

## **Faculty of Physics**

Following resolutions of the Faculty Councils of the Faculty of Engineering of the Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg on June 14, 2023 and of the Faculty of Physics of the Georg-August-University Göttingen on July 27, 2023 and following statements of the Senates of the Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg on September 26, 2023 and of the Georg-August-University Göttingen on September 6, 2023, the Rector of the Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg on September 28, 2023 and the Presidential Board of the Georg-August-University Göttingen on October 12, 2023 have approved the examination and study regulations for the shared consecutive joint-degree Master's programme "Matter to Life" of the Georg-August University Göttingen and the Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg (§§ 25 I 2 No. 3, 19 I, 32 III 1 of the Law on Universities in Baden-Württemberg (Landeshochschulgesetz - LHG) in the version of January 1, 2005 (Journal of the Laws 2005, 1), last amended by Article 8 of the Act of February 2, 2023 (Journal of the Laws pg. 26, 43); §§ 44 I 2, 41 II 2, 37 I 3 No. 5 b), 44 I 3 of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act of February 2, 2007 (Gazette of Laws and Ordinances of Lower Saxony No. 5/2007 pg. 69), last amended by Article 7 of the Act of March 23, 2022 (Gazette of Laws and Ordinances of Lower Saxony 11/2022 pg. 218)).

### **Examination Rules and Regulations for the Shared Consecutive Joint-Degree Master's Degree Programme "Matter to Life" of the Georg-August University Göttingen and the Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg**

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## **Section I: General information**

### **§ 1 Scope of Application**

These regulations govern the provisions for the completion of studies in the shared consecutive joint-degree Master's programme "Matter to Life" of the University of Göttingen and the University of Heidelberg. The places of study are Heidelberg and Göttingen.

### **§ 2 Purpose of the Academic Programme and Examinations; Qualification Goals**

(1) Building on a Bachelor of Science (e.g., in the subjects of biochemistry, biotechnology, chemistry, materials science, molecular biology, physics), Bachelor of Engineering (e.g., in the subjects of bioengineering, molecular systems engineering) or a course of study in a related natural science or engineering field, in-depth specialist knowledge and methodological skills in the field of Matter to Life are acquired in the joint consecutive, research-oriented Master's programme. "Molecular Systems Chemistry and Engineering" is offered as a major at the Heidelberg location and "Complex Systems and Biological Physics" at the Göttingen location.

(2) The Master's examination is intended to determine whether the students have an overview of the interconnections and correlations within their subject area, the ability to apply more in-depth scientific methodology and insights, and to work independently according to scientific principles.

(3) Graduates of the research-oriented Master's programme Matter to Life possess in-depth specialized knowledge in the field of the chemical-physical foundations of life and are able to scientifically describe, analyse, evaluate, and successfully solve challenging problems and tasks in this interdisciplinary field. They are able to plan experimental or theoretical investigations, to carry them out independently and to document, interpret and present the results scientifically and convincingly. The educational goal is primarily the qualification for a research-related professional activity in interdisciplinary, innovative natural science areas. Graduates are able to use their scientific knowledge and skills to formulate and solve complex problems and tasks and have experience in communicating their expertise in a multidisciplinary environment.

(4) Admission to the programme is governed by separate admission regulations.

### **§ 3 Master's Degree**

After passing the Master's examination, the University of Heidelberg and the University of Göttingen jointly award the academic degree "Master of Science" (abbreviated M.Sc.).

### **§ 4 Start of Studies, Standard Duration of Study, Programme Structure**

(1) The study programme begins in the winter semester.

(2) The standard period of study is four semesters.

(3) The joint consecutive M.Sc. programme "Matter to Life" is generally not suitable for part-time study.

(4) The course of study extends over three semesters, and the master's thesis is to be written in the fourth semester. For the successful completion of the Master's programme, a total of 120 credit points (credits as defined by the European Credit Transfer System ECTS; abbreviated: "C") must be acquired in the compulsory, compulsory elective, and elective areas.

(5) The course of study is modular. Of the 120 C according to paragraph 4, 60 C are allocated to subject-related modules (compulsory and compulsory elective), 30 C to research internships (lab rotations) and 30 C to the Master's thesis. Further details are regulated by the module overview and the module directory; these are published separately and are part of these examination and study regulations.

