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# Examination Regulations

for Biological Resources M.Sc.  
Faculty of Life Sciences  
Dated 29 November 2018  
(Official Notice 39/2019)

As amended by the  
Second amending statutes  
Dated 4 September 2024  
(Official Notice 14/2024)

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## **Section 1**

### **Scope**

These examination regulations apply to the degree programme Biological Resources M.Sc., which is offered in English by the Faculty of Life Sciences of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, and are valid in conjunction with the General Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes ("RPO") of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. They govern the standard three-semester mode of study (full-time) as well as the six-semester mode of study for working professionals (part-time).

## **Section 2**

### **Academic objectives; purpose of examination**

(1) This degree programme concludes with a final overall assessment, referred to as the "master's examination" (*Masterprüfung*). Academic aims and objectives of this degree programme are outlined in Section 3 RPO. In particular, this master's degree programme aims to empower students to apply methodologies from the natural sciences, engineering, economics and social sciences, to develop practical and feasible solutions that are not restricted to traditional disciplinary boundaries, and to conduct scientific research.

(2) The academic title "Master of Science", abbreviated as "M.Sc.", is awarded for successfully completing the master's examination.

## **Section 3**

### **Admission requirements**

(1) General admission requirements are set forth in Section 4a RPO.

(2) A "related field" within the meaning of Section 4a (1) RPO is defined as any degree programme in the following domains:

- a. Natural sciences
- b. Agricultural sciences
- c. Economics

(3) In the degree programme defined in subsection (2), applicants must have achieved a final mark of at least 2.2 on to the German grading scale (or alternatively an "A" or "B" on the ECTS grading scale) and they must have obtained at least 10 CP (ECTS) in the natural sciences as well as at least 10 CP (ECTS) in environmental sciences / agricultural sciences; altogether, applicants must have obtained at least 30 CP (ECTS) in total from the following subjects:

- a. Mathematics / statistics
- b. Chemistry
- c. Biology
- d. Economics and social sciences
- e. Environmental sciences / agricultural sciences

(4) The requirements for proof of English language proficiency are set forth in Section 4a (6a) sentence 1 RPO.

(5) Applicants may request an exemption from the proof of proficiency requirement defined in subsection (4). These requests are justified, for example, for persons applying on the basis of a professionally-qualifying bachelor's degree that was taught in English in an English-speaking country as defined in Annex 1. The Examination Board will decide on these requests. The English language requirement is considered met for applicants who completed their professionally-qualifying bachelor's degree in English at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences.

(6) Applicants must have completed either an internship of at least 20 weeks (in accordance with Section 21 RPO) at a company or organisation in the field of agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, natural sciences or bio-economics, or alternatively a semester abroad (in accordance with Section 22 RPO) before they will be permitted to begin their thesis.

#### **Section 4**

##### **Standard duration of study; programme structure; volume of instruction hours**

(1) This degree programme has a total volume of instruction of 46 SWS (total weekly contact hours, or *Semesterwochenstunden*, from all lecture periods in the standard duration of study).

(2) Participation in curricular excursions, language courses, practical training courses or tutorials is mandatory. These mandatory courses are marked with an asterisk (\*) in the study and examination plan for the degree programme.

(2a) Mandatory courses have an attendance requirement of 75%. Successful completion is confirmed by certificate/attestation as defined by Section 20 (2) RPO. If a student is unable to fulfil the attendance requirement due to a long period of absence for justified reasons (for example illness, pregnancy or nursing leave), the responsible instructor can decide, upon request, if and how the student can make up for the period of absence and still pass the course. Section 16 (4) RPO applies with regard to compensatory arrangements.

(3) In accordance with the European Credit Transfer Accumulation System (ECTS), one credit point (CP) in this degree programme is equivalent to a workload of 30 hours.

(4) Additional information about the breakdown of this degree programme and the type, form and scope of modules is available in the study and examination plan at the end of this document. Additional information about learning outcomes, qualification aims, contents and forms of examination is available in the corresponding module guide, which is available for viewing in the faculty's central office.

(5) The part-time version of this degree programme allows working professionals to pursue a degree alongside their career. For part-time students, the standard period of study is automatically extended to six semesters.

#### **Section 5**

##### **Scope of examinations**

(1) The time allotted for a written examination depends on the number of credit points (ECTS) for the corresponding course. As a rule, 120 minutes are allotted for every 5 CP.

- (2) An oral examination generally lasts between 30 and 45 minutes per student.
- (3) The time allotted for an assignment, term paper or project shall not exceed four (4) months.

## **Section 6**

### **Scope and form of the thesis**

- (1) The text portion of the thesis should generally be between 50 and 120 pages (DIN A4) in length. The thesis may also be supplemented with other media, provided the use of said media as additional documentation is appropriate and helpful within the context of the assigned task. In this case, the length of the text portion of the thesis may deviate from the aforementioned minimum requirement.
- (2) Full-time students will be given a period of four (4) months and part-time students a period of eight (8) months (measured from the date of assignment to the final submission deadline) to complete their thesis. The thesis may not be submitted within the first eight weeks after the date of assignment.

## **Section 7**

### **Admission to the thesis and the colloquium**

- (1) In addition to the thesis admission requirements set forth in Section 24 (1) RPO, students must have obtained at least 50 CP.
- (2) In addition to the colloquium admission requirements set forth in Section 27 (2) RPO, candidates must have obtained 85 CP.

## **Section 8**

### **Credit values for the thesis and colloquium**

- (1) Twenty-five (25) credits are awarded for passing the master's thesis.
- (2) Five (5) credits are awarded for passing the colloquium.

## **Section 9**

### **Awarding of the master's degree**

The master's degree specified in Section 2 (2) is officially conferred upon issuing of the master's degree certificate defined in Section 30 (1) RPO.

## **Section 10**

### **Entry into force / transitional provisions**

- (1) These examination regulations will enter into force on the day after publication in the Official Notices of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. They apply to students who first enrolled in Biological Resources M.Sc. at the Faculty of Life Sciences of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences in or after winter semester 2023-24.
- (2) Students who first enrolled in Biological Resources M.Sc. before winter semester 2023-24 may continue their studies under the examination regulations dated 29 November 2018 (Official Notice 39/2019) until no later than 29 February 2028.

(3) Alternatively, students currently studying under the examination regulations dated 29 November 2018 (Official Notice 39/2019) may submit a written request to the Examination Board to switch to the examination regulations defined in this document. The Examination Board is responsible for all credit recognition decisions for modules and examinations completed under previous examination regulations.

*Note: The present version of these examination regulations entered into force on 30 October 2024.*

## **Annex 1**

### **Countries defined as “English-speaking”**

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Canada
- New Zealand
- St. Kitts and Nevis
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America

## Anhang 2 / Annex 2

Prüfungs- und idealtypischer Studienverlaufspläne (Vollzeit) für den Masterstudiengang  
Biological Resources M. Sc. //  
Recommended study and examination plan for Biological Resources M.Sc., full-time:

Module Code/ Modulcode	Subjects/Module	CH	Type					Ex/Prü graded	attestation	ECTS points	ST	WT	Sem 3
			L	S	E	Pra	Pro						
BR 1 5001	Simulation of biological systems Simulation biologischer Systeme	4	2		2			P		5	4		
BR 1 5002	Animal ecology and ecosystem services Tierökologie und Ökosystemdienstleistungen	4	2			2		P	T	5	4		
BR 1 5003	Soil biological resources Bodenbiologische Ressourcen	4	1	1		2		P	T	5	4		
BR 1 5004	Closing cycles: Use and reduction of by-products Schließen von Kreisläufen: Verwendung und Reduzierung von Abfallprodukten	4	2			2		P	T	5	4		
	Elective module 1 Wahlpflichtkatalog 1	3	3					P		5	3		
BR 1 5005	Research project Angewandtes Forschungsprojekt	4					4		T	5	4		
BR 2 5021	Environmental valuation and economic impact assessment Umweltbewertung und ökonomische Folgenabschätzung	4	1	1	2			P		5		4	
BR 2 5022	Forest management and governance Bewirtschaftung und Management forstlicher Ressourcen	4	2	2				P		5		4	
BR 2 5023	Underutilized plant resources Unternutzte Pflanzenressourcen	4	2			2		P	T	5		4	
BR 2 5024	Processing biological resources Verarbeitung biologischer Ressourcen	4	2			2		P	T	5		4	
	Elective module 2 Wahlpflichtkatalog 2	3	3					P		5		3	
BR 2 5025	Lecture Series Biological Resources Ringvorlesung Biologische Ressourcen	4	2	2				P	T	5		4	
BR 3 5081	Master Thesis Masterarbeit							P		25			X
BR 3 5082	Colloquium Kolloquium							P		5			X
	Semesterwochenstunden / hours per week		22	6	4	10	4		SWS		23	23	
									CP	90	30	30	30

### Abkürzungen // Abbreviations

CH = credit hours per week // SWS = Semesterwochenstunden

Ex/Prü = type of examination // Prüfungsart

ECTS points = European Credit Transfer System credit points

// Leistungspunkte nach dem Europäischen System zur Übertragung und Akkumulation von Studienleistungen

L = Lecture // Vorlesung

S = Seminar

E = Exercise // Übung

Pra = lab course // Praktikum

Pro = project // Projekt

T = certificate // Testat (unbenotet)

P = examination (graded) // benotete Prüfung

	total	1.Sem	2.Sem	3.Sem
CH	0	23	23	
ECTS points	90	30	30	30

## Wahlpflichtkatalog // Elective Catalogue

		Type							ECTS points
		CH	L	S	E	Pra	Pro	Ex	
Elective modules 1 Wahlpflichtkatalog 1									
BR 1 5041	Biological resource value chains and sustainability management Wertschöpfungsketten und Nachhaltigkeitsmanagement biologischer Ressourcen	3	1	1	1			P	5
BR 1 5042	Marine bioresources Biologische Ressourcen der Meere	3		3				P	5
BR 1 5043	Use of diversity in a changing world Nutzung von Diversität in einer sich ändernden Welt	3		2		1		P	5
BR 1 5044	Entrepreneurship and business management Existenzgründung und Unternehmensführung	3		3				P	5
BR 1 5045	Innovation management Innovationsmanagement	3	2		1			P	5
BR 1 WPF_5	Module from any master study course at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences Wahlmöglichkeit aus dem gesamten Masterangebot HRW	3	3					P	5
1 elective module amounts to 1 Wahlpflichtmodul ergibt									5

Elective modules 2 Wahlpflichtkatalog 2		CH	L	S	E	Pra	Pro	Ex	ECTS points
BR 2 5061	Animals in bioeconomy Nutztiere in der Bioökonomie	3	2		1			P	5
BR 2 5062	Environmental Systems Analysis Umweltsystemanalyse	3		3				P	5
BR 2 5063	Rhizosphere biology Rhizosphärenbiologie	3				3		P	5
BR 2 5064	Business planning Business planning	3	2	1				P	5
BR 2 WPF_6	Module from any master study course at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences Wahlmöglichkeit aus dem gesamten Masterangebot HRW	3	3					P	5
1 elective module amounts to 1 Wahlpflichtmodul ergibt									5

The faculty reserves the right to determine a minimum number of participants for offering an elective subject. Admission to mandatory modules is subject to available capacities. The possibility to obtain the required number of credit points remains unaffected. / Die Fakultät behält sich das Recht vor, eine Mindestteilnehmerzahl für das Zustandekommen eines Wahlpflichtkurses festzulegen. Die Zulassung zu Pflichtmodulen erfolgt vorbehaltlich freier Kapazitäten. Die Möglichkeit des Erreichens der vorgeschriebenen Kreditpunktzahl bleibt unberührt.

In case of new developments in the different fields of Biological Resources the faculty reserves the right to expand the range of elective modules with further subjects over the time. / Die Fakultät behält sich vor, das Wahlpflichtangebot im Laufe der Zeit bei neuen Entwicklungen in verschiedenen Feldern der Biological Resources durch weitere Fächer zu erweitern.

\*\* The actual selection from any study programme of the Rhine-Waal University has to be approved by the Examination Committee of the Faculty of Life Sciences. Module code and module description of the module chosen will be used. // Die konkrete Auswahl aus dem Studienangebot der Hochschule bedarf der Zustimmung des Prüfungsausschussvorsitzenden. Modulcode und Modulbezeichnung entsprechen dem gewählten Modul.

**Prüfungs- und idealtypischer Studienverlaufspläne für den Masterstudiengang  
Biological Resources M.Sc. (berufsbegleitendes Studium) //**  
**Recommended study and examination plan for Biological Resources M.Sc., part-time:**

											part time study / berufsbegleitendes Studium					
Module Code/ Modulcode	Module/Subjects	CH	Type				Ex/Prü		ECTS points							
			L	S	E	Pra	Pro	graded		attestation	ST 1	ST 2	WT 1	WT 2	Sem 5	Sem 6
BR 1 5001	Simulation of biological systems Simulation biologischer Systeme	4	2		2			P		5	4					
BR 1 5002	Animal ecology and ecosystem services Tierökologie und Ökosystemdienstleistungen	4	2			2		P	T	5	4					
BR 1 5003	Soil biological resources Bodenbiologische Ressourcen	4	1	1		2		P	T	5	4					
BR 1 5004	Closing cycles: Use and reduction of by-products Schließen von Kreisläufen: Verwendung und Reduzierung von Abfallprodukten	4	2			2		P	T	5			4			
	Elective module 1 Wahlpflichtkatalog 1	3	3					P		5				3		
BR 1 5005	Research project Angewandtes Forschungsprojekt	4					4		T	5			4			
BR 2 5021	Environmental valuation and economic impact assessment Umweltbewertung und ökonomische Folgenabschätzung	4	1	1	2			P		5		4				
BR 2 5022	Forest management and governance Bewirtschaftung und Management forstlicher Ressourcen	4	2	2				P		5		4				
BR 2 5023	Underutilized plant resources Unternutzte Pflanzenressourcen	4	2			2		P	T	5		4				
BR 2 5024	Processing biological resources Verarbeitung biologischer Ressourcen	4	2			2		P	T	5				4		
	Elective module 2 Wahlpflichtkatalog 2	3	3					P		5				3		
BR 2 5025	Lecture Series Biological Resources Ringvorlesung Biologische Ressourcen	4	2	2					T	5				4		
BR 3 5081	Master Thesis Masterarbeit							P		25						X
BR 3 5082	Colloquium Kolloquium							P		5						X
	Semesterwochenstunden / hours per week	46	22	6	4	10	4				12	12	11	11		
											15	15	15	15		30

**Abkürzungen // Abbreviations**

CH = credit hours per week // SWS = Semesterwochenstunden

Ex/Prü = type of examination // Prüfungsart

ECTS points = European Credit Transfer System credit points // Leistungspunkte nach dem Europäischen System zur Übertragung und Akkumulierung von Studienleistungen

// Leistungspunkte nach dem Europäischen System zur Übertragung und Akkumulierung von Studienleistungen

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S = Seminar

E = Exercise // Übung

Pra = lab course // Praktikum

Pro = project // Projekt

T = certificate // Testat (unbenotet)

P = examination (graded) // benotete Prüfung

	total	1.Sem	2.Sem	3.Sem	4. Sem	5. Sem	6.Sem
CH	46	12	12	11	11		
ECTS points	90	15	15	15	15		30

The full-time elective catalogue also applies to part-time students.