
This translation is provided solely as a courtesy to international students and applicants. Reliance in law may only be placed upon the official German version of these Regulations.

Faculty of Biology:

Upon resolution of the faculty council at the Faculty of Biology dated 13.04.2012 and upon resolution of the Senate at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen dated 11.07.2012, the University Foundation Committee at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Foundation under Public Law has approved the regulations concerning assessment of the particular suitability for the doctoral programme “Behaviour and Cognition” dated 13.08.2012 (§§ 9 section 3 sentence 2, 44 section 1 sentence 1 NHG in the version contained in the announcement dated 26.02.2007 (Nds. GVBl. S. 69), amended by Article 1 of the Act dated 20.06.2012 (Nds. GVBl. p. 186); § 41 section 1 sentence 1 in connection § 18 section 6 sentences 1 and 3, section 8 NHG; §§ 62 section 4 sentence 1, 60 a section 1 sentence 1 NHG in connection with §§ 18 section 6 sentences 1 and 3, section 8, sentence 14 NHG).

**Regulations concerning the assessment of particular suitability
for the doctoral programme “Behaviour and Cognition”**

§1 Scope

(1) This regulation provides for the assessment of particular suitability and for admission to the doctoral programme “Behaviour and Cognition”.

(2) The university executes an autonomous procedure for assessing the entry qualifications for all university places to be awarded in each case in accordance with the following provisions.

§ 2 Qualifications for entry

(1) ¹The precondition for admission to a doctoral programme is the successful completion of a consecutive master degree programme in a relevant field of mathematics and natural sciences with a standard course length of at least one year and a total study time of at least

four years, the successful completion of a degree course relevant to mathematics and natural sciences with a standard course length of at least eight semesters or proof of an equivalent degree at a German university or at a university in a country belonging to the Bologna signatory states. ²The programme committee shall rule on whether a degree programme is equivalent.

(2) ¹Section 1 notwithstanding, applicants shall also be eligible for entry in the event of enrolment in a master degree programme in a relevant subject, provided said applicants have successfully completed examination components with an attributable scope of at least 90 ECTS credits and can submit a grade average listed in the top ten percent of the grade average in any year within the corresponding degree programme. ²The average grade calculated from the previous examination components in the master degree programme is considered in the procedure for assessment of entry qualifications in place of the master grade, irrespective of whether the result of the master examination deviates in this respect. ³Section 1 notwithstanding, applicants shall also be eligible if said applicants can provide verification of at least 60 ECTS credits upon application; this eligibility shall be cancelled unless the completion of at least 90 ECTS credits are verified before start of the semester in which the doctoral studies commence. ⁴Members of the faculty council at the Faculty of Biology that hold a doctorate must provide approval in the assessment of entry requirements in the cases covered by sentences 1 to 3.

(3) Degrees equivalent to the qualifications under section 1 and acquired in a country other than the Bologna signatory states, require assessment of equivalence in consideration of the proposals by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) at the office of the permanent conference of the federal ministers of cultural affairs in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) for the accreditation and assessment of proof of foreign academic qualification that are accessible under the URL www.anabin.de.

(4) ¹The decision whether an undergraduate programme is relevant in the meaning of sections 1 to 3 is made by the programme committee. ²The precondition for the specialised relevance of the undergraduate programme is verification of knowledge in the field of mathematics and natural sciences equivalent with a scope of at least 150 credits (ECTS credits); further, the master thesis must have been completed in the section of the degree programme focusing on mathematics and natural sciences in the event that a portion of the degree programme would be outside the field of mathematics and natural sciences. ³The programme committee may require the completion of examination components not yet completed under sentence 2 within two semesters for assessing the subject relevance; in

this case, assessment of subject relevance and the entry is subject to termination until proof of the examination components not yet completed in a scope of no more than 15 credits, which should be submitted within two semesters from the time of enrolment at the university (final deadline). ⁴If the proof of the as yet incomplete examination components is not submitted within the deadline, the assessment of the subject relevance and a related letter of entry will become ineffective.

(5) ¹Applicants whose mother tongue is not English must show adequate English language skills. ²Adequate English language skills should be proven through minimum performance in an internationally recognised test or equivalent tests:

- a) Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English at least with the grade "B";
- b) Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English at least with the grade "C";
- c) IELTS Academic (International English Language Testing System), at least band 6;
- d) Internet-based test of "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL iBT): at least 80 points;
- e) Written test of "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL PBT): at least 550 points;
- f) CEF ("Common European Framework"): proof of at least C1;
- g) UNlcertF: at least level III;
- h) Successful completion of a degree programme held in English.

³In general, successful completion of a test according to sentence 2 letters a) to g) must not be over three years prior to receipt of application for entry to this doctoral programme. ⁴The obligation to pass a test need not be met by applicants with at least two years spent studying or working abroad in an English-speaking country within the last three years prior to submitting the application for admission.

(6) ¹A further precondition is at least one written declaration by one authorised examiner as specified in the doctoral degree regulations within the mathematics and natural sciences doctoral school – Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS) – (RerNatO) that he or she shall, in the event of admission as doctoral candidate, accept and supervise said person and that proper supervision can be guaranteed, if necessary with consultation provided by an advisor (confirmation of supervision). ²Furthermore, qualification for entry exists only if

- a) no agent was appointed for locating doctoral opportunities subject to a fee,
- b) in the context of the doctoral process and its preparation, neither fees have been paid, charged credits obtained nor services that are contrary to the meaning and purpose of an examination procedure have been claimed free-of-charge,

c) there are no reasons that may form the grounds for withdrawal of the doctoral degree, and this is declared by the applicant.

(7) ¹A further entry requirement is proof of particular suitability:

- a) by proof of outstanding study and examination performance and other performances (publications, internships, professional experience, teaching) and
- b) in an interview.

²The basis for assessing outstanding study and examination performances shall be in particular the performance achieved by the same graduate class in the previous degree programme attended by the applicant.

(8) ¹The general provisions of the enrolment regulation of the university governing enrolment at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen shall otherwise remain notwithstanding. ²The enrolment of the applicants, authorised in principle for entry according to section 2, is subject to termination until proof of successful completion of the master degree programme or an equivalent programme. ³The proof should be shown by 15 November as concerns enrolment for the winter semester and by 15 May as concerns enrolment for the summer semester.

§ 3 Qualifications for entry

(1) ¹The application for entry should be submitted in writing along with the application documents required under section 2 to the coordinator of the degree programme and should have been received by 31 January for the following summer semester and by 31 July for the winter semester. ²This applies only to the issuing of university places for the relevant admission date. ³The university is not obligated to review the details of the applicants as a matter of course.

(2) The following documents should be enclosed with the application for entry:

- a) proof of the entry requirements as specified under § 2 sections 1 to 3; a translation in either English or German at applicant's discretion must be enclosed with each certificate that is not in the English or German language;
- b) proof of sufficient language skills in accordance with § 2 section 5;
- c) suitable documents for proof of additional credits (publications, internships, professional experience, teaching), which represent particular suitability of the applicant for participation in the doctoral programme; in the case of publications, single copies of said publications by the applicant;

- d) a curriculum vitae written in English that also furnishes information on the scientific development of the applicant;
- e) statement on whether the applicant has to date successfully completed, unsuccessfully completed, not completed or is expected to complete a doctoral programme or doctoral process;
- f) confirmation of supervision under § 2 section 6 sentence 1
- g) declaration as specified in § 2 section 6 sentence 2;
- h) a description of the research project.

(3) ¹Applications that are not submitted complete, or in due form and time, shall be excluded from further procedure. ²The documents submitted remain with the university.

(4) ¹Simple copies of the certificates and translations of documents shall be sufficient at the time of application. ²However, certified copies of the originals of documents specified in section 2 letter a) must be submitted, or presented, on time before enrolment; enrolment shall not be possible without satisfaction of these preconditions.

(5) Should an applicant determine that he or she is disadvantaged in the selection procedure with respect to other applicants due to a handicap, a suitable compensation for said disadvantage is to be granted by the selection committee upon request.

§ 4 Interview

(1) ¹A panel appointed by the programme committee shall conduct an interview with applicants; said panel shall consist of at least three authorised examiners in the doctoral programme and one member of the group of doctoral candidates. ²Following this interview, the panel shall conduct an assessment and shall issue a recommendation for admission or rejection; in this, the member from the group of doctoral candidates shall have an exclusively advisory vote. ³Minutes are kept of the essential questions and answers within the interview; said minutes must be signed by the members of the panel. ⁴The minutes should clearly specify the date and location of the interview, the name of the panel members, the name of the applicant and the assessment.

(2) The interview extends to the motivation of the applicant as well as the following suitability parameters in particular:

- a) previous degree and examination performance, along with experience and demonstrable knowledge of the scientific basics relevant to the doctoral programme,

b) capability for scientific and basic research and methodological work procedures, respectively.

(3) ¹The university will announce the exact dates as well as the location of interview with sufficient prior notice before the start of interviews. ²The university invites the candidates to the interview with sufficient notice. ³A video conference or a telephone interview is permitted for overseas applicants as well as in established exceptions, as far as the identity of the applicant can be determined beyond doubt. ⁴The programme committee determines the details of the procedure in such cases.

(4) Applicants that have already completed an entry procedure for a master degree programme as specified in accordance with annex 1, can verify confirmation of supervision and have achieved a minimum grade of 2.0 shall be assessed in place of the panel by an authorised examiner appointed by the programme committee; said person must be neither the supervisor nor the advisor to the applicant in question.

§ 5 Programme committee; decision on entry

(1) ¹The programme committee shall consist of four authorised examiners as members, each belonging to the full-time scientific staff of the professoral group; further, one member of the group of doctoral candidates and the coordinator of the doctoral programme shall also be members with advisory votes. ²The members are appointed by the faculty council of the Faculty of Biology. ³The period in office of the authorised examiner members is two years, while that of the doctoral candidate member is one year. ⁴Reappointment is possible. ⁵The programme committee holds a quorum if at least three members eligible to vote are present.

(2) The programme committee shall elect a spokesperson from the group of authorised examiner members.

(3) The programme committee shall assess the eligibility for acceptance to the doctoral programme, in particular on the basis of the study and examination performance to date and the result of the interview.

(4) ¹Decisions on acceptance or rejections are the responsibility of the programme committee and take place conditional upon verification of academic degree, that is in the case of § 2

section 2 conditional upon achievement of at least 90 C in a relevant master degree programme. ²Verification must be provided before enrolment.

§ 6 Letter of entry, letter of rejection

(1) ¹Applicants that are eligible for entry shall receive a written letter of entry. ²This letter specifies the deadline within which the applicant should declare in writing whether he or she accepts the university place. ³If this declaration is not submitted in due time and form, the letter of entry becomes ineffective. ⁴These legal consequences should be pointed out in the letter of entry.

(2) ¹Applicants who have not proven their right to entry receive a rejection letter. ²This should be communicated in writing with reasons and instruction on legal recourse.

(3) ¹Letters as specified under sections 1 and 2 shall be issued by the spokesperson of the programme committee or by such persons as are authorised thereto by the spokesperson of the programme committee. ²The letter of entry serves equally as verification of eligibility for enrolment.

§ 7 Entry into force

(1) ¹This regulation enters into force the day after its promulgation in the Official Announcements I of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. ²It applies for the first time to the awards procedure in the winter semester 2012/13.

(2) Unlike in § 3 section 1 sentence 1, an application for entry in the winter semester 2012/13 must be received by 31.08.2012.

Appendix 1: Master degree programmes at the University of Göttingen for the simplified suitability assessment procedure to verify the minimum grade

Master degree programme in developmental, neural and behavioral biology

Master degree programme in biodiversity, ecology and evolution

Master degree programme in neurosciences

Master degree programme in psychology