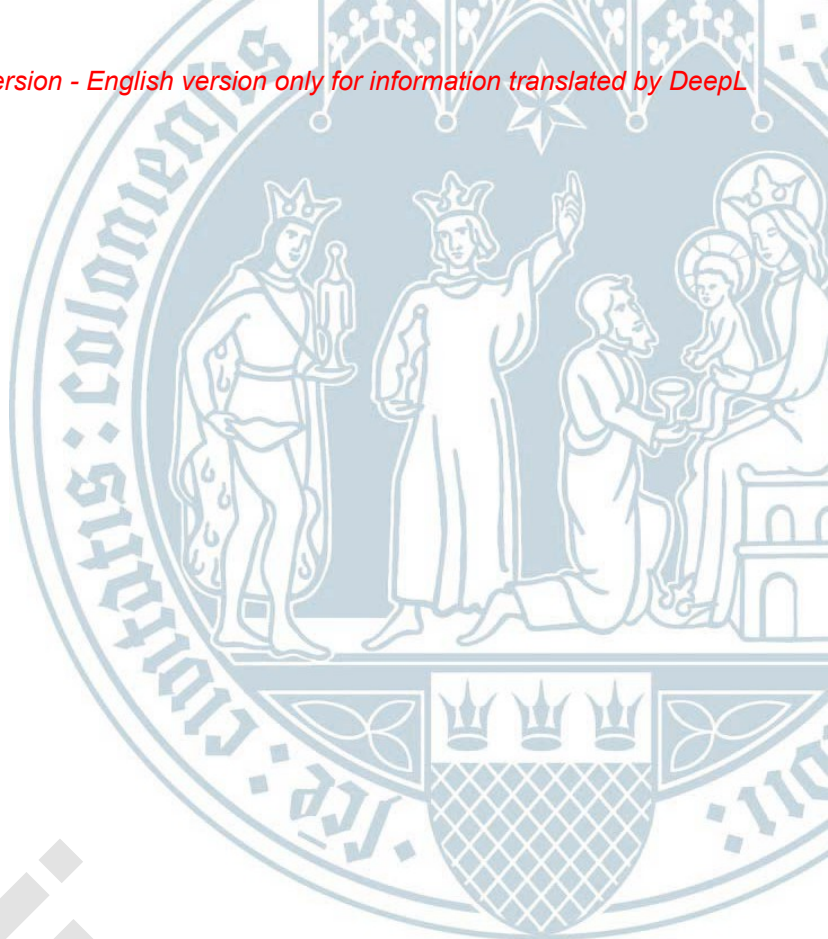


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**Examination Regulations for the Master's
Program Master of Biochemistry of the
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
of the University of Cologne**

from 22 September 2021

Universität zu Köln



Obligation to give notice of defects:

Pursuant to Section 12 (5) of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz-HG NRW), after the expiration of one year from the publication of these regulations, the violation of procedural or formal requirements of the Higher Education Act or the regulations or other autonomous law of the university can no longer be asserted, unless,

1. the order has not been properly announced,
2. the rectorate has previously objected to the decision of the body adopting the regulations,
3. the formal or procedural defect has been notified to the university in advance, indicating the violated legal provision and the fact giving rise to the defect, or
4. the legal consequence of the exclusion of objection was not pointed out in the public announcement of the order.

I M P R E S S U M

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Examination regulations for the master's program
Master of Biochemistry
of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of
the University of Cologne
from 22.9.2021

On the basis of § 2 paragraph 4 and § 64 of the Act on the Universities of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Higher Education Act-HG) in the version of the Higher Education Act (HZG NRW) of September 16, 2014 (GV.NRW. p. 547), last amended by Article 2 of the Act on the Amendment of the Higher Education Act and on the Amendment of Other Provisions in Higher Education of March 25, 2021 (GV.NRW. p. 331), the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Cologne issues the following regulations:

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§ 1

Regulatory area

¹These examination regulations govern the course of study, the examination procedure and the academic degree to be awarded for the *Master of Biochemistry degree* program at the University of Cologne. ²The contents and requirements of the modules are regulated in the appendix. ³The appendix is part of these examination regulations.

§ 2

Study Goal

¹Taking into account the requirements and changes in the professional world and the interdisciplinary references, teaching and studies provide students with the necessary professional knowledge, skills and methods in accordance with the course of study in such a way that they are enabled to carry out scientific work, to apply scientific knowledge and methods in professional practice, to critically classify scientific knowledge and to act responsibly. ¹

§ 3

Academic degree

Upon successful completion of the program, the academic degree of Master of Science, M.Sc. is awarded.

§ 4

Access to studies, start of studies, standard period of studies, study organization

(1) Access and admission to the study program are governed by separate regulations.

(2) ¹The study program can be started in the winter and summer semester. ²The standard period of study is four semesters.

(3) ¹The course of studies is organized by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences in such a way that the studies can be completed within the standard period of study. ²On the part of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, adequate support for students in the organization of their studies is ensured, among other things, through course-specific advising and through measures for the evaluation and assurance of the quality of teaching.

¹ The students acquire the necessary knowledge and competencies that enable them to exercise good scientific practice and to act responsibly in science in accordance with the "Regulations of the University of Cologne for Ensuring Good Scientific Practice and for Dealing with Scientific Misconduct" (Official Notices of the University of Cologne 24/2011) as amended.

(4) ¹A study plan is prepared and made available in an appropriate form.
²This study plan is not part of the examination regulations.

(5) The program is offered in English.

§ 5

Design and structure of the study

(1) At least 120 credit points (LP) must be earned in the course of study in accordance with § 7.

(2) ¹The program includes 9 modules according to § 6.² In detail, it includes:

a) 8 modules with 6, 12 and 18 LP,

b) the Master's thesis module worth 36 credit points.

(3) The studies are carried out according to the respective regulations in the appendix of these examination regulations.

(4) ¹If one or more modules of another faculty are offered in the degree program, the regulations of the offering faculty apply to these. ²The modules concerned are listed in the appendix.

§ 6

Modules

(1) The study program is structured in modules.

(2) ¹Modularization is the combination of subject areas into thematically and temporally related, self-contained teaching units with credit points. ²The contents of a module are to be dimensioned in such a way that they can usually be taught within one semester or within two semesters. ³In particularly justified cases, a module may extend over more than two semesters.

(3) ¹Modules usually have a scope of 6, 9, 12, 15 or 18 credit points. ²Modules with 6 credit points can usually be completed in one semester, the others in a maximum of two semesters.

(4) A distinction is made between the following module types:

a) Core Modules are designed to provide basic knowledge,

b) Advanced modules build on the basic modules and serve to deepen the acquired knowledge and skills,

c) Specialization Modules are used to define your own focus through specialization,

d) Supplementary modules are not firmly anchored in the course of studies and serve to round off the studies individually.

(5) Modules can be offered as mandatory or elective:

a) Compulsory modules are mandatory to study; they are identified as such in the appendix,

b) Elective modules are to be selected from a given list and are to be studied compulsorily in accordance with the provisions in the appendix; they are identified as such in the appendix,

(6) ¹Regulations for the individual modules as well as for the examinations concluding these modules are named in the appendix. ²These include in particular:

a) Module identification number,

b) Title of the module,

c) Module Participation Prerequisites,

d) Start of the module,

e) Cycle of the module,

f) Duration of the module in semesters,

g) Course forms of the module and attendance requirements,

h) Examination Requirements,

i) Form of examination, characteristics and duration of the module examination, examination elements, if applicable, and their passing and repetition modalities,

j) Exam language,

k) Trial Restrictions,

l) Marking as compulsory or elective module

m) Credit points of the module,

n) Prerequisites for the award of credit points,

o) for elective modules: Proportion of the credit points of the module to the credit points in the relevant compulsory elective area,

p) Weighting of the module grade for the overall grade.

(7) ¹As a rule, modules are completed with only one module examination. ²For modules worth 6 credit points, the module examination consists of one examination element. ³In the case of modules worth 9 credit points, the module examination may consist of two examination elements. ⁴In the case of modules worth 12, 15 or 18 credit points, the module examination can consist of a maximum of three examination elements. ⁵Individual modules can also be completed without an examination. ⁶The corresponding regulations are shown in the appendix.

(8) If a module examination consists of several examination elements, these usually represent different forms of examination or forms of examination according to § 12 paragraph 2 to 6.

(9) ¹Participation in modules or elements of modules may be subject to prerequisites. ²The prerequisites are shown in the appendix.

