

Dresden University of Technology  
Faculty of Environmental Sciences

**Study regulations for the consecutive master's degree programme  
Tropical Forestry**

From May 6, 2025

Based on § 37 paragraph 1 of the Saxon Higher Education Act of May 31, 2023 (SächsGVBl. p. 329), which was last amended by Article 2 of the Act of January 31, 2024 (SächsGVBl. p. 83), the Dresden University of Technology issues the following study regulations as a statute.

**Table of contents**

- 1 Scope of application
- 2 Aims of the programme
- 3 Entry requirements
- 4 Start and duration of studies
- 5 Teaching and learning methods
- 6 Structure and programme of study
- 7 Content of the degree programme
- 8 Credit points
- 9 Academic advising
- 10 Adaptation of module descriptions
- 11 Entry into force, publication and transitional provisions

Appendix 1: Module descriptions

Appendix 2: Study schedule

## **1 Scope of application**

Based on the Saxon Higher Education Act and the examination regulations, these study regulations govern the objectives, content, structure, and programme of study for the consecutive master's degree programme in Tropical Forestry at the Dresden University of Technology.

## **2 Aims of the programme**

(1) Building on general basic knowledge of forest management, graduates have extensive knowledge of the management and control of socio-ecological systems relating to tropical and subtropical forests and tree-based land use. Graduates are able to analyse complex relationships between humans and ecosystems in the tropics and subtropics at various scales, develop sustainable management strategies and control their implementation. They are able to identify conflicts between different land uses and interest groups, to reach diplomatic agreements and to communicate. In addition, they have intercultural and international skills and are able to understand and develop solutions through research insights, usually with reference to tropical or subtropical problems. They are capable of critical self-reflection, social commitment and intercultural work, have developed their personality, and can organize, communicate, and lead independently and in a collaborative manner. Graduates thus have the ability to contribute to forest-related solutions to problems in a globally changing world. Socially relevant topics such as sustainability, poverty reduction, climate change and biodiversity can be reflected upon and placed in a forest-related context. By choosing the Governance profile, students can assess and evaluate aspects of competing demands for use in forest landscapes, synergies and conflicts between forest-relevant actors, organizations and institutions and their contributions to solving problems from a global to a local level, and offer solutions to problems. In particular, the Management profile enables students to find solutions to current challenges in forestry in connection with the protection of biodiversity, climate change and the development of a cycle-oriented bioeconomy.

(2) Graduates are able to train future managers as change agents on issues of conservation and utilization of tropical and subtropical forests and adjacent land uses. With their multidisciplinary theoretical and development-related forestry knowledge and methodological skills from the social, natural, and technical sciences, students are able to take on leading roles in a wide range of practical and scientific professions, particularly in international and intercultural contexts. In particular, they can take on management positions in national and transnational forestry and timber industry companies, management positions in international governmental and non-governmental organizations, management positions in national and sub-national land use administrations, management of bilateral and multilateral development and forestry projects, government and corporate consulting on forest-related development issues, for example in think tanks, consulting companies or independently, as well as scientific activities in national and international research, education and development organizations.

### **3 Entry requirements**

(1) The prerequisite for admission to the programme is a first professionally qualifying university degree recognized in Germany or a degree from a state or state-recognized vocational academy in the field of forestry or related disciplines.

(2) In addition, special expertise in the field of forestry and related areas or sustainable management of natural resources is required. Proof of this special aptitude is provided by means of an aptitude assessment procedure in accordance with the Tropical Forestry aptitude assessment regulations.

(3) A further requirement is a knowledge of English at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Proof of this can be a certificate of a university degree completed entirely in English or a language certificate such as TOEFL iBT (internet-based test; at least 80) or IELTS (at least 6.0).

### **4 Start and duration of studies**

(1) The programme can be started in the winter semester.

(2) The standard period of study is four semesters and, in addition to attendance, includes the self- study and the final university examination.

### **5 Teaching and learning methods**

(1) The curriculum is structured in modules. In the individual modules, the programme content is taught, consolidated, and deepened through lectures, exercises, seminars, traveling seminars, excursions, projects, internships, and self-study. In modules that are recognizably subject to several study regulations, synonyms are permitted for forms of teaching and learning with the same content.

(2) The individual forms of teaching and learning according to paragraph 1 sentence 2 are defined as follows:

1. Lectures introduce the subject areas of the modules and provide students with an orientation for further knowledge acquisition and development.
2. Exercises enable the application of the subject matter in exemplary sub-areas and serve to deepen the knowledge imparted with a focus on methods.
3. Seminars enable students to inform themselves about a selected topic or a selected problem area on the basis of specialist literature and independent literature research or other materials under supervision, to present what they have worked on, to discuss the results in the group and/or to present them in writing.
4. Travelling seminars enable students to work on a selected topic and its problems, present what they have worked on, discuss the results in the group and/or present them in writing under the guidance of a practical instructor and by working in the field and, if necessary, with the help of other materials.
5. Excursions serve to illustrate the subject-specific content learned in theory and provide information on specific forestry problems and solutions.

6. In projects, subject-specific questions are worked on jointly on a specific object of observation.
7. Internships are used for the practical application and consolidation of the theoretical subject matter taught under supervision, the acquisition of further practical skills in potential occupational fields and support the combination of theory and practice.
8. Self-study is used to prepare for and follow up on the classroom sessions. It enables students to develop and acquire study content independently.

## **6 Structure and programme of study**

(1) The programme has a modular structure. The modules are spread over the first three semesters. The third semester is designed in such a way that it is suitable for a temporary stay at another university (mobility window). Coursework and examinations can be completed within the framework of cooperation agreements for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Programme in Global Forestry. The fourth semester is intended for the completion of the final thesis, including the colloquium. Part-time study is possible in accordance with the regulations on part-time study.

(2) The programme comprises 12 compulsory modules, two elective modules and the choice of a profile, which allows the student to choose a specialization. The Governance profile comprises two compulsory modules and two elective modules. The Management profile comprises four elective modules. The choice of elective modules and profile is made by enrolment and is binding. The change of profile and the change of an elective module is only possible once. The student must submit a written application to the Examinations Office stating the profile to be replaced and the newly selected profile or the module to be replaced and the newly selected module.

(3) Qualification objectives, content, teaching and learning forms covered, prerequisites, applicability, frequency, workload, and duration of the individual modules can be found in the module descriptions (Annex 1).

(4) Courses are held in English.

(5) The appropriate distribution of the modules over the individual semesters, the observance of which enables the completion of the degree programme within the standard period of study, as well as the type and scope of the programme covered in each case and the number and regular time of the required programme work and examinations can be found in the attached study schedule (Annex 2) or in an individual study schedule for part-time studies confirmed by the faculty.

(6) The elective modules and study plan can be changed by the Faculty Board at the suggestion of the Study Commission. The current range of elective modules is to be announced at the beginning of the semester in the usual manner. The amended curriculum shall apply to the students to whom it is announced at the beginning of the semester in the usual manner. The Examination Board shall decide on exceptions to sentence 3 upon application by the student.

(7) If participation in an elective module is limited by the number of places available in accordance with the module description, participants will be selected according to the order of enrolment. To this end, the student must enrol for the corresponding elective module. Form and deadline for enrolment

The students will be notified of their enrolment in the usual manner. Enrolment may result in the selection pursuant to paragraph 2 sentence 4. At the end of the enrolment period, the student shall be informed in the usual manner whether he or she is a selected participant in the corresponding elective module. An elective module in accordance with sentence 1 shall only be deemed to have been bindingly selected in accordance with paragraph 2 sentence 4 if the student is a selected participant.

