

## **Technische Universität Dresden**

Faculty of Environmental Sciences  
Institute of International Forestry and Forest Products  
Professorship Tropical Forestry

### **Course regulations for the Master Course *Tropical Forestry***

**as of #date#**

Based on § 36, Passage 1 of the Sächsisches Hochschulfreiheitsgesetz – SächsHG (Law on autonomy in the university system) of the Free State of Saxony in the version of the Notice as of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 (SächsGVBl. p. 3), Technische Universität Dresden issues in the form of a statute the following Course Regulations.

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## **§ 1 Scope**

Based on the Sächsisches Hochschulfreiheitsgesetz and the Examination Regulations, these Course Regulations determine goal, contents, structure and sequence of the studies for the Master Course *Tropical Forestry* at Technische Universität Dresden.

## **§ 2 Course Objectives**

(1) Based on general basics in forestry and forest management, upon completion of the studies the students have acquired comprehensive knowledge of forestry and management of tropical and subtropical forests. The graduates are able to analyze complex relationships between human being and the ecosystem in the tropics and subtropics at various scale levels, and to develop respective management strategies, as well as to control the implementation of the latter and to attend this process through observation. They are able to work independently, and under team spirit, and can communicate their knowledge. Hence, they are capable of developing and implementing by scientific approaches strategies for the protection and sustainable management of forest in the tropics and subtropics.

(2) The students are in a position to master diverse and complex tasks in their prospective profession, owing to their broad theoretical and practical specific forestry knowledge as well as their methodical understanding of social, natural and engineering sciences.

The fields of work comprise:

1. Management of enterprises of forestry and forest products, as well as bilateral and multi-lateral forest management projects,
2. Advise for governments about the development of forest and land use,
3. Leading activities in international organizations, non-governmental organizations and authorities,
4. Forestry extension and environmental education,
5. Scientific activities in national and international forestry research and educational institutions,
6. Expert work as forestry engineering consultancies.

## **§ 3 Entry Requirements**

(1) Requirement for being admitted to the Course is a first Certificate of Higher Education in a course of studies in forestry sciences or neighboring disciplines by a state or state-acknowledged professional academy. As neighboring disciplines are regarded, among others, agriculture, horticulture, landscape and regional planning, geography, water management, biology.

(2) The course presupposes a good command of the English language, which has to be proven at the level of TOEFL 80 iTB (550 PBT, 213 CBT) or IELTS 6.0).

#### **§ 4 Beginning and Length of the Course**

- (1) Each starting with the winter semester, the Course can be commenced.
- (2) The regular course length comprises, besides the attendance studies, independent studies as well as the Master examination.

#### **§ 5 Forms of Teaching and Learning**

- (1) The subjects taught follow a modular structure. In the single modules the teaching contents are conveyed, reinforced and deepened through lectures, seminars, exercises, project work, field trips and tutorials, e-learning exercises and independent study.
- (2) The subject areas of the modules are introduced during the lectures, and the students are given an orientation for the further acquisition and elaboration of knowledge. Exercises serve the deepening of the knowledge conveyed, with an emphasis on methods. Seminars allow the students in a guided manner to deal with, to represent and to assess a selected topic. This includes independent literature searches, the elaboration in writing, as well as the presentation and discussion of the results. By project work the students are to verify their competence to define objectives in connection with a task as well as to elaborate interdisciplinary approaches and concepts with orientation to practice. Field trips serve the illustration of the theoretical contents acquired and inform on concrete forestry issues and solutions. The students are supported in the elaboration of the tasks via tutorials. Internet-based e-Learning exercises help in the training of interactions in the virtual sphere. In online-discussions individual questions and statements are dealt with based on direct feedback with a given time limit.

#### **§ 6 Structure and Performance of the Course**

- (1) The Course is based on modules. The teaching program focuses on the first three semesters. The fourth semester is provided for the elaboration of the Master thesis and for the colloquium. The survey of primary data for the Master thesis is usually conducted in a country of the tropics or subtropics.
- (2) The course is subdivided into 3 compulsory modules and 8 joint optional compulsory modules. The study unit *Tropical Forestry and Management* comprises another 5, the study unit *Sustainable Tropical Forestry* another four compulsory modules. Two of the compulsory modules in the study unit *Tropical Forestry and Management* are optional compulsory modules in the study unit *Sustainable Tropical Forestry*. Thus, setting of priorities through the selection by the students is given between the study units and within the study units corresponding to the optional compulsory modules. The selection is fixed through inscribing by the students.
- (3) Contents and objectives of the qualification, forms of teaching and learning, requirements, usability, frequency, effort of work as well as duration of the individual modules can be read in the Module Descriptions (Annex 1).
- (4) All program courses are delivered in English language.
- (5) The proper allocation of the modules to the single semesters, the adherence to which allowing for completing the studies within the standard course length, as well as number and

time of the required study and examination performances can be re-read in the curriculum enclosed (Annex 2).

