

**Faculty of Forestry Sciences and Forest Ecology:**

Following the resolution passed by the faculty council of the Faculty of Forestry and Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology dated 17.07.2012, the presidential board of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen has approved the study and examination regulations on 02.10.2012 for the consecutive master degree programme in "Sustainable Forest and Nature Management" (§ 44 section 1 sentence 2 NHG in the version of the announcement dated 26.02.2007 (Nds. GVBl. S. 69), amended by Article 1 of the Act dated 20.06.2012 (Nds. GVBl. p. 186); § 37 section 1 sentence 3 no. 5 b) NHG, § 44 section 1 sentence 3 NHG).

**Study and Examination Regulations  
for the consecutive master degree programme  
"Sustainable Forest and Nature Management"  
at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen**

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Appendix I: Module summary and periods of studies

## **§ 1 Scope**

(1) The "provisions of the general examination regulations for the bachelor and master degree programmes as well as other degree programmes offered at the University of Göttingen" (APO) as amended from time to time apply to the master degree programme in "Sustainable Forest and Nature Management".

(2) These regulations stipulate additional provisions for the master degree programme in "Sustainable Forest and Nature Management".

(3) The master degree programme in "Sustainable Nature and Forest Management" is conducted in a consortium with the following five universities (SUFONAMA partner universities):

- Bangor University, Wales, Great Britain;
- Københavns Universitet, Denmark;
- Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany;
- Università degli Studi di Padova, Italy;
- Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet, Alnarp, Sweden;

The University of Copenhagen, Denmark, is charged with coordination.

(4) The examination provisions in place at the host partner universities shall apply to all study and examination components not completed at the University of Göttingen.

## **§ 2 Objectives of the academic programme, purpose of the examinations**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The master degree programme in "Sustainable Forest and Nature Management" conveys to students in-depth knowledge and skills required to tackle the major European challenges in sustainably managing natural resources, in particular in managing forests and natural regions that can only be considered in the wider context of integrative landscape planning. <sup>2</sup>The degree programme has a clear focus on current questions, methods and developments within European science. This enables the graduates to understand, to assess within an in-depth, specialised framework, to apply and to develop new scientific insight.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The master degree programme in "Sustainable Forest and Nature Management" has a wide variety of elective subjects to introduce individual structure. <sup>2</sup>This academic programme and its focus on application prepares for work as a scientific expert in ministries, forestry and conservation authorities, forestry and conservation associations, consulting firms, non-government organisations (NGOs) and international organisations.

(3) The master examination will ascertain that the person presenting for examination has indeed acquired the advanced specialised knowledge in forest sciences and the sub-disciplines therein required for the purpose of the degree programme, understands the connections between the individual sub-disciplines and possesses the ability to work in

accordance with scientific principles, to question models of forest sciences and to convey insight in forest sciences to outside persons.

### **§ 3 Academic degree**

(1) Upon successful completion of the master examination, both universities at which study and examination components were completed over the course of the degree programme each award the university degree "Master of Science" (short form: "M.Sc."), if applicable with the added title used in the respective country.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Each university will issue a degree certificate for the university degree they award, whereby the two degree certificates are integrated in such a way as to represent one single degree certificate in terms of content. <sup>2</sup>The degree certificate can only be issued in an integrated form. <sup>3</sup>The University of Göttingen issues the degree certificate in the English or on request the German language with the date of certificate; in addition to stating the degree programme, the degree certificate also specifies the joint structure of the programme.

### **§ 4 Recommended prior knowledge**

<sup>1</sup>It is recommended that students should have good knowledge of theoretical and practical approaches in forest sciences. <sup>2</sup>Applicants to the degree programme whose knowledge of the regional language in the country chosen for the second year of studies (Danish, German, Italian, Swedish) is insubstantial are advised to take suitable courses.

### **§ 5 Structure of the academic programme, standard course length, periods of studies**

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

(2) The standard course length is four semesters:

(3) The consecutive master degree programme in "Sustainable Forest and Nature Management" is not suitable for part-time studies.

(4) The academic programme comprises 120 credits (ECTS credits; short form: C), which are completed in a scope of 60 C each at two of the five participating SUFONAMA partner universities and are distributed as follows:

focus, including focus studies and key competencies (90 C)

Master thesis (30 C)

(5) <sup>1</sup>The study and examination components should be completed in compulsory modules and optional required. <sup>2</sup>The number, type and scope of the modules to be successfully completed are governed by the module overview (appendix 1). <sup>3</sup>Module catalogue and module handbook for the modules offered in Göttingen are published separately in a common electronic version (digital module directory); they are part of these regulations, insofar as the modules are itemised in the module overview (appendix 1).

(6) <sup>1</sup>The first year of studies (60 C) can be completed in Bangor, Göttingen or Copenhagen and provides qualification for all five study focuses in the second study year at one of the other participating partner universities. <sup>2</sup>The curriculum for the first, i.e. second study year at the University of Göttingen is defined in appendix I. <sup>3</sup>One year of studies must be completed at a partner university other than the University of Göttingen.

(7) The first year of studies lays the foundation for the ability to acquire an overview of the central contexts within the subject of forest science, to apply fundamental scientific methods and insight and to convey the specialised, thorough knowledge required for their application in the practical field.

(8) <sup>1</sup>The second year of studies asks students to choose a study focus to acquire enlarged, specialised knowledge in a subject they select in order to create good general and specialised aptitude for the professional field and to lay the foundation for further acquisition of an academic degree (Ph.D.). <sup>2</sup>In order to achieve the designated goals, well-founded theories are merged with questions of application and developments in practice, hence meaning that the students are provided with skills in a vocational field of action, just as much as an academic qualification.

## **§ 6 Academic programme sections**

(1) The degree programme is divided into two study sections: the focus studies of the first year and the specialisation phase of the second year of studies.

(2) <sup>1</sup>60 C must be acquired in the first year of studies. <sup>2</sup>This also includes the area of specialised competency (focus studies).

(3) <sup>1</sup>The second year of studies involves in-depth and specialised studies and also includes the written thesis. <sup>2</sup>60 C must be acquired in the second year of studies, 30 C of which by producing the master thesis.

(4) The following focuses can be selected in the second year of studies:

- a) Forest Management in Scandinavia and the Baltic Region (Alnarp)
- b) Conservation Biology and Land Management (Bangor)
- c) Forest and Nature Management in a Changing Climate (Göttingen)
- d) Management of Forest and Nature for Society (Copenhagen)
- e) Mountain Forestry and Watershed Management (Padova)

## **§ 7 Examination Registration and Withdrawal Deadlines**

(1) <sup>1</sup>In each semester, the examination board defines an examination period that normally lasts for six weeks and follows the period of lectures. <sup>2</sup>Examination dates can be fixed outside of the examination period under sentence 1; this is decided by the Dean of Studies upon application by the examinee.

(2) The dates of the module tests are specified by the examination office after hearing the examinee and should be announced in the electronic examination management system at the latest six weeks before the module test.

(3) <sup>1</sup>Electronic registration for a module examination must be completed no later than seven days before the examination date. <sup>2</sup>Students may withdraw from an examination without stating reasons no later than seven days beforehand; in the event that it is a written examination, students may withdraw up to one day beforehand.

### **§ 8 Reassessment Guidelines**

(1) <sup>1</sup>Once passed, examinations may only be repeated once in order to improve the grade. <sup>2</sup>Reassessment does not lead to any devaluation of the grade. <sup>3</sup>Reassessment must take place in the next possible examination period for the corresponding module.

(2) Failed examinations or those regarded failed in optional required modules must be retaken.

(3) A master thesis graded failed may be repeated once.

(4) Students will receive the same number of minus points for a failed module examination and part thereof as they could have gained in ECTS credits for passing the corresponding module or part thereof.

(5) Reassessment is not permitted as soon as the circumstances covered by § 12 section 2 apply.

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

(1) Admission to the master thesis requires confirmation that all modules in the first year of studies are complete in a scope of at least 30 C.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The written application for admission to the master thesis must be submitted to the responsible examination board. <sup>2</sup>In this, the following documents must be enclosed:

a) Proof of fulfilment as concerns the requirements specified under section 1,

b) Proposal of the topic for the master thesis,

c) A proposal for the first academic advisor or the second academic advisor,

d) A written confirmation of the first academic advisor and the second academic advisor,

e) A declaration specifying that the master examination in the master degree programme in "Sustainable Forest and Nature Management" has not been failed definitively or registered as definitively failed in the same or similar master degree programme at a domestic or foreign university.

<sup>3</sup>The proposal under letters b) and c) as well as the proof as specified under letter d) are unnecessary if the student provides assurance that he or she has been unable to find an academic advisor.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The examination board decides on the admission. <sup>2</sup>This should be rejected if the qualifications for entry are not fulfilled or the master examination in the master degree programme in "Sustainable Forest and Nature Management" or a comparable master degree programme at a domestic or foreign university has been definitively failed or regarded as definitively failed.

### **§ 10 Master thesis**

(1) <sup>1</sup>With the written master thesis, the candidate should prove that he or she is in a position to process a problem using the methods of forest sciences in the specified timeframe, develop an independent, scientifically established judgement, arrive at scientifically underpinned statements and illustrate the results in a linguistically as well as formally appropriate manner. <sup>2</sup>30 C are awarded for successful completion of the master thesis.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The preliminary topic of the master thesis, which can be written in German or in English, must be agreed with the supervisor and must be submitted with confirmation by the supervisor to the responsible examination board with a proposal for the second examiner. <sup>2</sup>Should a candidate be unable to find a supervisor, the responsible examination board will appoint examiners and a topic. <sup>3</sup>The candidate's view should be considered in choosing the topic. <sup>4</sup>The approval of the topic for the master thesis is dealt with by the examination office. <sup>5</sup>Time of approval should be recorded.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The master thesis should be completed within a period of 6 months. <sup>2</sup>Upon application of the candidate, the examination board can extend the deadline for submitting the thesis by a maximum of three months, upon agreement with the first supervisor and existence of an important reason that cannot be attributed to the candidate. <sup>3</sup>An important reason normally exists in case of illness that is to be notified immediately and established by producing a medical certificate.

(4) <sup>1</sup>The topic can be returned only once and only within the first 8 weeks of the time allotted for completing the thesis. <sup>2</sup>A new topic can only be agreed on one occasion and only within the first 4 weeks allowed for completion. <sup>3</sup>In the event that a master thesis is repeated, the topic may be returned only in accordance with sentence 1 if the examinee has not resorted to this option in the first submission of the master thesis.

(5) <sup>1</sup>The master thesis must be submitted on time to the responsible examination office in three identical copies with glued binding. <sup>2</sup>It should also be submitted in an electronic form according to more specific regulation of the examination board. <sup>3</sup>The time of submission should be recorded. <sup>4</sup>Upon submission, the candidate should declare in writing that he or she has independently compiled the work or - in case of group work - the correspondingly marked proportion of the work and has not used any sources and tools other than those specified. Master theses in the German language must contain an English translation of the

title and a one-page English abstract; master theses in the English language must contain a German translation of the title and a one-page summary in the German language.

(6) <sup>1</sup>The examination office forwards the master thesis to the examiners. <sup>2</sup>Each examiner assigns a grade. One examiner must be a member of the professoral group at the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology.

(7) The duration of the assessment procedure shall not exceed 4 weeks.

### **§ 11 Examination board**

<sup>1</sup>The examination board consists of seven members, each of whom holds a vote, among them four members come from the professoral group, one member from the faculty group and two members from the group of students; there is one member from the examination office, acting in a consulting capacity. <sup>2</sup>At the same time, a deputy is nominated for each member. <sup>3</sup>If a member or a representative steps down prematurely, a substitute member will be nominated for the remaining tenure.

### **§ 12 Passing, definitive failing and distinction**

(1) The master examination is passed once the master thesis and the required module examinations have been completed successfully.

(2) Besides the cases mentioned in the APO, the right to take an examination lapses definitively if the number of the minus points in the module examinations exceeds 24 in the first study year or 12 in the second study year.

(3) The title "with distinction" is awarded for a grade point average up to and including 1.3 and noted on the certificate and the degree certificate.

### **§ 13 Study and examination advice**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The students are advised to obtain subject-related advice from the faculty over the entire period of studies. <sup>2</sup>This has the task of supporting the individual study planning. <sup>3</sup>The students are recommended to consult the student advisory service, especially at the start of the degree programme and before decisions on changes to their study plan, as concerns the selection of study focuses or in the structure of compulsory optional modules; furthermore, it should also be consulted when planning study abroad and after failing any examination.

(2) All lecturers of the research area and their colleagues are available during their consulting hours for providing study advisory service relating to special research areas.

(3) In examination matters and for questions regarding accreditation of study and examination prerequisites, advice is offered especially by the colleagues of the examination office.

(4) <sup>1</sup>Besides study advisory service of the faculty, the students have access to the Central Student Advisory Office of the Georg-August-Universität. <sup>2</sup>As general study advisory service,

it furnishes information in case of interdisciplinary issues as well as study opportunities, contents, structure and requirements of a course of studies and advises in case of study-related personal difficulties.

#### **§ 14 Entry into force**

(1) This regulation enters into force retroactively following promulgation in the official announcements I of the University of Göttingen as per 01.10.2012.

(2) At the same time, the examination regulations for the master degree programme "Sustainable Forest and Nature Management" in the version contained in the announcement dated 06.07.2007 (Official Announcements I no. 12/2007 p. 552) and the study regulations for the master degree programme "Sustainable Forest and Nature Management" in the version contained in the announcement dated 06.07.2007 (Official Announcements I no. 12/2007 p. 563) shall cease to be effective.

(3) <sup>1</sup>Students who commenced their degree programme before these examination and study regulations came into force and were enrolled in this degree programme when said regulations came into force shall be examined on the basis of the regulations as defined in section 2. <sup>2</sup>Examination according to a regulation in the version applicable before this regulation entered into force will be assessed for the last time in the summer semester 2014. <sup>3</sup>Students according to sentence<sup>1</sup> are reviewed upon application, summarily according to the provisions of the existing regulations upon request.

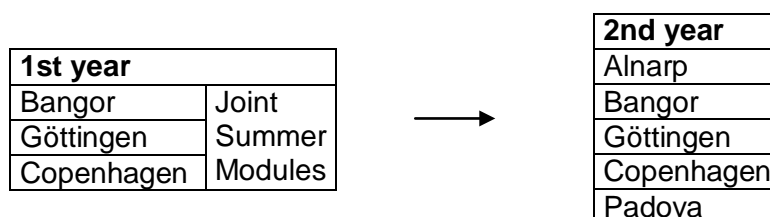


## Appendix I: Module summary and periods of studies

120 C must be acquired in accordance with the provisions contained hereinafter.

### 1. Overall structure

The first year of studies in the master degree programme "Sustainable Forest and Nature Management" can be completed at one of the three partner universities in Bangor (Great Britain), Göttingen or Copenhagen (Denmark); a joint module comes at the end of this year. After the first year of studies, students must switch to another university, which additionally include the universities in Alnarp (Sweden) and Padova (Italy):



### 2. First year of studies

#### 2.1 First year of studies in Göttingen

The first year of studies in Göttingen includes the following compulsory and optional required modules:

Module No.	Module Title	ECTS	Compulsory (P) / Compulsory Optional (WP)
M.FORST.1600	Forest management under different climatic conditions	6	WP
M.FORST.1512	International forest policy and economics	6	WP
M.FORST.1513	Monitoring of forest resources	6	WP
M.FORST.1609	Remote sensing image processing with open source software	6	WP
M.FORST.1523	Biometrical research methods	6	WP
M.FORST.1606 (SUF)	Forestry in Germany	10	WP
M.SUFONAMA.1	Contemporary temperate forest and nature management	5	P
M.SUFONAMA.2	Location specific knowledge in forest and nature management	7.5	P
M.SUFONAMA.3	Joint summer module	7.5	P
		60	

## 2.2 First year of studies in Bangor

The first year of studies in Bangor includes the following compulsory and optional required modules:

Module No.	Module Title	ECTS	Compulsory (P) / Compulsory Optional (WP)
1	Silviculture	10	WP
2	Ecosystem function	10	WP
3	Natural and semi-natural forests	10	WP
4	Research methods	10	WP
5	Contemporary temperate forest and nature management	5	P
6	Location specific knowledge in forest and nature management	7.5	P
7	Joint summer module	7.5	P
		60	

## 2.3 First year of studies in Copenhagen

The first year of studies in Copenhagen includes the following compulsory and optional required modules:

Module No.	Module Title	ECTS	Compulsory (P) / Compulsory Optional (WP)
1	Thematic course in ecology and management of forests and other semi-natural terrestrial systems	15	WP
2	Applied forest and natural resource economics	7.5	WP
3	Conflict management	7.5	WP
4	Global environmental governance	7.5	WP
5	Term paper on elective subject within one of the modules 1-4* <b>or</b>	2.5	WP
6	Internship at national stakeholder*	2.5	WP
7	Contemporary temperate forest and nature management	5	P
8	Location specific knowledge in forest and nature management	7.5	P
9	Joint summer module	7.5	P
		60	

\* conditional on permission by Faculty Study Board

### 3. Second year of studies

#### 3.1 Students completing their first year of studies in Göttingen

Students who completed their first year of studies in Göttingen must continue their academic programme in the second year of studies at one of the other participating universities, and must select one of the following study focuses:

- (a) *Conservation Biology and Land Management (Bangor)*
- (b) *Management of Forest and Nature for Society (Copenhagen)*
- (c) *Forest Management in Scandinavia and the Baltic Region (Alnarp)*
- (d) *Mountain Forestry and Watershed Management (Padova)*

##### 3.1.1 Second year in Alnarp: Forest Management in Scandinavia and the Baltic Region

The second year of studies in Alnarp includes the following compulsory and optional required modules:

Module No.	Module Title	ECTS	Compulsory (P) / Compulsory Optional (WP)
1	Sustainable forestry in southern Sweden	15*	WP
2	Planning in sustainable forest management	15*	WP
3	National and international forest policy	15*	WP
4	Broadleaves: ecology, nature conservation, silviculture	15*	WP
5	Research planning	10	P
6	MSc research project / Thesis	30	
		60	

\* 30 of 60 credits must be acquired. It is possible to reduce each of these modules to 10 credits.

##### 3.1.2 Second year in Bangor: Conservation Biology and Land Management

The second year of studies in Bangor includes the following compulsory and optional required modules:

Module No.	Module Title	ECTS	Compulsory (P) / Compulsory Optional (WP)
1	Conservation biology	10	WP
2	Evidence based conservation	10	WP

3	Research planning	10	P
4	Thesis	30	
		60	

### 3.1.3 Second year in Copenhagen: Management of Forest and Nature for Society

The second year of studies in Copenhagen includes the following compulsory and optional required modules:

Module No.	Module Title	ECTS	Compulsory (P) / Compulsory Optional (WP)
1	Research planning	7.5	P
2	Natural resource sampling and modelling	7.5	WP
3	Thematic course in sustainable forest and natural resource management	15	WP
4	Thesis	30	
		60	

### 3.1.4 Second year in Padova: Mountain forestry and watershed management

The second year of studies in Padova includes the following compulsory and optional required modules:

Module No.	Module Title	ECTS	Compulsory (P) / Compulsory Optional (WP)
1	Research planning	6	P
2	Management of mountain forests and logging systems	10	WP
3	Valuation and assessment of forest and environmental goods and services	6	WP
4	Mountain fluvial morphology and stream restoration	8	WP
5	Thesis	30	
		60	

### 3.2 Students completing their second year of studies in Göttingen

Students who come to the University of Göttingen in their second year of studies must complete modules with a total rating of 30 C and must also successfully complete their master thesis:

Module No.	Module Title	ECTS	Compulsory (P) / Compulsory Optional (WP)
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M.FORST.1600	Forest management under different climatic conditions	6	WP
M.FORST.1513	Monitoring of forest resources	6	WP
M.SUFONAMA.4	Research planning	6	P
M.FORST.1601	Bioclimatology and global change	6	WP
M.FORST.1607	Biodiversity, NTFPs and wildlife management	6	WP
		30	

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