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Faculty of Biology and Psychology:

Following the resolution of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology and Psychology on 21.07.2021, the Presidential Board of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen approved the sixth amendment of the examination and study regulations for the joint consecutive bi-national Master's degree programme „International Nature Conservation“ on 01.10.2021 in the version published on 31.05.2013 (Official Announcements I no. 24/2013 p. 746), last amended by resolution of the Presidential Board on 22.07.2020 (Official Announcements I no. 44/2020 p. 828) (§ 44 section 1 sentence 2 NHG in the version of the announcement dated 26.02.2007 (Nds. GVBl. p. 69), last amended by Article 4 of the Act dated 16.03.2021 (Nds. GVBl. p. 133); § 37 section 1 sentence 3 no. 5 b), § 44 section 1 sentence 3 NHG).

**Examination and study regulations
for the joint consecutive bi-national
Master's degree programme with double degree
„International Nature Conservation“
of the University of Göttingen
and the Lincoln University, Canterbury (NZ)**

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§ 1 Scope

(1) The provisions of the "General Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes as well as other degree programmes at the University of Göttingen" (APO), as amended, apply to the Master's degree programme "International Conservation" at the University of Göttingen.

(2) These regulations govern the further provisions for the completion of the consecutive bi-national Master's degree programme "International Nature Conservation".

(3) The University of Göttingen and the Lincoln University in Canterbury, New Zealand, jointly run the consecutive bi-national Master's degree programme "International Nature Conservation".

§ 2 Aims of the study; purpose of the examinations

(1) ¹The study programme prepares students to work as scientific experts in administrations, companies, research institutions and international organisations. ²Through the Master's degree programme, students acquire in-depth scientific knowledge, the ability to conduct independent, subject-specific and interdisciplinary scientific work and to apply scientific knowledge in the various specialised areas of the interdisciplinary field of nature conservation. ³The study programme embodies this interdisciplinarity by integrating ecological-biological, socio-economic and applied disciplines such as agricultural and forest sciences. ⁴It explicitly offers not only one of the specialties of the field of nature conservation, but provides students with insight into the diversity of the field. ⁵In addition, students are offered the opportunity to individually study one of these specialties. ⁶In the Göttingen study semester, the craft basics of nature conservation work, such as population and endangerment analysis and inventory methodology, are taught for this purpose in the compulsory modules. ⁷Graduates of this degree programme can apply these methods to the various ecosystems of the earth and thus independently work out practical nature conservation projects and analyze various strategies for proceeding. ⁸In these modules students learn the basic and general techniques and acquire knowledge for projects in the working and research field of nature conservation. ⁹The specialisations in the direction of forest conservation, agricultural conservation, modeling and GIS, socioeconomics, conservation policy, ecotourism and conservation biology are done through the elective modules in Göttingen and Lincoln and through the project work in the

practical semester and the master's thesis. ¹⁰The structure of this Master's programme demands a high degree of self-competence and self-organisation from the students due to the different semester structures. ¹¹Through this, they acquire the ability to comprehensively and independently plan and organize projects and to arrange themselves with the circumstances on site and to apply the learned knowledge to the different areas of nature conservation. ¹²Students of this programme are trained to be mature and responsible individuals who know how to deal with the confrontations in nature conservation projects with biological, economic and sociological aspects that must be taken into account in the elaboration and implementation of a project. ¹³The graduates can thus contribute their knowledge and competence for the benefit of nature and also for the benefit of society.

(2) The master's examination is intended to determine whether the candidates to be examined have acquired the thorough specialist knowledge necessary for the transition to professional practice, have an overview of the specialist contexts and understand how to apply more in-depth scientific methods and findings as an expert in order to work as a scientist in a specialised and international professional field.

§ 3 Academic degree

(1) ¹After passing the master's examination the participating universities award the following university degree:

- a) the University of Göttingen the university degree "Master of Science" (abbreviated: "M.Sc.") and
- b) Lincoln University the university degree "Master of International Nature Conservation" (abbreviated: "M.I.N.C.).

²The certificates awarded by the two universities will be interlocked to form a dual degree from University of Göttingen and Lincoln University.

(2) ¹The two university degrees may each be used separately. If the two degrees are to be combined, they shall be joined by a slash. ²This also applies to the abbreviated form.

§ 4 Structure of the programme; standard period of study; course of study

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

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

(3) The Master's degree programme "International Nature Conservation" is not suitable for part-time study.

(4) The programme comprises 120 credits (ECTS credits, abbreviated: C) and is divided into the following sections:

- a) one study semester at the University of Göttingen,
- b) one study semester at Lincoln University (Canterbury, New Zealand),
- c) an internship,,
- d) the master's thesis.

(5) For students enrolling for their studies in Göttingen, the programme is structured as follows:

(a) when completing the internship after the semesters of study (version A):

- Studies at the University of Göttingen (October - mid-February),
- Studies at Lincoln University (end of February - middle of June),
- Internship (end of June - October),
- Master's thesis (October - end of March).

Further details can be found in the study plan in appendix 2a

(b) if the internship is completed between the semesters of study (version B):

- Studies at the University of Göttingen (October - mid-February)
- Internship (end of February - middle of June)
- Studies at Lincoln University (end of June - October)
- Master's thesis (October - end of March)

More details can be found in the study plan in appendix 2b

(c) in case of starting studies in Canterbury at Lincoln University (version C):

- Study at Lincoln University (end of February - mid June)
- Internship (end of June - October)
- Studies at the University of Göttingen (October - February)
- Master's thesis (March - October)

More details can be found in the study plan in appendix 2c

(6) ¹Course- and examination-related achievements must be completed in compulsory, elective compulsory and elective modules. ²The module list, which also contains the module overview in the sense of § 4 section 1 sentence 1 APO, is published separately; it is part of these examination and study regulations. ³The chronological sequence of the module allocation can be individually arranged by the students - taking into account the admission requirements for individual modules or courses. ⁴A recommendation for the appropriate structure of the study programme can be found in the sample curricula attached in the appendix.

(7) ¹Students must complete one subject semester at Lincoln University in Canterbury, New Zealand. ²During their studies abroad, students must complete a total of at least 30 credits. ³The examination regulations of Lincoln University apply here.

§ 5 Internship

(1) ¹The study programme includes a mandatory internship semester including practical project work of at least 12 weeks as well as preparation and follow-up time, which is completed with a project work in text form and comprises 30 C. ²The internship is intended to strengthen the practical relevance of the university education.

(2) ¹The aim is to introduce students to the practical work they will have to perform in their later professional activities in international organisations or other institutions with international relations. ²It shall serve to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the previous studies and to reflect and evaluate the experience gained in the practical work. ³It is recommended that, if possible, the content of the internship be linked to the topic of the subsequent master's thesis. ⁴In addition, it should contribute to deepening subject-specific foreign language skills and to gaining experience abroad.

(3) ¹The coordinators of the degree programme keep a list of suitable internship places. ²Finding an internship place can be left to the students. ³The following areas are the sole responsibility of the students:

- applying for visas and clarifying and complying with visa regulations;
- ensuring health insurance and accident insurance coverage in the country of the internship;
- the financing of the internship.

§ 6 Module examinations: Registration and deregistration

(1) ¹Registration for written module examinations shall be made in electronic form within the time limit set by the examination board. ²Resignation without giving reasons (deregistration) is possible up to one day before the examination date, provided that there is a period of more than one day between the deadline for registration and the examination date. ³For the rest, deregistration is excluded.

(2) ¹Registration for oral module examinations shall be made in electronic form within the period specified by the examination board. ²Resignation without giving reasons (deregistration) is possible up to seven days before the examination date, provided that there is a period of more than seven days between the deadline for registration and the examination date. ³For the rest, deregistration is excluded.

(3) ¹Registration for practical module examinations accompanying lectures shall take place in electronic form within the period specified by the examination board. ²Resignation without giving reasons (deregistration) is possible up to two weeks before the start of the examination period - this is usually the start of the internship - if there are more than two weeks between the deadline for registration and the start of the examination period. ³Otherwise, deregistration is excluded.

(4) ¹Registration for other course-related examinations must take place at the beginning of the course. ²Registration is possible for term papers up to the issue of the term paper topic, for presentations, oral reports and co-presentations up to two weeks before the date of the presentation, provided that there is a period of more than two weeks between the deadline for registration and the examination date. ³For the rest, a deregistration is excluded.

(5) ¹For participation in modules with a limited number of participants, registration is required, which must be made via the electronic examination administration system within the deadline to be announced in an appropriate manner. ²Deregistration without a special reason is only possible within the registration period. ³Registration for a module does not include binding registration for the corresponding module examination; this may require separate registration for the module examination.

(6) ¹The courses and examinations offered in the degree programme are generally conducted in English. ²The module examinations for elective compulsory and elective modules that are exceptionally taught in German are generally also conducted in German; the module description regulates the details.

(7) Registration and deregistration shall take place exclusively electronically via the electronic examination administration system.

§ 7 Subject-specific forms of examination

In addition to the examinations permitted under the provisions of the APO, the following subject-specific examinations may be scheduled:

a) Report

In a report, the candidate should document contributions made independently in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects and present the results in text form in a professionally appropriate manner. The report is evaluated by the examiner in charge of the project.

b) Protocol

In a protocol, the candidate should document in text form contributions made independently in the planning, execution and evaluation of practical experiments and present the results in a professionally appropriate form. The protocol is evaluated by the examiner in charge of the project.

c) Seminar lecture

A seminar lecture is given on a given topic by a participant or a group of participants in the form of a short summary in text form and a lecture or an explanatory presentation to the participants of a seminar and is evaluated by the examiner who leads the seminar.

§ 8 Repeatability of examinations

(1) Students who have failed a first resit examination in a compulsory module must provide evidence of participation in a compulsory study counseling session at the subject advisory service prior to the second resit examination.

(2) ¹Exactly one module examination passed for the first time may be repeated once for the purpose of improving the grade. ²The repetition must take place within 12 months after the announcement of the first-time passing and may only be carried out within the standard period of study.

§ 9 Admission to the master's thesis

(1) Prerequisite for admission to the master's thesis is the acquisition of a total of at least 78 C from compulsory, elective compulsory and elective modules of the consecutive Master's degree programme "International Nature Conservation".

(2) ¹Application for admission to the master's thesis must be made in text form to the examination board. ²The following documents must be enclosed:

- a) evidence of compliance with the requirements referred to in section 1,
- b) the proposed topic for the master's thesis,
- c) a proposal for the first supervisor and the second supervisor,
- d) a confirmation of the first supervisor and the second supervisor in text form,
- e) a statement that it is not the case that the master's examination in the Master's degree programme "International Nature Conservation" or a comparable Master's programme at a university in Germany or abroad has been definitively failed or is considered definitively failed.

³The proposals according to letters b) and c) as well as the proof according to letter d) are dispensable if the student asserts that he or she has not found any supervisors.

(3) ¹The examination board decides on admission. ²The admission shall be denied if the admission requirements are not met or if the master's examination in the Master's degree programme "International Nature Conservation" or a comparable Master's programme at a university in Germany or abroad has been definitively failed or is considered definitively failed.

§ 10 Master's thesis

(1) ¹By means of the master's thesis, the candidate shall prove that he or she is able to work on a problem within the specified period of time using the methods of his or her field, to develop an independent, scientifically founded judgment, to arrive at scientifically founded statements and to present the results appropriately in terms of language and form. ²By passing the master's thesis, 30 C are acquired.

(2) ¹The master's thesis should normally be written in the fourth semester of the Master's degree programme. ²The preliminary topic of the master's thesis is to be agreed upon with the first supervisor to be proposed and submitted to the responsible examination board with a confirmation of the second supervisor to be proposed. ³If the candidate does not find a supervisor, the supervisor and a topic shall be determined by the responsible examination board. ⁴The candidate shall be heard on the choice of topic. ⁵The right to propose a topic does not constitute a legal claim. ⁶The topic of the master's thesis shall be issued by the Examination Office under the responsibility of the chairperson of the examination board. ⁷The date of issue shall be recorded in the files.

(3) ¹The processing time for the master's thesis is six months. ²Upon application by the candidate, the responsible examination board may, in agreement with the first supervisor, extend the processing time by a maximum of three months if there is an important reason that cannot be attributed to the candidate. ³An important reason is usually an illness, which must be reported immediately and documented by a medical certificate. ⁴A good cause also includes seasonal or climatic delays in data acquisition, as well as delays in the issuance of visas or research permits.

(4) ¹The topic can only be returned once and only within the first 4 weeks of the processing period. ²A new topic must be agreed upon immediately, at the latest, however, within 4 weeks. ³In the case of a repetition of the master's thesis, the return of the topic according to sentence 1 is only permissible if the person to be examined had not made use of this possibility during the first attempt to write the master's thesis.

(5) The master's thesis must be written in English.

(6) ¹The master's thesis must be submitted to the responsible examination office in due time and exclusively in PDF format (unprotected). ²Students who can credibly show that this is not reasonable for them will be supported by the university. ³The time of submission must be recorded in the files. ⁴When handing in the work, the candidate must assure that he or she has written the work independently and has not used any sources or aids other than those indicated.

(7) -rescinded-

(8) ¹The responsible examination office forwards the master's thesis to the first supervisor and the second supervisor as reviewers. ²Each reviewer shall assign a grade.

(9) The duration of the evaluation procedure shall not exceed four weeks.

§ 11 Examination board; responsibilities

(1) ¹The examination board consists of five members who are appointed by the respective group representatives in the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology, namely three members of the university teachers' group, one member of the staff group and one member of the students' group. ²An additional deputy shall be appointed from each group.

(2) The examination board shall elect a chairperson and a deputy chairperson from the group of university teachers.

(3) ¹The examination board may draw up recommendations for quality assurance and for necessary amendments to the examination regulations. ²Before being forwarded to the faculty councils, these shall be submitted to the responsible study commissions for their comments.

(4) The organisation of examinations at Lincoln University is governed by the examination regulations applicable at the partner university for the joint Master's degree programme "International Nature Conservation".

§ 12 Overall result

(1) The master's examination is passed if at least 120 credits have been earned and all required module examinations and the master's thesis have been passed.

(2) The overall result "With distinction" is awarded if the master's thesis was graded with 1.0 and the grade point average of all examination performances is 1.1 or better.

(3) Grades for examinations taken at Lincoln University are converted to the Göttingen grading system as follows:

Lincoln	Göttingen
A+	1
A	1
A-	1,3
B+	1,7
B	2
B-	2,3
C+	2,7
C	3
C-	3,3
D	Not passed

§ 12 a Final failure of the master's examination

In addition to the cases mentioned in APO § 16 b, the master's examination is definitively failed if

a) by the end of the 6th semester, not all 90 C have been acquired, which are required in addition to the master's thesis to pass the Master's programme, or

b) by the end of the 8th semester, not all achievements required to pass the master's examination have been successfully completed.

§ 13 Certificates and attestations

(1) ¹The candidate shall receive a certificate with appendices in accordance with the provisions of the APO without delay, as a rule within 4 weeks, regarding the overall passing of the master's examination. ²Certificate and diploma with annexes are issued in English with copies in German.

(2) In deviation from § 17 section 2 APO as well as section 1 sentence 1, the certificate with the other certificate supplements can already be issued before the interlocked Master's certificates of both universities are available.

§ 14 Study and examination advising; compulsory study advising

(1) The Central Student Advisory Service of the University of Göttingen is responsible for general student advising, in particular for inter-faculty questions.

(2) ¹Academic advising is provided by the Dean of Studies or by the academic advisors appointed by the Faculty of Biology. ²The persons responsible for the modules as well as the lecturers of the respective courses advise on special questions regarding individual modules and courses. ³The subject advisor supports the students in organising their studies and should be called upon in particular after failed examinations.

(3) Students who have failed a first resit examination in a compulsory module must provide evidence of participation in a compulsory study advising session at the departmental study counseling office prior to the second resit examination.

(4) Students should take advantage of academic advising especially in the following cases:

- after failing examinations twice,
- in case of deviations from the standard period of study,
- in case of a change of study program or university,
- in the run-up to a study stay abroad.

§ 15 Entry into force; transitional provisions

(1) These regulations shall enter into force on 01.10.2013 following their publication in the Official Announcements I of the University of Göttingen.

(2) At the same time, the examination regulations for the Master's degree programme "International Nature Conservation" in the version of the announcement of August 30, 2006 (Official Announcements 13/2006 p. 932) and the study regulations for the Master's degree programme "International Nature Conservation" in the version of the announcement of August 31, 2006 (Official Announcements 14/2006 p. 1079) shall expire.

(3) ¹Students who started their studies before the present Examination and Study Regulations came into force and were continuously enrolled in the joint consecutive bi-national Master's degree programme with double degree "International Nature Conservation" shall, upon application, be admitted to the Master's degree programme in accordance with the Examination Regulations for the Master's degree programme "International Nature Conservation" in the version published on 30.08.2006 (Official Announcements 13/2006 p. 932) as well as the supplementary study regulations for the Master's degree programme "International Nature Conservation" in the version of the announcement of 31.08.2006 (Official Announcements 14/2006 p. 1079); the application must be submitted within one year after the entry into force of these regulations. ²If, upon application pursuant to sentence 1, the examination regulations and the study regulations are to be applied in the version applicable prior to the entry into force of the present regulations, this shall not apply to the module overview, module catalog and module handbook in the case of examinations still to be taken, unless the protection of the legitimate expectations of a student requires a deviating decision by the examination board. ³A deviating decision is possible in particular in cases in which a module examination can be repeated or a compulsory or required elective module has been substantially changed or cancelled. ⁴The Examination Commission may make general regulations in this regard.

(4) ¹Students who began their studies before an amendment to these Examination and Study Regulations came into force and who have been continuously enrolled in the consecutive Master's degree programme "International Nature Conservation" since then shall, upon application, be examined according to the provisions of the version applicable before the amendment came into force; the application shall be submitted within one semester after the amendment came into force. ²If, upon application pursuant to sentence 1, the examination and study regulations in the version applicable prior to the entry into force of an amendment are to be applied, this shall not apply to the module overview and the module descriptions in the case of examinations still to be taken, unless the protection of a student's legitimate expectations requires a deviating decision by the examination board. ³A deviating decision is possible in particular in cases in which a module examination can be repeated or a compulsory module has been substantially changed or cancelled. ⁴The Examination Commission may make

general regulations in this regard. ⁵Examinations in accordance with the provisions of a version valid prior to the entry into force of an amendment shall be conducted for the last time in the fourth semester after the entry into force of the amendment.

(5) In deviation from section 4, the regulation pursuant to § 12 a shall continue to apply to students who began their studies before 01.10.2019 and have been continuously enrolled since then, in the version applicable until 30.09.2019.

Appendix: Sample curricula

a. Start of studies in Göttingen, practical semester in the 3rd subject semester

Sem. Σ C	Subject modules					
	Module	Module	Module	Module	Module	Module
1. Σ 30 C Göttingen	M.INC.1001 International Nature Conservation 6 C (Compulsory)	M.INC.1005 Population biology in nature conservation 6 C (Compulsory)	M.Biodiv.483 Nature conservation biology: Assessing Wildlife for Conservation 6 C (Compulsory)	M.INC.1006 Data Analysis for field biologists 6 C (Elective compulsory)	M.FES.721 Ecological functions of wildlife 6 C (Elective compulsory)	
2. Σ 30 C Canterbury	M.INC.ECON.615 Applied research Methods 10 C (Elective compulsory)	M.INC.ERST.606 Advanced Geographic Information Systems A 10 C (Elective compulsory)	M.INC.ERST.6230 Advanced Environmental Management Sys- tems 10 C (Elective compulsory)			
3. Σ 30 C Practical semester	M.INC.2001 Practical semester 30 C (Compulsory)					
4. Σ 30 C Göttingen	Master's thesis 30 C					
Σ 120 C	120 C					

b. Start of studies in Göttingen, practical semester in the 2nd subject semester

Sem. Σ C	Subject modules					
	Module	Module	Module	Module	Module	Module
1. Σ 30 C Göttingen	M.INC.1001 International Nature Conservation 6 C (Compulsory)	M.INC.1005 Population biology in nature conservation 6 C (Compulsory)	M.Biodiv.483 Nature conservation biology: Assessing Wildlife for Conservation 6 C (Compulsory)	M.INC.1006 Data Analysis for field biologists 6 C (Elective Compulsory)	M.FES.721 Ecological functions of wildlife 6 C (Elective Compulsory)	
2. Σ 30 C Practical semester	M.INC.2001 Practical semester 30 C (Compulsory)					
3. Σ 30 C Canterbury	M.INC.ERST.636 Aspects of Sustainability 10 C (Elective Compulsory)	M.INC.ERST.632 Economics in Environmental Policy 10 C (Elective Compulsory)	M.INC.ERST.601 Advanced Theory in Resource Studies 10 C (Elective Compulsory)			
4. Σ 30 C Göttingen	Master's thesis 30 C					
Σ 120 C	120 C					

c. Start of studies in Canterbury, practical semester in the 2nd subject semester.

Sem. Σ C	Subject modules					
	Module	Module	Module	Module	Module	Module
1. Σ 30 C Canterbury	M.INC.TOUR.603 Tourism Management 10 C (Elective Compulsory)	M.INC.RECN.626 Natural Resource Recreation and Tourism 10 C (Elective Compulsory)	M.INC.ECOL.631 Animal Behaviour 10 C (Elective Compulsory)			
2. Σ 30 C Practical semester	M.INC.2001 Practical semester 30 C (Compulsory)					
3. Σ 30 C Göttingen	M.INC.1001 International Nature Conservation 6 C (Compulsory)	M.INC.1005 Population biology in nature conservation 6 C (Compulsory)	M.Biodiv.483 Nature conservation biology: Assessing Wildlife for Conservation 6 C (Compulsory)	M.INC.1006 Data Analysis for field biologists 6 C (Elective Compulsory)	M.FES.721 Ecological functions of wildlife 6 C (Elective Compulsory)	
4. Σ 30 C Canterbury	Master's thesis 30 C					
Σ 120 C	120 C					

d. Summer semester in Göttingen for students enrolled at the partner university Lincoln University

Sem. Σ C	Subject modules				
	Module	Module	Module	Module	Module
Σ 30 C Göttingen	M.Biodiv.408: Primate ecology (Elective compulsory) 6 C Written exam/lecture	M.FES.122 Ecological Simulation Modelling (Elective compulsory) 6 C Protocol/Lecture	M.INC.1004 Protected Areas (Compulsory) 6 C Term paper	M.Biodiv.482 Nature conservation biology: Field studies in conservation biology (Elective compulsory) 6 C Protocol/Lecture	M.FES.321 Ecopedology of the tropics and subtropics (Elective compulsory) 6 C Term paper/Written exam
Σ 30 C	30 C				