

Only those regulations published by the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen in its Official Bulletins are legally binding. Any claims to rights or titles resulting from the English translation of these regulations are expressly excluded.

Faculty of Geoscience and Geography:

Following the resolution of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Earth Sciences and Geography on 05.02.2024, the Senate of the University of Göttingen adopted the regulations on the admission requirements and admission for the consecutive Master's degree programme "Earth and Environmental Sciences" on 17.04.2024; the regulations are considered approved based on the decision of the Foundation Committee University of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Foundation under Public Law on 10.07.2019 (§ 44 section 1 sentence 2 NHG in the version of the announcement of 26.02.2007 (Nds. GVBl. p. 69), last amended by Article 12 of the Act of 14.12.2023 (Nds. GVBl. p. 320); § 41 section 1 sentence 1 NHG in conjunction with § 18 section 6 sentence 3, section 8 sentence 3 NHG and § 7 section 1 sentence 1 NHZG in the version of the announcement of 29.01.1998 (Nds. GVBl. p. 51), last amended by Article 2 of the Act of 19.11.2019 (Nds. GVBl. p. 333); § 62 section 4 sentence 1 NHG, § 60a section 1 sentence 1 NHG in conjunction with § 18 section 6 sentence 3, section 8 sentence 3, section 14 NHG and § 7 section 2 NHZG).

Regulations on admission requirements and admission to the consecutive Master's degree programme "Earth and Environmental Sciences"

I. Scope

§ 1 Scope

- (1) These regulations govern access and admission to the consecutive Master's degree programme in "Earth and Environmental Sciences".
- (2) In accordance with the following provisions, the University shall carry out an internal procedure to determine the admission prerequisites for all places to be allocated on the degree programme "Earth and Environmental Sciences".
- (3) ¹If more applicants meet the admission prerequisites than there are places available, the University will allocate the study places according to the results of an internal selection procedure. ²If no more applicants meet the admission prerequisites than there are places available, a selection procedure will not take place.

II Access authorisation

§ 2 Admission prerequisites

(1) ¹The prerequisite for admission to the Master's degree programme is that the applicant has the subject-specific aptitude. ²The subject-specific aptitude is possessed by anyone who has completed a relevant Bachelor's degree with a standard period of study of six semesters and a minimum of 180 ECTS credit points or an equivalent degree in a degree programme at a German university or at an university belonging to one of the Bologna signatory states in accordance with section 3 in the degree programme "Geoscience" or in a closely related subject area. ³Final examinations that have been passed in a country outside the Bologna signatory states require a determination of equivalence to the degrees in accordance with sentence 1, taking into account the proposals of the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) at the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) for the recognition and assessment of foreign educational qualifications, which can be found under the URL <http://anabin.kmk.org>. ⁴The grades of the foreign educational certificates must be converted into the German grading system.

(2) ¹Notwithstanding section 1, provisional admission shall be granted those applicants who have not yet completed their course of studies at the time of application but have acquired at least 150 ECTS credit points in a relevant Bachelor's degree programme in accordance with section 3 or in an equivalent degree programme. ²The average grade determined from the previous examination results shall also be taken into account in the selection procedure instead of the Bachelor's grade or the grade of an equivalent educational certificate, regardless of whether the result of the Bachelor's examination deviates from this.

(3) ¹The selection committee decides whether a previous degree programme is relevant to the subject within the meaning of sections 1 and 2. ²The prerequisite for the subject-related relevance of the previous degree programme is proof of at least the following academic achievements:

- Achievements from the fields of geosciences, geography, resource management, natural sciences totalling at least 120 ECTS credit points, including achievements in the field of geosciences totalling at least 50 ECTS credit points or
- Achievements from a natural sciences degree programme, a degree programme in science-oriented engineering or from a closely related subject area totalling at least

120 ECTS credit points, including achievements in geosciences, hydrogeology, chemistry, physics and mathematics totalling at least 50 ECTS credit points.

