

## **Examination Regulations for the consecutive Master's degree program Biology in Society**

as of May 11, 2021  
(translated version)

On the basis of § 34 para. 1 sentence 1 of the Act on the Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education in the Free State of Saxony in the version published on January 15, 2013 (SächsGVBl. p. 3) Technische Universität Dresden issues the following Examination Regulations as statutes.

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## **Part 1: General regulations**

### **§ 1**

#### **Standard period of study**

The standard period of study for the Master's Biology in Society includes attendance, independent study, supervised practice periods, and the Master's examination.

### **§ 2**

#### **Examination structure**

The Master's examination consists of module examinations as well as the Master's thesis and the colloquium. A module is concluded by a module examination, which consists of at least one examined assessment. Examined assessments are accomplished throughout the program.

### **§ 3**

#### **Deadlines and dates**

(1) The Master's examination shall be taken within the standard period of study. A Master's examination that has not been taken within four semesters following the standard period of study will be considered as failed. A failed Master's examination can be repeated once within one year. Following the expiration of this deadline, it is deemed as failed again. A second re-take of the examination is only possible at the next available examination date, thereafter the Master's examination is deemed to be irreversibly failed.

(2) Module examinations shall be taken by the end of the semester as stated in the study schedule.

(3) Technische Universität Dresden, through its study regulations and courses offered, ensures that study achievements and examined assessments as well as the Master's thesis and the colloquium can be completed within the specified periods of time. Students will be informed in good time and as is customary at the Faculty about the nature and the number of the required study achievements and examined assessments as well as about the respective deadlines; the same holds true for the issuance and submitting of the Master's thesis and the date of the colloquium. For each module examination, students shall also be informed about the respective opportunity to repeat the examination.

(4) During maternity leave, deadlines do not apply and the leave is not counted towards current deadlines. For regulations regarding parental leave, students are referred to § 12 para. 2 of the Enrollment Regulations at Technische Universität Dresden.

### **§ 4**

#### **General admission requirements and admission procedures**

(1) Students can only be admitted to the Master's examination according to § 2 sentence 1 if they are

1. enrolled in the Master's program Biology in Society at Technische Universität Dresden, and
2. have proven the subject-specific requirements (§ 27), and

3. have made a declaration regarding para. 4 number 3 either in writing or recorded in a data processing system.

(2) In order to submit examined assessments, students must register. Later withdrawal is possible without the obligation to provide a reason. Procedures and the deadline for registration and withdrawal are specified by the Examination Committee and published at the beginning of each semester as is customary at the Faculty.

(3) Admission is granted

1. to a module examination on the basis of the first registration for an examined assessment of this very module examination, and
2. to the Master's thesis on the basis of a student's request for issuance of the topic, or if § 22 para. 3 sentence 5 applies, upon issuance of the topic, and
3. to the colloquium based on the assessment of the Master's thesis with a grade of at least 'sufficient' (4.0).

(4) Admission is denied if

1. the requirements stated in para. 1 or the rules of procedure stated in para. 2 are not met, or
2. the documents are incomplete, or
3. the student has already irreversibly failed an examination required for the completion of the Master's program Biology in Society.

(5) Admissions decisions will be taken by the Examination Committee. The announcement thereof may be public. § 19 para. 4 remains unaffected.

## § 5

### Types of examined assessments

(1) Examined assessments are

1. written examinations (*Klausuren*) (§ 6),
2. term papers (§ 7),
3. oral examinations (§ 8),
4. complex assessments (§ 9),
5. portfolios (§ 10),
6. scientific-practical assessments (§ 11), and
7. language examinations (§ 12).

Written examinations using multiple choice are not permitted.

(2) Studies and examined assessments must be completed in English or, if indicated by the module descriptions, in German. If, according to the module description, a module primarily serves to acquire foreign language qualifications, studies and examined assessments may also have to be completed in the respective foreign language if required by the assignment.

(3) If a student proves that, due to extended or permanent physical impairment or chronic illness, they are unable to accomplish an examined assessment or parts thereof in the stipulated form, the Chair of the Examination Committee will approve, upon request, an extension or an equivalent manner for the examined assessment (compensation for disadvantages). For this purpose, the student may be required to submit a medical certificate and, in cases of doubt, an official medical certificate by a public health officer (*Amtsarzt*).

