

Announcements of the Justus Liebig University Giessen

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Special regulations for the Master's degree programme "Global
Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy"

**Special regulations for the Master's degree programme
"Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy"
of the Department 08 - Biology and Chemistry -
of the Justus Liebig University Giessen
and the School of Biology and Environmental Science
of the University College Dublin**

Of 27.07.2012

Latest amendment by resolution dated 16/10/2019

These regulations in the version of the 8th amendment resolution apply from the summer semester 2020. Until then, the previous regulations shall be applicable.

Previous versions:

	Department Council	Senate	Presiding Board	Announcement
Original version	27.07.2012	05.09.2012	27.09.2012	
1st amendment	26.04.2013	12.06.2013	18.06.2013	20.06.2013
2nd amendment	05.02.2014	19.03.2014	25.03.2014	14.04.2013
3rd amendment	04.02.2015	11.03.2015	24.03.2015	29.03.2015
4th amendment	27.01.2016	09.03.2016	05.04.2016	18.05.2016
5th amendment	25.01.2017	22.03.2017	29.03.2017	06.05.2017
6th amendment	23.11.2017	20.12.2017	09.01.2017	19.01.2018
7th amendment	31.10.2018	21.11.2018	27.11.2018	24.01.2019
8th amendment	16.10.2019	18.12.2019	21.01.2020	15.05.2020

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§ 1 (to § 1 of the General Regulations)

The Master's degree programme Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy leads to a professionally qualifying degree and comprises 3 semesters.

§ 2 (to § 2 of the General Regulations)

The JLU Department of Biology and Chemistry (FB 08) and the School of Biology and Environmental Science at UCD award the academic joint degree "Master of Science" (abbreviated to "M.Sc.") after successful completion of the programme.

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§ 3 (to § 4 para. 1 and 2 of the General Regulations)

(1) For admission to the Master's degree programme Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy, Bachelor's degrees in natural sciences are recognised in:

- Biology
- Agricultural sciences
- Natural or environmental sciences

(2) The UCD Examination Board may recognise other degree programmes as equivalent following a case-by-case assessment; such programmes may be subject to specific conditions.

(3) To be admitted to the Master's degree programme, students must have a Bachelor's degree with at least 180 ECTS credits and an average grade of at least 2.48 (UCD grade points, see § 26 Comparative grade table JLU / UCD) or better.

(4) Given that the entire degree programme is taught in English, written and spoken English language skills are required. Unless the first degree was obtained in English, applicants must provide proof of English language proficiency by means of a certificate. Accepted certificates are: 600 points (paper-based) and 100 points (Internet-based) in the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or 6.5 points in the IELTS Academic Test (International English Language Testing System). Results to be achieved in other recognised English language assessment procedures can be found on the UCD website (<http://www.ucd.ie>).

(5) Admission numbers for the degree programme are based on UCD's admission capacity. In the event that too many applications are received, students will be assessed and ranked according to the following criteria:

- Final grade of the Bachelor's degree programme
- Average grade in modules from the fields of ecology, biology, environmental law, and/or mathematics/statistics
- Relevant professional experience (e.g. in biology or environmental science)
- A "letter of motivation".

In some cases, admission to the Master's programme may be made dependent on passing an entrance examination. The UCD Examination Board will schedule the entrance examination with a deadline of two weeks within six weeks of the application deadline. The examination takes place before an examination committee appointed by the board of examiners.

In this process, the "international office" of the UCD verifies the equivalence of degrees using the UKNARIC procedure.

§ 4 (to § 4 para. 1, sentence 2)

In the case of § 3 para. 2, the previous degree programme must have the following subject-related profile: Broad scientific education with appropriate foundations in biology, mathematics/statistics and with a recognisable focus on ecology or ecology-related subjects. The UCD Examination Board reserves the right to impose requirements on students to catch up on and provide evidence of missing knowledge. Proof must be provided by the end of the first semester.

§ 5 (to § 6 para. 1, § 9 para. 1 and § 11 para. 1 sentence 1 of the General Regulations)

(1) The modules of the degree programme include

- 5 or 6 CP (all modules except the thesis module and the internship module) 3 CP in exceptional cases justified by the subject,
- 30 CP (thesis module),
- 20 CP (professional internship / work placement module).

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(2) Content and scope of the modules are defined in the module descriptions (Annexe 2) and in the study programme plan (Annexe 1).

(3) The degree programme includes a professional internship of 20 CP according to the module description and Annexe 3.

§ 6 (to § 7 of the General Regulations)

(1) The total duration of the Master's degree programme is 16 months (scope of studies and examinations in the compulsory, elective and optional modules, including preparation and follow-up work) and comprises 120 CP. Calculations of the workload (working hours) are carried out according to the specifications in each of the participating countries.

(2) The degree programme usually begins in the winter semester at UCD (35 CP; 30 CP core modules, 5 CP elective modules). This is followed by an internship module (20 CP). In the summer semester, 35 CP (29 CP core modules, 6 CP elective modules) are taken at JLU. Subsequently, the thesis module with 30 CP can be completed at JLU or UCD.

(3) The prerequisite for obtaining proof of performance in seminars, practicals, exercises and excursions is participation in all sessions of the course planned and carried out for a semester. The module description may stipulate other regulations.

§ 7 (to § 16 of the General Regulations)

As an exception to the General Regulations, the board of examiners formed in accordance with the local regulations is responsible for assessments conducted in Dublin.

§ 8 (to § 5, § 8 of the General Regulations)

Admission to certain courses within the modules may depend on the successful completion of the module-related examinations of the same module. This applies in particular if safety in a practical exercise depends on sufficient prior theoretical knowledge.

§ 9 (to § 24 para. 1 of the General Regulations)

In the elective module area, the recognition of credits from non-subject-related courses up to 6 CP is possible after a subject consultation with the study coordination office.

§ 10 (to § 10 para. 3 and §25 of the General Regulations)

Forms of examination are written examinations, exercises, oral examinations, presentations (oral: seminar lectures, written: poster presentations) or minutes resp. reports and the final thesis. The form of the examinations is specified in the respective module descriptions (Annexe 2). The assessment of examinations is regulated in § 28 and § 29 of the General Regulations.

The length of an oral examination is a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 45 minutes per exam and subject.

The duration of a written examination is a minimum of 45 minutes and a maximum of 180 minutes.

§ 11 (to § 13 of the General Regulations)

The degree programme can only be started at UCD each year in September.

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§ 12 (to § 15 para. 2 of the General Regulations)

In case of deviation from the regular degree programme, a change of degree programme or a change of study location and in other cases of doubt, study counselling is obligatory.

§ 13 (to § 18 of the General Regulations)

Students may propose examiners for the Master's thesis. This proposal should be honoured where possible, but does not constitute a claim. Confirmation of the examiner is made by the board of examiners.

§ 14 (to § 20 para. 3 of the General Regulations)

All modules of the winter and summer semesters must be passed when registering for the thesis module.

§ 15 (to § 21 of the General Regulations)

Registration for the examinations of a module takes place automatically with the registration for this module. This obliges the student to take part in the examinations in this semester; further details are regulated in § 16. Registration for modules takes place no later than one week before the start of the semester. The board of examiners must ensure that the examinations can be completed within the deadlines stipulated in these examination regulations.

§ 16 (to § 23 para. 1 of the General Regulations)

(1) Withdrawal from an examination after registration for the module is only possible up to half of the total attendance hours specified in the module description at the latest without giving reasons. Withdrawal must be notified in writing to the responsible board of examiners. This regulation applies to a maximum of 5 modules. In the case of withdrawal from an examination without stating reasons, the date of the first repeat examination is deemed to be the new examination date. Immediately after the withdrawal notification, the student must undergo counselling by the module coordinator or the board of examiners. This does not affect the possibility of cancellation in accordance with § 23 Para. 3 of the General Regulations.

(2) (2) Students wishing to withdraw from an examination due to illness must provide a medical certificate. The certificate must be submitted to the Examination Office immediately after the examination. A second withdrawal from the same examination in the same module must be documented by an official medical certificate. Exceptions are decided by the examination board upon request.

§ 17 (to § 25 para. 2 of the General Regulations)

An examination may be conducted as a group examination at the decision of the board of examiners.

§ 18 (to § 26 para. 1 of the General Regulations)

The Master's thesis should demonstrate that the student is capable of working independently on a challenging task using scientific methods.

§ 19 (to § 26 para. 4 of the General Regulations)

The final thesis is written in English.

§ 20 (to § 26 para. 5 of the General Regulations)

The topic of the thesis is issued by the board of examiners. The thesis must be completed within 16 weeks. The topic must be chosen in such a way that it can be completed within the set deadline. In justified cases, the board

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of examiners may extend the deadline by up to half of the processing time, provided that the student is not responsible for the extension.

§ 21 (to § 26 para. 6 of the General Regulations)

Returning the topic of the thesis is permitted once up to four weeks after it has been issued. A justification to be submitted to the board of examiners is a prerequisite for the return. After the return, a new topic will be issued immediately, the return of which is not permitted.

§ 22 (to § 28 para. 1 sentence 5 of the General Regulations)

Written assessment procedures for module achievements must be completed within a period of time that allows students to continue their studies. The assessment of the last module of the degree programme must be completed within four weeks.

§ 23 (to § 28 para. 3 of the General Regulations)

All examinations within a module are graded according to the respective weighting in the module description.

§ 24 (to § 29 para. 1 of the General Regulations)

(1) Modules are graded according to the grading schemes valid at the respective universities (JLU and UCD). At JLU, the modules are graded according to § 29 para. 3 of the General Regulations.

(2) The module "Work Placement" (20 CP) is assessed, all other modules are graded.

§ 25 (to § 30 para. 2 sentence 2 of the General Regulations)

The degree programme is passed if all modules specified as mandatory in the curriculum have been passed.

§ 26 (to § 31 para. 1 of the General Regulations)

To calculate the overall grade, JLU converts the module grades into UCD grade points according to the table below.

The overall grade is calculated by dividing the sum of the weighted grade points (grade points of each module multiplied by the CP assigned to the module) by the total number of CP (100).

Calculation formula for the overall grade:

$$\text{Overall grade} = \frac{\sum_i (\text{grade points UCD}_i \cdot \text{CP}_i)}{100}$$

If the result of the grade calculation is within the interval $2.0 \leq \text{overall grade} \leq 2.2$, the JLU score equivalent is

5.0. Otherwise, the following conversion applies:

$$\text{Score JLU} = 5 \times (\text{overall grade} - 2.2) + 5$$

Comparison table Grades JLU / UCD:

Grade points JLU	Grade UCD	Grade points UCD
15	A+	4.2
14	A	4
13	A-	3.8
12	B+	3.6
11	B	3.4
10	B-	3.2
9	C+	3
8	C	2.8
7	C-	2.6
6	D+	2.4
5	D	2.2
	D-	2

§ 27 (to § 32 of the General Regulations)

For each student, a table is prepared in English containing the module titles and grades (ECTS grades). The overall grade is shown in the transcript of records in both grading systems.

§ 28 (to § 33 sentence 2 of the General Regulations)

Files relating to an examination may be accessed upon application to the board of examiners within one week of the end of the examination.

§ 29 (to § 34 para. 2 of the General Regulations)

(1) In the event that the final module examination or the sum of the module-related examinations leads to failure of the module, a maximum of two repeat examinations are possible.

(2) The repeat examinations shall take place at the end of the modules belonging to the semester and should be completed before the start of the following semester. The repeat examinations may be written (written examination) or oral. The type of examination will be announced at the beginning of the module.

§ 30 (to § 34 para. 4 of the General Regulations)

Examination dates and retake dates will be announced by the module coordinator at the latest at the beginning of the module. The module examination is carried out within the duration of the module. Failed module examinations must be repeated after three months at the latest. In the case of proven part-time study, the board of examiners shall make appropriate regulations.

The module is definitively failed if, after exhausting all retake options, the performance has not been assessed with at least the grade "sufficient" in accordance with §10 of the General Regulations. In this case, the degree programme has been definitively failed.

§ 31 (to § 35 para. 1 of the General Regulations)

Candidates who have passed the Master's degree programme will receive a certificate within four weeks of the last examination. The certificate shall include the grades of the modules, the topic of the Master's thesis and its grade as well as the overall grade. Also included in the certificate are the main areas of study and, at the student's request, the result in modules other than those prescribed (additional modules) and the number of semesters required to complete the Master's degree programme.

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§ 32 (to § 40 of the General Regulations) Entry into force and transitional provisions

These regulations in the version of the 8th amendment resolution shall apply from the summer semester 2020. Until then, the previous provisions shall be applicable.

Annexe

Annexe 1 - Curriculum

Annexe 2 - Module descriptions