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Faculty of Biology and Psychology:

Following the resolution of the Faculty of Biology and Psychology dated 23.06.2021, the Senate of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen approved the bye-law for amendment of the regulation concerning the qualifications for entry and admission for the consecutive Master's degree programmes of the Faculty of Biology and Psychology on 24.08.2021; the amendments are deemed to have been approved on the basis of a resolution of the Foundation Committee University of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Foundation under Public Law of 10.07.2019 (§ 44 section 1 sentence 2 NHG in the version of the announcement dated 26.02.2007 (Nds. GVBl. (Lower Saxony Law and Official Gazette) p. 69), last amended by Article 4 of the Act dated 16.03.2021 (Nds. GVBl. (Lower Saxony Law and Official Gazette) p. 133); § 41 section 1 sentence 1 NHG in conjunction with § 18 section 6 sentence 3, section 8, sentence 4 NHG and § 7 section 1 sentence 1 NHZG in the version of the announcement dated 29.01.1998 (Nds. GVBl. (Lower Saxony Law and Official Gazette) p. 51), last amended by article 2 of the Act dated 19.11.2019 (Nds. GVBl. p. 333); §§ 62 section 4 sentence 1, 60 a section 1 sentence 1 NHG in conjunction with § 18 section 6 sentence 3, section 8 sentence 4, section 14 NHG and § 7 section 2 NHZG).

**Regulation concerning the qualifications for entry and admission
for the integrated binational consecutive Master's degree programme
"Internationaler Naturschutz (International Nature Conservation)"
at the University of Göttingen**

I. Scope

§ 1 Scope

- (1) This regulation regulates the entry and admission to the integrated binational consecutive Master's degree programme „Internationaler Naturschutz (International Nature Conservation)“.
- (2) The university executes an autonomous procedure for determining the qualifications for entry for all places to be filled up in the integrated binational consecutive Master's degree programme „Internationaler Naturschutz (International Nature Conservation)“.

(3) ¹If the number of applicants who meet the qualifications for entry exceeds the available places, the university awards the places based on the results of its own selection procedure. ²If the number of applicants who meet the qualifications for entry falls short of the available places, a selection procedure does not take place.

II. Eligibility for entry

§ 2 Qualifications for entry

(1) ¹Applicants seeking admission to the Master's degree programme must demonstrate special aptitude. ²If you have completed a technically relevant bachelor's academic programme/course of studies with a standard course length of at least six semesters and a scope of at least 180 ECTS credits, or an equivalent degree in a course of study at a German university or at a university belonging to the Bologna signatory states, in accordance with section 3 of the biology, forestry, ecology, biodiversity, nature conservation, wildlife management, geography or agricultural science course of study or in a technically closely related subject area, then you are said to possess the relevant professional qualification. ³Final examinations, which have been passed in a country outside the Bologna signatory states, require the determination of equivalence to the qualifications according to sentence 2, taking into account the proposals of the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) at the secretarial office of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Federal States in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) for the recognition and evaluation of foreign educational certificates, which are located at the URL <http://anabin.kmk.org>. ⁴The grades of the foreign proof of academic qualification should be converted to the German grading system.

(2) ¹Notwithstanding section 1, eligibility will be considered proven by applicants who have not yet completed a course of studies at the time of application, but have acquired at least 150 credits in a relevant bachelor degree programme as stated in section 3 or in an equivalent degree programme. ²The average grade calculated from the previous examination components is also taken into consideration in the selection procedure in place of the bachelor grade or the grade of an equivalent proof of academic qualification, irrespective of whether the result of the bachelor programme examination deviates from this.

(3) ¹The decision as to whether an undergraduate degree is specialised (subject relevance) in the sense of sections 1 and 2 is made by the Selection Committee. ²Requirement for subject relevance of the undergraduate degree is the proof of at least the following components:

Components from nature conservation, biology, ecology, biodiversity, wildlife management, environmental science, veterinary medicine, forestry, agricultural science and geography with a rating of a total of at least 90 credits.

³Insofar as fewer persons apply who satisfy all qualifications for entry according to sentence 2 than there are university places to be awarded, the selection committee may require the completion of pending examination components 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 pending examination components, which should be submitted within two semesters from the time of enrolment at the university (closing date). ⁴If the proof of the pending examination components is not submitted within the deadline, the assessment of the subject relevance and a related letter of admission will become ineffective. ⁵The assessment of the subject relevance is omitted if the components under sentence 2 that have not yet been accomplished have a rating of more than 15 credits.

(4) ¹Applicants whose native language is not English must show very good English language skills. ²Very good English language skills should be proven by passing one internationally accredited test. ³The following in particular shall serve as proof:

- a) UNlcert®: min. certificate UNlcert® III;
- b) NULTE certificate: min. level C1;
- c) Cambridge English Scale: min. 180 points;
- d) International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic): min. band 6.5;
- e) Test of English as a Foreign Language, internet-based test (TOEFL iBT): min. 95 points;
- f) Global Scale of English (Pearson Academic): min. 76 points;
- g) further accredited or standardised certificates can also be recognised after establishment of equivalence.

⁴Successful completion of the test (a-f) may be no longer than three years before submission of the application for admission to the Master's degree programme. ⁵At least two years of residence in an English-speaking country for the purpose of study or work within three years prior to submission of the application for admission, or successful degree earned in a degree programme in the English language lasting at least two years, also constitute proof of very good English language proficiency. ⁶The proof of English language skills should be furnished by 15/11 of the semester of enrolment at the latest. ⁷If the proof is not provided before enrolment, enrolment is conditional until proof of English language skills is provided.

(5) ¹Notwithstanding, the general provisions of the enrolment regulation of the University of Göttingen for enrolment remain unaffected. ²The enrolment by applicants who, according to section 2, are considered eligible for provisional admission is subject to the proof of successful completion of the Bachelor's programme or an equivalent academic programme. ³Proof must be provided during enrolment for the winter semester by the end of 15/11. ⁴Provided the Dean

of Studies of the Faculty of Biology and Psychology determines, on the basis of the periods of studies so far, in particular the present examination components, that the applicant pursuant to sentence 2 letter a) will attain the degree at the latest by the end of the first semester of the Master's degree programme, the deadline in accordance with sentence 3 shall be extended to the end of 31/03 for enrolment for a winter semester; this determination is only admissible provided

a) only the thesis is missing as an examination achievement or

b) the thesis has already been submitted to the university and the amount of the examination components that are still missing does not exceed six credits.

III. Selection procedure

§ 3 Start of programme, admissions application, closing date

(1) ¹The Master's degree programme starts every winter semester. ²The admissions application should be submitted at first via an online portal; more details will be announced by the university within an appropriate time frame before expiry of the closing date. ³The written admission application for the master degree programme must have been submitted to the university using the forms provided at the online portal for downloading, along with the application documents required in accordance with section 2 by 15/05 (closing date) for the winter semester. ⁴The application is valid only for awarding university places for the relevant admission date. ⁵The university is not obliged to review the details of the applicants as a matter of course.

(2) The following documents should be enclosed with the admissions application and personally signed:

a) The degree certificate(s) of the applicant in the form of attested copies or certified German or English translations, if the originals are not in English or German; if a degree certificate is not yet submitted, a certificate of the acquired examination prerequisites, the credits and the average grade should be submitted;

b) a personal data sheet written in German or English with a meaningful description of the educational career;

c) Proof of sufficient English language skills;

d) A written account of a maximum of two pages in English, which shows the motivation of the applicant for accepting this degree programme;

e) If applicable, documents demonstrating special knowledge, skills or experience in the field of nature conservation;

f) A declaration on whether the applicant has successfully / unsuccessfully completed a Master's Programme in the same discipline or has not completed it yet;

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

(4) If a prospective student establishes that he or she is disadvantaged in the selection procedure with respect to other applicants due to a handicap, a suitable compensation of disadvantage is to be granted by the Selection Committee upon request.

§ 4 Selection Committee for the Master's degree programme

(1) To prepare for the selections procedure, the Faculty of Biology and Psychology at the university shall form at least one selection committee for this degree programme.

(2) ¹A selection committee includes two members eligible to vote, who are part of the scientific personnel working full-time or of the professorial group, and a member of the students' union with an advisory vote. ²At least one member must belong to the professorial group. ³The members are appointed by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology and Psychology. ⁴The tenure of the members is two years, while that of the student union member is one year. ⁵Reappointment is possible. ⁶The selection committee has a quorum if at least two members eligible to vote are present.

(3) The tasks of the selection committee are:

- a) review of the incoming admissions applications for formal correctness;
- b) review and assessment of the qualifications for entry, if necessary;
- c) conducting the interviews in accordance with § 6;
- d) decision on the admission or rejection of the applicant.

(4) The selection committee reports to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology and Psychology on the experience gathered and submits any suggestions for further development of the award procedure, after conclusion of the award procedure.

§ 5 Selection procedure

(1) Selection shall be determined on the basis of a combination of the following criteria:

- a) on the basis of the bachelor's grade or the grade of an equivalent educational qualification,
- b) on the basis of a written motivation survey,
- c) on the basis of special knowledge, skills or experience in the field of nature conservation which are conducive to the successful completion of this degree programme, and
- d) on the basis of an interview with the applicant.

(2) The selection committee shall make a pre-selection from the applications received in accordance with section 3 and a selection from the pre-selected candidates on the basis of the selection criteria mentioned in sections 1 and 4.

(3) ¹In order to limit the number of participants in the selection interview, a preliminary selection shall be made from the applications received to twice the number of university places to be awarded after the selection procedure. ²For this purpose, a ranking list shall be drawn up according to the result of the determination pursuant to section 4, sentence 2 letters a) to c). ³If there is equality of rank, all applicants of the highest ranking shall be admitted to the participation.

(4) ¹The selection is made on the basis of a ranking list, in which a maximum of 100 points is attainable. ²This is generated in accordance with the following provisions:

a) According to the assessment of the degree of eligibility in the interview, points are awarded to the applicant as follows:

1.0 up to and including 1.2	51 points,
over 1.2 up to and including 1.4	48 points,
over 1.4 up to and including 1.6	45 points,
over 1.6 up to and including 1.8	42 points,
over 1.8 up to and including 2.0	39 points,
over 2.0 up to and including 2.2	36 points,
over 2.2 up to and including 2.4	33 points,
over 2.4 up to and including 2.6	30 points,
over 2.6 up to and including 2.8	27 points,
over 2.8 up to and including 3.0	24 points,
over 3.0 up to and including 3.2	21 points,
over 3.2 up to and including 3.4	16 points,
over 3.4 up to and including 3.6	11 points,
over 3.6 up to and including 3.8	6 points,
over 3.8 up to and including 4.0	0 points.

b) Depending on the justification of the motivation to study, the applicant will be credited with points as follows:

The justification is

very convincing	7 to 9 points,
convincing	4 to 6 points,
not very convincing	0 to 3 points.

c) For specialised knowledge, skills or experience in the field of nature conservation, for example activities in nature conservation administrations, international nature conservation organisations or national organisations with international relevance, the

applicant will be credited points as follows, whereby the special knowledge, skills or experience must be substantiated by suitable documents (e.g. references, work reports):

Assessment of knowledge:

excellent	16 to 20 points,
very good	11 to 15 points,
good	6 to 10 points,
available	0 to 5 points.

d) Depending on the determination of the degree of eligibility in the selection interview, points will be credited to the applicant as follows:

The applicant is

very suitable	16 up to and including 20 points,
suitable	11 up to and including 15 points,
less suitable	6 up to and including 10 points,
barely suitable	0 up to and including 5 points.

e) The points achieved according to letters a) to d) are added.

(5) ¹If there is identical ranking after generating the ranking list, the ranking sequence is determined based on the results of determination pursuant to section 4 sentence 2 letters a) to c), thereupon according to the result of the Bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree. ²A draw shall be held to decide the outcome in all other cases in which there is identical ranking.

(6) ¹Notwithstanding, the general provisions of the enrolment regulation of the university for enrolment remain unaffected. ²Admission by applicants, who according to § 2 section 2 are considered provisionally entitled to admission is subject to a condition subsequent until the proof of successful completion of the Bachelor's degree programme or an equivalent academic programme is provided. ³Proof must be submitted by 15/11 during enrolment for the winter semester. ⁴Provided the Dean of Studies of the Faculty of Biology and Psychology determines, on the basis of the periods of studies so far, in particular the present examination components, that the applicant pursuant to sentence 2 letter a) will attain the degree at the latest by the end of the first semester of the Master's degree programme, the deadline in accordance with sentence 3 shall be extended to the end of 31/03 for enrolment for a winter semester; this determination is only admissible provided

a) only the thesis is missing as an examination achievement or

b) the thesis has already been submitted to the university and the amount of the examination components that are still missing does not exceed six credits.

§ 6 Interview

(1) ¹The interview is intended to determine whether the applicant is suitable for the selected degree programme. ²The following principles apply to the execution of the interview:

a) In general, the interview is carried out is usually one month after the application deadline at the university. The exact dates as well as the place of the interview are announced within an appropriate period before start of the interviews by the university. The university invites the candidates to the interview with sufficient notice. A video conference or a telephone interview is permitted in established exceptions, as far as the identity of the applicant can be determined beyond doubt. The selection committee determines the details of the procedure in such cases.

b) The selection committee conducts an interview lasting about 20 minutes with every applicant. The interview can be held simultaneously for up to four applicants.

c) Minutes are kept of the essential questions and answers within the interview; said minutes must be signed by the members of the selection committee. The minutes should clearly show the day and place of the interview, the names of the committee 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:

a) Ability to work scientifically and methodically,

b) previous experience and sound knowledge of the scientific basics in the field of international nature conservation, proven in advance by appropriate documentation,

c) Concrete ideas about the contents of this study programme,

d) Assessment of own working methods and ability to cope with pressure.

(3) The members of the selection committee assess the applicant after conclusion of the interview to ascertain suitability for the selected degree programme on a scale according to § 5 section 4 sentence 2 letter d).

(4) ¹An applicant who fails to attend the interview without good cause is excluded from the further procedure. ²The selection committee schedules a new date for the interview upon request, if there is due cause. ³The important reason and application for rescheduling a new date should be shown or made promptly, at the latest within two days after the date first scheduled by the selection committee. ⁴An excluded applicant is entitled to participate once more in the next possible selection procedure.

§ 7 Letter of admission, rejection letter and procedure for subsequent admissions

(1) ¹Applicants who can be admitted receive a letter of admission from the university in a text form. ²This letter specifies the deadline, within which the applicant should declare in writing whether he or she will accept the university place. ³If the declaration is not submitted to the university within the specified deadline and in the correct form, the letter of admission will become ineffective. ⁴These legal consequences must be pointed out in the letter of admission.

(2) ¹Applicants who are not entitled to admission receive a rejection letter, in which the attained ranking and the ranking of the applicant last admitted are listed. ²The rejection letter provides information on rights of legal recourse. ³In the case of applicants entitled to admission, it also includes the request to declare within a specified period of time, at least in text form, whether the admissions application will be submitted for a procedure for subsequent admissions. ⁴If the applicant does not submit this declaration within a specified period or in the correct form, he or she will be excluded from the procedure for subsequent admissions. ⁵Reference must be made to this legal consequence.

(3) ¹The procedure for subsequent admissions will be executed on the basis of the ranking list according to § 5 sections 4 and 5. ²If the ranking according to sentence 1 is exhausted, a ranking according to the result of the determination according to § 5 section 4 sentence 2 letters a) to c) and the procedure for subsequent admissions shall be carried out on the basis of this ranking. ³In the case of identical ranking after the generation of a ranking list, the ranking order is determined according to the result of the Bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree. ⁴A lottery shall in all cases thereafter decide the outcome in the event of identical ranking. ⁵The provisions of the section 1 apply correspondingly.

(4) ¹The admission procedures are completed at the latest by 15/11 for the winter semester. ²University places that are still remaining will be awarded through a draw by application without formal requirements to applicants entitled to admission. ³The application period for this starts two weeks before commencement of the semester, for which the admission should be made, and ends with conclusion of the procedure. ⁴The award of university places through a draw is completed at the latest on 30/11 for the winter semester because of the advanced lecture period.

§ 8 Admission to higher semesters

(1) The free university places in a higher semester with limited admission are awarded to applicants in the following sequence,

- a) Who are in the same or a similar degree programme,
 - aa) are or were enrolled at a different German university or at a university domiciled in another member state of the European Union or in another signatory state to the Agreement on the European Economic Area,
 - bb) Who are or were enrolled at a foreign university and possess the German nationality or are subject to the same university admissions laws and regulations as German citizens,
- b) For whom the rejection of admission for personal reasons would mean extraordinary hardship,
- c) Who assert other reasons.

(2) Within each one of the three case groups of the section 1, the result of the bachelor's examination or an examination equivalent to the bachelor's examination, thereupon the social, especially family-related and economic reasons that are decisive for the choice of place, and finally the draw in cases that are still identical.

IV. Final provision

§ 9 Entry into force; Interim Regulations

(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 2013/14.

(2) At the same time, the regulations concerning the qualifications for entry and admission to the integrated binational consecutive Master's degree programme "Internationaler Naturschutz (International Nature Conservation)" in the version published on 13.07.2006 (Official Announcements I no. 9/2006 p. 561) shall be rendered ineffective.

(3) In derogation of § 3 section 1, the application for admission must be submitted in writing using the forms provided for download in the online portal and must be received by the university together with the documents specified in § 3 section 2 within the period specified in § 3 section 1 if an online application for admission is not provided; the university shall announce the details within a reasonable period of time before the application deadline.