

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

**9 November 2018\***

**- Unofficial Version -**

On 17 October 2018, the Faculty Council of School II: Computing Science, Business Administration, Economics and Law of the Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg introduced the following amendment to the Examination Regulations for the Master's programme in Water and Coastal Management at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg (MPO-WCM), originally published in the University's official bulletin on 1 October 2013 (*Amtliche Mitteilungen* 05/2013, pp. 714ff.) and amended on 23 September 2015 (*Amtliche Mitteilungen* 3/2015, pp. 315ff.), 18 August 2017 (059/2017). On 30 October 2018, it was approved by the Presidential Chair in accordance with § 37, para. 1, no. 5.

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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, 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 24 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 as well as the type and number of module examinations 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**

### **Transfer of credit**

1) Examinations and vocational activities in the same or a related study programme at a university or equivalent institution for higher education in the Federal Republic of Germany or the European Higher Education Area will be recognised without a special equivalence assessment.

2) Periods of study including practical professional activities and examinations within a different degree programme are acknowledged at the request of the student insofar as there are no significant differences regarding the competences acquired. To this end, it is necessary to make an overall assessment of the purpose of such transfer of credit. This includes considering the level of the coursework, its scope, its quality, its content and its learning outcomes. The Examining Board decides on the recognition of previous results at the request of the student. If the University finds that the request must be denied, because of a significant difference, evidence must be provided. In order to clarify the factual and legal situation, the University may consult Central Office for Foreign Education (which operates anabin, an informational portal on the recognition of higher education qualifications). Different rules concerning credit points based on agreements with foreign universities will remain unaffected.

3) Upon request, knowledge, skills and competences acquired outside of higher education programmes may be acknowledged, provided that they are sufficiently documented, and their content and level are equivalent to the competence objectives of the modules to which the credit is to be transferred. On the basis of quality-assured equivalence appraisals, blanket recognition of continuing education and training diplomas is also possible.

Up to 50 percent of the ECTS of each subject, as well as specialization modules up to a maximum of 15 ECTS can be acknowledged.

If the equivalence of knowledge, skills and/or competences with the relevant competence objectives cannot be adequately assessed on the basis of the submitted evidence, a person responsible for a module can assess the knowledge, skills and/or competences to be credited within a reasonable time frame (normally 15-20 minutes). The appraisal can refer to several modules, if the crediting of several modules of similar content has been requested.

4) If the requirements of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 have been met, the student is legally entitled to acknowledgement of credit. At the request of the student, the Examination Committee will decide on the transfer of credit.

5) As a rule, the marks and ECTS of acknowledged examinations are transferred without change. If the number of ECTS or the marking scale deviates, the Examination Committee will decide on conversion. If the marking systems are incomparable, an equivalence assessment is carried out by the respective representatives of the area of study concerned. Recognised academic performances are included in the student's transcript.

1) An Examination Committee is established at the University of Oldenburg to organize the examinations of the Master's programme and to perform the tasks assigned by the examination regulations. Its members include university professors who teach in the degree programme concerned. It consists of at least five members: three members representing the professors' group, of whom at least one must belong to School V and two must belong to School II; a member of teaching staff and a member of the student group. The professor from School V is proposed by School V, but elected by the Faculty Council of School II. The Examinations Committee should have an adviser who is a professor of the University of Groningen teaching in the Master's programme in Water and Coastal Management. This member is appointed and seconded by the University of Groningen. The Chair and Deputy Chair are held by a university lecturer or professor of the University of Oldenburg with voting rights. As all members of the Examination Committee, they and their permanent representatives are elected by their respective group in the Faculty Council of Faculty II. The student member has only an advisory vote in the marking and crediting of examinations and academic performances.

2) The Examination Committee ensures that the examinations are conducted. It also ensures compliance with legal provisions of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG). It reports regularly to the Faculty Council of School II on the development of examinations and study periods. Particular attention must be paid to the actual preparation time for the Master's thesis and compliance with the standard period of study and deadlines for examination. The Committee publishes the distribution of marks awarded for individual courses and for the overall programme. The Examination Board at the Faculty of Spatial Sciences of the University of Groningen ensures the proper implementation of examinations conducted in Groningen.

3) The members of the Examination Committee have the right to observe the examinations.

4) The Examinations Office of the University of Oldenburg keeps the examination records.

5) The Examination Committee passes resolutions by a majority of valid votes cast. Abstentions are regarded as non-cast votes. In the event of a tie, the Chair will cast the deciding vote. The Examination Committee has a quorum if the majority of its members, including the Chair or Deputy Chair and another professor or university lecturer, are present.

6) The term of office of the members of the Examination Committee is two years, apart from of the student member, whose term of office is one year. Members can be re-elected.

7) The Examination Committee may adopt rules of procedure. Minutes of the meetings of the Examination Committee are taken. The main topics discussed, and the decisions of the Examination Committee are recorded in the minutes. The Examination Committee appropriately informs the students about the main examination regulations applicable to them.

8) The Examination Committee may delegate powers to the Chair and the Deputy Chair. It can also revoke such delegations. The Chair prepares and executes the decisions of the Examination Committee. He or she reports to the Examination Committee on this activity on an ongoing basis. The Academic Examination Office of the University of Oldenburg supports the work of the Examination Committee.

9) The meetings of the Examination Committee are not public. The members and their representatives are required to protect the confidentiality of the Committee's business. Unless they are in the public service, they are bound to discretion by the Chair.

## **§ 8**

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

1) The module examinations are 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.

## **§ 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**

If a student demonstrates that he or she is unable to take module examinations in the prescribed form, either entirely or in part, due to prolonged illness or permanent physical circumstances, e.g. a disability, or on the basis of protective provisions of maternity leave, or on account of having to look after a close relative or their own child, the Examining Board must allow an appropriate prolongation of the preparation time or enable the student to take a different type of examination. The student may be required to submit a medical certificate.

## **§ 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. 3). 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 Board of Examiners at the Faculty of Spatial Sciences will decide whether to allow a second resit at the study location Groningen. 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 if less than five years have passed since the mark for the examination was issued.
- 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. To determine the overall mark in accordance with § 15, para. 3, sentence 2, a weighted grade point average is calculated for the Master's degree programme. When determining the overall mark, all module examination marks must be included. To this end, the marks for the individual module examinations marked in accordance with § 15, para. 2, including the modules of the Master's thesis phase, are multiplied by the ECTS of the module. The sum of the weighted scores is then divided by the total number of ECTS that has been included in the rating.
- 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**

### **Appeal proceedings**

1) Rejections and other negative administrative decisions based on these Examination Regulations must be announced in accordance with § 41 of the Administrative Procedures Act (*Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz, VwVfG*). Within one month after being notified of a decision on the assessment of examination work, a student can appeal against it to the Examination Committee in accordance with §§ 68ff. of the Code of Administrative Court Procedure (*Verwaltungsgerichtsordnung, VwGO*).

2) The Examination Committee will decide on the appeal.

3) Insofar as the appeal is directed against an examiner's assessment, the Examination Committee will forward the appeal to the examiner for comment before deciding on the appeal. If the examiner modifies the assessment in accordance with the appeal, the Examination Committee will consider the matter resolved. Otherwise, the Examination Committee will review the decision on the basis of the opinion of the examiner's opinion to see whether

- 1. the examination was conducted in a proper manner,
- 2. the grading was based on incorrect information,



3. general marking principles were adhered to,
4. an acceptable solution substantiated by consistent and sound arguments was judged incorrect,
5. the examiner was influenced by irrelevant considerations.

The same applies if the appeal is directed against an assessment by several examiners.

4) At the request of the candidate, the Examination Committee will appoint an expert reviewer for the appeal procedure. The expert reviewer must have the qualification specified in § 9. The candidate and the reviewer will be given the opportunity to comment before a decision is taken in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 5. If in the course of the appeal proceedings the candidate submits concrete and evidence-backed objections to assessments specific to the examination or of a professional nature, and the Examination Committee does not resolve the objection, the examination papers concerned will be reassessed by other examiners who have not been involved in the examination in question, or the oral examination will be repeated. Such a re-assessment may not lead to a lowering of the examination grade.

5) The Examination Committee will decide on the appeal within one month. If the Examination Committee does not uphold the appeal or if the necessary conditions for a reassessment or resit of the examination cannot be met, the School of Computing Science, Business and Law (School II) will decide on the appeal.

## **§ 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 at the University of Groningen 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 at the University of Groningen 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 Master's thesis 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 programme 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) At the request of the student, the examination marks of modules from the advanced phase representing a total of no more than 15 ECTS may be disregarded in the calculation of the overall grade. This does not apply to the Master's thesis.
- 3) 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.
- 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, on request, listing the examinations and their assessments as well as the ECTS assigned. In the case described in paragraph 3, the certificate will also indicate the missing examination ECTS as well as the fact that the student definitively failed the Master's programme in Water and Coastal Management.

## **Annex 1 A: Master's 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 1 B: Master's Degree Certificate (English)**

Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg

School of Computing Science, Business Administration, Economics and Law

### **- Master's Diploma -**

Ms/Mr.....,

Place of birth: ..... Date of birth: .....,

has successfully completed the study programme Water and Coastal Management at the  
Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg.

The overall grade achieved is '.....'.

He/she is awarded the degree

'Master of Science'

Grades: With distinction, Very good, Good, Satisfactory, Pass

Seal:                      Date .....

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Dean of School

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Chair of the  
Examination Board

Please insert names  
and dates and delete  
what does not apply

## **Annex 2 Master's transcript**

Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg

School of Computer Science, Business Administration, Economics and Law

### **Transcript**

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, .....

The 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, at least two and at most three modules in two semesters, total 18 to 30 KP			
lök320 Sustainable Spatial Development in Europe	Compulsory optional	1 L, 1 S, 1 EX	6	A seminar paper or a formal presentation
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, at least one and at most two modules in two semesters, total 6 to 24 KP			
lök210 Practice of Nature Conservation	Compulsory optional	L/TU, S, EX	6	A project report and also a seminar paper or a formal presentation
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
lök290 Perspectives of Bioenergy	Compulsory optional	1 L, 0 -1 SE or 0 -1 TU	6	A seminar paper
mar358 Basic Ecological Processes	Compulsory optional	1 SE, 1 PR	6	A formal presentation
<b>Section</b>				

<b>Socioeconomics</b>	According to individual determination, at least one and at most three modules in two semesters, total 6 to 12 KP			
wir902 International Sustainability Management	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
wir906 Resource and Energy Economics	Compulsory optional	2 L	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	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 0 - 4 L 0 - 4 SE out of the elective modules	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	2 colloquia	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	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 period</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