

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

of 13 October 2023

Based on § 2(1) in conjunction with § 38(1) and § 39(1) of the *Landeshochschulgesetz* – LHG M-V (State Higher Education Act) of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in the version announced on 25 January 2011 (Law and Ordinance Gazette of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (GVOBl. M-V) p. 18), last amended by the act of 21 June 2021 (GVOBl. M-V p. 1018), the University of Greifswald hereby passes the following Examination and Study Regulations for the Master's Degree Course in Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation as statute:

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## List of Abbreviations:

A	assessments	Pr	presentation
AR	admission requirement	PrExam	practical examination
CA	confirmation of attendance	PrExer	practical exercises
CEss	coursework essay	R	report
CS	case study	RED	regular examination date (semester)
D	duration of module in semesters	SE	scope of examinations
E#	number of the selected elective module	SR	scientific report
ECTS	credits according to the European Credit Transfer System	SUC	scope of ungraded coursework
IR	internship report	SWS	contact hours per week
min	minutes	TE	type of examination
OE	oral examination	TUC	type of ungraded coursework
p	pages	WE	written examination
PF	portfolio	WL	required workload in hours
PP	poster presentation	*	ungraded examination/coursework
		–	until
		/	or

## **§ 1 Object of Regulation**

These Examination and Study Regulations govern the course content, course organisation and examination procedure of the master's degree course in Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation at the University of Greifswald. The *Rahmenprüfungsordnung* (General Examination Regulations – hereinafter RPO) of 18 March 2021 (made public and accessible to all members of the University on 15 April 2021), as amended from time to time, shall apply on a supplementary basis.

## **§ 2 Study Objective**

(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 an international context. The course content is therefore taught predominantly in English. The programme, which focuses mainly on the natural sciences, is supplemented by content from the humanities and economics. The course of study is conceptualised in a research-oriented and transdisciplinary manner.

(2) Students acquire specialist knowledge about topical and conceptual problems related to landscape ecology along with national and international nature conservation. Based on sound taxonomic skills, which is a prerequisite for landscape ecology 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 acquire specialist knowledge about different theoretical approaches (e.g. cost-benefit analysis and the price-standard approach) as well as the possibilities and limitations of a monetary evaluation of natural assets. In the field of environmental ethics, students acquire skills for the critical analysis of, and reflection on, different moral values, protected resources, targets and guidelines related to environmental protection and conservation.

(3) Graduates of the degree course are qualified to pursue a professional career in the field of research into landscape and nature conservation, in national and international conservation organisations, in landscape planning offices, in administrative offices for environment and nature conservation, as well as in government offices and in associations.

## **§ 3 Commencement of Studies and Admission Requirements**

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

(2) In order to be admitted to the degree course, applicants must:

1. have earned a bachelor's degree either in the field of landscape ecology or in other areas of the biosciences, agricultural science or forestry, and

2. provide proof of their proficiency in English at B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) or, alternatively, of at least seven years of English lessons at a general education school.

(3) Applicants who do not satisfy the criteria in accordance with sub-section (2) number (1) may still be admitted. Such admission requires proof that the candidate holds an undergraduate university degree in a field closely related to the environment and nature conservation. The Examination Board shall decide on such admissions upon application on a case-by-case basis. In such cases, the Examination Board may allow candidates to be admitted 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 dissertation.

## **§ 4**

### **Structure of the Degree Course**

(1) The master's course can be completed with the degree Master of Science (M.Sc.) in four semesters (standard length of study).

(2) The time required to successfully complete the degree course (workload) is 3,600 hours (120 ECTS). The course comprises basic (core) modules (30 ECTS), elective modules (60 ECTS) and the master's dissertation (28 ECTS) including defence (2 ECTS). Students are responsible for complementing the respective contact time with an adequate level of independent study.

(3) The basic modules are mandatory. They convey the in-depth general knowledge required for competent discussion of current problem areas in the field of landscape ecology and nature conservation. They consolidate the interdisciplinary skills used in landscape ecology and connect the knowledge acquired from natural sciences with social and economic learning.

