

Examination Regulations for the Consecutive Master's Program in Tropical Forestry

As of May 6, 2025

Pursuant to Section 35(1), sentence 1, of the Saxon Higher Education Act of May 31, 2023 (SächsGVBl. p. 329), last amended by Article 2 of the Act of January 31, 2024 (SächsGVBl. p. 83), the Technical University of Dresden hereby issues the following examination regulations as a statute.

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Section 1: General Provisions

§ 1

Standard Period of Study

The Standard period of study of the degree program is on-campus periods, the self-study, supervised practical training periods where applicable, and the final university examination.

§ 2

Structure of the Program and Examinations

(1) The program has a modular structure and concludes with the final university examination. In bachelor's programs, the final university examination is the bachelor's examination; in master's programs, it is the master's examination; and in diploma programs, it is the diploma examination.

(2) The final university examination consists of module examinations, the thesis, and, if provided for in Section 2: Subject-Specific Provisions, the colloquium. A module examination concludes a module and consists of at least one examination component. Examination components are administered throughout the course of study. The final thesis is the bachelor's thesis in bachelor's degree programs, the master's thesis in master's degree programs, and the diploma thesis in diploma degree programs.

(3) The required examination components assigned to the modules, as well as their type and format, are specified in the module descriptions. Unless otherwise specified in the module descriptions, the subject matter of the examination components consists of the module's content and the competencies to be acquired.

(4) Subject-specific admission requirements may be established for the components of the final examination referred to in paragraph 2, sentence 1. In particular, academic achievements may be required as prerequisites for module examinations if this is exceptionally necessary to ensure that the examination can be conducted appropriately. Their number, type, and structure shall be specified in the module descriptions; attendance does not constitute a prerequisite for the examination. Additional subject-specific admission requirements may be provided for in Section 2: Subject-Specific Provisions. If subject-specific admission requirements have been fulfilled in the form of required-elective modules, a subsequent change of elective is permissible. Subject-specific admission requirements that would be fulfilled by a waiver pursuant to § 18 shall be deemed to have been fulfilled based on a corresponding declaration by the student.

(5) Students may take exams in modules other than those covered by the final university examination (additional modules). These module examinations may, upon consultation with the examiner, be taken on an optional basis from the entire range of modules offered by the Technical University of Dresden or a cooperating university. They are not included in the calculation of the student's workload and are not taken into account when determining the final grade.

§ 3

Deadlines and Dates

(1) The final examination must be taken within the standard period of study. A final examination that has not been taken within four semesters after the end of the standard period of study is considered failed. A failed final examination may be retaken once within one year. After this period has expired, it is considered to have failed again. A second retake is only possible at the next available exam date; thereafter, the final examination is considered to have failed definitively.

(2) Module exams must be taken by the end of the semester specified in the academic calendar.

(3) Through its academic regulations and course offerings, Dresden University of Technology ensures that coursework, examinations, the thesis, and, if applicable, the colloquium can be completed within the specified timeframes. The dates for coursework and examinations, as well as the submission and return dates for the thesis and, if applicable, the date of the colloquium, will be announced in the customary manner.

§ 4

General Admission Requirements and Admission Procedures

(1) Only those who

1. is enrolled in the degree program at the Technical University of Dresden and
2. has demonstrated that they meet the required academic admission requirements and
3. has submitted a digitally recorded declaration regarding paragraph 4, item 3.

(2) Students must register to take the module exams. Withdrawal from an exam is generally permitted without giving a reason up to three business days before the exam date; the Examination Board, in consultation with the Academic Committee, may set a different deadline no earlier than 14 days before the exam date; this deadline must be announced at the beginning of the semester in the customary manner. The registration deadline and the procedures for registration and withdrawal are determined by the Examination Board and announced at the beginning of each semester in the customary manner. The same applies to prerequisites for examinations.

(3) Admission to

1. to a module examination via the electronic examination management system based on the automated verification of admission requirements in conjunction with the first registration for an examination component of this module examination,
2. for the thesis by the chair of the examination committee based on the student's request for the assignment of the topic or, in the case of § 26(3), sentence 5, together with the assignment of the topic and
3. to the colloquium by the responsible examination office based on the evaluation of the thesis with a grade of at least "sufficient" (4.0), provided that the university final examination pursuant to § 2 (2), sentence 1, includes a colloquium.

(4) Admission is denied if

1. the requirements specified in paragraph 1 or the procedural requirements under paragraph 2 are not met, or
2. the documents are incomplete, or
3. the student has already definitively failed an examination required for completion of the degree program.

(5) The examination board shall deny admission.

§ 5 Examination Requirements

(1) Examination requirements are

1. written examinations (§ 6),
2. term papers (§ 7),
3. Oral examinations (§ 8),
4. Comprehensive assessments (§ 9),
5. Portfolios (§ 10),
6. Scientific-practical assessments (§ 11) and
7. Language examinations (§ 12).

Examinations or individual tasks may be conducted using a multiple-choice format if this is provided for in the regulations applicable to the degree program. If examinations or individual tasks are conducted in accordance with the second sentence, the student shall demonstrate the knowledge and skills covered by the module's learning objectives.

(2) Coursework and examinations must be completed in German or, as specified in the module descriptions, in English. If, according to the module description, a module is primarily intended for the acquisition of foreign language skills or subject-specific qualifications in a foreign language, coursework and examinations may also be required to be completed in the respective foreign language, depending on the specific assignment. Upon the student's request, coursework and examinations may also be completed in another language if the examination committee approves this in consultation with the examiner.

§ 6 Written Exams

(1) Written examinations are taken in person; the result is a tangible piece of work, such as a written paper.

(2) Written examinations serve to demonstrate that, based on the necessary knowledge, tasks can be solved and topics addressed within a limited time and with limited resources using the standard methods of the field of study.

(3) The duration of written exams is specified in the module descriptions and must not be less than 60 minutes or exceed 240 minutes.

§ 7 Term Papers

(1) Term papers are completed as non-classroom assignments; the result is a tangible piece of work, such as a written paper.

(2) Term papers serve to demonstrate the ability to address selected topics within a limited timeframe using academic literature or other resources, as well as to verify that fundamental research methods can be applied. This includes the ability to work in a team, provided that the specific assignment requires it. Where specified in the module descriptions, term papers also include demonstrating the ability to coherently present and discuss aspects of the work in question orally in accordance with the respective assignment (combined term paper).

(3) The time required for the term papers is specified in the module descriptions and may not exceed 300 hours. The deadline for submission is to be determined accordingly within the scope of the respective assignment.

(4) For individual oral components of combined term papers, § 8(5) applies accordingly.

(5) In the case of a term paper completed as a team project, the individual contributions must be clearly identifiable and assessable and must each meet the requirements set forth in paragraph 2.

§ 8

Oral Examinations

(1) Oral examinations are conducted in person and are not based on written materials. The focus is on the student's oral responses.

(2) Oral examinations serve to demonstrate, in a direct manner—particularly through conversation, lecturing, presenting, or discussing—the student's linguistic and communicative skills, subject-specific knowledge appropriate to their level of study, and understanding of the interrelationships within the examination subject area. The specific task at hand determines which skills are emphasized.

(3) Oral examinations are conducted in accordance with the module descriptions as group examinations with up to five participants or as individual examinations.

(4) The duration of oral examinations is specified in the module descriptions and may not be less than 15 minutes or more than 60 minutes per student. Group examinations may not exceed a total duration of 75 minutes.

(5) Oral examinations are conducted before at least two examiners (panel examination) or before one examiner in the presence of a knowledgeable assessor (§ 24). The main topics and results of the oral examinations must be recorded in a protocol.

(6) Oral examinations may be conducted in public or in private. In public oral examinations, the presence of listeners is permitted, subject to the available space, unless an examiner objects. In non-public oral examinations, a student who intends to take the same examination at a later date may be admitted as an observer only upon the student's request, subject to approval by the examination committee in consultation with the examiners of a panel examination or, otherwise, with the examiner, provided that the physical conditions of the venue permit it, unless the student being examined

objects. The form and deadline for submitting the request are determined by the Examination Board and announced in the customary manner. The module descriptions specify whether the oral examination is public or non-public. Deliberations and the announcement of examination results always take place without observers.

§ 9

Complex Assessments

(1) Complex assessments may consist of both in-person and non-in-person components and may include, in addition to written or other tangible individual components, oral or other intangible individual components.

(2) Complex assignments are designed to demonstrate the ability to develop, implement, and present concepts. The aim is to demonstrate the ability to define objectives and develop solutions for a larger-scale task. This includes the ability to work in a team, provided that the specific assignment requires it.

(3) The time required for complex assignments is specified in the module descriptions and may not exceed 450 hours. Based on this, the deadline for submitting individual assignments and the duration of individual assignments within the scope of the respective task must be determined.

(4) For oral or other non-tangible individual assignments, § 8(5) applies accordingly.

(5) In the case of a complex assignment completed as a team project, the individual contributions must be clearly identifiable and assessable and must each meet the requirements set forth in paragraph 2.

§ 10

Portfolios

(1) Portfolios may include both in-person and non-in-person work; the result is a tangible piece of work, such as a written assignment.

(2) Portfolios serve to demonstrate, through a compilation of individual assignments—whether of the same or different types—the ability to place the aspects of professional and academic practice specified by the respective assignment within a broader context. This includes the ability to work in a team, provided that the respective assignment requires it.

(3) The time commitment for the portfolios is specified in the module descriptions and may not exceed 300 hours. Based on this, the deadlines for submitting individual assignments, the duration of individual assignments, and the deadline for submitting the entire portfolio must be determined within the framework of the respective assignment.

(4) In the case of a portfolio produced as a team effort, the individual contributions must be clearly identifiable and assessable and must each meet the requirements set forth in paragraph 2.

§ 11

Scientific and Practical Work

(1) Scientific-practical work is completed in person; it is not tangible. The focus is on the student's actions.

(2) Scientific-practical assignments serve to demonstrate the ability to perform tasks in accordance with the requirements of the subject.

(3) The duration of scientific-practical assignments is specified in the module descriptions and must not be less than 15 minutes or exceed 45 minutes.

(4) Section 8(5) applies accordingly.

§ 12

Language Exams

(1) Language examinations are administered in person and may include, in addition to tangible individual assessments (such as written assignments), oral or other non-tangible individual assessments.

(2) Language examinations serve to demonstrate practical language skills.

(3) The duration of language examinations is specified in the respective module descriptions and must not be less than 15 minutes or exceed 240 minutes. The ratio of written or other tangible to oral individual assessments must be determined within the framework of the respective assignment.

(4) For oral or other non-tangible individual assessments, § 8(5) applies accordingly.

§ 13

Electronic Exams

(1) In principle, examinations pursuant to Sections 6 through 12 may also be administered, evaluated, and graded using digital technologies. Only those digital technologies that correspond to the generally accepted state of the art at the time of use may be employed. Data protection regulations must be observed.

(2) Prior to conducting an examination using digital technologies, two examiners, in consultation with the examination committee, must determine the suitability of these technologies with regard to the intended examination tasks and the conduct of the electronic examination. The conduct of an examination using digital technologies shall be announced in the customary manner by the start of the registration period.

(3) The authenticity of the student and the integrity of the examination results must be ensured. To this end, the examination results must be clearly identifiable in the form of electronic data and must be unambiguously and permanently attributable to the student.

It must be ensured that the electronic data used for grading and verification purposes remain unaltered and complete.

(4) An automatically generated evaluation of an examination performance must be reviewed by an examiner at the request of the student being evaluated.

§ 14

Studying with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses, as well as with Family Responsibilities

(1) If a student can demonstrate that, due to a disability or chronic illness, they are unable to take exams as scheduled, they are entitled to accommodations in the examination process, provided the relevant requirements are met. A request for accommodation, including the proposed measures, must be submitted to the Examination Board, and the student must demonstrate that the requirements are met. To this end, the submission of a medical certificate and, in cases of doubt, a certificate from a public health officer may be required. The form and deadline for the application are determined by the Examination Board and announced in the customary manner. If the examination board determines that a claim exists pursuant to sentence 1, it shall decide, at its discretion and in consultation with the respective examiners, on the granting of an appropriate accommodation. The representatives for students with disabilities and chronic illnesses, the Peer Counselor (ISL)/Peer-to-Peer Advisor, and, if relevant, the Working Group on Disability and Studies may be consulted; in particularly difficult cases, they shall be consulted. Possible accommodations include, in particular, extended time limits, breaks during the exam, the use of alternative media, the use of different exam rooms within the university, a different exam date, or the completion of an equivalent exam in a different format. If there is an intention to deviate significantly from the requested accommodations, the student shall be given the opportunity to comment on this before a decision is made.

(2) During pregnancy, after childbirth, and while breastfeeding, the provisions of the Maternity Protection Act applicable to students apply. In particular, during the maternity leave periods specified in Section 3 of the Maternity Protection Act, examination deadlines do not begin to run and are not counted toward ongoing examination deadlines; deadlines for the submission of non-attendance-based assignments and individual assignments to be completed remotely pursuant to Section 9(3), sentence 2, and Section 10(3), sentence 2, must be extended. For the corresponding use of parental leave under the Federal Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act, there is the option of taking a leave of absence from studies pursuant to Section 12(2) of the Enrollment Regulations. During periods of leave of absence, examination deadlines do not begin to run and are not counted toward ongoing examination deadlines.

(3) If the student credibly demonstrates that, due to the care of their own children until If a student is unable to complete examination requirements as prescribed due to the care of close relatives or because the student is under the age of 14, the student may, upon request, be granted appropriate accommodation (extended accommodation for students with disabilities). The Examination Board shall decide on this matter in consultation with the respective examiners. Paragraph 1, sentences 2 and 4 through 8, apply mutatis mutandis. Close relatives include children, including stepchildren, adopted children, and foster children, as well as the children adopted or foster children of the spouse or partner, grandchildren, parents, parents-in-law, grandparents, siblings, spouses, partners, and partners in a marriage-like relationship.

(4) Paragraphs 1 through 3 apply mutatis mutandis to preliminary examination requirements, the thesis, and, if applicable, the colloquium.

§ 15

Grading of Examination Performance, Determination and Weighting of Grades, Announcement of Examination Results

(1) The grade for an examination performance is determined by the respective examiner. In the case of a panel examination, the grade is determined jointly by the examiners. The following grades shall be used:

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| 1 = very good | = an outstanding performance; |
| 2 = good | = a performance, that significantly exceeds the average requirements; |
| 3 = satisfactory | = a performance that meets average requirements; |
| 4 = adequate requirements; | = a performance that, despite its shortcomings, still meets the requirements; |
| 5 = unsatisfactory | = a performance that no longer meets the requirements due to significant shortcomings. |

For the purpose of differentiated grading, individual grades may be rounded up or down by 0.3 to intermediate values; however, the grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7, and 5.3 are excluded. An individual assessment will be graded solely as “pass” or “fail” (ungraded assessment) if the corresponding module description provides for this as an exception. Ungraded examination performances graded as “passed” are not included in the subsequent grade calculation; ungraded examination performances graded as “failed” are included in the subsequent grade calculation with the grade “unsatisfactory” (5.0). Section 2: Subject-Specific Provisions may stipulate whether and how bonus points are to be taken into account in the evaluation of examination performances.

(2) Examination performances whose successful completion is a prerequisite for continuing studies shall generally, and at least in the case of the final retake examination, be evaluated by two examiners; if these are oral examinations, oral or other non-objective individual performances, or scientific-practical performances, § 8(5) applies.

(3) The grade for an examination corresponds to the examiner’s evaluation or, in the case of paragraph 1, sentence 2, to the joint evaluation of the examiners. In all other cases, the grade for an examination performance assessed by multiple examiners corresponds to the average of the individual assessments or, in the case of an assessment pursuant to paragraph 1, sentence 5, to the matching individual assessments; if the individual assessments do not match, § 26, paragraph 9, sentences 1 and 2 apply accordingly. If a grade, module grade, overall grade, final grade, or, where applicable, a section or segment grade is calculated as an average of several individual assessments pursuant to paragraph 1 or of grades, module grades, or the final grade, only the first decimal place after the decimal point is taken into account; all subsequent places are omitted without rounding.

(4) The module grade is calculated as the weighted average of the grades for the module’s examination components, weighted as specified in the module description, if applicable. The module grade is

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| up to and including 1.5 | = very good, |
| from 1.6 up to and including 2.5 | = good, |
| from 2.6 up to and including 3.5 | = satisfactory, |
| from 3.6 up to and including 4.0 | = adequate, |
| 4.1 and above | = failing. |

If a module examination is failed due to an examination performance relevant to passing the module pursuant to § 19(1), sentence 2, the module grade is “unsatisfactory” (5.0).

(5) Module exams that consist solely of an ungraded assessment are graded only as “pass” or “fail” based on the assessment result (ungraded module exams). Ungraded module exams are not included in the calculation of the final grade.

(6) An overall grade is calculated for the final examination. The overall grade consists of the final grade for the thesis and the module grades from the module examinations included in the final examination, weighted according to credit hours, unless specific module grades are excluded from the calculation of the overall grade as specified in Section 2: Subject-Specific Provisions. The final grade for the thesis consists of the thesis grade and the colloquium grade. If the final examination does not include a colloquium pursuant to Section 2, Paragraph 2, Sentence 1, the final grade for the thesis corresponds to the thesis grade. Section 2: Subject-Specific Provisions may provide for the calculation of section or module grades. The final grade and, where applicable, section or module grades are calculated on a weighted basis in accordance with the provisions in Section 2: Subject-Specific Provisions. Paragraph 4, sentence 2 applies mutatis mutandis to the overall grade, final grade, and, where applicable, section or module grades; the overall grade is “passed with distinction” for an average of 1.2 or higher.

(7) The results of an oral examination will be communicated to the student immediately following the examination. The grading process for all other examinations should not exceed four weeks; for written examinations with more than 300 participants, the grading process should not exceed eight weeks. Information regarding the results of these examinations will be provided in the customary manner.

(8) To have an examiner review a grade for an examination that has not yet become final, a student may request a reconsideration of the grading decision (remonstration). To do so, the student must submit a request to the examiner and raise specific objections to the grading. Taking into account the objections raised, the examiner is obligated to review their assessment of the examination performance and, if necessary, amend it. A downgrade of the examination result is generally excluded. The student will be notified of the outcome of the reconsideration process in writing or electronically. This does not affect the right to appeal the examination decision for the relevant module examination. The reconsideration procedure must be documented in the examination file. The reconsideration procedure may also be initiated for the first time during the formal appeal or a subsequent legal action against the examination decision for the relevant module examination. In this case, notwithstanding the first half of the second sentence, it shall be initiated ex officio by the chair of the examination committee.

§ 16

Withdrawal, Extension of Deadlines

(1) If the student is unable to attend a binding exam date or meet a binding submission deadline for an exam, he or she may from valid reasons withdraw from the exam or for

non-attendance-based assignments and individual assignments to be completed remotely pursuant to Section 9(3), sentence 2, and Section 10(3), sentence 2, request an extension of the submission deadline (processing time). A valid reason is, for example, the illness of a child, including stepchildren, adopted children, and foster children, as well as the children, adopted children, or foster children of the spouse or partner. Withdrawal must be declared in writing to the responsible examination office without delay; the extension of the processing time must be requested in a timely manner. The reasons cited must be substantiated without delay. In the event of the student's illness, a medical certificate must be submitted; in cases of doubt, a certificate from a public health officer must be provided.

(2) The examination committee decides on the approval of the withdrawal and the extension of the submission deadline. If the rejection is issued after the binding submission deadline, the course work is graded as "unsatisfactory" (5.0) or "failed," provided that the non-attendance-based assignment was not submitted on time. Otherwise, the non-attendance assignment will be graded in accordance with § 15(1). If the processing time is extended, the student must be informed of the new submission date for the examination. If a student fails to appear for a mandatory examination date without having withdrawn, the examination will be graded as "unsatisfactory" (5.0) or "failed." The same applies if an examination is not completed within the specified time limit.

(3) Paragraphs 1 and 2 apply accordingly to preliminary examination requirements, the thesis, and, where applicable, the colloquium.

§ 17

Cheating, Violation of Rules

(1) If a student attempts to influence the outcome of their examination performance through deception—for example, by bringing or using unauthorized aids—the examination performance in question shall be graded as "unsatisfactory" (5.0) upon a corresponding determination by the examination committee. Accordingly, ungraded examination performances shall be considered "failed." A student who disrupts the proper conduct of the examination session may be excluded from continuing the examination by the respective examiner or supervisor; in this case, the examination is considered to have received a grade of "unsatisfactory" (5.0) or "failed." In serious cases, the Examination Board may exclude the student from taking further examinations.

(2) If a student has cheated on an examination and this fact comes to light only after the grade has been announced, the Examination Board may change the grade for the examination to "unsatisfactory" (5.0) or "fail," and subsequently, in accordance with § 15(4), may also change the grade for the module examination. If the requirements for taking a module examination were not met, without the student intending to deceive in this regard, this deficiency is remedied by passing the module examination. If the student intentionally and wrongfully obtained permission to take a module examination, the Examination Board may declare the module examination "unsatisfactory" (5.0) or "failed." In serious cases, the Examination Board may exclude the student from taking further examinations.

(3) An automated plagiarism check of the results of a specific examination is permitted only if the examination committee determines that there is actual and documented evidence suggesting that the results, or parts thereof, exhibit characteristics of plagiarism. An automated plagiarism check is only permissible in anonymized form. Prior to the automated plagiarism check, all identifying features that could lead to conclusions about the student(s) and the examiners must be removed. The evaluation of the examination performance may not be based exclusively on the results of an automated plagiarism check.

(4) Paragraphs 1 and 2 apply accordingly to preliminary examination requirements, the thesis, and, where applicable, the colloquium. Paragraph 3 applies accordingly to preliminary examination requirements and the thesis.

§ 18 Waiver

If the student declares in writing to the responsible examination office that they are waiving the requirement to complete an examination, this examination shall be graded as “unsatisfactory” (5.0) or “failed” for the respective examination attempt. The waiver is irrevocable and requires admission pursuant to § 4.

§ 19 Pass and Fail

(1) A module exam is considered passed if the module grade is at least “satisfactory” (4.0) or if the ungraded module exam has been evaluated as “passed.” In the cases specified in the module descriptions, passing the module exam also depends on individual exam components being graded at least “satisfactory” (4.0). If the module exam is passed, the credit points assigned to the module in the module description are earned.

(2) The final examination is passed if the module examinations, the thesis, and, if applicable, the colloquium have been passed. The thesis and, if applicable, the colloquium are passed if they have been graded at least “satisfactory” (4.0).

(3) A module exam is failed if the module grade is not at least “sufficient” (4.0) or the ungraded module exam has been assessed as “failed.” The thesis and, if applicable, the colloquium are considered failed if they have not been graded at least “sufficient” (4.0).

(4) A module exam is definitively failed if the module grade is not at least “Satisfactory” (4.0) or the ungraded module exam was graded as “Fail” and cannot be retaken. The thesis and, if applicable, the colloquium are considered definitively failed if they were not graded at least “Satisfactory” (4.0) and cannot be retaken.

(5) The final examination is considered failed or definitively failed if either a module examination, the thesis, or, if applicable, the colloquium is failed or definitively failed. Section 3(1) remains unaffected. In the event of a definitive failure of a module examination in the required-elective area, the definitive

failure of the university degree examination is only then determined pursuant to § 23(4) if the student does not choose a different module within one month of the announcement of the module examination result or if a change of module is no longer possible under the provisions of the study regulations. If the student has definitively failed the final examination, they lose the right to take all components of the final examination pursuant to § 2 (2), sentence 1.

(6) The student shall receive a transcript of grades upon request. In the event of a final failure of the final examination, the transcript must also provide information regarding the completed examination components and their grades, as well as any remaining examination components, and must clearly indicate that the final examination has not been passed.

§ 20 Free Attempt

(1) Module examinations may be taken prior to the semesters specified in the study plan, provided the admission requirements are met. The first attempt at a module examination is then considered a free attempt, provided and to the extent that this is permitted in Section 2: Subject-Specific Provisions.

(2) At the student's request, module exams or other assessments that received a grade of at least "satisfactory" (4.0) on a first-time attempt may be retaken once at the next regular exam date to improve the grade. In such cases, the higher grade will count. The format and deadline for the request are determined by the Examination Board and announced in the customary manner. Once the next regular examination date or the application deadline has passed, it is no longer possible to improve a grade. When retaking a module exam to improve a grade, examination results that were graded at least "satisfactory" (4.0) in the retake will be credited upon the student's request. Examination results that were graded "pass" in the retake will be credited ex officio.

(3) A module exam not passed in the first attempt is considered not to have been taken. Exam results that were graded at least "satisfactory" (4.0) or "passed" will be credited in the subsequent examination process. If the option to improve grades under paragraph 2 is exercised for exam results, the higher grade will be credited.

(4) In addition to § 14(2), periods during which studies are interrupted due to a prolonged illness of the student or of a child for whom the student is primarily responsible—including stepchildren, adopted children, and foster children—as well as the children adopted or foster children of the spouse or partner, as well as periods of study abroad, shall not be counted toward the application of the free attempt rule.

§ 21 Repeating Module Exams

(1) Failed module exams may be retaken once as a second attempt within one year of the completion of the first exam attempt. The period

begins upon notification of the initial failure of the module exam. After this period has expired, they are considered to have failed again.

(2) A second retake of the module exam may be taken as a third attempt only at the next available exam date. After that, the module exam is considered definitively failed. No further retakes are permitted.

(3) Retaking a failed module exam that consists of multiple assessment components covers only those components that were not graded at least “satisfactory” (4.0) or “pass” in the individual components. When retaking a failed module exam that includes one or more elective components, students are not bound by their previous choice of components that were not graded at least “satisfactory” (4.0) or “pass.”

(4) Retaking a passed module examination is permitted only in the case specified in § 20(2) and includes all examination components.

(5) Failed attempts at the module examination from the same or other degree programs are carried over.

§ 22

Recognition of Academic and Examination Achievements, Periods of Study, and Qualifications Acquired Outside a Higher Education Institution

(1) Academic and examination achievements completed at a university shall be recognized upon the student’s request, unless there are significant differences regarding the competencies acquired. Further agreements of the Technical University of Dresden, the German Rectors’ Conference, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs, as well as those ratified by the Federal Republic of Germany, must be observed where applicable.

(2) Qualifications earned outside a university will be credited upon the student’s request, provided they are at least equivalent. Equivalence is established when the content, scope, and requirements essentially correspond to parts of the degree program. In this context, a comprehensive assessment and evaluation must be conducted rather than a mechanical comparison. Qualifications earned outside a university may substitute for no more than 50% of the degree program.

(3) Academic and examination achievements completed at a university may be credited despite significant differences if, based on their content and qualification objectives, they generally correspond to the intent and purpose of an existing elective option within the degree program and therefore constitute a structural equivalent (structural credit). The transcript shall reflect the actual achievements completed.

(4) If coursework and examination results or qualifications acquired outside a higher education institution are credited, the corresponding periods of study are also credited ex officio. Grades are to be adopted and included in the subsequent grade calculation, provided the grading systems are comparable. In the case of incomparable grading systems, the notation “passed” is included; grades from incomparable grading systems are not included in the subsequent grade calculation. The credit transfer is indicated on the transcript.

(5) To complete the credit transfer process, the student must submit the required documents. If these are submitted in full, the credit transfer process must not exceed two months. If credit is not granted, § 23(4), sentence 1 applies. If the student completes the corresponding examination during an ongoing credit transfer process, the grade for the transferred examination shall apply in place of the grade for the completed examination, provided the application for credit transfer is approved.

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(6) The Examination Board is responsible for credit transfer. It may appoint a credit transfer officer to perform this task. This officer conducts the credit transfer procedure independently. Section 23(4), sentence 1 applies to the credit transfer officer accordingly.

§ 23

Examination Committee

(1) An examination committee is established for the degree program to conduct and organize examinations and to perform the duties assigned by the examination regulations. The examination committee consists of four faculty members, one research assistant, and two students. With the exception of the student members, the term of office is three years. The term of office for student members is one year.

(2) The members and their alternates are appointed by the faculty council, academic council, or departmental council of the program's sponsoring institution, or by the faculty councils, academic councils, or departmental councils of the program's sponsoring institutions; the student members and their alternates are appointed upon the recommendation of the student council. The chair and the vice-chair are elected by the Examination Board from among its members and must each be university faculty members.

(3) The Examination Board ensures that the provisions of the examination regulations are observed. It reports regularly to the program sponsor(s) and to the faculties, centers, or departments participating through the teaching export program on trends in examination and study durations—including the actual time spent on the thesis—as well as on the distribution of module and final grades. The Examination Board makes recommendations for the reform of the examination and study regulations.

(4) Decisions that adversely affect a student must be communicated to the student in question in writing or electronically, must be justified, and must include information on the right to appeal. The Examination Board acts as the appeals authority, deciding on appeals within a reasonable time frame and issuing the appeal decisions.

(5) The chairperson generally manages the affairs of the Examination Board. With the unanimous consent of the student members, the Examination Board may also delegate individual tasks to the chairperson for independent handling and decision-making; for this purpose, a resolution must be adopted that also specifies the manner in which the members are to be informed of the decisions made by the chairperson. This does not apply to decisions under paragraph 4, sentence 2. If some or all members of the examination committee are newly appointed, any such delegation shall lapse.

(6) The Examination Board may admit guests without voting rights to its meetings. The members of the Examination Board have the right to attend the examination and, if applicable, the colloquium.

(7) The members of the Examination Committee and their alternates are bound by professional confidentiality. Unless they are civil servants, they must be bound to confidentiality by the Chairperson. The same applies to guests.

(8) The designated examination office organizes the examinations and manages the examination records.

§ 24

Examiners and Assessors

(1) Examiners are appointed by the Examination Board from among persons authorized to conduct examinations under state law. The assessors are designated by the respective examiner and must be knowledgeable; they should hold at least the degree for which the examination is intended.

(2) The student may propose examiners for their thesis, for oral examinations, and, if applicable, for the colloquium. The proposal does not constitute a right.

(3) Section 23(7) applies mutatis mutandis to examiners and assessors.

(4) The names of the examiners shall be communicated to the student in a timely manner.

§ 25

Purpose of the Final Examination

(1) Passing the final examination constitutes the degree conferring professional qualification for the program.

(2) Passing the bachelor's examination demonstrates that the student has a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter, possesses a critical grasp of the most important theories, principles, and methods of the field, is capable of deepening their knowledge beyond the discipline, and has acquired the thorough expertise necessary for the transition to professional practice. Furthermore, passing the bachelor's examination demonstrates the student's eligibility to pursue a master's program.

(3) Passing the diploma or master's examination demonstrates that the student has a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter, can apply their knowledge, understanding, and problem-solving skills even in new and unfamiliar situations that are related to the field of study in a broader or multidisciplinary context, and has acquired the in-depth specialized knowledge necessary for the transition to professional practice. Furthermore, passing the diploma or master's examination demonstrates the ability to pursue doctoral studies.

§ 26

Thesis and Colloquium

(1) The thesis is intended to demonstrate that the student is capable of independently addressing problems within the field of study using scientific methods within a specified timeframe.

(2) The thesis must be supervised by one of the examiners specified in paragraph 7. This examiner determines the topic of the thesis and guides

the student in the preparation of the thesis to provide support. The examiner may delegate the supervision of the thesis to a qualified person.

(3) The thesis topic is assigned by the Examination Board. The topic, date of assignment, and scheduled submission date must be recorded. The student may express preferences regarding the topic. Upon the student's request, the Examination Board shall ensure that the thesis topic is assigned in a timely manner. The topic is officially assigned by the Examination Board no later than the beginning of the semester following the completion of the final module examination.

(4) The topic may be returned only once and only within the first half of the submission deadline. However, returning the topic is permitted when repeating the thesis only if the student has not previously made use of this option in the degree program. If the student has returned the topic, a new one shall be issued to them immediately in accordance with paragraph 3, sentences 1 through 3.

(5) The thesis must be written in German or, depending on the topic, in another language. In appropriate cases, it may be written in another language upon the student's request if the examination committee approves this in consultation with the examiner pursuant to paragraph 2, sentence 1. It may also be submitted in the form of a group project if the individual contribution to be graded as the student's thesis is clearly distinguishable and assessable based on the specification of sections, page numbers, or other objective criteria that allow for a clear demarcation, and if it meets the requirements set forth in paragraph 1.

(6) The thesis must be submitted to the relevant registrar's office by the deadline in the format and length specified in Section 2: Subject-Specific Provisions; the date of submission must be recorded. The student must submit a written declaration stating whether they have written their thesis—or, in the case of a group project, their appropriately identified portion of the work— independently and have used no sources or aids other than those cited.

(7) The thesis must be evaluated individually by two examiners in accordance with § 15, paragraph 1, sentences 3 and 4. The evaluation process shall not exceed six weeks. Section 2: Subject-Specific Provisions may provide that an examiner is or may be replaced by an examination committee. The individual evaluation of the thesis is determined jointly by the members of the examination committee in accordance with § 15 (1), sentences 3 and 4.

(8) The grade for the thesis is calculated as the average of the two individual evaluations by the examiners. If the individual evaluations by the examiners differ by more than two grade levels, the examination committee shall obtain an evaluation from an additional examiner. The grade for the thesis is then calculated as the average of the three individual grades. Section 15(3), sentence 3 applies accordingly.

(9) If one examiner grades the thesis at least "satisfactory" (4.0) and the other grades it "unsatisfactory" (5.0), the examination committee will seek an evaluation from a third examiner. This third examiner will decide whether the thesis passes or fails. If the thesis is deemed to have passed, the grade for the thesis is calculated as the average of the individual grades of those who voted for a pass

; otherwise, it is calculated from the average of the evaluations voting for failure. Section 15, paragraph 3, sentence 3 applies accordingly.

(10) A thesis that has not been passed may be retaken once within one year. After this period has expired, it is deemed to have failed again. A second retake is only possible at the next available examination date; thereafter, it is deemed to have failed definitively. A further retake or the retake of a thesis that has already been passed is not permitted.

(11) The student must present their thesis in a public colloquium before at least one of the examiners and one assessor if the final examination, pursuant to Section 2, paragraph 2, sentence 1, includes a colloquium. As a subject-specific admission requirement, the thesis must have been graded with a minimum grade of "satisfactory" (4.0) prior to the colloquium. Through the colloquium, the student is expected to demonstrate that they can coherently present the results of the thesis and discuss them in a subject-specific manner. Additional examiners may be consulted (panel examination). Paragraph 10, as well as § 8(5), sentence 2, § 15(1) sentences 1 through 4, and § 15, paragraph 7, sentence 1 apply accordingly.

(12) If, for reasons beyond the student's control, the time already spent on the thesis reaches twice the prescribed time limit, the examination committee may, on its own initiative, decide to terminate the thesis without a result. Before making such a decision, both the examiner referred to in paragraph 2, sentence 1, and the student must be heard. Termination without a result may occur if the purpose of the thesis examination can no longer be achieved in relation to the time already spent on the thesis. In making this decision, the reasons for the time already spent, the consequences of termination for the student, and the possibilities for a meaningful continuation of the examination process must be appropriately considered and weighed against one another. If the examination committee terminates the thesis without a result, the examination attempt remains valid; ongoing examination deadlines are extended. The examination committee also determines how the examination procedure is to be continued. A decision subject to appeal is issued.

§ 27

Transcript and Diploma

(1) Upon passing the final examination, the student shall receive a diploma and a supplement to the diploma without delay, preferably within four weeks. Section 2: Subject-Specific Provisions may stipulate that the student be issued an additional supplement to the transcript. If Section 2: Subject-Specific Provisions provides for a division into sections, the student shall receive an interim transcript for the first section without delay, if possible within four weeks after passing the last module examination covered by that section.

(2) The transcript shall include the module grades for the module examinations covered by the final examination and, where applicable, their credit codes; the topic of the thesis; its final grade pursuant to § 15(6), sentences 3 and 4; the thesis examiners; the overall grade pursuant to § 15(6), sentence 2; and the credit points. The grades and, where applicable, credit codes for the individual examination performances, the thesis, and, where applicable, the colloquium are listed on the supplement to the transcript. The interim transcript contains the module grades for the

the module examinations covered by this section, as well as the corresponding credit points and, where applicable, credit transfer codes.

(3) The diploma and the interim transcript shall bear the date on which the final examination component was completed in accordance with § 19(2) or § 19(1), first sentence. They shall be signed by the chair of the examination board and bear the seal of the Technical University of Dresden as kept by the institution or one of the institutions offering the degree program. The supplement to the diploma and, if applicable, the addendum to the diploma shall be signed by the chair of the examination committee and shall bear the date of the diploma.

(4) Along with the transcript, the student receives a certificate bearing the date of the transcript. This certificate attests to the conferral of the academic degree. In bachelor's programs, the bachelor's degree is conferred; in master's programs, the master's degree; and in diploma programs, the diploma degree, in accordance with the regulations set forth in Section 2: Program-Specific Provisions. The certificate is signed by the chair of the examination committee, bears the handwritten or typed signature of the rector, and is affixed with the seal of the Technical University of Dresden. In addition, the student is provided with English translations of the diploma and the transcript. If Section 2: Subject-Specific Provisions provides for a cooperation involving the joint conferral of the academic degree, the diploma is issued jointly by the Technical University of Dresden and the cooperation partners.

(5) The Technical University of Dresden issues a Diploma Supplement (DS) in accordance with the "Diploma Supplement Model" issued by the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and UNESCO/CEPES. As a description of the national education system (DS Section 8), the text agreed upon by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs and the German Rectors' Conference must be used in its currently valid version.

(6) Section 2: Subject-Specific Provisions may specify which additional information is to be included on the diploma, the diploma supplement, the diploma annex (if applicable), the interim transcript (if applicable), and the certificate.

§ 28

Invalidity of an Examination

(1) If a student has cheated on an examination and this fact becomes known only after an interim transcript or transcript has been issued to the student, the grade for the examination may be amended in accordance with § 17(2), sentence 1. If necessary, the examination committee may declare the module examination "unsatisfactory" (5.0) and the final examination "failed." The same applies to ungraded module examinations and the thesis, as well as the colloquium, if applicable.

(2) If the requirements for taking a module exam were not met, without the student intending to mislead anyone, and this fact becomes known only after the student has been issued an interim transcript or final transcript, this deficiency is remedied by passing the module exam. If the student intentionally and wrongfully obtained permission to take a module examination, the Examination Board may declare the module examination "unsatisfactory" (5.0) and the final degree examination "failed." The same applies to ungraded module examinations and the thesis, as well as the colloquium, if applicable.

(3) An incorrect interim transcript or an incorrect final transcript and its translation, as well as all other documents issued upon graduation, must be collected by the chair of the examination committee and, if necessary, reissued. If the final examination was declared “failed” due to fraud, the certificate, all translations, and the Diploma Supplement must also be collected along with the incorrect certificate. A decision pursuant to paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, sentence 2 or 3, is precluded after a period of five years from the date of the certificate.

§ 29

Access to Examination Records, Inspection of Files

(1) After the exam results are announced, students are given the opportunity to review their written exam papers, evaluation reports, and exam records. To this end, centralized review sessions are generally held within a reasonable timeframe, but no later than eight weeks after the exam results are announced. If, due to the nature of the examination or for organizational reasons, a central review session is not possible or scheduled, the student will be granted an individual review session upon request. In such cases, the request must also be submitted to the responsible examination office no later than eight weeks after the announcement of the examination results. In any case, it must be ensured that the student is granted access only to the documents pertaining to him or her.

(2) Notwithstanding the possibility of inspecting the examination documents pursuant to paragraph 1, the student has the right to inspect the examination file maintained by the relevant examination office regarding them. This is governed by the statutory provisions.

Section 2: Subject-Specific Provisions

§ 30

Duration and Scope of Study

(1) The standard period of study pursuant to § 1 is four semesters.

(2) Coursework and examinations may also be completed within the framework of existing cooperation agreements for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master’s Program in Global Forestry.

(3) Upon passing the final examination in accordance with § 2, paragraph 2, sentence 1, a total of 120 credit points are earned for the modules, the thesis, and the colloquium.

Section 31

Academic Admission Requirements for the Final Examination

At least 70 credit points must have been earned before the thesis topic is assigned.

Section 32

Subject Matter, Type, and Scope of the Final Examination

(1) The final examination pursuant to § 2, paragraph 2, sentence 1, comprises all module examinations for the modules in the required area and the module examinations for the selected modules in the required-elective area.

(2) Compulsory modules are

1. International forest development policy
2. Forest utilization: materials, processes, and products
3. Personality, leadership, and career development
4. Forest Ecology for Silviculture and Nature Conservation
5. Monitoring forest growth using ground-based and remote sensing methods
6. Organizing sustainable forest management
7. Economics of forest resources
8. Managing ecosystem services in forestry
9. Quantitative methods for analyzing socio-ecological systems
10. Silviculture in tropical forests
11. Research design and planning in intercultural contexts
12. Project planning and management in development cooperation

(3) Modules in the elective area are

1. in the module group Supplementary Qualifications
 - a) Society, community, and the individual: concepts and methods
 - b) Urban Forestry
 - c) Dendroecology
 - d) Climate Change
 - e) International Water Issues
 - f) Forest Sites and Catchment Hydrology
 - g) Forest Management Internship
 - h) Open study projectof which two modules must be selected.
2. in the Profile module group
 - a) Profile Governance
 - b) Management Profile,from which one profile and the associated modules must be selected in accordance with the appendix. Upon the student's request to the Examination Board, students may select modules totaling 20 credit points from the entire range of modules offered by both profiles without having selected a profile (program without a profile).

§ 33

Duration, Form, and Length of the Thesis; Colloquium

(1) The duration for completing the thesis is 19 weeks; 25 credit points are awarded. In individual cases, the Examination Board may, upon a justified request by the student, exceptionally extend the duration by no more than half of the original duration; the number of credit points remains unaffected by this.

(2) The thesis must be submitted in English as a typed and bound copy, as well as in digital form on a suitable data storage medium.

(3) The final examination pursuant to § 2, paragraph 2, sentence 1 consists of an oral examination. It lasts 60 minutes. Five credit points are awarded. The examination language is English.

Section 34 **Weighting for the Calculation of Final and Overall Grades**

(1) In the calculation of the final grade pursuant to § 15(6), the grade for the thesis is weighted twice and the grade for the colloquium once.

(2) When calculating the overall grade pursuant to § 15(6), the final grade of the thesis is weighted 20 times.

§ 35 **Additional Information in Final Documents**

The transcript shall additionally include the selected profile, the grades for supplementary modules and the corresponding credit points, as well as, upon the student's request, the duration of study required to complete the final examination. Upon the student's request, the supplement to the transcript shall additionally list the grades for examination performance in supplementary modules.

§ 36 **Academic Degree**

If the final examination is passed, the academic degree "Master of Science" (abbreviated: "M.Sc.") is conferred.

Section 3: Final Provisions

§ 37 **Entry into Force, Publication, and Transitional Provisions**

(1) These examination regulations shall enter into force on the day following their publication in the Official Announcements of TU Dresden.

(2) They apply to all students newly enrolled in the Master's program in Tropical Forestry in the winter semester 2025/2026 or later.

(3) For students enrolled prior to the 2025/2026 winter semester, the version of the examination regulations for the consecutive Master's program in Tropical Forestry that has been in effect for them thus far shall continue to apply.

(4) These examination regulations apply starting with the 2026/2027 winter semester to all students enrolled in the Master's program in Tropical Forestry. In this context, module examinations already completed—including grades—will be officially recognized as a primary basis, and individual examination achievements will be recognized as a secondary basis based on equivalence tables established by the Examination Board and announced in the customary manner. With the exception of § 21

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Examination Regulations for the consecutive Master's program in Tropical Forestry, module exams and coursework that have not been graded at least "satisfactory" (4.0) or "pass" will not be accepted. As a general rule, the module grade will not be recalculated based solely on the grades of accepted coursework; exceptions are listed in the equivalence tables.

Issued pursuant to the resolution of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences dated March 3, 2025, and the approval of the Rector's Office dated April 1, 2025.

Dresden, May 6, 2025

The Rector
of the Technical University of Dresden

Prof. Dr. Ursula M. Staudinger

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Appendix: Module Group Profiles

Students must select one profile and the corresponding modules. Upon the student's request to the Examination Board, students may select modules totaling 20 credit points from the entire range of modules offered by both profiles without having chosen a profile (study without a profile).

I. Governance Profile

1. Required Modules: Governance Track

- a) International processes for the protection and sustainable management of forests
- b) Forest governance in multi-level contexts

2. Elective modules, Governance track

- a) Conflict management and communication
- b) Participatory innovation in forest bioeconomy value chains
- c) Forest landscape restoration and conservation
- d) Global change ecology
- e) International Wildlife Management
- f) Agent-based modeling for socio-ecological systems,
- g) Global Forestry Field Course,
of which two modules must be selected.

II. Management Profile

1. Conflict Management and Communication
2. Participatory innovation in forest bioeconomy value chains
3. Forest landscape restoration and conservation
4. Global Change Ecology
5. International Wildlife Management
6. Agent-based modeling for socio-ecological systems
7. Global Forestry Field Course,
from which four modules must be selected.