(6) The language of instruction and examination is English.

(7) The assignment of a major field of study results from the notification of admission. One change of the major field of study is possible upon application to the Examination Board; the application must be submitted at the latest before the start of the research internship.

(8) The courses and examinations in the Master's programme Matter to Life are usually held in a classroom setting; for reasons of study organization, they may also be held in whole or in part without presence or in a hybrid format, e.g., in the context of online videoconferences. In

exceptional cases, courses may be designed in such a way that the qualification goals are achieved exclusively through self-study. Courses offered by other universities can be imported into the curriculum of the study programme in accordance with cooperation agreements.

### **§ 5 Modules, Credit Points, List of Grades**

(1) A module is a thematically and temporally self-contained teaching and learning unit, which can be composed of different courses. It consists not only of the courses to be attended, but also includes the coursework and examinations required for the successful completion of a module. Participation in individual courses, examinations and modules may require the successful completion of other courses, coursework, examinations and modules; details are given in the module directory.

(2) The Master's thesis is an independent module within the meaning of these regulations.

(3) A distinction is made between

- compulsory modules: must be successfully completed by all students,
- compulsory elective modules: students can choose from a limited selection;
- elective modules: Students have free choice within the respective permissible range of modules.

(4) In order to pass a module, all partial examination performances within the module must have been assessed with at least "sufficient" (4.0), in the case of ungraded performances with "passed".

(5) Credit points are awarded for successfully completed modules in accordance with § 4 Para. 4. One credit (1 C) corresponds to an average workload of 30 hours for students.

(6) Students and examinees will be issued certificates in text form with a verification key for examinations already passed (Transcript of Records), which can be retrieved at any time via the student online access in the examination administration system of the University of Göttingen.

(7) A compulsory or elective module that has already been passed cannot be additionally credited as an elective module in the area of specialization.

### **§ 6 Examination Board**

(1) An examination board is responsible for the organization of examinations and the tasks defined in these regulations. The committee consists of four professors, including an equal number of professors from Heidelberg University and Göttingen University, who are actively involved in teaching in the Master's programme Matter to Life, as well as two students with an advisory vote, including one student from Heidelberg and one from Göttingen. The Examination Office for Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Göttingen organizes the examination procedure according to the specifications of the Examination Board

and the Dean of Studies. The Examination Office keeps the examination files. Representatives of the Examination Office may participate in the meetings of the Examination Board in an advisory capacity.

(2) The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson as well as the other members of the Examination Board shall be appointed by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences at Heidelberg University for a period of two years in each case, after the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Physics at Göttingen University has given its opinion. The term of office of the students is one year. Reappointment is possible. The Chair and the Deputy Chair must be professors and should belong to different universities.

(3) The Examination Board ensures that the provisions of these regulations are upheld and makes suggestions for the further development of the curriculum and these regulations. It appoints authorized examiners and assigns examiners and observers. In the case of examinations taken during the course of study and teaching staff employed within the framework of the relevant module, no separate appointment of examiners or observers is required. The Examination Board can transfer the appointment to the Chairperson. The Chair may be called upon to deal with all questions relating to the examinations.

(4) The Chairperson shall conduct the business of the Examination Board, prepare the meetings and chair them.

(5) The Examination Board shall decide by a simple majority of votes. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have the deciding vote. The Examination Board has a quorum if the majority of its members, including the Chair or the Deputy Chair, are present and each study location is represented. Abstentions are not permitted in examination decisions.

(6) The Examination Board may at any time revocably delegate further tasks of the Examination Board to the Chair, provided that legal provisions do not prevent this. The Examination Board shall be regularly informed of their completion.

(7) The members of the Examination Board shall have the right to attend the taking of examinations.

(8) The members of the Examination Board, the examiners, and the observers shall be bound by official secrecy. Members who are not civil servants shall be sworn to secrecy by the Chair.

(9) Negative decisions of the Examination Board or the Chair are to be communicated to the student immediately in text form, with reasons and information on the legal appeals procedure.

