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Examination Regulations

for

Biological Resources, M.Sc.

Faculty of Life Sciences

Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences

Dated 29 November 2018

In accordance with Section 2 (4) sentence 1 and Section 64 (1) of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia [*Hochschulgesetz NRW*], in the amended form produced by the Act for the Future Development of Universities [*Hochschulzukunftsgesetz*] of 16 September 2014 (GV.NRW. 2014, p. 547), last amended by the Act of 17 October 2017 (GV.NRW. 2017, p. 806) and the General Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences (RPO) from 3 January 2018 (Official Notices 07/2018), the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Life Sciences of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences enacted the following examination regulations on 12 December 2018:

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Section 1 Applicability

These examination regulations shall apply to the master's degree programme Biological Resources, offered in English by the Faculty of Life Sciences of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, 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 study) and the part-time, six-semester mode of study for working professionals (part-time study).

Section 2 Academic Objectives; Purpose of Examination

(1) This degree programme is concluded with a final assessment: the master's examination. Academic aims and objectives are outlined in Section 3 RPO. In particular, this master's degree programme aims to empower students to apply natural scientific, engineering, economic and social scientific methodologies and develop practical solutions using reasoning and approaches that go beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries.

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

Section 3 General Admission Requirements

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

(2) A "related field" according to Section 4a (1) RPO is defined as any degree programme from:

- a. the natural sciences
- b. agricultural sciences
- c. economics

(3) An overall final mark of at least 2.5 on the German grading scale, or alternatively a "B" or better on the ECTS grading scale, must have been awarded for the previous degree referred to in paragraph (2); in addition, at least 10 ECTS must have been obtained in the natural sciences and at least 10 ECTS in the environmental / agricultural sciences, plus a minimum of 30 ECTS total from any combination of the following fields:

- a. mathematics / statistics
- b. chemistry
- c. biology
- d. economics and social sciences
- e. environmental sciences / agricultural sciences

(4) For English language requirements, refer to Section 4a (6a) sentence 1 RPO.

(5) Applicants may request an exemption from the language certificate requirement defined in subsection 4 above. Requests are justified, for example, for persons applying on the basis of a professionally-qualifying undergraduate degree that was conducted in English and in one of the majority English-speaking countries defined in Annex 1. The Examination Board is responsible for deciding on these requests. If an applicant completed his or her professionally-qualifying undergraduate degree in English at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, the English language requirement is considered fulfilled.

(6) Finally, applicants must have completed either an internship of at least 20 weeks at a company or organisation in the agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, natural sciences or bio-economics (Section 21 RPO), or a study abroad semester (Section 22 RPO) before they are able to apply to begin the thesis. This requirement can also be fulfilled as part of a Learning Agreement within the meaning of Section 4a (4) RPO.

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 (combined hours per week from all lecture periods in the standard study duration).

(2) Curricular internships are mandatory parts of this degree programme.

(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 how this degree programme is organised and about the type, form and scope of modules can be found in the attached study and examination plan (see annex). Additional information about learning outcomes, qualification aims, contents and forms of examination can be found in the corresponding module guide, which is available for viewing in the faculty's central office.

(5) In the part-time study arrangement for this degree programme, professionals in the workforce can study on a part-time basis while continuing their career. The contents of the first two semesters are instead taught over four semesters. During this initial period, part-time students attend two days of lectures at the University and spend the remaining three days in the workplace.

Section 5

Scope of Examinations

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

(2) An oral examination generally lasts at least 30, but no more than 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 as well, provided their use is appropriate and helpful as additional documentation 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 are given a period of four (4) months and part-time students a period of eight (8) months (from the assignment date to the submission deadline) to complete the thesis. The thesis may not be submitted within eight weeks of the assignment date.

Section 7

Admission to the Thesis and the Colloquium

(1) In addition to the thesis admission requirements defined under Section 24 (1) RPO, students must also have obtained at least 50 credits.

