

Unofficial reading version

Regulations of the Faculty of Biological Sciences at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main for the Master's degree program Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health with the degree "Master of Science (M. Sc.)" of June 19, 2023

Based on §§ 25 and 50 (1) no. 1 of the Hessian Higher Education Act (Hessisches Hochschulgesetz, HessHG) in the version of December 14, 2021, promulgated as Article 1 of the Act on the Revision and Amendment of Higher Education Regulations and the Adaptation of Further Legal Provisions of December 14, 2021 (Law and Ordinance Gazette (GVBl.), p. 931), last amended by Article 9 of the Act of April 1, 2022 (GVBl. pp. 184, 204), the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biosciences of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, after hearing the Faculty Council on June 19, 2023, adopted the following regulations for the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health. These regulations were approved by the Executive Board of Goethe University on July 25, 2023 in accordance with § 43 (5) of the Hessian Higher Education Act (Hessisches Hochschulgesetz HessHG). They are hereby published.

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Abbreviations:

GVBl.	Law and Ordinance Gazette for the State of Hesse
HessHG	Hessian Higher Education Act of December 14, 2021, promulgated as Article 1 of the Act on the Revision and Amendment of Higher Education Regulations and on the Adaptation of Further Legal Provisions of December 14, 2021 (GVBl. p. 931), last amended by Article 9 of the Act of April 1, 2022 (GVBl. pp. 184, 204)
HlmmaVO	Hessian Matriculation Ordinance of February 24, 2010 (GVBl. I, p. 94), last amended on October 24, 2018 (GVBl. p. 651)
FR	Framework Regulations for Tiered and Modularized Degree Programs at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main of April 30, 2014 as amended on July 15, 2020
CP	Credit Point
ECTS	European Credit Point Transfer System
GVBl.	Law and Ordinance Gazette for the State of Hesse
Co	Colloquium
MT	Master's thesis
M.Sc.	Master of Science
CM	Compulsory module
I	Internship
EB	Examination Board
EM	Elective module
S	Seminar
SHW	Semester hours per week
T	Tutorial or tutorial leader
PA	Proof of attendance
E	Exercise
L	Lecture (<i>Vorlesung</i>)
LS	Lecture and seminar

Section I: General information

§ 1 Scope of the regulations (FR: § 1)

These regulations contain the provisions specific to the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health. They apply in conjunction with the Framework Regulations for Tiered and Modularized Degree Programs at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main (hereinafter referred to as Goethe University) dated April 30, 2014, in the version dated July 15, 2020, UniReport Statutes and Regulations dated December 22, 2020 in the respective valid version, hereinafter referred to as Framework Regulations (FR).

§ 2 Purpose of the Master's examination (FR: § 2)

(1) The Master's degree program concludes with a further professional qualification. The Master's examination serves to determine whether students have achieved the objective of the Master's degree program. The examinations are cumulative, i.e., the sum of the module examinations in the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health, including the Master's thesis, together form the Master's examination.

(2) The cumulative Master's examination is intended to determine whether the students have acquired thorough specialist knowledge in the areas being examined and have an overview of the content of the area being examined, as well as whether they have the ability to apply scientific methods and knowledge independently and whether they are prepared for the transition to professional practice.

§ 3 Academic degree (FR: § 3)

After the candidate has successfully completed the program and passed the examination, the Faculty of Biological Sciences awards the candidate the academic degree of Master of Science, abbreviated as M.Sc.

§ 4 Standard period of study; part-time studies (FR: § 4)

(1) The standard period of study for the Master's degree course in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health is four semesters. The Master's degree course may be completed in a shorter period of time.

(2) If in order to achieve equivalence of a degree for admission to the Master's degree program in accordance with § 8 (4) more than 7 CPs are required, the period of study shall be extended by one semester.

(3) In accordance with state law, part-time study is possible in whole or in part. Further details are regulated by the HIMmaVO as amended. In the case of part-time studies, there is no entitlement to a special teaching and study program. Admission to part-time studies entails mandatory academic advising.

(4) The Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health is a consecutive Master's degree program. For consecutive degree courses (Bachelor's + Master's degree), the total standard period of full-time study is five years (ten semesters).

(5) As part of the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health, 120 credit points - hereinafter referred to as CPs - must be achieved in accordance with § 12.

(6) The Faculty of Biological Sciences provides a range of courses on the basis of these regulations and ensures that suitable examination dates are set so that the degree program can be completed within the standard period of study.

§ 5 Study abroad (FR: § 5)

Candidates are advised to study at a university abroad during the course of the Master's degree program or to plan a relevant stay abroad for at least one semester. Goethe University's connections to universities abroad can be used for this purpose. Information on these connections can be obtained from the Student Advisory Service and the Global Affairs Study and Teaching Department.

Section II: Objectives of the degree program; start of studies and admission requirements

§ 6 Objectives of the degree program (FR: § 6)

(1) The English-language Master's program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health (M.Sc.) focuses on providing advanced knowledge in the areas of biodiversity, ecology and evolution of animals, plants and fungi under the influence of global change.

Students are taught the knowledge and methodological skills necessary to understand and conduct scientific research on all aspects of biodiversity. Emphasis is placed on genetic diversity, species diversity, diversity of interactions, biocenoses, and ecosystems. Students will understand that current biodiversity and ecosystem dynamics are the result of evolutionary processes under the influence of abiotic and biotic factors. Genetic diversity within populations is a prerequisite for the ability of organisms to evolve and adapt to changing conditions.

Through a combination of foundational knowledge and integration into current scientific research projects, students will recognize organismic diversity and ecosystem dynamics as important factors in maintaining ecosystem functions and ecosystem services for humans under changing conditions. Students will be guided to use their knowledge for a professional, evidence-based understanding and assessment of the resilience and robustness of organisms and ecosystems in the face of current global and local changes such as climate change, species extinction, habitat loss, and pollution.

The in-depth subject and methodological knowledge of biodiversity in global change enables students to pursue research and practice-oriented careers in this field after graduation. Developing an understanding of the impacts of global change on biodiversity, ecosystem functions, and evolutionary processes will enable students to independently understand and evaluate current events, act responsibly, and serve as role models in science and in their communities.

(2) The Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health is research-oriented.

(3) The successful completion of the degree program qualifies students for fields of activity such as basic research, e.g. within the framework of a doctorate, academic teaching, work in nature conservation authorities and other areas of public administration, in scientific collections and gardens, in nature and species conservation organizations, in agriculture and forestry, or in the chemical, biotechnological or agrotechnical industries.

§ 7 Start of studies (FR: § 7)

The program can only be started in the winter semester.

§ 8 Requirements for admission to the Master's degree program (FR: § 9)

(1) Applications for admission to the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health must be submitted to the Examination Board or to an office specified by the President of Goethe University. The Examination Board regulates the details of the application procedure and decides on the admission

of applicants. §8 (8) sentence 2 remains unaffected by this. If admission restrictions are in place for the Master's degree program, the provisions of the university selection regulations in their currently valid version must be observed. The regulations for the aptitude test will then not apply.

(2) General admission requirements for the Master's degree program are

- a) Proof of a Bachelor's degree in Biosciences or in the same subject area with a standard period of study of at least six semesters or
- b) Proof of a degree that is at least equivalent to a Bachelor's degree from a German university or a German university of applied sciences in the same or a related subject area with a standard period of study of at least six semesters or at least 180 credit points (CPs) or
- c) Proof of a foreign degree in the same or a related subject area with a standard period of study of at least six semesters or at least 180 CPs that is at least equivalent.

The Examination Board decides on the same or related subjects. § 8 (1) sentences 2 and 3 of the FR apply accordingly.

(3) The previous studies must have a subject area profile that can serve as a basis for admission to the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health.

(4) In the cases of § 8 (2) b) and c), admission may be granted on the condition that additional coursework and module examinations are completed up to the equivalence with the Bachelor's degree program in Biosciences at Goethe University up to 30 CPs. The Examination Board determines in the admission letter the deadline by which the student must provide proof that the requirements have been met. § 8 (7) sentence 2 remains unaffected. If the conditions are not duly fulfilled, the decision associated with them must be revoked.

(5) The special admission requirements are set out in Annex 1.

(6) Applicants must provide proof of English language proficiency at level B2 of the "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages of the Council of Europe" (CEFR) of September 2000. English language skills can be demonstrated by

- Completion of a Bachelor's degree in English,
- A minimum of one year's professional experience in an English-speaking country within the last three years,
- The "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL) with at least 72 points,
- The "International English Language Test System" (IELTS) with a score of at least 5.0 points,
- English as a school subject for at least six years.

(7) If the degree certificate for the Bachelor's degree has not yet been issued when the candidate applies for a place in the Master's degree program, the application may instead be supported by proof of enrollment and a certificate. This certificate must be based on completed examinations amounting to at least 80% of the CPs required for the Bachelor's degree, contain a provisional average grade calculated on the basis of these examinations in accordance with the relevant regulations, and have been issued by the office responsible for issuing the degree certificates at the university at which the applicant is currently enrolled. The admission procedure is based on the provisional average grade unless proof of the final grade is submitted before the end of the procedure. Admission on the basis of the certificate described above is subject to the proviso that the Bachelor's degree certificate is promptly submitted, no later than the end of the first semester. If this proof is not provided by the deadline, the student's admission is revoked and their enrollment must also be revoked.

(8) The Examination Board shall decide whether the admission requirements have been met and, if applicable, grant provisional admission in accordance with § 8 (7). It may also appoint an admission

committee to perform this task. Further details are set out in Annex 1. § 8 (1) sentence 4 remains unaffected.

(9) If the admission requirements are met, the applicant will be admitted by the President of Goethe University. Otherwise, the Examination Board or Admission Committee will issue a written rejection notice including a legal notice. Any conditions in accordance with § 8 (4) can be imposed, usually in a separate letter from the Examination Board or Admission Committee.

(10) The requirements for admission to the Master's examination are regulated in § 21. When being admitted to the Master's examination, the student must in particular submit a declaration stating whether they have already failed an intermediate examination (Zwischenprüfung), a preliminary Diplom examination, a Bachelor's examination, a Master's examination, a Diplom examination, a church university examination, a Magister examination or a state final examination in the respective subject or in a comparable degree program (degree program with a predominantly similar subject focus) at a university or whether they are currently undergoing an examination procedure in the respective subject or in such a degree program at a university in Germany or abroad that has not yet been completed.

Section III: Program structure and organization

§ 9 Program structure; modularization (FR: § 11)

(1) The Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health has a modular structure. A module is a teaching and learning unit that is self-contained in terms of content and time. It comprises a set of courses with similar content, including lectures, seminars, and internships, and aims to help students fulfill a predefined learning objective. Modules usually extend over one to two semesters.

(2) The Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health is divided into four compulsory modules (basal module, optional module, research project, Master's thesis; a total of 75 CPs) and elective modules in which 45 CPs are acquired. The compulsory elective modules allow students to specialize within the degree program. The division into compulsory and compulsory elective modules, their semester hours per week (SHW) and their contents are set out in Annexes 2 and 3 of these regulations.

(3) Modules can be: Compulsory modules, which are obligatory, or compulsory elective modules, which must be selected from a given catalog of compulsory elective courses.

(4) The Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health includes one optional module, which students can choose from the modules offered by the Goethe University, or modules, laboratory or professional internships, excursions or similar completed outside the Goethe University can be recognized in accordance with the module description.

(5) Students have the opportunity to specialize by choosing a specific compulsory elective module as well as by carrying the research project and the Master's thesis in the same subject area. The possible areas of specialization are

- Evolutionary biology
- Ecology
- Ecotoxicology
- Organismic diversity
- Mycology

The names of these possible specializations are indicated in the descriptions of the compulsory elective courses. In connection with the Master's thesis registration, the student must indicate whether and, if so, which subject specialization should be noted in the degree certificate.

(6) The ability of students to freely choose courses within the compulsory elective modules may be restricted by resolution of the Faculty Council if capacity is insufficient, provided that the subject-related structure and orientation of the degree program remain unchanged. The Dean's Office must notify

students of the restriction without delay. § 15 (2) shall apply. By resolution of the Faculty Council, additional courses may be approved for compulsory elective modules without amending these regulations, provided that their scope and requirements are equivalent to those of the compulsory elective modules regulated in these regulations. § 11 (3) and § 15 (2) apply accordingly.

(7) The courses in the modules are divided into compulsory and compulsory elective courses with respect to their binding nature. Compulsory courses are clearly defined in the module description according to the content and format of the course. Compulsory elective courses are courses that students have to select from a list of offered courses.

(8) If individual compulsory elective modules are offered in German, this is noted in the module handbook.

(9) If courses in a module build on each other, students are bound to the sequence specified in the module description.

(10) Within the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health, students have the opportunity to undergo an examination or performance assessment in modules in addition to those prescribed in these regulations (additional modules), subject to the availability of places.

§ 10 Use of modules (FR: § 12)

The provisions of § 12 of the Framework Regulations apply.

§ 11 Module descriptions/module handbook (FR: § 14)

(1) Annex 3 contains a module description for each compulsory and compulsory elective module in accordance with § 14 FR. The module descriptions are part of these regulations.

(2) The module descriptions are supplemented by a regularly updated module handbook. This handbook contains additional information in accordance with § 14 (2) FR and Annex 6 FR and serves in particular to inform students.

(3) Changes to the module handbook that do not concern the content of the module descriptions in accordance with Annex 5 FR are possible by resolution of the Faculty Council in good time before the start of the course period of a semester and must be announced on the website for the degree program by this time. They must not lead to significant changes to the curriculum. The University Computing Center and the Examination Office responsible for the degree program must be consulted on the changes in good time before a resolution is passed by the Faculty Council. The consultation covers administrative content only.

§ 12 Scope of studies and modules; credit points (CPs) (FR: § 15)

(1) Credit points (CPs) are allocated to each module in the module description on the basis of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), taking into account the resolutions and recommendations of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK), and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK). The CPs enable the transfer of credits earned to other degree programs at Goethe University or another university and vice versa.

(2) CPs are a quantitative measure of the effort (workload) that students of average ability have to expend to successfully complete the corresponding module for in-class instruction, participation in extramural practical courses or excursions, preparation and follow-up of the course material, and preparation and development of their own contributions and examinations. One CP corresponds to a workload of 30 hours. The regular workload is set at a maximum of 1800 working hours per academic year. Thirty CPs correspond to the average workload of one semester.

(3) 300 CPs are required for the Master's degree in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health – taking into account the previous studies up to the first professionally qualifying degree.

- (4) CPs are only awarded for a fully and successfully completed module.
- (5) A credit point account is set up at the Examination Office for each student in the degree program.
- (6) The scope of work (workload) is reviewed as part of the evaluation in accordance with § 14 (1) and (2) HessHG and for the reaccreditation of the degree program and adjusted to the workload determined by the evaluation.

§ 13 Teaching and learning formats; admission to modules (FR: § 16)

(1) The courses in the Master's degree program Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health are held in the following formats:

Lecture: Cohesive presentation and communication of basic and specialized knowledge as well as methodological skills through lectures, if necessary in conjunction with demonstrations or experiments. Instructors develop and teach course content with the involvement of students;

Tutorial: Reviewing and reinforcing course material, as well as training in subject methodology and teaching special skills by working on and discussing real-world assignments;

Seminar: Development of scientific findings or processing of current problems using scientific methods through contributions, usually prepared by students, learning and practicing presentation and discussion skills or further developing these skills;

Practical course: Guided execution of practical tasks in the experimental and instrumental field and/or computer simulations; training in the application of scientific investigation and solution methods; teaching of technical skills and insights into functional processes;

Excursion: Organized event outside the university;

Professional internship: Work experience through active participation, usually outside the university (field placement), with on-site guidance and usually with professional and methodological supervision by an instructor;

(2) If, in accordance with the module description, admission to the courses of a module is dependent on the successful completion of other modules or a visit to the Student Advisory Service, or if the module description makes participation in an individual course dependent on proof of attendance or coursework for another course, the eligibility to participate will be verified by those in charge of the course.

(3) The module description may stipulate that binding registration may be required for participation in the module or in certain courses of the module. The website for the degree program will announce in good time whether and how binding registration is required.

(4) If it is anticipated that the number of students interested in a course will exceed the capacity of the course, the individuals in charge of the course may institute a sign-up procedure. The sign-up requirements and the sign-up deadline are announced in the annotated course catalog or by other appropriate means. If the number of students who have signed up exceeds the capacity of the course or if the course is overcrowded and students cannot be referred to alternative courses, the Dean's Office will check whether an additional course can be set up at the request of the individual in charge of the course. If this is not possible for capacity reasons, it is permissible to accept only a limited number of students who are willing and entitled to participate in order to ensure that the course is carried out properly; in this case, the guidelines for the minimum group sizes of the course types in accordance with the implementation decree of the Hessian Ministry of Science and Art on the Hesse Capacity Ordinance (Kapazitätsverordnung Hessen) in the respectively valid version must be observed. In this case, the individuals in charge of the course must carry out an appropriate, transparent selection procedure in accordance with the guidelines of the Dean's Office that does not take into account the chronological order of registrations. When drawing up the selection criteria, it must be ensured that priority is given to those students for whom the course is compulsory and who have a particular interest in being admitted to the course; the interests of students in special circumstances within the meaning of § 27 (1) FR must be taken into account. The relevant proof must be submitted by the students. A special interest in

admission to the course is also given in particular if the student was already entitled to the place in the previous semester according to the course plan and was unable to obtain a place despite having signed up for the course. In the case of compulsory courses, students who are registered but not admitted to the course must be issued a certificate upon request.

§ 14 Proof of attendance and coursework (FR: § 17)

(1) In addition to passing the module examination, the successful completion of the module may, insofar as this is regulated in the respective module description, be made dependent on the provision of proof of attendance and/or coursework as proof of proper study or as a prerequisite for admission to a module examination. § 11 (15) FR remains unaffected by this.

(2) Proof of attendance means proof of regular and/or active participation. Regular and/or active participation within the meaning of § 14 (3) and (4) can only be specified if they are necessary to ensure the acquisition of knowledge and skills associated with the module. For lectures, neither regular nor active participation may be required. This applies even if coursework within the meaning of § 14 (5) and (6) is required for a lecture.

(3) Participation in a course is deemed to have been regular if the student was present at all individual classes scheduled by the individual in charge of the course during the course of a semester. Participation must still be confirmed as regular even if the student has missed 20% of the course. The same applies to compact courses with fewer than five meetings. If the permitted period of absence is exceeded for reasons for which the student is not responsible, e.g., illness, maternity leave, necessary care of a child living in the same household or care of a close relative (e.g., children, parents, grandparents, spouse, partner in a non-marital relationship or participation as an appointed or elected representative in academic or student self-government), the lecturer shall decide in consultation with the module coordinator whether and to what extent equivalent coursework is necessary and appropriate. The regulations on disadvantage compensation in § 24 must be observed.

(4) The module descriptions may stipulate that the student has not only participated in the course regularly in the sense of § 14 (3), but has also participated actively in the course. However, it may also require only active participation. Depending on how it has been determined by the individual in charge of the course, active participation includes the completion of smaller pieces of work, such as reports, short oral presentations, and group work. These tasks are neither graded nor evaluated with a pass/fail grade.

(5) Coursework can only be required in modules that do not conclude with a cumulative module examination. The coursework has been successfully completed if it has been assessed as "passed" by the lecturer in accordance with the module description or positively by means of a grade in accordance with § 33 (3). In the case of group work, individual work must be clearly distinguishable and assessable. The grades of the coursework are not included in the module grade. If required by the module description, regular participation in the course as defined in § 14 (3) is required in addition to the coursework.

(6) Coursework can be in particular

Short oral presentations (with or without a written report)

Short reports

Tests

The lecturer decides on the form and deadline by which the coursework is to be completed in accordance with the module description and announces this to the students at the beginning of the course. The assignment criteria may not be changed during the semester to the detriment of the students. The lecturer may allow students to revise a written assignment that has received a grade of "fail" and may set a deadline for submitting the corrected assignment.

(7) Written work completed without supervision must be undertaken by the student in accordance with the rules of good academic practice. When submitting the paper, the student must confirm in writing that they have written it independently and that all sources and aids used by them have been listed in the

paper. Furthermore, it must be declared that the paper has not yet been used – not even in part – in another degree program or the same degree program in a different module as coursework or an examination. § 25 (1) applies accordingly. In order to be able to verify compliance with the rules of good academic practice, lecturers are entitled to require students to submit an electronic copy of written work that has not been completed under supervision. The Examination Board shall make further specifications in this regard.

(8) Coursework that has been passed cannot be repeated. Coursework that has been failed can be repeated an unlimited number of times. Failed coursework may be repeated, along with the associated courses, if they are offered each semester and at least one opportunity to for repetition in the semester is ensured. The student can also replace the failed coursework in the original course with adequate coursework in another format. The decision on this is made by the lecturer of the original course.

(9) Proof of attendance and coursework for individual courses can only be counted once in the same degree program. This regulation does not apply to double degree programs.

§ 15 Course plan; information (FR: § 18)

(1) The course plan attached as Annex 2 provides students with information on how to organize their studies in a targeted manner. It takes into account content-related references between modules and organizational conditions of the courses on offer.

(2) The faculty shall set up a website for the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health, where general information and regulations on the degree program can be found in their current form. The module handbook, the course plan, and module recommendations for the optional module are also published there. (3) For the Master's degree program, the faculty shall compile an annotated course catalog with a description of the content and organization of the courses offered on the basis of the module descriptions and the course plan. This is to be updated for each semester and should appear in the last week of lectures of the previous semester.

§ 16 Study counselling; student orientation (FR: § 19)

(1) Students have the opportunity to visit the Student Advisory Service for the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health at the Faculty of Biological Sciences throughout the course of their studies. Study counseling is provided by individuals appointed by the Dean of Studies. As part of the Student Advisory Service, students receive support in particular with regard to study design, learning and study techniques and the course selection. The study counseling services should be used in particular:

At the beginning of the first semester;

If the student has failed an examination and has not passed the required coursework;

In the event of difficulties in individual courses;

When changing degree programs or universities.

(2) In addition to the study counseling service, the Student Advisory Service of Goethe University is available to students. As a general student advisory service, it provides information on study options, content, structure and requirements of a degree program and advises students on personal difficulties related to studying.

(3) Before the start of the lecture period of each semester in which students can begin their studies, a student orientation event takes place to which the first-year students are invited by notice or otherwise. The orientation event provides information about the structure and overall organization of the degree course and semester-specific features. Students are given the opportunity to clarify questions relating to the organization of their studies in particular.

§ 17 Academic Director and module coordinators (FR: § 20)

(1) The Dean of Studies of the Faculty of Biological Sciences is responsible for the academic direction of the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health, unless the Faculty Council delegates this task to a member of the group of professors authorized to examine in the Master's degree program for a period of two years at his or her suggestion. The Academic Director is an advisory member of the Study Commission and has the following tasks in particular:

Coordination of the teaching and examination offerings of the degree program in cooperation with the module coordinators, if necessary also from other faculties;

Creation and updating of lists of examiners;

Evaluation of the degree program and implementation of any quality assurance measures developed as a result in cooperation with the Study Commission (cf. § 6 Evaluation Statutes for Teaching and Studies);

Appointment of the module coordinators (§ 17 (2) remains unaffected).

(2) For each module, the Academic Director of the degree program appoints a module coordinator from among the instructors of the module. The module coordinator must be a member of one of the following groups for compulsory modules and should be a member of one of the following groups for compulsory elective modules: either a university lecturer primarily employed by the university (professor, junior professor, qualifying professor) or an academic member of the teaching unit primarily employed by the university. Module coordinators are responsible for all content-related coordination concerning the module and the organizational tasks assigned to them by these regulations, in particular for participating in the organization of the module examination. The module coordinator is represented by the Academic Director of the degree program.

Section IV: Organization of examinations

§ 18 Examination Board; Examination Office; examination administration system (FR: § 21)

(1) The Faculty Council shall form an Examination Board for the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health.

(2) The Examination Board consists of seven members, including four members from the group of professors, one research assistant and two students from the Master's degree program.

(3) The members of the Examination Board, together with a deputy, are elected by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biological Sciences on the recommendation of the respective groups. The term of office of the students is one year, that of the other members two years. Examination Board members may be reelected.

(4) In matters concerning a member of the Examination Board, their membership shall be suspended in relation to this matter and shall be exercised by the deputy. This does not apply to purely organizational matters.

(5) The Examination Board elects a chair from among the professors who belong to it. The deputy chair is elected from among the professors or their deputies who are members of the Examination Board. The Chair conducts the business of the Examination Board. The Chair convenes the meetings of the Examination Board and chairs all discussions and resolutions. As a rule, at least one meeting of the Examination Board should take place each semester. A meeting must be convened if at least two members of the Examination Board so request.

(6) Examination Board meetings are not open to the public. It is quorate if at least half of the members, including the chair or deputy chair, are present and the professors' votes make up the majority. Resolutions require the approval of the majority of those present. In the event of a tie, the Chair has the

tie-breaking vote. The resolutions of the Examination Board must be recorded in minutes. In all other regards, the procedure is governed by the rules of procedure for the committees of Goethe University.

(7) The Examination Office staff may attend the meetings of the Examination Board in an advisory capacity. § 18 (9) applies accordingly.

(8) The Examination Board may delegate individual tasks to its Chair for sole implementation and decision-making. The members of the Examination Board and the examinee in question have the right to appeal decisions made solely by the Chair. The Chair of the Examination Board may delegate the performance of tasks to the Examination Office. This is the office of the Examination Board. It conducts day-to-day business in accordance with the instructions of the Examination Board and its Chair.

(9) The members of the Examination Board and their deputies are subject to official secrecy. If they are not in public service, they must be sworn to secrecy by the Chair; they confirm this obligation with their signature, which is kept on file.

(10) The members of the Examination Board have the right to attend the oral examinations as members of the audience.

(11) The Examination Board may issue instructions, set deadlines and make other decisions with legally binding effect in compliance with data protection regulations by posting them at the Examination Office or by other suitable measures in accordance with § 41 of the Hessian Administrative Procedure Act (Hessisches Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz).

(12) Decisions made against the student by the Examination Board or the Chair of the Examination Board must be communicated to the student immediately in writing, stating the reasons and including a legal notice. The student must be given the opportunity to comment before the decision is made.

(13) § 21 (15) FR applies to electronic examination administration.

§ 19 Responsibilities of the Examination Board (FR: § 22)

(1) The Examination Board and the Examination Office responsible for the Master's degree course in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health are responsible for the organization and proper execution of examinations in the Master's degree course in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health. The Examination Board ensures that the provisions of these regulations are observed and decides on questions of interpretation of these regulations in the event of doubt. It decides on all examination matters that are not assigned to another body or committee or to the Chair of the Examination Board by the regulations or statutes.

(2) As a rule, the Examination Board is responsible for the following tasks in particular:

- Decision on the fulfillment of the requirements for admission to the Master's degree program, including the imposition of conditions for catching up on coursework and examinations from the Bachelor's degree program and the decision on provisional admission;
- Determination of the examination dates, examination periods, and registration and withdrawal deadlines for the examinations and their announcement;
- Appointment of the examiners, if applicable;
- Decisions on admission to examinations;
- The decision on recognition and credit in accordance with §§ 27 and 28 as well as the imposition of conditions on coursework and examinations to be made up for within the scope of recognitions;
- The principles for announcing the grades of examinations and the overall grade for the Master's degree;
- Decisions on the Master's thesis;
- Decisions on passing and failing;
- Decisions on disadvantage compensation and the extension of examination or preparation deadlines;
- Decisions on violations of examination regulations;

- Decisions on the invalidity of the Master's degree;
- Decisions on appeals and objections by students to decisions made in examination procedures, insofar as these are to be upheld; § 44 (2) remains unaffected.
- Regular reporting to the Study Commission on the development of examination and study periods, including the preparation periods for the Master's thesis, as well as on student demand for the various courses in the compulsory elective modules;
- Disclosure of the distribution of subject and overall grades;
- Suggestions for reforming these regulations.

(3) For the purpose of verifying compliance with good academic practice, the Examination Board is entitled to check academic work for cheating and attempted cheating using suitable electronic means. To this end, it may request that the examination papers be submitted to it in electronic form within a reasonable period of time. If the author does not comply with this request, the thesis may be graded as failed.

§ 20 Examiners and co-examiners (FR: § 23)

(1) Members of the group of professors and academic staff who have been commissioned to independently carry out teaching tasks, as well as lecturers and teaching staff for special tasks as well as persons experienced in professional practice and training who have been commissioned by the dean to conduct an examination are authorized to conduct university examinations (§ 22 (2) HessHG). "Privatdozenten," "außerplanmäßige" professors, honorary professors who teach in the examination subjects, as well as professors who have retired or are no longer employed may be appointed as examiners by the Examination Board with their consent. § 32 (6) remains unaffected.

(2) Examinations may only be graded by persons who themselves possess at least the qualification to be determined by the examination or an equivalent qualification.

(3) As a rule, the examination belonging to a module is carried out by the lecturers in the module without special appointment by the Examination Board. If a lecturer is unable to conduct examinations for compelling reasons, the Examination Board may appoint another examiner.

(4) Written examinations that cannot be retaken must be assessed by two examiners. § 32 (17) remains unaffected. Oral examinations must be conducted by several examiners or by one examiner in the presence of a co-examiner.

(5) Only persons who have completed at least a Master's degree or a comparable examination and are a member of Goethe University may be appointed as co-examiners for oral examinations. The Chair of the Examination Board appoints the co-examiner. The Chair may delegate the appointment to the examiner.

(6) Examiners and co-examiners are subject to official secrecy.

Section V: Examination requirements and procedures

§ 21 Initial registration and admission to Master's examinations (FR: § 24)

1) The student must submit a completed registration form for admission to the Master's examination to the Examination Office for the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health at the latest when registering for the first module examination in the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health. If not already submitted with the application for admission to the degree program, the application for the examination must be accompanied in particular by the following documents:

- a) A declaration stating whether the student has already definitively failed a Bachelor's examination, a Master's examination, a Magister examination, a Diplom examination, a church university examination or a state final examination in the subject of Biology or in a comparable degree program (degree program with a predominantly similar subject focus) at a university or

- whether they are currently in an as yet still uncompleted examination procedure in the subject of Biology or a comparable degree program at a university in Germany or abroad;
- b) A declaration stating whether and, if so, how often the student has already failed module examinations in the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health or in the same modules of another degree program at a university in Germany or abroad;
 - c) if applicable, proof of previous coursework or examinations that are to be included in the degree program.
- (2) The Chair of the Examination Board decides on admission. In cases of doubt, the Examination Board decides on admission, if necessary after consulting a representative from the subject area. Admission will be refused if
- a) The documents are incomplete or
 - b) The student has definitively lost the right to admission to the examination for a module according to § 21 (1) b) or for the respective degree program or has definitively failed one of the examinations mentioned in § 21 (1) a).
- (3) The Examination Board shall decide on exceptions to § 21 (1) and (2) in special cases upon application by the student.
- (4) The Chair of the Examination Board will inform the student in writing if admission is refused. This refusal must be accompanied by a justification and include a legal notice.

§ 22 Examination date and registration procedure (FR: § 25)

- (1) Module examinations are taken during the time period of the corresponding module and related to the content of that module. Module examinations for compulsory modules and annually scheduled compulsory elective modules must generally be offered at least twice a year. Further details are set down in § 37 (7).
- (2) The oral examinations and written examinations at the end of the module should be carried out within examination periods to be determined by the Examination Board. The examination periods generally comprise the first two and last two weeks of the lecture-free period.
- (3) The exact examination dates for the module examinations are determined by the Examination Board in consultation with the examiners. The Examination Office shall inform students of the time and place of the examinations and the names of the examiners involved in an examination plan as early as possible, but no later than four weeks before the examination dates, by means of a notice or other suitable measures. If it is necessary to deviate from this examination plan for compelling reasons, the date may only be rescheduled with the approval of the Chair of the Examination Board. Students can apply to the Examination Board for the setting of alternative dates for examinations if work is prohibited for religious reasons on the planned examination date. The request must be justified.
- (4) Students are deemed to have registered for an examination when they appear for it.
- (5) Students may only take a module examination if they are enrolled at Goethe University.
- (6) In order to take the relevant module examination or partial module examination, students must have been admitted to the Master's examination and must not have definitively failed the relevant module examination. Furthermore, they must have completed the coursework and have obtained proof of attendance required for the module in accordance with the module description. The module is only passed when all coursework and module examinations or all partial module examinations of the module have been passed. The Examination Board decides on exceptions. Students on leave of absence cannot take examinations or complete coursework. However, it is permissible to retake failed examinations during the leave of absence. Students are also entitled to complete coursework and examinations during a leave of absence if the leave of absence is due to maternity leave or parental leave or due to the care of relatives in need of care according to a medical certificate or due to membership of a squad formed at federal level (A, B, C or D/C squad) of a top professional association in the German Olympic Sports Confederation or

due to the fulfillment of a military service obligation in accordance with Art. 12 a of the Basic Law or due to participation as an appointed or elected representative in academic self-government.

§ 23 Failure to appear for and withdrawal from module examinations (FR: § 26)

- (1) A module examination is deemed to have been given a grade of "fail" (5.0) in accordance with § 33 (3) if the student has missed a binding examination date without good cause or has discontinued participation before the end of the examination. The same applies if they have not completed a written module examination within the specified preparation period or have submitted a blank sheet of paper as a module examination in a supervised written assignment or have remained silent in an oral examination.
- (2) The reason given for missing or discontinuing the examination must be reported in writing to the Chair of the Examination Board immediately after the reason becomes known and must be substantiated. Any incapacity to take an examination that occurs during the performance of an examination must be reported immediately to the examiner or the proctor. This does not affect the obligation to notify the Chair of the Examination Board immediately and to provide credible reasons. In the event of illness, a medical certificate and a certificate of incapacity for the examination issued by a general practitioner/specialist must be submitted immediately, in any case within three working days, stating the type of examination (written examination, oral examination, longer examinations, other forms of examination) for which the incapacity for the examination date exists from a medical point of view. The Chair of the Examination Board decides on the basis of the form attached in Annex 10 of the Framework Regulations on the student's inability to take the examination. If there are reasonable doubts, a medical certificate from a public health officer must also be submitted.
- (3) The illness of a child who has not yet reached the age of 14 who is to be cared for by the student or the illness of a close relative (e.g., children, parents, grandparents, spouse or partner) shall be deemed equivalent to the student's own illness. Maternity leave is also considered an important reason.
- (4) The Chair of the Examination Board shall decide on the recognition of the reason for missing or withdrawing from the examination. If the reason is recognized, a new date will be set immediately.

§ 24 Coursework and examinations in the event of illness and disability; extenuating circumstances (FR: § 27)

- (1) In courses and examinations, consideration must be given to the nature and severity of a student's disability or chronic illness, or to stress caused by pregnancy or the upbringing of children or the care of close relatives in need of care.
- (2) Proof of the nature and severity of the stress must be provided by the student to the Chair of the Examination Board in good time by submitting suitable documents, and in the case of illness a medical certificate must be submitted. In cases of doubt, a medical certificate from a public health officer may also be required.
- (3) If the student can credibly demonstrate that he or she is unable to complete the examination or coursework in full or in part as planned due to a disability, a chronic illness, the care of a close relative in need of care, pregnancy or the upbringing of a child who has not yet reached the age of 14, this disadvantage must be compensated for by appropriate measures, such as an extension of the preparation period or a different form of the examination procedure. Students must be permitted to make use of the statutory maternity protection periods and parental leave periods if appropriate proof is provided.
- (4) Decisions on disadvantage compensation in the performance of examinations shall be made by the Chair of the Examination Board, in the case of coursework by the Chair of the Examination Board in consultation with the person responsible for the course.

§ 25 Cheating and violation of regulations (FR: § 29)

- (1) If the student attempts to influence the result of their examination or coursework by cheating or using unauthorized aids, the examination or coursework shall receive a grade of "fail" (5.0). In particular, an attempt to cheat is also deemed to have been made if the student brings unauthorized aids into the examination room or has submitted a false declaration in accordance with §§ 14 (7), 29 (8), 31 (4) or if they have submitted the same piece of work (or parts thereof) more than once as an examination or coursework.
- (2) A student who actively participates in an attempt to cheat may be excluded from continuing the respective examination by the respective examiner or supervisor; in this case, the examination or coursework in question shall be assessed as "fail" (5.0).
- (3) In the event of particularly serious cheating, especially repeated cheating or cheating accompanied by a written declaration by the student that the work was completed independently without the use of unauthorized aids, the Examination Board may decide to exclude the student from retaking the examination and completing further coursework, so that the right to take the examination in the Master's degree course in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health expires. The severity of the cheating is to be assessed on the basis of the energy expended by the student, such as organized cooperation or the use of technical aids, such as radios and cell phones, and the extent to which equal opportunities are compromised as a result of the cheating.
- (4) A student who disrupts the proper conduct of the examination may be excluded from continuing the examination by the respective examiner or the supervisor, usually after a warning; in this case, the examination in question is deemed to have been assessed as "fail" (5.0). § 25 (3) sentence 1 shall apply accordingly.
- (5) A student may be excluded from a course or courses for the duration of a semester in the event of repeated disruptions in a course or in several courses; as a result, the course or courses shall be deemed not to have been regularly and actively attended.
- (6) If a student has wrongfully gained access to an examination through culpable conduct, the Examination Board may decide that the examination in question is deemed to have been failed ("fail" (5.0)).
- (7) § 44 (1) shall apply to the decisions taken in accordance with § 25 (1) to (5).
- (8) Decisions made against the student by the Examination Board must be communicated to the student immediately in writing, stating the reasons and providing a legal notice.
- (9) For course reports and the Master's thesis, the subject-specific citation rules for the preparation of academic work apply. In case of non-compliance, an attempt to cheat must be investigated.
- (10) In order to be able to verify any suspicion of academic misconduct, the Examination Board may decide that written examination and/or coursework that is not to be completed under supervision must also be submitted in electronic form.

§ 26 Procedural flaws in the examination procedure (FR: § 30)

- (1) If it transpires that the procedure of an oral or written examination was flawed in a way that influenced the examination results, the Examination Board shall, at the request of a student or ex officio, order a particular student to retake the examination. In the case of written examinations, procedural flaws must be reported to the proctor during the examination and in the case of oral examinations to the Chair of the Examination Board or the examiner immediately after the examination. If the student does not consider the corrective measures taken by the supervisor to be sufficient for a written examination, they must submit the complaint to the Chair of the Examination Board immediately after the examination.
- (2) Six months after completion of the examination ex officio orders pursuant to § 26 (1) may no longer be issued.

§ 27 Recognition of coursework and examinations (FR: § 31)

(1) Periods of study, coursework and examinations completed at a higher education institution in Germany shall be recognized, provided there are no significant differences in terms of the skills acquired and the qualification objectives achieved. For this recognition, overall consideration and overall assessment of the content, scope and requirements of the coursework and examinations is required, taking particular account of the qualification objectives achieved rather than a schematic comparison. If the Examination Board cannot prove a significant difference, the periods of study, coursework and examinations must be recognized.

(2) § 27 (1) shall apply accordingly to the recognition of periods of study, coursework and examinations in state-recognized distance learning courses, at other educational institutions, in particular at state or state-recognized vocational academies, for multimedia-based coursework and examinations as well as for coursework and examinations completed by pupils on the basis of § 60 (5) HessHG.

(3) § 27 (1) shall also apply accordingly to the recognition of work completed at foreign universities. The equivalence agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder (KMK) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) as well as agreements within the framework of university partnership agreements must be observed for recognition. If equivalence agreements do not exist, the Examination Board decides. If there is any doubt about equivalence, the German Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) must be consulted.

(4) If a study abroad period is planned, the student should meet with the Chair of the Examination Board or an authorized representative to discuss the eligibility for recognition of coursework and examinations before beginning the study abroad.

(5) Relevant practical work experience can be recognized as practical training. Further details are set down in the module description.

(6) Final theses (e.g., Master's theses, Diplom theses, state examination theses) which students have already successfully completed outside the Master's degree course in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health at Goethe University will not be recognized. Furthermore, multiple recognition of one and the same examination or piece of coursework in the same Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health is not possible.

(7) As a rule, coursework and examinations from a Bachelor's degree course cannot be recognized for the Master's degree course.

(8) If examinations are recognized, the grades – insofar as the grading systems are comparable – are to be adopted and included in the calculation of the overall grade. If the grading systems are not comparable, the note "passed" is included. As a rule, recognized achievements are marked in the final document with details of the university at which they were acquired.

(9) The applicant shall submit to the Examination Board all the documents required for recognition or crediting in accordance with § 27 (10), which show the assessment, CPs and dates of all examinations the applicant has taken in another degree program or at other universities. The documents must also show which examinations and coursework were failed or repeated. The Examination Board may request the submission of further documents, such as the legally binding module descriptions of the modules to be recognized.

(10) Failed attempts in other degree programs or in degree programs at other universities will be recognized if the examination would have been recognized had it been passed.

(11) The recognition of examinations taken more than five years earlier may be refused in individual cases; the decision may be linked to the imposition of conditions. If the requirements of § 27 (1) to (3) in conjunction with (9) are met, there is a legal entitlement to recognition. § 27 (10) sentence 1 and § 27 (6) and (10) remain unaffected.

(12) Decisions with general validity on questions of recognition are made by the Examination Board; recognition in individual cases is made by its Chair, if necessary with the assistance of a subject examiner.

Taking the recognition into account, the subject examiner will assign the applicant to a subject-related semester.

(13) If credits are recognized for coursework or examinations that are not assigned CPs, the corresponding equivalents must be calculated and noted accordingly in the student account.

(14) If recognitions are granted, they may be linked to conditions relating to subsequent coursework or examinations. The applicant must be notified in writing of any conditions and any deadlines for fulfilling the conditions. The notification must include a legal notice.

§ 28 Recognition of competencies acquired outside a university (FR: § 32)

For knowledge and skills that were acquired before the start of the degree program or during the degree program outside a university and that are equivalent in level and learning outcome to modules of the degree program, the CPs of the corresponding modules can be credited upon application. This applies in particular to the optional module. Credit is awarded individually by the Examination Board on the recommendation of the module coordinator. Written proof (e.g., transcripts, certificates) of the scope, content and achievements is required. In total, no more than 50% of the CPs required in the degree program may be replaced by recognizing competencies acquired outside a university. The CPs are credited without a grade. This is indicated accordingly in the certificate.

Section VI: Conducting the module examinations

§ 29 Module examinations (FR: § 33)

(1) Students take module examinations during the course of the degree program. The module examinations conclude the respective module. They are examinations that can be retaken twice and are graded.

(2) Compulsory modules generally conclude with a single module examination at the end of the module. The module examinations in the courses of the compulsory elective modules (15 CPs) are cumulative.

(3) Through the module examination, the student should prove that they have mastered the fundamental principles of the content and methods of the module and can apply the knowledge and skills acquired. The subject matter of the module examinations is generally the content of the courses of the respective module as specified in the module descriptions. In the case of module examinations that are taken as part of a particular course, the overarching qualification objectives of the module are also examined.

(4) In the case of cumulative module examinations, all partial module examinations must be passed in order to pass the module.

(5) The respective examination format for the module examination can be found in the module description. Written examinations take the form of:

- Written exams
- Reports

Additional examination formats include:

- Seminar presentations

(6) The format and duration of the module examinations and the partial module examinations are regulated in the module descriptions. If the module description provides for several types of examination, the type of examination for the respective examination date is determined by the examiner and communicated to the students at the beginning of the courses of the module, however, no later than when the examination date is announced.

(7) The examination language is English. Individual written examinations may be held in German by mutual agreement among all parties involved in the examination.

(8) Written work prepared without supervision (e.g., internship reports) must be prepared by the student in accordance with the rules of good scientific practice. When submitting the paper, the student must confirm in writing that they have written it independently and that all sources and aids used by them have been listed in the paper. Furthermore, it must be declared that the paper has not yet been used – not even in part – in another degree program or the same degree program in a different module as coursework or an examination. § 14 (7) applies accordingly.

(9) Participants in module examinations must be able to identify themselves by presenting an official photo ID or the Goethe Card.

(10) The examiner decides whether aids may be used in a module examination and if so, which ones. The permitted aids must be announced in good time before the examination.

§ 30 Written examinations (FR: § 35)

(1) Written examinations involve answering one or more tasks or questions. The student should demonstrate that they can solve tasks independently in a limited time and under supervision with limited aids and can recognize a problem on the basis of the necessary basic knowledge or by applying the usual methods of the subject and find ways to work out a solution.

(2) Multiple-choice questions, including "single-choice" questions, are permitted in written examinations if they enable the necessary transfer of knowledge to a sufficient extent. For these questions, the following requirements must be met:

1. The examination questions must allow for reliable examination results. The examination questions must be unambiguously comprehensible, clearly answerable and suitable for clearly determining the level of knowledge and skills of the students to be tested. In particular, no solution other than the one specified as correct in the assessment may be acceptable. The Examination Board must use a suitable procedure to ensure this.
2. If the tasks prove to be unsuitable in this respect, they must be excluded from the assessment. If answers do not correspond to the given model solution, but are nevertheless justifiable, they will be counted as correct in the student's favor. It is not permitted to deduct points for incorrect answers.

(3) If multiple-choice/single-choice questions account for more than 25% of the total number of points to be obtained in the written examination, the following requirements must also be met:

1. The list of questions and answers must be drafted by at least two authorized examiners, one of whom must belong to the group of professors.
2. Students must be informed of the requirements for passing and the grading scheme for the written examination no later than when the assignment is set.

(4) A written examination consisting exclusively of tasks in accordance with § 30 (2) sentence 1 is passed if the student has answered at least 50% (pass limit) of the examination questions correctly or if the number of questions answered correctly by the student or, in the case of a points system, if the number of points achieved by the student is not more than 22% lower than the average examination performance of all students taking part in the same examination for the first time. If only part of a written examination consists of tasks in accordance with § 30 (2) sentence 1 and these tasks account for more than 25% of the total number of points to be obtained in the written examination, the pass rule in accordance with § 30 (2) sentence 1 shall only apply to this part of the examination.

(5) If the student arrives late for the examination, they cannot make up the time missed. Students may only leave the examination room with the permission of the proctor.

(6) The person supervising a written examination must prepare a brief report of each examination. All incidents that are relevant to the determination of the examination results, in particular incidents pursuant to §§ 23 and 25, must be entered in this report.

(7) The time for completing the written examinations should be based on the scope of the module to be examined. The time limit for written examinations is a minimum of 60 and a maximum of 240 minutes. The precise duration is specified in the respective module descriptions.

(8) The written examinations are generally assessed by one examiner. They must be assessed by a second examiner if they are not passed on the student's final attempt to pass the examination. The grading must be justified in writing. If the grades differ, the grade of the written examination or other written supervised work is calculated from the average of the two grades. The grading procedure for examinations should not exceed four weeks.

(9) Multimedia-based examinations ("e-examinations") are permitted, provided they are suitable for fulfilling the purpose of the examination. They may only be performed using data processing systems administered by the University or approved for this purpose by the responsible examination office in agreement with the University Computing Center. The unique identifiability of the electronic data must be ensured. It must be possible to clearly and permanently link the data to the examinee. The examination must be conducted in the presence of a qualified record keeper. An examination record must be kept of the examination process, in which at least the names of the record keeper and the examinees, the start and end of the examination and any special incidents must be recorded. § 43 applies to the inspection of the multimedia-based examination and the examination results. The examination question, including a model solution if available, the grading scheme, the individual examination results and the transcript must be archived in accordance with the statutory provisions.

§ 31 Reports (FR: § 36)

(1) With a report, students should demonstrate that they are able to independently document the practical treatment of a problem from a subject area using scientific methods.

(2) The report should introduce the topic of the practical work, explain the problem and the chosen solution approach, describe the practical work carried out to solve the problem, present and discuss the results obtained and provide an outlook. The practical work carried out must be adequately and reproducibly documented. Information from scientific sources (books, journals) must be cited in accordance with the rules of good scientific practice. The length of the report is specified in the module descriptions.

(3) Reports are prepared in accordance with the specified deadlines and submitted to the examiner in written or electronic form. The examiner shall provide information on the exact deadlines and format at the beginning of the course.

(4) Reports are to be submitted to the examiner within the specified preparation period in printed form with a declaration in accordance with § 32 (16) (declaration of independent work). If the report is sent by regular mail, the postmark serves as the definitive submission date.

(5) The reports are generally assessed by one examiner. § 33 applies to the assessment and the regulations regarding passing.

§ 32 Master's thesis (FR: §§ 40, 41)

(1) The Master's thesis is a compulsory part of the Master's degree program.

(2) The Master's thesis aims to demonstrate that the student is able to work independently on a topic comprehensively and in depth within a specified period of time in accordance with the objectives set out in §§ 2 and 6. The topic must be such that it can be completed within the specified period.

(3) The Master's thesis counts for 30 CPs; this corresponds to a preparation period of six months.

- (4) Admission to the Master's thesis requires proof of 75 CP from the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health.
- (5) The Master's thesis shall be supervised by an individual from the group of authorized examiners in accordance with § 20 (1). A separate appointment of the supervisor by the Examination Board is not required, unless the Master's thesis is completed at an institution outside Goethe University (external Master's thesis). The supervisor is charged with guiding the student in the preparation of the Master's thesis and with obtaining regular updates about the progress of the thesis. The supervisor must ensure that any equipment required for the Master's thesis is available. The supervisor is the first or second assessor of the Master's thesis.
- (6) With the approval of the Chair of the Examination Board, the Master's thesis may also be completed at an institution outside Goethe University, such as a Senckenberg-Institut or other research institution. In this case, the topic must be assigned in consultation with a member of the group of professors of the Master's degree program.
- (7) The topic of the Master's thesis must be agreed upon with the supervisor and communicated to the Chair of the Examination Board when registering the Master's thesis. In addition, the student must state whether he or she wishes to have a specialization named in the certificate and, if so, which one (§ 9 (5)). If the student is unable to find a supervisor, the Chair of the Examination Board will ensure that the student receives a topic for the Master's thesis and the necessary supervision in good time upon the student's request.
- (8) The Chair of the Examination Board decides on admission to the Master's thesis and on the fulfillment of the requirements for having a specialization named in the certificate.
- (9) The topic is assigned by the Chair of the Examination Board. The date of assignment and the topic must be recorded at the Examination Office. The student may not work on the Master's thesis before the topic has been officially assigned.
- (10) The Master's thesis is an individual achievement and therefore cannot be admitted in the form of a group thesis.
- (11) The Master's thesis must be written in English or in German. It may be written in another language with the consent of the Chair of the Examination Board. An application to write the Master's thesis in a language other than German (with the exception of English) must be submitted to the Examination Board at the latest when registering for the Master's thesis. Approval to write the thesis in the chosen language other than German or English will be granted when the topic is assigned, provided that the supervisor's written declaration of consent is submitted with the registration of the Master's thesis and that it is possible to assign a second assessor whose proficiency in the chosen language is sufficient. In the event that the Master's thesis is written in a language other than English or German, a summary in English must be attached to the Master's thesis.
- (12) The assigned topic can only be returned once and only within the first third of the preparation period. The new topic must differ in content from the returned topic. If a new topic for the Master's thesis is issued as a result of withdrawal in accordance with § 32 (13) sentence 4, this topic may not be returned.
- (13) If the submission deadline cannot be met for reasons for which the student is not responsible (e.g., illness of the student or of a child for whom the student is responsible), the Chair of the Examination Board shall extend the preparation period if the student requests this before the submission deadline. § 23 (2) shall apply accordingly. A maximum extension of 50% of the preparation period specified in § 32 (3) may be granted. If the absence lasts longer, the student may withdraw from the examination.
- (14) The Master's thesis must be submitted to the Examination Office by the deadline. The time of receipt must be officially recorded. If the Master's thesis is sent by regular mail, the postmark serves as the definitive date of submission. If the Master's thesis is not submitted on time, it will receive a grade of "fail" (5.0).

(15) The Master's thesis must be submitted in three written (bound) copies and as a PDF file. If the Master's thesis is not submitted in the prescribed form by the submission deadline, it will receive a grade of "fail" (5.0).

(16) The Master's thesis must be written in accordance with the rules of good scientific practice. In particular, all passages, images and drawings taken verbatim or in essence from publications or other third-party texts must be identified as such. The Master's thesis must be accompanied by a statement by the student that they have written the thesis independently and without the use of sources and aids other than those specified. Furthermore, it must be declared that the Master's thesis has not been used, not even in part, for another examination or coursework.

(17) The Examination Board forwards the Master's thesis to the first reviewer for assessment in accordance with § 33 (3). At the same time, it appoints another examiner from the group of authorized examiners in accordance with § 20 for a second assessment and also forwards the thesis to this examiner for assessment. § 32 (5) sentence 5 remains unaffected. At least one of the examiners must be a professor who teaches in the degree program. The second reviewer may limit themselves to co-signing the first reviewer's report if they agree on the assessment. The examiners should make the assessment immediately; it should be available no later than eight weeks after submission of the thesis. If the two examiners assess the Master's thesis differently, the grade for the Master's thesis is determined in accordance with § 33 (5).

(18) The Master's thesis shall be assessed within a further two weeks by another authorized examiner in accordance with § 20 if the assessments of the two examiners differ by more than 2.0 or if one of the two examiners has assessed the Master's thesis as "fail" (5.0). In this case, the grade is calculated from the grades of the first examiner, the second examiner and the third examiner in accordance with § 33 (5). § 32 (18) sentence 1 shall not apply if the requirements of § 23 or § 25 are met.

**Section VII: Assessment of coursework and examinations;
formation of the grades and the overall grade; failing the overall examination**

**§ 33 Assessment/grading of coursework and examinations;
formation of the grades and the overall grade (FR: § 42)**

(1) Coursework is assessed as "passed" or "failed" by the respective lecturer.

(2) Examinations are generally graded and, in exceptional cases, assessed as "passed" or "failed" in accordance with the module description (optional module). The grading or assessment of the examinations is carried out by the respective examiners. The student's individual performance must always be taken into account.

(3) The following grades are to be used for grading the individual examinations:

Very good	An outstanding performance;
Good	A result that is significantly above the average requirements;
Satisfactorily	A result that meets average requirements;
Sufficient	A result that still meets the requirements despite its shortcomings;

Fail	A result that no longer meets the requirements due to significant deficits.
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The grades can be raised or lowered by 0.3 to intermediate values in order to provide a more granular assessment of examination results; the grades 1.0; 1.3; 1.7; 2.0; 2.3; 2.7; 3.0; 3.3; 3.7; 4.0 and 5.0 are permissible.

(4) If the module examination consists of several partial examinations (cumulative), the grade for the module is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the grades for the individual examinations (partial module examinations). Only the first decimal place after the decimal point is taken into account. All other digits are deleted without rounding.

(5) If the module examination is assessed differently by two or more examiners, the module grade is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the grades of the examiners' assessments. When calculating the module grade, only the first decimal place after the decimal point is taken into account. All other digits are deleted without rounding.

(6) An overall grade is calculated for the Master's examination, which includes the grades of the module examinations of all modules of the degree program, with the exception of any grades obtained as part of the optional module.

(7) If more CPs are acquired in the compulsory elective area than are required (additional module, § 9 (10)), the modules that were completed with higher grades will be used to determine the overall grade.

(8) When calculating the overall grade, the grades for the compulsory elective modules and the compulsory research internship module are given a weighting of 15 CPs. The grade for the Master's thesis is given a weighting of 30 CPs.

(9) The overall grade of a passed Master's examination is calculated as follows, whereby only the first decimal place after the decimal point is taken into account; all other places are deleted without rounding:

1.0 up to and including 1.5	Very good
1.6 up to and including 2.5	Good
2.6 up to and including 3.5	Satisfactory
3.6 up to and including 4.0	Sufficient
More than 4.0	Fail

(10) If an English translation of the transcript is issued, the grades for the individual examinations and the overall grade are shown according to the following grading scale:

1.0 up to and including 1.5	Very good
1.6 up to and including 2.5	Good
2.6 up to and including 3.5	Satisfactory
3.6 up to and including 4.0	Sufficient
More than 4.0	Fail

(11) If the overall grade is 1.0, the overall grade is "mit Auszeichnung bestanden." The English translation of "mit Auszeichnung bestanden" is "with distinction."

(12) An ECTS grading table in accordance with § 41 shall be included in the diploma supplement to ensure transparency of the overall grade.

§ 34 Passing and failing examinations; announcement of grades (FR: § 43)

- (1) A module examination consisting of a single examination is passed if it has been assessed with the grade "sufficient" (4.0) or better. Otherwise, it has been failed.
- (2) In the case of cumulative module examinations, all partial module examinations must be passed in order for the module examination as a whole to be passed.
- (3) The Master's examination is passed if all modules prescribed in these regulations have been successfully completed, i.e., the proof of attendance required in the module description has been submitted and the course certificates and module examinations, including the Master's thesis, have been successfully completed, i.e., graded with at least "sufficient" (4.0).
- (4) The results of all examinations must be announced immediately. The Examination Board decides whether grades are to be announced anonymously to the university public by means of a notice and/or the electronic examination administration system, whereby the legitimate interests of those affected must be protected. If a module examination has finally received a grade of "fail" (5.0) or if the Master's thesis has been assessed as less than "sufficient" (4.0), the student will receive a written notification from the Chair of the Examination Board with a legal notice, which may include information on whether the module examination or the Master's thesis can be repeated and, if so, within what period.

§ 35 Compiling the examination results (transcript of records) (FR: § 44)

Upon request, students will be issued with a certificate of passed examinations in the form of a transcript of records (an example can be found in Annex 7 FR) in German and English, which contains at least the module titles, the date of the individual examinations and the grades.

Section VIII: Changing compulsory elective modules; retaking examinations; loss of the right of admission to an examination and failing the final attempt at an examination

§ 36 Changing compulsory elective modules (FR: § 45)

If a compulsory elective module is failed or has been failed with no possibility to retake it, the student may change to a new compulsory elective module once.

§ 37 Retaking examinations; free attempt; retaking examinations to improve grades (FR: § 46)

- (1) Examinations that have been passed cannot be retaken.
- (2) All failed compulsory module examinations and partial compulsory module examinations must be retaken.
- (3) Failed module examinations may be retaken no more than twice.
- (4) A failed Master's thesis may be repeated once. A different topic is issued. The topic of the Master's thesis may only be returned as part of an examination retake if the student did not make use of this option when writing the first attempt at the Master's thesis. The student is not permitted to repeatedly return the topic.
- (5) Failed attempts at the same or a comparable module examination in another degree program at Goethe University or another German university shall be counted toward the permitted number of

retakes. In special cases, particularly in the case of a change of degree program, the Examination Board may choose not to include a retake in the total number of retakes.

(6) With the exception of the Master's thesis, the Examination Board may schedule an oral examination for the retake of a failed written examination.

(7) The first examination retake should be offered at the end of the relevant semester, but at the latest at the beginning of the following semester.

The second retake should be offered on the next possible examination date after the failed retake. The Examination Board determines the exact dates for the retake and announces these in good time.

(8) Students must take the repeat examination on the next possible date and are thus considered to be registered.

(9) The right of admission to an examination expires if the retake is missed, unless the student is not responsible for the failing to take the examination. If the student has exmatriculated in the meantime, this does not extend the retake deadline.

(10) Examination retakes must always be taken in accordance with the regulations under which the first examination was taken.

§ 38 Loss of the right of admission to an examination and failing the final attempt at an examination (FR: § 47)

(1) The Master's examination is definitively failed or the right to take the examination is definitively lost if

1. A module examination has not been passed after all attempts to retake the examination have been exhausted and there is no possibility of changing in accordance with § 36,

2. A deadline for retaking a module examination in accordance with § 37 has been exceeded,

3. There is a serious case of cheating or a serious violation of regulations in accordance with § 25.

(2) A notification of the final failure of the Master's examination and the associated loss of the right to take the examination will be issued with a legal notice.

(3) If the student has definitively failed the Master's examination in the degree program and thus definitively lost the right to take the examination, he or she must be exmatriculated. Upon request, when presented with the certificate of exmatricultation the student will receive a certificate from the Examination Office which lists the passed and failed module examinations, their grades and the credit points earned and which indicates that the Master's examination has been definitively failed or that the right to take the examination has been lost.

Section IX: Transcript of records; certificate and diploma supplement

§ 39 Transcript of records (FR: § 48)

(1) A certificate of successful completion of the Master's examination shall be issued in English and German within four weeks of receipt of the assessment of the final examination, in each case in accordance with the provisions of the templates in the Framework Regulations. The transcript contains details of the modules with the module grades (those modules that are not included in the overall grade for the Master's examination are marked), the topic and grade of the Master's thesis, the total number of CPs and the overall grade. The name of any specialization chosen and completed in accordance with the

rules in § 9 (5) is also noted on the certificate. Upon request, coursework completed in additional modules will also be included in the certificate.

The transcript must be signed by the Chair of the Examination Board and must bear the seal of Goethe University. The transcript bears the date of the day on which the last examination or coursework was completed.

(2) Upon request, the Examination Board shall issue a certificate confirming that the Master's degree obtained is equivalent to the corresponding Diplom or Magister degree in terms of content.

§ 40 Master's diploma (FR: § 49)

(1) At the same time as the Master's examination certificate, the student shall receive a Master's diploma with the date of the certificate. This attests to the awarding of the academic degree and, if applicable, the specialization (§ 9 (5)). The diploma must also be issued in English.

(2) The diploma shall be signed by the Dean of Studies of the Faculty of Biological Sciences and the Chair of the Examination Board and shall bear the seal of Goethe University.

(3) The academic degree may only be used after the diploma has been awarded.

§ 41 Diploma supplement (FR: § 50)

(1) A diploma supplement in accordance with international standards shall be issued with the Master's diploma and the transcript; the text agreed between the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) and the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder (KMK) in the currently valid version shall be used. The diploma supplement is signed by the Chair of the Examination Board.

(2) The diploma supplement contains an ECTS grading table. The overall grades awarded in the respective degree program in a comparative cohort shall be recorded and their numerical and percentage distribution across the grade levels shall be determined in accordance with § 33 (12) and presented in a table as follows:

Overall grades	Total number within the reference group	Percentage of graduates within the reference group
up to 1.5 (very good)		
from 1.6 to 2.5 (good)		
from 2.6 to 3.5 (satisfactory)		
from 3.6 to 4.0		

(sufficient)		
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The reference group results from the number of graduates of the respective degree program over a period of three academic years. The calculation only takes place if the reference group consists of at least 50 graduates. If fewer than 50 students within the comparison cohort have completed the degree program, additional cohorts must be included in the calculation by decision of the Examination Board.

Section X: Invalidity of the Master's examination; examination files

§ 42 Invalidity of examinations (FR:§ 51)

(1) If the student has cheated on coursework or during an examination and this fact only becomes known after the diploma has been issued, the Examination Board may subsequently correct the grades for the coursework and examinations in which the student has cheated and declare the examination or coursework failed in whole or in part. The examiners must be heard beforehand. The student must be given the opportunity to comment before a decision is made.

(2) If the requirements for admission to an examination were not met and the student was permitted to take the examination without intentionally misrepresenting their qualifications, and if this fact only becomes known after the transcript has been issued, this deficiency will be remedied if the student passes the examination. If the student has intentionally obtained unlawful admission to the examination, the Examination Board shall decide on the legal consequences in accordance with the Hessian State Administrative Procedure Act (HVwVfG) in the respectively valid version. § 42 (1) sentence 3 shall apply accordingly.

(3) The incorrect transcript shall be withdrawn and a new one issued if applicable. Together with the incorrect transcript, the diploma supplement and, if applicable, the corresponding transcript of records must also be withdrawn and, if necessary, reissued. The Master's certificate must also be confiscated with these documents if the examination has received a grade of "fail" due to cheating. A decision in accordance with § 42 (1) and (2) sentence 2 is excluded after a period of five years from the date of the transcript of records.

§ 43 Inspection of examination files (FR: § 52)

(1) Within one year after completion of a module and after completion of the entire examination procedure, the student shall be granted access to the examination files concerning the student (examination records, examination papers and reviews) upon request.

(2) The examination files shall be kept by the examination offices. The retention periods for examination documents are governed by § 21 of the Hessian Matriculation Ordinance (HImmaVO) in the respectively valid version.

Written examination papers, with the exception of Master's theses, are handed over to the students or discarded one year after their assessment has been announced. The Master's theses are discarded five years after completion of the entire examination procedure.

§ 44 Appeals and objections (FR: § 53)

(1) Appeals may be lodged against decisions made by the Chair of the Examination Board. Appeals must be lodged with the Chair of the Examination Board within one month of notification of the decision. The Examination Board decides on the appeal. If the Examination Board does not remedy the objection, the Chair of the Examination Board will issue a justified rejection notice, which must include a legal notice.

(2) The student in question may appeal in writing to the Chair of the Examination Board (Examination Office) against negative decisions of the Examination Board and against negative examiner assessments within one month of notification, provided that a legal notice was given, otherwise within one year of notification. If the Examination Board does not uphold the objection, if necessary after obtaining the opinion of the examiners involved, the President will issue the notice of objection. The notice of objection must state the grounds on which it is based and include a legal notice.

Section XI: Closing provisions

§ 45 Entry into force and transition provisions (FR: § 54)

(1) These regulations shall enter into force on the day following their publication in the UniReport/Statutes and Regulations of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main.

At the same time, the regulations for the Master's degree program in Ecology and Evolution dated June 8, 2015 - published in the UniReport Statutes and Regulations dated September 17, 2015 - shall expire.

(2) These regulations apply to all students commencing their studies as of the winter semester 2023/24 in the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health.

(3) Students who began their studies in the Master's degree program in Ecology and Evolution before these regulations came into force may take the Master's examination in accordance with the regulations dated June 8, 2015 until March 31, 2025 at the latest. They can also apply to the Examination Board to change to the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health, to complete their studies in accordance with these regulations, and to take the Master's examination. Coursework and examinations already completed will be credited in accordance with § 27. The application is irrevocable.

Frankfurt, July 26, 2023

Prof. Dr. Sven Klimpel

Dean of the faculty Bioscience

Annex 1: Regulation for special admission requirements/aptitude assessment procedures for Master's degree programs

(1) In addition to the first professionally qualifying degree, admission requires English language skills at least at level B2 of the "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages of the Council of Europe" and the submission of a personal statement. If the degree certificate for the Bachelor's degree is not yet available at the time of application for a place in a consecutive Master's program, § 9 (12) of the framework regulations applies.

(2) The application should include the following documents:

(3) - A single copy of the English language proficiency certificate according to § 8 (6) of the study regulations.

(4) - A personal statement of 400-600 words in English, explaining why the applicant wishes to study in the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health at Goethe University. In particular, a convincing presentation of the research-oriented and/or professional interest in the subject area of the Master's degree program is required. Previous academic and professional experience, as well as extracurricular activities relevant to the Master's degree program that may provide insight into the applicant's suitability for the Master's degree program, should also be described.

(5) The Examination Board for the Master's degree program shall verify that the requirements set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 have been met and conducts the subsequent procedure. It may also appoint one or more admissions committees to perform this task. An admissions committee consists of at least two professors authorized to conduct examinations in the Master's degree program, one research assistant authorized to conduct examinations in the Master's degree program and one student member enrolled in the Master's degree program, who participates in an advisory capacity. The professorial majority must be ensured. The examination or admissions committee may also seek the assistance of other staff.

(6) (4) The committee evaluates the personal statement according to the degree of motivation and aptitude for the Master's degree program with aptitude grades according to FR § 42 (3). An overall assessment is made, 49% of which is based on this grade and 51% on the grade concerning the first professional degree. Admission requires an overall grade of 2.5 or better.

Annex 2: Sample course plan

Subject-related semester	Module title	Course format	Duration (SHW)	Scope (CPs)	Module no.
1.	Basic module	L, E	10.5	15	BEH-Basis
	Compulsory elective module	L, S, I	13	15	BEH-Div-n
	Total		23.5	30	
2.					
	Compulsory elective module	L, S, I	13	15	BEH-Eco-n
	Optional module	L, S, E, I	variable	15	BEH-Optional
	Total			30	
3.	Compulsory elective module	L, S, I	13	15	BEH-Div-n or BEH-Eco-n
	Research project	S, I	variable	15	BEH-FP
	Total			30	
4.	Master's thesis		approx. 28	30	BEH-MA
	Total		approx.	30	
	Total 1st-4th sem.			120	

Annex 3: Module descriptions

BEH-Basis: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health (compulsory module) 15 CPs (450 hours, h.)	
1. Course content:	
	The basic module "Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health" focuses on basic and advanced knowledge and scientific methods in the areas of biodiversity and ecosystem health. It consists of a foundational lecture with an accompanying theoretical exercise, practical exercises, and a lecture series.
2. Learning outcomes/competency objectives:	
	The foundational lecture "Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health" provides students with the basic and advanced biological background of the current challenges of global change. In this context, interdisciplinary, advanced subject areas are also important. Theoretical exercises deepen and reflect this knowledge. Through the practical exercises, students gain insights into scientific research on the various topics and apply various methods under supervision. Exercises on species knowledge and ecological topics can take place in the field as part of excursions. The lecture series provides students with an overview of current research in biodiversity and ecology, as well as an opportunity to orient themselves in the selection of compulsory selective modules, the design of the optional module, and the Master's thesis. Skills such as scientific writing, scientific English, and the presentation and reflection on scientific content are taught in the exercises, especially through discussions, short presentations, and short reports.
3. Prerequisites:	
	None
4. Possible teaching and learning formats:	
	Lecture, exercises
5. Module duration:	
	1 semester (module courses take place as a block within the first seven weeks of the winter semester)
6. Course frequency:	
	Every winter semester
7. Proof of work done during the semester:	
Proof of attendance:	Active participation in the exercises
Coursework:	Tests, short reports and short presentations
8. Module examination: Format/duration:	
Final module examination consisting of:	Written examination: on contents of foundational lecture, 120 min.
9. Module grade:	
	Written examination

BEH-Div-n: Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology (compulsory elective module) 15 CPs (450 hours, h.)	
1. Course content:	

	<p>Courses assigned to this compulsory elective module each consist of a lecture, a seminar, and an internship. The lecture and seminar will expand and deepen theoretical knowledge on various aspects of organismic diversity and evolution of animals, plants and/or fungi. Emphasis is placed on morphology, anatomy, systematic concepts, and phylogenetic developments, which are substantiated in an integrative manner, i.e., using all available character complexes for the organisms.</p> <p>The purpose of the internship is to reinforce and broaden the theoretical knowledge of the subject matter presented in the lecture and seminar. Important methods in various combinations are the observation, documentation and/or identification of organisms, the collection of ecological or evolutionary data in the field, and the determination of morphological characteristics by direct observation or light microscopy. This information is supplemented by physiological and/or molecular traits that are determined and analyzed using bioinformatics methods.</p> <p>Parts of the internship can be done in the field in the context of excursions.</p>				
2.	<p>Learning outcomes/competency objectives:</p> <p>Through the lecture and the seminar, students will be familiar with extended foundational knowledge as well as advanced information on organismic diversity and evolution of animals, plants and/or fungi. They recognize that adaptations of organisms to their respective ecological niches are the result of complex evolutionary processes shaped by abiotic and biotic factors. Students acquire an in-depth understanding of the respective topic, recognize the limits of knowledge and are able to critically question the information. They integrate their knowledge and relate it to current issues such as biodiversity loss, climate change and/or current conservation challenges.</p> <p>During the internship, students will learn classical and/or modern methods of identifying organisms and will be able to determine, document, and interpret morphological characteristics. By selecting the appropriate modules, they are able to determine molecular characteristics, evaluate them using bioinformatic methods, and correlate them with other characteristics.</p> <p>In-depth treatment of hypotheses and methods enables students to recognize the process of acquiring knowledge and the limits of science.</p>				
3.	<p>Prerequisites:</p> <p>Passed exam of the foundational lecture of the core module</p>				
4.	<p>Teaching and learning formats:</p> <p>Lecture, seminar, internship, possibly excursions as part of the internship</p>				
5.	<p>Module duration:</p> <p>1 semester (The courses of a compulsory elective module take place as a block within one half of the lecture period of the summer or winter semester.)</p>				
6.	<p>Course frequency:</p> <p>Annually in the summer or winter semester</p>				
7.	<p>Proof of work done during the semester:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Proof of attendance:</td> <td>Regular and active participation in the seminar and internship</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coursework:</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table>	Proof of attendance:	Regular and active participation in the seminar and internship	Coursework:	None
Proof of attendance:	Regular and active participation in the seminar and internship				
Coursework:	None				
8.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Module examination:</td> <td>Format/duration:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cumulative module examination consisting of:</td> <td>Two of the following forms of examination: Written exam for the lecture (usually 60 min.) and/or presentation in the seminar (usually 30 min.) and/or internship report (usually approx. 20 pages)</td> </tr> </table>	Module examination:	Format/duration:	Cumulative module examination consisting of:	Two of the following forms of examination: Written exam for the lecture (usually 60 min.) and/or presentation in the seminar (usually 30 min.) and/or internship report (usually approx. 20 pages)
Module examination:	Format/duration:				
Cumulative module examination consisting of:	Two of the following forms of examination: Written exam for the lecture (usually 60 min.) and/or presentation in the seminar (usually 30 min.) and/or internship report (usually approx. 20 pages)				
9.	<p>Module grade:</p> <p>Both module grades contribute 50% each to the module grade.</p>				
<p>BEH-Eco-n: Ecology and Ecosystem Health (compulsory elective module) 15 CPs (450 hours, h.)</p>					
1.	<p>Course content:</p>				

	<p>Courses assigned to this compulsory elective module each consist of a lecture, a seminar, and an internship. The lecture and seminar will expand and deepen theoretical knowledge on various topics of (applied) ecology and ecosystem health. The focus is on ecosystem research, including abiotic and biotic factors on communities (animals, plants and/or fungi), multiple (environmental) stressors, behavior and effects of chemicals in the environment, conservation, adaptation to global change, evolutionary and aquatic ecology, parasitology and/or zoo and wildlife biology. In addition, the ecosystem functions and benefits of different groups of organisms in different ecosystems are presented.</p> <p>The purpose of the internship is to reinforce and broaden the theoretical knowledge of the subject matter presented in the lecture and seminar.</p> <p>Parts of the internship can be done in the field in the context of excursions.</p>				
2.	<p>Learning outcomes/competency objectives:</p> <p>Through the lecture and seminar, students will be exposed to extended foundational knowledge as well as advanced information in ecotoxicology, aquatic ecology, conservation, evolutionary biology, parasitology, and/or zoo and wildlife biology. They will also gain insight into biodiversity and ecosystem research, including a focus on global biodiversity patterns, behavior, and ecosystem functions of animals, plants, and/or fungi. Students acquire an in-depth understanding of the respective topic, recognize the limits of knowledge and are able to critically question the information. They integrate their knowledge and relate it to current issues such as biodiversity loss, ecosystem health, climate change and/or current conservation challenges. In the internships, students are introduced to advanced methods in the field, and they collect, analyze, and discuss their own observations and data. In-depth treatment of hypotheses and methods enables students to recognize the process of acquiring knowledge and the limits of science.</p>				
3.	<p>Prerequisites:</p> <p>Passed exam of the foundational lecture of the core module</p>				
4.	<p>Teaching and learning formats:</p> <p>Lecture, seminar, internship, possibly excursions as part of the internship</p>				
5.	<p>Module duration:</p> <p>1 semester (The courses of a compulsory elective module take place as a block within one half of the lecture period of the summer or winter semester.)</p>				
6.	<p>Course frequency:</p> <p>Annually in the summer or winter semester</p>				
7.	<p>Proof of work done during the semester:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Proof of attendance:</td> <td>Regular and active participation in the seminar and internship</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coursework:</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table>	Proof of attendance:	Regular and active participation in the seminar and internship	Coursework:	None
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Coursework:	None				
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Module examination:	Format/duration:				
Cumulative module examination consisting of:	Two of the following forms of examination: Written exam for the lecture (usually 60 min.) and/or presentation in the seminar (usually 30 min.) and/or internship report (usually approx. 20 pages)				
9.	<p>Module grade:</p> <p>Both module grades contribute 50% each to the module grade.</p>				

BEH-Optional: Optional module (compulsory module) 15 CPs (450 hours, h.)	
1. Course content:	
	<p>For the optional module, individual or several modules and other activities can be selected from the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Courses (complete or only lecture and seminar) of the compulsory elective modules of the Master's degree program Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health, which have not yet been taken, and other modules by lecturers of the faculty - Lectures, seminars, exercises or internships of other Master's degree programs at Goethe University related to the Master's degree program Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health - Academic achievements at another university in Germany or abroad related to the Master's degree program in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health - Work placement or research internship in Germany or abroad <p>Excursion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - University language course - Soft skills
2. Learning outcomes/competency objectives:	
	Students acquire different skills depending on what they choose. The focus is on deepening subject-specific knowledge through broad content and/or methodological orientation as well as the acquisition of interdisciplinary knowledge and the development of an individual profile for the future profession.
3. Prerequisites:	
	Participation requirements specified for the respective modules apply.
4. Possible teaching and learning formats:	
	Depends on the offering
5. Module duration:	
	Depends on the offering
6. Course frequency:	
	Depends on the offering
7. Proof of work done during the semester:	
	Proof of attendance: Depends on the offering
	Coursework: Depends on the offering
8. Module examination: Format/duration:	
	Final module examination consisting of: Depends on the offering
	Cumulative module examination consisting of: Depends on the offering
9. Module grade:	
	This module is not graded.

BEH-FP: Research project (compulsory module) 15 CPs (450 hours, h.)	
1. Course content:	
	The module comprises a seminar and practical course with the aim of providing the student with the essential theoretical principles and experimental techniques of the subject area envisaged for the Master's thesis in such depth that the Master's thesis can be successfully completed within the time frame available.
2. Learning outcomes/competency objectives:	
	After completing the module, students will be familiar with the theoretical and practical basics of the chosen sub-area directly related to the Master's thesis.
3. Prerequisites:	
	Min. 60 CPs (core module; plus 3 compulsory elective modules or 2 compulsory elective modules and the optional module)
4. Possible teaching and learning formats:	
	Seminar, internship
5. Module duration:	
	1 semester
6. Course frequency:	
	Each semester, also during the semester break
7. Proof of work done during the semester:	
Proof of attendance:	Regular and active participation in the working group seminar
Coursework:	None
8. Module examination: Format/duration:	
Final module examination consisting of:	Internship report, approx. 30 pages
9. Module grade:	
	Grade of the internship report.

BEH-MA: Master's thesis (compulsory module) 30 CPs (900 hours, h.)	
1. Course content:	
	As part of the Master's thesis, the student works on a question independently, comprehensively and in depth using scientific methods within a specified period of time. The work can be experimental, empirical or analytical. The results must be summarized in a written Master's thesis in scientific publication style.
2. Learning outcomes/competency objectives:	
	The student demonstrates the ability to work comprehensively and in depth on a scientific problem using research methods appropriate to the problem. He or she is able to produce a written paper in the style of a scientific publication.
3. Prerequisites:	
	At least 75 CPs. The module "Research Project" must be successfully completed.
4. Possible teaching and learning formats:	
	Master's thesis
5. Module duration:	
	1-2 semesters (6 months)
6. Course frequency:	
	Each semester, also during the semester break
5. Proof of work done during the semester:	
	Proof of attendance: None
	Coursework: None
6. Module examination: Format/duration:	
	Final module examination consisting of: Master's thesis (approx. 40-100 pages)
7. Module grade:	
	Grade of the Master's thesis.