

**Examination and Study Regulations for the  
Master's Degree Course in 'Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation'  
at the University of Greifswald**

Of 01 August 2016

Pursuant to § 2 Sub-Section 1 in conjunction with § 38 Sub-Section 1 and § 39 Sub-Section 1 of the Landeshochschulgesetz - LHG M-V (State Higher Education Law) in the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, as amended by the Announcement of 25 January 2011 (Law and Ordinance Gazette [GVOBl.] M-V, p. 18), the University of Greifswald enacts as Statute the following Study and Examination Regulations for the Master's Degree Course in "Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation" (M. Sc. Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation):

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The following abbreviations have the following meanings:

WL	required workload in hours
D	duration of the module in semesters
CE	coursework essay
WE	written examination
ECTS	credits
M	minutes
OE	oral examination
P	protocol
IR	internship report
PF	portfolio
TE	type of examination
PP	poster presentation
PE	practical examination
SE	scope of examinations
Pr	presentation
RED	regular examination date (semester)

p	pages
RA	regular attendance according to § 5 Sub-Section 7
CA	confirmation of attendance
E	exercises
SR	scientific report
CEE	compulsory elective examination
AR	admission requirements for examinations
*	unmarked examination
-	until
/	or

## § 1<sup>1</sup> Object of Regulation

These Study and Examination Regulations govern the course content, course organisation and examination procedure in the master's degree course in 'Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation' at the University of Greifswald. The Framework Examination Regulations of the University of Greifswald (*Rahmenprüfungsordnung* – RPO) of 31 January 2012 (Gazette BM M-V 2012, p. 394), in its respective valid version, shall apply on a supplementary basis.

## § 2 Objective of Studies

(1) The educational objective is to produce graduates with the degree of Master of Science who are proficient in the content and methods of the subject of 'Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation' and capable of autonomously solving complex research problems in the international context. Therefore, the course content is taught predominantly in the English language. The programme, which focuses mainly on the natural sciences, is supplemented by content from the humanities and business sciences. The course of study is conceptualised in a research-oriented and transdisciplinary manner.

(2) Students shall acquire specialised knowledge about conceptual problems related to the field of landscape ecology and national and international nature conservation. Based on a sound taxonomic knowledge, which is the prerequisite for landscape-ecological analyses and evaluations, particular emphasis is placed in ecology on the systemic understanding of ecosystems and the changes they undergo. This learning objective is enhanced by means of excursions. In the field of landscape economy, students shall acquire specialised knowledge about different theoretical approaches (cost-benefit analysis, price-standard approach) as well as about the possibilities and limitations of a monetary evaluation of natural assets. In the field of environmental ethics, students shall acquire skills for the critical analysis of, and reflection on different moral values, protected resources, and goals and guidelines related to environment and nature conservation.

(3) Graduates of the degree course shall be qualified to pursue a professional career in the field of research into landscape and nature conservation, in national and international

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<sup>1</sup>All references to persons and offices in these Regulations pertain equally to all persons and office-holders, irrespective of gender.

conservation organisations, in landscape planning offices, in administrative offices for environment and nature conservation, as well as in government offices and associations.

### **§ 3**

#### **Access to Studies and Commencement of Studies**

(1) Only those candidates who have earned a bachelor's degree either in the field of landscape ecology or in other fields of bioscience, agricultural science and forestry shall be eligible for admission.

(2) Applicants who do not satisfy the criteria in accordance with Sub-Section 1 may be admitted as special applicants. The prerequisite is a successfully completed first university degree that qualifies the candidate for entry into a profession within a field closely related to environment and nature conservation. Upon application, the examination board shall decide in each individual case on the admission of special applicants.

(3) In certain cases, the examination board may allow candidates to be admitted to the master's degree course with the stipulation that they make up for gaps in their knowledge by taking selected classes from the bachelor's degree course in Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation at the University of Greifswald. Students must submit corresponding proof to the Central Examination Office no later than the point at which they register for their master's thesis.

