

**Examination Regulations**  
**for the Degree Programme in Water and Coastal Management**  
**at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg**  
**(MPO-WCM)**

**Dated 17.08.2023\***

**- Unofficial Version -**

***This is an unofficial English translation, based on the German  
"Prüfungsordnung für den Studiengang „Water and Coastal Management“  
an der Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg"***

***The German document published in "Amtliche Mitteilungen der Carl von Ossietzky Universität  
Oldenburg" is the legally binding one.***

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\* There may be transitional arrangements for this version of the Regulations which could also affect you and your studies. Please check the official version of the Regulations or amendments to the Regulations (section II) in the official University bulletin, *Amtliche Mitteilungen* at <https://www.uol.de/amtliche-mitteilungen/>.

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## **§ 1**

### **Study goals**

1) In the course of their studies, students acquire comprehensive and science-based knowledge and skills applicable to the management of seas and coasts as well as to the catchment areas of rivers (Water and Coastal Management), as well as related competences in analysis, monitoring and decision support. In the Master's programme, students acquire the technical, methodological and social skills that are essential for a qualified professional activity and scientific work. Upon successful completion of the Master's programme, students will have acquired the ability to work scientifically, and will be capable of performing complex environmental management tasks in a constantly changing professional field. Furthermore, graduates will be able to communicate their knowledge and the results of their work to experts and laypersons in a manner appropriate to the intended audience.

2) The international nature of the scientific community requires not only a firm command of specialist content, but also good communication skills, especially in English. Solving scientific problems leads students to develop the ability to engage in interdisciplinary cooperation and present the results of their own work and that of others.

## **§ 2**

### **Purpose of the examinations**

The purpose of the examinations is to verify that graduates have achieved the goals formulated in § 1, have familiarized themselves with the methods and results of research in selected areas of Water and Coastal Management, and have gained practical experience in these fields.

## **§ 3**

### **University degree**

Once all examinations have been successfully completed, the School of Computing Science, Business and Law (School II) of the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg will award a Master of Science degree (MSc). To this end, School II will provide a degree certificate with the date of the transcript (Annex 1 A). Upon request, School II will also issue an English-language version (Annex 1 B).

## **§ 4**

### **Duration and structure of the academic programme**

1) The degree programme in Water and Coastal Management (MSc in Water and Coastal Management) is jointly offered by the Universities of Oldenburg and Groningen (Netherlands). It is a scholarly, practice-oriented degree programme based on a Bachelor's degree in a single-subject or interdisciplinary degree programme at a university. The programme is divided into four semesters. The standard period of study is two years. Students are expected to acquire 30 ECTS credit points per semester, with one ECTS corresponding to an average workload of 30 hours. In total, the programme comprises a workload of 120 ECTS (awarded in accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System). The first two semesters are completed at the University of Oldenburg, the third and fourth semesters is completed at the University of Groningen.

2) The content of the programme is taught in 25 compulsory, elective and optional compulsory modules offered in Oldenburg or Groningen. The modules impart the systematic foundations of knowledge required for Water and Coastal Management at an advanced level and enable students to compensate for differences in prior knowledge.

3) The coursework for the Master's thesis phase, to be completed at the University of Groningen, consists of the modules: wcm290 Planning Theory, Environmental and Infrastructure Planning (EIP); wcm300 Interactive Workshop; and Master's thesis (mam). The number of ECTS they carry corresponds with their workload.

4) The programme content is taught in modules that usually carry 6 ECTS, which are awarded if the student has 'passed' the module in accordance with § 8.

5) The coursework and examinations should represent a workload that allows the students to successfully pass the required examinations within the standard period of study.

## **§ 5**

### **Content and classification of the modules**

1) The usual duration of the modules is one semester. If the length of a project or didactical and professional considerations require this, a module can have a maximum duration of two semesters.

2) When the courses are announced, descriptions of each course will be disseminated. These module descriptions will name the person or persons responsible for the module and the examiners and co-examiners. They will also specify all substantive and formal requirements for the module and the examination.

3) Any member of the University of Oldenburg's teaching staff holding a PhD or doctorate and teaching full-time may be the module coordinator. Teaching staff from a university affiliated with the University of Oldenburg through a cooperation agreement can also take responsibility for modules.

4) The Master's programme is divided into different areas of study, which reflect the interdisciplinary character of the degree programme. Each area of study comprises a number of modules:

The foundation course of the programme at the University of Oldenburg is the module: wcm110 Case Study (12 ECTS), which is completed during the first two semesters.

This is followed by an advanced phase in the first year of study (at least 48 ECTS), which is structured as follows:

- Modules assigned to the subject area planning provide knowledge and skills in the field of spatial planning and development (at least 18 ECTS, at most 30 ECTS),
- modules belonging to the field of Science, providing knowledge and skills in the field of environment and ecology (at least 6 ECTS, at most 18 ECTS), and
- modules in the field of Socioeconomics that provide knowledge and skills in the field of social science and economics relevant to spatial and environmental management (total of at least 6, at most 12 ECTS).

5) In the courses, a distinction is made between compulsory and optional compulsory courses. Compulsory courses must be followed by all students. Optional compulsory courses offer students opportunities to choose and prioritize.

6) All classes are held in English.

7) After the range of courses have been announced, in well-founded cases of exception and with the permission of the Academic Commission concerned, the determination of the type and number of courses can derogated from.

8) The option is available to take modules with a maximum of 12 ECTS in another MSc or MA degree programme in a related subject area, either at the University of Oldenburg or at an affiliated university (e.g. the University of Bremen) that has a cooperation agreement with Oldenburg, on the condition that the required capacity is available.

## § 6

### **Recognition of examinations and accreditation of extracurricular competences**

- 1) The competent Examining Board shall decide on the recognition of examinations or accreditation of skills acquired outside higher education at the request of the student. The request must be made to the Examinations Office. Section 12.3.6 shall remain unaffected.
- 2) Examinations or a related degree programme at a university or equivalent institution for higher education in Germany or another European country will be recognized without a special equivalence assessment.
- 3) Examinations in another degree programme shall be recognised provided there are no substantial differences in terms of the skills acquired. The overall situation must be taken into account in deciding whether modules are to be recognised. The level, scope, quality, profile and learning results must be assessed as part of the recognition. Fundamental differences must be verified by the university.
- 4) Knowledge, skills and competencies acquired outside university degree programmes can be accredited provided that they are adequately demonstrated and are equivalent in terms of content and level to the skills objectives of the study modules against which they are to be credited. It is also possible to partially accredit further and advanced qualifications based on quality-assured equivalence assessments. Up to 50% of the credits to be acquired may be awarded in this manner. If it is not possible to sufficiently determine the equivalence of the knowledge, skills and/or competences with regard to the relevant competence objectives on the basis of the evidence submitted, a reasonable review (typically 15 to 20 minutes) of the knowledge, skills and/or competences to be accredited can be carried out by a module coordinator to allow the examination committee to reach a decision with reference to the documents submitted. The review can relate to several modules if the accreditation of several content-related modules has been requested.
- 5) For recognised or accredited examinations, the grades are adopted, provided that the grade systems are comparable. Grades from an incomparable grade system are converted according to the Bavarian formula. If it is not possible to convert examination results achieved elsewhere, the examination will be recognised or credited with a “pass”, notwithstanding Section 16. Recognised or accredited examinations will be included in the academic transcript. Additional factual and legal information can be obtained from the information portal for the recognition of foreign educational attainments (anabin). Deviating provisions based on agreements with foreign universities shall remain unaffected.

## § 7

### Examining Board and academic examination office

1) An Examining Board is formed that organises the examinations and undertakes the tasks specified in these examination regulations. The Examining Board decides on all matters relating to examinations, unless otherwise stipulated in these examination regulations, and in particular ensures that the provisions of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG) and these examination regulations are complied with. The Examining Board is administratively supported by the Examinations Office in fulfilling its tasks; the Examinations Office shall in particular keep the examination files.

2) The members of the Examining Board and their deputies are appointed by the School Council of School II - Computing Science, Business Administration, Economics and Law.

3) The Examining Board comprises:

- three professors or university lecturers,
- a member of academic staff involved in teaching,
- and a student of this degree programme
- as well as one deputy for each of the above.

The member of professors or university lecturers of School V will be ordered of the School Council of School II – computer science, economics and jurisprudence – on recommendation of School V – mathematic and natural sciences.

A teaching Member of the Master's programme in Water and Coastal Management of professors or university lecturers of the University of Groningen should be a part of the Examining Board to function as an advice. This member will be ordered and send by the University of Groningen.

An employee of the Examinations Office shall also attend the meetings of the Examining Board as an advisory member. A subject representative from any subject in question may be consulted in an advisory capacity on subject-related issues. The subject representative is a person to be designated by the Examining Board who belongs to the respective subject, is professionally competent and has a qualification that is at least equal or equivalent to the qualification established by the examination (Section 15.4 Higher Education Framework Act). In appeals procedures pursuant to Section 20, it is compulsory to call upon a subject representative, unless a member of the Examining Board with voting rights already has the respective qualification of a subject representative.

In recognition or credit transfer procedures as defined in Section 6, the Examining Board may delegate decision-making powers, in individual cases or for the duration of its term of office, to a subject representative from the subject in which the recognition or credit transfer is to be decided upon in terms of content (subject representative for questions of recognition and credit transfer).

4) Members and deputy members of the Examining Board are appointed for a period of two years, apart from student members and his/her deputy who are appointed for one year. The period of Office starts each 1. April of a year.

5) The professors/university lecturers who are members of the Examining Board shall appoint the

Chair, and the professors/university lecturers or academic staff who are members of the Examining Board shall appoint the Deputy Chair.

6) The Examining Board may transfer powers, which can be revoked at any time, to the Chair or Deputy Chair.

7) A report is made about meetings of the Examining Board. In this are recorded the main aspects of discussions and decisions of the Examining Board.