(2) In addition to the colloquium admission requirements defined under Section 27 (2) RPO, candidates must also have obtained at least 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 with the issuing of the master's degree certificate (refer to Section 30 (1) RPO).

Section 10

Entry into Force / Transitional Provisions

(1) These examination regulations shall enter into force on the day after their publication in the Official Notices of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. They apply to students who first enrolled in Biological Resources M.Sc. of the Faculty of Life Sciences of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences in or after winter semester 2019-20.

(2) Students who first enrolled in Biological Resources M.Sc. before winter semester 2019-2020 may continue their studies according to the examination regulations dated 30 November 2017 (Official Notices 02/2018) until 30 September 2024 at the latest.

Accordingly, the examination regulations dated 30 November 2017 (Official Notices 02/2018) shall expire on 1 October 2024.

(3) Students currently studying under the examination regulations dated 30 November 2017 may submit a written request to the Examination Board to switch to the examination regulations defined in this document. The Faculty Examination Board is responsible for all credit recognition decisions for previously completed modules and examinations.

Note: These examination regulations entered into force on 14 November 2019.

Annex 1

Countries considered “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
- Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America

Annex 2

Recommended study and examination plan for Biological Resources M.Sc., full-time:

Module-Nr.	Subjects/Module	CH	Type					Examination		CP	ST	WT	Sem 3	
			L	S	E	Pra	Pro	graded	attestation					
BR_01	Simulation of biological systems Simulation biologischer Systeme	4	2		2			P		5	4			
BR_02	Animal ecology and ecosystem services Tierökologie und Ökosystemdienstleistungen	4	2			2		P	T	5	4		*	
BR_03	Soil biological resources Bodenbiologische Ressourcen	4	1	1			2	P	T	5	4		*	
BR_04	Closing cycles: Use and reduction of by-products Schließen von Kreisläufen: Verwendung und Reduzierung von Abfallprodukten	4	2				2	P	T	5	4		*	
BR_05	Elective module 1 Wahlpflichtkatalog 1	3	3					P		5	3			
BR_06	Research project Angewandtes Forschungsprojekt	4					4		T	5	4			
BR_07	Environmental valuation and economic impact assessment Umweltbewertung und ökonomische Folgenabschätzung	4	1	1	2			P		5		4		
BR_08	Forest management and governance Bewirtschaftung und Management forstlicher Ressourcen	4	2	2				P		5		4		
BR_09	Underutilized plant resources Unternutzte Pflanzenressourcen	4	2			2		P	T	5		4	*	
BR_10	Processing biological resources Verarbeitung biologischer Ressourcen	4	2				2	P	T	5		4	*	
BR_11	Elective module 2 Wahlpflichtkatalog 2	3	3	0					P	5		3		
BR_12	Lecture Series Biological Resources Ringvorlesung Biologische Ressourcen	2	2						T	5		2		
BR_13	Master Thesis Masterarbeit								P	25			X	
BR_14	Colloquium Kolloquium								P	5			X	
Semesterwochenstunden / hours per week		44	22	4	4	10	4			SWS	23	21		
										CP	90	30	30	30

Abkürzungen // Abbreviations

SWS = Semesterwochenstunden // CH = credit hours per week
 Pru = Prüfungsart // type of examination
 CP = credit points (= ECTS-points)
 V = Vorlesung // Lecture
 S = Seminar
 U = Übung // Exercise
 Pra = Praktikum // lab course
 Pro = Projekt // project
 T = Testat (unbenotet) // certificate
 P = benotete Prüfung // examination (marked)

	gesamt	1.Sem	2.Sem	3.Sem
SWS	44	23	21	
CP	90	30	30	30

Elective Catalogue

Module-Nr.	Elective modules 1 Wahlpflichtkatalog 1	CH	Type							CP
			L	S	E	Pra	Pro	Ex		
BR_05.1	Biological resource value chains and sustainability management Wertschöpfungsketten und Nachhaltigkeitsmanagement biologischer Ressourcen	3	1	1	0				P	5
BR_05.2	Marine bioresources Biologische Ressourcen der Meere	3		3					P	5
BR_05.3	Use of diversity in a changing world Nutzung von Diversität in einer sich ändernden Welt	3		2		1			P	5
BR_05.4	Entrepreneurship and business management Existenzgründung und Unternehmensführung	3		3					P	5
BR_05.5	Innovation management Innovationsmanagement	3	2		1				P	5
BR_05.6	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
Module-Nr.	Elective modules 2 Wahlpflichtkatalog 2	CH	L	S	E	Pra	Pro	Ex	CP	
BR_11.1	Animals in bioeconomy Nutztiere in der Bioökonomie	3	2		1				P	5
BR_11.2	Environmental Systems Analysis Umweltsystemanalyse	3		3					P	5
BR_11.3	Rhizosphere biology Rhizosphärenbiologie	3				3			P	5
BR_11.4	Business planning Business planning	3	2	1					P	5
BR_11.5	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

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.

** Section has to be approved by the Examination Committee of the Faculty of Life Sciences. // Die konkrete Auswahl bedarf der Zustimmung des Prüfungsausschuss.

Recommended study and examination plan for Biological Resources M.Sc., part-time:

Module-Nr.	Module/Subjects	CH	Type						Examination		CP	part time study				Sem 5	Sem 6
			L	S	E	Pra	Pro	graded	attestation	ST 1		ST 2	WT 1	WT 2			
BR_01	Simulation of biological systems Simulation biologischer Systeme	4	2		2				P		5	4					
BR_02	Animal ecology and ecosystem services Tierökologie und Ökosystemdienstleistungen	4	2			2			P	T	5	4					
BR_03	Soil biological resources Bodenbiologische Ressourcen	4	1	1			2		P	T	5	4					
BR_04	Closing cycles: Use and reduction of by-products Schließen von Kreisläufen: Verwendung und Reduzierung von Abfallprodukten	4	2				2		P	T	5		4				
BR_05	Elective module 1 Wahlpflichtkatalog 1	3	3						P		5		3				
BR_06	Research project Angewandtes Forschungsprojekt	4						4		T	5		4				
BR_07	Environmental valuation and economic impact assessment Umweltbewertung und ökonomische Folgenabschätzung	4	1	1	2				P		5			4			
BR_08	Forest management and governance Bewirtschaftung und Management forstlicher Ressourcen	4	2	2					P		5			4			
BR_09	Underutilized plant resources Unternutzte Pflanzensourcen	4	2				2		P	T	5			4			
BR_10	Processing biological resources Verarbeitung biologischer Ressourcen	4	2				2		P	T	5				4		
BR_11	Elective module 2 Wahlpflichtkatalog 2	3	3	0						P	5				3		
BR_12	Lecture Series Biological Resources Ringvorlesung Biologische Ressourcen	4	2						T		5				4		
BR_13	Master Thesis Masterarbeit								P		25						X
BR_14	Kolloquium Kolloquium								P		5						X
Semesterwochenstunden		46	22	4	4	10	4					12	11	12	11		
												15	15	15	15		30

Abkürzungen // Abbreviations

SWS = Semesterwochenstunden // CH = credit hours per week

Prü = Prüfungsart // type of examination

CP = credit points (= ECTS-points)

V = Vorlesung // Lecture

S = Seminar

Ü = Übung // Exercise

Pra = Praktikum // lab course

Pro = Projekt // project

T = Testat (unbenotet) // certificate

P = benotete Prüfung // examination (marked)

* ECTS will only be credited after completing all parts of the module.

	gesamt	1.Sem	2.Sem	3.Sem	4. Sem	5. Sem	6. Sem
SWS	46	12	11	12	11		
CP	90	15	15	15	15		30

Electives are identical to the full-time study plan.