(4) As a further prerequisite, evidence of English skills at level B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages is required for admission (equivalents: FCE, TOEFL (CBT) 213, TOEFL (IBT) 80, TOEFL (PBT) 550, TOEIC 785, IELTS 6.0) or, alternatively, evidence of having learned English at school for no fewer than seven years.

(5??) Studies in the master's degree course in Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation may only be commenced in the winter semester.

### **§ 4**

#### **Organisation of Studies**

(1) As a rule, the master's course can be completed with a M.Sc. degree in four semesters (the standard length of study).

(2) The programme consists of basic and elective modules, as well as the master's thesis. Basic modules are compulsory. Elective modules are compulsory elective and may be chosen freely in accordance with these Regulations. Within the modules, compulsory and compulsory elective courses can be offered. Further details are stipulated in the module catalogue.

(3) Basic modules shall convey the advanced general knowledge required for the competent discussion of current problem areas in the field of landscape ecology and nature conservation. They shall broaden the interdisciplinary way of working in landscape ecology and connect the knowledge acquired from natural sciences with social and economic learning. Basic modules are offered once per year. Students must acquire 30 ECTS in five basic modules.

(4) Elective modules serve to broaden knowledge in individual subject areas within the discipline of landscape ecology and nature conservation or offer the opportunity to acquire special qualifications in further basic subjects. They enable access to current research questions. Students must cover ten elective modules and acquire a total of 60 ECTS. At least eight of the chosen modules must be marked. In total, the seven best marks shall be included in the overall mark in accordance with § 9. Students shall be entitled to cover further elective modules exceeding the minimum number of modules as additional courses (according to § 32 of the Framework Examination Regulations – RPO).

(5) The course of study will be completed with the master's thesis (§ 8).

## **§ 5 Types of Tuition**

(1) The course content of the modules is conveyed in the form of lectures, seminars, exercises, internships and excursions.

(2) Lectures serve the purpose of presenting a subject area in a systematic manner. This is achieved predominantly by means of an oral presentation.

(3) Seminars are forms of tuition that involve a smaller group of participants. They serve the purpose of applying a subject's general teaching content to specific problem areas, studying academic literature, developing argumentation skills and practising methods of presentation. Students shall be introduced to autonomous academic working practices through presentations and discussions.

(4) In exercises, students shall be introduced to practical academic activities under the close supervision of their teachers. Exercises convey basic methods of academic work in the relevant subject areas and support the application and in-depth exploration of the teaching content.

(5) Internships are characterised by the autonomous application of scientific methods to scientific problems. They serve the purpose of practising and deepening practical skills and promote the autonomous handling of academic tasks. They serve the further purpose of broadening knowledge of the teaching content related to the subject in a way that makes it vivid for the participants.

(6) Excursions serve the purpose of enlarging the teaching content related to natural environment studies and of contributing to the understanding of nature conservation problems in the respective excursion area.

(7) Courses shall be taught in English or German at the discretion of the responsible module teacher.

## **§ 6 Module Examinations**

(1) Modules are completed by means of examinations. Module examinations serve the

purpose of determining whether, and to what extent, the student has achieved the qualification objectives.

(2) In coordination with the examiner, students may choose to conduct module examinations in English. In the event that a course is taught in English, the examiner may conduct the examination in English. The decision regarding Sentences 1 and 2 shall be made at the beginning of the lecture period.

