

Information on applying for a Master's degree – Higher semester

If you are interested in applying for admission to a higher semester of one of our Master's degree programmes (regular Master's degree or a Master of Education), please note the various application deadlines:

<https://uol.de/en/students/application/deadline>

You will be admitted to a higher semester if:

- you meet the admission requirements of the respective Master's degree programme, as evidenced by your application documents (a completed relevant first degree, usually a Bachelor's degree, is required in all cases), **and**
- you have already completed semesters in the same Master's degree programme ***)**
or
- you have already obtained credits as part of a different Master's degree programme, and these can be recognised by the University of Oldenburg's Examinations Office ****)** **or**
- you already took Master's modules during your completed Bachelor's degree programme and have sufficient transferable credits (usually 30 credits; in exceptional cases and with sufficient reason, at least 22 credits) **and**
- if places are available on degree programmes with admission restrictions. For open-admission degree programmes, you will be guaranteed a place if all the above-mentioned requirements are met.

This means:

***)** If you were already enrolled in the same Master's degree programme, you will be placed in the subsequent semester. In this case, you **must** apply for the higher semester, regardless of whether you have obtained at least 22 credits towards your Master's degree.

For example:

- You were already provisionally enrolled in the Master's degree programme and were de-registered from this programme because you did not submit your Bachelor's degree on time.
- You were already enrolled in the same Master's degree programme (one or more semesters) and you are resuming your studies after an interruption.
- You were previously enrolled in the same Master's degree programme at another university and would like to continue studying the same degree programme at the University of Oldenburg.

In these cases, you may not re-apply for the first semester!

****)** If you were already enrolled in **a different Master's degree programme** and have obtained sufficient transferable credits from this programme (usually 30 credit points, but at least 22 credit points), you **can** apply to be admitted to a higher semester.

Or if you **already took Master's modules** during your Bachelor's studies and you have sufficient transferable credits (usually 30 credits; in exceptional cases and with sufficient reason, at least 22 credits), you **can** also apply to be admitted to a higher semester.

You must prove that you have obtained sufficient transferable credits by submitting an official grade transcript issued by the relevant Examinations Office along with your application.

However, if you only wish to have individual modules credited, and do not want to be placed in a higher semester, we recommend applying for the first semester (if this is an option). In this case, your application can be processed more quickly. If you are allocated a place to start in the first semester, once you have enrolled you can contact the Examinations Office directly to have your previously completed modules recognised.

For example:

- You want to switch to a different degree programme, e.g. from one subject to a different subject, or from a Master of Education to a regular Master's degree programme.
- You have completed the Bachelor's degree and have already obtained the required number of credits from Master's modules. Since it is not possible to start your preferred Master's degree programme in the summer semester, you should apply to be admitted to the higher semester so that you do not have to disrupt your studies.

Recognition of previously completed examination components

At the University of Oldenburg, previously completed examination components are only recognised as binding **after enrolment**.

When allocating places for degree programmes with admission restrictions or for enrolment in open-admission degree programmes, the Examinations Office issues a preliminary estimation of the number of transferable credits. The Admissions Office uses this as a basis for placing you in the relevant semester. Your previous examination components are only officially recognised by the Examinations Office or the relevant examining board once you have enrolled in your new degree programme.

To apply for a higher semester, you must always submit the following:

- your application form (online application) **and**
- your application to have your previously completed examination components/modules recognised (if you were not enrolled in the same degree programme) **and**
- your university degree certificate **as well as**
- all relevant application documents for the Master's degree programme you are applying for, which are listed on the application form.

Allocating places on Master's degree programmes with admissions restrictions:

If there are more applications than free places available in the higher semester, these places will be allocated to applicants in the following order:

- a) applicants for whom a rejection of admission on personal grounds would mean particular hardship
- b) applicants in the same or a comparable degree programme
 - ba) applicants who are or have been enrolled at another German university or an institution for higher education in another member state of the European Union or in another state party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area
 - bb) applicants with German nationality or an equivalent nationality with regard to the admission regulations who are or have been enrolled at another foreign institution for higher education

Within each of the three groups of applicants, admission is determined based on:

- the result of the Bachelor's examination or an equivalent examination in the event of an equal result
- social reasons, in particular family and economic reasons, which are important for choosing the place of study **and**
- in cases which are still equal, the final decision is made by drawing lots.

Other important things to know...

➤ How and when will I find out if my application was successful?

As soon as a decision has been made on your application, you will receive a notification (admission or rejection) in the application portal. You will receive an email, sent to the verified email address, to inform you that the decision has been published in the portal. If you obtained your university degree abroad and you applied via uni-

assist, we will notify you of the decision directly via email, sent to the verified email address.

If you receive a letter of acceptance and wish to accept the place, please enrol before the deadline stated in the notification and submit the requested documents. If you do not wish to accept the place, you do not need to do anything; you will then remain enrolled in your previous degree programme.

The date from which you can expect to receive a decision depends on a wide variety of factors, so, unfortunately, we are unable to provide any concrete information on this.

➤ **What happens if my application is rejected?**

If you are not admitted to your desired degree programme, you will automatically remain enrolled in your previous degree programme, provided you have re-registered for the next semester in the usual way; i.e., by paying the semester fees on time.

➤ **De-registration**

If you are enrolled at the University of Oldenburg, you do not need to be de-registered to apply to switch programmes; you will remain enrolled in your current degree programme for the time being. If you are admitted, you will be transferred to the new degree programme when you accept your place.

If you are enrolled at another German university, you are advised to wait to de-register until you have received notification of your admission to the University of Oldenburg.