8) The Examining Board reaches his decisions with the majority of the valid submitted votes. Abstentions are equal to not submitted votes. The vote of the Chairperson is decisive when there is a balancing of the votes. Student members only have an advisory role in decisions regarding the assessment or recognition of examinations or the accreditation of skills acquired outside higher education. The Examining Board is quorate, when the majority of the members and the Chairperson or his/her deputy are in attendance. At least two of the presented members have to be professors or university lecturers.

9) Members of the Examining Board have the right to attend examinations as observer.

10) Examining Board meetings are not public. Members of the Examining Board and their deputies are bound to secrecy concerning their office. Insofar as they are not in public service, they are obliged to secrecy by the Chair.

## **§ 8**

### **Examiners and co-examiners**

1) The module examinations are the conducted by the members of this, or another, university or equivalent scholarly institute of higher education, who are authorized examiners and responsible for the module in question. Retired professors or professors relieved of their duties also have the right to conduct examinations. Members of a non-university research institution can be appointed as supervisors of a Master's thesis if they are proposed by a lecturer of the University and approved by the responsible Examination Committee. At least one supervisor of a Master's thesis must be a member of the University who is an authorized examiner.

2) Only persons who have at least the qualification established by the examination, or an equivalent qualification, may be appointed as examiners or co-examiners.

3) Module examinations are usually marked by an examiner. In modules involving several teaching staff, panel examinations can be conducted in accordance with § 11, para. 6.

## **§ 9**



## **Admission to modules and module examinations**

- 1) A module may be attended by students of the Master's degree programme in Water and Coastal Management at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, unless the requirements of § 16 paragraph 1 sentence 3 are not given. Anyone who attends a module is also admitted to all examinations related to this module.
- 2) Students must register for a module examination in writing or in electronic form, at the latest one week before the module examination. Up to one week before the examination date, students can withdraw from this examination without giving reasons to the Examinations Office. Thereafter, withdrawal from an examination is only possible if valid reasons are recognized.
- 3) If a resit examination of a module at the University of Oldenburg falls into a semester, in which the student is studying at the location Groningen and if this semester is claimed to be a vacation semester, the following special provision applies: The student is allowed to resit his\*her examination during the vacation semester and he\*she gets the credit points in retrospective with regard to the respective semester in Oldenburg. This regulation does not apply to free-attempts.

## **§ 10**

### **Forms and contents of the module examinations**

- 1) Annex 3 of these examination regulations documents the types and content of the examinations of the modules to be completed in the Master's programme in Water and Coastal Management.
- 2) When the courses are announced, module descriptions will be provided for each module. In the module descriptions, the formal and substantive requirements for the modules and examinations are specified and the persons responsible for the modules are named. If there are several options for the type and number of examinations, the examiner will announce the specific examination at the beginning of the corresponding course.
- 4) The examinations relate to the modules and are set alongside the study programme. Depending on the type of module, examinations may consist of written examinations, oral examinations, papers, seminar papers, project reports, presentations, a portfolio or other assignments.
- 5) All module-related examinations and their marking take place in the same semester as the module concerned. This does not apply to two-semester modules.

## **§ 11**

### **Types of module examinations**

1) The types and numbers of module examinations are set out in Annex 3 to these Examination Regulations. Module examinations can take various forms:

1. A written examination (para. 5)
2. An oral examination (para. 6)
3. A formal presentation (para. 7)
4. A seminar paper (para. 8)
5. A project report (para. 9)
6. A presentation (para. 10)
7. A portfolio (para. 11)
8. Another form of examination (para. 12)

2) Module examinations in the form of group examinations are permitted. The performance of a student in a group examination must fulfil the requirements of the group examination as well as meeting the standards for an individual examination. For this purpose, the student's individual contribution must be clearly identified (using references to sections, paragraphs or other objective criteria) so that it can be individually marked.

3) The type and method of module examination should be appropriate to the competences conveyed by the module. The assessment of the student's performance in the examination should be justified by reference to the main considerations of the assessment decision.

4) A module examination can also consist of individual partial assignments, which are provided in the courses belonging to the respective modules.

5) In a written examination, the student should demonstrate under supervision that he or she is able to carry out an assignment in a limited time, with limited access to resources and by using the usual methods of the subject area. The time allowed for a written examination is usually two hours at the study location Oldenburg and three hours at study location Groningen.

6) The time allowed for an oral examination is usually 30 minutes. Generally, an oral examination takes place in English in front of two examiners (panel examination) or one examiner and one expert co-examiner, as an individual examination or a group examination for up to five students simultaneously. Before the mark is determined, the co-examiner's assessment is consulted. The main elements of the examination, the assessment of the student's performance and the considerations leading to the mark are recorded in minutes. These are signed by the examiner and co-examiner.

7) A formal presentation includes:

1. an independent and in-depth written analysis of a problem arising from the context of the

course, including and evaluating relevant literature and

2. an oral presentation, usually 15 minutes long, on the work and its outcomes, followed by discussion.

8) A seminar paper is an independent and in-depth text that fulfils a subject-specific or interdisciplinary assignment, usually 15 pages long.

9) A project report is a written documentation of tasks performed in a project within the University or a non-university project, comprising a critical evaluation that clearly identifies how the tasks were accomplished. Examiners may also demand a final oral presentation.

10) A presentation is an oral presentation of at least 15 and at most 30 minutes that discusses a topic on the current state of science, using appropriate methods and media.

11) A portfolio comprises a maximum of five academic performances (e.g. a report, a thesis paper, a review, a learning diary, an abstract or exercises). Assignments defined in para. 1, nos. 1 to 6 are not permitted within a portfolio. The portfolio is assessed as a whole.

12) Other forms of examination, such as internet projects, learning diaries and learning assessments are also possible.

13) From the types of examinations listed in Annex 3 and the module descriptions, the persons responsible for the module will select the appropriate type of examination to be taken for the successful completion of a module. How the examinations are designed in detail is documented in the module descriptions.

## **§ 12**

### **Compensation for students with a disadvantage and regulation of protection**

1) If a student demonstrates plausibly that he or she is unable to take examinations or academic performances due to a disability or chronic health condition, either entirely or in part, in the prescribed form or time, the Examining Board must grant, upon request, appropriate disadvantage-compensation measures. Measures such as a change in the external examination conditions, an extension of the working time, the performance of the examination in another equivalent form, and the provision of technical aids particularly come into consideration.

2) If a student demonstrates plausibly that he or she is unable to take examinations or academic performances due to care activities of close relatives or the care of a child of his or her own, either entirely or in part, in the prescribed form or time, the Examining Board may grant appropriate measures to compensate for disadvantages. The safeguarding provisions of the Maternity Protection Act, as well

as the federal parental allowance and parental leave (Bundeselterngeld- und Elternzeitgesetzes) remain unaffected.

- 3) The provision of suitable evidence may be requested to establish credibility.
- 4) Details on operational principles and procedure can be regulated in a guideline.

### **§ 13**

#### **Public access to oral examinations**

Students who intend to undergo the same examination as well as other members of the University who assert their legitimate interest are, if enough space is available, admitted as listeners during oral examinations (§ 12, para. 6). This does not extend to the consultation on the examination result and its announcement to the candidate. At the request of a candidate, the listeners are excluded according to sentence 1.

### **§ 14**

#### **Failure to attend, missed deadlines, withdrawal, fraud and violation of regulations**

- 1) An examination component is deemed failed if a student, without valid grounds,
  1. fail to appear on the date of an examination,
  2. withdraws after the start of the examination or
  3. does not resit the examination within the designated time limit.
- 2) The grounds for withdrawal or non-attendance must be reported to the Examination Committee without delay in writing and be credible; the examination component will otherwise be assessed as failed. Deregistration or a leave of absence are not in themselves valid reasons. In the case of illness, a doctor's certificate is required. If the reasons given are accepted, a new date, usually the next regular examination date, is scheduled. In this case existing examination results will remain valid.
- 3) If the candidate fraudulently attempts to influence the result of his/her examination by deceit or by other unauthorised means, the examination will be graded as a fail. Before the decision of the Examination Committee in accordance with paragraph 1 above, the candidate is given the opportunity to be heard. Until the decision of the Examination Committee, the candidate will continue the examination unless the invigilator decides that provisional exclusion of the student is essential for the proper continuation of the examination. In particularly serious or repeated cases of fraud, the Examining Committee may prevent the student from continuing the Master's programme. In this case, the Master's programme will be definitively failed.

4) If the deadline for an examination component is not met, and no valid reasons are given, the examination component will be assessed as failed. Paragraph 2 sentences 1 to 4 will accordingly. In cases in which the deadline cannot be met for valid reasons, the Examination Committee will decide whether to allow a deferral of the submission date, to take the delayed submission into account when marking the assignment or to issue a new assignment. This decision will be guided by the principle of equal opportunity and by the precedence of academic achievements over compliance with procedural rules.

## **§ 15**

### **Assessment of the examination performance**

1) Each module examination, partial module examination and the Master's degree final module is assessed and, in most cases, given a mark. A marked module examination will be considered to have passed if at least the mark 'sufficient' is attained. If an examination is not given a mark, it must be graded 'passed' or 'failed.' The examiners must carry out the assessment within 12 weeks and forward the results to the Academic Examinations Office.

2) The Academic Examination Office maintains an ECTS account for every student. To the extent that organizational capacity and data protection rules allow, students are given access to their accounts.

3) The student's examination performance is assessed by the examiners according to the following marking scale:

1 = Very good: an outstanding performance

2 = Good: a performance significantly above average requirements

3 = Satisfactory: a performance which corresponds in all respects to average requirements

4 = Sufficient: a performance that despite its shortcomings meets the minimum requirements

5 = Failed: a performance that due to considerable shortcomings no longer meets the requirements

4) The marks may be increased or decreased by 0.3 for a differentiated assessment, but the grades of 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3 are not permitted.

If the module examination consists of partial assessments, the mark of the module examination is calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the marks of the passed partial assessments that form this examination. They are specified and weighted in the module descriptions and in Annex 3. If no weighting is specified in Annex 3, the partial assessments will be weighted equally. The mark for the module will be determined by the examiners.

The grades are as follows:

with an average of up to 1.50	very good,
with an average of over 1.50 and up to 2.50	good,
with an average of over 2.50 and up to 3.50	satisfactory,
with an average of over 3.50 and up to 4.00	sufficient,
with an average of over 4.00	fail.

When determining the mark in accordance with sentence 1, only the first two decimal places after the decimal point are taken into account. All other digits are deleted without rounding.

5) For the evaluation of modules that are provided at Groningen, the Dutch marking standards apply. The marks are then converted according to the Bavarian Formula to the marking scale mentioned in paragraph 3.

#### **§ 15 A**

##### **Good academic practice**

When submitting written assignments, including the Master's thesis, the student must give written assurances that he or she produced and designed the work independently, has used no sources or aids other than those specified, and has followed the general principles of scientific work and publications, as laid down in the Regulations governing the Principles for safeguarding good academic practice at the Carl von Ossietzky University. Written examinations are exempt from this rule.

#### **§ 16**

##### **Resits of module examinations and free attempts**

1) Module examinations failed at the study location Oldenburg can be retaken twice; at the study location Groningen usually once. The Examining Board of the „Environmental and Infrastructure Planning“ Master's programme will decide whether to allow a second resit. If the module examination in the last permitted resit is marked as 'failed' or if it is deemed to have failed, then the student has definitively not passed the respective module examination. In consultation with the person responsible for the module, a student may resit an examination in a different form.

2) If the module examination of a compulsory module in the second resit is assessed as 'failed' or is deemed to have failed, then the student has definitively not passed the Master's programme. The student will also have definitively failed the Master's degree programme if he/she has failed three optional compulsory module examinations and after exhaustion of all opportunities to resit them.

- 3) First resit examinations should be taken during the course of the next semester at latest. Subsequent resit examinations should be taken at the latest during the next academic year.
- 4) Unsuccessful attempts to complete an examination in the same degree programme, in one of the selected subjects at another university, at an equivalent institute of higher education in the Federal Republic of Germany or in the European Higher Education Area will be considered as resits under paragraph 1.
- 5) At the student's request, he or she may be allowed to resit an examination as soon as possible within a year (and within the standard period of study) in an attempt to obtain a higher mark. This is referred to as a free attempt to improve grades. In such cases, the better result counts. If no date is offered within a year, the next possible date applies. Likewise, at the first possible date, written examinations that have not been passed can be considered as not taken. This is referred to as a free attempt. The options of a free attempt and a free attempt to improve grades will not apply in the case of resits. In the cases mentioned in § 14, para. 3, a free attempt will not be allowed.

## **§ 17**

### **Invalidity of the examination**

- 1) If fraud is committed during an examination this does not become known until after a transcript is issued, the Examination Committee may retroactively adjust the grades for the examinations in which the student committed fraud and declare the examination totally or partly failed.
- 2) The student shall be given the opportunity to discuss the matter with the Examination Committee before a decision is taken.
- 3) The incorrect transcript will be confiscated and replaced by a correct transcript or statement. Along with an incorrect examination transcript, the Master's certificate must also be confiscated if the examination was declared 'failed' due to fraud.
- 4) If the conditions for admission to an examination had not been met and the candidate had not sought to be deceitful about this, and this fact becomes known only after the mark has been awarded, this shortcoming will be remedied by passing the examination. If the student obtained admission deliberately and wrongfully, the Examination Committee will decide on the withdrawal of unlawful administrative decisions in accordance with the relevant legal provisions.

## **§ 18**

### **Calculation of the overall mark and the ECTS mark**

(1) When marking, the grading scale shown in § 15, para. 4 is to be used. For a more differentiated assessment, § 15, para. 4, sentence 1 can be used. The overall grade is calculated as the arithmetic mean, weighted by the credit points, of the section grades for 'General principles', 'Planning', 'Science', 'Socioeconomics', 'Section specialisation' and 'Master's thesis phase'. The section grades are calculated as the arithmetic mean of the graded modules weighted by the credit points of the respective area.

2) Apart from the overall mark at the end of the degree programme, an ECTS mark is calculated, which supplements the absolute mark by adding a relative ranking. The ECTS mark shows how the individual performance of the student relates to the achievement of the other students in the programme. Graduating students receive the following ECTS mark:

- A for the best 10 percent
- B for the next 25 percent
- C for the next 30 percent
- D for the next 25 percent
- E for the next 10 percent

3) As a rule, the overall grades of the last six semesters (cohort) before the date of graduation serve as the basis for determining the ECTS mark. An ECTS mark is calculated if the cohort includes at least 20 graduates.

## **§ 19**

### **Access to examination records**

On request, after completing a module examination, a student is entitled to view the written examination papers, the examiner's comments, and the examination records. The inspection request must be submitted to the Examination Committee no later than one year after receiving the examination certificate or the notification of a failed examination. The Examination Committee will determine the place and time of the inspection.



## § 20

### Appeals procedures

- 1) An appeal can be made against a decision based on the assessment of an examination component (assessment decision) within one month of notification of the corresponding examination decision according to Section 68 ff. of the Administrative Procedures Code (VwGO).
- 2) The Examining Board of the “Environmental and Infrastructure Planning” Master’s program will take a decision on the appeal. Before taking a decision, the Examining Board will inform the examiner of the appeal so that they can review the grading. If the examiner changes the grade as a result of the appeal, the Examining Board will uphold the appeal. Otherwise, the Examining Board will review the assessment decision on the basis of the examiner's opinion, in particular to see whether
  - a. The examination was conducted in a proper manner
  - b. The grading was based on incorrect information
  - c. General marking principles were adhered to
  - d. An acceptable solution substantiated by consistent and sound arguments was judged to be wrong
  - e. The examiner was influenced by irrelevant considerations
  - f. The same procedure applies if an appeal is lodged against an assessment by more than one examiner.
- 3) The competent Examining Board of the “Environmental and Infrastructure Planning” Master’s program may appoint a reviewer to carry out the review in accordance with para. 2 sentence 4. The reviewer must have a qualification that is at least equal or equivalent to the qualification established by the examination.
- 4) The Examining Board shall appoint another person authorised to conduct examinations pursuant to Section 13 and not previously involved in the assessment of this examination to reassess the examination component if
  - The competent Examining Board Finds a breach according to para. 2 sentence 4 and
  - Has not already upheld the appeal at this stage of the proceedings and
  - the examiner does not change their assessment decision accordingly if the type of examination does not allow for a reassessment, the examination shall be retaken
- 5) An appeals procedure cannot lead to a lowering of the examination grade.

## § 21

### Admission to the Master’s thesis and acceptance of the Master’s thesis

- 1) Admission to the Master’s thesis at the University of Groningen is based on enrolment in the affiliated Master’s degree programme in Environmental and Infrastructure Planning. It is envisaged that the Master’s thesis will usually be written at the University of Groningen with the participation of an

examiner from the University of Oldenburg. For the orientation of the students, the eligibility requirements are listed in paragraphs 2 to 4. Candidates are admitted to the Master's thesis if

- they have successfully completed the module 'Case Study' in accordance with § 5, para. 4 or have provided evidence of equivalent coursework (in accordance with § 6), and
  - have successfully completed modules of the advanced phase in accordance with § 5, para. 4 that represent a total of at least 42 ECTS or have provided evidence of equivalent coursework (in accordance with § 6).
- 2) The following documents must be attached to the application for admission to the Master's thesis:
- a) a proposal for the two examiners
  - b) a proposal for the topic of the thesis
  - c) a statement on any definitively failed attempts to pass a Master's examination in the same subject, or components of such an examination, at a university or equivalent school of higher education in the Federal Republic of Germany or the European Higher Education Area. Candidates must also state whether they are currently engaged in an examination procedure.
- 3) The Board of Examiners of the "Environmental and Infrastructure Planning" Master's programme will decide on admission. Admission will be denied if
1. the admission requirements have not been met,
  2. the documents are incomplete, or
  3. another Master's examination has been definitively failed within the same degree programme at the University or within a related degree programme at another university or equivalent institution for higher education in Germany or in the European Higher Education Area.
- 4) The Board of Examiners of the "Environmental and Infrastructure Planning" Master's programme will decide on the acceptance of the Master's thesis. The prerequisite for acceptance is proof of successful completion of all modules required for the study location Groningen in accordance with § 5, para. 4, with the exception of the Master's thesis.

## **§ 22**

### **The Master's thesis**

- 1) The Master's thesis is intended to show that the student is able to independently handle a problem using scientific methods within a specified period of time. The topic and task of the Master's thesis must correspond with the examination purpose and the allotted time stated in paragraph 5. When the topic is approved, the nature of the task and the assignment must have previously been determined. The topic of the Master's thesis can only be changed once and only within the first two months of the

time allotted.

2) The topic of the “Environmental and Infrastructure Planning” Master’s programme may be assigned and supervised by lecturers who are authorized to perform examinations in accordance with § 12, para. 1. It will be determined after the candidate has consulted with the first supervisor. The Examination Committee approves the topic of the Master’s thesis and appoints two reviewers, one of whom is the supervisor. The Board of Examiners of the Master’s programme in Environmental and Infrastructure Planning of the University of Groningen is responsible.

3) The Master’s thesis is to be written in English. At the student’s request, and if both reviewers agree, it is possible to write the thesis in another language.

4) The Master’s thesis can be produced as group work (up to two students). In order to be assessed as an examination component, the individual student’s contribution must be clearly identifiable and assessable with references to sections, page numbers or other objective criteria, and be in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 1.

(5) The time allotted to complete the Master’s thesis corresponds to the number of ECTS (20 ECTS). The time from the approval of the topic to the submission of the Master’s thesis is usually six months. Exceptionally, and in individual cases, the Board of Examiners may extend the allotted time by up to two months.

6) The Master’s thesis must be submitted to the responsible Academic Examination Office by the due date. The date of submission must be documented.

