Faculty of Forestry Sciences and Forest Ecology:

Following the resolutions passed by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology dated 16.07.2019 and 19.05.2020 and the policy brief by the Senate dated 20.11.2019, the Presidential Board of the Georg-August University Göttingen approved the Study and Examination Regulations for the consecutive master's programme in "Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology" on 22.07.2020 (§ 44 Para. 1 section 2 NHG (Higher Education Act of Lower Saxony) in the version of the announcement dated 26.02.2007 (Nds. GVBI [Lower Saxony German legal and regulatory code. p. 69), last amended by Article 1 of the Act dated 11.09.2019 (Nds. German legal and regulatory code. P. 258); § 41 para. 2 sentence 2 NHG, § 37 para. 1 sentence 3 no. 5 b) NHG).

Examination and study regulations for the consecutive master's programme of study "Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology" of the Georg-August University Göttingen

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§ 1 Scope, purpose of the academic programme, academic degree

(1) [1]The provisions of the "General examination regulations for Bachelor and Master programmes of studies, as well as other courses and degrees offered at the University of Göttingen" (APO) shall apply for the consecutive master course of study "Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology" at the Georg-August University Göttingen. [2]The current regulations define the supplementary specific provisions for this degree programme.

(2) [1]The master's programme "Forest and Ecosystem Sciences" provides students with the opportunity to deepen these foundations and acquire individual knowledge and skills in self-selected modules for specialisation, in addition to the scientific fundamentals acquired in the previous Bachelor's degree programme. [2]In particular, the programme aims to understand the importance of individual disciplines and important scientific and forestry methods not only with respect to related disciplines, but also to make them useful for the analysis of complex systems. [3]In concrete terms, skills are acquired, based on predominantly scientific-oriented methods in order to understand the function of ecosystems, their services and how they can be controlled. [4]Within such a professional context, students basically acquire the ability to analyse, understand and sustain a complex system, by carefully considering individual elements, followed by an analysis of respective interactions. [5]In addition to specialist knowledge, students also gain an insight into current research practice and developments in the core study element. [6]For this, a project module will be offered for every core study element.

(3) [1]For the interdisciplinary broadening of skills in theory and methodology, for holistic project management and for science and epistemology, key competency topics are planned in the field of professionalisation. [2]This helps increase the level of skills for careers both within and outwith science. [3]In addition to modules with key competency components at the faculty, modules from the university-wide module index key competences, as well as those from the Central Facility for Languages and Key Qualifications (ZESS) can be chosen to acquire suitable soft skills according to individual career planning. [4]The international target group of European and non-European students also increases the internationalisation of participants,

(4) [1]The "Master of Science" degree programme (abbreviated to M.Sc.) prepares students to work as academics with environmental and forestry qualifications in administration, companies, research institutions and international organisations. [2]The aim of the Master's programme is to acquire in-depth scientific knowledge, the ability to have an overview, to carry out independent, subject-specific and interdisciplinary scientific work and to apply scientific knowledge in the fields of "Ecosystem Analysis and Modelling", "Ecosystem Sciences" and "Tropical and International Forestry".

§ 2 Structure of the academic programme, modules

(1) [1]The academic programme starts in the winter semester. [2]The degree programme cannot be studied part-time.

(2) The academic programme comprises 120 credits (ECTS Credits, abbreviated: C) that are awarded as follows:

a) specialist course

- core study element “Ecosystem Analysis and Modelling” 66 C,
- core study element “Ecosystem Sciences” 66 C and
- core study element “Tropical and International Forestry” 60 C,

b) professionalisation area (elective modules)

- core study element “Ecosystem Analysis and Modelling” 24 C,
- core study element “Ecosystem Sciences” 24 C and
- core study element “Tropical and International Forestry” 30 C,

of which 6 to 12 C for key competences and

c) 30 C for the master thesis.

(3) [1]For recommendation on the academic programme structure, please refer to the enclosed sample curricula (appendix). [2]The module directory, which also contains the module overview in the meaning of § 4 section 1 sentence 1 of the APO, shall be published separately; it is an integral part of these examination and study regulations.

(4) [1]There are no compulsory modules common to all intended core study elements. [2]The examination components must be completed both in optional required modules and optional modules. [3]The three intended core study elements listed in the module overview are developed with the optional required modules, of which one must be taken. [4]The optional required modules specified in the module overview must be completed within an intended specialisation. [5]The optional modules facilitate individualised structuring of the academic programme. [6]In the optional area, modules (alternative modules) other than those mentioned can be completed in accordance with the following provisions. [7]Prerequisites for considering an alternative module are:

a) A written application to be handed in by the student to the Dean of Studies of the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology before choosing the alternative module;

b) Approval by the Dean of Studies or Course Module offering the alternative module.

[8]The decision on approving the application is made by the Dean of Studies of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology. [9]The Dean will obtain the opinion of the degree programme tutors on the usefulness of the module replacement before reaching the decision. [10]The application can be rejected without stating any reasons; a legal right of the applicant to object the decision does not exist.

(5) The conversion of a module successfully completed by a voluntary additional examination into a normally credited module and vice versa is possible only in the optional area.

§ 3 Scope of examinations

The duration of the examinations depends on the courses upon which they are based (calculated according to the number of credits), whereby the following values should be adhered to:

For < 6 credits	Written examination	¾ - 1½ h.
	Oral examination	15 min.
	Project work, term paper	Processing time: 2 weeks, scope: approx. 10 pages.
	Presentation (with written outline)	approx. 10 min. (approx. 10 pages)
For 6-9 credits	Written examination	1½ - 2 h.
	Oral examination	15 - 30 min.
	Project work, term paper	Time: 2 - 4 weeks, length: 10 - 20 pages.
	Presentation (with written outline)	10 - 20 min. (10 - 20 pages)
For > 9 credits	Written examination	2 - 3 h.
	Oral examination	15 - 45 min.
	Project work, term paper	Time: 3 - 6 weeks, length: 20 - 30 pages.
	Presentation (with written outline)	20 - 30 min. (20 - 30 pages)

The duration of the oral examinations as here specified may be shorter or longer, but not to an unreasonable extent.

§ 4 Registration for and withdrawal from examinations

(1) [1]Each semester, the examination board will set an examination period which usually lasts six weeks and starts after the end of the period of lectures. [2]Examination dates can be set outside of the examination period according to clause 1. This is decided by the Dean of Studies upon application by the examinee.

(2) The dates of the module examinations are determined by the Examination Office after hearing the examiners and should be announced in the electronic examination management system six weeks at the latest before the module examination.

(3) [1]Registration for a module examination takes place in writing or electronically up to seven days before the examination date. [2]Students may withdraw from an examination without stating reasons no later than seven days beforehand. In the case of a written examination, students may withdraw up to one day beforehand.

§ 5 Repeatability of examinations

(1) [1]Failed module examinations, or such as have been deemed not passed, in optional required modules within the Master's degree programme "Forestry Sciences and Forest Ecology" must be repeated. [2]Failed optional modules can be retaken.

(2) Failure to pass a module or partial module examination in the optionally required area will result in as many malus points being awarded as credits (ECTS credits) that can be acquired by the corresponding module or partial module.

(3) Reassessment is not permitted as soon as circumstances covered by § 9 section 1 apply.

§ 6 Form of examination components

(1) [1]A module examination can consist of up to two partial examinations. [2]One module examination part cannot be completed in several stages.

(2) [1]In the project work, the examinee should prove that they can solve problem-related questions in the field of the intended core study element as part of group work.

§ 7 Master's thesis

(1) [1]By means of a written master thesis, the candidate should demonstrate that they are capable of dealing with problems using subject standard methods, within the specified period, of developing independent, scientifically based judgements, obtaining scientifically sound statements and presenting the results in a linguistic and formal sense. [2]As a prerequisite for admission to the master thesis, optional required modules or optional modules of the course of study must be passed with at least 30 C.

(2) The Master's thesis has to be written in English.

(3) [1]The provisional working topic of the master's thesis should be agreed with the proposed academic advisor and submitted with confirmation from the second academic advisor to the examination board concerned. [2]If the candidate does not find a supervisor, a supervisor and a topic will be appointed by the relevant examination board. [3]The candidate's view should be considered in choosing the topic. [4]The right to make a proposal for the choice of topic does not constitute a legal right. [5]The approval of the topic for the master's thesis is dealt with by the Examination Office. [6]The time of issue must be recorded.

(4) [1]The master's thesis should be completed within a period of 6 months. [2]Upon application of the candidate, the Examination Board can extend the deadline for submitting the thesis by a maximum of three months, subject to agreement with the supervisor and existence of an important reason that cannot be attributed to the candidate. [3]In the event that the master thesis is not submitted on time, it will be marked with the grade "Not sufficient" (5.0).

(5) [1]The topic can be returned only once and only within the first 2 months of the processing time. [2]A new topic must be agreed upon immediately, but no later than within 4 weeks. [3]In the

case of repeating the master's thesis, return of the topic is permitted only if the person to be examined did not make use of this option while completing the master's thesis the first time.

(6) [1]The master's thesis must be submitted in time to the Examination Office in three identical copies bound with glue. [2]The master's thesis must be submitted in written form in the format of a commonly used word processing programme or in PDF format (unprotected). [3]The time of submission should be recorded. [4]At the time of submission, the candidate should declare in writing that they have independently written the work - or in the case of group work - the correspondingly marked portion of the work - and have not used sources other than those specified, and that the written version and the supplementary version of the master's thesis submitted are the same.

(7) [1]The Examination Office forwards the master's thesis to the examiners. [2]Each examiner assigns a grade. [3]The duration of the assessment procedure should not exceed 4 weeks.

(8) The passed master's thesis will be awarded 30 credits.

§ 8 Examination board

[1]The Examination Board consists of seven members, each of whom holds a vote; four members come from the group of university professors, one member from the faculty group and two members from the group of students; one member of the Examination Office, acts in a consulting capacity. [2]At the same time, a deputy is nominated for each member. [3]If a member or a deputy steps down prematurely, a substitute member will be nominated for the remaining tenure.

§ 9 Definitive failing; distinction

(1) The right to be examined, in addition to the cases specified under APO, shall lapse definitively if

a) The number of penalty points from module or sub-module checks exceeds 40,

b) A minimum of 30 C have not been obtained by the beginning of the lecture period of the third semester.

(2) The grade "with distinction" will be awarded if

a) the master's thesis was evaluated as 1.0, and

b) the student has achieved a total result of 1.3 or higher in the Master's examination.

§ 10 Entry into force

[1]This regulation enters into force following its promulgation in the official announcements I of Georg-August University Göttingen as per 01.10.2020.

Sample curricula **Appendix**

Core study element 1 “Ecosystem Analysis and Modelling”

1. Sem **WS** **30 C**	**M.FES.111:** **Introduction to Ecological Modelling** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.112:** **Biodiversity Measurement** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES..113:** **Soil Hydrology** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.114:** **Ecosystem – Atmosphere Processes** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.115:** **Statistical Data Analysis** 4 WLH / 6 C
2. Sem **SS** **30 C**	**M.FES.121:** **Advanced Data Analysis with R** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.122:** **Ecological Simulation Modelling** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.123:** **Functional Structural Models** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.124:** **Modern Concepts and Methods in Macroecology and Biogeography** 4 WLH / 6 C	Elective 6 C
3. Sem **WS** **30 C**	**M.FES.131:** **Project: Forest Ecosystem Analysis and Information Processing** 2 WLH / 12 C		Elective 6 C	Elective 6 C	Elective 6 C
4. Sem **SS** **30 C**	Master’s thesis 30 C				

Core study element 2: “Ecosystem Sciences”

1. Sem **WS** **30 C**	**M.FES.211:** **Ecosystem Analytics** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.112:** **Biodiversity Measurement** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.113:** **Soil Hydrology** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.114:** **Ecosystem – Atmosphere Processes** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.115:** **Statistical Data Analysis** 4 WLH / 6 C
2. Sem **SS** **30 C**	**M.FES.221:** **Modern Methods in Ecology** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.222:** **Community Ecology** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.223:** **Soil Physical and Biochemical Processes** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.224:** **Experimental Bioclimatology** 4 WLH / 6 C	Elective 6 C
3. Sem **WS** **30 C**	**M.FES.231:** **Project: Ecosystem Sciences** 2 WLH / 12 C		Elective 6 C	Elective 6 C	Elective 6 C
4. Sem **SS** **30 C**	Master’s thesis 30 C				

Core study element 3: “Tropical and International Forestry”

1. Sem **WS** **30 C**	**M.FES.311:** **Tropical forest ecology and silviculture** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.312:** **International forest policy and economics** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.313:** **Monitoring of forest resources** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.314:** **Forest utilization and wood processing** 4 WLH / 6 C	Elective 6 C
2. Sem **SS** **30 C**	**M.FES321:** **Ecopedology of the tropics and subtropics** 2 WLH + field exc. / 6 C	**M.FES322:** **Project planning and evaluation** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES.323:** **Biometrical research methods** 4 WLH / 6 C	**M.FES324:** **Environmental Biotechnology and forest genetics** 4 WLH / 6 C	Elective 6 C
3. Sem **WS** **30 C**	**M.FES.331:** **Project: Development of a forest region** 7 WLH / 12 C P (20 Seiten)		Elective 6 C	Elective 6 C	Elective 6 C
4. Sem **SS** **30 C**	Master’s thesis 30 C				