(4) If a student proves that, due to taking care of their own children until they reach the age of 14 or caring for close relatives, examinations cannot be taken as stipulated, the Chair of the Examination Committee, upon request, will approve an equivalent method for taking the examination. Close relatives are children, parents, grandparents, spouses, and civil partners. The Chair of the Examination Committee, in consultation with the responsible examiner, will decide, at their due discretion, on how the examination is to be taken. The Chair of the Examination Committee shall decide on an appropriate measure to compensate for the disadvantages. Suitable measures to compensate for disadvantages are, for example, extended time allowance, extended breaks, use of other media, use of other examination rooms within the university or another examination date.

## **§ 6**

### **Written examinations (*Klausuren*)**

(1) Written examinations are taken on-site and a 'physical result' (*gegenständlich*) is produced, e.g. a written piece of work.

(2) In written examinations, students prove that they are able to solve tasks and analyze topics drawing on the required knowledge and using the standard methods of the degree program with time constraints and with limited resources.

(3) The duration of the written examinations is specified in the module descriptions and shall be no less than 60 minutes and shall not exceed 240 minutes.

## **§ 7**

### **Term papers**

(1) Term papers are completed in non-attendance form, and produce a 'physical result' (*gegenständlich*), e.g. written piece of work.

(2) Term papers are intended to demonstrate the student's competence in dealing with selected issues on the basis of specialist literature and other sources within a limited period of time as well as to verify that fundamental techniques of scientific work can be applied. This includes the ability to work in a team, if required by the task at hand. Where indicated in the module descriptions, term papers also include the demonstration of the ability to coherently present and discuss aspects of the work orally in accordance with the respective assignment (combined term paper).

(3) The time required for term papers is specified in each case in the module descriptions and must not exceed 300 hours. Derived from this, the deadline for submission is to be determined as part of the respective assignment.

(4) For oral individual assessments of combined term papers, § 8 para. 5 shall apply accordingly.

(5) If the term paper consists of teamwork, the individual contributions must be clearly identifiable and assessable and must meet the requirements set out in para. 2.

## **§ 8**

### **Oral examinations**

(1) Oral examinations are taken on-site and do not produce a 'physical result' (*nicht gegenständlich*). The focus is on what the student expresses.

(2) Oral examinations serve to provide the direct demonstration of linguistic and communicative competencies, in particular in the form of conversation, lecturing, presentation or discussion, of the specialist knowledge corresponding to the level of study and of the understanding of the contexts of the examined field. The respective task determines which of the skills are the focus of the examination.

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

(4) The duration of the oral examinations is specified in the module descriptions and shall be no less than 15 minutes and shall not exceed 60 minutes per student. Group examinations may not exceed a total duration of 75 minutes.

(5) Oral examinations shall be taken in the presence of at least two examiners (colleague examination) or one examiner and one expert assessor (§ 20). The main points and results of the oral examination shall be recorded in a protocol.

(6) Oral examinations may be conducted with or without the public being admitted. For public oral examinations, listeners may be admitted if the facilities allow for it, unless one of the examiners objects. For oral examinations which are not open to the public, the Examination Committee in agreement with the examiners (in case of a colleague examination) or with the examiner may only admit a student who wishes to take the same examination at a later examination date as a listener upon application by the student and if the facilities allow for it, unless the examined student objects. Procedures and the deadline for the application are specified by the Examination Committee and published in the usual manner. The module descriptions stipulate whether the oral examination is public or non-public. The deliberation and announcement of the examination results always takes place without an audience.

## § 9

### Complex assessments

(1) Complex assessments can comprise on-site 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*).

(2) Complex assessments serve to demonstrate the student's the 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.

(3) 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.

(4) For oral or other individual assessments not involving any 'physical result', § 8 para. 5 shall apply accordingly.

(5) If the complex assessments consists of teamwork, the individual contributions must be clearly identifiable and assessable and must meet the requirements set out in para. 2.

## **§ 10**

### **Portfolios**

(1) Portfolios can comprise on-site and off-site assessments, and produce a 'physical result' (*gegenständlich*), e.g. written piece of work.

