

## **Examination regulations for the consecutive Master's degree programme Ecosystem Services**

Dated

The Technische Universität Dresden issues the following examination regulations based upon Sec. 34 Para. 1(1) of the Higher Education Freedom Act of Saxony as published on 15 January 2013 (SächsGVBl, P. 3).

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## **Section 1: General provisions**

### **§ 1**

#### **Normal period of study**

The normal period of study for the Ecosystem Services Master's degree programme includes contact hours with teaching staff, self-study and the Master's examination.

### **§ 2**

#### **Examination structure**

The Master's examination consists of module-specific exams as well as the Master's thesis and the colloquium. A module exam is taken at the end of the module and consists of at least one examination activity. Examinations are taken throughout the course of the degree programme.

### **§ 3**

#### **Dates, times and deadlines**

(1) The Master's examination should be completed within the normal study period. Where a Master's examination has not taken place within a period of four semesters after the end of the normal study period, then the examination will be considered failed. A failed Master's examination can be resat once within one year. After this time, it will again be considered failed. A second resit is only possible upon application by the student and at the next possible examination date. After this time, the Master's examination will be considered failed.

(2) Module exams are to be completed by the end of the semester specified in the study plan.

(3) The study regulations and teaching offers of the Technische Universität Dresden ensure that study and examination activities as well as the Master's thesis and colloquium can be completed within the set time periods. As is normal procedure at the International Institute (IHI) Zittau, students will be duly informed of the type and number of study and examination activities to be completed as well as the deadlines by which they must be completed. Students must be notified of each module examination and the opportunities to resit them.

(4) Maternity leave does not count towards ongoing periods and no periods will start during such leave. For information about parental leave, please see Sec. 12(2) of the regulations for enrolment at Technische Universität Dresden.

## § 4

### General admission criteria and admissions process

(1) Admitted to Master's degree examinations according to Sec. 2(1) will be those who

1. are enrolled onto the Ecosystem Services Master's degree programme at Technische Universität Dresden and
2. can demonstrate they meet the required specialist requirements (Sec. 26), and
3. have submitted a written or electronic declaration regarding Paragraph 4(3).

(2) Students must register to sit examinations. Students may deregister at a later time without stating a reason. The form and deadline for registration and deregistration will be determined by the Examination Board and announced at the start of each semester as is normal for the International Institute (IHI) Zittau. The same applies for pre-examinations.

(3) Admission requirements:

1. for a module examination, initial registration to an examination for this module examination,
2. for a Master's thesis, application by the student for the topic to be issued, or in the case of Sec. 21(3)(5), when the topic is issued, and
3. for a colloquium, a Master's thesis assessed with a grade of at least "sufficient" (4.0).

(4) Admission will be rejected if:

1. the requirements set down in (1) have not been met or the processes described in (2) have not been followed, or
2. documents are incomplete, or
3. the student has failed to pass an exam required as part of the Ecosystem Services Master's degree programme.

(5) The Examination Board is responsible for making decisions regarding admission. Notifications may be made publicly. Sec. 18 (4) remains unaffected.

## § 5

### Types of examination

(1) Examination may take the form of

1. written exams (Sec. 6),
2. seminar papers and other written tasks (Sec. 7),
3. project work (Sec. 8),
4. oral exams (Sec. 9),
5. oral presentations (Sec. 10) and/or
- 6 other types of examination (Sec. 11).

Written examinations using multiple choice are not permitted. For modules that are evidently subject to several sets of examination regulations, synonyms are permitted for examinations in which the content is the same.

(2) Study and examinations are generally done in English. Notwithstanding Sentence 1, study and examination activities are

1. in the modules Ecological and Revitalising Urban Restructuring, Global Perspectives in Spatial Development and Applied Landscape Ecology in German or, at the student's request to the Examination Board, in English; and
2. held in the German language only upon application by the student to the Examination Board for the module Quantitative Methods of Empirical Research.

(3) Where a student can satisfactorily show that they are unable to complete examinations partly or entirely in the intended format due to long-term or permanent physical disability or chronic illness, then the student may apply to the Examination Board for extended time for completing examinations or to take examinations in an equivalent and equally valid format (compensation for disadvantage). A doctor's report or official doctor's report may be required where there is any doubt. The same applies for examined course work.

