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# Examination Regulations

for

## Biological Resources, M.Sc.

Faculty of Life Sciences  
Dated 29 November 2018  
(Official Notice 39/2019)

Amended version produced by the Third Amending Statutes

Dated 21 January 2026  
(Official Notice 03/2026)

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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 a master's examination (*Masterprüfung*). The 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) The total volume of instruction for this degree programme is 46 contact hours per week (CH, or SWS in German).

(2) Curricular excursions, language courses, practical training courses or tutorials have mandatory attendance. Courses with mandatory attendance are marked with an asterisk (\*) in the study and examination plan for the degree programme.

(2a) Mandatory attendance per subsection 2 is defined as attending at least 75% of the course. 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 (e.g., 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. 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.

(4) In justified cases and upon request, specific module examinations can be completed in German. Requests must be submitted to the Examination Board no later than when registering for admission to the thesis. The decision will be issued together with the permission to attend the exam in question.

## **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 be supplemented with other media, provided the use thereof as additional documentation is appropriate and helpful in accordance with 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.

(3) In justified cases and upon request, the thesis can be submitted in German. Requests must be submitted to the Examination Board no later than when registering for admission to the thesis. The decision will be issued together with the permission to begin the master's thesis.

## **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, students must have obtained 85 CP.

## **Section 8**

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

(1) Twenty-two (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 of the German-language original 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 2026-2027.

(2) Students who enrolled in Biological Resources, M.Sc. before winter semester 2026-2027 may continue their studies under the previous examination regulations dated 29 November 2018 (Official Notices 39/2019), in the amended version produced by the Second Amending Statutes dated 4 September 2024 (Official Notices 14/2024), until no later than 28 February 2031. 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. The examination regulations dated 29 November 2018 will expire on 1 March 2028.

(3) Students currently studying under the examination regulations dated 29 November 2018 (Official Notices 39/2019), in the amended version produced by the Second Amending Statutes dated 4 September 2024 (Official Notices 11/2018), may submit a written request to the Examination Board to switch to the present examination regulations. The Examination Board is responsible for all credit recognition decisions for modules and examinations completed under previous examination regulations. Upon expiry of the original examination regulations dated 29 November 2018 or the amended version produced by the Second Amending Statutes dated 4 September 2024, any students still studying thereunder will officially and automatically continue their studies under the present examination regulations.

*Note: These examination regulations entered into force in their present version on 21 February 2026.*

## **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

# Recommended study and examination plan for Biological Resources, M.Sc. (full-time)

## Curriculum Biological Resources, M.Sc.

Module Code	Modules	Module Requirements	CH	Type						Exam		ECTS points*	CH			
				L	S	E	Pra	Pro	graded	attestation	ST		WT			
BR 1 5001	Simulation of Biological Systems		4	2		2				P		5	4			
BR 1 5002	Animal Ecology and Ecosystem Services		4	3			1			P	T	5	4			*
BR 1 5003	Soil Biological Resources		4	2			2			P	T	5	4			*
BR 1 5004	Closing Cycles: Use and Reduction of By-products		4	3			1			P	T	5	4			*
BR 1 5005	Research Project		4	2				2			T	5	4			
BR 2 5021	Environmental Valuation and Economic Impact Assessment		4	3		1				P		5		4		
BR 2 5023	Underutilized Plant Resources		4	2			2			P	T	5		4		*
BR 2 5024	Processing Biological Resources		4	2			2			P	T	5		4		*
BR 2 5025	Lecture Series Biological Resources		4	2	2						T	5	2	2		
BR 2 5036	Sustainability Assessment and Life Cycle Assessment		4	3	1					P		5		4		
	Elective modules		6	3	3					P		10	3	3		
BR 3 5081	Master Thesis	min. 50 ECTS								P		25				X
BR 3 5082	Colloquium	min. 85 ECTS								P		5				X
	<b>total credit hours</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>				<b>90</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>		
												<b>ECTS points</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	
													<b>60</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	
													<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>		

	total	1.Sem	2.Sem	3.Sem
CH	46	25	21	
ECTS Points	90	30	30	30

### Abbreviations

CH = credit hours per week  
 E = Exercise  
 ECTS points = European Credit Transfer System of Credit Points  
 L = Lecture  
 P = examination (graded)  
 Pra = lab course  
 Pro = project  
 T = attestation (passed)  
 S = Seminar

\* ECTS points are only credited after all module parts have been successfully completed.

Module Code	Elective Modules	Module Requirements	CH	Type						Exam		ECTS points*	CH			
				L	S	E	Pra	Pro	graded	attestation	ST		WT			
BR 1 5043	Use of Diversity in a Changing World		3		2		1			P	T	5	3			*
BR 1 5061	Animal Resources in Bioeconomy		3	2		1				P		5	3			
BR 1 5045	Innovation Management		3	2		1				P		5	3			
BR 1 5049	Quality and Sustainability in Biological Resource Value Chains		3	1	1	1				P		5	3			
BR 2 5062	Environmental Systems Analysis		3		3					P		5		3		
BR 2 5064	Entrepreneurship and Business Planning		3	2		1				P		5		3		
BR 2 5066	Analytics of Renewable Resources		4	2			2			P	T	5		4		*
BR 1 WPF_5	Module from any master study course at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences		3	3						P		5	3			**
BR 2 WPF_6	Module from any master study course at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences		3	3						P		5		3		**
	<b>2 elective modules amount to</b>		<b>6</b>									<b>10</b>				

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.

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.

\*\* The actual selection from any master study course at Rhine-Waal University has to be approved by the head of the examination committee.