(2) Portfolios serve to demonstrate, by means of a compilation of similar or disparate individual assessments, the student's ability to place the aspects of professional, scientific activity that are specified by the respective task in an overarching context. This includes the ability to work in a team, if required by the task at hand.

(3) The time required for the portfolios is specified in each case in the module descriptions and must not exceed 300 hours. Derived from this, the deadline for the submission of individual assessments, the duration of individual assessments, and the deadline for the submission of the complete portfolio are to be determined as part of the respective assignment. The format of the individual assessments will be announced at the beginning of the semester by the Faculty.

(4) If the portfolio consists of teamwork, the individual contributions must be clearly identifiable and assessable and must meet the requirements set out in para. 2.

## **§ 11**

### **Scientific-practical assessments**

(1) Scientific-practical assessments are taken on-site and do not produce a 'physical result' (*nicht gegenständlich*). The focus is on the actions of the student.

(2) Scientific-practical assessments serve to demonstrate the ability to perform activities in accordance with the requirements of the discipline.

(3) The duration of scientific-practical assessments is specified in the module descriptions and shall be no less than 15 minutes and shall not exceed 45 minutes.

(4) § 8 para. 5 shall apply accordingly.

## **§ 12**

### **Language examinations**

(1) Language examinations are taken on-site and can include individual assessments involving a 'physical result' (*gegenständlich*), e.g. a written assessment, as well as oral or other individual assessments not involving any 'physical result' (*nicht gegenständlich*).

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

(3) The duration of the language examinations is specified in the module descriptions and shall be no less than 15 minutes and shall not exceed 240 minutes. The ratio of written or other assessments involving a 'physical result' and oral individual assessments is to be determined as part of the respective assignment.

(4) For oral or other individual assessments not involving any 'physical result', § 8 para. 5 shall apply accordingly.

## § 13

### Electronic examinations

(1) In principle, the examinations according to § 6 to § 12 can also be conducted, evaluated and assessed using digital technologies. Only those digital technologies may be used that correspond to the generally recognized state of the art at the time of use. Data protection regulations are to be adhered to.

(2) Prior to an examination that uses 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 examination using digital technologies will be announced in the usual manner by the beginning of the registration period.

(3) The authenticity of the student and the integrity of the examination results must be ensured. For this purpose, the examination results in the form of electronic data must be clearly identified and be unmistakably and permanently assigned to the student's name. It must be ensured that the electronic data for evaluation and verifiability are complete and remain unchanged .

(4) An automatically generated assessment of an examination shall be reviewed by an examiner at the request of the examined student.

## § 14

### Assessment of examined assessments, calculation and weighting of grades, publication of examination results

(1) The grade of an individual examined assessment is decided by the responsible examiner. In case of a colleague examination, the examiners jointly decide on the grade. The following grades shall be used:

1 = excellent	= an excellent performance;
2 = good	= a performance considerably exceeding average requirements;
3 = satisfactory	= a performance that meets average requirements;
4 = sufficient	= a performance that meets the requirements despite some inadequacies;
5 = unsatisfactory	= a performance that does not meet the requirements because of grave inadequacies.

For a more differentiated assessment, individual grades can be raised or lowered by 0.3 to obtain intermediate values; whereby the grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3 are excluded. An individual examined assessment is solely assessed as 'passed' or 'failed' (ungraded examined assessment) if the relevant module description provides an exception for this. Ungraded examined assessments that are assessed as 'passed' do not enter into further grade calculations; ungraded examined assessments assessed as 'failed' receive the grade 5 (unsatisfactory). They are then included in further grade calculations.

(2) Written examinations that students are required to pass in order to continue their studies shall be marked by two examiners as a general rule, however, in the case of repeat examinations, two examiners are compulsory; in the case of oral assessments, oral or other individual assessments not involving any 'physical result', or scientific-practical assessments, § 8 para. 5 shall apply accordingly.



(3) The grade of an examined assessment corresponds to the assessment of the examiner or, in the case of para. 1 sentence 2, the joint assessment of the examiners. In all other cases, the grade of an examined assessment corresponds to the average of the individual evaluations in the case of an evaluation by several examiners or, in the case of an evaluation according to para. 1 sentence 5, to the matching individual evaluations; if the individual evaluations do not match, § 22 para. 8 sentences 1 and 2 shall apply accordingly. If a grade or a module grade, overall grade, final grade or, if applicable, divisional or study stage grade is calculated as the average of several individual evaluations according to para. 1 or of grades, module grades or the final grade, only the first decimal point is taken into account; all other decimals are omitted without rounding.