(4) Where a student can satisfactorily show that they are unable to complete examinations as required because they are caring for their own children under the age of 14 or are a carer for a close relative, then the student may apply to the Examination Board for permission to take the examination in an equivalent form. Close relatives in this case are children, parents, grandparents, spouses and life partners. The Examination Board chairperson will decide with due discretion on an appropriate way for examination requirements to be fulfilled after discussion with the relevant examiner. Appropriate disability compensation measures will be decided by the Examination Board chairperson. Suitable disability compensation measures may include additional time for examinations, breaks during examinations, use of other media, use of different examination rooms within the university or sitting the examination at a different time. The same applies for pre-examinations.

## **§ 6**

### **Written exams**

(1) Written exams are intended for the student to demonstrate that they are able to use the fundamental knowledge they have acquired to solve problems and work on topics using limited aids and common methods in their field of study within a limited period of time.

(2) Written exams for which a student must receive a passing mark in order to continue their course of study must normally, and always in the case of a final resit attempt, be assessed by two examiners. The mark awarded is made up from the average of each individually assessed piece of written work in accordance with Sec. 12(1)(1 to 3); only the first decimal place behind the decimal point is considered, all other decimal places are ignored without rounding. In cases where Sec. 12 (3) applies, the assessment corresponds to the individual assessments that are in agreement in accordance with Sec. 12 (1)(4); if the individual assessments do not agree, then Sec. 21 (9)(1 and 2) apply accordingly. The assessment process should take no longer than four weeks.

(3) The duration of such a written exam is indicated in the module description and must not be less than 90 minutes and no more than 240 minutes.

## **§ 7**

### **Seminar papers and other written work**

(1) Seminar papers and other written work are intended for students to demonstrate their expertise in working on selected problems using specialist literature and other materials within a limited period of time. They are also intended to determine if the student understands the fundamental techniques of academic work. Where indicated in the module description, seminar papers and other written work include a demonstration of the student's ability to coherently present and discuss their findings (seminar paper, including presentation). Other equivalent written papers, namely course work, reports, term and semester papers, are considered equivalent to seminar papers.

(2) Sec. 6(2) applies equally to seminar papers and other written tasks.

(3) Seminar papers and other written work must not require more than 90 hours. The specific scope of the work is defined in the module description. The deadline for submission is set down in the task assignment.

## **§ 8**

### **Project work**

(1) Project work is generally intended for students to demonstrate their ability to work as part of a team, and in particular their ability to develop, implement and present concepts. Students are to demonstrate their ability to define aims for a larger task and to work with interdisciplinary concepts and approaches to problem solving.

(2) Sec. 6(2) applies for project work accordingly.

(3) The amount of time allotted for project work is set down in the module description and is no more than 8 weeks. The deadline for submission is set down in the task assignment.

(4) Where project work is completed as part of a group, the individual contributions of each student must be clearly identifiable and assessable and meet the requirement of Paragraph 1. If parts of the project work are produced orally, then Sec. 9(4)(1) applies.

## **§ 9**

### **Oral exams**

(1) Oral exams are intended for students to demonstrate their ability to recognise the relationships within the area being tested and to formulate a response to specific questions. They are further intended to determine whether or not the student has acquired the appropriate level of fundamental knowledge for the current stage in their studies.

(2) Oral exams are normally sat before at least two examiners, or before one examiner in the presence of a suitably qualified observer (Sec. 19) as a single examination.

(3) Oral exams last between 15 and 45 minutes. The specific duration is defined in the module description.

(4) The content and results of oral exams are recorded in an examination log. The result of the oral exam must be given to the student upon its completion.

(5) Students wishing to take the same examination on a later examination date should be admitted as an observer unless the student objects to this and provided there is sufficient space. Admission does not entitle the student to advice or knowledge of examination results.

## § 10

### Oral presentations

(1) Oral presentations are intended for students to demonstrate their ability to work on a specific problem and present their findings as stipulated by the task.

(2) Sec. 6(2) applies. The member of teaching staff responsible for the course in which the oral presentation is submitted and presented as applicable shall be one of the examiners. If the oral presentation is to be presented, then Sec. 9(4)(1) applies.

(3) The amount of time allotted for producing the oral presentation is set down in the module description and is no more than 40 hours. The deadline for submission or holding the presentation is set down in the task assignment.

## § 11

### Other types of examination

(1) Modules may require that students perform study activities using other controlled and equally assessable specifically defined examination formats (other types of examination) that are stated in the module description including the requirements and duration/time commitment. If a time commitment is stated, the deadline for submission is to be set down in the task assignment. Other examined assessments are internship reports as well as complex assessments.

(2) 1. Internship reports shall demonstrate the student's ability to adequately present the progress or achieved results of an internship.

2. Complex assessments can comprise on-site assessments and off-site assessments and can include written or other individual assessments involving a "physical result" (*gegenständlich*) as well as oral or other individual assessments not involving any "physical result" (*nicht gegenständlich*). They serve to demonstrate the student's ability to develop, implement and present concepts. The student shall demonstrate the competence to define goals for an overarching task and to develop solutions. This includes the ability to work in a team, if required by the task at hand. The time required for complex assessments is specified in each case in the module descriptions and must not exceed 450 hours. Derived from this, the deadline for the submission of individual assessments and the duration of individual assessments are to be determined as part of the respective assignment. If the complex assessments consist of teamwork, the individual contributions must be clearly identifiable and assessable and must meet the requirements set out in para. 2. § 6 para. 2 shall apply accordingly.

## § 12

### Assessment of examinations, grades and their weighting, publication of examination results

(1) Grades for individual examinations are determined by the relevant examiner. The following grades are used:

1 = very good	= excellent performance;
2 = good	= performance that is considerably above average;
3 = satisfactory	= average performance;

4 = sufficient = performance that despite some problems still meets requirements;  
5 = insufficient = performance with significant problems that does not meet requirements.

Differentiated assessment means that some grades may be increased or decreased by 0.3 points; grade 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3 are excluded from this rule. Individual examinations are simply graded as “passed” or “not passed” (ungraded examination) where indicated in the module description. Ungraded examinations that receive a “passed” mark are not included in the calculation of the final grade for the module; “not passed” ungraded examinations are included and treated as having a grade of “insufficient” (5.0).

(2) Module grades may be derived according to the module description from the weighted average of examination grades in the module. Only the first decimal place behind the decimal point is considered, all other decimal places are ignored without rounding. Average module grades 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 = sufficient,  
4.1 and higher = insufficient.

(3) For modules where assessment consists of a single ungraded examination, this will be graded simply as “passed” or “not passed” (ungraded module examinations). Ungraded module examinations are not included when calculating an overall grade.

(4) An overall mark is formed for the Master’s degree. This overall mark is made up of the final grade for the Master’s dissertation with a weighting of 30 and weighted module grades according to the credit points awarded for each module according to Sec. 27(1). The final grade for the dissertation is made up of the double-weighted grade awarded for the dissertation and the single-weighted grade for the colloquium. Sec. 2(2 and 3) apply to the overall mark and final grades.

(5) If a Master’s degree receives an overall mark of 1.2 or better, then the Examination Board will award the additional title of “with distinction”.

(6) The overall mark for the Master’s degree will also be noted as a relative grade corresponding to the ETCS assessment scale.

(7) Students are to be informed of the modalities for announcing examination results via the normal publications of the International Institute (IHI) Zittau.

### **§ 13**

#### **Failure to attend, withdrawal, cheating, breach of regulations, abandonment**

(1) An examination is assessed as “insufficient” (5.0) or “not passed” if the student fails to attend an examination at the required time without good cause or withdraws without good cause. The same applies if examined work is not submitted within the specified time period.

(2) The reason for failing to attend or withdrawing must be immediately submitted to the Examinations Office in writing. In the case of illness, students are usually required to submit a doctor’s report, and an official doctor’s report in the event of doubt. Equal treatment will be given to students where an illness in a child for which the student is solely responsible causes difficulties in adherence to deadlines for initial examination registration, resit registration deadlines, attending examinations and adherence to allocated periods for examined work. If the reason is accepted,



then a new date and time will be arranged. Any examination results already achieved will be accounted for in this case. The Examination Board will decide whether or not to authorise the withdrawal or accept the reason for failing to attend.

(3) If a student attempts to influence the results of their examinations by cheating, such as having on their person or using unauthorised aids, then a grade of “insufficient” (5.0) will be awarded once the Examination Board has determined the facts of the matter. The same applies to ungraded examinations with a mark of “not passed”. Students who disrupt the proper course of an examination can be asked to leave the examination room by the examiner or invigilator; in such cases, the examination will be given a grade of “insufficient” (5.0) or considered “not passed”. In serious cases, the Examination Board may decide to exclude the student from any further opportunities to sit the examination.

(4) If a student cheats in an examination and this cheating is only uncovered after a grade has been awarded, the Examination Board is permitted to change the awarded grade to “insufficient” (5.0) or “not passed” and subsequently change the grade awarded for the module according to Sec. 12(2). If the requirements for submitting a module examination were not met and there was no intent on the part of the student to cheat, then this fault will be rectified by allowing the module to be passed. If the student acted with intent to wrongly pass a module examination, then the Examination Board can declare the module grade as “insufficient” (5.0) or “not passed”. In serious cases, the Examination Board may decide to exclude the student from any further opportunities to sit the examination.

(5) Paragraphs 1 to 4 apply to examination preparation, the Master’s thesis and colloquium.

(6) If a student declares in writing to the Examinations Office that they do not wish to sit a particular examination, then this examination will be graded as “insufficient” (5.0) or “not passed” for that examination attempt. Such withdrawal from an examination cannot be retracted and requires admission according Sec. 4.

## **§ 14**

### **Passing and failing**

(1) A module is considered to be passed if a module grade of “sufficient” (4.0) is achieved, or for ungraded module examinations, “passed”. In some cases, module descriptions additionally require students to successfully complete an activity typical for careers in their field of study in the form of a work placement. If the module is passed, then the number of credit points defined in the module description will be awarded.

(2) The Master’s degree is considered to be passed once all module examinations, the Master’s dissertation and the colloquium have been passed. The Master’s dissertation and colloquium are considered to be passed where a grade of at least “sufficient” (4.0) is achieved.

(3) A module is considered as failed if a module grade of less than “sufficient” (4.0) is achieved or an ungraded examination is considered “not passed”. The Master’s dissertation and colloquium are considered failed if a grade of less than “sufficient” (4.0) is achieved.

(4) A module is considered as failed if a module grade of less than “sufficient” (4.0) is achieved or an ungraded examination is considered “not passed” and no further resits or resubmissions are possible. The Master’s dissertation and colloquium are considered conclusively failed if a grade of less than “sufficient” (4.0) is achieved and repetition or resit is no longer possible.

(5) The Master's degree is considered as failed or conclusively failed if the modules, the Master's dissertation or the colloquium are failed or conclusively failed. Sec. 3(1) remains unaffected. Where an elective module is conclusively failed, the conclusive failure of the Master's degree is only be decided according to Sec. 18(4) if the student does not select a different elective within one month of the results being published. If the student conclusively fails to pass the Master's degree, they lose the right to be examined for all component parts of the degree according to Sec. 2(1).

(6) If the student does not pass a module, the Master's dissertation or the colloquium, the student will be informed whether and if applicable to what extent, as well as by what deadline, the failed parts may be repeated.

(7) If the student fails to pass the Master's degree, they may, upon presentation of corresponding documents and notice of de-registration, receive a certificate listing the examinations taken and the grades achieved, as well as the outstanding examinations to date if applicable, and which shall indicate that the Master's examination was not passed.

## **§ 15**

### **Optional attempt**

(1) Module examinations can also be taken before the semester in which a module is scheduled to take place provided that the necessary admission criteria are met. Sitting such an examination is considered an optional attempt.

(2) Students who achieve a grade of at least "sufficient" (4.0) in an optional examination attempt may apply to resit the examination at the next regular examination date. In this case, the better grade will be used. The form and deadline for the application will be determined by the Examination Board and announced through the normal channels at the International Institute (IH) Zittau. Once the regular examination date has passed, or the application deadline has passed, there will be no further opportunity to improve the grade. When resitting an examination in order to improve the grade, optional attempts where a grade of "sufficient" (4.0) was achieved can be credited upon application by the student; examinations taken as optional attempts and graded as "passed" are officially recognised.

(3) Where an optional attempt at an examination results in a failure to pass, the attempt will not count as having taken place. Examinations assessed with at least a grade of "sufficient" (4.0) or "passed" will be credited during the following examination process. If the opportunity is taken according to Paragraph 2 to resit an examination for the purposes of improving the grade, then the better grade is used.

(4) Further to Sec. 3(4), periods where study is suspended due to long-term illness of the student or the student's child as well as periods spent studying abroad are not counted when considering an optional attempt application.

## **§ 16**

### **Resitting module examinations**

(1) Module examinations that were failed can be resat once within one year of the previous attempt. The time limit to do the resit begins once failure to pass the module examination has been announced. After this time, the examination will again be considered failed.

(2) A second resit is only possible at the next available examination date. After this time, the module examination will be considered as conclusively failed. No further resit attempts are permitted.

(3) Repeating module examinations consisting of several individual assessed activities means repeating only the elements for which the minimum grade of "sufficient" (4.0) or "passed" was not achieved. When repeating module examinations consisting of one or more freely chosen assessed activities, students are not obliged to repeat the same activities for which they did not achieve minimum grade of "sufficient" (4.0) or "passed".

(4) Repeating passed module examinations is only permitted in accordance with Sec. 15(2) and must include all elements of the examination.

(5) Failed attempts at passing module examinations from the same or another degree programme are carried over.

## **§ 17**

### **Recognition of study and examination credits, study periods, and qualifications not acquired at a university**

(1) Study and examinations undertaken at a university can be recognised upon application by the student unless there are significant differences in the acquired skills. The extensive set of agreements made by the TU 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 may apply here.

(2) Qualifications not earned at a university can be recognised upon application by the student, provided that they are equal in value. A qualification is considered of equal value if its content, scope and requirements largely correspond with parts of the Ecosystem Services Master's degree programme at Technische Universität Dresden. No formal point by point comparison is made here. Instead, the qualification is looked at and considered as a whole.

(3) Study and examinations undertaken in the Federal Republic of Germany for the same study programme are officially recognised.

(4) Study and examinations undertaken at a university can be recognised despite significant differences if their content and qualification aims correspond in meaning and purpose to one of the optional courses available in this study programme and thus represent a structural equivalent. The transcript will list the actual performances.

(5) If study and examinations according to Paragraphs 1, 3 or 4 are recognised or accepted, or qualifications not earned at a university according to Paragraph 2 are recognised, then the study hours will be officially recognised and credited. Where a comparable grading system has been used, grades will be transferred and used to calculate final marks. Where incompatible systems are used, then these will be marked as "passed", but not included in calculating any final marks. The crediting of these qualifications will be indicated in the transcript.

(6) Qualifications will be credited by the Examination Board. Applications are only permitted within the first two months of the respective semester. The student must present the necessary documents. Once documentation has been presented, the crediting process must not take more than two months. Where qualifications are not credited, Sec. 18 (4)(1) applies.

## **§ 18**

### **Examination Board**

(1) An examination board has been created for implementing and organising examinations and activities required by the examination regulations for the Ecosystem Services Master's degree programme. The examination board is made up of three university lecturers, a member of academic staff as well as a student. These positions are held for a period of three years, with the exception of the student position. The student position is held for a period of one year.

(2) The chairperson, deputy chairperson and the other members and their representatives are appointed by the Academic Council of the International Institute (IHI) Zittau, the student member is recommended by the Faculty Students' Council. The chairperson generally leads all business of the Examination Board.

(3) The Examination Board ensures that all conditions of the examination regulations are properly observed. It reports regularly to the Academic Council of the International Institute (IHI) Zittau on the progress of examination and study periods, including the allotted time for the Master's dissertation and the distribution of module and overall marks. The Examination Board makes suggestions for changes to the examination regulations, study regulations, module descriptions and study plans.

(4) Students affected by any decisions must be informed in writing along with an explanation of the decision and information on how to appeal the decision. The Examination Board acts as the examination authority for deciding on submitted appeals and must issue its decision within an appropriate period of time.

(5) The Examination Board may permit guests to attend its meetings. Guests do not have the right to vote. Members of the Examination Board have the right to be present when assessed work is submitted and at the colloquium.

(6) Members of the Examination Board and their representatives are subject to an obligation of secrecy. Where they do not hold public office, the chairperson shall obtain their secrecy undertaking.

(7) The Examinations Office organises examinations and manages examination files based upon the decisions made by the Examination Board.

## **§ 19**

### **Examiners and observers**

(1) Examiners are university teaching staff or other persons legally authorised to set examinations who are appointed by the Examination Board. A person may only be appointed as an observer if they themselves have completed the Master's examinations or a comparable qualification.

(2) Students may suggest a supervisor for their Master's dissertation and an examiner for the colloquium. There is no guarantee that these suggestions will be granted.

(3) Students are to be informed of the names of the examiners in good time.

(4) Sec. 18(6) applies accordingly to examiners and observers.

## § 20

### **Purpose of the Master's examination**

Passing the Master's examination represents the completion of the degree programme. It is used to determine that the student has understood the technical context, has acquired the necessary skills and competencies, can use scientific methods and findings, and has acquired the necessary general and specialist knowledge for transitioning into a career or academia.

## § 21

### **Purpose, setting, submission, assessment and resubmitting the Master's thesis and colloquium**

(1) The Master's dissertation is intended to demonstrate that the student is able to work independently and using scientific methods to look at problems within their field of study and within the specified period of time.

(2) The Master's dissertation can be supervised by a member of university teaching staff or other person authorised to do in accordance with the Higher Education Autonomy Act of Saxony, provided that this person is actively involved with the Ecosystem Services Master's degree programme at TU Dresden. If the Master's dissertation is to be supervised by an external authorised person, this requires approval from the Examination Board chairperson.

(3) The topic for the Master's dissertation is set by the Examination Board. Topic and the time set are to be recorded. Students may express their interest in a particular topic. Upon application by the student, the Examination Board will arrange for the topic of the Master's thesis to be set in good time. The topic will be officially set by the Examination Board no later than by the start of the semester following completion of the last module examination.

(4) The topic can be changed within the first two months of the topic being set. If repeating the Master's thesis, a change of topic is only permitted if the student has not already done so previously. If a student wishes to change their topic, a new topic will be promptly set in accordance with Paragraph 3(1 to 3).

(5) The Master's dissertation can also be completed as group work. In this case it is necessary that the individual contribution made by each student is clearly defined and assessable by indicating section, page numbers or other objective criteria that clearly identify their work and which meet the conditions of Paragraph 1.

(6) The Master's dissertation must be written in English, typed, and submitted as two bound copies as well as in digital text form on an appropriate data storage medium within the specified time to the Examinations Office. The date and time of submission must be officially recorded. At the time of submission, the student must sign a written declaration stating that their work, or their clearly indicated part of a group submission, has been completed independently and using only the sources and aids they have referenced. Where appropriate, students may apply to the Examination Board for permission to submit their Master's dissertation in a different language.

(7) The Master's dissertation must be separately assessed by two examiners in accordance with Sec. 12(1)(1 to 3). The supervisor of the Master's dissertation must be one of the examiners. The assessment process should take no longer than four weeks.

(8) The actual grade awarded for the Master's dissertation is calculated as the average of the two individual grades given by the examiners. If the individual grades put forward by the examiners

differ by more than two grade levels, then the average of the two grades will only be used if both examiners agree to this. If they do not agree to do this, then the Examination Board will request an assessment by an additional examiner. The final grade awarded for the Master's dissertation will then be taken as the average of the three individual grades. Sec. 12 (2)(2 and 3) apply accordingly.

(9) If one examiner has assessed the Master's dissertation to a grade of at least "sufficient" (4.0) and the other with "insufficient" (5.0), the Examination Board will request an assessment by a third examiner. This third examiner will decide whether or not the dissertation receives a passing grade. If a passing grade is awarded for the Master's dissertation, the final grade will be taken as the average of the two individual passing grades. In the case of a non-passing grade, the two non-passing grades will be used. Sec. 12(2)(2 and 3) apply accordingly.

(10) A failed Master's dissertation can be resubmitted once within one year. After this time, it will again be considered failed. A second resubmission is only possible on the next available assessment date. After this time, it will be considered failed. Further resubmissions or resubmission of successful Master's dissertations are not permitted.

(11) The student must defend their Master's dissertation before their supervisor and an observer at a public colloquium. The colloquium is intended for the student to demonstrate that they can coherently present and discuss the findings of their Master's dissertation. Additional examiners may be brought in. Paragraph 10 as well as Sec. 9(4) and Sec. 12(1)(1 to 3) apply accordingly.

## **§ 22**

### **Transcript and Master's degree certificate**

(1) Upon completion, or within four weeks, of their Master's examination, students will receive a transcript. This Master's transcript must record all module grades according to Sec. 27(1) as well as the corresponding credit points and any information regarding credit recognition, chosen focus according to Sec. 27 (3)(1)(Numbers 1 to 5) the topic of the Master's dissertation, its final grade and supervisor as well as the overall grade according to Sec. 12(4 and 6). Grades for individual examinations are indicated on a supplement to the transcript. Students may apply for grades achieved in additional modules and total periods of study required for the Master's programme to be included on the transcript and grades for individual examination in additional modules to be indicated on the supplement.

(2) At the same time as receiving the transcript, students also receive a Master's degree certificate with the date of the transcript. This certifies that the degree of Master has been conferred. The Master's degree certificate is signed by the Examination Board chairperson, the hand-written or machine-printed signature of the rector and has the official seal of the Technische Universität Dresden. Students are additionally provided with an English translation of the certificate and transcript.

(3) The transcript indicates the date upon which the last examination according to Sec. 14(2) was completed. It is signed by the Examination Board chairperson and carries the seal of the Technische Universität Dresden used by the International Institute (IHI) Zittau.

(4) The Technische Universität Dresden issues a Diploma Supplement (DS) according to the "Dresden Supplement Model" of the European Union/Europarat/UNESCO. The current version of the text agreed by the Conference of Ministers of Education and the German Rectors' Conference is to be used as a statement regarding the national education system (DS Section 8).

## § 23

### Invalidity of the Master's examination

(1) If a student cheats in an examination and this cheating is only uncovered after the transcript has been issued, the awarded grade may be subsequently changed according to Sec. 13(4)(1). The Examination Board can declare a module grade as "insufficient" (5.0) and the Master's examination as "not passed". The same applies for ungraded module examinations and the Master's dissertation and colloquium.

(2) If the requirements for submitting a module examination were not met and there was no intent on the part of the student to cheat, and where this only comes to light after the transcript has been issued, then this fault will be rectified by allowing the module to be passed. If the student acted with intent to wrongly pass a module examination, then the Examination Board can declare the module grade as "insufficient" (5.0) and declare the Master's examination as "not passed". The same applies for ungraded module examinations and the Master's dissertation and colloquium.

(3) The student concerned must be given an opportunity to make a statement before any decision is made.

(4) The incorrect transcript and its translation must be withdrawn by the Examination Board chairperson and reissued as necessary. When withdrawing the incorrect transcript, the Master's degree certificate and all translations as well as the Diploma Supplement must also be withdrawn if the Master's examination has been declared as "not passed" due to cheating. No further decision may be made according to Paragraphs 1 and 2(2 or 3) once a period of five years from the date of the transcript has elapsed.

## § 24

### Viewing examination papers

For a period of one year after completion of the examination procedure, students may apply to view their examined written work, assessments of this and examination logs within a reasonable period of time.

## Section 2: Subject-specific provisions

## § 25

### Duration, structure and scope of study

(1) The normal period of study according to Sec. 1 is four semesters.

(2) The degree programme has a module structure and is completed with the Master's examination.

(3) Passing the Master's examination means that a total of 120 credit points have been earned from modules as well as from the Master's dissertation and colloquium.

## § 26

### **Specialist requirements for the Master's examination**

Modules may require the completion of coursework in advance of an examination (so-called pre-examination). The number of tasks, type and format is indicated in the module descriptions. The number of opportunities to resubmit such work may also be limited. Before the colloquium can take place, a Master's dissertation must be assessed with a grade of at least "sufficient" (4.0).

## § 27

### **Subject matter, type and scope of the Master's examination**

(1) The Master's examination comprises all module examinations for the core areas and those of the chosen electives as well as the Master's dissertation and colloquium.

(2) The core modules are

1. Ecosystem Services – Concepts and Development
2. Applied Ecology
3. Introduction into Key Taxa
4. Methods of Empirical Social Research
5. Intercultural Communication and Foreign Language Skills
6. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Governance
7. Ecological Economics

(3) The electives are

1. in the focus area of Environmental Social Sciences
  - a) Nature and Ecosystem Services in the City
  - b) Resource Management and Sustainability
  - c) Ecosystem Services – Case Studies
  - d) Quantitative Methods of Empirical Research
  - e) Biodiversity Management and Sustainability
  - f) Environmental Law
2. in the focus area of Biotechnology
  - a) Environmental Chemistry
  - b) Environmental and Fungal Genomics
  - c) Environmental Analysis
  - d) Applied Microbiology
3. in the focus area of Ecology and Collections
  - a) Field Ecology
  - b) Museum and Collections
  - c) Collecting and Analysing Biodiversity Data
  - d) Diversity and Ecology of Fungi and Lichens
  - e) Systematics and Bioindication of Bryophytes
  - f) Zoology – Special Aspects of Collection Management
4. in the focus area of Forestry
  - a) Management of Vegetation and Soil in Watersheds
  - b) Forest Related Development Policy and Culture
  - c) Assessment and Evaluation of Forest Resources
  - d) Modelling
  - e) Communication and Conflict Management
  - f) Management Systems and Restoration in Natural Forests of the Tropics
  - g) Management Systems of Forest Plantations and Rehabilitation of the Landscape in the Tropics



5. in the focus area of Spatial Development and Natural Resource Management
  - a) Integrated Water Resources Management I (IWRM I)
  - b) Circular Economy
  - c) Ecological and Revitalising Urban Restructuring
  - d) Global Perspectives in Spatial Development
  - e) Environmental Development and Risk Management
  - f) Applied Landscape Ecology
  - g) Strategic Sustainability Management
  - h) Resource Management

from which one area of focus must be selected as well as

6. Ecosystem Services in Practice – Specialisation

7. Ecosystem Services in Practice – Foundations

from which one must be chosen. Modules totalling 45 credit points must be chosen, of which at least 20 credit points must come from the selected area of focus.

(4) The required examination activities associated with the modules, their type and format are defined in the module descriptions. Examinations comprise the content and expertise that is to be acquired in the module, unless otherwise indicated.

(5) Students may sit examinations for further modules in addition to those stated in Paragraph 1 (additional modules). These module examinations can be taken voluntary from the entire range of modules offered at the Technische Universität Dresden or a partner university after discussion with the relevant provider or examiner. Students will not receive credit for these modules, nor will they be considered when calculating the overall mark for the degree.

## **§ 28**

### **Time allocated for the Master's dissertation and duration of the colloquium**

(1) The time allocated for the Master's dissertation is 20 weeks for a total of 27 credit points. The supervisor must limit the topic, problem and scope of the Master's dissertation in order that this deadline for submission can be met.

(2) Students may apply to the Examination Board for permission to work on their Master's dissertation alongside their studies where the topic allows. In this case, the Examination Board will extend the submission deadline of the Master's dissertation accordingly. If working on the Master's dissertation alongside normal studies, it must be submitted no later than 16 weeks after completion of the last module examinations.

(3) In exceptional cases, the Examination Board may grant an extension of up to 12 weeks upon application by a student and where sufficient grounds exist to do so. The number of credit points awarded remains the same.

(4) The colloquium lasts 45 minutes. 3 credit points are awarded.

## **§ 29**

### **Academic degree of Master**

Upon successful completion of the Master's examination, the academic degree of "Master of Science" (abbreviated: M.Sc.) is conferred.

### **Section 3: Final provisions**

#### **§ 30**

#### **Effective date, publication and transitional provisions**

(1) These examination regulations come into force on April 1, 2024 and are published in the official announcements of Technische Universität Dresden.

(2) They apply to all students newly enrolled in the Master's degree programme Ecosystem Services in the 2024/2025 winter semester or later.

(3) For students who enrolled earlier than in the 2024/2025 winter semester, the version of the Examination Regulations for the consecutive Master's degree programme Ecosystem Services that was valid for them up until the amendment will continue to apply unless they declare their transfer in writing to the Examination Board. The form and deadline of this declaration are specified by the Examination Board and announced as it is customary at the International Institute Zittau. Switching to the new regulations is possible at the earliest on October 1, 2024.

Issued on the basis of the resolution of the Academic Council of the International Institute Zittau as of November 13, 2023, and the approval of the University Executive Board of Technische Universität Dresden as of January 8, 2024.

Dresden, ..... 2024

The Rector  
of Technische Universität Dresden

Prof. Dr. Ursula M. Staudinger