(6) Upon proposal by the Committee on Teaching and the Curriculum (Studienkommission) the curriculum can be modified by the Faculty Council. The actual offer of optional compulsory modules is made four weeks prior to the beginning of the semester in a way common to the Faculty. The changed curriculum is binding for the students who are informed at the beginning of the study in the way common at the Faculty. Concerning exceptions for sentence 3, the examination board will decide upon application. If less than 5 students have inscribed for an optional compulsory module, it is at the discretion of the Committee on Teaching and the Curriculum (Studienkommission) to decide in agreement with the respective university lecturer, whether the module will take place.

## **§ 7 Course Contents**

(1) The Master Course *Tropical Forestry* is more practice-oriented, dealing with the management of tropical and subtropical forest ecosystems. At high scientific level strategies are conveyed for the practical forest management referring especially to recent developments.

(2) The contents are climate and ecology including functions and performances of ecosystems, forest-related development policy and forest culture with models and instruments of rural development; assessment, growth and evaluation of forest resources; forest utilization with specific characteristics, harvest, transportation, storage, processing and marketing of forest products, economics and management of forest resources, forms of organization, management systems and cooperation models and their analysis, integrated management of vegetation, soil and water in catchments; silviculture and protection of biodiversity in natural forests, silviculture and forest protection in forest plantations and agroforestry; urban und peri-urban tree management in various contexts as well as forest management strategies for natural forest and forest plantations in the tropics, the spatial and temporal bringing together of various management strategies and land use management as well as theoretical and methodic knowledge of planning at project and landscape level, modeling, communication, conflict management and about scientific working.

## **§ 8 Credits**

(1) ECTS credits indicate the average workload of the students as well as their individual progress in their studies. One credit is equivalent to a workload of 30 hours. As a rule, per academic year 60 credits are awarded, i. e. 30 per semester. The entire work effort for the study corresponds to 120 credits, covering the teaching and learning forms, the study and examination performances as well as the Master thesis and the colloquium, as described by their type and volume in the module description (Annex 1).

(2) The module descriptions (Annex 1) indicate how many credits can be obtained each by a module. Credits are obtained when the module examination has been passed. § 28 of the Examination Regulation remains untouched by this.

## **§ 9 Student Advisory Service**

(1) The general student advisory service is rendered by the Zentrale Studienberatung (Central Student Advisory Service) of TU Dresden and touches questions of possibilities of studying, enrollment modalities and general student matters. The specialist consultancy accompanying the course work is performed by the university lecturers active in the respective course of studies and by the departmental student advisor. The specialist consultancy supports the students in particular in such questions as the planning of their studies and the elaboration of the Master thesis.

(2) At the beginning of the third semester each student, who up to that point of time has not yet attained any credits, has to participate in a specialist consultancy for studies.

## **§ 10 Adjustment of Module Descriptions**

(1) To adjust to modified conditions, the module descriptions can be changed in a simplified procedure within the scope of an optimal course organization, with the exception of the categories „Name of the Module“, „Contents and Qualification Objectives“, „Modes of Teaching and Learning“, „Preconditions for awarding of credits“ as well as „Credits and grades“.

(2) In the simplified procedure the Faculty Council decides about the modification of the module description upon proposal of the Committee on Teaching and the Curriculum. The modifications have to be published in a way typical to the Faculty.

## **§ 11 Coming into Force, Publication and Transitional Provisions**

(1) These Study Regulations come into force #Date# and are published in the Official Gazettes of Technische Universität Dresden.

(2) It is valid for all students enrolled for winter semester 2013/2014 in the Master course Tropical Forestry.

(3) As for the students who were enrolled prior to the winter semester 2013/2014 the Study Regulations for the Master course Tropical Forestry and Management valid prior to the coming into force of these Regulations continue to be valid, unless they declared their converting in writing at the Examination Board. Form and term of this declaration are given by the Examination Board and published in a way common at the Faculty.

Issued according to the Faculty Resolution of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences as of #date# and the permission by the Rector's Office as of #date#.

Dresden, #date of issue#

The Rector  
of Technische Universität Dresden

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