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**Faculty of Biology and Psychology:**

According to the decision of the faculty council of the Faculty of Biology and Psychology on 19.09.2018, the presidential board of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen on 26.03.2019 has approved the sixth amendment to the study and examination regulations for the consecutive master course of study "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution" in the version published on 29.10.2010 (Official Announcements No. 32/2010 S. 2984), last amended by decision of the presidential board on 24.07.2018 (Official Announcements I No. 37/2018 S. 690), (§ 44 section 1 sentence 2 NHG in the version published on 26.02.2007 (Nds. GVBl. p. 69), last amended by Article 10 of the Act dated 18.12.2018 (Nds. GVBl. P. 317); §§ 37 section 1 sentence 3 no. 5 b) NHG, § 44 section 1 sentence 3 NHG).

**Study and Examination Regulations  
for the consecutive Master's Programme in "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution"  
of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen**

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### **§ 1 Scope**

(1) The provisions of the general examination regulations as amended from time to time for the Bachelor's and Master's Programmes, as well as other courses and degrees offered by the University of Göttingen" (APO), apply to the Master's Programme in "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution".

(2) These regulations stipulate additional provisions for the Master's Programme in "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution".

### **§ 2 Objectives of the programme, purpose of the master examination, university degree**

(1) The consecutive, research-oriented Master's Programme in "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution" imparts in-depth technical knowledge and scientific methods from the fields of plant ecology, phytodiversity and history of vegetation, animal ecology, plant taxonomy, animal taxonomy, morphology and behaviour, evolution, conservation biology, as well as biological trace analysis.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The Master's Programme in "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution" prepares for activities in regional, national and international institutions, associations or organisations for the conservation of biodiversity worldwide, sustainable utilisation of natural ecosystem resources, and development of strategies and guidelines that act against the loss of biodiversity. <sup>2</sup>These also include activities in public institutions, zoological gardens, museums, foundations, etc., media and institutions for advanced training (adult education) for imparting knowledge about biodiversity, ecology, evolution and nature protection and the research on these topics in scientific institutes.

(3) <sup>1</sup>In the Master's Programme, the students will acquire in-depth scientific knowledge about biodiversity, ecology, evolution and nature protection, the ability to engage in independent subject-specific and interdisciplinary scholarly scientific work, as well as the application of scientific findings to the fields of biodiversity, the ecosystem and evolution research. <sup>2</sup>By imparting specialised knowledge and methodological and analytical capabilities relevant to the professional field, the degree programme qualifies the students for the fields mentioned above and forms the basis for continuing education in PhD programmes.

(4) The master examination should help in determining whether the examinee has an overview of the correlations of the discipline, possesses the capacity to apply scientific methods and findings and has acquired the in-depth specialised knowledge necessary to undertake a profession or doctoral studies.

(5) Once the master examination is passed, the university awards the university degree "Master of Science", abbreviated "M.Sc.".

### **§ 3 Structure of the Academic Programme**

(1) The academic programme starts with the winter semester.

(2) The standard course length is four semesters:

(3) The academic programme comprises 120 credits (ECTS credits; short form: C), which are distributed as follows:

- a) To the specialist course 78 C, including at least 30 C as part of a study focus,
- b) To the area of professionalisation (key competencies) 12 C and
- c) 30 C for the master thesis.

(4) The Master's Programme cannot be done part-time.

(5) <sup>1</sup>Number, type and scope of the modules to be successfully completed are governed by the module overview (appendix 1). <sup>2</sup>For recommendation on the academic programme structure, please refer to the enclosed sample curriculum (appendix 2). <sup>3</sup>The module catalogue and module handbook are published separately in a common electronic version (digital module directory). They form part of these regulations, in as far as the modules are itemised in the module overview (appendix I).

(6) Students unable to provide proof of German language skills at at least level B2 of the Common European Reference Framework for Languages must also complete, as part of the key competencies, modules from the ones offered by the department of German as a foreign language in a scope of at least 6 C, intended to demonstrate the acquisition of German language skills.

### **§ 4 Development of specialisation**

The students should successfully complete one of the specialisations offered with a rating of 30 C.

### **§ 5 Admission to seminars**

**with limited number of participants, teaching and examination language, semester abroad**

(1) <sup>1</sup>Certain courses in a module can be offered with a limited number of participants. <sup>2</sup>Admission to courses with a restricted number of participants is preferably awarded to those students who are in the highest subject semester, as far as this is indispensable for obtaining the number of credits required for successful completion of the degree programme. <sup>3</sup>The selection of students with equal entitlement to admission is decided by a draw. <sup>4</sup>Students of the Master's Programme in

"Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution" may be given priority over students of other programmes to attend the courses with the module abbreviation "M. Biodiv."

(2) Admission to modules of other degree programmes which are not itemised in the module overview (appendix I) is done by the examination board upon application of the student.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The lectures and exams of the degree programme are generally offered in English. <sup>2</sup>The module examinations for optional and required optional modules are given generally in German.

(4) <sup>1</sup>Students are advised to complete part of the study abroad. <sup>2</sup>The examination board is responsible for the accreditation of the examination components completed abroad.

### **§ 6 Study advisory service**

(1) The specialised study advice is offered by the lecturers involved in the degree programme, while advice in doctoral matters is offered by the Dean of Studies.

(2) The Central Student Advisory Office of the university is responsible for general study advice, especially in inter-faculty questions.

(3) The students are to receive study consultation, especially in the following cases:

- after failing examinations twice,
- in case of any deviations from the standard course length,
- when changing the degree programme or university,
- Before intended semester abroad.

### **§ 6a Form of the examination components**

(1) Besides the examination components permitted according to the provisions of APO, the following subject-specific examination components can be planned: Course talk, minutes and collegial examination.

(2) A course talk is given on a set general topic by a participant or group of participants in the form of a short written summary and a talk or explanatory presentation in front of the participants in a lecture course, which is then assessed by the examiner, or the person providing the lecture course.

(3) <sup>1</sup>Candidates are required to keep minutes to document in writing the contributions they made to the planning, implementation and evaluation of the tests and to keep records of the results in a suitable written form. <sup>2</sup>The minutes are assessed by the examiner or by the person leading the project.

(4) <sup>1</sup>In the collegial examination, the candidate presents an independently compiled research concept in front of two examiners of the course of study. <sup>2</sup>They assess the written preparation and the oral presentation of the research concept equally and award one grade each. <sup>3</sup>For the research

concept, the candidate should conceptually develop the theoretical background of a scientific question, the experimental-methodical design, as well as its practical implementation for working out this question within a specified time-frame, and present it in a technically appropriate form in writing. <sup>4</sup>The oral presentation takes place in the style of a defence, as part of a 15-minute presentation by the candidate followed by a 15-minute examination by the examiners, in which the candidate is to defend the presented research concept with regard to its scientific plausibility and practicability. <sup>5</sup>The collegial examination is not public.

### **§ 7 Admission to module examinations**

(1) <sup>1</sup>Registration for written module examinations is done in writing or electronically according to the form and within the deadline specified by the examination board. <sup>2</sup>Withdrawal without stating reasons (withdrawal) is possible up to a day before the examination date, in as far as the time period between the deadline for registration and the examination date is more than one day. <sup>3</sup>Withdrawal is otherwise excluded.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The registration for oral module examinations takes place in writing or electronically according to the form and within the deadline specified by the examination board. <sup>2</sup>Withdrawal without stating reasons (withdrawal) is possible up to seven days before the examination date, in as far as the time period between the deadline for registration and the examination date is more than seven days. <sup>3</sup>Withdrawal is otherwise excluded.

(3) <sup>1</sup>Registration for other examinations during the teaching period must take place at the start of seminars. <sup>2</sup>Withdrawal from term work is possible up to submission of the term work topic, and withdrawal from presentations, seminar papers and supplementary seminar papers up to seven days before the date of lecture, as far as the time period between the deadline for registration and the examination date is more than seven days. <sup>3</sup>Withdrawal from practical examinations and practical training is possible up to two weeks before the examination date, as far as the time period between the deadline for registration and the examination date is more than two weeks. <sup>4</sup>The earliest date applies to withdrawal from module examinations of the mixed test type, without stating reasons (withdrawal).

### **§ 8 Repeatability of examination components**

(1) <sup>1</sup>Repeat exams of optional required modules should be passed within an appropriate time period. <sup>2</sup>They must be passed within two semesters after the unsuccessful examination. <sup>3</sup>If this deadline is exceeded, the relevant examination attempt is regarded as failed. <sup>4</sup>In the event of important reasons, the examination board can grant appropriate extension of the deadline.

(2) Reassessment of passed examinations with a view to improving the grade is not allowed.

### **§ 9 Admission to the master thesis**

(1) The prerequisite for permission to do the master thesis is successful completion of modules

with a rating of at least 60 C, including both compulsory modules with a rating of 18 C.

(2) <sup>1</sup>A written application for admission to the master thesis must be submitted to the responsible examination board. <sup>2</sup>Besides the proof of qualifications for entry as per section 1, the following documents must also be enclosed:

- a) Proposal of topic for the master thesis,
- b) A proposal for the first academic advisor and the second academic advisor,
- c) A written confirmation of the first academic advisor and the second academic advisor.

<sup>3</sup>The proposal under sentence 2 points a) and b), as well as the proof of qualification under sentence 2 point c), are unnecessary if the student can demonstrate that he/she has not been able to find an academic advisor. <sup>4</sup>In this case, the responsible examination board will assign the supervisors and decide the topic of the master thesis.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The examination board decides on admission. <sup>2</sup>This should be rejected if the qualifications for entry are not fulfilled or the master examination in the same or similar Master's Programme at a domestic or foreign university has been definitively failed or regarded as having been definitively failed.

### **§ 10 Master thesis**

(1) The master thesis is intended to show that the examinee is in a position to independently process a problem from the research area of the Master's Programme in "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution" according to scientific methods and appropriately interpret and present the scientific findings within a given time period.

(2) Topic, objective and scope of the master thesis are to be limited so that the deadline for completing the master thesis can be adhered to.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The candidate's view should be taken into consideration when choosing the topic. <sup>2</sup>The right to suggest the choice of topic does not constitute any legal right. <sup>3</sup>The master thesis topic is awarded by the examination board that drafts the relevant procedural rules. <sup>4</sup>The time of issue must be recorded.

(4) <sup>1</sup>In the case of completing the master thesis abroad, supervision of the master thesis is regulated by learning agreements with the advisor there. <sup>2</sup>Completing the master thesis abroad requires prior approval from the examination board.

(5) <sup>1</sup>The preparation time of the master thesis amounts to 23 weeks. <sup>2</sup>This begins with the approval of the topic by the examination board. <sup>3</sup>Upon application by the candidate, the Examination Board can extend the deadline for submitting the thesis by a maximum of 4 weeks, upon agreement with the academic advisor and the existence of an important reason that cannot be attributed to the candidate. <sup>4</sup>An important reason normally exists in the case of an illness that is to be notified immediately and verified by producing a medical certificate.

(6) <sup>1</sup>The topic can be returned only once and only within the first ten weeks of the processing time. <sup>2</sup>A new topic should be promptly agreed upon, at the latest within four weeks. <sup>3</sup>In the event of repeating the master thesis, the topic may be returned only if the examinee has not resorted to this option in the first examination attempt.

(7) <sup>1</sup>The master thesis will be written in English. <sup>2</sup>The work can be written in another language upon request. However, a summary must be composed in English.

(8) <sup>1</sup>The master thesis must be submitted in writing within the due period to the relevant examination office in duplicate. Additionally, a text version must be submitted in the format of a commonly used word processing program or in PDF format (unprotected) at the examination office. <sup>2</sup>The time of submission must be recorded. <sup>3</sup>While submitting the master thesis, the candidate must affirm

a) that he or she authored the work independently and has not used any sources and aids other than the ones specified, and

b) that the written and the supplementary version of the master thesis in text form both match.

(9) <sup>1</sup>The examination board forwards the master thesis to the first advisor and to the second advisor as a reviewer. <sup>2</sup>Each reviewer will award a grade.

(10) The duration of the application procedure should not exceed six weeks.

### **§ 11 Assessment of the master thesis**

<sup>1</sup>The grade of the master thesis is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the assessment of both reviewers. <sup>2</sup>If the difference is at least 1.1 or an assessment is "insufficient", but the other is "sufficient" or higher, a third reviewer will be appointed by the responsible examination board for the assessment of the master thesis. <sup>3</sup>He or she may decide on one of the previous assessments or on an assessment lying between them.

### **§ 12 Examination board**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The examination board includes six members appointed by the faculty council of the Faculty of Biology and Psychology on the recommendation of a plenary assembly of members of the Biodiversity, Ecology and Nature Protection section of the Centre for Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use convened for this purpose. <sup>2</sup>Four members belong to the group of the professors and their peers, including junior professors (referred to as "professors" in the following), a member of the group of the research assistants and a member of the students' union. <sup>3</sup>At the same time, a deputy is nominated for each member. <sup>4</sup>The members of the examination board, as well as their representatives, are selected upon recommendation of the respective group representatives. <sup>5</sup>The persons from the departments that are involved in the execution of the degree programme are those who, from the group of professors and from the research assistants, are eligible to stand in the election as well as entitled to vote.

(2) The on-going operations may be transferred to the chairperson.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The examination board decides on the operating procedures. <sup>2</sup>A record is maintained on the meetings of the examination board.

### **§ 13 Grade point average, definitive failing and distinction**

(1) The master examination is passed, if at least 120 C were acquired and all of the required module examinations as well as the master thesis are passed.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Besides the cases mentioned in the APO, the entitlement to take the exam becomes definitively void, if, in the Master's Programme in "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution" or a related degree programme or part-time degree programme at the University of Göttingen or a domestic or foreign university,

a) by the end of the 4th subject semester, fewer than 60 C have been acquired or

b) by the end of the 8th subject semester, all credits that are required to pass the master examination have not been acquired.

<sup>2</sup>In this case, the master examination is regarded as definitively failed. <sup>3</sup>Exceeding the deadlines mentioned in points a) and b) is permitted if the student is not responsible for exceeding the deadline. <sup>4</sup>The examination board decides on this upon application by the student.

(3) The grade point average "with distinction" can be awarded if the master thesis receives a grade of 1.0 and the grade point average of the remaining examination components is at least 1.3.

### **§ 13a Double Degree Option IMABEE**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The Université de Rennes 1 (UR, France), the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU, The Netherlands), the Aarhus Universitet (AU, Denmark) and the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (UG) (hereafter: partner universities) together conduct a Double Degree Programme "International Master in Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution" (IMABEE). <sup>2</sup>The provisions of these examination and study regulations shall apply, provided that the following does not stipulate any other procedure. <sup>3</sup>The regulations in place at the partner university in question shall apply exclusively to the modules offered by the partner universities.

(2) Students always spend the first academic year and the second academic year at two different partner universities.

(3) Students of the consecutive master course of study "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution" (BEE) are eligible to take part in the study and examination components of the double degree programme in accordance with the following provisions.

(4) The application for consideration in the double degree programme must be submitted at the same time as the application for admission to the master course of study "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution".

(5) <sup>1</sup>A selection procedure is conducted for the 12 places available annually for students of the consecutive master course of study "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution" in the IMABEE programme in the 1st academic. <sup>2</sup>The selection committee formed in accordance with the regulations on qualifications for entry and on admission to the consecutive master course of study "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution" (ZZO-BEE) is responsible. <sup>3</sup>The selection is made on the basis of the ranking lists as per §§ 6 sections 2, 7 sections 5 and 6 ZZO-BEE among applicants for a place at university, who have applied to participate in the IMABEE programme.

(6) <sup>1</sup>The admission requirement for students of a partner university to take part in study and examination prerequisites of the second academic year is the proof of examination and study prerequisites from modules of the IMABEE programme amounting to a total of at least 60 C.<sup>2</sup>Students of a partner university must specify,

- a) which study and examination prerequisites have been completed successfully within the first academic year at the partner university or are expected to be successfully completed by the end of the academic year, and
- b) which study and examination prerequisites they intend to complete in the second academic year.

(7) The structure of degree/studies and the modules selectable as part of the IMABEE programme are regulated by the module overview (appendix I).

(8) <sup>1</sup>Any study or examination prerequisites completed at one of the partner universities as part of the double degree programme are recognised without an equivalence assessment. <sup>2</sup>The examination board can decide that, on the basis of credits given, modules in this course of study involved with the same or a closely related research area may no longer be completed.

(9) Re-examinations for module examinations not passed must be offered in such a way that they can be taken before the end of the respective semester.

(10) <sup>1</sup>Students participating in the double degree programme must successfully complete the master thesis amounting to 30 C. <sup>2</sup>Only the examination provisions of the partner university at which the student spends the second academic year shall apply. <sup>3</sup>In as far as an authorised examiner of the University of Göttingen is involved in the examination procedure at a partner university, his or her appointment takes place by the examination office of the Faculty of Biology and Psychology, after communication of the partner university.

(11) Deviating from § 10 section 7, a master thesis to be prepared at the University of Göttingen as part of the IMABEE programme must always be in English.

(12) <sup>1</sup>After passing the master examination, both of these partner universities at which the candidate has acquired study and examination components amounting to at least 60 C each, award the university degree "Master of Science". <sup>2</sup>Both the university degrees can be used as

separate titles. <sup>3</sup>If both degrees are to be merged, they must be connected by a forward slash. <sup>4</sup>The same applies for the abbreviated form.

(13) The master degree certificate of the University of Göttingen is issued in English and contains the addition that the Master's degree was acquired as part of a double degree programme and the certificate is valid only together with the certificate of the partner university.

#### **§ 14 Interim regulations**

<sup>1</sup>Students who have commenced their academic programme before the amendment to these examinations and study regulations came into force and since then were enrolled without interruption in the consecutive master course of study "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution", are, subject to application, examined as per the provisions of the valid version in place before the amendment came into force. The application must be made within one semester after the amendment comes into force. <sup>2</sup>In the event that, upon application, the examination and study regulations according to sentence 1 shall apply in the version in place before the amendment to the regulations came into force, this shall not apply to module overviews and the module descriptions for examinations that remain to be taken, unless preventing a breach of trust with a student would necessitate a different decision by the examination board. <sup>3</sup>This decision is possible especially in cases in which a module examination can be retaken or a compulsory module was changed substantially or removed. <sup>4</sup>The examination board can draw up general rules for this purpose. <sup>5</sup>Examinations held on the basis of regulations in place before an amended version came into force shall be conducted for the last time in the fourth semester following such time as the amendment came into force.

#### **§ 15 Entry into Force**

This regulation enters into force the day after its publication in the official announcements of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen retroactively on 01.10.2010.

## Appendix I Module overview

### A. Master course of study "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution"

Modules with a rating of 120 credits must be successfully completed.

#### 1. Specialist course

Modules with a rating of 78 C should be successfully completed in accordance with the following provisions.

#### I. Compulsory modules

The following compulsory modules with a rating of 18 C should be successfully completed:

M.Biodiv.401	Biodiversity	(12 C / 16 WLH)
M.Biodiv.417	Scientific project management and specific research methods	(6 C / 6 WLH)

#### b. Study focus

One of the following study focus (ba – bi) amounting to a total of at least 30 C must be completed successfully.

#### ba. Specialisation in "Plant Ecology, Phytodiversity and History of Vegetation" in the field of specialisation "Experimental plant ecology and ecosystem research"

i. The following module with a rating of 6 C must be successfully completed:

M.Biodiv.402	Plant ecology and ecosystems research	(6 C / 4 WLH)
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ii. Furthermore, optional required modules with a rating of a total of at least 24 C, 12 to 24 C thereof from the following block I and 0 to 12 C from the following block II, must be successfully completed:

#### Optional required modules (block I) with a rating of 12 – 24 C

M.Biodiv.421	Plant ecology: Project course plant ecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.422	Plant ecology: Carbondioxide and water balance of trees	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.423	Plant ecology: Study of habitats	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.424	Plant ecology: Field studies of plant ecology, phytodiversity, and ecosystems research	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.450	Plant ecology: Impact of global climate change on plant communities and their functional traits	(6 C / 8 WLH)

Optional required modules (block II) with a rating of 0 – 12 C

M.Agr.0061	Project internship natural protection in the agricultural landscape	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.431	Vegetation ecology: Applied vegetation ecology and multivariate analysis	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Forst.1213	Genetic Resources and Physiology of the Wood Types	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1263	Modern Methods in Ecology	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1654	Soils of the Earth: Distribution, Properties and Use	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1656	Practice in soil hydrology	(9 C / 6 WLH)
M.Forst.1657	Practice in Microbiology	(9 C / 6 WLH)
M.Forst.1674	Stable Isotopes in Terrestrial Ecology	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1685	Ecological Modelling	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1695	Forest Ecosystems	(6 C / 4 WLH)

**bb. Specialisation in "Plant Ecology, Phytodiversity and History of Vegetation" in the field of specialisation "Vegetation ecology, Phytodiversity and History of vegetation"**

i. The following module with a rating of 6 C must be successfully completed:

M.Biodiv.403	Vegetation ecology and vegetation history	(6 C / 4 WLH)
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ii. Furthermore, optional required modules with a rating of a total of at least 24 C, 12 to 24 C thereof from the following block I and 0 to 12 C from the following block II, must be successfully completed:

Optional required modules (block I) with a rating of 12 – 24 C

M.Biodiv.406	Regional vegetation ecology and phytodiversity	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.430	Vegetation history: Project study in palaeoecology and palynology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.431	Vegetation ecology: Applied vegetation ecology and multivariate analysis	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.435	Vegetation ecology and vegetation history: Field studies in phytodiversity, vegetation ecology and palaeoecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.436	Vegetation ecology: Project study of vegetation and phytodiversity	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.437	Vegetation history: Methods of palaeoecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)

Optional required modules (block II) with a rating of 0 – 12 C

B.Geg.901	Landscape ecology and ecozones in theory and practical experience	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Agr.0052	Ecology and nature conservation	(6 C / 7 WLH)
M.Agr.0061	Project internship natural protection in the agricultural landscape	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.423	Plant ecology: Study of habitats	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Forst.1424	Computer Based Data Analysis	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1654	Soils of the Earth: Distribution, Characteristics and Use	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Geg.02	Resource Utilisation Problems	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Geg.902	Landscape development in theory and practical experience	(6 C / 4 WLH)

The modules B.Geg.901 and M.Geg.902 are mutually exclusive.

**bc. Study focus "Animal ecology"**

i. The following module with a rating of 6 C must be successfully completed:

M.Biodiv.404	Animal ecology	(6 C / 4 WLH)
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ii. Furthermore, optional required modules with a rating of a total of at least 24 C, 12 to 24 C thereof from the following block I and 0 to 12 C from the following block II, must be successfully completed:

Optional required modules (block I) with a rating of 12 – 24 C

M.Biodiv.441	Animal ecology: Evolutionary ecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.442	Animal ecology: Synecology of animals	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.443	Animal ecology: Field studies of animal ecology and zoological biodiversity	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.445	Animal ecology: Molecular analysis of trophic interactions in soil food webs	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.447	Animal ecology: Biodiversity, ecology and evolution terrestrial invertebrates	(6 C / 7 WLH)

Optional required modules (block II) with a rating of 0 – 12 C

M.Agr.0009	Biological control and biodiversity	(6 C / 6 WLH)
M.Agr.0052	Ecology and nature conservation	(6 C / 7 WLH)
M.Biodiv.408	Primate ecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.446	Molecular zoology and insect-biotechnology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Forst.1213	Genetic Resources and Physiology of Wood Plants	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1263	Modern Methods in Ecology	(6 C / 4 WLH)

M.Forst.1654	Soils of the Earth: Distribution, Characteristics and Use	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1657	Practice in Soil Microbiology	(9 C / 6 WLH)
M.Forst.1674	Stable Isotopes in Terrestrial Ecology	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1685	Ecological Modelling	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1695	Forest Ecosystems	(6 C / 4 WLH)

**bd. Specialisation in "Evolution"**

i. The following module with a rating of 6 C must be successfully completed:

M.Biodiv.415	Evolution: Evolution biology	(6 C / 4 WLH)
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ii. Furthermore, optional required modules with a rating of a total of at least 24 C, 12 to 24 C thereof from the following block I and 0 to 12 C from the following block II, must be successfully completed:

Optional required modules (block I) with a rating of 12 – 24 C

M.Bio.346	Introduction to behavioural biology (key competence module)	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.441	Animal ecology: Evolutionary ecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.446	Molecular zoology and insect-biotechnology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.471	Animal systematics: Morphology and anatomy of vertebrates	(6 C / 8 WLH)

Optional required modules (block II) with a rating of 0 – 12 C

B.Geo.209	Biosedimentology	(7 C / 6 WLH)
M.Bio.101	General and applied microbiology	(12 C / 14 WLH)
M.Biodiv.408	Primate ecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.505	Anthropology I: Structure analysis	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.506	Anthropology II: Paleogenetics	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.600	Introduction to phylogenetics	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Geo.111	Palaeobiology and biodiversity I	(6 C / 5 WLH)
M.Geo.113	Palaeobiology and biodiversity II	(6 C / 5,5 WLH)

**be. Study focus "Animal taxonomy, Morphology and Behaviour"**

i. The following module with a rating of 6 C must be successfully completed:

M.Biodiv.600	Introduction to phylogenetics	(6 C / 8 WLH)
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ii. Furthermore, optional required modules with a rating of a total of at least 24 C, 12 to 24 C thereof from the following block I and 0 to 12 C from the following block II, must be successfully completed:

Optional required modules (block I) with a rating of 12 – 24 C

M.Biodiv.470	Morphology of animals: Microscopical methods	
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	in comparative morphology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.471	Animal systematics: Morphology and anatomy of vertebrates	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.476	Field studies in animal systematics, ecology and biodiversity	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.478	Field studies in systematics, biodiversity and ecology of marine invertebrates	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.479	Introduction to phylogenomics	(6 C / 8 WLH)

Optional required modules (block II) with a rating of 0 – 12 C

M.Biodiv.443	Animal ecology: Field studies of animal ecology and zoological biodiversity	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.505	Anthropology I: Structure analysis	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Geo.111	Palaeobiology and biodiversity I	(6 C / 5 WLH)
M.Geo.113	Palaeobiology and biodiversity II	(6 C / 5,5 WLH)

**bf. Specialisation in "Plant taxonomy" in the field of specialisation "Prokaryotic and eukaryotic algae"**

i. The following module with a rating of 6 C must be successfully completed:

M.Biodiv.418	Pro- and eukaryotic algae: Evolution and systematics	(6 C / 4 WLH)
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ii. Furthermore, optional required modules with a rating of a total of at least 24 C, 12 to 24 C thereof from the following block I and 0 to 12 C from the following block II, must be successfully completed:

Optional required modules (block I) with a rating of 12 – 24 C

M.Biodiv.419	Pro- and eukaryotic algae: Algae and lichens	(6 C / 7 WLH)
M.Biodiv.441	Animal ecology: Evolutionary ecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.460	Pro- and eukaryotic algae: Molecular determination of biodiversity of algae and their evolution	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.461	Pro- and eukaryotic algae: Ex situ conservation of biodiversity of algae	(6 C / 8 WLH)

Optional required modules (block II) with a rating of 0 – 12 C

M.Bio.101	General and applied microbiology	(12 C / 14 WLH)
M.Biodiv.424	Plant ecology: Field studies of plant ecology, phytodiversity and ecosystems research	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Forst.1657	Practice in Soil Microbiology	(9 C / 6 WLH)
M.Geo.113	Palaeobiology and Biodiversity II	(6 C / 5,5 WLH)



	wildlife species for nature conservation	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.488	Nature conservation biology: Ornithology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Forst.1211	Basics in Ecology and Planning in Forest Nature Conservation	(6 C / 4 WLH)

Optional required modules (block II) with a rating of 0 – 12 C

B.Geg.901	Landscape ecology and ecozones in theory and practical experience	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Agr.0009	Biological control and biodiversity	(6 C / 6 WLH)
M.Agr.0052	Ecology and nature conservation	(6 C / 7 WLH)
M.Agr.0061	Project internship natural protection in the agricultural landscape	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.423	Plant ecology: Study of habitats	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.431	Vegetation ecology: Applied vegetation ecology and multivariate analysis	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.442	Animal ecology: Synecology of the animals	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.450	Plant ecology: Impact of global climate change on plant communities and their functional traits	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Forst.1262	Planning for Forest Functions, Forest Nature Conservation and Recreation in Forests	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Geg.02	Resource Utilisation Problems	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Geg.902	Landscape development in theory and practical experience	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.INC.1002	Statistics for field biologists	(10 C / 8 WLH)

**bi. Study focus "Biological trace analysis"**

i. The following module with a rating of 6 C must be successfully completed:

M.Biodiv.500	Biological and forensic trace interpretation	(6 C / 4 WLH)
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ii. Furthermore, optional required modules with a rating of a total of at least 24 C, 12 to 24 C thereof from the following block I and 0 to 12 C from the following block II, must be successfully completed:

Optional required modules (block I) with a rating of 12 – 24 C

M.Biodiv.479	Introduction to phylogenomics	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.501	Forensic anthropology and demonstration course dissection	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.502	Analyses of degraded DNA – genetic fingerprinting and quality assurance	(6 C / 7 WLH)
M.Biodiv.503	Forensic microbiology	(6 C / 7 WLH)

M.Biodiv.504	Palynology and analysis of macro-relics	(6 C / 7 WLH)
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Optional required modules (block II) with a rating of 0 – 12 C

M.Bio.101	General and applied microbiology	(12 C / 14 WLH)
M.Biodiv.403	Vegetation ecology and vegetation history	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.419	Pro- and eukaryotic algae: Algae and lichens	(6 C / 7 WLH)
M.Biodiv.423	Plant ecology: Study of habitats	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.442	Animal ecology: Synecology of animals	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.447	Animal ecology: Biodiversity, ecology and evolution of terrestrial invertebrates	(6 C / 7 WLH)
M.Biodiv.450	Plant ecology: Impact of global climate change on plant communities and their functional traits	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.470	Morphology of animals: Microscopical methods in comparative morphology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.471	Animal systematics: Morphology and anatomy of vertebrates	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.505	Anthropology I: Structure analysis	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.506	Anthropology II: Paleogenetics	(6 C / 8 WLH)

**c. Supplementary field (optional required modules)**

At least three of the following modules amounting to a total of at least 30 C must be completed successfully:

B.Geg.901	Landscape ecology and ecozones in theory and practical experience	(6 C / 4 WLH)
B.Geo.209	Biosedimentology	(7 C / 6 WLH)
M.Agr.0009	Biological control and biodiversity	(6 C / 6 WLH)
M.Agr.0052	Ecology and nature conservation	(6 C / 7 WLH)
M.Agr.0061	Project internship nature protection in the agricultural landscape	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Bio.101	General and applied microbiology	(12 C / 14 WLH)
M.Bio.346	Introduction to behavioural biology (key competence module)	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Bio.347	Behavioural biology (key competence module)	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.402	Plant ecology and ecosystems research	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.403	Vegetation ecology and vegetation history	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.404	Animal ecology	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.406	Regional vegetation ecology and phytodiversity	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.408	Primate ecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)

M.Biodiv.412	Nature conservation biology	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.413	Education for Sustainable Development: Focus Biodiversity Education	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.415	Evolution: Evolution biology	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.416	Economy of biodiversity	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.418	Pro- and eukaryotic algae: Evolution and systematics	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.419	Pro- and eukaryotic algae: Algae and lichens	(6 C / 7 WLH)
M.Biodiv.421	Plant ecology: Project course plant ecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.422	Plant ecology: Carbondioxide and water balance of trees	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.423	Plant ecology: Study of habitats	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.424	Plant ecology: Field studies of plant ecology, phytodiversity and ecosystems research	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.425	Evolution of embryophyta	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.426	Reproduction and evolution of flowering plants	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.428	Biodiversity and biogeography of embryophyta	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.430	Vegetation history: Project study palaeoecology and palynology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.431	Vegetation ecology: Applied vegetation ecology and multivariate analysis	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.435	Vegetation ecology and vegetation history: Field studies in phytodiversity, vegetation ecology and palaeoecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.436	Vegetation ecology: Project study of vegetation and phytodiversity	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.437	Vegetation history: Methods of palaeoecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.441	Animal ecology: Evolutionary ecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.442	Animal ecology: Synecology of animals	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.443	Animal ecology: Field studies in animal ecology and zoological biodiversity	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.445	Animal ecology: Molecular analysis of trophic interactions in soil food webs	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.446	Molecular zoology and insect-biotechnology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.447	Animal ecology: Biodiversity, ecology and evolution of terrestrial invertebrates	(6 C / 7 WLH)
M.Biodiv.450	Plant ecology: Impact of global climate change on plant communities and their functional traits	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.460	Pro- and eukaryotic algae: Molecular determination of biodiversity of algae and their evolution	(6 C / 8 WLH)

M.Biodiv.461	Pro- and eukaryotic algae: Ex situ conservation of biodiversity of algae	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.470	Morphology of animals: Microscopical methods in comparative morphology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.471	Animal systematics: Morphology and anatomy of vertebrates	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.476	Field studies in animal systematics, ecology and biodiversity	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.478	Field studies in systematics, biodiversity and ecology of marine invertebrates	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.479	Introduction to phylogenomics	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.480	Nature conservation biology: Nature conservation inventories	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.481	Nature conservation biology: Population biology in nature conservation	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.482	Nature conservation biology: Field studies in conservation biology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.483	Nature conservation biology: Assessment of wildlife species for nature conservation	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.488	Nature conservation biology: Ornithology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.490	Project studies in plant systematics, evolution and phylogeny	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.491	Next generation sequencing for evolutionary biology	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.492	Molecular methods for "Next Generation Sequencing" in Evolutionary Biology and Systematics	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.500	Biological and forensic trace interpretation	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.501	Forensic anthropology and demonstration course dissection	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.502	Analyses of degraded DNA – genetic fingerprinting and quality assurance	(6 C / 7 WLH)
M.Biodiv.503	Forensic microbiology	(6 C / 7 WLH)
M.Biodiv.504	Palynology and analysis of macro-relics	(6 C / 7 WLH)
M.Biodiv.505	Anthropology I: Structure analysis	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.506	Anthropology II: Paleogenetics	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.600	Introduction to phylogenetics	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Bio-NF.306	Introduction to behavioural biology	(12 C / 12 WLH)
M.Bio-NF.307	Behavioural biology	(12 C / 14 WLH)

M.Forst.1211	Basics in Ecology and Planning in Forest Nature Conservation	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1213	Genetic Resources and Physiology of Wood Plants	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1261	Biodiversity	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1262	Planning for Forest Functions, Forest Nature Conservation and Recreation in Forests	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1263	Modern Methods in Ecology	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1424	Computer Based Data Analysis	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1619	Modern concepts and methods in macroecology and biogeography	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1654	Soils of the Earth: Distribution, Characteristics and Use	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1656	Practice in Soil Hydrology	(9 C / 6 WLH)
M.Forst.1657	Practice in Soil Microbiology	(9 C / 6 WLH)
M.Forst.1674	Stable Isotopes in Terrestrial Ecology	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1685	Ecological Modelling	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Forst.1695	Forest Ecosystems	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Geg.02	Resource Utilisation Problems	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Geg.902	Landscape development in theory and practical experience	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Geo.111	Palaeobiology and biodiversity I	(6 C / 6 WLH)
M.Geo.113	Palaeobiology and biodiversity II	(6 C / 6 WLH)
M.Geo.114	Biogeochemistry	(6 C / 6 WLH)

**d.** Modules which can be completed according to both point b) as part of a specialisation and point c), can be accredited in only one of the fields. The modules B.Geg.901 and M.Geg.902 are mutually exclusive. Modules M.Bio-NF.306 and M.Bio.346 and Modules M.Bio-NF.307 and M.Bio.347 are mutually exclusive.

## **2. Area of professionalisation (key competencies)**

Modules for acquiring key competencies amounting to a total of at least 12 C must be completed successfully.

All key competency modules offered by the university, for example, the Central Institution for Languages and Key Competencies (ZESS) are suitable for this. Furthermore, the following modules from the module offer of the master course of study "Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution" can be introduced as key competency modules Double crediting of the same module in the specialist course and area of professionalisation is ruled out:

M.Bio.346	Introduction to behavioural biology (key competence module)	(6 C / 4 WLH)
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M.Bio.347	Behavioural biology (key competence module)	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.433	Vegetation history: Multivariate analysis in palaeoecology	(3 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.434	Vegetation history: Introduction to the history of cultivated plants	(3 C / 4 WLH)

Students unable to demonstrate German language skills at at least level B2 of the Common European Reference Framework for Languages must also complete, as part of the key competencies, modules from those offered by the department of German as a foreign language in a scope of at least 6 C, intended to demonstrate the acquisition of German language skills.

### **3. Master thesis**

30 C are awarded for successful completion of the master thesis.



## **b. Optional required modules**

At least four of the following modules amounting to a total of at least 24 C must be completed successfully:

M.Biodiv.402	Plant ecology and ecosystems research	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.403	Vegetation ecology and vegetation history	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.404	Animal ecology	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.406	Regional vegetation ecology and phytodiversity	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.412	Nature conservation biology	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.418	Pro- and eukaryotic algae: Evolution and systematics	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.421	Plant ecology: Project course plant ecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.425	Evolution of embryophyta	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.430	Vegetation history: Project study in palaeoecology and palynology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.435	Vegetation ecology and vegetation history: Field studies in phytodiversity, vegetation ecology and palaeoecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.436	Vegetation ecology: Project study of vegetation and phytodiversity	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.441	Animal ecology: Evolutionary ecology	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.447	Animal ecology: Biodiversity, ecology and evolution of terrestrial invertebrates	(6 C / 7 WLH)
M.Biodiv.450	Plant ecology: Impact of global climate change on plant communities and their functional traits	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.480	Nature conservation biology: Nature conservation inventories	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.483	Nature conservation biology: Assessment of wildlife species for nature conservation	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.490	Project studies in Plant systematics, evolution and phylogeny	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.492	Molecular methods for "Next Generation Sequencing" in Evolutionary Biology and Systematics	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.500	Biological and forensic trace interpretation	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.Biodiv.505	Anthropology I: Structure analysis	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Biodiv.506	Anthropology II: Paleogenetics	(6 C / 8 WLH)
M.Agr.0009	Biological control and biodiversity	(6 C / 6 WLH)
M.Bio.101	General and applied microbiology	(12 C / 14 WLH)
M.Bio.346	Introduction to behavioural biology (key competence module)	(6 C / 4 WLH)

**c. Master thesis**

30 C are awarded for successful completion of the master thesis.

## Appendix II: Sample curriculum

Study focus Animal ecology (P: Compulsory, WP: Optional required, Erg.: Supplementary field

### 1. Course semester (winter semester)

P: M.Biodiv.401	Determination exercises	3 C / 5 WLH
WP: M.Biodiv.404	<u>Animal ecology</u>	6 C / 4 WLH
WP (Block I): M.Biodiv.444	<u>Animal ecology</u> : Structure and evaluation of Biodiversity experiments	6 C / 8 WLH
WP (Block I): M.Biodiv.441	<u>Animal ecology</u> : Evolutionary ecology	6 C / 8 WLH
WP Erg: M.Biodiv.402	Plant ecology and ecosystems research	6 C / 4 WLH
WP Erg: M.Forst.1695	Forest Ecosystems (Seminar)	3 C / 2 WLH
Total:		30 C / 31 WLH

### 2. Course semester (summer semester)

P: M.Biodiv.401	Determination exercises	3 C / 5 WLH
P: M.Biodiv.401	Four one-day field trips	1 C / 2 WLH
P: M.Biodiv.401	Major field trip	5 C / 7 WLH
Key competencies		6 C / 4 WLH
WP (Block I): M.Biodiv.443	<u>Animal ecology</u> : Field studies of animal ecology & zoological biodiversity	6 C / 8 WLH
WP (Block II) M.Biodiv.408	<u>Primate ecology</u>	6 C / 8 WLH
WP Erg: M.Forst.1695	Forest Ecosystems (exercise)	3 C / 2 WLH
Total:		30 C / 36 WLH

### 3 Course semester (winter semester)

P: M.Biodiv.417	Scientific project management and specific research methods	6 C / 6 WLH
Key competencies		6 C / 4 WLH
WP Erg: M.Forst.1654	Soils of the Earth	6 C / 4 WLH
WP Erg: M.Agr.0009	Biological control and biodiversity	6 C / 6 WLH
WP Erg: M.Biodiv.471	Animal systematics: Morphology and anatomy of vertebrates	6 C / 8 WLH
Total:		30 C / 28 WLH

### 4. Course semester (summer semester)

Master thesis		30 C
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