7) The thesis will usually be assessed by both examiners within eight weeks of submission.

8) In a final oral presentation that is open to all members of the University, the student must present the findings of his/her Master’s thesis and thereby demonstrate that he or she is able to deal with interdisciplinary and problem-related questions from the field of studies independently and in a scientific manner and to comprehensibly present the knowledge gained.

9) The final presentation will usually be made and supervised by the examiners at end of the Master’s thesis phase and should not exceed 60 minutes.

## **§ 23**

### **Assessment of the Master’s thesis**

1) The modules of the Master’s thesis phase are supervised and assessed by lecturers in Groningen.

The Master's thesis will be assessed and marked in writing by the first examiner and the second examiner, who will state their reasons and considerations for the assessment decision. In the case of group work according to § 22, para. 5, the independent share of each candidate within the overall work will be assessed. The reasoning is recorded with the examination work in the examination file. The final presentation as well as the assessment and marking usually take place within a period of eight weeks after the submission of the Master's thesis.

- 2) The Master's thesis has passed if both examiners have graded the work as at least sufficient.
- 3) The mark for the 'Master's thesis' module is based on both parts of the module. The weight of the Master's thesis is 90 percent and that of the final presentation 10 percent.

## **§ 24**

### **Resubmission of the Master's thesis**

- 1) The Master's thesis may be resubmitted once if it was assessed as 'failed' or was deemed to have failed. A second resubmission is not possible. A change of topic for the resubmission is only allowed if this option was not used for the first thesis submission.
- 2) The new topic of the Master's thesis will be issued within an appropriate period, usually within three months of the assessment of the first thesis.

## **§ 25**

### **Overall result**

- 1) The degree programme has been successfully completed when 120 ECTS have been obtained and all module examinations including the Master's thesis module have been passed.
- 2) The overall mark will be awarded the honour 'passed with distinction' if the overall result as defined in § 15, para. 3 is between 1.0 and 1.1.

## **§ 26**

### **Diplomas and certificates**

- 1) A transcript will be issued without delay to confirm the passing of all modules required for attaining the Master's degree certificate, if the condition under § 25, para. 1 is met (see example of transcript in Annex 2). The date of the transcript is the day on which the last of the modules was passed. At the graduate's request, the diploma and the certificate will also be issued in English. Further a diploma

supplement will be issued.

2) If a student has definitively failed the Master's degree programme in Water and Coastal Management, the chair of the Examination Committee will issue a written notice to this effect.

3) If the student leaves the University or changes his or her degree programme, a transcript can be issued, which is listing the examinations and their assessments as well as the ECTS assigned. In the case of paragraph 2, the certificate is issued, which records that the Master's examination has been definitively failed.

**Annex 1 a: Master Degree Certificate (German)**

Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg

- Fakultät für Informatik, Wirtschafts- und Rechtswissenschaften -

**Masterurkunde**

Frau/Herr\* .....

geboren am ..... in .....

hat den Master-Studiengang Water and Coastal Management an der Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg mit der Gesamtnote..... erfolgreich abgeschlossen.

Ihr/Ihm\* wird der Hochschulgrad

Master of Science (MSc.)

verliehen.

Siegel Oldenburg, den .....

\_\_\_\_\_  
Die Dekanin/Der Dekan\*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Die/Der\*) Vorsitzende des  
Prüfungsausschusses des  
Masterstudiengangs Water  
and Coastal Management

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notenskala: mit Auszeichnung, sehr gut, gut, befriedigend, ausreichend.

\* Zutreffendes einsetzen.



## Annex 2 a: Master Examination Certificate (German)

Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg

- Fakultät für Informatik, Wirtschafts- und Rechtswissenschaften –

### Zeugnis

Frau/Herr\* .....

geboren am ..... in .....

hat den Master-Studiengang Water and Coastal Management an der Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg mit der Gesamtnote ..... erfolgreich abgeschlossen.

Die Masterthesis mit dem Titel („EINTRAG DES TITELS“) wurde bewertet mit: .. (NOTE eintragen)

Liste der Module mit Noten.

Siegel Oldenburg, den .....

Die/Der\* Vorsitzende des  
Prüfungsausschusses Water and Coastal Management

.....

---

Notenskala: mit Auszeichnung, sehr gut, gut, befriedigend, ausreichend.

\* Zutreffendes einsetzen.



**Annex 2 b: Master Examination Certificate (English)**

Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg

- School of Computer Science, Business Administration, Economics and Law -

**Master Examination Certificate**

Ms/Mr\* .....

Date of birth ..... Place of birth .....

has successfully completed the Master's degree programme in Water and Coastal Management at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg with the overall mark of .....

The Master's thesis entitled [INSERT TITLE]  
was graded as: [INSERT MARK]

List of modules with marks.

Stamp                      Oldenburg, .....

Chair of the Examination Committee of the  
Master's Degree Programme in Water and Coastal Management

.....

\_\_\_\_\_

Marking scale: With Distinction, Very Good, Good, Satisfactory, Pass

\* Please insert what is appropriate and delete what does not apply.

### Anlage 3 to § 11 Abs. 1: Modules offered

Module label	Module type	Type and quantity of courses	CP	Type and quantity of module examination
<b>Section General Principles</b>				
wcm110 Case Study	Compulsory	1 PR, 1 SE	12	A project report and a formal presentation
<b>Section Planning</b>				
According to individual determination: total minimum 18 KP, maximum 30 KP				
lök320 Sustainable Spatial Development in Europe	Compulsory optional	is based on the regulations for the module lök320 in Annex 7 to the Examination Regulations for Master's Degree Programs in the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences	6	is based on the regulations for the module lök320 in Annex 7 to the Examination Regulations for Master's Degree Programs in the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
wcm140 Planning and Management of Coastal Zones and Sea Basins	Compulsory optional	1 SE, 1 L	6	A seminar paper or a formal presentation or a written examination or an oral examination
wcm150 Selected Topics in River and Coastal Development	Compulsory optional	2 EX	6	A seminar paper or a formal presentation or a portfolio
wcm310 GIS for WCM	Compulsory optional	2 SE/TU	6	A portfolio
wir880 Marine and Maritime Law	Compulsory optional	2 SE	6	A written examination or a formal presentation or an oral examination or a seminar paper or a project report or a portfolio
<b>Section Science</b>				
According to individual determination: total minimum 6 KP, maximum 18 KP				
lök210 Practice of Nature Conservation	Compulsory optional	is based on the regulations for the module lök320 in	6	is based on the regulations for the module lök320 in Annex 7 to the Examination Regulations for Master's Degree Programs in the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

		Annex 7 to the Examination Regulations for Master's Degree Programs in the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences		
wir905 Environmental Sciences	Compulsory optional	1 L, 1 SE	6	A seminar paper or a formal presentation or an oral examination
wcm190 Selected Topics in Environmental Sciences and Management	Compulsory optional	In total 2 courses: 0 – 3 L, 0 – 1 SE,	6	A seminar paper or a formal presentation or a written examination or an oral examination or a portfolio or a project report
<b>Section</b>				

<b>Socioeconomics</b>	According to individual determination: total minimum 6 KP, maximum 12 KP			
wir902 Perspectives and Instruments of Corporate Sustainability	Compulsory optional	1 L, 1 SE	6	A seminar paper or a formal presentation or a written examination or an oral examination or a portfolio or a project report
wir919 Topics in Sustainability Economics and Management I	Compulsory optional	In total 2 courses of 1 L, 1 SE and 1 Exercise	6	A seminar paper or a formal presentation or a written examination or an oral examination or a portfolio or a project report
wir924 Ecological Economics	Compulsory optional	1 L, 1 SE	6	A seminar paper or a formal presentation or a written examination or an oral examination or a portfolio or a project report
wir939 Topics in Sustainability Economics and Management II	Compulsory optional	In total 2 courses of 1 L, 1 SE and 1 Exercise	6	A seminar paper or a formal presentation or a written examination or an oral examination or a portfolio or a project report
wir876 Topics in Economic Research	Compulsory optional	Two courses from the following course types: L, PR, SE, EX, TU	6	A seminar paper or a formal presentation or a written examination or an oral examination or a portfolio or a project report
wir878 Public Economics and Market Design	Compulsory optional	1 L, 1 SE	6	A seminar paper or a formal presentation or a written examination or an oral examination or a portfolio or a project report
<b>Section specialization</b>	Compulsory and elective modules, 3rd and 4th semester, study location Groningen: total 30 KP			
wcm230 Dilemmas in Infrastructure Planning	Compulsory	1 L, 1 TU	5	A seminar paper and a written examination
wcm240 Planning Methods and Evaluation	Compulsory optional <sup>2</sup>	1 L, 1 TU	5	A seminar paper and a written examination
wcm250 Transitions in Water Management	Compulsory	1 L und 1 SE; 1 EX und 1 SE	5	A seminar paper and a written examination and a formal presentation

<sup>2</sup> The module "Planning Methods and Evaluation" is a compulsory optional module and can be replaced by other thematically relevant modules offered in Groningen.

wcm260 Comparative Research and Planning Practice	Compulsory	1 L	5	A seminar paper and a written examination
wcm280 Reinventing Environmental Planning	Compulsory	1 SE, 1 TU	5	A seminar paper and a written examination
wcm360 Fieldwork Water Quality	Compulsory optional	EX	5	A seminar paper and a formal presentation
<b>Master's thesis phase</b>	Preperation extends over two semesters at the study location Groningen: a total of 30 CP			
wcm290 Planning Theory	Compulsory	1 L, 1 TU	5	A seminar paper and a written examination
wcm300 Environmental and Infrastructure Planning (EIP) Interactive Workshop	Compulsory	1 SE	5	A formal presentation
mam Masterthesis	Compulsory		20	A Master's thesis and a formal presentation
<b>Total</b>			<b>120</b>	

L = Lecture  
 SE = Seminar  
 TU = Tutorial  
 EX = Excursion  
 PR = Project