significantly below 30 credit points per semester,
  4. in the event of a change of major, degree program, or university,
  5. before selecting a major,
  6. before beginning an internship or study abroad program.

## **§ 27**

### **Entry into Force and Transitional Provisions**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>These regulations shall enter into force on 31 July 2020. <sup>2</sup>They apply to all students who have enrolled in this program for the first time as of the 2020/2021 winter semester. <sup>3</sup>The remaining students shall organize their studies in accordance with the previous examination and study regulations for the International Elite Program in Global Change Ecology (M.Sc.) within the framework of the Bavarian Elite Network (ENB) at the University of Bayreuth dated December 20, 2012 (AB UBT 2012/076), last amended by the regulations of 7 June 2019 (AB UBT 2019/015); upon request, you may structure your studies in accordance with these regulations.
- (2) The Examination and Study Regulations for the International Elite Program in 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 the Regulations of 7 June 2019 (AB UBT 2019/015), are hereby repealed, subject to the provision in paragraph 1, sentence 3.\*)

\*) The Fifth Amendment Statute of 25 February 2026, contains the following provision regarding entry into force:

- (1) <sup>1</sup>These regulations shall enter into force on 26 February 2026. <sup>2</sup>They shall apply to students who enroll in this degree program beginning with the 2026/2027 winter semester. <sup>3</sup>The remaining students shall structure their studies in accordance with the previous examination and study regulations for the International Elite Program Global Change Ecology

(M.Sc.) in the Bavarian Elite Network (ENB) at the University of Bayreuth dated 30 July 2020 (AB UBT 2020/065), as last amended by the Regulations of 20 November 2023 (AB UBT 2023/077).

- (2) Notwithstanding the foregoing, § 1 No. 2 also applies to students who are already enrolled in the International Elite Program in Global Change Ecology (M.Sc.) within the Bavarian Elite Network (ENB) at the University of Bayreuth.

## Appendix 1: Modules, Credit Hours, and Exams

The following lists the module areas, the respective modules, credit points (CP), and the corresponding exams.

Modules that can be assigned to multiple areas may only be counted once.

### Abbreviations:

- | Vertical lines between exam types indicate possible alternatives.
  - + Plus signs indicate multiple examination requirements.
  - x/y Fractions indicate the weighting with which the respective assessment contributes to the module grade.
  - () Parentheses group related assessment components. They can be used to define alternative assessment formats for an assessment component or to divide an assessment component into several parts.
  - \* Assessments marked with "\*" are **not** included in the calculation of the module grade or final grade.
- 
- K Written exam
  - mP Oral exam
  - H Term paper
  - HK Take-home exam
  - P Presentation
  - B Contribution
  - semA Assignments throughout the semester
  - sA Written assignment
  - E Essay

CO-Code	Area Module	CP	Exam format	Grade-relevant
	<b>O Orientation</b>	<b>5</b>		
Fak229798	Orientation in Global Change Ecology	<b>5</b>	Portfolio Assessment <b>semA* + B* + semA*</b>	
	<b>T&amp;C Theories &amp; Concepts</b> A total of 45 credits must be earned from the courses listed below. One course must be completed for 20 credits (Major), one for 15	<b>45</b>		

CO-Code	Area Module	CP	Exam format	Grade-relevant
	credits (Major), and one for 10 credits (Minor).			
	<b>A Global Climate Change and Ecosystems</b>			
Fak229802	Climate Change	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>mP + semA*</b>	x
Fak211046	Ecological Climatology	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>H + B*</b>	x
Fak229814	Extreme Events and Natural Hazards	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>P + semA*</b>	x
Fak285764	Changes in Agroecosystems	5	Portfolio review: <b>K + semA*</b>	x
Fak229977	Land Use Change and Microclimate	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>semA* + sA</b>	x
Fak229799	Soils and Climate Change	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>K + B</b>	x
Fak229815	Changes in Hydrological Systems	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>K + P*</b>	x
	<b>B Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functions</b>			
Fak229980	Biogeography and Global Ecology	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>(K   mP) + P*</b>	x
Fak229655	Disturbance Ecology and Resilience	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>K + P*</b>	x
Fak229331	Ecosystem Services	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>K + semA*</b>	x
Fak220684	Rhizosphere Biogeochemistry	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>mP + P*</b>	x