³If fewer applicants meet all the admission prerequisites in accordance with sentence 2 than there are places available, the selection committee may make the determination of subject-related relevance dependent on making up achievements in accordance with sentence 2 that have not yet been completed within two semesters; in this case, the determination of subject-related relevance and admission are conditional until the proof of the missing achievements, which must be received by the University within two semesters following enrolment (preclusive period). ⁴If proof of the missing achievements is not submitted within the deadline, the determination of subject-related relevance and an admission decision based on it shall become invalid. ⁵The determination of subject-related relevance is excluded if the missing achievements amount to more than 15 ECTS credit points.

(4) ¹Applicants whose native language is not English must have sufficient knowledge of English. ²Sufficient knowledge of English must be proven by means of standardised or accredited certificates at least at level B2 or higher according to the "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages" (CEFR). ³ Proof may be provided as follows:

- a) UNlcert® : at least UNlcert® II certificate;
- b) NULTE certificates: at least level B2;
- c) Cambridge English Scale: at least 160 points;
- d) "International English Language Testing System" (IELTS Academic): at least band 5.5;
- e) "Test of English as a Foreign Language, internet-based test" (TOEFL iBT): at least 80 points;
- f) Global Scale of English (Pearson Academic): at least 59 points;

⁴The test (a-f) must have been passed no more than three years prior to the receipt of the application for admission. ⁵ Proof of sufficient knowledge of English may also be provided by at least one year of relevant study or professional experience in a country where English is the official language within the last three years prior to receipt of the application for admission or by an average grade of at least 8 points in the subject "English" during the two school years leading to the German higher education entrance qualification obtained after 12 or 13 years of schooling. ⁶General and subject-specific higher education entrance qualifications acquired outside of school through advanced vocational training (master craftsman's examination, courses, etc.), vocational training or aptitude assessment procedures cannot be used as proof.

(5) German language skills do not have to be demonstrated.

(6) Proof in accordance with section 4 must be submitted to the Faculty of Geosciences and Geography by 30.09. for enrolment for a winter semester and by 31.03. for enrolment for a summer semester; the proof is a prerequisite for enrolment; conditional enrolment does not take place.

(7) ¹In all other respects, the general provisions of the enrolment regulations of the University of Göttingen remain unaffected. ²The enrolment of applicants who are provisionally entitled to admission in accordance with section 2 is conditional until proof of successful completion of the Bachelor's degree programme or an equivalent degree programme is provided. ³Proof must be provided by the end of 15.11. for enrolment in the winter semester and by the end of 15.05. for enrolment in the summer semester. ⁴If the Dean of Studies determines on the basis of the course of study to date, in particular the examination results to date, that the applicant will obtain the degree by the end of the first semester of the Master's degree programme at the latest, the deadline according to sentence 3 shall be extended until the end of 31.03. for enrolment for a winter semester and until the end of 30.09. for enrolment for a summer semester. This determination is only permissible if

- a) only the final thesis is missing as an examination achievement or
- b) the final thesis has already been submitted to the university and the scope of the otherwise missing examination achievements does not exceed six ECTS credit points.

III Selection procedure

§ 3 Start of studies, application for admission, preclusive period

(1) ¹The Master's degree programme starts in the summer and winter semesters. ²Applications for admission must be submitted via the University's online portal; they must be received by the University together with the application documents required in accordance with section 2 by 01.06. (preclusive deadline) for a winter semester and by 01.12 of the previous year (preclusive deadline) for a summer semester; if an internal university selection procedure is not carried out, applications received after the deadline will also be considered, provided that proof of eligibility for admission in accordance with § 2 section 1 or 2 is provided by 15.11. at the latest; the other provisions on admission prerequisites remain unaffected. ³The application is only valid for the allocation of study places for the relevant admission date. ⁴The University is not obliged to check the applicant's information ex officio.

(2) The application for admission must be accompanied by the following documents, which must be uploaded to the University's server using the online portal:

- a) the applicant's degree certificate or certificates in German or English translation, if the originals are not in English or German; if a degree certificate is not yet available, a certificate of achievements, ECTS credit points and average grade must be submitted;
- b) a tabular curriculum vitae in German or English with a meaningful description of the applicant's educational background;
- c) proof of sufficient knowledge of English in accordance with § 2 section 4;
- d) if applicable, the names of up to two professors who may be asked by the University of Göttingen to submit a letter of recommendation for the applicant;
- e) a statement as to whether the applicant has successfully, unsuccessfully or not yet completed a closely related Master's degree programme;
- f) if applicable, evidence of relevant professional or practical experience;

(3) ¹Applications that are incomplete, not in due form or not submitted on time will be excluded from the further procedure. ²The documents submitted remain with the University.

(4) If an applicant can credibly demonstrate that he/she is disadvantaged by the selection procedure compared to other applicants due to a disability, suitable compensation for disadvantages must be granted upon request.

§ 4 Selection committee for the Master's degree programme

(1) The Faculty of Geosciences and Geography of the University shall form at least one selection committee to prepare the selection decision for this degree programme.

(2) ¹A selection committee shall consist of three members eligible to vote who belong to the full-time academic staff or to the group of university professors, and one member of the student group in an advisory vote. ²At least one member must belong to the group of university professors. ³The members are appointed by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Earth Sciences and Geography. ⁴The term of office for members is two years, for the student member it is one year. ⁵Reappointment is possible. ⁶The selection committee is quorate if at least two members with voting rights are present.

(3) The tasks of the selection committee are:

- a) Examination of the incoming applications for admission for formal correctness,
- b) Examination and, if applicable, assessment of the admission prerequisites,
- c) Conducting the selection interviews in accordance with § 6,
- d) Decision on the admission or rejection of applicants.

(4) The selection committee shall report to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Geosciences and Geography on the experience gained after the award procedure has been completed and, if applicable, submits proposals for the further development of the award procedure.

§ 5 Selection procedure

(1) A selection procedure comprises the allocation of study places in relation to an admission date.

(2) ¹Admission applications shall be decided in a main procedure and, if necessary, in a succession procedure. ²In the first step of the main procedure, places are first allocated to those applicants with an outstanding aptitude (best quota; § 6) and then to applicants admitted on the basis of a combination of several criteria (combination quota; § 7; as well as on the basis of hardship considerations (hardship quota; § 8)).

(3) ¹Anybody who has been admitted in the best quota shall not be involved in the selection procedure in the combination quota. ²Anybody who has received admission in the best quota or in the combination quota shall not be involved in a succession procedure.

(4) The selection committee may take into account that study places are unlikely to be accepted by overbooking.

(5) Study places remaining available according to the best quota are added to the combination quota.

(6) ¹In all other respects, the general provisions for enrolment of the University's enrolment regulations remain unaffected. ²The admission of applicants who are considered provisionally entitled to admission in accordance with § 2 section 2 is conditional upon submission of proof of successful completion of the Bachelor's programme or an equivalent degree programme. ³Proof must be submitted by the end of 15.11. for enrolment in the winter semester and by the end of 15.05. for enrolment in the summer semester. ⁴If the Dean of Studies determines on the basis of the course of study to date, in particular the examination results to date, that the applicant will obtain the degree by the end of the first semester of the Master's degree programme at the latest, the deadline according to sentence 3 shall be extended until the end of 31.03. for enrolment for a winter semester and until the end of 30.09. for enrolment for a summer semester; this determination is only permissible if

- a) only the final thesis is missing as an examination achievement or
- b) the final thesis has already been submitted to the university and the scope of the otherwise missing examination achievements does not exceed six ECTS credit points.

§ 6 Best quota

(1) ¹A ranking list shall be drawn up in accordance with the provisions of section 2 for selection within the framework of the best quota. ²70% of the study places shall be allocated according to this ranking list, starting with place 1. ³In the event of equal ranking, the ranking shall be determined according to the result of the Bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree; otherwise, in the event of equal ranking, the decision shall be made by drawing lots.

(2) A points system is used to draw up the ranking list, in which a maximum of 26 points can be achieved.

a) Depending on the result of the Bachelor's degree or the grade of an equivalent academic certificate, points will be credited to the applicant as follows:

1.0 up to and including 1.1	17 points,
greater than 1.1 up to and including 1.2	16 points,
greater than 1.2 up to and including 1.3	15 points,
greater than 1.3 up to and including 1.5	14 points,
greater than 1.5 up to and including 1.7	13 points,
greater than 1.7 up to and including 1.9	12 points,
greater than 1.9 up to and including 2.1	11 points,
greater than 2.1 up to and including 2.3	10 points,
greater than 2.3 up to and including 2.5	9 points,
greater than 2.5 up to and including 2.7	8 points,
greater than 2.7 up to and including 2.8	7 points,
greater than 2.8 up to and including 2.9	6 points,
greater than 2.9 up to and including 3.0	5 points,
greater than 3.0 up to and including 3.1	4 points,
greater than 3.1 up to and including 3.2	3 points,
greater than 3.2 up to and including 3.3	2 points
greater than 3.3 up to and including 3.4	1 point,
greater than 3.4 up to and including 4.0	0 points.

b) Depending on the type and extent of relevant professional or practical experience through internships or professional activities in a field relevant to the degree programme, in particular activities in a geoscientific or technical field in an industrial company, a public authority or an engineering office, the applicant will be credited with

points. Based on the type and scope of professional or practical experience, the applicant is

highly suitable	9 points,
very suitable	6 points,
suitable	4 points,
hardly suitable	0 points.

As a rule, proof of professional experience must be provided in the form of an employer's reference; proof of internship must be provided in the form of an internship certificate. Specialised qualifying activities as student assistants, which must be documented by an employer's reference, can also be counted as practical experience.

c) The points achieved according to letters a) and b) are added together.

(3) ¹Applicants who can be admitted within the framework of the best quota will receive an admission letter in text form from the University. ²This shall specify a deadline by which the applicant must enrol or declare in writing whether he or she accepts the study place. ³The applicant must enrol no later than two weeks after expiry of the deadline in sentence 2 (preclusive period) if no enrolment in accordance with sentence 2 is available. ⁴If the University has not received

a) the enrolment according to sentence 2 or

b) the declaration according to sentence 2 and the enrolment according to sentence 3 in due time and form, the admission letter shall become invalid. ⁵These legal consequences shall be pointed out in the admission letter.

(4) Those admitted shall no longer take part in the further procedure.

§ 7 Combination quota

(1) For the selection within the framework of the combination quota, a ranking list shall be drawn up in accordance with the following provisions. 25% of the study places are allocated according to this ranking list, starting with place 1.

(2) The selection is determined on the basis of a combination of the following criteria:

a) on the basis of a ranking list, which is drawn up in accordance with the procedure set out in § 6 section 2, and

b) according to the result of a selection interview with the applicant.

(3) The selection committee shall make a pre-selection from the applications received in accordance with section 4 and a selection from the pre-selected applicants on the basis of the selection criteria mentioned in sections 2 and 5.

(4) ¹A pre-selection from the applications received shall be carried out in order to limit the number of participants in the selection interviews to at least twice the number of study places to be allocated in accordance with the selection procedure within the framework of the combination quota. ²For this purpose a ranking list shall be drawn up in accordance with the procedure set out in § 6 section 2. ³In the event of identical ranking, all applicants with the highest ranking shall be permitted to participate.

(5) ¹The selection is based on a ranking list with a maximum of 32 points. ²This ranking list shall be drawn up in accordance with the following provisions:

- a) Depending on the degree of aptitude determined in the selection interview, points will be credited to the applicant as follows (maximum 6 points):

The applicant is

highly suitable	6 points,
very suitable	4 points,
suitable	2 points,
little or hardly suitable	0 points.

- b) The applicant will be credited points in accordance with the procedure set out in § 6 section 2 (maximum 26 points).

- c) The points achieved according to letters a) and b) are added together.

(6) ¹If there is a tie after the ranking list has been drawn up, the ranking shall be determined by the result of the points achieved in accordance with § 6 section 2, then by the result of the Bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree. ²Otherwise, in the event of equal ranking, the decision shall be made by lot.

(7) The selected applicants are admitted in accordance with § 11.

§ 8 Hardship quota

(1) A special quota of 5 per cent of the number of admissions to this degree programme is formed in advance for cases of exceptional hardship (hardship quota), but at least in the amount of one study place.

(2) ¹The study places within the hardship quota are allocated upon request to applicants who fulfil the admission prerequisites and for whom non-admission to this degree programme would

mean exceptional hardship. ²Exceptional hardship exists if special social or family-related reasons in the applicant's person make immediate admission to the degree programme absolutely necessary. ³Exceptional hardship includes in particular:

- a) caring for a child within the meaning of § 25 section 5 BAföG who has not yet reached the age of 14 at the start of the Master's degree programme,
- b) disability or serious illness,
- c) caring for a close relative in need of care according to an expert opinion from the Medical Service of the German Health Insurance Fund.

⁴The degree of exceptional hardship is assessed as follows:

The applicant has

- more than one reason according to sentences 2 and 3 or one reason in a particularly serious case 3 points
- one reason according to sentences 2 and 3 in a serious case 2 points
- one reason according to sentences 2 and 3 1 point.

(3) ¹The ranking is determined by the degree of exceptional hardship, whereby only applicants who have achieved at least 1 point in accordance with section 2 sentence 4 will be considered.

²If there is a tie after the ranking list has been drawn up, the ranking order shall be determined according to the result of the assessment pursuant to § 6 section 2; if there is still a tie, the ranking order shall be determined according to the result of the Bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree. ³In all other cases of equal ranking, the decision shall be made by lot.

(4) ¹The decision is made by the selection committee. ²The provisions of § 5 section 1 and 2 apply accordingly.

(5) Study places remaining available according to this quota shall be added to the quota for the selection procedure according to § 5.

§ 9 Selection interview

(1) ¹The selection interview is intended to show the extent to which the applicant is suitable for the selected degree programme. ²The following principles apply for conducting the interview:

- a) The selection interview is usually held at the University in the first half of June for the winter semester and in the first half of December for the summer semester. The exact dates as well as the location of the selection interview will be announced by the University in a reasonable period of time before the selection interviews begin. The university shall invite candidates to the interview with sufficient notice. A video

conference or telephone interview is permitted for applicants based abroad and in justified exceptional cases, provided that the identity of the applicant can be determined beyond doubt. The details of the procedure in such cases shall be determined by the selection committee.

- b) The selection committee shall conduct a selection interview lasting approximately 15 minutes with each applicant. The selection interview may be conducted with up to four applicants at the same time.
- c) The main questions and answers from the selection interview shall be recorded in minutes and shall be signed by the members of the selection committee. The minutes must show the date and place of the selection interview, the names of the committee members, the name of the applicant and the assessment.

(2) The selection interview shall cover the applicant's motivation as well as the following suitability parameters:

- a) subject-specific knowledge,
- b) concrete ideas about the course content of the consecutive Master's degree programme in "Earth and Environmental Sciences",
- c) the applicant's professional or practical experience.

(3) After the selection interview, the members of the selection committee shall assess the applicant according to the degree of suitability for the selected degree programme on a scale in accordance with § 7 section 5 sentence 2 letter a).

(4) ¹Any applicant who does not attend the interview without good cause shall be excluded from further proceedings. ²If there is a good cause for not attending, the selection committee shall set a new date for the selection interview upon request. ³Proof of the good cause and the request to set a new date must be submitted to the selection committee immediately, but at the latest within two days after the date initially set. ⁴An excluded applicant is entitled to participate again in the next possible selection procedure.

(5) ¹An early selection interview may be conducted with students of the University who are enrolled in an undergraduate degree programme which this Master's degree programme builds upon as part of the undergraduate degree programme. ²This early selection interview replaces the selection interview in the event that the student has applied for this Master's degree programme. ³The interview may be held at the beginning of the sixth semester at the earliest. ⁴This early selection interview must be equivalent to the selection interview in terms of form and content. ⁵The provisions of sections 1 to 4, § 7 section 5 sentence 2 letter a) and § 4 sections 2 to 4 apply accordingly. ⁶The early selection interview shall only be taken into account

instead of the selection interview if it was conducted no more than six months prior to the selection decision and the applicant is one of the people pre-selected for a selection interview in accordance with § 7 section 4. ⁷If this condition is not met, the applicant shall be excluded from the further selection procedure for the present application round. ⁸A notification of the result of the early selection interview shall only be given under the condition that the applicant is pre-selected for a selection interview in accordance with § 7 section 4.

§ 10 Admission letter, rejection letter and succession procedure

(1) ¹Applicants who can be admitted shall receive a letter of admission in text form from the University. ²This shall specify a deadline by which the applicant must enrol; if there is a good cause for missing the deadline, particularly if a visa is required, the selection committee may extend the deadline appropriately upon request. ³If the University has not received the enrolment in accordance with sentence 2 in due time and form, the letter of admission shall become invalid. ⁴This legal consequence must be pointed out in the letter of admission.

(2) ¹Applicants who cannot be admitted shall receive a rejection letter in text form stating the rank achieved and the rank of the last admitted. ²The rejection letter shall provide information on rights of legal recourse. ³In the case of applicants who are entitled to admission, it shall also contain a request to declare in writing within a certain period of time whether the application for admission shall be held for a succession procedure. ⁴If the applicant does not submit this declaration in due time or form, he or she shall be excluded from the succession procedure. ⁵This legal consequence must be pointed out.

(3) ¹The succession procedure shall be carried out based on the ranking generated in accordance with § 7 section 5 and 6. ²The provisions of section 1 shall apply accordingly.

(4) ¹The selection procedures shall be completed by 15.10. at the latest in the case of admission for a winter semester or by 15.04. in the case of admission for a summer semester. ²Study places still available after this date shall be allocated by lot to applicants with admission entitlement upon informal application. ³The application period for this shall begin two weeks before the start of the semester for which admission is to be granted and ends with the conclusion of the selection procedure. ⁴Due to the advanced lecture period, the allocation of study places by lot is completed by 30.11. at the latest for admission for a winter semester and by 31.05. at the latest for admission for a summer semester.

(5) The decision is made by the Dean of Studies on behalf of the President.

§ 11 Admission for higher semesters

(1) The available study places in a higher semester with restricted admission shall be allocated in the following order to applicants

- a) who are or were enrolled in the same or a comparable degree programme
 - aa) at another German higher education institution or at a higher education institution of another member state of the European Union or another state party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area,
 - ab) at a foreign higher education institution and possess the German citizenship or are subject to the same university admission laws and regulations as German citizens,
- b) for whom a rejection of admission for reasons related to their own person would mean extraordinary hardship,
- c) who assert other reasons.

(2) Within each of the three case groups in section 1, the result of the Bachelor's examination or an examination equivalent to the Bachelor's examination shall be decisive, followed by social, in particular family-related and economic reasons relevant for the choice of the university's location and finally by lot in cases that are still identical.

§ 12 Quotas

(1) ¹A special quota of 25 per cent of the number of places to be allocated for the admission of foreign nationals and stateless persons with a recognised certificate of prior education who are neither equivalent to Germans under legal provisions nor nationals of another member state of the European Union nor have obtained their Bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree at a German university shall be formed in advance from the number of admissions to this degree programme. ²Applications from foreign nationals and stateless persons within the meaning of sentence 1 shall not be considered in the selection procedure in accordance with § 5.

(2) Selection shall be made in accordance with the provisions of §§ 1 to 8, unless otherwise stipulated below:

- a) When drawing up the ranking list, the selection committee may take into account special circumstances that speak in favour of studying at a German university by awarding a total of up to 3 additional points. Such circumstances include, in particular, if the applicant
 - ba) can prove that he/she has been awarded a scholarship by a publicly funded institute,

- bb) has successfully attended a college at the suggestion of a university in Lower Saxony and is registered for a place,
 - bc) belongs to a developing country,
 - bd) enjoys the right of asylum in the Federal Republic of Germany,
 - be) belongs to a German-speaking minority abroad or is subject to funding through intergovernmental treaties or university agreements.
- b) The application for admission to the Master's degree programme with the application documents required in accordance with § 3 section 2 must be received by the University by 01.06.(preclusive deadline) for the winter semester and by 01.12. of the previous year (cut-off deadline) for the summer semester.
- (3) Study places remaining available according to this quota will be added to the quota for the selection procedure according to § 5.

IV Final provision

§ 13 Entry into force; transitional provision

¹These regulations shall enter into force on the day following their publication in the Official Announcements I of the University of Göttingen. ²The regulations shall apply for the first time to the admission procedure for the winter semester 2024/2025. ³At the same time the regulations on admission requirements and admission to the consecutive Master's degree programme "Geosciences/Geoscience" in the version published on 25.04.2019 (Official Announcements I No. 23/2019 p. 443) shall expire.