## **§ 7 Examination Organization**

(1) The place and time of module and sub-module examinations shall be determined by the Dean of Studies on the basis of proposals by the responsible examiners, communicated to the Examination Office, and announced in the form determined by the Examination Board. The

Examination Office shall determine registration and deregistration periods for each examination period, if necessary, differentiated according to examination types.

(2) Registration for module and sub-module examinations takes place via the examination administration system of the University of Göttingen within the registration period. Withdrawal without giving reasons (deregistration) is possible within the deregistration period; otherwise, deregistration is excluded.

(3) Students are obliged to regularly check the correctness of the entries concerning themselves in the examination administration system within the scope of their possibilities; transmission errors should be reported immediately.

### **§ 8 Examination Authorized Persons; Examination Observers**

(1) Only persons who have acquired at least the academic qualification appropriate to the respective subject of the examination in question may be appointed as persons authorized to sit examinations. The university lecturers who contribute to the course of study through their continuous teaching performance, including junior professors, are entitled to sit examinations without the need for appointment. Persons who have already been appointed by the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Heidelberg or the Faculty of Physics of the University of Göttingen as examiners in at least one other Master's programme and who are scientifically active in the field of this programme are also entitled to take examinations in this programme. The examination authorization may also be granted to persons other than members or affiliates of the Universities of Heidelberg and Göttingen.

(2) Likewise, only persons who have acquired at least the academic qualification appropriate to the respective examination subject may be appointed as examination observers.

(3) Official secrecy shall apply to those authorized to sit examinations and to the observers.

### **§ 9 Recognition and Crediting of Achievements**

(1) Study and examination achievements, periods of study as well as degrees which have been obtained in courses of study at other state or state-recognized universities and universities of cooperative education in the Federal Republic of Germany or in courses of study at foreign state or state-recognized universities shall be recognized insofar and to the extent that, with regard to the competences acquired, there is no significant difference to the achievements which are replaced in this course of study by the recognition. Recognition serves to promote student mobility, the continuation of studies, and the avoidance of repeated examinations with regard to competences already demonstrated by students.

(2) Achievements or competences acquired outside of a university study programme, in particular in the profession or in vocational training or further education, can be credited to the extent of a maximum of 60 C to achievements of this study programme that are equivalent in

terms of content and level. Within the framework of the equivalency examination according to sentence 1 or instead of such an examination, the Examination Board may conduct a placement examination which examines the individual knowledge and skills with regard to the required learning outcomes; the placement examination is usually conducted as an oral examination of a maximum duration of 120 minutes.

(3) Recognition and credit shall be granted upon application. The board of examiners is responsible, and may call in further specialist expertise. In doing so, it shall take into account higher-level, national and international agreements, in particular the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region of April 11, 1997 (Federal Law Gazette (BGBl.) 2007 II pg. 712) as well as any equivalence agreements concerning the performance to be recognized.

(4) Students are responsible for providing the necessary information on the achievement or competence to be recognized or credited and, if necessary, for providing evidence of the authenticity of certificates and attestations of achievement. If an application is incomplete or if further information or documents are required for the examination, the Examination Board shall notify the student in writing, specifying a deadline for submission; if the student does not submit the requested further information within the specified deadline and in the required form, the Examination Board may refuse to make a decision on the grounds that the application is incomplete. The burden of proof that an application does not meet the requirements for recognition shall otherwise lie with the Examination Board.

(5) If study and examination achievements are recognized, the grades - insofar as the grading systems are comparable - shall be adopted and included in the calculation of the subject grades or the overall grade in accordance with these regulations. In the case of incomparable grading systems, the remark "passed" shall be included. Recognition and credit will be made transparent in certificates and attestations (e.g., Transcript of Records).

(6) Recognition and crediting are excluded if they are intended to affect a complete course of study in such a way that complete or almost complete recognition and/or crediting of a course of study already completed with a degree is sought, in particular with the aim of obtaining a further degree on the basis of the same achievements. Recognition and credit are further excluded if an examination right relationship has already been concluded with regard to the performance to be replaced, namely if the performance to be replaced has already been passed or definitively failed.

### **§ 10 Types of Examination Components**

(1) Module and submodule examinations take place during the course of study. They can be designed to accompany lectures. A module examination may consist of submodule examinations. Further details are regulated in the module directory.

(2) Module and sub-module examinations can take the following forms: oral examination, written examination, term paper, presentation or seminar paper/supplementary commentary or discussion, poster presentation, practical examination, report, and protocol.

(3) In an oral examination, the student should demonstrate through an examination discussion that he/she recognizes the interrelationships of the examination area and is able to contextualise specific research questions accordingly. Oral examinations are usually held as a group examination or as an individual examination in front of two or one examiners and one observer sitting in. Before determining the grade, the examiners shall discuss the grade or consult the observer. The grade must be communicated to the students after the examination and the reasons for the grade must be given. The duration of oral examinations is between 15 to 60 minutes. The substantive subjects and the evaluation of the examination must be recorded in a protocol. An oral examination may also be conducted by means of a suitable system by way of video and audio transmission, provided the student consents to this procedure.

(4) By means of a written examination, which must be completed at least in text form, the student shall prove that he/she can solve tasks and work on problems under supervision within a limited period of time using the common methods of the respective subject area. The duration of an examination should not be less than 45 minutes and not exceed 240 minutes. The Examination Board and the examiners can regulate additional details of the performance (e.g., permissible aids, processing on examination sheets provided by the university). The duration of the assessment procedure should not exceed four weeks.

(5) An examination may contain multiple choice or multi-select questions (hitherto referred to as MC). MC questions must be adapted to the knowledge imparted by the course and provide reliable examination results. They must be prepared by at least two persons authorized to conduct examinations and checked to establish whether the requirements referred to in sentence 2 are met before the examination result is determined. If this check reveals that individual examination tasks are faulty, these are not to be taken into account. The number of items shall be reduced accordingly; the assessment shall be based on the reduced number. The reduction in the number of examination questions must not be to the disadvantage of the candidates. If MC questions are used, the examination is considered to have been passed if at least 60 percent of the questions have been answered correctly or if the number of questions answered correctly by the student does not fall below the average examination performance of the students by more than 22 percent (sliding clause). However, the minimum pass mark may not fall below 40 percent.

If the student has achieved the minimum number of correctly answered MC questions or points to be obtained required for passing the individual performance according to sentences 7 and 8, the grade shall be:



- "very good" (1.0) if he/she achieves at least 85 percent,
- "very good" (1.3) if he or she scores at least 75 percent but less than 85 percent,
- "good" (1.7) if it is at least 67 percent but less than 75 percent,
- "good" (2.0) if at least 59 but less than 67 percent,
- "good" (2.3) if it is at least 50 but less than 59 percent,
- "satisfactory" (2.7) if it is at least 42 but less than 50 percent,
- "satisfactory" (3.0) if it is at least 34 but less than 42 percent,
- "satisfactory" (3.3) if it is at least 25 but less than 34 percent,
- "sufficient" (3.7) if it is at least 12 but less than 25 percent,
- "sufficient" (4.0) if he or she answered none or less than 12 percent of the MC tasks beyond this correctly or scored less of the points beyond this;

If a student does not achieve the minimum number required according to sentences 7 and 8, the grade shall be "failed" (5.0).

(6) In an independent term paper, the student should show that after a short introduction to the subject he/she is able to familiarize himself/herself with a problem area unassisted within a limited period of time, that he/she can work independently on this topic using the common methods of the respective subject area, and that he/she can present the results in an appropriate form in writing. The research question should be designed in such a way that the processing time does not exceed four weeks. The duration of the assessment procedure should not exceed four weeks.

(7) By means of a presentation, a seminar paper or supplementary commentary/discussion, or a lecture, the student should prove that he/she is able to work on a topic or a research problem appropriately in a limited amount of time using the common methods of the respective subject area and that he/she is able to convincingly present and discuss this newly attained knowledge with an audience that is competent in the matter. A supplementary commentary initiates the critical discussion of a paper by providing a content outline, critique, and discussion points. In addition to the technical performance, the presentation form is also to be evaluated. Minutes of the presentation are to be taken.