(4) The module grade is calculated as the average of the individual examination grades which may be weighted as specified in the module descriptions. On the basis of the averages, the module grades are:

1.5 and better	=	excellent
1.6 to 2.5	=	good
2.6 to 3.5	=	satisfactory
3.6 to 4.0	=	sufficient
4.1 and worse	=	unsatisfactory.

If a module examination is not passed due to an examination performance relevant to passing the examination pursuant to § 16 para. 1 sentence 2, the module grade shall be 'unsatisfactory' (5.0).

(5) Module examinations that solely consist of an ungraded examined assessment are assessed as 'passed' or 'failed' in accordance with the grading of the examined assessment (ungraded module examinations). Ungraded module examinations do not enter into further grade calculations.

(6) For the Master's examination, an overall grade is calculated. The final grade of the Master's examination is calculated on the basis of the final grade of the Master's thesis with a 42-fold weighting and the module grades weighted according to the credit points pursuant to § 28 para. 1. The final grade of the Master's thesis is composed of the grade of the Master's thesis with fivefold weighting and the grade of the colloquium with single weighting. For the overall and final grades, para. 3 sentence 3 and para. 4 sentence 2 shall apply accordingly.

(7) The result of an oral examination will be announced to the student directly after the oral examination. The time for assessing all other examinations shall not exceed four weeks; in the case of written examinations with more than 300 participants, the time for assessing shall not exceed eight weeks. Information on the results of these examinations shall be provided in the usual manner.

(8) In order for the examiner to review the assessment of an examination that has not yet become final, a reconsideration of the assessment decision (remonstration) can be requested. For this purpose, the student must submit a request to the examiner and make specific assessment objections. Taking into account the assessment objections raised, the examiner is obliged to review their assessment of the examination and change it if necessary. A downgrading of the examination result is excluded on principle. The student will be informed in writing or electronically about the outcome of the reconsideration process. This does not affect the right to appeal against the examination decision for the module examination in question. The reconsideration process shall be documented in the examination file. The reconsideration process can also take place for the first time during the formal appeal procedure or a subsequent legal action against the examination decision of the corresponding module examination. In this case, in deviation from sentence 2, 1<sup>st</sup> half-sentence, it is initiated ex officio by the chairperson of the Examination Committee.

(9) Students shall be informed, as is customary at the Faculty, about how examination results are announced.

## **§ 15**

### **Non-appearance/Non-submission, withdrawal, cheating, violation of rules and regulations**

(1) An examined assessment is deemed to be 'unsatisfactory' (5.0) or 'failed' if a student fails to appear for or withdraws from a compulsory examination without due justification. The same shall apply when an examined assessment is not completed within the specified period of time.

(2) The given reason for non-appearance, non-submission, or withdrawal shall be immediately communicated and justified in writing to the Examination Office. In case of illness, the student normally shall provide a doctor's note and, in cases of doubt, a note from a public health officer (*Amtsarzt*). With regard to deadlines for the first entry into examinations, re-taking of examinations, reasons for non-appearance at examinations and the adherence to submission periods, the illness of a child in need of care who is mainly cared for by the student shall be equivalent to the illness of the student themselves. If the reason is accepted, a new date is set. In this case, already existing examination results shall be considered. Acceptance of the withdrawal or the reason for non-appearance or non-submission is subject to the decision of the Examination Committee.

(3) If a student attempts to manipulate the result of the examination by cheating, e.g. by bringing or using illicit aids, the examination concerned is deemed to be 'unsatisfactory' (5.0) upon detection by the Examination Committee. Ungraded examinations shall be assessed as 'failed' accordingly. A student who is disrupting the normal proceedings of an examination may be excluded from continuing the examination by the respective examiner or invigilator; in this case, the examination is assessed as 'unsatisfactory' (5.0) or 'failed'. In serious cases, the Examination Committee may exclude the student from taking further examinations.