(3) Module examinations consist of individually separable types of examination. The different types of examination are:

- oral examination (OE), duration 25 minutes;
- written examination (WE), duration 30 to 90 minutes;
- practical examination (PE), duration 120 minutes (according to § 22 Sub-Section 6 of the Framework Examination Regulations – RPO);
- protocol (P) of an exercise, experiment, excursion or the like, approximately 10 pages long;
- presentation (Pr) with discussion (approximately 20 minutes);
- coursework essay (CE), approximately 25 pages long, writing-up period max. 2 months, unless otherwise stipulated in § 7;
- exercises (E), approximately 20 pages long in total;
- internship report (IR), approximately 10 pages long;
- scientific report (SR), approximately 10 pages long, equivalent to a coursework essay, written in the form of a journal article for natural sciences;
- poster presentation (PP);
- portfolio (PF), collection of assessments (maximum of 12), determination of type and scope no later than 4 weeks after the beginning of the lecture period.

(4) In the event that a choice is offered between two different types of examination, the lecturer shall define the type of examination that is to be taken and the form in which possible resits will be taken no later than the second lecture week. If the lecturer fails to define a type of examination, the type of examination stipulated first in § 7 shall apply.

(5) The following credits shall be awarded for the individual types of module:

- for the basic modules: 30 ECTS;
- for the elective modules: 60 ECTS;
- for the master's thesis, including its defence: 30 ECTS.

(6) In the event that a module examination consists of several partial examinations, each individual partial examination must be awarded, as a minimum, the mark “sufficient” (4.0) or assessed as “passed”. Passed partial examinations shall remain unaffected.

(7) As a rule, resits of examinations shall take place at the beginning of the subsequent semester. § 41 Sub-Section 3 of the Framework Examination Regulations (RPO) shall apply accordingly.

(8) Examination papers shall remain with the examiner. Students shall be entitled to view their examination papers.

**§ 7**  
**Required Workload and Examinations**

(1) As part of the master's degree course, basic modules amounting to 900 hours of work (30 ECTS) must be covered:

<b>Cod e</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>WL</b>	<b>EC TS</b>	<b>AR</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>RED</b>
B1	Landscape ecology and economics	1	180	6		OE	25 M	1
B2	Ethics and Environment	2	180	6		WE	90 M	1
B3	International Excursion	1	180	6		P* or Pr*		2
B4	Research internship	1	240	8		P		3
B5	Personal Profiling	1	120	4		P*		3

The 4 credits for Module B5 "Personal Profiling" may be chosen freely from the courses offered at the University of Greifswald, provided that these courses have not already been studied as part of the first degree course qualifying the candidate for entry into a profession.

(2) Ten elective modules amounting to 1,800 hours of work (60 ECTS) must be covered. At least eight of the chosen modules must be marked. In total, the seven best marks shall be included in the overall mark:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>WL</b>	<b>EC TS</b>	<b>AR</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>RED</b>
E1	Umweltökonomie	2	180	6		CE		3
E2	Landnutzung II	2	180	6		2 WE The written examinations are related to two lectures, which must be chosen from the list of modules	2 x 30M	3
E3	Cost Benefit Analysis	1	180	6		WE	90 M	2
E4	Economic Valuation of Natural Resources	1	180	6		CE		3
E5	Peatland utilisation	2	180	6		WE	60 M	3
						CA*		
E6	Wissenschaftstheoretische und ethische Aspekte des Naturschutzes	1	180	6		WE or CE	90 M or 15 p	3
						Pr*		
E7	Umweltethische Konzepte und ihre Umsetzung	1	180	6		CE 2 Pr*	15 p	2

E8	Botanical Species Conservation 1 (Plant Species Conservation)	1	180	6		Pr		2
E9	Botanical Species Conservation 2 (Population Biology)	1	180	6	E8 <sup>1</sup>	P		2
E10	Conservation Genetics of Plants 1 (Reproductive Biology)	1	180	6		Pr		2
E11	Conservation Genetics of Plants 2 (Population Genetics)	1	180	6	E10 <sup>1</sup>	P		2
E12	Experimental Plant Ecology 1	1	180	6		Pr		3
E13	Experimental Plant Ecology 2	1	180	6		SR		3
E14	Ornithology 1	1	180	6		WE	60 M	2
						Pr*		
E15	Ornithology 2	1	180	6	E14 <sup>1</sup>	P		2
E16	Animal Conservation & Ecology 1	1	180	6	RA	WE	60 M	2
						Pr*		
E17	Animal Conservation & Ecology 2	1	180	6	E16 <sup>1</sup>	SR		2
E18	Vegetation Ecology 1	1	180	6		E, Pr*		3
E19	Vegetation Ecology 2	1	180	6		SR		2
E20	General and Applied Aquatic Ecology	1	180	6		WE	90 M	3
						Pr*		
E21	Aquatic Ecology – Summer course	1	180	6		P, Pr*		2
E22	Conservation and Behaviour 1	1	180	6		WE	60 M	2
						Pr*		
E23	Conservation and Behaviour 2	1	180	6	E22 <sup>1</sup>	P or PP		2
E24	Conservation Genetics 1	1	180	6		WE	60 M	3
						Pr*		
E25	Conservation Genetics 2	1	180	6	E24 <sup>1</sup>	P		3
E26	Aquatische Mikrobiologie 1	1	180	6		WE	45 M	3
						Pr*		
E27	Aquatische Mikrobiologie 2	1	180	6		WE	45 M	2
						Pr*		
E28	Mikrobielle Ökologie I – Energieflüsse & Stoffkreisläufe	1	180	6		WE	90 M	3

E29	Mikrobielle Ökologie II – Molekulare Ökologie & Interaktionen	1	180	6		WE	60 M	2
E30	Biology of Reproduction in Animals 1 (Behaviour, Mechanisms & Strategies)	1	180	6		WE	60 M	2
						Pr*		
E31	Biology of Reproduction in Animals 2 (Behavioural Ecology)	1	180	6	E30 <sup>1</sup>	P		2
E32	Plant Stress Physiology	1	180	6		WE	90 M	3
						Pr*		
E33	Großpraktikum Stressphysiologie der Pflanze	1	180	6	E32 <sup>1</sup>	P		3
E34	Climate Change	1	180	6		Pr or PP		2
E35	Dendrochronology	1	180	6		Pr*		3
E36	Environmental Hydrogeology	1	180	6		PF		2
E37	Facies analysis of glacial deposits	1	180	6		PF		3
E38	Quartäre Geoarchive	1	180	6		P		2
E39	Geoarchäologie	1	180	6		WE	90 M	2
						P*		
E40	Paläontologie	1	180	6		Pr		2
E41	Paläoökologie und Evolution	1	180	6		WE	90 M	2
E42	Organismen in Raum und Zeit	1	180	6		WE	90 M	3
E43	Restoration Ecology	1	180	6		Pr, CA*		3
E44	Mire ecology and regionality	2	180	6		OE	25 M	3
E45	Quaternary palaeoecology	1	180	6		Pr, P*		3
E46	Peatlands and palaeoecology	2	180	6		Pr, P*		3
E47	Ecology & Protection of Ecosystems in the Southern Hemisphere & the Tropics	1	180	6		Pr, Pr*		3
E48	Bodenökologie	1	180	6		E*		2
E49	Naturräume Osteuropas	1	180	6		E*		2
E50	Geographische Informationssysteme: Vertiefung	1	180	6		IR, P*		2
E51	Advanced field skills	1	180	6		PE		3
E52	Projektmanagement	1	180	6		CE	20 p	2

						Pr*		
E53	Moderne Fremdsprachen	1	180	6		WE or	100 M	3
						PF		
						CA* Conference Skills (where)		
						CA* Seminars or self-study courses		
E54	Internship (externes Berufspraktikum)	1	180	6		CA*, IR*		1-4

<sup>†</sup>Registration for the examinations of a module shall only be possible simultaneously with the registration for the examinations of the listed elective module or upon the successful completion of the latter

(3) A module that has already been covered as part of the bachelor's degree course may not be studied again in the master's degree course, unless the modules differ substantially with regard to their contents. The decision regarding sentence 1 will be made by the examination board upon written request from the student. The request must be submitted to the Central Examination Office.

(4) The modules according to Sub-Sections 1 and 2 will be studied with the qualification objectives specified in the module catalogue.

(5) The entire range of advanced modules specified in Sub-Section 3 shall be offered subject to the availability of corresponding teaching capacities. Students shall not be entitled to participation in a specific advanced module, since advanced modules are limited to a certain number of participants and not all modules are offered in every semester. The member of teaching staff responsible for a module shall decide on a student's participation in an advanced module, subject to the places available. In the event that student demand for a specific advanced module exceeds the number of available places, the chair of the examination board shall make decisions about participation with the consent of the member of teaching staff responsible, after having heard those affected. The decision criteria for participation are stipulated in § 54 Sub-Section 2 of the Framework Examination Regulations (RPO).

## § 8

### Master's Thesis Module

(1) The degree course is completed by means of a master's thesis that must attain a minimum "sufficient" (4.0) mark. Registration for the master's thesis requires evidence of at least 60 ECTS earned. The topic of the master's thesis must be submitted no later than six months after the completion of the last module examination. The application for issuance of the topic must be submitted to the Central Examination Office no later than 14 days prior to the deadline. In the event that a student fails to apply for the topic or applies after the deadline, the writing-up period shall be shortened correspondingly.

(2) The master's thesis is an examination component that serves the purpose of proving academic qualification. It shall demonstrate that the student is capable of

dealing autonomously with a complex landscape-ecological task of reasonable scope, set in agreement with the supervisor.

(3) The master's thesis module consists of the written master's thesis and its oral defence. The thesis is awarded 28 ECTS and the defence 2 ECTS. The thesis defence shall be marked.

(4) The writing-up period for the written master's thesis is six months.

(5) The master's thesis must be submitted to the Central Examination Office within the period stipulated, in the form of three bound copies (thermal or perfect binding), together with a statement allowing an electronic copy to be made and saved in order to enable testing with software for plagiarism detection.

(6) The master's thesis must be defended. As part of the defence, the student must present the most significant aspects of the master's thesis (20 minutes) and defend them against objections subsequently raised by the examination board (25 minutes). The defence of the master's thesis is awarded with 2 ECTS. It shall be assessed by no fewer than two examiners. The supervisor of the thesis shall be one of the examiners.

(7) In the event that the defence is marked "insufficient" (5.0), it may be repeated on one occasion. In the event that the defence is marked "insufficient" (5.0) on two occasions, the master's thesis must also be repeated.

## **§ 9**

### **Determination of the Overall Mark**

(1) In accordance with § 33 of the Framework Examination Regulations (RPO), the overall mark of the master's examination is calculated by factoring in the marks of the module examinations and of the master's thesis.

(2) The marks for the module examinations are included in the overall mark in accordance with their relative proportion of credits. With regard to the elective modules, the seven best marks shall be included in accordance with § 4 Sub-Section 4. The mark awarded for the master's thesis shall count double.

## **§ 10**

### **University Degree**

After passing the master's examination, the university degree "Master of Science" (M.Sc.) shall be conferred.

## **§ 11**

### **Entry into Force / Expiry, Temporary Provisions**

(1) These Subject Examination and Study Regulations shall enter into force on the day after their publication at the University.

(2) They shall only come into force for students enrolled from winter semester 2016/17 onwards. They shall not apply to students previously enrolled.

(3) The Study and Examination Regulations of 07 February 2013 (published at the University on 29 May 2013) shall expire at the end of 30 September 2019.

Issued on the basis of the Senate resolution of 20 July 2016 and the approval of the Rector of 01 August 2016.

Greifswald, 01 August 2016

**The Rector  
of the University of Greifswald  
University Professor Dr Johanna Eleonore Weber**

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