(8) In a poster presentation, independently produced contributions from a research project are first presented in the form of large posters in the usual scientific manner (scientific poster). This is followed by an oral presentation of the results presented on the poster.

(9) A practical examination consists of a series of practical exercises, experiments or programming tasks with elaborations (e.g., experimental protocols). The module description regulates the details, if applicable. The duration of the assessment procedure shall not exceed four weeks.

(10) In a report, the student should document in writing his/her unassisted contributions to the planning, implementation, and evaluation of scientific projects and present the results in a scientifically appropriate form. The duration of the evaluation process should not exceed four weeks.

(11) In a protocol, the student shall document in text form unassisted contributions made to the planning, implementation, and evaluation of experiments performed in the context of a practical lab internship and analyse the results in a scientifically appropriate form. The duration of the evaluation process should not exceed four weeks.

(12) If an examination performance is rendered in the form of a term paper, a report or a protocol, the student must affirm that he/she has written it independently and has not used any aids other than those indicated.

### **§ 11 Assessment of Examination Performance**

(1) The grades for the individual examination performances shall be determined by the respective examiners. The following grades are to be used for the evaluation of the performances:

1 = very good = an outstanding performance;

2 = good = a performance which lies substantially above the average requirements;

3 = satisfactory = a performance that meets average requirements;

4 = sufficient = a performance that, despite deficiencies, still meets the requirements;

5 = failed = a performance which does not meet the requirements due to considerable deficiencies.

(2) For a more detailed assessment of examination performances, interim grades may be applied by reducing or increasing the individual grades by 0.3; the grade 0.7 and intermediate values above 4.0 are excluded.

(3) An overall module grade and the overall grade of the Master's examination are:

very good in the case of an average of up to 1.5

good in the case of an average of 1.6 to 2.5

satisfactory in the case of an average of 2.6 to 3.5

sufficient in the case of an average of 3.6 to 4.0.

(4) When calculating the final module grades and the overall grade of the Master's examination, only the first digit after the decimal point is taken into account; all other digits are deleted without rounding.

## **§ 12 Repeatability of Examinations**

- (1) Module examinations that have not been passed or are deemed not passed may be repeated twice. Failed attempts at other universities shall be taken into account.
- (2) The failed Master's thesis may only be repeated once.
- (3) The repetition of a passed examination performance is not possible.

## **§ 13 Withdrawal, Failure to Appear, Failure to Meet Deadlines, Deception**

- (1) An examination shall be deemed to have been graded "failed" (5.0) if the student fails to appear at an examination date without a valid reason for their absence or withdraws after the start of the examination without a valid reason. The same applies if an examination is not completed within the allocated time or within the specified deadline, unless the student is not at fault for exceeding the deadline.
- (2) The reasons asserted for the withdrawal or the failure to attend in accordance with Paragraph 1 must be stated credibly and immediately to the Examination Board at least in text form. If the candidate, or a child for whom the candidate is generally solely responsible, is ill, a medical certificate must be provided. If the reasons stated are accepted, a new examination date will be scheduled. In this case, examination results that are already available will be taken into account.
- (3) If the student attempts to influence the examination result by means of deception or the use of unauthorized aids to his/her own or another's advantage, the examination in question will be graded as "failed" (5.0). Students who disrupt the orderly course of the examination can be excluded from continuing the examination by an authorized examiner or examination supervisor; in this case, the examination performance in question will be graded as "failed" (5.0). In severe cases, the Examination Board may exclude the student from taking further examinations; the student must be heard before this decision is made.
- (4) Those affected can demand that decisions according to paragraph 3 sentences 1 and 2 be reviewed by the Examination Board within a period of one week. The student must be informed of negative decisions immediately and at least in writing, stating the reasons and providing information on the legal appeals procedure.

## **Section II: Master's Examination**

### **§ 14 Scope and Type of Examination**

The Master's examination consists of

- a. the course-related examinations for the modules according to the module list, amounting to 60 C,
- b. the successfully completed module Research Internship (Lab Rotation) amounting to 30 C,

c. the Master's thesis amounting to 30 C.