(4) Elective modules are compulsory elective, i.e. students are obligated to complete elective modules, but are free to choose these modules, subject to compliance with these Regulations. Within the modules, compulsory and compulsory elective classes can be offered. Elective modules either 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 shall be entitled to cover further elective modules exceeding the minimum number of modules as additional courses (in accordance with § 32 RPO).

(5) The master's degree course is completed with the master's dissertation as an examination that qualifies the candidate for entry into a relevant profession.

(6) While students retain the right to schedule and organise their studies independently, the structure outlined in Appendix A (Sample Study Plan) is recommended as an expedient option.

## § 5 Range and Types of Classes

(1) The content of the modules is conveyed in the form of lectures, seminars, practical exercises, practical lab courses and excursions.

(2) Lectures serve to present 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 to apply a subject's general teaching content to specific problem areas, study academic literature, develop argumentation skills and practise methods of presentation. Students are introduced to autonomous academic working practices through presentations and discussions.

(4) In exercises, students are 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) Practical lab courses are characterised by the autonomous application of scientific methods to scientific problems. They serve the purpose of practising and consolidating practical skills and promote the autonomous handling of academic tasks. They also serve to broaden knowledge of the teaching content related to the subject in a way that makes it vivid for the participants.

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

(7) Classes are taught in English or German at the discretion of the responsible module teacher.

(8) All modules are offered at most once per year; some elective modules are only offered every other year.

## § 6 Modules

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

	<b>Module</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>WL</b>	<b>ECTS</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>RED</b>
B1	Landscape ecology and economics	1	180	6	OE	25 min	1
B2	Ethics and Environment	1	180	6	WE	90 min	1
B3	International Excursion	1	180	6	R*/Pr*	10 S/20 min	2
B4	Research Internship	1	180	6	R	10 p	3

B5	Personal Profile	1	180	6	R*	10 p	3
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Students may earn the 6 ECTS for basic module B5 'Personal Profile' by choosing freely from the classes offered at the University of Greifswald, provided that they have not already studied those classes as part of the undergraduate degree course.

(2) Students must complete ten elective modules amounting to 1,800 hours of work (60 ECTS). At least eight of the chosen modules must be graded.

	Module	D	WL	ECTS	AR	TE	SE	TUC	SUC	RED
E1.1	Environmental Economics	2	180	6		CEss	25 p			3
E1.2	Land use II	2	180	6		WE/Pr/ CEss /PP	30 min/ 15 min/ 15 p	WE*/ Pr*/ CEss* /PP*	30 min/ 15 min/ 15 p	3
E1.3	Cost-Benefit Analysis	1	180	6		WE	90 min			2
E1.4	Economic Valuation of Natural Resources	1	180	6		CEss	25 p			3
E1.5	Peatland Utilisation	2	180	6		WE	60 min	CA*		3
E1.6	Aspects of the Philosophy of Science and Ethics in Conversation	1	180	6		WE / CEss	90 min / 15 p	Pr*	20 min	3
E1.7	Concepts of Environmental Ethics and their Implementation	1	180	6		CEss	15 p	2 Pr*	20 min each	2
E2.1	Botanical Species Conservation: Seminar and Exercise	1	180	6		PrExer	20 p			2
E2.2	Conservation Genetics of Plants: Seminar and Lab Course	1	180	6		R	10 p			2
E2.3	Experimental Plant Ecology 1	1	180	6		Pr	20 min			3
E2.4	Experimental Plant Ecology 2	1	180	6		SR	10 p			3
E2.5	Ornithology 1	1	180	6		WE	60 min	Pr*	20 min	2
E2.6	Ornithology 2	1	180	6	E2.5 <sup>1</sup>	R	10 p			2
E2.7	Theoretical Ecology	1	180	6		WE / OE	60 min / 30 min			3

E2.8	Functional Animal Ecology 1	1	180	6		WE / Pr	60 min / 20 min			2
E2.9	Functional Animal Ecology 2	1	180	6	E2.8 <sup>1</sup>	SR / PP	10 p / 15 min			2
E2.10	Vegetation Ecology 1	1	180	6		PrExer	20 p	Pr*	20 min	3
E2.11	Vegetation Ecology 2	1	180	6		SR	10 p			2
E2.12	Conservation and Behaviour 1	1	180	6		WE	60 min	Pr*	20 min	2
E2.13	Conservation and Behaviour 2	1	180	6	E2.12 <sup>1</sup>	R / PP	10 p / 15 min			2
E2.14	Conservation Genetics 1	1	180	6		WE	60 min	Pr*	20 min	3
E2.15	Conservation Genetics 2	1	180	6	E2.14 <sup>1</sup>	R	10 p			3
E2.16	Aquatic and Marine Microbiology 1	1	180	6		WE	45 min	Pr*, R*	20 min, 2 p	3
E2.17	Aquatic and Marine Microbiology 2	1	180	6		WE	45 min	Pr*	20 min	2
E2.18	Aquatic and Marine Microbiology 3	1	180	6		Pr	15 min	R*	5 p	2
E2.19	Microbial Ecology 1: Microbial Processes, Energy Fluxes and Elemental Cycles	1	180	6		WE	90 min			3
E2.20	Microbial Ecology 2: Microbial Biodiversity, Interactions and Molecular Ecology	1	180	6		WE	60 min			2
E2.21	Evolutionary Ecology 1	1	180	6		WE / OE	60 min / 30 min	Pr*, PP*/Pr*	15 min, 15 min	2
E2.22	Evolutionary Ecology 2	1	180	6	E2.21 <sup>1</sup>	Pr*	20 min + 10 p	Pr*	10 min + 10 p	2
E2.23	Plant Stress Physiology: Lecture and Seminar	1	180	6		WE / OE	60 min / 30 min	PrExer*	20 p	3
E2.24	Experimental Plant Stress Physiology	1	180	6	E2.23 <sup>1</sup>	PP	15 min	Pr*	30 min	3
E2.25	Forest Ecology	1	180	6		R	20 min			3
E2.26	Evolutionary Morphology	1	180	6		WE	60 min	Pr*	20 min	3

E2.27	Making the Invisible Visible - Introduction to Imaging Methods	1	180	6		R*	10 p			3
E3.1	Climate Change	1	180	6		PP	15 min			2
E3.2	Dendrochronology	1	180	6		R*	10 p			3
E3.3	Environmental Hydrogeology	1	180	6		PF	1 CS, Pr (20 min), 4-6 PrExer*			2
E3.4	Facies Analysis of Glacial Deposits	1	180	6		Pr	15 min +10 p	PF*	2 R, 10 p	3
E3.5	Quaternary Geoarchives	1	180	6		WE	30 min	R*	10 p	2
E3.6	Palaeontology	1	180	6		Pr	20 min			2
E3.7	Palaeoecology and Evolution	1	180	6		WE	90 min			3
E3.8	Organisms in Space and Time	1	180	6		WE	90 min			3
E3.9	Restoration Ecology	1	180	6		Pr	20 min	CA*		3
E3.10	Peatland Eco-hydrology	1	180	6		OE	25 min			3
E3.11	Quaternary Palaeoecology	1	180	6		Pr	20 min	R*	10 p	3
E3.12	Peatlands and Palaeoecology	1	180	6		Pr	20 min	R*	10 p	3
E3.13	Peatland Science	1	180	6		WE	60 min	R*	10 p	2
E3.14	Ecology & Protection of Ecosystems in the Southern Hemisphere & the Tropics	1	180	6		Pr	20 min	Pr*	20 min	3
E4.1	Soil Ecology	1	180	6		PrExer*	20 p			2
E4.2	Natural Environments of Eastern Europe	1	180	6		PrExer*	20 p			2
E4.3	Remote Sensing	1	180	6		PrExer	24 p			3
E4.4	Applied Remote Sensing / Geoinformation Science with field work	1	180	6		SR	10 p	PrExer*	15 p	2
E4.5	Advanced field skills	1	180	6		PrExam*	120 min			2
E4.6	Project Management	1	180	6		CEss	20 p	Pr*	20 min	2

E4.7	Shaping Sustainability	1	180	6		Pr	20 min	PrExer*	20 p	2
E4.8	Modern Foreign Languages and Technical Terminology	1-2	180	6		WE / PF	100 min/ 3-4 A	Pr*/WE*	20 min / 60/ 90 min	3
E4.9	Internship (external work placement)	1	180	6		R*	10 p	CA*		3
E4.10	Mobility Module	1	180	6						3

<sup>1</sup> Registration for the examinations of this module shall only be possible simultaneously with the registration for the examinations of the elective module noted here or upon the successful completion of the latter.

Module E4.10 'Mobility Module' may be chosen a maximum of five times. However, the course advisor must be consulted in advance.

(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 content of the module differs substantially. The Examination Board shall decide on matters pertaining to sentence 1 of this sub-section upon request by the student. The request must be submitted to the Central Examination Office.

(4) The modules according to sub-sections (1) and (2) are studied with the qualification objectives specified in the module catalogue.

(5) The entire range of elective modules specified in sub-section (3) shall be offered subject to the availability of corresponding teaching capacities. Students shall not be entitled to participate in a specific elective module, since elective modules are limited to a certain number of participants and not all modules are offered in every semester. The decision regarding a student's participation in an advanced module shall be taken by the person responsible for teaching a class, based on the number of places available. The decision criteria for participation are stipulated in § 56(2) RPO.

## § 7

### Examinations and Ungraded Coursework

(1) Module examinations determine 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 class is taught in English, the examiner may conduct the module examination in English. The decision regarding sentences 1 and 2 shall be taken at the beginning of the lecture period.

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

- Oral examination, duration 25–30 minutes
- Written examination, duration 30–100 minutes
- Practical examination, duration 120 minutes (§ 22(6) RPO)

- Report on an exercise, experiment, excursion or similar, approx. 10 pages long
- Presentation, possibly with written portion and discussion (15–30 minutes), additional written portion of up to 10 pages also possible
- Coursework essay of 15–25 pages, with a writing-up period of 8 weeks
- Practical exercises, approx. 20 pages in total
- Internship report, approx. 10 pages
- Scientific report, approx. 10 pages, equivalent to a coursework essay, written in the form of an article for a journal in the natural sciences, with an 8-week writing-up period
- Poster presentation
- Portfolio, collection of assessment components (max. 12)
- Case study
- Assessments to verify different linguistic skills in foreign language courses

(4) If there is a choice between two types of examination, the lecturer shall determine the type of examination to be taken in the second week of lectures at the latest. If the lecturer fails to define a type of examination, the type of examination stipulated first in § 6 shall apply.

(5) 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.

(6) As a rule, resits of examinations shall take place at the beginning of the subsequent semester. § 41(3) RPO shall apply accordingly.

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

(8) Attendance is compulsory in classes that require confirmation of attendance as the assessment component. This requirement is considered to be fulfilled if a student is absent (with a valid excuse) from no more than 20% of classes on the course.

## **§ 8 Master’s Dissertation**

(1) The student must prove that they have earned at least 60 ECTS on the degree course in order to register for the master’s dissertation. The topic of the master’s dissertation must be issued no later than six months after the completion of the last module examination. The request for issuance of the topic must be received by the Central Examination Office at least 14 days before the set 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 dissertation is an examination component that serves to exhibit academic qualification. It demonstrates that the student is capable of dealing autonomously with a complex task of reasonable scope in the field of landscape ecology, set in agreement with the supervisor.

(3) The master's dissertation module consists of the written master's dissertation and its oral defence. The dissertation is awarded 28 ECTS and the defence 2 ECTS. The defence of the dissertation is graded.

(4) The writing-up period for the master's dissertation is 840 hours over the course of six months.

(5) The master's dissertation must be submitted to the Central Examination Office in the stipulated format and prior to the deadline, together with a statement allowing an electronic copy to be made and saved for the purpose of testing with anti-plagiarism software.

(6) The master's dissertation must be defended. As part of a defence, the student must present the most significant aspects of their master's dissertation (20 minutes) and subsequently defend them against objections raised (25 minutes). The defence of the master's dissertation is awarded 2 ECTS. The defence of the master's dissertation is assessed by two examiners. One of the examiners should be the supervisor of the dissertation.

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

## **§ 9**

### **Calculation of the Overall Mark and University Degree**

(1) In accordance with § 33 RPO, the overall mark for the master's examination is calculated from the marks of the module examinations and the mark for the master's dissertation.

(2) The marks for the module examinations are weighted in accordance with their respective proportion of ECTS. The mark awarded for the master's dissertation is weighted double.

(3) After the candidate passes the master's examination, the degree Master of Science (M.Sc.) shall be awarded.

## **§ 10**

### **Entry into Force, Expiry, Transitional Regulations**

(1) These Examination and Study Regulations shall enter into force on 1 April 2024.

(2) These Examination and Study Regulations shall apply to students enrolled from the winter semester 2024/25 onwards. They can, upon request, also apply to students who enrolled prior to this date. This request must be submitted in writing to the Central Examination Office by 19 April 2024 and addressed to the Chair of the Examination Board. Once submitted, such a request cannot be withdrawn.

(3) The Examination and Study Regulations of 1 August 2016 (made public and accessible to all members of the University on 17 March 2017), last amended by Article 19 of the Statutes to Align with Key Provisions of the New Version of the General Examination Regulations 2021 of 21 July 2021 (made public and accessible to all members of the University on 21 July 2021), shall expire at the end of the day on 30 September 2025.

Issued following the decision of the Senate's Study Committee of 11 October 2023, which was granted the authorisation to pass decisions in the Senate resolution of 20 April 2022, in accordance with § 81(7) LHG M-V and § 20(1) sentence 2 of the *Grundordnung* (Basic Regulations) of the University of Greifswald, and the approval of the Rector of 13 October 2023.

Greifswald, 13 October 2023

**The Rector  
of the University of Greifswald  
University Professor Dr Katharina Riedel**

Publication note: made public and accessible to all members of the University on 16 October 2023

## Appendix A: Sample Study Plan

Sem.	ID	Module	Type of class	TE	TUC	SWS	ECTS	Total ECTS
1	B1	Landscape Ecology and Economics	2 lectures	1 OE (25 min)		4	6	30
	B2	Ethics and Environment	2 lectures	1 WE (90 min)		4	6	
	E#	Elective module 1	See module catalogue	see § 6(2)	see § 6(2)	4-5	6	
	E#	Elective module 2	See module catalogue	see § 6(2)	see § 6(2)	4-5	6	
	E#	Elective module 3	See module catalogue	see § 6(2)	see § 6(2)	4-5	6	
2	B3	International Excursion	1 excursion	1 R (10 p) or 1 Pr (20 min)		5	6	30
	E#	Elective module 4	See module catalogue	see § 6(2)	see § 6(2)	4-5	6	
	E#	Elective module 5	See module catalogue	see § 6(2)	see § 6(2)	4-5	6	
	E#	Elective module 6	See module catalogue	see § 6(2)	see § 6(2)	4-5	6	
	E#	Elective module 7	See module catalogue	see § 6(2)	see § 6(2)	4-5	6	
3	B4	Research Internship	1 internship	1 R (10 p)		4 weeks	6	30
	B5	Personal Profile	As chosen	1 R (10 p)		4	6	
	E#	Elective module 8	See module catalogue	see § 6(2)	see § 6(2)	4	6	
	E#	Elective module 9	See module catalogue	see § 6(2)	see § 6(2)	4	6	
	E#	Elective module 10	See module catalogue	see § 6(2)	see § 6(2)	4	6	
4	MD	Master's Dissertation	MD	Dissertation, defence, see § 8		6 months	30	30