(4) If, during an examination, a student has cheated and this is only detected after the publication of the result, the Examination Committee may change the result of the examination to 'unsatisfactory' (5.0) or 'failed' and subsequently change the module grade according to § 14 para. 4. If the requirements for taking a module examination have not been met and the student was not at fault, this irregularity is rectified by passing the module examination. If the student intentionally and unduly obtained admission to an examination, the Examination Committee may assess the module examination as 'unsatisfactory' (5.0) or 'failed'. In serious cases, the Examination Committee may exclude the student from taking further examinations.

(5) Para. 1 to 4 shall apply accordingly to the Master's thesis and the colloquium.

(6) If the student declares in writing to the Examination Office that they wish to waive the completion of an examination, this examination will be considered 'insufficient' (5.0) or 'failed' in the respective examination attempt. The waiver is irrevocable and presupposes admission pursuant to § 4.

## **§ 16**

### **Passing and failing**

(1) In order to pass a module examination, the module grade needs to be at least 'sufficient' (4.0) or the ungraded module examination needs to be assessed as 'passed'. If the module examination is passed, the credit points specified for the module in the module descriptions are awarded. In the cases specified by the module descriptions, the passing of the module examination

is also dependent on the assessment of individual examined assessments with at least 'sufficient' (4.0).

(2) The Master's examination is passed if the module examinations and the Master's thesis as well as the colloquium have been passed. The Master's thesis and the colloquium are passed if they have been received the grade "sufficient" (4.0) or better.

(3) A module examination is failed if the module grade is below 'sufficient' (4.0) or if the ungraded module is assessed as 'failed'. Master's thesis and colloquium are failed if they have not been assessed as at least 'sufficient' (4.0).

(4) A module examination is irreversibly failed if it has not been assessed as at least 'sufficient' (4.0) or if the ungraded module examination is assessed as 'failed' and cannot be re-taken. The Master's thesis and the colloquium are irreversibly failed if they have not been assessed as at least 'sufficient' (4.0) and if they cannot be re-submitted/re-taken.

(5) A Master's examination is failed or irreversibly failed if either one of the module examinations or the Master's thesis or the colloquium have been failed or irreversibly failed. § 3 para. 1 remains unaffected. If a student has irreversibly failed the Master's examination, the student loses the right to take examinations for all parts of the Master's examination according to § 2 sentence 1.

(6) If a student has failed a module examination, the Master's thesis or the colloquium, the student is informed as to whether, when and to what extent they can re-take or re-submit it.

(7) If a student failed the Master's examination, upon request and upon submission of the relevant proof and the certificate of de-registration (withdrawal from the student registry), the student is provided with a certificate listing the completed examined assessments including the results, as well as those that have not been completed (if this is relevant) showing that the Master's examination has not been passed.

## **§ 17**

### **Re-taking module examinations**

(1) Failed module examinations can be repeated once within one year following the first examination attempt. This period of time begins with the announcement of the first failed attempt of the module examination. Following the expiration of this deadline, the examination is deemed to be failed again.

(2) An examination can only be repeated a second time at the next available examination date. After that, the module examination is deemed to have been irreversibly failed. It cannot be re-taken again.

(3) The re-take of a failed module examination that consists of several parts entails only those examined assessments that were not assessed as at least 'sufficient' (4.0) or 'passed'. When retaking a failed module examination that includes one or more elective examinations, students are not bound to the previous choice of an examined assessment not graded with at least 'sufficient' (4.0) or with 'passed'.

(4) Failed attempts at the module examination in the same or in other degree programs are taken into account.

## § 18

### **Recognition of study achievements and examined assessments, periods of study, and qualifications obtained outside a higher education institution**

(1) Studies and examined assessments accomplished at a different institution of higher education are recognized upon request of the student if there are no substantial differences in the acquired skills. Further agreements between Technische Universität Dresden, the German Rectors' Conference, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs, as well as agreements ratified by the Federal Republic of Germany shall be observed, if applicable.

(2) Qualifications obtained outside an institution of higher education are recognized upon request of the student if they are deemed to be equivalent. Qualifications are equivalent if their contents, scope and requirements are fundamentally similar to parts of the Master's Biology in Society at Technische Universität Dresden. The qualification comparison shall not be schematic, instead it should be considered and assessed in its entirety. Qualifications acquired outside of an institution of higher education can substitute for a maximum of 50% of the degree program.

(3) Study achievements and examined assessments in the same degree program accomplished in the Federal Republic of Germany are transferred ex officio.

(4) Study achievements and examined assessments accomplished at a different institution of higher education can be recognized despite substantial differences if, when assessed as a whole, their contents and qualification objectives are equivalent to the intent and purpose of the modules included in this degree program, and they are thus structurally equivalent. The degree certificate shows the achievements accomplished.

(5) If study achievements and examined assessments are recognized or transferred according to para. 1, 3 or 4, or if qualifications obtained outside an institution of higher education are recognized according to para. 2, the respective study periods are ex officio recognized as well. If the grading systems are comparable, grades are transferred and enter into further grading calculations. If the grading systems cannot be compared, a note 'passed' is added and they do not enter into further grading calculations. Recognition is marked as such in the degree certificate.

(6) Recognition is decided by the Examination Committee. The student needs to provide the required documents. After submission, the recognition procedure must not exceed two months. If recognition is denied, § 19 para. 4 sentence 1 shall apply.

## § 19

### **Examination Committee**

(1) An Examination Committee for the Master's Biology in Society is established. It will conduct and organize examinations and take on the tasks outlined in the Examination Regulations. The Examination Committee consists of three lecturers, one research and teaching associate, and two students. With the exception of the students, the term of office shall be three years. The term of office of the student members shall be one year.

(2) The chairperson, their deputy, and the other members and their deputies are appointed by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology; student members and their deputies are appointed upon recommendation by the Student's Council. The chairperson and the deputy chairperson are elected by the Examination Committee from among its members and must each be a university lecturer.

(3) The Examination Committee ensures that the stipulations of the Examination Regulations are adhered to. The Committee reports on a regular basis on the development of examination and study periods including the actual time spent on the Master's thesis, as well as about the distribution of the module and overall grades. The Examination Committee offers suggestions to reform the Examination Regulations, the Study Regulations, the Module Descriptions, and the Study Schedule.

(4) Decisions that adversely affect students must be announced to them in writing or electronically, including a justification and information about legal appeal options. The Examination Committee as the examination authority rules, in due course, on appeals against such decisions, and communicates their decisions concerning the complaint.

(5) The chairperson normally manages the Examination Committee. The Examination Committee may also delegate individual tasks to the chairperson for independent processing and decision-making if the student members agree; a resolution must be passed to this effect that also includes the way in which the members are to be informed about the decisions made by the chairperson. This does not apply to decisions pursuant to para. 4 sentence 2. If any or all of the members of the Examination Committee are reappointed, any previous delegation shall expire.

(6) The Examination Committee can allow guests without voting rights to attend its meetings. The members of the Examination Committee are entitled to attend any examination and the colloquium.

(7) The members of the Examination Committee and their deputies must abide by the duty of official confidentiality. The chairperson shall oblige any members who are not public service staff to maintain official confidentiality. The same applies to guests.

(8) The Examination Office assigned as responsible organizes the examinations and manages the examination files.

## **§ 20**

### **Examiners and assessors**

(1) The Examination Committee appoints the examiners from individuals who are authorized to be examiners under Saxon State Law. The respective examiner appoints the assessors, who must have successfully passed the corresponding Master's examination or at least a comparable examination.

(2) The student may nominate the supervisor for their Master's thesis and the examiners for oral examinations and the colloquium. This suggestion does not bear any entitlement.

(3) For examiners and assessors, § 19 para. 7 shall apply accordingly.

## **§ 21**

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

Passing the Master's examination concludes the degree program and qualifies the student for professional work. This determines that the student has understood the technical context, has acquired the necessary skills to apply scientific methods and findings, and has acquired the necessary general and specialist knowledge for transitioning into professional practice.

## § 22

### **Purpose, issuance, submission, assessment and re-submission of the Master's thesis and colloquium**

(1) The purpose of the Master's thesis is to prove that the student is able to analyze issues of the degree program through independent work and within a given period of time, using academic methods.

(2) The Master's thesis can be supervised by a university lecturer or another individual who is authorized to examine according to the Act on the Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education in the Free State of Saxony, provided that this person is involved with the Faculty of Biology or the Master's degree program Biology in Society at Technische Universität Dresden. If an extramural person authorized to be an examiner is to supervise the Master's thesis, the chairperson of the Examination Committee must approve such supervision.

(3) The Examination Committee issues the topic of the Master's thesis. The topic and date of issuance shall be documented. Students may suggest a topic. Upon the request of the student, the Examination Committee issues the topic of the Master's thesis in a timely manner. The Examination Committee issues the topic ex officio at the latest at the beginning of the semester that follows the completion of the last module examination.

(4) The topic can be changed only once within two months of being issued. In case of re-submission of the Master's thesis, changing the topic is only permitted if the student did not use this option previously. If a student has changed their topic, they are immediately issued a new topic in accordance with para. 3 sentences 1 to 3.

(5) The Master's thesis 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 has been completed independently and using only the sources and aids they have referenced.

(6) The Master's thesis shall be marked by two examiners separately according to § 14 para. 1 sentences 3 and 4. The supervisor of the Master's thesis shall be one of the examiners. The time for marking the thesis shall not exceed three weeks.

(7) The grade for the Master's thesis is calculated as the average of the individual grades given by the two examiners. If the two individual grades given by the examiners differ by more than two grades, the average is only valid if both examiners agree on this. If this is not the case, the Examination Committee arranges for the thesis to be marked by an additional examiner. In this case, the grade of the Master's thesis is calculated as the average of the three individual grades. § 14 para. 3 sentence 3 and § 14 para. 4 sentence 2 shall apply accordingly.

(8) If one of the examiners has assessed the Master's thesis as at least 'sufficient' (4.0) and the other examiner as 'unsatisfactory' (5.0), the Examination Committee arranges for the thesis to be marked by an additional examiner. The additional examiner then decides whether the Master's thesis is passed or failed. If the thesis is then deemed to be passed, the grade of the Master's thesis is calculated as the average of the individual grades given in favor of pass, in the opposite case in favor of fail. § 14 para. 3 sentence 3 and § 14 para. 4 sentence 2 shall apply accordingly.

(9) A failed Master's thesis can be re-submitted once within a one-year period. Following the expiration of this deadline, it is deemed as failed again. A second re-submission is only possible at the next available examination date, following that date it is deemed to be irreversibly failed. Any further re-submission or a re-submission after already having passed the Master's thesis is not permitted.

(10) The student must elucidate their Master's thesis to the supervisor of the thesis as the examiner and to an assessor in a public colloquium. The colloquium is intended to demonstrate that the student is able to coherently present the results of the Master's thesis and to discuss them with expert knowledge. Additional examiners may be called in. Para. 9 as well as § 8 para. 5 sentence 2, § 14 para. 1 sentences 1 to 4 and § 14 para. 7 sentence 1 shall apply accordingly.

### **§ 23**

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

(1) Upon passing the Master's examination, students receive an examination certificate without undue delay, if possible within four weeks. The Master's examination certificate shall consist of the module results according to § 28 para. 1 and the respective credit points and where applicable an indication of the recognized achievements and results, of the topic of the Master's thesis, its grade and supervisor, as well as of the overall grade pursuant to § 14 para. 6 sentence 2. The results of the individual examined assessments are shown on a supplement to the examination certificate. Upon request of the student, the certificate also shows the results of additional modules and the study time spent on the completion of the Master's examination; and the supplement also includes the results of the examined assessments in the additional modules.

(2) Concurrent with receiving the Master's examination certificate, students shall receive the Master's degree certificate with the date identical to that of the examination certificate. It certifies that the Master's degree has been awarded. The Master's degree certificate is signed by the chairperson of the Examination Committee and bears the handwritten or electronic signature of the Rector, alongside the seal of Technische Universität Dresden. Additionally, students are provided with an English translation of both the degree certificate and the examination certificate.

(3) The examination certificate bears the date of completion of the last part of the examination according to § 16 para. 2. It is signed by the chairperson of the Examination Committee and bears the faculty seal of Technische Universität Dresden.

(4) Technische Universität Dresden issues a Diploma Supplement (DS) in accordance with the Diploma Supplement model of the European Union/Council of Europe/UNESCO. For information on the German higher education system (DS para. 8), the text agreed upon by the Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs and the German Rector's Conference shall be used as amended.

### **§ 24**

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

(1) If a student has cheated in an examined assessment and if this cheating is only discovered after the examination certificate has been issued, the results of the examined assessment can be amended according to § 15 para. 4 sentence 1. If applicable, the Examination Committee may declare the module examination as 'unsatisfactory' (5.0) and the Master's examination as 'failed'. The same applies to ungraded module examinations, the Master's thesis, and the colloquium.

(2) If the requirements for taking a module examination had not been met and this had not been discovered prior to the issuance of the examination certificate and the student was not at fault, this irregularity is rectified by passing the module examination. If the student intentionally and unduly obtained admission to an examination, the Examination Committee may assess the module examination as 'unsatisfactory' (5.0) and the Master's examination as 'failed'. The same applies to ungraded module examinations, the Master's thesis, and the colloquium.

(3) The incorrect examination certificate and its translation shall be retracted by the chairperson of the Examination Committee and replaced by a new one, if applicable. If the Master's examination has been declared 'failed' due to cheating, the Master's degree certificate, any translations, and the Diploma Supplement shall be retracted together with the now invalid examination certificate. Following a period of 5 years since the date of the examination certificate, a decision according to para. 1 and para. 2 sentences 2 or 3 is no longer permissible.

## **§ 25**

### **Access to examination documents**

Within one year after completion of the examinations, the student will be granted access to their written examination papers, the related expert opinions and the examination protocols within a reasonable period of time upon request.

## **Part 2: Subject-specific regulations**

## **§ 26**

### **Duration, structure and scope of the degree program**

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

(2) The program is divided into modules and is concluded with the Master's examination.

(3) By passing the Master's examination, a total of 120 credits are awarded for modules, the Master's thesis, and the colloquium.

## **§ 27**

### **Subject-specific requirements for the Master's examination**

(1) By the beginning of the module "Lab Rotation Basics" the student must have achieved at least 40 credit points.

(2) Subject-specific requirements that would be fulfilled by a waiver pursuant to § 15 para. 6 shall be deemed to have been fulfilled if the Examination Committee agrees to this upon application by the student.

## **§ 28**

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

(1) The Master's examination comprises all module examinations well as the Master's thesis and the colloquium.



(2) The compulsory modules are:

1. Biology and Human Society
2. Science in Society
3. Economically important animals and plants
4. Genetics and Developmental Biology
5. Organismic Zoology
6. Physiology and Endocrinology
7. Lab Rotation Basics
8. Lab Rotation Advanced
9. Skills
10. General Qualifications.

(3) The required examined assessments in the modules and their type and structure, are specified in the module descriptions. The subject matter of the examined assessment consists of the contents and skills acquired in the module, if not stated otherwise in the module descriptions.

(4) Students can take examinations in modules other than those stipulated in para. 1 (additional modules). Optionally, these module examinations can be selected from the full range of modules offered at Technische Universität Dresden or a cooperating institute of higher education after consultation with the person conducting or examining the module. They do not enter into the calculations of a student's workload nor of the overall grade.

#### **§ 29**

#### **Time permitted for the Master's thesis and duration of the colloquium**

(1) The time permitted for writing the Master's thesis is 22 weeks, and 29 credits are awarded for it. The supervisor shall limit the topic, tasks, and scope of the Master's thesis so that the deadline for the submission of the Master's thesis can be realistically met. In specific cases and upon justified request by the student, the Examination Committee may extend the period by up to a maximum of four weeks, the number of credits awarded remains unaffected.

(2) The colloquium shall run for 20 minutes. One credit point is earned.

#### **§ 30**

#### **Master's degree**

If the Master's examination is passed, the 'Master of Science' degree (abbr. M.Sc.) is awarded.

### **Part 3: Final provisions**

#### **§ 31**

#### **Entry into force and publication**

(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 enrolled in the Master's program Biology in Society for the 2021/2022 winter semester or later.

Issued based on the resolution of the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Biology as of February 24, 2021, and the approval of the University Executive Board as of April 20, 2021.

Dresden, as of May 11, 2021

The Rector  
of Technische Universität Dresden

Prof. Dr. Ursula M. Staudinger