(8) An elective module or an elective programme of a compulsory or elective module will not be held if there are fewer than the minimum number of participants specified in the corresponding module description. The student must therefore enrol for the corresponding elective module or programme. The form and deadline for the respective enrolment options will be announced to students in the usual manner. Enrolment may result in the selection of an elective module in accordance with paragraph 2 sentence 4. At the end of the enrolment period, it will be announced in the usual manner whether the elective module or programme will be conducted. An elective module in accordance with sentence 1 shall only be deemed to have been bindingly selected in accordance with paragraph 2 sentence 4 if the specified number of minimum participants has been reached.

## **7 Content of the degree programme**

(1) The consecutive master's degree programme in Tropical Forestry is application oriented.

(2) The programme includes the management of tropical and subtropical forest ecosystems, in particular the main topics of international forest-related development policy, use of wood and non-timber forest products, forest ecology, monitoring of forests, economics of forest resources, organizational forms of tropical forestry, forest management, quantitative methods for analysing complex systems, silviculture under tropical conditions in the Global South, global to local governance of forest management, research design and intercultural research planning, project management in a development context as well as personal and career development. The Governance profile focuses on conflicts and synergies between different land uses, relevant actors, and institutions. Based on an actor-centered approach, it includes aspects of social governance of tropical forests as well as related political processes and driving forces at global to local level. In the context of development, the Management profile includes solutions for current challenges in forestry in connection with the protection of biodiversity, climate change and the development of a circular bioeconomy.

## **8 Credit points**

(1) ECTS credit points document the average workload of the students as well as their individual study progress. One credit point corresponds to a workload of 30 hours. As a rule, 60 credit points are awarded per academic year, i.e. 30 credit points per semester. The total workload for the programme corresponds to 120 credit points and includes the teaching and learning forms, programme work and examinations, as well as the final thesis and colloquium, which are described in the module descriptions according to type and scope. The module descriptions indicate how many credit points can be earned for each module. Credit points are earned when the module examination has been passed. § Section 34 of the examination regulations remains unaffected.

## **9 Academic advising**

(1) The general student advisory service is provided by the Central Student Advisory Service of the Dresden University of Technology and covers questions regarding study options, enrolment modalities and general student matters. The student advisory service of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences is responsible for subject-specific advice during the programme of study. The student advisory service supports students in matters relating to the organization of their studies.

(2) At the beginning of the third semester, every student who has not yet provided proof of performance up to this point must take part in a subject-specific study consultation.

## **10 Adaptation of module descriptions**

(1) In order to adapt to changed conditions, the module descriptions can be adapted within the framework of an optimal study organization with the exception of the fields "Module name", "Learning outcomes", "Contents", "Teaching and learning methods", "Requirements for the awarding of credit points", "Credit points and grades" and "Duration of the module" can be changed in a simplified procedure.

(2) In a simplified procedure, the Faculty Board decides to amend the module description at the suggestion of the Study Commission. The changes are to be published in the usual manner.

## **11 Entry into force, publication, and transitional provisions**

(1) These study regulations come into force on the day of publication in the official announcements of TU Dresden.

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

(3) For students enrolled earlier than the winter semester 2025/2026, the previously valid version of the study regulations for the consecutive master's degree programme in Tropical Forestry shall continue to apply.

(4) These study regulations apply from winter semester 2026/2027 for all students enrolled on the master's degree programme in Tropical Forestry. In doing so, including the grades, primarily the module examinations already completed and, subordinately, individual examination achievements will be accepted ex officio based on equivalence tables, which are determined by the Examination Board and announced in the usual manner. With the exception of Section 21 (5) of the Examination Regulations for the consecutive master's degree programme in Tropical Forestry, module examinations and examination achievements not graded with at least "sufficient" (4.0) or "passed" are not accepted.

The module grade will not be recalculated based on the grades of examinations that have only been transferred. Exceptions can be found in the equivalency tables.

Issued based on the resolution of the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences dated March 3, 2025 and the approval of the Rectorate dated April 1, 2025.

Dresden, May 6, 2025

The Rector  
Dresden University of Technology

Prof. Dr. Ursula M. Staudinger