### **§ 15 Admission Requirements and Procedure**

(1) Students who are admitted to the module examinations during their studies must

1. be enrolled in the joint Master's programme Matter to Life at Heidelberg University and Göttingen University,
2. have not lost the right to take examinations in the Master's programme Matter to Life or in other programmes with comparable content,
3. fulfil further admission requirements for individual examinations, if applicable, as specified in the module description.

(2) The application for admission to the Master's thesis must be accompanied by the following documents in addition to the evidence required in paragraph 1:

- a. Evidence of successfully completed module examinations of this degree programme amounting to at least 84 C, including evidence of the successfully completed research internship,
- b. the proposed topic for the Master's thesis,
- c. the confirmation of the supervisor,
- d. a suggestion for two reviewers.

The proposals according to sentence 1 letters b and d as well as the verification according to sentence 1 letter c are not necessary if the student attests that he/she has not found a supervisor.

(3) The application for admission must be submitted in writing to the chair of the Examination Board. An online form of the University of Göttingen is to be used as specified by the Examination Board.

(4) Based on the application, the chair of the Examination Board decides on the admission. A rejection must be communicated at least in writing, must be justified and must be accompanied by an instruction on the rights of legal recourse.

(5) The application for admission may only be rejected if

1. the requirements pursuant to paragraph 1 or paragraph 2, first sentence, letter a are not met, or
2. the documents pursuant to paragraph 2 are incomplete and have not been completed despite a request to do so, or
3. the student has failed in a peremptory manner the Master's examination in the degree programme Matter to Life or in other degree programmes with comparable content, or has lost the right to take the examination, or
4. the student is in an ongoing examination procedure of such a degree programme.

### **§ 16 Research Internship**

- (1) The research internship (lab rotation) serves to expand and deepen the knowledge and experimental skills acquired in the course of study. The aim is to formulate a complex scientific problem, set up a research plan, and to finally summarize it. In particular, the handling of complex modern devices is to be learned, the understanding of demanding experimental work is to be promoted, and the associated theoretical foundations are to be deepened in a sustainable manner.
- (2) The research internship can be issued and supervised jointly by two authorized examiners.
- (3) The topic of the research internship is determined by the two supervisors. Upon request, the chair of the Examination Board shall ensure that the student receives a topic for the research internship in good time. The student must be given the opportunity to make suggestions for the topic; this does not constitute a legal claim. The topic is issued by the examination office. The date of issue shall be recorded.
- (4) A processing period of six months begins with the issue of the topic. In exceptional cases, the time limit may be extended by up to eight weeks by the Examination Board in consultation with the supervisors. If the deadline is not met, the module is deemed to have been assessed as "failed" (5.0), unless the student is not responsible for exceeding the deadline.
- (5) The topic, task and scope of the research internship must be limited in such a way that the deadline for completion can be met. The topic can only be returned once and only within the first eight weeks of the processing period.

### **§ 17 Master's Thesis**

- (1) The Master's thesis should demonstrate that the student is able to independently work on a problem from a subject field of the Master to Life degree programme using scientific methods within a specified period of time.
- (2) The Master's thesis can only be supervised by persons authorized to conduct examinations in the programme.
- (3) The topic of the Master's thesis can only be issued after successful completion of the research internship. The student should start working on the master's thesis no later than four weeks after completion of the research internship.
- (4) The topic of the Master's thesis shall be determined by the thesis supervisor, who shall consider suggestions according to § 15 para. 2 sentence 1 letter b. The topic is issued by the examination office. The date of issue shall be recorded in the records.
- (5) A processing period of six months begins with the issue of the topic. In exceptional cases, this period can be extended by up to 8 weeks by the Examination Board in consultation with the supervisor. If the deadline is not met, the thesis is considered to be "failed" (5.0), unless the student is not responsible for exceeding the deadline.

(6) The topic, assignment and scope of the Master's thesis must be limited in such a way that the deadline for completion can be met. The topic can only be returned once and only within the first eight weeks of the processing period. A new topic must be agreed upon immediately. In the case of a repetition of the Master's thesis, the return of the topic is only permitted if the student did not make use of this possibility during the first attempt to write the Master's thesis.

### **§ 18 Submission and Assessment of the Master's Thesis**

(1) The Master's thesis must be submitted to the Examination Office in text form in the format of a commonly used word processing programme or in PDF format (unprotected), usually using the examination administration system of the University of Göttingen, by the deadline; the date of submission must be recorded on file. The thesis shall contain a summary.

(2) When handing in the Master's thesis, the student must certify in writing that he/she has written the thesis him/herself and has not used any sources or aids other than those specified.

(3) The Examination Office forwards the master's thesis to the two reviewers. The Master's thesis is evaluated by two reviewers, one of whom must be a university lecturer. As a rule, the supervisor should be appointed as the reviewer. The other reviewer is appointed by the Examination Board, which should consider suggestions made by the student (this does not constitute a legal entitlement). The duration of the evaluation procedure should not exceed a period of four weeks.

(4) The grade results from the arithmetic mean of both evaluations; § 11 par. 1-3 apply accordingly. In the event of deviations of more than one grade, the Examination Board shall determine the grade of the Master's thesis in deviation from sentence 1 after hearing both reviewers. In such cases, it may consult a third expert.

### **§ 19 Overall Result; Peremptory Failure**

(1) The Master's examination is passed if all the required examinations according to § 14 Para. 1 have been assessed with at least "sufficient" (4.0).

(2) For the calculation of the overall grade of the Master's examination in accordance with § 11 Para. 3, the module grades determined in accordance with § 11 Paras. 1-3 shall be weighted according to their credit points. Only modules whose completion was required for passing the Master's examination shall be included in the calculation of the overall grade.

(3) The examination entitlement has finally expired if:

- a. a compulsory module has been definitively failed or is deemed to have been failed,
- b. compulsory elective or elective modules can no longer be passed to the required extent,
- c. the Master's thesis has not been passed in the second attempt or is deemed to have been failed,
- d. the examination entitlement in a closely related course of study has finally expired,

- e. at least 30 credit points have not been acquired by the end of the 2nd semester,
- f. not all credit points required to pass the Master's examination have been acquired by the end of the 8th semester.

In this case, the Master's examination is deemed to have been definitively failed. Exceeding the deadlines specified in sentence 1 letters e and f is permissible if the student is not responsible for exceeding the deadline. The Examination Board shall decide on this at the request of the student.

(4) A written decision will be issued on the final failure of the Master's examination, which must be justified and accompanied by information on the legal appeals procedure.

### **§ 20 Master's Certificate and Diploma**

(1) As a rule, a Master's Certificate in German and English is issued within four weeks of the successful completion of the Master's examination. This certificate contains the names of the individual modules with the grades achieved in each case as well as the credit points allocated, the topic and grade of the Master's thesis, and the overall grade of the Master's examination. The certificate shall bear the date on which the last examination was completed and shall be signed by the deans of both study locations and the chair of the Examination Board.

(2) The Master's Certificate shall be accompanied by a "Diploma Supplement" in English and German, which contains supplementary information on the course of study and adheres to the framework set out in the "European Diploma Supplement Model" in terms of content.

(3) Simultaneously with the Master's Certificate, a bilingual Master's Diploma in German and English is issued with the date of the certificate. The diploma shall certify the award of the academic degree "Master of Science". The diploma is signed by the deans of both study locations and bears the seals of the University of Göttingen and the University of Heidelberg.

(4) At the same time as the Master's Certificate according to paragraph 1 and the Master's Diploma according to paragraph 3, the graduate will receive digital images of both documents in text form; these will each contain a password-protected link to retrieve a scan of the signed original document from the server of the University of Göttingen.

## **Section III: Final Provisions**

### **§ 21 Invalidity of Examinations**

(1) If the student has cheated in an examination and this fact only becomes known after the certificate has been issued, the Examination Board may subsequently correct the examination grades affected by the deception and declare the examination wholly or partially failed.

(2) If the requirements for admission to an examination were not fulfilled without any intent to deceive on the student's part, and if this fact only becomes known after the certificate has been

issued, this defect shall be remedied by passing the examination. If the student gained admission to the examination intentionally and unlawfully, the Examination Board shall make the final decision.

(3) The person concerned shall be given the opportunity to comment before a decision is made.

(4) The incorrect examination certificate shall be withdrawn and, if necessary, a new one issued. Together with the incorrect Master's Certificate, the corresponding Master's Diploma shall also be withdrawn if the examination was declared "failed" due to deception. A decision according to paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 sentence 2 is excluded after a period of five years from the date of the examination certificate.

### **§ Section 22 Compensatory Measures for Students in Special Circumstances**

(1) Measures to compensate for disadvantages may be granted in particular for students with a prolonged illness or due to a prolonged or permanent physical disability (within the meaning of Section 3 of the Equal Opportunities for Disabled Persons Act (Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz)), for students with relatives in need of care (Section 7 (3) of the Nursing Care Act (Pflegezeitgesetz), §§ Sections 14 and 15 of the Eleventh Book of the Social Security Code (Sozialgesetzbuch)), for students due to pregnancy-related restrictions or with regard to existing maternity protection (Section 3 (1), Section 6 (1) of the Maternity Protection Act (Mutterschutzgesetz)), and for students on parental leave (Section 15 (1) to (3) of the Federal Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (Bundeselterngeld- und Elterngesetz)). The periods of protection within the framework of maternity protection as well as parental leave (Section 61, Paragraph 3, Sentences 1 and 2 of the State University Act (Landeshochschulgesetzes)) shall remain unaffected.

(2) The term "compensation for disadvantages" shall be understood to mean suitable compensatory measures to take account of the difficulties encountered by students in special circumstances in presenting their existing knowledge and skills under conditions which are uniform for all students, or in taking examinations within the time limits specified in these regulations. Compensation for disadvantages shall be granted if the student within the meaning of paragraph 3 credibly demonstrates that he or she is unable to present his or her existing ability in whole or in part in the prescribed form, under the prescribed conditions, or within the prescribed deadlines. The prerequisite is that the ability to present is not a component of the examination or study performance or part of the competence to be acquired.

(3) Applications for the granting of measures to compensate for disadvantages must be received by the Examination Board in text form in good time. As a rule, an application is only considered timely if it is received by the Examination Board at the beginning of the respective semester, but no later than four weeks before the start of the examination or the due date of examination or study achievements, in a sufficiently substantiated form and with the



submission of suitable medical evidence or other professional statements. The timeliness of the application is also to be affirmed if the submission of the application in compliance with the above-mentioned deadlines was not possible due to the nature of the impairment in the specific individual case. A sufficient justification is given if the applicant

- the nature and extent of the threatened disadvantage
- suitable possibilities of compensation and
- the symptoms on the basis of which the disadvantage is imminent,

in such a way that the necessity of the disadvantage compensation is comprehensible for the Examination Board. (The communication of a medical diagnosis, however, is not obligatory).

(4) The Examination Board shall decide on the necessity, type and scope of the requested measure on the basis of the evidence submitted. In its consideration, the Examination Board is bound by the principle of equal opportunity with regard to the applicant, but also to the examination cohort as a whole (prohibition of overcompensation of disadvantages). In specific individual cases, it is entitled to request further documents and evidence. Decisions of the Examination Board must be communicated immediately in text form to the person to be examined. Incriminating rulings must be justified and accompanied by an instruction on the rights of legal recourse.

### **§ 23 Inspection of Examination Files**

After completion of the examination procedure, the student or graduate shall be granted access to the examination files upon request within a reasonable period of time. The Chair of the Examination Board shall determine the time and place of inspection, unless the Examination Board has made general regulations. The universities may provide copies or scans to the examinees in lieu of personal inspection; there is no legal entitlement to this. As a rule, inspection of examination tasks on which an examination is based shall only be granted within the time limits for appeal.

### **§ 24 Entry into Force**

These regulations shall enter into force retroactively as of 01.10.2023 following their publication in the Official Notices I of the Georg-August University of Göttingen (Amtliche Mitteilungen I der Georg-August-Universität Göttingen) and in the Notices of the Rector of the Ruprecht-Karls University of Heidelberg (Mitteilungsblatt des Rektors der Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg).