Special Regulations for the Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes of the Faculty 09 - Agricultural Sciences, Nutritional Sciences and Environmental Management – of Justus Liebig University Giessen From 20.07.2022

This is a translation of the "Special Regulations for Agricultural Sciences, Nutritional Sciences and Environmental Management". The English translation serves solely for purposes of information. The German language version of the Special Regulations is the legally binding version.

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Section I: General Information

§ 1 Scope (to § 1 AllB)

In addition to the General Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's programmes of Justus Liebig University of Giessen of 20th February 2019 (AllB = Allgemeine Bestimmungen), these regulations govern the studies and examinations in the Bachelor's and Master's programmes of the Faculty 09.

§ 2 Academic Degrees (to § 3 AIIB)

(1) Upon successful completion of a Bachelor's examination, the faculty awards the degree "Bachelor's of Science", shortened "B.Sc.".

(2) Upon successful completion of a Master's examination, the faculty awards the degree "Master's of Science", shortened "M.Sc.".

(3) In the M.Sc. Transition Management programme, the Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU) and the Kazan Federal University (KFU), Russia, will award the joint Master's degree in "Transition Management" (JLU) and "General and Strategic Management" (KFU) in their own certificates as part of a double Master's programme based on the agreements between the two universities (Appendix 5).

§ 3 Commencement of Studies (to § 4 AllB)

(1) The Bachelor's programmes can only be started in the winter semester.

(2) The Master's programmes Agrobiotechnology, Insect Biotechnology and Bioresources, Sustainable Transition and Transition Management can only be started in the winter semester, the other Master's programmes in the winter or summer semester.

§ 4 Admission to the Master's degree programmes (to § 5 AllB)

(1) The prerequisites for admission are

a) for all Master's programmes of the faculty: a relevant academic Bachelor's degree or an equivalent international degree. All relevant academic Bachelor's degrees are listed in Appendix 3. The board of examiners can accept further degrees as equivalent.
b) for all English Master's programmes of the faculty: very good English language skills according to section 3.
c) for the Master's programme Sustainable Transition: a relevant academic Bachelor's degree and a minimum grade of 2.6 ("good", according to the German grading system)
d) for the Master's programme Sustainable Transition and for the Master's programme Insect Biotechnology and Bioresources: at least 5 points according to the regulations of the discipline-specific qualification as given in section 4.

(2) An admissions committee shall be appointed by the examination board for each course of study in order to examine the requirements pursuant to subsection 1. It shall consist of two professors. The respective Admissions Committee examines the applications received and prepares a proposal for a resolution for the Examination Committee. The Examination Board shall decide whether the requirements set out in subsection 1 are met.

(3) Very good English language skills are required for admission to an English-language Master's programme in the department. The English skills have to be documented by one of the following certificates:

a) TOEFL-Test IBT (internet-based test) with at least 95 points or IELTS-Test with at least grade 7 in the academic test;

b) Proof of obtaining a local higher education entrance qualification in one of the following countries: Australia, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand, USA, United Kingdom, South Africa;
c) Proof of a Bachelor's degree in English in one of the following countries: Australia, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand, USA, United Kingdom, South Africa;
d) Proof of the "UNIcert III" certificate.

The Examination Board decides on the recognition of other language certificates.

(4) For admission to the Master's degree Sustainable Transition and to the Master's degree Insect Biotechnology and Bioresources applicants have to submit a motivation letter including a description of their discipline-specific qualification within the scope of 500 words (+/- 10%). The letter will be examined by the admission committee and evaluated on a scale from 0-7 points.

- at max. 2 points are awarded for the personal motivation letter on the criteria: specific interest and knowledge of the respective degree programme

- at max 5 points are awarded for the presentation of subject-specific knowledge according to the following criteria:

a) for the Master's degree programme Sustainable Transition: experience with contents of transformation research, interdisciplinary research methods, fundamental knowledge of economy and science;
b) for the Master's degree programme Insect Biotechnology and Bioresources: Experience with the contents of entomology, biotechnology and natural product research as well as fundamental science knowledge (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology)

Section II: Studies

§ 5 Workload and Standard Period of Study (to § 6 AllB)

(1) The Bachelor's programmes have a standard period of study of six semesters and a scope of 180 CP.

(2) The Master's programmes have a standard period of study of four semesters and a scope of 120 CP.

§ 6 Modules (to § 8 AIIB)

(1) The degree programmes contain two sections: a mandatory (core modules) and a compulsory (profile modules) section.

(2) All core modules are listed in the respective table of core modules (enclosure 1 a and 1 b)

(3) The profile modules shall be chosen from the directories in enclosure 2a or 2b in this regulation. In a Bachelor's degree programme it is possible to choose up to 4 (four) core modules of another Bachelor's degree programme of the faculty 09 as a profile module. The same applies to Master's degree programmes.

(4) One of the profile modules may consist of examined and graded courses in the field of Professional and Interdisciplinary Skills (Außerfachliche Kompetenzen) to the extent of 6 CP.

(5) In the Master's programmes certain module combinations may be identified as a specialization in the diploma in accordance with Appendix 4.

(6) Students must create a profile module plan with their choice of profile modules. The profile module plan lists the profile modules and their respective allocation by semester. In order to set up a profile module plan the student can, if desired, arrange a consultation appointment with the degree programme director. The profile module plan may be changed by the student. Modules listed in the profile module plan with completed examinations and modules which are registered for the exam without the possibility to withdraw (§13 (2)) cannot be removed from the profile module plan. This means that profile modules cannot be exchanged after being registered as failed.

(7) Students may sit examinations in modules other than those they are required to take during their course of study. Credits from extracurricular courses do not count towards the calculation of the overall grade. Upon successful completion of an additional module, the respective results are listed in a separate certificate.

§ 7 Structure of the Bachelor's degree programmes (to § 7 AllB)

(1) Five courses of study with a Bachelor's of Science degree are offered:

1. Agricultural Sciences
2. Nutritional Sciences
3. Crop Biomass and Bioresources
4. Nutritional Sciences and Home Economics
5. Environment and Global Change

(2) The Bachelor's degree consists of:

1. regarding the Bachelor's programmes 1 to 4
   a) 17 core modules,
   b) 11 profile modules and
   c) a Bachelor's thesis
2. regarding the Bachelor's programme 5
   a) 15 core modules,
   b) 13 profile modules and
   c) a Bachelor's thesis

§ 8 Structure of the Master's degree programmes (to § 7 AllB)

(1) Twelve courses of study with a Master's of Science degree are offered:

1. Agricultural and Resource Economics
2. Agrobiotechnology (taught in English)
3. Nutritional Sciences
4. Information Technology in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
5. Insect Biotechnology and Bioresources (taught in English)

6. Sustainable Food Economy

7. Crop Sciences

8. Livestock Sciences

9. Nutritional Sciences and Home Economics

10. Sustainable Transition (taught in English, digital degree programme)

11. Transition Management (taught in English)

12. Environmental Sciences

(2) The Master's programme consists of:

1. regarding the Master's programmes 1 to 9, 11 and 12

   a) 8 core modules,

   b) 8 profile modules and

   c) a Master's thesis

2. regarding the Master's programme 10 Sustainable Transition

   a) 11 core modules,

   b) 5 profile modules,

   c) a Master's thesis

§ 9 Courses (to § 9 AIIB)

(1) Students register for modules in the previous semester. Students in their first semester can register for modules at the beginning of the lecture period.

(2) In modules with restricted capacity all available seats are allocated in accordance to the profile module plan (§ 6 (6)). In this procedure, students in advanced semesters are considered first until they have reached the standard study period. In case students have the same number of semesters and the module capacity offers a smaller number of seats, the selection is made by the drawing of lots.

§ 10 Internships (to § 10 AIIB)

(1) As soon as the module BP-144 or MP-196 has been entered into the profile module plan the industrial internship is mandatory. The industrial internship has to be completed independently from other modules and from the Thesis.

(2) Suitable companies or organizations for the internship who guarantee qualified supervision of the students are from the fields of Agricultural sciences, Nutritional sciences, Home Economics and Nutritional Sciences and Environmental Sciences according to the chosen course of study. The companies and organizations have to be considered qualified and have to be approved in advance by the Internship Office of the Faculty 09. In case of doubts, the Examination Board decides on the suitability.

(3) The minimum duration of the internship shall be 9 weeks. The duration of the daily work time complies with the conditions of the individual company or organization. Times of absence have to be made up, also if they are due to illness. The internship may be carried out in at maximum two different companies or organizations. In this case, one part shall have a duration of at least four weeks.

(4) In order to have the internship recognized, the student shall submit the following documents to the internship office for each section:

a) a qualified internship certificate of the company or institution stating the period of the internship and the tasks and activities carried out by the student

b) the internship report (reflection paper) on the tasks, activities, knowledge and skills acquired during the internship, which must be endorsed as accurate by the company.

§ 11 Prerequisites (to § 17 Paragraph 3 AIIB)

(1) In modules or parts of modules which are carried out as seminars, exercises or projects, regular attendance is a prerequisite of your examination. Regular participation is always a given if at least half of the course dates have been attended and no more than two classes have been missed without proper justification. In the case of further absences due to no fault of the student, the teacher shall decide whether and in what way the missed classes can be made up for: compensatory assessment or by attending other classes.

(2) Differing regulations, which further reduce compulsory attendance, can be made by the teacher in accordance with the module and agreed at the first module session.

§ 12 Module Examination (to § 18 section 7 AIIB)

The following list contains all possible forms of examinations:

a) Written examinations (see § 23 AllB): They include answering one or several questions. The exam lasts at minimum 45 minutes and at maximum of 90 minutes

b) Oral exams (see § 24 AllB): They shall be conducted by two examiners as an individual examination or as a group examination. The duration of an oral examination shall be at least 15 minutes and at maximum 30 minutes per examinee.

c) Seminar paper (see § 22 AllB): The editing time is 12 to 14 weeks.

d) Presentation: This is an oral presentation of research results possibly supported by a visual presentation.

e) Discussion: Oral statement with comments and questions;

f) Written assignment: This is a text document on a given question (.g. protocol, poster, fact sheet, portfolio) possibly with experimental objects. The editing time is 6 to 8 weeks.

g) Multimedia presentation: This is a multimedia element on a given question (e.g. video, blog, podcast) possibliy with experimental objects. The editing time is 6 to 8 weeks.

h) Working on tasks: This includes presenting the requested content in a detailed, complete and correct manner. The editing time per task is 1 to 2 weeks.

i) Performance of a lecture slot: This includes independent preparation of the meeting, moderation and follow-up of the lecture slot.

Deviations from the editing time are given in the module directory (append. 2 a and 2 b)

§ 13 Examination Periods and Deadlines (to § 25 AIIB)

(1) Examinations concluding modules shall be conducted within the stipulated examination periods. There are three examination periods:

1. As a general rule, the first examination period is in the last week of the lecture period and in the first week of the lecture-free period of a semester.

2. The second examination period is in the week prior to commencement of the lecture period of the following semester.

3. The third examination period is in the sixth week after lectures have commenced in the following semester.

(2) The students may sit their module-concluding examinations in the first or second examination period. The third examination period is only for re- and repeat examinations. The examination periods shall be determined by the Board of Examiners.

(3) The registration deadlines for the examinations are set by the Board of Examiners and are announced by the Examination Office. In the case of block modules or the provision of partial credit, the registration deadlines may be shortened or postponed by the Board of Examiners.

§ 14 Repeat Examinations (to § 19 AIIB)

If the first repeat examination is taken in the second examination period according to § 13 (1) and is not passed the student may apply for a second repeat examination after she/he has again participated in the module. The examination will then be taken in the following first examination period. This application has to be submitted to the examination office at the latest 10 days before the date of the third examination period.

§ 15 Bachelor’s and Master’s exam (to § 20 AIIB)

(1) The Bachelor’s or Master’s study programmes are considered to be passed if all modules have been awarded the grade "sufficient" or better.

(2) The overall grade results from the average grades awarded for all modules completed in accordance with § 7 (2) for Bachelor’s degrees or § 8 (2) for Master’s degrees. For this, the achieved grades are multiplied by the corresponding module credit points and its sum is divided by the total of all graded credits. The achieved grade for the Bachelor’s thesis is weighted with the factor 2.

(3) Additionally tested modules pursuant to § 6 (7) shall not be included in the calculation of the overall grade.

§ 16 Thesis (to § 21 AIIB)

(1) The thesis consists of a written component and an oral component (colloquium). The thesis shall demonstrate that the candidate is capable of independently solving a clearly defined problem from within the relevant field of study by the application of scholarly methods within a certain period of time.

(2) Those students may be admitted to the Bachelor’s thesis who can verify that they have successfully completed ten core competence modules and five profile modules. At the earliest, the Master’s thesis can be registered at as soon as six core modules have been completed. Thesis title and date of issuance shall be recorded by the examination office.

(3) The candidate is given the opportunity to suggest a topic. Upon request, the Chair of the Board of Examiners shall ensure that the candidate receives a topic within one month.

(4) The editing period for preparing the Bachelor's or Master's thesis is six months. The topic must be clearly defined in a way that it can be fully processed within a period of 360 hours for a Bachelor's thesis and a workload of 720 hours for a Master's thesis.

§ 17 Thesis – Written Part (to § 21 AIIB)

(1) The written part of the thesis has to submitted to the examiner in due time. The submission date has to be recorded. On submission of the thesis, the student has to confirm in written that the thesis has been edited independently and all sources and means of aid are given in the thesis. Furthermore, he or she must ensure that the thesis can be examined electronically on plagiarism. Especially, all parts of the thesis which are taken from publications or other sources either literally or in analogy have to be marked. In addition, the confirmation has to include that the thesis, or parts of it, have not been used for examination in another degree programme.

(2) If the thesis is not submitted in due time, it is graded as failed.

(3) The thesis is evaluated by two examiners according to § 22 (2) HHG (Hessian Higher Education Act). One of the examiners has to be a professor or an associate professor (Privatdozent) or a permanently employed academic staff member with a doctorate or a junior group leader with a doctorate (Nachwuchsgruppenleiter).

(4) The assessment of the written part of the thesis has to be povided by both examiners six weeks after submission of the written thesis. The grade is the arithmetic mean of both grades.

(5) Should a written part be graded as failed, it can be revised within three months or a second thesis can be edited on a new topic. The new topic has to be applied for within three months in the examination office. After this deadline the right to examination expires unless the students is not to blame for the delay. § 15 applies accordingly with the possibility of giving back the thesis topic if this option has not yet been used. A second repetition of the written part of the thesis is not possible.

§ 18 Thesis – Oral Part and Overall Assessment (to § 21 AIIB)

(1) If the written part of the thesis was assessed with a grade of at least "sufficient", then the student shall present the essential results employed in his/her thesis in a colloquium. The colloquium is according to §17 (3).

(2) The duration of the colloquium shall be at least 20 minutes and no more than 30 minutes for Bachelor's students. For Master's students the colloquium shall be at least 30 minutes and shall not exceed 45 minutes. The date of the colloquium is determined by the examiners.

(3) The colloquium may be repeated once if graded *failed*. This case does not permit the rewriting of the thesis.

(4) Students in the same degree programmes are entitled to attend the colloquium. This does not apply to the discussion and announcement of the examination results. Other members and affiliates of the university are admitted to the audience if the candidate does not object.

(5) The overall grade of the thesis is determined as the average obtained from grades of the written part of the thesis and the colloquium. The grade of the written part of the Bachelor's thesis shall be counted twice and the grade of the colloquium be counted single. The grade of the written part of the Master's thesis shall, however, be counted thrice and the grade of the colloquium be counted single. The thesis is deemed to be *passed* if the written part of the thesis and the colloquium are each awarded a grade of at least *sufficient*.

§ 19 Recognition of Academic Achievements (to § 27 AIIB)

(1) If study and examination achievements are recognized for lateral entrants, the grades – insofar as the grading systems are comparable – must be adopted and included in the calculation of the overall grade in accordance

with the examination regulations. In the case of incomparable grading systems, the grade “passed” is applied. A mark of recognition shall be included in the certificate.

§ 20 Entry in Force

(1) This regulation, as published in the version of the 3rd amendment resolution, comes into effect on the day after its pronouncement and applies to all students who started their degree programme in the Winter Semester 2022/23 or later.

(2) For students who started studying before the Winter Semester 20223/23 the Special Regulations for the Bachelor’s and Master’s degree programmes of the faculty 09 as of the 16th June 2019 in the version of the 6th amendment do apply but not longer than the end of the Winter Semester 2025/26 in the Master’s degree programmes, or the end of the Summer Semester 2026 for the Bachelor’s degree programmes. After these dates this regulation is no longer in effect except for the § 9. This paragraph applies to all students of the faculty 09 in the version of this regulation.

(3) Students studying according to the regulations as stated in section 2 are entitled to continue and complete their studies according to this new regulation. For this purpose a binding declaration to the examination committee has to be submitted.