

## Mitteilungen der Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen

**01.10.2012****7.36.08 No. 4**

Special Regulation for the programme in Global Change:  
Ecosystem Science and Policy

**Special Regulation for the programme in Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy  
leading to the Master of Science degree  
at Justus Liebig University Gießen and University College Dublin of 27.07.2012**

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**Index**

1 (Article 1, paragraph 1, AIB) .....	2
2 (Article 2 AIB) .....	2
3 (Article 4, paragraphs 1 and 2, AIB).....	2
4 (Article 4, paragraph 1, second sentence, AIB) .....	2
5 (Article 6, paragraph 1, Article 9, paragraph 1, and Article 11, paragraph 1, first sentence, AIB) .....	3
6 (Article 7 AIB).....	3
7 (Article 16 AIB).....	3
8 (Articles 5 and 8 AIB) .....	3
9 (Article 24, paragraph 1, AIB) .....	3
10 (Article 10, paragraph 3, and Article 25 AIB).....	3
11 (Article 13 AIB).....	4
12 (Article 15, paragraph 2, AIB) .....	4
13 (Article 18 AIB).....	4
14 (Article 20, paragraph 3, AIB) .....	4
15 (Article 21 AIB).....	4
16 (Article 23, paragraph 1, AIB) .....	4
17 (Article 25, paragraph 2, AIB) .....	4
18 (Article 26, paragraph 1, AIB) .....	4
19 (Article 26, paragraph 4, AIB) .....	4
20 (Article 26, paragraph 5, AIB) .....	5
21 (Article 26, paragraph 6, AIB) .....	5
22 (Article 28, paragraph 1, fifth sentence, AIB) .....	5
23 (Article 28, paragraph 3, AIB) .....	5
24 (Article 29, paragraph 1, AIB) .....	5
25 (Article 30, paragraph 2, second sentence, AIB) .....	5
26 (Article 31, paragraph 1, AIB) .....	5
27 (Article 32 AIB).....	6
28 (Article 33, second sentence, AIB) .....	6
29 (on Article 34, paragraph 2, AIB) .....	6
30 (Article 34, paragraph 4, AIB) .....	6
31 (Article 35, paragraph 1, AIB) .....	6
32 (Article 40 AIB).....	6

Special Regulation for the programme in Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy	01.10.2012	7.36.08 Nr. 4	S. 2
--	------------	---------------	------

Supplementing the General Regulations for modular and multi-stage study programmes (AIB) at JLU of 21 July 2004 (StA 2004, page 3154), the Faculty of Biology and Chemistry (FB 08) of Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU) and the School of Biology and Environmental Science of University College Dublin (UCD) have adopted the following Special Regulation.

### **1 (Article 1, paragraph 1, AIB)**

The Master's programme in **Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy** leads to a professional qualification (degree) and lasts 3 semesters.

### **2 (Article 2 AIB)**

On successful completion of the study programme, the Faculty of Biology and Chemistry (FB 08) at JLU and the School of Biology and Environmental Science at UCD shall award the joint degree of Master of Science (M.Sc.).

### **3 (Article 4, paragraphs 1 and 2, AIB)**

(1) To qualify for admission to the Master's programme in **Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy**, applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree in one of the following scientific fields:

- Biology
- Agricultural science
- Natural or environmental sciences

(2) On an individual basis, UCD's Examination Board may accept other study programmes as equivalent and may also subject them to specific requirements.

(3) To qualify for admission to the Master's programme applicants must have gained at least 180 ECTS credit points and an average grade of at least 2.48 or better in a Bachelor's programme (UCD grade points, see Article 26 of the JLU/UCD comparative grade table).

(4) As the entire study programme will be conducted in English, knowledge of written and spoken English is required. If the first degree course was not completed in English, applicants must provide a certificate giving evidence of their proficiency in English. The following are accepted as evidence: 600 points (paper based) and 100 (internet base) in the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or 6.5 points in the IELTS Academic Test (International English Language Testing System). The required results in other approved English competency tests may be viewed on the UCD website (<http://www.ucd.ie/>).

(5) The number of students admitted to the programme shall be based on UCD's intake capacity. If too many applications are received, students will be assessed according to the following criteria and ranked accordingly:

- Bachelor grade
- Average grade for modules in Ecology, Biology, Environmental Law and/or Mathematics/Statistics
- Relevant professional experience (e.g. in Biology or Environmental Science)
- A letter of motivation

As appropriate, students may also be admitted to the Master's programme on the basis of an entrance examination. UCD's Examination Board shall give two weeks' notice of the entrance examination, which shall be set within six weeks after the deadline for applications. The examination shall be taken before an examination committee established by the Examination Board.

UCD's International Office shall check the equivalence of qualifications using the UK NARIC procedure.

### **4 (Article 4, paragraph 1, second sentence, AIB)**

With regard to Article 3, paragraph 2, previous studies must demonstrate the following profile: broad scientific education with appropriate foundations in biology, mathematics/statistics and with a perceptible emphasis on ecology or ecology-related subjects. UCD's Examination Board may impose requirements regarding the provision of evidence of knowledge that does not appear to have been covered. Such evidence must be provided by the end of the first semester.

Special Regulation for the programme in Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy	01.10.2012	7.36.08 Nr. 4	S. 3
--	------------	---------------	------

## **5 (Article 6, paragraph 1, Article 9, paragraph 1, and Article 11, paragraph 1, first sentence, AIB)**

(1) The modules in the programme are worth

5 or 6 credit points (all modules apart from the thesis module and the work placement module); in some subject-related exceptional cases 3 credit points

30 credit points (thesis module)

20 credit points (work placement module)

(2) The contents and scope of the module shall be stipulated in the module description (Annex 2) and in the course structure (Annex 1).

(3) The programme shall include a work placement worth 20 credit points according to the module description and annex 3.

## **6 (Article 7 AIB)**

(1) The total duration of the Master's programme shall be 16 months (study and examination in compulsory, elective and optional fields including preparatory and follow-up work) and shall be worth 120 credit points. The workload will be calculated on the basis of the guidelines in each of the participating countries.

(2) As a rule, the programme shall begin in the winter semester at UCD (35 credit points: core modules 30 credit points, elective module 5 credit points). This will be followed by a work placement module (20 credit points). The summer semester at JLU will be worth 35 credit points (core modules 29 credit points, elective module 6 credit points). This is followed by the thesis module (worth 30 credit points) at either JLU or UCD.

(3) For them to be issued with a certificate of achievement in seminars, in practical sessions, in tutorials and on field trips, students must take part in all courses planned and conducted during a semester. Alternative regulations may be provided for in the module description.

## **7 (Article 16 AIB)**

By way of derogation from the AIB, the Examination Board established in accordance with UCD's regulations shall be responsible for examinations held in Dublin.

## **8 (Articles 5 and 8 AIB)**

Within the modules, admission to specific courses can be made dependent on successful completion of the intra-module examinations. This is the case, in particular, if sufficient prior theoretical knowledge is required to ensure safety in a practical exercise.

## **9 (Article 24, paragraph 1, AIB)**

For electives, performance in courses in other disciplines may be accredited up to 6 credit points following specialised advice by the corresponding study coordinator.

## **10 (Article 10, paragraph 3, and Article 25 AIB)**

(1) Examinations may take the form of written examinations, practical exercises, oral examinations, presentations (oral: seminar-style presentations; written: poster presentations) or reports and the thesis. The form of the examinations shall be stipulated in the relevant module descriptions (Annex 2). The evaluation of the examination performance is governed by Articles 28 and 29 AIB.

(2) Per examinee and subject, an oral examination shall last no less than 15 minutes and no more than 45 minutes.

(3) A written examination shall last no less than 45 minutes and no more than 180 minutes.

Special Regulation for the programme in Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy	01.10.2012	7.36.08 Nr. 4	S. 4
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### **11 (Article 13 AIB)**

The programme may only be started annually in September at UCD.

### **12 (Article 15, paragraph 2, AIB)**

Students must attend a student advisory meeting if they wish to deviate from the standard programme, change programme or change location and in other cases of doubt.

### **13 (Article 18 AIB)**

Students may propose the examiner for the Master's thesis. As far as possible, this proposal shall be accepted but shall not constitute an entitlement. The Examination Board shall confirm the name of the examiner.

### **14 (Article 20, paragraph 3, AIB)**

All modules during winter and summer semester must have been passed successfully before registering for the thesis module.

### **15 (Article 21 AIB)**

Students are automatically registered for the module examinations when they register for that module. Students must therefore take the examinations in that semester. Full particulars are given in paragraph 16. Students must register for modules no later than one week before the start of the semester. The Examination Board must ensure that the examinations can be taken within the periods stipulated in these examination regulations.

### **16 (Article 23, paragraph 1, AIB)**

(1) Once students have registered for the module, they may only withdraw from an examination without giving a reason before, at most, half the total hours of attendance indicated in the module description have elapsed. Withdrawals must be presented in writing to the relevant Examination Board. This ruling applies to no more than 5 modules. If a student withdraws from an examination without giving a reason, the date of the first repeat examination is deemed to be the new examination date. Immediately after presenting a withdrawal application, students must attend an advisory meeting with the person in charge of the module. This shall not affect the possibility of deregistering in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 2, AIB.

(2) In the event of illness leading to withdrawal from an examination, a medical certificate must be presented. The certificate must be handed in at the Examinations Office immediately after the examination. In the event of a second withdrawal from the same examination in the same module, a medical certificate drawn up by a public medical officer must be presented. On request, the Examination Board shall decide on exceptions.

### **17 (Article 25, paragraph 2, AIB)**

If the Examination Board so decides, an examination may be conducted as a group examination.

### **18 (Article 26, paragraph 1, AIB)**

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

### **19 (Article 26, paragraph 4, AIB)**

The thesis shall be written in English.

Special Regulation for the programme in Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy	01.10.2012	7.36.08 Nr. 4	S. 5
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## 20 (Article 26, paragraph 5, AIB)

The thesis topic shall be issued by the Examination Board. The thesis must be completed within 16 weeks. The topic must be such that it can be worked on within the period allowed. For good cause, the Examination Board may extend the period by up to half, providing that the extension is not the student's fault.

## 21 (Article 26, paragraph 6, AIB)

The thesis topic may be rejected once during a period of up to four weeks following its issue. The Examination Board must be given a reason for the rejection. Following the rejection, a new topic shall be issued promptly and may not be rejected.

## 22 (Article 28, paragraph 1, fifth sentence, AIB)

The written evaluation procedure for module performance must be completed within periods that allow further studies to be taken up. Four weeks are allowed for the evaluation of the last module in the study programme.

## 23 (Article 28, paragraph 3, AIB)

All work performed, within a module is included in the grading according to the weighting which is stipulated in the module description.

## 24 (Article 29, paragraph 1, AIB)

(1) Modules shall be graded in accordance with the grading scheme applicable at the universities in question (JLU and UCD). At JLU the modules shall be graded in accordance with Article 29, paragraph 3, AIB.

(2) The work placement module (20 credit points) shall be assessed, all other modules shall be graded.

## 25 (Article 30, paragraph 2, second sentence, AIB)

Students shall achieve a pass in the study programme if they obtain a pass in all compulsory modules in the course structure.

## 26 (Article 31, paragraph 1, AIB)

In order to arrive at the overall grade, the module grades at JLU shall be converted into UCD grade points in accordance with the table presented below.

The overall grade shall be calculated by dividing the total weighted grade points (grade points for each module multiplied by the credit points allocated to the module) by the total number of credit points (100).

Formula for calculating the overall grade:

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

If the resultant grade lies between  $2.0 \leq \text{overall grade} \leq 2.2$ , the JLU grade points equivalent is 5.0. Otherwise the following conversion shall apply:

JLU points = 5 x (Total grade 2.2) + 5

Comparative table of JLU/UCD grades

JLU grade points	UCD grade	UCD grade points
15	A+	4.2
14	A	4

Special Regulation for the programme in Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy	01.10.2012	7.36.08 Nr. 4	S. 6
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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 (Article 32 AIB)**

A summary table shall be drawn up in English for each student and shall contain the title of the module and the grades (ECTS grades). The overall grade shall be recorded in the transcript of records in both grading systems.

### **28 (Article 33, second sentence, AIB)**

On request to the Examination Board, records relating to an examination may be viewed within one week from the end of the examination.

### **29 (on Article 34, paragraph 2, AIB)**

(1) If the end-of-module examination or the total of the intra-module examinations leads to the module being failed, students may retake the examination twice.

(2) Repeat examinations shall be held at the end of the modules in the semester and should be completed before the start of the following semester. Repeat examinations may be written or oral. The form of the examination will be made known at the start of the module.

### **30 (Article 34, paragraph 4, AIB)**

Students shall be notified of the examination dates and repeat examination dates no later than at the start of the module. The module examination shall be taken during the course of the module. Students must retake failed module examinations within three months at the latest. The Examination Board shall apply appropriate regulations to evidenced part-time studies.

The module is finally failed if, after all retake opportunities, the performance is not given a grade of at least "sufficient" in accordance with Article 10 AIB. The study programme has thus been finally failed.

### **31 (Article 35, paragraph 1, AIB)**

Candidates who have passed the Master's programme shall receive a transcript of records within four weeks after the final examination. The transcript of records shall contain the module grades, the subject of the Master's thesis and its grades as well as the overall grade. In addition, the transcript of records shall include the study focus and, if the student so requests, the results of other than the prescribed modules (additional modules) and the number of semesters taken to complete the Master's programme.

### **32 (Article 40 AIB)**

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 September 2012.

Giessen,

Dean of Faculty 08 – Biology and Chemistry, JLU

Special Regulation for the programme in Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy	01.10.2012	7.36.08 Nr. 4	S. 7
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Dean of Science, UCD