CO-Code	Area Module	CP	Exam format	Grade-relevant
Fak229952	Population Ecology in Forest Ecosystems	5	Portfolio exam: <b>(P   B) + semA*</b>	x
Fak227536	Dynamic Vegetation Ecology	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>B + P*</b>	x
Fak229986	Biodiversity in the Tropics	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>P + P</b>	x
	<b>C Global Policies, Economies, Civil Society, and the Environment</b>			
Fak325499	Globalization of Economies and the Environment	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>semA* + semA</b>	x
Fak215125	Socio-Economic and Political Dimensions of Global Change	5	<b>semA</b>	x
Fak229800	Biodiversity Policies, Governance, and Economics	5	Portfolio assessment <b>semA* + P</b>	x
Fak230051	Climate Policies and Economics	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>Semester A* + B</b>	x
Fak212093	Land Use Policies, Markets, and Ecosystems	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>B + B*</b>	x
Fak229803	Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Health	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>semA* + P</b>	x
Fak529998	Sports Ecology	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>P + (K   E   semA)</b>	x
	<b>M Methods</b> Here, 15 credit points must be earned through freely chosen courses.	<b>15</b>		
	<b>Statistics, Data Sciences, and Artificial Intelligence</b>			
Fak230000	Introduction to R – Basics and Data Handling	2	<b>semA*</b>	

<b>CO-Code</b>	<b>Area Module</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>Exam format</b>	<b>Grade-relevant</b>
Fak230001	Statistical Data Analysis with R	3	<b>semA</b>	
Fak230031	Spatial Statistics and Visualization with R	3	<b>B*</b>	
Fak213382	Time Series Analysis	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>semA* + P*</b>	
Fak229956	AI in Environmental and Ecological Research	3	<b>K*   mP*   P*   B*   semA*</b>	
Fak229804	Advanced Multivariate Statistical Methods in Climate Research	3	<b>semA*</b>	
Fak229982	Ecoinformatics and Biogeographical Modeling	5	<b>mP*   P*   semA*</b>	
	<b>GIS and Remote Sensing</b>			
ForZ29972	Introduction to GIS	2	<b>B*</b>	
Fak229957	Advanced GIS	2	<b>semA*</b>	
Fak229981	Remote Sensing	3	<b>semA</b>	
Fak230003	Advanced Remote Sensing	3	<b>semA*</b>	
Fak229958	AI for Spatial Data Analysis	3	<b>K*   mP*   P*   B*   semA*</b>	
	<b>Environmental Models and Simulation</b>			
Fak229959	Introduction to Environmental and Ecological Modeling	2	<b>semA*</b>	
Fak230004	Climate Data Modeling	3	<b>semA*</b>	
Fak118966	Mathematical Modeling for Climate and Environment	8	<b>K   mP</b>	
Fak229949	Modeling Soil-Plant-Atmosphere Systems	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>Sem A + B</b>	
Fak229996	Ecosystem Services Assessment of Landscapes	2	<b>semA*</b>	
Fak229997	Modeling Ecosystem Services	3	<b>semA*</b>	

CO-Code	Area Module	CP	Exam format	Grade-relevant
Fak227537	Methods in Dynamic Vegetation Ecology	5	<b>B</b>	
	<b>Field Surveys and Experiments</b>			
Fak222189	Vegetation Science	3	<b>K</b>	
Fak229653	Alpine Field Course in Vegetation Science	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>P + sA</b>	
Fak229961	Experimental Ecology, Biodiversity, and Ecosystem Functioning	5	<b>B</b>	
	<b>Analysis of Environmental Solutions in Policies, Economies, and Civil Society</b>			
Fak229801	Sustainable Finance and Corporate Nature Reporting	3	Portfolio assessment: <b>P* + B*</b>	
Fak229816	Life Cycle Assessment of Products	2	<b>semA*</b>	
Fak329818	International Environmental and Sustainable Development Law	5	<b>HK</b>	
Fak229805	Global Environmental Negotiations: Observing, Engaging, and Reflecting	2	<b>semA*</b>	
Fak215954	Methodology of the Social Sciences	3	<b>semA*</b>	
	<b>Research Management and Science Communication</b>			
Fak215157	Science and Communication	3	<b>P*</b>	
Fak213387	Project Management	2	<b>semA*</b>	
Fak229817	Research at the Interface of Natural and Social Sciences	1	<b>semA*</b>	
	<b>F Free Choice</b>	<b>5</b>		
	<i>Any modules offered by the University of Bayreuth that are not already an integral part of the Global Change Ecology master's program may be selected.</i>	<b>5</b>	See the respective (F)PSO	
	<b>I &amp; S Internships &amp; International Science Schools</b>	<b>15</b>		

CO-Code	Area Module	CP	Exam format	Grade-relevant
	<i>At least 5 credit points must be earned in both Area I and Area S.</i>			
	<b>I Internships</b>			
Fak229806	Internship in Economics (6 weeks)	5	<b>B*</b>	
Fak229807	Internship in Economics (12 weeks)	10	<b>B*</b>	
Fak229808	Internship in Science (6 weeks)	5	<b>B*</b>	
Fak229809	Science Internship (12 weeks)	10	<b>B*</b>	
Fak229810	Internship in Administration (6 weeks)	5	<b>B*</b>	
Fak229811	Internship in Administration (12 weeks)	10	<b>B*</b>	
Fak229812	Internship in International Organizations (6 weeks)	5	<b>B*</b>	
Fak229813	Internship in an International Organization (12 weeks)	10	<b>B*</b>	
	<b>S International Science Schools / Field Camps</b>			
Fak229983	Science School / Field Camps (1 week)	2	<b>B*</b>	
Fak229984	Science School / Field Camps (1 week including preparation and/or follow-up)	3	<b>B*</b>	
Fak229985	Science School / Field Camps (2 weeks)	5	<b>B*</b>	
Fak229654	Disturbance Ecology Field Camp	5	<b>semA</b>	
Fak229639	Science School / Biodiversity Research Expedition	10	<b>semA</b>	
Fak529999	Quantitative (Paleo-)Ecology	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>P + (semA*   K*   mP*)</b>	
Fak230002	Science School for Ecosystem Analysis and Simulation	5	<b>sA*   P*   mP*</b>	
Fak220639	Experimental Micrometeorology	5	<b>B</b>	

<b>CO-Code</b>	<b>Area Module</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>Exam format</b>	<b>Grade-relevant</b>
	<b>RS Research Skills</b>	<b>5</b>		
Fak229970	Research Skills	5	Portfolio assessment: <b>semA* + B* + (P*   B*)</b>	
	<b>T Master's Thesis</b>	<b>30</b>		
Fak213394	Master's Thesis – Global Change Ecology	30	<b>Master's Thesis</b>	<b>x</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>		

## **Appendix 2: Aptitude Assessment Procedure**

Pursuant to Art. 90 Para. 1 Sentence 2 of the Bavarian Higher Education Innovation Act (BayHIG), the eligibility of applicants for the International Elite Program in Global Change Ecology (M.Sc.) within the Bavarian Elite Network (ENB) at the University of Bayreuth is determined in accordance with § 2 Para. 1 No. 2 of these regulations.

### **1. Purpose of the Eligibility Procedure**

<sup>1</sup>The objective of the International Elite Program in Global Change Ecology is to train graduates with a Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree who are capable of developing strategies to address expected global changes. <sup>2</sup>Only students who possess a strong understanding of the causes and processes of global environmental changes (climate, material cycles, etc.) and the resulting ecological effects (loss of biodiversity, impaired ecosystem functions, etc.), as well as the related societal and political adaptation and mitigation measures (international treaties, laws, etc.), and who possess excellent relevant prior education, linguistic proficiency in English, and the necessary reflective and argumentative skills are suitable for this degree program.

### **2. Admissions Committee**

<sup>1</sup>A committee is responsible for preparing and conducting the aptitude assessment. <sup>2</sup>The committee consists of at least three faculty members involved in the degree program, who are appointed by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences for a term of five years. <sup>3</sup>At least one additional faculty member must be appointed as an alternate member. <sup>4</sup>The committee may include other full-time academic staff members who are authorized to conduct examinations. <sup>5</sup>In this case, the university lecturers on the committee must constitute a majority. <sup>6</sup>The members of the committee shall elect a university lecturer from among themselves to serve as chair.

### **3. Procedure for Determining Aptitude**

3.1 <sup>1</sup>The aptitude assessment procedure is conducted once a year during the summer semester. <sup>2</sup>The application for admission to the aptitude assessment procedure must be submitted online to the University of Bayreuth. <sup>3</sup>The online application form is available on the University of Bayreuth website. <sup>4</sup>The online application must be received electronically by the University of Bayreuth by June 15 of each year for admission to the following winter semester (cut-off date).

3.2 <sup>1</sup>The following must be attached to the fully completed application form as specified in Section 3.1, sentence 2:

- a) a detailed statement in English (max. 2 DIN A4 pages) explaining which specific competencies demonstrate particular suitability for the program,
- b) the transcript of the relevant first degree as well as a confirmation with individual grades for the examinations and coursework completed during the course of study; if the transcript of the relevant first degree is not yet available, a confirmation with individual grades must be submitted for all examinations and coursework completed by the application deadline (total of at least 135 ECTS credits),
- c) if applicable, documentation of study abroad, internships, and foreign language courses,
- d) a copy of proof of higher education entrance qualification as supplementary information,
- e) a tabular resume as supplementary information, intended to provide guidance for the aptitude interview (No. 5.2),
- f) if applicable, an application for compensation for disadvantages pursuant to § 15 of these regulations.

<sup>2</sup>Documents pursuant to sentence 1, letters b and c, may be submitted by July 15 of any given year.

#### **4. Admission to the Aptitude Assessment Procedure**

- 4.1 Admission to the assessment procedure requires that the documents specified in Section 3.2 be submitted in the proper form and within the prescribed time limit.
- 4.2 The aptitude assessment will be conducted with applicants who meet the necessary requirements.
- 4.3 Applicants who are not admitted will receive a notice of rejection stating the reasons and providing information on legal remedies; Section 6.3 applies accordingly.

#### **5. Conduct of the Aptitude Assessment**

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

<sup>1</sup>Based on the submitted application materials, the committee assesses whether the applicant is suitable for the International Elite Program in Global Change Ecology (M.Sc.) within the framework of the Bavarian Elite Network (ENB), taking into account the applicant's demonstrated qualifications and the specific competencies outlined in the application.

<sup>2</sup>The committee shall make its assessment based on the following criteria:

- 5.1.1. <sup>1</sup>The grade of the relevant final examination or the grade point average of the academic performance achieved to date, if the transcript of the relevant first degree is not yet available, is weighted equally. <sup>2</sup>Specific conversion factors may be applied for international applicants.
- 5.1.2. The written statement pursuant to No. 3.2(a), together with the supporting documents pursuant to No. 3.2(c) if applicable, shall be evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = very good, 2 = good, 3 = satisfactory, 4 = sufficient, 5 = unsatisfactory) and weighted equally; The assessment criteria, in accordance with Section 1, Sentence 2, are the extent to which the written statement demonstrates a strong command of knowledge and skills in ecological and social issues, as well as very good verbal expression.
- 5.1.3 A non-rounded score, calculated to one decimal place, is derived from the sum of the simply weighted academic performance to date and the simply weighted evaluation of the written statement.

5.1.4 <sup>1</sup>Applicants whose score exceeds 4.0 points or whose written statement has not been graded at least a 2 (good) will not be included in the further proceedings. <sup>2</sup>They will receive a notice of rejection stating the reasons and providing information on legal remedies; No. 6.3 applies accordingly.

## **5.2 Aptitude Interview (Second Stage of the Aptitude Assessment Procedure)**

5.2.1 <sup>1</sup>The remaining applicants will be invited to an aptitude interview. <sup>2</sup>The date for this interview will be announced at least one week in advance. <sup>3</sup>Anyone who fails to appear on the scheduled date shall be deemed to have been rejected. <sup>4</sup>If the applicant is unable to attend the aptitude interview for reasons beyond their control, an alternative date shall be scheduled upon a justified request no later than two weeks before the start of classes.

5.2.2 <sup>1</sup>The aptitude interview is conducted by two committee members or by one committee member and one assessor (research assistant) with one applicant at a time. <sup>2</sup>The interview lasts at least 15 and no more than 30 minutes, is conducted in English, and is intended to determine whether the applicant is expected to achieve the program's objectives. <sup>3</sup>During this interview, applicants are to be questioned based on their application materials to determine whether they possess strong knowledge and skills in ecological and social issues as specified in No. 1, sentence 2, and whether they demonstrate the necessary capacity for reflection and argumentation required for this elite program. <sup>4</sup>In this context: the ability to express oneself in the English language is also taken into account. <sup>5</sup>The aptitude interview is graded on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = very good, 2 = good, 3 = satisfactory, 4 = sufficient, 5 = unsatisfactory) by each of the two examiners. <sup>6</sup>If the grades differ, an average calculated to one decimal place must be determined. <sup>7</sup>Minutes must be taken of the interview, containing information about the participants, the date, time, location, duration, and an evaluation in accordance with Section 5.2.3. <sup>8</sup>The minutes must clearly indicate the topics discussed with the applicant and the reasons for the evaluation. <sup>9</sup>The topics and reasons may be listed in bullet points. <sup>10</sup>The minutes must be signed by both examiners.

5.2.3 A score, calculated to one decimal place and not rounded, is derived from the sum of the simply weighted grade for previous academic performance in accordance with Section 5.1.1 and the simply weighted assessment of the interview in accordance with Section 5.2.2, sentences 5 and 6.

5.2.4 The aptitude assessment is successfully completed if the score calculated in accordance with Section 5.2.3 does not exceed 4.0 points and the aptitude interview is graded at least a 2 (good).

## **6. Determination and Announcement of the Result**

- 6.1 The proceedings of the aptitude assessment process must be documented; in particular, the committee's decisions in accordance with these regulations and the overall result must be evident.
- 6.2 The committee shall decide on the suitability of the applicants based on the results determined in accordance with Sections 5.1.4 and 5.2.4.
- 6.3 <sup>1</sup>Applicants shall be notified of the outcome of the aptitude assessment procedure. <sup>2</sup>Notices of rejection must include a statement of reasons and information on available legal remedies.
- 6.4 Admissions granted as part of the aptitude assessment procedure for the Master's program in Global Change Ecology (M.Sc.) within the framework of the Elite Network Bavaria (ENB) shall apply to all subsequent applications for this program, provided that the content and objectives of the program have not changed so significantly that aptitude for this program can no longer be demonstrated on the basis of the aptitude assessment procedure conducted at an earlier date.

## **7. Repetition and Conditional Enrollment**

- 7.1 Applicants who have not demonstrated their eligibility for the Master's program in Global Change Ecology (M.Sc.) within the framework of the Bavarian Elite Network (ENB) may re-apply for the eligibility assessment once.
- 7.2 Applicants who are unable to submit a transcript of their relevant first degree and who have not passed the aptitude assessment procedure may be enrolled for two semesters if there is a possibility that, upon submission of the relevant degree transcript by the end of the second semester, they can still achieve a grade point average of no more than 4.0 in accordance with Section 5.2.4.