§ 7

Credit point system & general criteria for awarding credit points.

(1) ¹Successful participation in modules is certified by the award of credit points. ²Credit points are calculated according to the expected workload of the students and are a quantitative measure of the total workload of the students. ³They include the time spent attending lectures, preparing and following up on the course material (attendance and self-study), preparing for examinations, and the time spent on examinations, including final papers and student research projects and, if applicable, internships. ⁴Performance points are equivalent to credits according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System. ⁵One credit point corresponds to an average workload of approximately 30 hours. ⁶As a rule, 60 credit points are earned per academic year.

(2) ¹Credit points are awarded if the study and/or examination achievements required in the respective module have been proven or passed. ²Section 48 (5) HG applies to the acquisition of credit points in the case of leaves of absence. ³Irrespective of this, study and examination achievements from modules that have not been completed can be shown in the Transcript of Records.

§ 8

unoccupied

§ 9

Courses

(1) Courses are generally offered in the following forms:

- a) Lecture: Coherent presentation and teaching of basic and specialized scientific knowledge and methodological skills, usually in individual courses spread out over a semester.
- b) Seminar: Discursive study of basic or advanced questions.
- c) Exercise: Course accompanying a lecture or seminar. Discussion of given exercises and deepening of learning content through independent work or acquisition and deepening of knowledge by working on tasks or conducting experiments.
- d) Internship: Acquisition and deepening of knowledge by working on practical tasks or carrying out experiments. An internship can be carried out at the university (e.g. laboratory internship) or outside the university (e.g. field, company or school internship).
- e) Excursion: Course outside the university for the purpose of viewing. Students recognize aspects of subject content in reality, grasp the

The students learn about relevant factors/structures on the basis of observations and practice applying the acquired knowledge or draw scientific conclusions.

f) Language course: Course designed to acquire and/or reinforce foreign language skills.

g) Project: Action-oriented, independent work on a complex task or problem in successive phases (planning, execution, presentation of results), usually within a predefined period of time.

h) Tutorial: As a rule, this is an accompanying event to basic courses. In small groups, working techniques are practiced and basic knowledge is deepened; the complex contents of the main course are explained to the students or the theoretical contents are illustrated using practical examples.

(2) The course forms according to paragraph 1 can be offered in a combined form.

(3) ¹If it is necessary to limit the number of participants in a course because of its nature or purpose or for other reasons of research, artistic development projects, teaching, artistic practice or health care, and if the number of applicants exceeds the capacity, the number of participants may be limited in accordance with § 59 paragraph 2 HG. ²In this case, students who are dependent on attending a course at that time in their studies shall be given priority. ³The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences shall regulate the details, in particular the criteria for prioritization, in its own regulations. ⁴Within the scope of the available resources, it is ensured that, as far as possible, students do not lose any time due to the restrictions on the number of participants.

(4) ¹Admission to an examination or the awarding of credit points may require regular participation in courses in modules and their examination. ²Corresponding provisions are shown in the appendices. ³The ordering of regular attendance is only permissible if it is proportionate and the learning objective can only be achieved through regular attendance. ⁴This is usually the case if at least one of the following reasons exists:

a) The obligation to demonstrable regular participation in modules or courses results from the initiation and practice of scientific discourse, which is the primary and formative element and essential learning objective of the module or course. Scientific discourse is characterized by the presentation of scientific issues and argumentation and the student's own positioning as well as critical reflection and mutual exchange about what has been presented.

b) The obligation to provide evidence of regular participation in modules or courses results from the didactic design of the course, which, in order to achieve the learning objective, provides for permanently participative, interactive and cooperative teaching and learning formats as well as reflection on the contents and results under guidance.

c) The obligation to provide evidence of regular attendance at modules or courses is prescribed by legal regulations.

d) The obligation to provide evidence of regular attendance at modules or teaching events is mandatory for reasons of occupational health and safety and laboratory safety.

e) The obligation to provide evidence of regular attendance at modules or teaching events arises from the need to acquire practical skills and abilities that cannot be acquired in any other way, as well as to try them out, practice them and reflect on them under supervision.

f) The obligation for demonstrable regular participation in modules or teaching events results from the necessity of practicing sign language or oral or written language skills and abilities as well as their practical linguistic execution and reflection in the context of communicative and personal interaction under guidance.

g) The obligation to provide evidence of regular participation in modules or courses results from the necessity to study relevant subjects and contexts in situations and the acquisition of practical or occupational skills and abilities depending on the location and situation, including non-university places of learning.

⁵As a rule, regular attendance can be proven if the number of absences does not exceed 20%.

⁶This may be deviated from, especially in the case of internships and excursions.

⁷Corresponding regulations are shown in the appendices. ⁸§ 17 paragraph 4 applies accordingly. ⁹Regular participation in the courses as well as preparation and follow-up is recommended.

§ 10

Academic advising, subject advising, examination advising

(1) Legally binding information on examination requirements and performance is provided by the chairperson of the examination board, his or her deputy, the head of the respective examination office and his or her deputy.

(2) ¹The Central Student Advisory Service of the University of Cologne is available for general student advising, especially about study opportunities and study requirements. ²Faculty-wide advising services are available for interdisciplinary study advising. ³The Counseling Center of the Center for Teacher Education is also available for interdisciplinary counseling in the teaching degree programs.

(3) ¹Subject-specific course guidance is provided by the university lecturers and academic staff involved in the training in this course of study during office hours. ²The office hours are announced by posting in the institutes and on the internet. ³The use of individual study counseling is recommended.

(4) The General Student Committee (AStA) and the Student Council offer advice on general questions concerning the organization of studies.

(5) For the special questions of foreign students and for the preparation of a study abroad, the Department 9: International Affairs of the University of Cologne as well as

the Center for International Relations (ZiB) of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences offers consultations.

(6) In the case of study-related personal difficulties, the Psycho-Social Counseling Service of the Cologne Student Union can be called upon.

(7) Students with disabilities or chronic or mental illness can seek advice from the university administration (Service Center Inclusion) and the representative for students with disabilities or chronic illness.

§ 11

Recognition of achievements

(1) ¹Examination results obtained in courses of study at other state or state-recognized universities, at state or state-recognized universities of cooperative education, or in courses of study at foreign state or state-recognized universities, or in another course of study at the same university, shall be recognized in their entirety upon application, provided that there is no significant difference between the acquired competencies and the achievements that are being replaced; an examination of equivalence shall not take place. ²The same shall apply with regard to degrees with which courses of study within the meaning of sentence 1 have been completed. ³Recognition within the meaning of sentences 1 and 2 shall serve the purpose of continuing studies, taking examinations or commencing further studies. ⁴Failed examinations shall only be recognized to such an extent that all repetition options pursuant to Section 20 (1) have not already been exhausted.

(2) ¹On application, knowledge and qualifications acquired by means other than study may be recognized on the basis of documents submitted if such knowledge and qualifications are equivalent in content and level to the examination achievements which they are to replace. ²Pupils who, in the consensual judgment of the school and the university, display special talents may, in individual cases, be admitted to courses and examinations as young students outside the enrollment regulations. ³Upon application, their study and examination achievements will be recognized for later studies.

(3) ¹If achievements are recognized, the grades are to be adopted and included in the calculation of the overall grade, provided that the grading systems are comparable. ²If the grading systems are not comparable, the remark "passed" is included. ³It is permissible to indicate the recognition in the certificate of examination achievements.

(4) ¹Recognition of a performance achieved elsewhere is not possible if this performance has already been successfully achieved at the University of Cologne. ²This also applies if this performance has not yet been evaluated.

(5) ¹Students must submit the documents required for recognition. ²Applications for recognition must be submitted in writing or electronically. ³The chairperson of the examination board decides on the recognition. ⁴As a rule, subject representatives must be heard during the recognition procedure. ⁵As a rule, the decision must be made within three months and the student must be notified immediately by posting the recognition information in the campus management system.

in writing or electronically. ⁶If the recognition sought on the basis of an application within the meaning of paragraph 1 is refused, the applicant may request a review of the decision by the rectorate, without prejudice to the procedural or legal deadlines. ⁷The rectorate shall make a recommendation to the chairperson of the examination board on the further handling of the application.

§ 12

Forms of examination

(1) Modules are usually completed with only one module examination, which is based on the learning objectives and learning outcomes defined for the module.

(2) ¹Module examinations can be taken in written, oral, practical or combined form. ²The form and duration of the respective examination performance are shown in detail in the appendix. ³For serious reasons, the chairperson of the examination committee may determine a different form of examination upon written or electronic application. ⁴Examinations can also be conducted in the form of a video conference at the suggestion of the examiners and with the consent of the examination candidate.

(3) Characteristics of the written examination form are usually:

a) Written examination: A written examination is a piece of work to be completed under supervision, in which given tasks are to be worked on alone and independently using only the approved aids. The duration of a written exam is usually a minimum of 45 and a maximum of 180 minutes and is specified for the respective exam in the appendix. Examinations can be conducted in written or electronic form. For examinations in electronic form, the regulations in paragraph 8 shall apply in addition. Examinations may also be conducted in whole or in part in the form of an answer-choice procedure in accordance with § 13.

b) Term paper: A term paper is an independent written elaboration of a given topic that has been dealt with in the context of the relevant module. It must be submitted in written or electronic form and as a file on a readable data carrier in a format specified by the examiner; in exceptional cases, submission in electronic form is sufficient. A signed declaration with the following wording must be enclosed with the term paper: "I hereby certify that I have written this paper independently and without the use of other than the stated aids. All passages taken verbatim or in spirit from published and unpublished writings are marked as such. I assure that the submitted electronic version corresponds completely to the submitted printed version. In the case of electronic submission only, the last sentence is to be deleted.

c) An internship report is a written account and analysis of the tasks completed in an intramural or extramural internship.

d) A portfolio is a collection of several completed tasks in the broadest sense, which serves to document and reflect on the learning process and which is assessed in summary.

e) A poster presentation is a written presentation of experimental and/or research results of a scientific question, usually in A0 format with a given structure (e.g. introduction, question, results, conclusion). It serves to document and reflect on the learning process and is intended to support the oral presentation of results.

(4) Characteristics of the oral examination form are usually:

a) Oral examinations: In oral examinations, an examination candidate should demonstrate that he or she recognizes the context of the examination area and is able to classify specific questions in this context. Oral examinations are conducted by at least two examiners or by one examiner in the presence of an expert assessor. As a rule, an oral examination lasts a minimum of 20 minutes and a maximum of 45 minutes per examination candidate. Duration, essential course as well as subjects and results are to be recorded in a protocol. Examination candidates of the same degree program shall be allowed to participate in oral examinations as listeners upon request, unless an examination candidate objects. The examiner decides on the application according to the number of seats available. Participation does not extend to the discussion and announcement of the examination result.

b) Presentation: A presentation serves to present a given topic or subject matter in a limited amount of time. The examination takes place within the framework of a course in the form of a presentation with the aid of suitable presentation techniques.

c) Lecture: In the context of a lecture, independently developed aspects or perspectives of a topic are presented in a limited time with the help of suitable presentation techniques.

(5) As a rule, the practical form of examination includes: setting up and carrying out experiments as well as examinations in which an extra-textual product is created.

(6) ¹As a rule, combined examinations are: workplace-based assessments, simulations, presentations with a written paper, papers with a presentation, and project work. ²A project work is the independent processing of a task or a problem, as a rule by a group, from the planning to the execution to the documentation of the result in written, oral or other form; paragraph 7 applies accordingly. ³Combined examinations may only comprise examination performances which are suitable for checking the acquisition of different (partial) competences.

(7) In appropriate cases, examinations may also be conducted as group work or as oral group examinations at the discretion of the examiner, if the individual contribution of each individual group member is clearly recognizable, clearly delimitable and assessable.

(8) ¹An electronic examination (e-examination) is an examination that is carried out on a computer using an examination program and whose creation, execution and evaluation are supported overall by information and communication technologies. ²An e-examination is permissible if it is suitable to prove that the examination candidate has mastered the contents and methods of the module in the essential contexts and can apply the acquired knowledge and skills.

If necessary, it can be supplemented by other forms of examination. ³Examination candidates shall be given sufficient opportunity to familiarize themselves with the electronic examination system prior to the examination. ⁴The e-examination shall be conducted in the presence of a competent person, who shall prepare a record of the course of the examination. ⁵These must include at least the names of the person taking the minutes and of the candidates, the beginning and end of the examination and any special incidents. ⁶It must be ensured that the electronic data can be clearly and permanently assigned to the examination candidates. ⁷Pursuant to § 26, examination candidates must be given the opportunity to inspect the computer-based examination and the results they have achieved. ⁸Data protection regulations must be observed.

(9) ¹Any disruptions in the examination process must be reported immediately in writing or electronically to the chairperson of the examination committee or to the responsible examiner. ²The validation is excluded at the latest if more than three working days have elapsed since the examination performance.

§ 13

Tests in the answer-choice procedure

(1) ¹An examination in the answer-choice procedure exists if the minimum performance of the examination candidate required for passing the examination can be achieved exclusively by marking or assigning the given answers. ²Examinations or examination questions in the answer-choice procedure are only permissible if they are suitable to prove that the examination candidate has mastered the contents and methods of the module in the essential contexts and can apply the acquired knowledge and skills.

(2) ¹The examination questions must be unambiguously understandable, free of contradictions, unambiguously answerable and suitable for determining the knowledge of the examination candidates to be tested in accordance with paragraph 1 sentence 2. ²Variations of the same examination questions (also in the answer options) are permissible. ³The deduction of points within an examination task is not permitted.

(3) If the examiner - according to the faculty- or course-specific design of the concrete answer-choice procedure - is not at the same time the task setter, but the examiner activity is shifted from the examiner responsible according to the examination regulations to another, namely the task setter, the following paragraphs 4 to 9 additionally apply.

(4) ¹The examiner selects the examination material, formulates the questions, determines the answer options and draws up the evaluation rules and the evaluation scheme in accordance with paragraph 6. ²The requirements for passing the examination are to be determined in advance. ³Before the examination, the examiner conducts a review process in which the content and form of the questions are proofread by a second examiner.

(5) ¹The examiner can also create a pool of equivalent examination questions from which the examination candidates receive different examination questions to answer. ²The assignment is made by random selection. ³The equivalence of the examination questions must be ensured.

(6) ¹The examination is passed if the examination candidate has achieved at least 60 percent of the total achievable points. ²If the total average of the points achieved in an examination minus 12 percent of the total average is below 60 percent but above 50 percent of the total achievable points, the pass mark is calculated according to this sliding clause. ³A grading scheme that exclusively sets an absolute pass mark is not permitted.

(7) ¹The examination performances are to be evaluated as follows: If the minimum number of attainable points required to pass the examination has been achieved, the grade shall be as follows.

"very good "	if at least 75 percent,
"good "	if at least 50 but less than 75 percent,
"satisfactory "	if at least 25 but less than 50 percent,
"sufficient "	if no or less than 25 percent

of the points attainable beyond this have been achieved. ²When calculating the scores, 0.5 values are interpreted in favor of the examination candidate. ³If the minimum number of points required to pass the examination has not been achieved, the grade will be "deficient (5.0)".

(8) ¹If the assessment of examination performance reveals a conspicuous accumulation of errors in the answers to individual examination tasks, the examiner shall check the examination tasks in question without delay and prior to the announcement of the examination results to determine whether they are incorrect in relation to the requirements pursuant to paragraph 2 sentence 1. ²The tasks shall be analyzed post hoc. ³Difficulty index, discriminatory power index, reliability and distractor analysis provide indications of the quality of the questions asked. ⁴If the review reveals that individual examination tasks are faulty, these are to be reassessed or not taken into account when determining the examination result. ⁵The number of examination items to be taken into account in determining the examination result is reduced accordingly. ⁶The reduction in the number of examination papers may not be to the disadvantage of an examination candidate. ⁷If the number of points attributable to the examination papers to be eliminated exceeds 20 percent of the total points attainable, the examination as a whole must be repeated. ⁸This also applies if only part of an examination is to be taken using the answer-choice method.

(9) If an examination performance consists only partially of examination items in the answer-choice procedure, this paragraph, with the exception of paragraph 8, sentences 7 and 8, applies only to the part of the examination prepared in the answer-choice procedure.

§ 14

Exam language

¹Module examinations and, if applicable, their examination elements are usually conducted in English.

§ 15

Registration and admission to exams

(1) ¹Prior to admission to a module examination, a check is made as to whether a candidate is entitled to take the examination. ²Admission to and taking of a module examination shall be granted if the examination candidate is enrolled in the relevant degree program at the University of Cologne or is admitted as a second student, has registered for the respective module examination in due time in accordance with paragraph 4 and, if applicable, fulfills further requirements in accordance with paragraph 2 and there is no reason for refusal in accordance with paragraph 3.

(2) ¹Admission to a module examination may be linked to proof of certain prerequisites. ²If these prerequisites are coursework, they serve the acquisition of competencies and the assessment of learning status for teachers and students. ³They remain ungraded. ⁴If course work requires attendance at a course for which regular attendance is not required in accordance with § 9 Paragraph 4, students shall be given the opportunity, in justified exceptional cases, to take an alternative course work that does not require attendance at the course, provided that this is suitable for promoting the acquisition of competencies and for assessing learning levels in a comparable manner. ⁵Course credit is generally provided in the following formats: Electro- nical learning assessments, essays, exercises, homework, short papers, logs, reviews, test exams, thesis papers, and similar formats. ⁶The respective requirements for admission to a module examination are listed in the appendix.

(3) ¹Admission to a module examination is to be denied if the prerequisites according to paragraph 1 or paragraph 2 are not fulfilled, if the module examination in the same or an equivalent module eligible for recognition has already been passed at the University of Cologne, or if a deadline for repetition has been missed. ²Admission to a module examination shall also be refused if the candidate has definitively failed an examination required by the examination regulations or has lost the right to take the examination in the chosen degree program at a university within the area of application of the Basic Law; this shall apply accordingly to degree programs which have a considerable content-related proximity to the previous degree program. ³In addition, admission to an examination shall be denied if an examination candidate has been granted leave of absence in accordance with § 48 paragraph 5 HG, unless one of the exceptional cases listed in § 48 paragraph 5 sentence 4 and sentence 5 HG applies.

(4) ¹Registration is required for each module examination; without registration, there is no entitlement to participation in or assessment of the examination performance. ²As a rule, registration for a module examination must take place no later than six weeks before the examination date. ³Notwithstanding this, § 20 paragraph 7 shall apply.

(5) ¹The examination dates must be announced at the beginning of the lecture period, at the latest, however, nine weeks before the examination date by posting or on the Internet in a suitable form. ²Notwithstanding this, the following applies: In the case of oral module examinations, the examination periods must be announced at the beginning of the lecture period and the specific date at the latest two weeks before the module examination. ³Students who have been admitted to a module examination are entitled to attend a published examination date, except in cases of force majeure. ⁴Notwithstanding this, § 20 paragraph 7 applies.

(6) A minimum of three prompt examination dates are offered for the completion of an examination.

(7) Students who are enrolled in more than one degree program at the same time and who wish to take a module exam that is part of more than one of these degree programs must determine in which degree program they will take the module exam when registering for that module exam.

§ 16

Cancellation, tardiness and withdrawal from examinations

(1) ¹The deadlines for withdrawal from the module examinations shall be announced by the chairperson of the examination committee at least nine weeks before the examination date by posting a notice or on the Internet in a suitable form. ²As a rule, an examination candidate can withdraw from the module examination no later than two weeks before the respective examination date without giving reasons.

(2) ¹If an examination candidate does not take part in a module examination set in terms of time and place without a valid reason, or if he or she withdraws from the module examination without a valid reason after it has begun, the examination performance shall be deemed to have been marked with a "pass", "deficient (5.0)" or "failed". ²The same applies if an examination performance is not completed within the specified processing time. ³§ Section 19 (1) applies accordingly.

(3) ¹If a candidate fails to take part in a module examination or withdraws from the module examination after it has begun, the chairperson of the examination board may, for good cause, refrain from grading the examination performance as "unsatisfactory (5.0)" or "failed". ²The same applies if an examination performance is not completed within the specified processing time. ³The reasons given for the failure or withdrawal must be presented to the chairperson of the examination board immediately in writing or electronically and must be substantiated. ⁴In the case of illness, a medical certificate must be submitted. ⁵In cases of doubt, the submission of a medical certificate may be required; the costs will be borne by the university. ⁶The same applies in the case of proven illness of a child to be cared for by an examination candidate or a spouse to be cared for, a registered partner, a relative in the direct line and a relative by marriage in the first degree.

§ 17

Compensation for disadvantages and protective provisions

(1) The special needs of students with disabilities, chronic or mental illnesses, and students who are subject to maternity protection regulations must be taken into account in order to ensure equal opportunities for them.

(2) ¹If an examination candidate can credibly demonstrate that he or she is unable to take a module examination in the intended form or to the intended extent due to long-term or permanent illness or disability, he or she will be granted compensation for a disadvantage upon written or electronic application to the chairperson of the examination committee. ²For this purpose, the submission of a specialist medical certificate may be required. ³This applies accordingly with regard to

on deadlines and dates as well as attendance obligations for courses and academic achievements to be completed.

(3) ¹The use of the protection provisions according to the maternity protection legal provisions as well as according to the deadlines of the Federal Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (Bundeselterngeld- und Elternzeitgesetz) in the currently valid version are made possible upon application; in these cases, taking module examinations is possible despite leave of absence. ²If an examination candidate can credibly demonstrate that she is unable to take a module examination in the planned form or to the planned extent due to maternity protection regulations, she will be granted compensation for disadvantages upon written or electronic application to the chairperson of the examination committee. ³The submission of a specialist medical certificate may be required for this purpose. ⁴This applies accordingly with regard to deadlines and dates as well as participation obligations in courses and academic achievements. ⁵The application must be submitted immediately after the prerequisites have been met.

(4) ¹Special needs arising from the need for care or maintenance of the spouse, the registered partner, a relative in the direct line or a relative by marriage in the first degree shall be taken into account appropriately, in particular with regard to deadlines and dates as well as obligations to attend courses. ²The application must be submitted immediately after the prerequisites have been met.

(5) ¹The applications in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 4 must be fully justified by the examination candidate, who must provide suitable evidence. ²Applications must be submitted to the chairperson of the examination board within a reasonable period of time prior to the performance of the service. ³As long as the illness or disability is not expected to change, the compensation for disadvantages should extend to all examinations to be taken during the course of study as well as to the acquisition of participation requirements.

§ 18

Assessment of examination performance

(1) ¹Examination performances are graded by the examiners or assessed as "pass" or "fail". ²The following grades are to be used:

1 = very good: an excellent performance;

2 = good: a performance significantly above the average requirements;

3 = satisfactory: a performance that meets average requirements;

4 = sufficient: a performance which, despite its deficiencies, still meets the requirements;

5 = defective: a performance that no longer meets the requirements due to significant defects.

³By lowering or raising the individual grades by 0.1, intermediate values are formed for differentiated assessment. ⁴The grades 0.9 and below; 4.1 to 4.9 and 5.1 are excluded. ⁵An examination performance is passed if it has been graded with "sufficient (4.0)" or better or with "passed".

(2) ¹Examination performances with which this degree program is completed and examination performances in repeat examinations, in the case of which there is no possibility of equalization in the event of a final failure, as well as the Master's thesis are evaluated by two examiners; the appointment is made by the chairperson of the examination committee. ²If a graded examination is assessed by two examiners, the grade of the examination is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the two individual assessments. ³If, in the case of written examinations based on the two-examiner principle, the difference between the individual grades is more than 1.0 grade level or if only one of the two individual grades is "poor (5.0)", the chairperson of the examination committee shall appoint a third examiner. ⁴In this case, the grade is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the three individual grades. ⁵If the average is worse than "sufficient (4.0)", then, in deviation from the arithmetic mean, the examination performance is considered to be "(4.0)" if two individual assessments are "sufficient (4.0)" or better. ⁶If two individual evaluations are "poor (5.0)", the examination performance is to be evaluated as "poor (5.0)", deviating from the arithmetic mean.

(3) If a written examination that is graded "pass" or "fail" is graded by two examiners, the chairperson of the examination board will appoint a third examiner to determine the final grade if the two examiners have different grades.

(4) ¹In the case of combined forms of examination in accordance with § 12 Paragraph 6, an overall assessment of the examination performance takes place. ²In the case of grading, the grade is awarded in accordance with paragraph 1.

(5) If a module examination consists of several examination elements, the assessment is carried out in accordance with the provisions shown in the appendix.

(6) *unoccupied*

(7) ¹The overall grade of the degree program is calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the module grades and the grade of the Master's thesis according to the weighting specified in the appendix. ²The preliminary overall grade of the degree program is calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the existing grades of the successfully completed or recognized modules. ³If more modules are completed than specified in these examination regulations, the existing examination results from the compulsory modules as well as the passed examination results from compulsory elective and elective modules are used to calculate the overall grade in chronological order according to the examination date stored in the campus management system. ⁴The other elective and optional modules that have been passed are shown as additional examinations on the transcript of records.

(8) ¹Grades are shown with one decimal place and are used in this form for further calculations; all other decimal places are deleted without rounding.

(9) Scores, which are averaged values, are: from 1.0 to

1.5 = very good;

from 1.6 to 2.5 = good;

from 2.6 to 3.5 = satisfactory;

from 3.6 to 4.0 = sufficient;

above 4.0 = poor.

§ 19

Announcement of the examination results

(1) ¹The grading of examinations is generally announced to the examination candidates within eight weeks by posting the grading information in the campus management system. ²If there is a deviation from this rule, the reasons must be recorded. ³The result of an oral examination performance is communicated to the examination candidate after the examination.

(2) The notification of the final failure of an examination or of a failed Master's thesis will be formally sent to the examination candidate at the postal address stored in the campus management system or electronically and will be accompanied by instructions on how to appeal.

§ 20

Repetition of module examinations

(1) ¹Module examinations that have not been passed can be repeated. ²The number of examination attempts per module can be limited to three, irrespective of the provisions of § 21 Paragraph 12. ³Further details are regulated by the provisions in the appendix. ⁴With regard to all modules of the Master's program in which the number of examination attempts is limited to three, there are a total of two additional examination attempts. ⁵In addition, examination candidates who have earned at least 90 credit points receive one additional examination attempt. ⁶If an examination has not been passed after exhaustion of the two additional examination attempts and, if applicable, the further examination attempt according to sentence 5, the course of study has been definitively failed with the consequence of exmatriculation from the course of study. ⁷The additional examination attempts according to sentences 4 and 5 do not apply to the repetition of the Master's thesis.

(2) ¹If an examination candidate has failed a module examination for which the number of examination attempts is limited to three in accordance with Paragraph 1, Sentence 2, for the third time, the chairperson of the examination committee shall inform the candidate in writing or electronically whether it is possible to take additional examination attempts for this examination in accordance with Paragraph 1, Sentences 4 and 5.

(3) The following applies to additional examination attempts in compulsory elective modules: If an examination candidate has failed a module examination in a compulsory elective module for which the number of examination attempts is limited to three in accordance with paragraph 1, sentence 2, for the third time, additional examination attempts must be taken in the same compulsory elective module.

(4) Additional examination attempts can only be granted for a module examination if none of the examination attempts in the module in question was failed due to cheating or a breach of regulations in accordance with § 24.

(5) ¹Before taking a first additional examination attempt according to paragraph 1, it is strongly recommended to take advantage of counseling opportunities. ²For this purpose, the examination candidate receives a written or electronic invitation for consultation, which also provides information about the available consultation options.

(6) ¹If a module examination consists of several examination elements, two pass or repeat options are possible:

a) All examination elements must be evaluated as "passed" or with "sufficient (4.0)" or better. All items graded as "poor (5.0)" or better must be Examination elements of the module examination assessed as "failed" must be retaken (variant A). Paragraphs 1 to 4 apply accordingly to examination elements.

b) All examination elements of the module examination are included in the module grade according to the weighting shown in the appendix. If the module grade calculated in this way is "sufficient (4.0)" or better, the module examination is passed. If the module grade calculated in this way is worse than "sufficient (4.0)", the following points must be taken into account
"(5.0)" can be repeated until the overall module grade is "sufficient (4.0) or better. Examination elements that have been passed cannot be repeated. Module examinations according to this regulation are not subject to any attempt restriction (variant B).

²The determination of a variant is shown for each module in the appendix.

(7) In the case of repeat examinations, the chairperson of the examination committee may, at the request of the examiner, specify a different form of examination or different characteristics of the respective form of examination.

(8) In the case of repeat examinations, the deadlines pursuant to § 15 (4) and (5) may be deviated from in justified cases.

(9) The repetition of a master's thesis is carried out according to § 21 paragraph 12.

(10) The repetition of passed module examinations is excluded.

§ 21

Master thesis module

(1) ¹The Master's thesis is an examination in the form of an independently written paper, which is intended to show that the examination candidate is able to scientifically work on and reflect on a thematically limited problem from the subject area of the degree program using the required methods within a specified period of time. ²When registering for the Master's thesis, the examination candidate must specify an area of study in which the Master's thesis will be written.

(2) ¹The master's thesis is written during the course of study. ²For the master thesis 36 credit points are awarded. ³The requirements for admission to the master's thesis are shown in the appendix.

(3) unoccupied

(4) ¹The chairperson of the examination committee commissions an examiner to set the topic of the Master's thesis in accordance with § 23 Paragraph 3 and appoints another examiner for a second assessment; in exceptional cases justified by the subject matter, for example in the case of Master's theses carried out externally, a third examiner may be appointed. ²The examination candidate has the right to propose the examiner. ³The topic is communicated to the examination candidate in writing or electronically by the chairperson of the examination committee, stating the deadline by which the Master's thesis must be submitted at the latest. ⁴The date of issue of the topic is to be recorded. ⁵The topic can be returned once within two weeks of issue.

(5) ¹The processing time for the master's thesis is a maximum of 6 months starting with the issue of the topic. ²The content and scope of the Master's thesis topic must be such that it can be completed within the period specified in sentence 1. ³Upon written or electronic request, the chairperson of the examination board may grant a grace period of a maximum of four weeks; the request must be submitted to the examination office before the deadline expires. ⁴Such an individual case shall be deemed to exist in particular if there is a considerable restriction of the ability to perform which is relevant under examination law and which must be proven or in the case of circumstances which considerably impair the examination candidate in the performance of the examination, for which he or she is not responsible and which are directly linked to the content of the Master's thesis. ⁵The decision on the existence of a justified individual case is the responsibility of the chairperson of the examination committee. ⁶In the case of a decision in accordance with sentence 5, last half-sentence, the chairperson shall hear the topic proposer before making a decision.

(6) ¹The master thesis must be written in English.

(7) ¹The provisions of good scientific practice apply to the preparation of the master's thesis. ²The master's thesis may not have been submitted in the same or similar form as part of another examination. ³If this is violated, the thesis is considered to have been graded "deficient (5.0)". ⁴The decision is made by the examination board.

(8) ¹The master thesis contains a list of the aids used. ²In addition, a declaration with the following wording must be enclosed: "I hereby declare in lieu of an oath that I have written this thesis independently and without the use of other than the stated aids. ³All passages taken verbatim or in spirit from published and unpublished writings are marked as such. ⁴The work has not yet been presented in the same or similar form in the context of another examination. ⁵I assure that raw data, data analyses, experimental protocols or sample material are secured according to the principles of good scientific practice and are accessible to the head of the working group in which the master's thesis was conducted." ⁶If the affirmation in lieu of oath was made falsely, the legal consequences according to the Criminal Code may apply.

(9) ¹The master's thesis must be submitted in due time in triplicate - two printed and hard-bound copies and one read-only electronic version - to the responsible examination office; the date of submission must be recorded. ²If the Master's thesis is not submitted on time, it is considered to have been graded "unsatisfactory (5.0)".

(10) ¹The master's thesis can also be submitted in due time in electronic form (exclusively PDF/A) to the responsible examination office; the date of submission must be recorded on file. ²If the master's thesis is not submitted on time, it is considered to have been graded "deficient (5.0)".

(11) ¹The assessment of the Master's thesis is usually announced to the examination candidate within eight weeks after submission of the thesis by posting the assessment information in the campus management system. ²If this regulation is deviated from, the reasons are to be put on record.

(12) ¹A master's thesis graded "deficient (5.0)" or deemed deficient may be repeated once with a new topic in the same field of study. ²A change of the field of study is possible for the remaining attempt upon written application to the examination board. ³The requirements for the Master's thesis in this field of study must be fulfilled. ⁴The provisions according to § 24 paragraph 1 remain unaffected. ⁵The application for repetition must be made within 2 months. ⁶A second repetition of a failed master thesis is excluded. ⁷If a Master's thesis is not passed after one repetition, the course of study is definitively not passed. ⁸The repetition of a passed master thesis is excluded.

(13) ¹The notice of failure of the Master's thesis will be formally sent to the candidate by the chairperson of the examination committee to the postal address stored in the campus management system or electronically. ²The decision must be accompanied by instructions on how to appeal.

(14) The master thesis module includes a final colloquium. This takes place within 4 weeks after the assessment of the written master thesis.

§ 22

Audit Committee

(1) For the organization of the examinations and the tasks assigned by these regulations, the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences elects an examination board.

(2) The Audit Committee is composed of the following 7 voting members:

1. the chairperson from the group of university professors,
2. 3 further members from the group of university teachers,
3. 1 member from the group of academic employees,
4. 1 member from the group of employees in technology and administration,
5. 1 member from the group of students.

(3) The Audit Committee shall elect a deputy for the chairperson from among the members pursuant to subsection 2 no. 2.

(4) ¹A deputy shall be elected for each of the members pursuant to paragraph 2 nos. 2 to 5. ²The deputies shall act if the members from the relevant group are prevented from attending.

(5) The Chairperson may invite other persons, in particular deputy members, to attend meetings of the Audit Committee if this appears to be appropriate and the majority of the voting members present do not object.

(6) ¹The members and their deputies pursuant to paragraph 2 nos. 2 to 5 shall be elected by the Departmental Committee separately according to groups. ²The groups have a right of nomination. ³The members from the group of university professors, from the group of academic employees and from the group of employees in technology and administration are elected for three years, the members from the group of students for one year. ⁴Re-election is permitted. ⁵The term of office of an alternate member ends with the term of office of the corresponding member. ⁶If a member or an alternate according to paragraph 2 nos. 2 to 5 resigns prematurely, a successor shall be elected for the remaining term of office.

(7) ¹The Audit Committee constitutes a quorum if the Chairperson or his or her deputy and at least two other voting members are present. ²If the deputy chairperson chairs a meeting because the chairperson is prevented from attending, his/her deputy or his/her deputy shall attend the meeting as a voting member in accordance with paragraph 4. ³The Audit Committee shall pass resolutions by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote. ⁴In the event of a tie, the chairperson shall have the casting vote. ⁵The members of the examination committee from the group of employees in technology and administration only have the right to vote in matters of teaching insofar as they perform corresponding functions in the university and have special experience in the respective area; such experience is to be assumed in particular if the employee fulfills the examiner status according to § 65 paragraph 1 sentence 2 HG. ⁶The chairperson shall decide on the existence of these requirements at the beginning of the member's term of office and, in cases of doubt, the rectorate. ⁷The members from the student group shall only vote on pedagogical-scientific decisions, in particular on the assessment and recognition of examination achievements, the determination of examination tasks and on decisions on objections in this respect, if they fulfill the examiner status according to § 65 paragraph 1 sentence 2 HG.

(8) ¹The board of examiners ensures that the provisions of these regulations, including the appendix, are complied with. ²In particular, it decides on objections to decisions made in examination procedures. ³It reports regularly, at least once a year, to the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences on the development of the Master's examinations and the study periods, discloses the distribution of the overall grades and, if necessary, makes suggestions for amendments to these regulations.

(9) ¹The meetings of the Audit Committee are not public. ²The members and their deputies are subject to official secrecy. ³If they are not in public service, they shall be sworn to secrecy by the chairperson.

(10) ¹The members of the examination board and their deputies have the right to be present at examinations. ²The right to be present does not extend to the discussion of the examination results.

(11) The Examination Office is available to the Examination Committee for the organizational handling of the examination procedures.

(12) ¹The chairperson of the Audit Committee or, if he or she is prevented from doing so, his or her deputy, shall represent the Audit Committee, convene the meetings of the Audit Committee, chair them and implement the resolutions adopted there. ²The Audit Committee may delegate the performance of its duties to the Chairperson for all regular cases. ³In case of urgency, the chairperson may conduct a vote by circular resolution. ⁴He or she may take decisions that cannot be postponed instead of the Examination Committee; the Examination Committee must be informed of such decisions without delay; the Examination Committee may rescind the decision; any rights of third parties that have already arisen shall remain unaffected. ⁵Decisions on appeals shall be reserved for the Examination Committee. ⁶Minutes shall be taken for each meeting of the Examination Committee.

(13) The chairperson of the Examination Committee shall announce orders, the setting of dates and deadlines, and other notifications by the Examination Committee that do not only affect individual persons, with legally binding effect, by posting notices or by other suitable means.

§ 23

Examiners, assessors, electronic verification

(1) ¹The examiners are appointed from the group of university teachers and from the group of members of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences according to § 65 paragraph 1 HG. ²Examination performances may only be evaluated by persons who themselves possess at least the qualification to be determined by the examination or an equivalent qualification. ³Examiners who have left the University of Cologne may be reappointed as examiners for a period of one year after the end of the semester in which they left. ⁴Only those who have obtained a relevant degree at least at master's level or an equivalent qualification at a university may be appointed as assessors.

(2) ¹The examination board appoints the examiners and the assessors. ²It may delegate the appointment to the chairperson. ⁴The appointment of examiners and assessors shall be recorded in the records. ⁴Notwithstanding the provision in sentence 1, the following shall apply: A lecturer shall be the examiner for the course for which he or she is responsible and which he or she conducts, unless the examination board appoints an examiner otherwise.

(3) ¹The chairperson of the examination committee appoints the examiners responsible for the Master's thesis from among the professors, associate professors, honorary professors, junior professors and private lecturers. ²In justified exceptional cases, the Examination Committee decides on the appointment of further examiners who fulfill the requirements according to § 65 paragraph 1 HG. ³It may delegate the appointment to the chairperson. ⁴Examiners who have left the University of Cologne may be reappointed as examiners for the master's thesis for a period of one year after the end of the semester in which they left the University of Cologne. ⁵The examination board may extend this period upon justified request. ⁶It may transfer this decision to the chairperson. ⁷University professors from a university linked by a partnership or co-operational agreement may be appointed as examiners again upon a justified request by the university chairing a subject.

The student may be appointed as the topic writer for a master's thesis by the university lecturer representing the student. ⁸The appointment of examiners for the master's thesis must be recorded in the records.

(4) ¹The examiners shall specify the working materials and aids permitted for the examinations they conduct and shall announce these in a suitable manner in good time, at the latest when the examination date for the respective examination is announced. ²If no agreement can be reached, the examination board shall decide.

(5) ¹Upon general and announced decision of the examination board, written examination performances can be checked electronically for unmarked text copies. ²In this case, the examination candidates are obliged to submit the written examination results electronically as well and to confirm that the contents of the written and electronic versions correspond. ³The electronic verification pursuant to sentence 1 also includes the use of written examination results for the purpose of comparison with subsequent written examination results of third parties, provided that there is a factual connection between the examination results. ⁴The resolution pursuant to sentence 1 must regulate,

- a) which examination performances can be checked electronically,
- b) whether the Audit Committee makes use of an administrative assistant and, if so, who that assistant is,
- c) in which file format, in which way and at which place the electronic version is to be submitted,
- d) which criteria are used to select the audit services to be reviewed, and
- e) how long the electronic versions may be used.

⁵Notwithstanding sentence 1, electronic verification is always permissible in the event of justified initial suspicion of cheating. ⁶Notwithstanding sentence 4, the use of the electronic examination shall end at the latest at the same time as the retention period for the examination file pursuant to Section 26 (4).⁷ Without the consent of the examination candidate, any use of the electronic version by examiners or the examination board other than for the purpose of assessing or reviewing examination performance is not permitted. ⁸The result of an electronic examination may only form the basis of an incriminating examination decision if it has been confirmed by the responsible examiners.

(6) ¹Examiners are independent of instructions in their examination activities. ²They and, if applicable, the assessors are subject to official secrecy. ³If they are not in public service, they must be sworn to secrecy by the chairperson of the examination board.

§ 24

Deception, breach of order

(1) ¹If an examination candidate attempts to influence the assessment of an examination performance by deception for his or her own or another's benefit, if he or she carries aids that are not permitted in the examination or if he or she commits a misconduct in the performance of the examination.

If the candidate commits scientific misconduct during the examination, he or she is guilty of cheating. ²Non-approved aids can be confiscated by the invigilators after completion of the examination, which the examination candidate is entitled to end, with the consent of the examination candidate for the purpose of preserving evidence.

(2) ¹Depending on the severity of the deception according to paragraph 1, the board of examiners will impose one of the following sanctions on the examination candidate:

- a) a warning;
- b) the examination candidate is ordered to repeat the examination performance to which the act of cheating relates;
- c) the examination performance to which the act of cheating relates shall be deemed to have been taken with "poor (5.0)" and "failed" respectively,
- d) the examination to which the act of deception relates is declared definitively failed;
- e) the examination candidate is excluded from taking further examinations, as a result of which the examination entitlement in the course of study expires.

²A serious violation can be considered in particular in cases of the use of unauthorized aids, the (attempted) exertion of influence on the examiner or, in cases of plagiarism, in which sources are deliberately concealed by reformulating the original texts, rearranging the syntax or using synonyms. ³A particularly serious case is considered to be the extensive use of technical aids such as internet-capable cell phones, repeated acts of deception in various examinations, the organized cooperation of several persons, the adoption of an entire third-party work as one's own performance, the falsification of scientific work or the sabotage of examination work and the research activities of others.

(3) Particularly in the case of justified suspicion of plagiarism, the Examination Committee may also have further checks carried out - including electronic checks - without the consent of the examination candidates.

(4) As a consequence of an act of deception according to paragraph 1, the relevant course work shall be deemed not to have been completed.

(5) ¹Anyone who disturbs the performance of an examination can be warned by the respective examiners or invigilators. ²If the warnings are ineffective or if the disruption is serious, the candidate can be excluded from further performance of the examination. ³In this case, the examination board may assess the examination performance as "deficient (5.0)" or "failed". ⁴The reasons for the exclusion are to be recorded.

(6) ¹Before a decision is made by the examination board, the examination candidate must be given the opportunity to be heard in court. ²The examination candidate must be informed of the decision in writing without delay, the reasons for the decision must be stated, and the decision must be accompanied by instructions on how to appeal.

(7) ¹In addition, administrative offence proceedings may be initiated in accordance with Section 63 (5) HG. ²It is also a misdemeanor to intentionally attempt to influence the result of an examination for the benefit of another person.

§ 25

Invalidation of examination results, revocation of the Master's degree

(1) ¹If the requirements for admission to an examination were not met without the candidate intending to be deceptive about this and this fact only becomes known after the certificate has been issued, this defect is cured by passing the examination. ²If the examination candidate has intentionally obtained admission unlawfully, the examination board will decide on the legal consequences in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (VwVfG NRW).

(2) If an examination candidate has cheated in an examination performance and this fact only becomes known after the certificate has been issued, the examination board can subsequently withdraw the assessment for the examination performance in the performance of which the examination candidate cheated, subject to the requirements of § 48 VwVfG NRW, and impose a sanction in accordance with § 24 appropriate to the seriousness of the offence.

(3) The Master's degree may be revoked if it is found to have been obtained by deception or if essential requirements for the award have been erroneously considered to have been met.

(4) ¹The examination candidate must be given the opportunity to comment before a decision is made in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 3. ²The Examination Committee is responsible for the decision and will make its decision in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (VwVfG NRW). ³A decision is ruled out after a period of five years from the date of the certificate.

(5) ¹The incorrect certificate as well as all incorrect attachments will be confiscated and, if necessary, reissued. ²If the study program as a whole has been declared failed, the academic degree shall be revoked by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and the Master's degree certificate shall be confiscated.

§ 26

Examination file, inspection of files

(1) ¹An examination file is kept by the board of examiners for each examination candidate. ²The examination file documents in particular the examination attempts, the examination papers, the related reports of the examiners, the examination protocols, the examination results, grade calculations and copies of the certificates and documents. The examination file is kept in writing or in full or in part electronically.

(2) An examination candidate may obtain information about the status of the examination results at any time within the scope of organizational possibilities.

(3) ¹After the announcement of an examination result, each examination candidate or his or her authorized representative shall be granted access to his or her written performance in this examination and the related reports and correction notes of the examiners as well as to the minutes of oral examinations upon written or electronic request. ²Within the scope of this inspection, the examination candidate or his or her authorized representative must be given the opportunity to make either copies or photographs of the documents; any sample solutions issued may not be copied or photographed, as they are not part of the examination candidate's examination file. ³The further procedure for inspection, including an appropriate deadline for the inspection request, is regulated by the examination board. ⁴After expiry of the specified deadlines, inspection is generally only possible if an examination candidate is demonstrably not responsible for missing the deadline. ⁵As a rule, there is no further right to information.

(4) ¹The examination file shall be kept until the end of the fifth year following ex-matriculation from that degree program and then offered to the appropriate archives; if the archives refuse to accept it, it must be destroyed. ²The academic degrees awarded and a catalogued collection of the certificates and documents issued may be kept in a register until the end of the fiftieth year following the completion of the study program; sentence 1, second half-sentence applies accordingly.

(5) ¹Examination questions, correction notes and examiners' reports of which a student becomes aware may not be passed on to third parties or published if they are protected by copyright. ²The thesis prepared by a student may only be published with the corresponding consent if a blocking notice has been agreed. ³This is without prejudice to justified interests in legal protection, for example in the form of disclosure to a commissioned lawyer.

§ 27

Degree and graduation documents

(1) ¹The study program is successfully completed when all required examinations have been passed and the credit points according to § 5 have been acquired. ²A certificate is issued for the successful completion of studies. ³The certificate is signed by the chairperson of the examination board. ⁴Grades are given in words and numerically. ⁵It is issued with the date of the day on which the last examination performance was rendered or recognized. ⁶If the Master's thesis is the last examination, the date of submission applies.

(2) ¹Together with the certificate, the student receives the Master's degree certificate, which certifies the award of the degree according to § 3; this certificate bears the date of the certificate. ²The Master's certificate is signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and by the Chairperson of the Examination Committee and bears the seal of the Faculty.

(3) ¹Together with the certificate and the Master's degree certificate, a Diploma Supplement in German and English is handed out, which informs about the professional profile of the absolute degree program and the academic and professional qualifications acquired with the degree.

qualifications. ⁴The Diploma Supplement also describes the completed course of study and provides information about the faculty. ⁵Part of the Diploma Supplement is the English Transcript of Records.

(4) ¹If a student has not passed his or her studies or has definitively failed or dropped out, or if he or she changes universities, he or she will be issued a transcript of records upon request showing the examinations taken, the supplementary studies and achievements, the grades and the credit points earned. ²If applicable, it must indicate that the studies have not been passed or have been definitively failed.

§ 28

Transitional provisions

(1) These regulations apply to all students who are enrolled at the University of Cologne for the first time from the winter semester 2021/22 onwards, or who are re-enrolled after an interruption, for the Master's degree program regulated by these regulations, or who have been admitted as secondary students.

(2) ¹Students who are already enrolled in the Master's degree program in Biochemistry at the University of Cologne on October 1, 2021, or who have been admitted as secondary students, may continue their studies in their previous degree program in accordance with these regulations, while having their previous examination results recognized. ²The change must be applied for in writing or electronically to the chairperson of the examination board and cannot be reversed.

(3) The Examination Committee shall ensure that credit points already earned in modules that change in nature or scope or are dropped continue to be used to complete the degree program.

§ 29

Publication and entry into force

(1) These regulations are published in the Official Notices of the University of Cologne. light.

(2) These regulations shall enter into force with effect from 01.10.2021. § Section 28 remains unaffected.

At the same time, the regulations of February 10, 2016 (Official Notices 19/2016) and the amendment regulations of March 6, 2019 (Official Notices 25/2019) shall cease to be in force. § Section 28 remains unaffected.

Insofar as provisions of these regulations contradict the regulations of the resolution of the Rectorate of the University of Cologne on the regulation of aspects of examination law in accordance with the regulation for coping with the challenges posed to university operations by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 epidemic (Corona Epidemic University Regulation), as amended, or the resulting resolutions of the responsible examination committee, these regulations and resolutions shall take precedence over the provisions of these regulations for their period of validity.

Issued on the basis of the resolution of the Narrow Faculty of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of June 10, 2021, and after verification of legality by the Rectorate of July 20, 2021.

Cologne, 22.9.2021

The dean
of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of
the University of Cologne

gez.

University Professor Dr. Ir. Paul H.M. van Loosdrecht

Appendix 1: Specific Regulations for the Master's Degree Program in *Biochemistry* at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Cologne

Explanation: The study program is divided into

- two core modules with 6 credit points each - Lecture Series Advanced Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine and Methods Seminar Hot Topics in Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine
- three Advanced Modules, two Subject Modules with 12 credit points each and the module "Scientific Writing" with 6 credit points.
- three specialization modules, two of them with 18 credit points each (Laboratory Project Module), one specialization module with 6 credit points (Project Proposal Module)
- the **specialization module Master's thesis with final colloquium** with a total of 36 credit points.

The basic and advanced modules should preferably be completed in the first two semesters. The first three focus modules should preferably be completed in the 2nd and 3rd semester. The module Master's thesis with final colloquium should complete the degree program.

Identifier of the module	Module title	Module type	Module Participation Requirements	Start / Cycle / Duration of the module	Course forms, attendance requirements (TP, maximum absence) ^{3,4,5}	Examination requirements	Examination elements (PE) Type of examination (and weighting) Duration Prerequisite for the award of credit points (LP award) Language: English	Test restriction	Compulsory elective (WP) / compulsory module (P)	Credit points of the module	Weighting of the module grade for the overall grade
MN-BC-BCMM	Lecture Series <i>Advanced Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine</i>	Basic module	none	Start: WiSe Cycle: annual Duration: 15 weeks ¹	Lecture and tutorial	none	Examination elements: 1 Type of examination: Written exam (100%) Duration: 2 hours (written exam) LP award: Pass PE	none	P	6	10%
MN-BC-HT	Methods Seminar <i>Hot Topics in Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine</i>	Basic module	none	Start: SoSe Cycle: annual Duration: 5 weeks ¹	Lecture and seminar (TP, 20%) ³	none	Examination elements: 1 Type of examination: Homework (100 %) LP award: Passing of the PE	none	P	6	5%
MN-BC-SM (Type 1)	Subject Module ²	Advanced module	none	Start: WiSe/SoSe Rotation: half-yearly Duration: 7 weeks ¹	Lecture; practical course (TP, 20%) ³ ; Seminar (TP, 20%) ³	none	Examination elements: 3 Type of examination: Written exam (50%); Unit (25%); Internship report (25%) Duration: 60 min (written exam) 20-30 min (presentation) LP award: Passing of all PE	3	WP	12	Jew. 10%
MN-BC-SM (type 2)	Subject Module ²	Advanced module	none	Start: WiSe/SoSe Rotation: half-yearly Duration: 7 weeks ¹	Lecture; practical course (TP, 20%) ³	none	Examination elements: 2 Type of examination: Oral examination (50%); Internship report (50%) Duration: 20-30 min (oral exam); 20-30 min (presentation) LP award: Passing of all PE	3	WP	12	Jew. 10%

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MN-BC-SM (Type 3)	Subject Module ²	Advanced module	none	Start: WiSe/SoSe Rotation: half-yearly Duration: 7 weeks ¹	Lecture; practical course (TP, 20%) ³ ; Se- minar (TP, 20%) ³	none	Examination elements: 2 Type of examination: Written exam (50%); Presentation (50%) Duration: 60 min written exam 20-30 min (presentation) LP award: Passing of all PE	3	WP	12	Jew. 10%
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MN-BC-SM (type 4)	Subject Module ²	Advanced module	none	Start: WiSe/SoSe Rotation: half-yearly Duration: 7 weeks ¹	Lecture; practical course (TP, 20%) ³ ; Seminar (TP, 20%) ³	none	Examination elements: 3 Type of examination: oral examination (50%); presentation (25%); Internship report (25%) Duration: 20-30 min (oral exam), 20-30 min (presentation) LP award: Passing of all PE	3	WP	12	Jew. 10%
MN-BC-SM (type 5)	Subject Module ²	Advanced module	none	Start: WiSe/SoSe Rotation: half-yearly Duration: 7 weeks ¹	Lecture; practical course (TP, 20%) ³ ; Seminar (TP, 20%) ³	none	Examination elements: 2 Exam type: Written exam (70%); presentation (30%) Duration: 120 min Written exam 20-30 min (presentation) LP award: Passing of all PE	3	WP	12	Jew. 10%
MN-BC-SW	Scientific Writing	Advanced module	none	Start: WiSe/SoSe Rotation: half-yearly Duration: 3 weeks ¹	Seminar (TP, 20%) ³ , Exercise (TP, 20%) ⁴	Seminar, progress report	Examination elements: 1 Type of examination: Homework (100%) LP award: Passing of all PE	none	P	6	5%
MN-BC-LM	Laboratory Module ⁷	Emphasis module: Laboratory module	Successful participation in at least one Subject Module	Start: all year Duration: 12 weeks ¹	Project (TP, 20%) ⁵ , Seminar (TP, 20%) ³	none	Examination elements: 2 Type of examination: presentation(30%); internship report (70%) Duration 20-30 min (presentation) LP award: Passing of all PE	3	P	18	10%
MN-BC-PP	Project Proposal	Emphasis module: Project description	Successful participation in all modules with the exception of the Master's thesis and one other module. Module	Start: all year Duration: 3 weeks ¹	Project work	none	Examination elements: 1 Type of examination: Homework (100%) LP award: Passing of all PE	none	P	6	5%
MN-BC-MT	Master Thesis and Defense Module ⁶	Focus module: Master's thesis (MA) and final colloquium (AK)	Successful completion of all other modules in the program.	Start: all year Duration: 6 months ¹	Project ⁵	Evaluation of the MA with at least sufficient is a prerequisite for the AK	Elements of examination: 2 Type of examination: Master's thesis (75%); Final colloquium (25%) Duration: 45 min Final colloquium LP award: Passing of all PE	2 (MA) 3 (AK)	P	36	35%

¹ Preparation times before the start of the module are not included in the "Duration".

² A list of elective modules will be announced each semester.

³ The obligation to provide evidence of regular attendance at courses with a seminar arises in accordance with § 9 paragraph 4 a)

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⁴The obligation to provide evidence of regular attendance at courses with exercises arises in accordance with § 9 Paragraph 4 b) and e). Furthermore, according to § 9 paragraph 4 d) the participation in safety instructions is obligatory.

⁵The obligation to provide proof of regular participation in courses with a project arises in accordance with § 9 Paragraph 4 b) and e). Furthermore, according to § 9 paragraph 4 d) the participation in safety instructions is obligatory.

⁶The Master Thesis module consists of the Master Thesis worth 30 credit points (duration 6 months) and a final colloquium worth 6 credit points (preparation time 4 weeks).

⁷Both modules may not be taken with the same person authorized to conduct examinations.

Appendix 2. **study plan for the master program *Biochemistry* of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.**

Start of study **winter semester**

Semester	Module	Number of audit elements Audit performance	Credit Points
1	Advanced Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine (basic module)	1, written exam	6
	Subject Module 1 (Advanced module)	2-3 ¹ , Seminar, Internship Report, Klausur/oral exam	12
	Subject Module 2 (Advanced module)	2-3 ¹ , Seminar, Internship Report, Klausur/oral exam	12
2	Hot Topics in Biochemistry and Medicine (basic module)	1, Homework	6
	Scientific Writing (Advanced module)	1, Homework	6
	Laboratory Project 1 (Focus Module)	2, Internship report and presentation	18
3	Laboratory Project 2 (Focus Module)	2, Internship report and presentation	18
	Project Proposal (Focus Module)	1, Homework	6
4	Master Thesis & Defense	2, Master thesis and final colloquium	36
		Examination elements: 12-14 (plus master thesis and final colloquium) ¹	Total number of performance points: 120

¹ The number of examination elements depends on the selected Subject Module. These exist in a form with 2 and in a form with 3 examination elements

Start of study **summer semester**

Semester	Module	Number of audit elements Audit performance	Credit Points
1	Hot Topics in Biochemistry and Medicine (basic module)	1, Homework	6
	Subject Module 1 (Advanced module)	2-3 ¹ , Seminar, Internship Report, Klausur/oral exam	12
	Subject Module 2 (Advanced module)	2-3 ¹ , Seminar, Internship Report, Klausur/oral exam	12
2	Advanced Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine (basic module)	1, written exam	6
	Scientific Writing (Advanced module)	1, Homework	6
	Laboratory Project 1 (Focus Module)	2, Internship report and presentation	18
3	Laboratory Project 2 (Focus Module)	2, Internship report and presentation	18
	Project Proposal (Focus Module)	1, Homework	6
4	Master Thesis & Defense	2, Master thesis and final colloquium	36
		Examination elements: 12-14 (plus master thesis and final colloquium) ¹	Total number of performance points: 120

¹ The number of examination elements depends on the selected Subject Module. These exist in a form with 2 and in a form with 3 examination elements