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Pursuant to a resolution taken by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology on April 17, 2007 and an opinion adopted by the Senate on May 16, 2007, the Presidential Board of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen adopted the Examination Regulations for the Master's Degree Programme in "Sustainable Forest and Nature Management – SUFONAMA" on June 6, 2007 (Section 44 paragraph 1 sentence 2, Section 41 paragraph 2 sentence 2 and Section 37 paragraph 1 sentence 3 no. 5 b) of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG¹) in the version promulgated in the Official Bulletin² of June 24, 2002 (Lower Saxony Law and Ordinance Gazette (Nds. GVBl³. p. 286), last amended by Article 2 of the law dated February 23, 2006 (Nds. GVBl. page 72).

**Examination Regulations
for the Master's Degree Programme in
Sustainable Forest and Nature Management
– SUFONAMA –**

Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology of
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

Table of Contents

Regulation1 Scope, Degree Programme Objective

Regulation2 Academic Degree

Regulation3 Structure of the Degree Programme

¹ Niedersächsisches Hochschulgesetz, NHG

² Amtliche Mitteilung

³ Niedersächsisches Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt, Nds. GVBl.

Regulation4 Registration and De-registration for Examinations, Permission to Write a Master's Thesis

Regulation5 Repeatability of Examinations

Regulation6 Preparation and Assessment of the Master's Thesis

Regulation7 Examination Committee

Regulation8 Overall Grade, Final Transcript

Regulation9 Examination Administration System

Regulation10 Effective Date

The following appendix is not presented here. In this respect, reference is made to the regulations promulgated in the Official Bulletin.

Appendix I: Module Catalogue

Regulation 1 Scope, Degree Programme Objective

(1) The ERASMUS Mundus Master's Degree Programme in Sustainable Forest and Nature Management offered at the Georg-August Universität Göttingen shall be governed by the provisions set down in the General Examination Regulations⁴ for Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. The present Regulations shall govern all other provisions specific to this degree programme.

(2) The Master's Degree Programme in Sustainable Forest and Nature Management is organized by a consortium of five European universities of Alnarp, Sweden, Bangor, Wales, UK, Copenhagen, Denmark, Göttingen, Germany and Padova, Italy. The degree programme imparts its students with deeper specialist knowledge and teaches them to tackle the huge challenge Europe is facing to sustainably manage its natural resources; this particularly applies to the management of forests and naturally preserved areas that shall be seen within the larger context of an integrated landscape planning. The degree programme places a clear emphasis on topical scientific problems, methods and developments in the European region. Graduates will learn to grasp new scientific findings, to make sound subject-specific evaluations thereof, and to apply, and develop these findings.

⁴ Allgemeine Prüfungsordnung, APO

(3) The Master's degree programme in Sustainable Forest and Nature Management offers a variety of options that the individual can select to acquire the desired profile and qualifies students for responsible top-notch positions at many different companies, governmental authorities, agencies and administrations, research facilities and organizations in the European region.

(4) The examination for the Master's diploma aims to determine whether the examinee has acquired the profound specialist knowledge of forest sciences and its subspecialties required, grasped the interrelationships between individual subspecialties, and whether the examinee possesses the skills needed to work according to scientific principles, to question models of forest science and to convey facts about forest science.

Regulation 2 Academic Degree

After the candidate has successfully passed the examination, Georg-August University Göttingen shall confer the academic degree of "Master of Science" (abbreviated: "M.Sc.") The conferral of a Master's degree by Georg-August-Universität Göttingen based on a Master's thesis prepared at one of the partner universities, shall, as a rule, be subject to the prerequisite that at least one of the assessors [Gutachter] is an authorised examiner [prüfungsberechtigtes Mitglied] of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen or is an associated member [Angehörige] of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen authorised to administer examinations.

Regulation 3 Structure of the Degree Programme

(1) The standard period of study is 4 semesters.

(2) The course of study comprises at least 120 ECTS⁵ credits [Anrechnungspunkte] abbreviated: C, of which at least 60 C must each be earned at two of the five partner universities and the distribution of which is as follows:

- a) Specialised studies [Fachstudium] including studies with formal specialisation [Schwerpunktstudium] and key competences (90 C)
- b) Master's thesis (30 C)

(3) The first year of study (60 C) can be completed in Bangor, Göttingen, or Copenhagen and qualifies students for all five formal specialisations [Studienschwerpunkte] of the second year of

⁵ European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, ECTS

study at another of the partner universities involved. The curriculum for the first and/or second year of study at Georg-August University is set down in Appendix I. One year of study must be completed at a partner university other than Georg-August-Universität Göttingen.

Regulation 4 Registration and De-registration for Examinations, Permission to Write a Master's Thesis

- (1) Students must register and de-register for module examinations in the formal way and within the deadlines stipulated by the Examination Committee.
- (2) As a prerequisite to get the permission to write a Master's thesis, proof must be furnished of successful completion of all modules for the first year of study totalling not less than 60 C. Students must register in the formal way and within the deadlines stipulated by the Examination Committee.

Regulation 5 Repeatability of Examinations

- (1) Passed examinations may be repeated once in order to improve the grade. A repeated examination may not cause to a grade to become worse. The repeat examination must be taken in the next examination period of the corresponding module that offers the option.
- (2) Any failed examinations or examinations that are deemed to have been failed in the elective-compulsory modules must be repeated. Should module examinations be composed of several subexaminations, only those subexaminations have to be repeated that have been graded "failed" [nicht bestanden].
- (3) A Master's thesis that has been failed can be repeated once.
- (4) Failed submodule or module examinations shall be awarded the same number of negative credits as credits that could be earned in that respective submodule/module.

Regulation 6 Preparation and Assessment of the Master's Thesis

- (1) The aim of the written Master's thesis is to allow the candidate to prove that they are in a position to use the methods of forest science to solve problems within a set period of time; to arrive at independent, scientifically founded judgments; to produce scientifically sound findings, and to present results in an appropriate manner with regard to language and formal structure.
- (2) The subject of the Master's thesis should be topical to the production, modification or processing of wood or non-timber forest products [forstliche Nebennutzungsprodukte]. As far as possible, the subject should play a particularly important role in the forestry of the candidate's native country and be conducted in close collaboration with a scientific institution in that country.
- (3) The preliminary working topic of the Master's thesis must be agreed with the academic advisor [Betreuer] and submitted to the Examination Committee [Prüfungskommission] together with a confirmation issued by the advisor and a proposal for the second examiner [Zweitprüfer]. If the candidate cannot find an academic advisor, the Examination Committee shall appoint an examiner and name a topic. The candidate shall be heard with regard to the selection of the topic. The topic assigned to the Master's thesis shall be handed out by the Examination Office [Prüfungsamt]. The point in time when the topic is assigned shall be taken down for the record.
- (4) The processing period allowed for the Master's thesis is six months. In agreement with the academic advisor, the Examination Committee may accede to a candidate's request to extend the processing period by no more than three months for any good cause not ascribable to the candidate. As a rule, illness is considered good cause and must be reported without delay and proof thereof furnished by a medical certificate. If any deadlines are exceeded absent a good cause as set down in sentence 2, the Master's thesis shall be deemed to be graded "not sufficient" [nicht ausreichend] (5.0). If good cause is given, a new topic may be issued.
- (5) A topic may be abandoned only once and only within the first eight weeks of the processing period. A new topic will be assigned immediately, but no later than within a four-week period. Should writing the Master's thesis be repeated, abandonment of the topic under the terms of sentence 1 shall be permissible only if the examinee has not availed themselves of that option when writing their first Master's thesis.
- (6) All Master's theses have to be submitted to the competent Examination Office in triplicate, in the form stipulated by the Examination Committee and within the deadline. The time of submission must be taken down for the record. When handing in their thesis, all candidates shall include a written statement certifying that they have prepared their work – if group work was involved this refers to the correspondingly labelled portion of the work – on their own and not used any sources or resources other than those stated. Master's theses written in German must include the English

translation of the title and a one-page Abstract in English; Master's theses written in English must include the German translation of the title.

(7) The Examination Office shall forward the Master's thesis to the examiners. The first assessor must be a member of the professors group [Hochschullehrergruppe] of the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology, and the second assessor, as stipulated in the General Examination Regulations⁶, must be an authorised examiner from either another German Master's degree programme in forest sciences or from one of the other SUFONAMA partner universities. Each assessor shall award a grade. The duration of the assessment procedure shall not exceed a period of four weeks.

(8) If the difference between the two assessments is higher than 2.0 or one assessment is "not sufficient" [nicht ausreichend], whereas the other is "sufficient" [ausreichend] or higher, a third assessor shall be appointed by the Examination Committee to determine the grade for the Master's thesis. This assessor may decide to keep one of the previous grades or award a grade in between.

Regulation 7 Examination Committee

(1) The Examination Committee shall be composed of eight members, i.e. four members of the professors group [Hochschullehrergruppe], one member of the academic staff group [Mitarbeitergruppe], two members of the students' group [Studierendengruppe] and one staff member of the Examination Office [Mitglied des Prüfungsamtes] with an advisory vote.

(2) The members of the Examination Committee and their deputies shall be elected by the Faculty Council. In this context, the members of the respective groups shall hold the election. The members shall serve a two-year term, student representatives shall serve for one year. Members can be re-elected. Should one member drop out prematurely, a successor shall be elected for the remainder of their incumbency.

(3) The Examination Committee shall elect a chairperson and deputy chairperson from their midst; these must be members of the members of the professors group [Hochschullehrergruppe] holding voting rights.

(4) The Examination Committee shall make resolutions by simple majority vote. At a parity of votes, the chairperson shall have the final vote. Abstentions are considered as votes not cast. The Examination Committee constitutes a quorum if, alongside the chairperson and/or the deputy chairperson,

⁶ Allgemeine Prüfungsordnung, APO

at least three other members holding voting rights and/or their representatives, including at least one member of the professors group [Hochschullehrergruppe], are present. The members of the students' group [Studierendengruppe] only have advisory voting rights with regard to the evaluation and accreditation of course- and examination-related achievements.

Regulation 8 Overall Grade, Final Transcript

(1) A candidate has passed their Master's examination if said candidate has successfully completed their Master's thesis and all the required module examinations, fulfilled the ancillary conditions resulting from the Examination Regulations and earned at least 180 C in examination-related achievements. The course of studies is deemed to have been completed at the end of the semester in which the Master's examination was successfully completed.

(2) A candidate has definitively failed their Master's examination, when they

- a) Failed a Master's thesis at their second attempt or are considered to have failed it
- b) The number of negative credits they were docked in the module examinations exceeds 24 in the first year of study or 12 in the second year of study.

(3) Definitive failure of the Master's examination shall be notified to the candidate in writing and include instructions on the right of appeal.

(4) Graduates who have successfully completed the examination shall receive a final transcript and a degree certificate from each of the universities where they studied; said final transcript and a degree certificate shall each contain a reference to the jointly offered degree programme.

(5) The grade "with Honours" ["mit Auszeichnung"] shall be awarded to graduates with an overall grade better or equal to 1.3; this shall be noted on the final transcript and the degree certificate.

Regulation 9 Examination Administration System

(1) At their own responsibility, students may use the electronic examination administration system "FlexNow" online, which allows them to manage their examination data electronically. The competent Examination Committee is entitled to enact more detailed rules governing the implementation of the procedure.

(2) Students are obliged to check regularly the accuracy of their online accounts within the realm of their possibilities. Appeals can be lodged against the assessment of examination-related achievements within one month after notification.

(3) Examiners shall be proactive in the electronic capture of examination results.

Regulation 10 Effective Date

These Regulations shall become effective on the day after their promulgation in the Official Bulletin of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen.