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Reliance in law may only be placed upon the official German version of these Regulations.***

Faculty of Physics

Following the resolution passed by the faculty council of the Faculty of Physics dated 03.02.2016 and the Senate of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen dated 09.03.2016, the Foundation Committee University of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, foundation under public law, on DD.MM.2016 approved the new version of the regulations concerning the qualifications for entry and admission to the consecutive master degree programme "Physics" (§ 44 section 1 sentence 1 NHG in the version of the announcement dated 26.02.2007 (Nds. GVBl. p. 69), last amended by Article 1 of the Act dated 15.12.2015 (Nds. GVBl. p. 384); § 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 dated 29.01.1998 (Nds. GVBl. p. 51), last amended by Article 2 of the Act dated 15.12.2015 (Nds. GVBl. p. 390); § 62 section 4 sentence 1 NHG, § 60 a 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 governing the qualifications for entry
and admission
for the consecutive master degree programme in "Physics"
at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen**

I. Scope

§ 1 Scope

- (1) These regulations govern entry and admission to the master degree programme in "Physics".
- (2) The university executes in accordance with the following provisions an autonomous procedure for determining the qualifications for entry in respect to the university places to be awarded in the degree programme in "Physics".
- (3) ¹If the number of applicants who meet the qualifications for entry exceeds the available places, the university awards the places based on the results of its own selection procedure. ²If the

number of applicants who meet the qualifications for entry falls short of the available places, a selection procedure does not take place.

II. Authorisation for entry

§ 2 Qualifications for entry

(1) ¹Applicants seeking admission to the master degree programme must demonstrate specialist suitability. ²Candidates shall be considered in possession of special suitability if they have completed a bachelor degree programme in a relevant subject with a standard course length of at least six semesters and a scope of at least 180 ECTS credits, or an equivalent degree programme in physics or in a closely related subject according to section 3 at a German university or a university domiciled in one of the Bologna signatory states. ³Degree examinations that are considered equivalent to the qualifications under sentence 1 and have been passed in a country other than the Bologna Signatory States require the assessment of equivalence in consideration of the proposals by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) at the office of the permanent conference of the federal ministers of cultural affairs in Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) for the accreditation and assessment of foreign proof of academic qualification that are laid down at the URL www.anabin.de. ⁴The grades of the foreign degree certificates are to be converted to the German grading system.

¹Notwithstanding section 1, eligibility will be considered proven by applicants who have not yet completed a course of studies at the time of application, but have acquired at least 150 credits in a relevant bachelor degree programme as stated in section 3 or in an equivalent degree programme. ²The average grade calculated from the previous examination components is also considered in the selection procedure instead of the bachelor grade or the grade of an equivalent proof of academic qualification, irrespective of whether the result of the bachelor programme examination deviates therefrom.

¹ The decision whether an undergraduate programme is relevant in the meaning of sections 1 to 2 is made by the selection committee. ²Establishing the relevance of an undergraduate programme requires proof of performances in the subjects of physics, mathematics, chemistry, biology or computer sciences in a scope of no less than 126 credits, including performances in physics at a scope of no less than 63 credits, therein performances in theoretical physics, in quantum mechanics and statistical mechanics in a scope of at least 12 credits. ³Another requirement for the relevance of an undergraduate programme is completion of a bachelor thesis or equivalent thesis

in the subject of physics. ⁴Insofar as fewer persons apply who satisfy all qualifications for entry according to sentence 2 than there are university places to be awarded, the selection committee may require the completion of pending examination components under line 2 within two semesters for assessing the subject relevance; in this case, assessment of subject relevance and the entry is subject to termination until proof of the pending examination components, which should be submitted within two semesters from the time of enrolment at the university (closing date). ⁵Confirmation of subject relevance shall not be possible if the pending examination components under line 2 have a rating of more than 15 credits. ⁶Proof according to sentence 3 must be submitted by no later than 15.11. for enrolment in the winter semester and by no later than 15.05. for enrolment in the summer semester; relevance of the subject and admission are conditional until this proof has been submitted. ⁷If proof of the pending examination components is not submitted within the deadline, assessment of the subject's relevance and a related letter of admission will become ineffective.

(4) ¹Applicants whose native language is not German and who neither meet a German university entrance qualification nor have acquired their bachelor degree or an equivalent degree at a German university, must demonstrate sufficient proficiency in the German language. ²Proof hereof is demonstrated through a test with the grade point average DSH-2 in accordance with the examination regulation for the German language test for university admission of foreign prospective students (DSH). ³The obligation to take the test need not be met by applicants who are exempted from the German language test for admission to colleges and universities according to the examination regulations for the German language test for the admission of foreign students to colleges and universities (DSH) at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen; this applies especially to those applicants, who have proven the required German language skill through the "Test of German as a Foreign Language" (TestDaF) with at least four-times TestDaF grade level 4 (TDN 4) or the "German examination module" of the assessment test during the preparatory course.

(5) ¹Applicants whose native language is not English must show adequate English language skills. ²Sufficient English-language skills must be demonstrated by the minimum passing grade in an internationally recognised test, or by equivalent proof, which must be completed no longer than two years before submission of the application for admission to the master degree programme. ³Proof may be provided as follows:

- a) Cambridge First Certificate English (FCE) with at least a "B" grade;
- b) Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) with at least a "C" grade;
- c) IELTS Academic (International English Language Testing System): at least volume 5;
- d) Internet-based test: Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT): at least 61 points;
- e) Written test of "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL-PBT): at least 500 points;

- f) UNlcert: at least level II;
- g) Other certificate according to the Common European Framework (CEF), at least level B2;
- h) At least one year spent studying or working abroad in a country in which English is the official language;

A grade point average of at least 8 points in the subject of English throughout the two school years prior to acquiring university entrance qualification.

(6) ¹Applicants whose native language is English or who possess excellent English-language skills are not required to provide proof as defined under sections 4 and 5. ²Excellent English-language skills must be demonstrated by the minimum passing grade in an internationally recognised test, or by equivalent proof, which must be completed no longer than two years before submission of the application for admission to the master degree programme. ³Proof may be provided as follows:

- a) Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) with at least a "B" grade;
- b) Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) with at least a "C" grade;
- c) IELTS Academic (International English Language Testing System): at least volume 6.5, here at least 5.5 in each examination section;
- d) Internet-based test: Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT): at least 94 points;
- e) Written test of "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL-PBT): at least 577 points;
- f) UNlcert: at least level III;
- g) other certificate according to the Common European Framework (CEF), at least level C1.
- h) final certificate from a successfully completed, at least two-year, degree programme conducted exclusively in the English language.

(7) ¹The general provisions of the enrolment regulation of the university governing enrolment shall otherwise remain unaffected. ²The enrolment of the applicants, authorised in principle for admission according to section 2, is conditional upon submission of proof of successful completion of the bachelor degree programme or an equivalent programme. ³Proof must be submitted by 15.11 as concerns enrolment for the winter semester and by 15.05 as concerns enrolment for the summer semester.

III. Selection procedure

§ 3 Start of programme, admissions application, closing date

(1) ¹The master degree programme starts in both the summer and winter semesters. ²The admissions application must be submitted via an online university portal; it must have been received with the necessary application documents by 15.06. (closing date) for the winter semester and by 15.12. (closing date) for the summer semester. ³The application is valid only for awarding

university places for the relevant admission date. ⁴The university is not obligated to review the details of the applicants as part of its required duties.

(2) The following documents must be enclosed with the application for admission; they are uploaded to the university server by means of the online portal:

- a) the degree certificate(s) of the applicant in German or English translations if the originals are not in English or German; if a degree certificate is not yet submitted, a certificate of the acquired examination components, the credits and the average grade should be submitted;
- b) a personal data sheet written in German or English with a meaningful description of the educational career;
- c) proof of sufficient German and English language skills in accordance with § 2 section 4, 5 or proof of excellent English language skills as defined under § 2 section 6;
- d) naming of two members of the professoral group that will be asked by the University of Göttingen to each submit a letter of recommendation for the applicant;
- e) if necessary other documents that confirm the particular knowledge or specialist performances of relevance to the degree programme;
- f) a declaration stating the study focus the applicant intends to select based on his or her previous education;
- g) a declaration on whether the applicant has successfully / unsuccessfully completed a master degree programme in the same discipline or has not completed it yet.

(3) ¹Applications that are not submitted complete, or in due form and time, shall be excluded from the further procedure. ²The documents submitted remain with the university.

(4) If a prospective student establishes that he or she is disadvantaged in the selection procedure with respect to other applicants due to a handicap, a suitable compensation of disadvantage is to be granted by the Selection Committee upon request.

§ 4 Selection Committee for the master degree programme

(1) The Faculty of Physics at the university forms at least one selection committee for this degree programme in order to prepare the selection.

(2) ¹A selection committee is comprised of two members who belong to the scientific personnel working full-time or the professoral group and a member of the student union with advisory vote. ²At least one member must belong to the professoral group. ³The members are appointed by the faculty council of the Faculty of Physics. ⁴The tenure of the members is two years, while that of the student union member is one year. ⁵Reappointment is possible. ⁶The selection committee holds a quorum if at least two members eligible to vote are present.

(3) The tasks of the selection committee are:

- a) examination of the incoming admissions applications for formal correctness,
- b) examination and if necessary, review of the entry qualifications,
- c) Conducting the interviews in accordance with § 8,
- d) decision on the admission or rejection of the applicant.

(4) The selection committee reports to the faculty council of the Faculty of Physics about the experience gathered and may submit suggestions for further development of the award procedure, after conclusion of the award procedure.

§ 5 Sequence of the selection procedure

(1) A selection procedure includes the award of university places related to the specific admission date.

(2) ¹The admissions applications are decided in a main procedure and in the procedure for subsequent admissions, if required. ²In the first step of the main procedure, some university places will be awarded at first to the applicants entitled to admission with outstanding suitability (best quota; § 6) and then to applicants entitled to admission according to combination of several criteria (combination quota; § 7).

(3) ¹Any persons admitted based to the selection procedure on the best quota will not be eligible to participate in the selection procedure within the combination quota. ²Anyone who has been admitted to the best quota or the combination quota will not participate in a procedure for subsequent admissions.

(4) The selection committee can consider in the event of an overbooking that some university places may not be accepted.

(5) The remaining university places from the best quota are included in the combination quota.

(6) ¹The general provisions of the enrolment regulation of the university governing enrolment shall otherwise remain unaffected. ²The admission of the applicants, authorised in principle for admission according to § 2 section 2, is conditional upon submission of proof of successful completion of the bachelor degree programme or an equivalent academic programme. ³Proof must be submitted by 15.11 as concerns enrolment for the winter semester and by 15.05 as concerns enrolment for the summer semester.

§ 6 Best quota

(1) ¹A ranking list is generated in accordance with the following provisions to make the selection based on the combination quota. ²In case of identical ranking, the ranking is determined according to the result of the bachelor degree or an equivalent degree. Apart from this, a draw will decide the outcome in case of identical ranking. ³70% of the university places are awarded according to the ranking list, beginning with place 1.

(2) ¹The selection is made on the basis of a ranking list, with which a maximum of 60 points is attainable. ²This is generated in accordance with the following provisions:

a) Points are awarded to the applicant as follows, depending on the result of the bachelor examination or an equivalent degree certificate:

4.0	0 points,
above 4.0, up to 3.7	12 points,
above 3.7, up to 3.3	18 points,
above 3.3, up to 3.0	24 points,
above 3.0, up to 2.7	30 points,
above 2.7, up to 2.3	33 points,
above 2.3, up to 2.0	36 points,
above 2.0, up to 1.7	39 points,
above 1.7, up to 1.3	42 points,
above 1.3, up to 1.0	45 points,

b) The applicant will be awarded a maximum of 15 points as follows or specialised knowledge, skills and experience that is required for successful completion of this degree programme:

ba) the applicants will be awarded points as follows, depending on the nature and scope of the proven relevance of knowledge, skills and experience of relevance to the degree programme and based if necessary on any letters of recommendation:

The applicant has:

excellent knowledge	12 points,
very good knowledge	9 points,
good knowledge	6 points,
sufficient knowledge	3 points,
insubstantial knowledge	0 points.

bb) a maximum of 3 points will be awarded for the proof of specialised examination components according to the following provisions:

<i>Power</i>	<i>Points</i>
Grants	3

Semester abroad	3
Internships outside the university in a scope of at least 8 weeks	2
Basic apprenticeship in a relevant training profession	2
Contribution to a research project, for instance as a student assistant, in a scope of at least 8 weeks	1
Cooperation in university committees for at least 1 year	1

c) The points attained under points a) and b) are added.

(3) ¹Applicants who are admitted as part of the best quota receive a letter of admission from the university in a text form. ²This specifies the deadline within which the applicant must enrol or declare in writing whether he or she accepts the university place. ³The applicant must enrol at the latest two weeks after expiry of the deadline mentioned in sentence 2 (closing date), provided no enrolment according to sentence 2 has been made. ⁴If

a) under line 2 or the declaration

b) under line 2 and the enrolment under line 3 are not submitted to

the university within the specified deadline and in the correct form, the letter of admission will become ineffective. ⁵Notification of this legal consequence must be provided in the letter of admission.

(4) The admitted students do not take part in the further procedure any longer.

§ 7 Combination quota

(1) ¹For the selection as part of the combination quota, a ranking list is generated in accordance with the following provisions. ²30% of the university places are awarded according to the ranking list, beginning with place 1.

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

a) based on the grade of the bachelor degree or the grade of an equivalent proof of education as well as on special knowledge that is beneficial to the completion of this degree programme, according to the ranking as defined in § 6 section 2 and

b) according to the result of an interview with the applicant.

(3) The selection committee screens the received applications according to section 4 and selects from the screened applicants on the basis of the selection criteria mentioned in sections 2 and 5.

(4) ¹The received applications are screened to twice the number of university places to be awarded as per the selection procedure for limitation of the number of participants for the interview. ²This is

based on a ranking according to § 6 section 2. ³In the event of an identical ranking, all applicants in the highest ranking will be permitted to participate.

(5) ¹The selection is made on the basis of a ranking list, with which a maximum of 70 points is attainable. ²This is generated in accordance with the following provisions:

a) Points are awarded to the applicant as follows, depending on the assessment of the degree of suitability in the interview:

The applicant appears	
excellently suited	10 points,
very suited	8 points,
well suited	6 points,
adequately suited	4 points,
sufficiently suited	2 points,
not particularly suited	0 points,

b) The applicant will be credited with the points acquired as part of the assessment according to § 6 section 2.

d) The points acquired under letters a) and b) are added.

(6) ¹If there is identical ranking after generating the ranking list, the ranking sequence is determined based on the results of the assessment according to § 6 section 2, and then according to the result of the bachelor degree or an equivalent degree. ²A draw shall be held to decide the outcome in all other cases in which there is identical ranking.

(7) The selected applicants are admitted under § 9.

§ 8 Interview

(1) ¹The interview should show whether the applicant is suitable for the selected degree programme. ²The following principles apply to how the interviews are conducted:

a) The interview is usually held at the university in the second half of June for the winter semester and the second half of December for the summer semester. The exact dates as well as the place of interview are announced by the university within an appropriate period before the start of interviews. The applicants are called for the interview by the university well in advance. Video or telephone conferences are permitted for overseas applicants as well as in justified exceptions, as far as the identity of the applicant can be determined beyond doubt. The selection committee determines the details of the procedure in such cases.

- b) The selection committee conducts an interview lasting about 15 minutes with every applicant. The interview can be held simultaneously for up to four applicants.
 - c) Minutes of the key questions and answers of the interview will be kept and signed by the members of the selection committee. The minutes should clearly show the day and place of the interview, the name of the committee members, the name of the applicant and the assessment.
- (2) The interview extends to the motivation to complete the degree programme and the following aptitudes:
- a) technical background,
 - b) professional and personal goals,
 - c) clear perceptions of the curriculum,
 - d) self-assessment of working style and resilience,
 - e) extracurricular interests relevant to the degree programme.
- (3) The members of the selection committee assess the applicant after conclusion of the interview to ascertain suitability for the selected degree programme on a scale according to § 7 section 5 sentence 2 letter a).
- (4) ¹An applicant who fails to attend the interview without good cause is excluded from the further procedure. ²The selection committee schedules a new date for the interview upon request, provided there is due cause. ³The due cause and application for rescheduling should be demonstrated or made promptly, at the latest within two days after the date first scheduled. ⁴An excluded applicant is entitled to participate once more in the next possible selection procedure.

§ 9 Letter of admission, rejection letter and procedure for subsequent admissions

- (1) ¹Applicants who are admitted receive a letter of admission from the university in a text form. ²This specifies the deadline within which the applicant must enrol or declare in writing whether he or she accepts the university place. ³The applicant must enrol at the latest two weeks after expiry of the deadline mentioned in sentence 2 (closing date), provided no enrolment according to sentence 2 has been made. ⁴If
- c) under line 2 or the declaration
 - d) under line 2 and the enrolment under line 3 are not submitted to
- the university within the specified deadline and in the correct form, the letter of admission will become ineffective. ⁵Notification of this legal consequence must be provided in the letter of admission.

(2) ¹Applicants who are not entitled to admission receive a rejection letter in a text form, in which the attained ranking and the ranking of the applicant last admitted are listed. ²The rejection letter provides information on rights of legal recourse. ³Insofar as the applicant has satisfied the requirements for entry, it also includes the request to declare in writing within a specified deadline whether the admissions application will be held for a procedure for subsequent admissions. ⁴If the applicant does not submit this declaration within a specified period or in the correct form, he or she will be excluded from the procedure for subsequent admissions. ⁵Reference must be made to this legal consequence.

(3) ¹The procedure for subsequent admissions will be executed on the basis of the ranking list according to § 7 sections 4 and 5. ²Once the ranking according to sentence 1 has been worked through, the ranking according to § 6 section 2 will then be applied. (5) ³In case of identical ranking, the ranking order is determined according to the result of the bachelor degree or an equivalent degree. ⁴A lottery shall in all cases thereafter decide the outcome in the event of identical ranking. ⁵The provisions of the section 1 apply correspondingly.

(4) ¹The selection procedures are completed at the latest on 15.11 for admission to a winter semester or on 15.05 for admission to a summer semester. ²University places that are still remaining will be awarded by a lottery to applicants entitled to admission, subject to informal application. ³The application period in this respect begins two weeks before the start of the semester in which the admission is applicable, and ends with conclusion of the selection procedure; the provisions of § 2 apply accordingly. ⁴The award of university places by means of a lottery is completed no later than 30.11 for admission to a winter semester and no later than 31.05 for admission to a summer semester, because of the advanced lecture period.

§ 10 Admission to higher semesters

(1) The free university places in a higher semester with limited admission are awarded to applicants in the following sequence,

- a) who are or were enrolled in the same or equivalent degree programme
 - aa) are or were enrolled at a different German university or at a university domiciled in another member state of the European Union or in another signatory state to the Agreement on the European Economic Area,
 - bb) who are or were enrolled at a foreign university and possess the German nationality or are subject to the same university admissions laws and regulations as German citizens,
- b) for whom the rejection of admission for personal reasons would mean extraordinary hardship,

c) who assert other reasons.

(2) Within each one of the three case groups of the section 1, the result of the Bachelor's programme examination or an examination equivalent to the Bachelor's programme examination, thereupon the social, especially family-related and economic reasons that are decisive for the choice of place, and finally the draw in cases that are still identical.

§ 11 Quotas

(1) ¹From the number of admissions for this degree programme, a special quota of 25 of hundred of the available university places for admission of foreign nationals and stateless persons with a recognised proof of prior qualification, who are neither equally entitled as Germans according to legal provisions nor are citizens of another member state of the European Union nor have completed their bachelor degree or an equivalent degree at a German university, is reserved in advance. ²Applications from foreign nationals and stateless persons as defined under sentence 1 will not be considered in the selection procedure according to § 5.

(2) ¹Selection takes place based on the terms of §§ 1 to 8, unless otherwise specified in the following:

a) In the generation of a ranking list, points will not be awarded for special knowledge, skills and experience according to § 6 section 2 sentence 2 letter b); instead the points will be awarded as follows based on the result of the GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) Subject Test with a focus on "Physics" :

<i>Performance in the GRE Subject Test "Physics"</i>	<i>Points</i>
990 points	34
940 – 980 points	27
900 – 920 points	20
860 – 880 points	13
820 – 840 points	6
less than 800 points	0

b) Special circumstances that speak in favour of completing an academic programme at a German university can also be considered. ⁴Circumstances of this nature shall be deemed particularly applicable if the applicant

- a) provides confirmation of approval for a scholarship from a publicly financed institution,
- b) has successfully visited a college upon suggestion of a Lower Saxony university and is preselected for a university place,

- c) is a citizen of a developing country,
- d) has been granted asylum in the Federal Republic of Germany,
- e) belongs to a German-speaking minority abroad or is eligible for support on the basis of international treaties or university agreements.

c) § 3 section 1 sentence 2 notwithstanding, the application for entry to the master degree programme must have been received by the university together with the application documents required under § 3 section 2 by no later than 15.04. (closing date) for the winter semester, and by no later than 15.10 of the previous year (closing date) for the summer semester. In addition to the application documents required according to § 3 section 2, the result of the GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) Subject Test with a focus on "Physics" that the candidate completed must also be submitted; in this respect the applicant must instruct the test provider to pass on the result of the test to the University of Göttingen with sufficient notice.

(3) The remaining university places according to this quota are included in the quota for the selection procedure according to § 5.

IV. Entry into force; interim regulations

§ 12 Entry into force; interim regulations

(1) ¹This regulation enters into force the day after its promulgation in the official announcements I of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. ²It applies for the first time to the awards procedure in the winter semester 2016/17.

(2) At the same time, the regulations concerning the qualifications for entry and admission to the master degree programme in "Physics" in the version contained in the announcement dated 30.07.2009 (Official Announcements no. 18/2009 p. 1771) shall be rendered ineffective.

(3) § 11 section 2 letter d) notwithstanding, the application for admission to the master degree programme as part of the quota stated under § 11 section 1 must have been received by the university by no later than 15.05.2016 (closing date) for enrolment to the winter semester 2016/17. The application must contain the documents required according to § 3 section 2.