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**Examination regulations
for the Master's degree programmes of the Faculty of Medicine and
Health Sciences of the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg**

dated 03.04.2024

(1) Unofficial reading version

On 11.05.2022, the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (Faculty VI) approved the ninth change of the examination regulations for the Master's degree programmes of Faculty VI dated 26.08.2021 (AM 50/2021)). On 11.07.2022, these regulations have been approved by the Presidential Chair in accordance with Section 37.1.3(5b) of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG).

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Section 1

Scope of application

These examination regulations apply to the Master's degree programmes of Faculty VI for Medicine and Health Sciences of the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg.

Section 2

Study objectives

As a rule, the Master's degree programmes are research-oriented and designed to give students a comprehensive and in-depth knowledge of their chosen subjects. The objective of the Master's programmes is to prepare students for a professional career and to lay the basis for a doctorate or PhD. Students learn to analyse subject-related issues in an interdisciplinary manner, to work responsibly and scientifically, and to present their findings coherently. To promote students' ability to solve complex scientific problems, emphasis is placed on the development of creativity, original thinking and interdisciplinary cooperation skills. In addition, graduates must be capable of communicating their knowledge, conclusions and rationally justified hypotheses effectively to experts as well as a general audience.

Section 3

University degree

When all the examination components have been successfully completed, the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences of the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg awards the degree of Master of Science (M.Sc.). Degree certificates are issued by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences in German and in English (Appendices 1a and 1b), bearing the date of the academic transcript.

Section 4

Purpose of the examinations

The purpose of the module examinations and the Master's thesis is to establish whether the student has gained sufficient specialized knowledge to enter into professional practice, has a good grasp of subject-related contexts, and possesses the ability to successfully apply scientific knowledge in practice and work in a scientific manner. The Master of Science programmes are concluded with Master of Science degree examinations which qualify graduates for professional activity. The examination requirements ensure a high standard of education in view of the standard period of study as well as the current state of scientific knowledge and the requirements of professional practice.

Section 5

Duration, scope and structure of the academic programme, part-time study

(1) As a rule, a Master's programme must be completed in 4 semesters, i.e. two academic years (the standard period of study). The credit points for the Master's programme amount to a total of 120 ECTS. Exceptions are covered in the course-specific appendices.

(2) Students can apply to study part-time in accordance with the currently applicable regulations for part-time studies at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, provided that this is permitted according to the course-specific appendix for the degree programme concerned.

(3) The curriculum is to be arranged in such a way that students can

- a. successfully complete the examinations which are part of the course,
- b. complete parts of their studies at another university or institution for higher education in Germany or abroad, and
- c. write and defend their Master's thesis by the end of the standard period of study.

(4) The Master's programme consists of modules relating to the chosen field of study and in some cases, modules relating to other fields, as well as the final Master's module, which amounts to 30 ECTS. As a rule, the modules contain components which are interdisciplinary and qualify students for professional activity. Modules may also be completed at other universities or institutions for higher education in or outside Germany. Prior to taking those external modules the examining board must establish the equivalence to in-house modules. The structure of

each Master's programme is described in the course-specific appendices.

Section 6 **Examining board, examinations office**

(1) For each degree programme, an examining board is established to organize the examinations and implement the tasks allocated by these examination regulations.

The competent 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 VI - Medicine and Health Sciences. In the case of cooperative degree programmes, the programme-specific annexes regulate the participation of the respective partner universities.

(3) The examining board comprises:

- three professors or university lecturers,
- a member of academic staff involved in teaching
- a student of the respective Master's programme

as well as one deputy for each of the above.

In the case of cooperative degree programmes, the programme-specific annexes regulate the participation of the partner university. An employee from the examinations office must also attend examining board meetings 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 19, 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 8, 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 their deputies) of the examining board are appointed for a period of two years, apart from student members (and their deputies) who are appointed for one year. The term begins on 1 April of each 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) Minutes are taken on the meetings of the examining board, which record the main topics of discussion and decisions taken by the examining board.

(8) The examining board takes decisions by a majority of valid votes cast. Abstentions do not count as votes cast. In the event of a tied vote, the chair has the casting vote. The members of the student group shall only have an advisory vote in decisions based on the assessment or recognition of examination achievements or the crediting of competences acquired outside the university. The examining board has a quorum if the majority of its members, including the chair or vice-chair and another member who is a professor, are present.

(9) The members of the examining board have the right to attend examinations as an observer.

(10) Examining board meetings will not be public. Members of the examining board and their substitutes are

bound to secrecy concerning their office. Insofar as they are not in public service, they are to be bound to secrecy by the chair or vice-chair.

Section 7 Examiners

(1) The module examinations are conducted by specialists in the subject of the degree programme and authorized examiners from this or another university. Examinations may be conducted by retired professors or professors who have dispensation. Subject to the approval of the responsible examining board, persons with experience in professional practice may also be appointed as examiners.

(2) Entitlement to conduct module examinations or for subject areas to be examined will be granted by the Faculty Council. Module descriptions will inform the students about the names of examiners. Current lists of examiners will be made available to the examinations office at the beginning of each semester.

(3) Examiners must have a degree that is at least equal or equivalent to the degree being examined.

(4) As a rule, module examinations are assessed by one examiner. Examinations that may result in the student definitely failing the Master's examination must be assessed by two examiners. For modules taught by a number of tutors, examinations may be conducted by several examiners.

Section 8 Recognition of examinations and accreditation of skills acquired outside higher education

(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 6 (3) sentence 7 shall remain unaffected.

(2) Examinations in the same or a related degree programme at a university or equivalent institution for higher education in Germany or in the European Higher Education Area will be recognised 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. This needs to be verified bearing in mind the purpose of recognition and the wider context. 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 13. 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.

Section 9 Admission to modules and module examinations

(1) Modules can be taken by students enrolled in a Master's programme at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg as long as the grounds for exclusion in Section 20.3.3 do not apply. Students taking a module will be admitted to all examinations relating to the module.

(2) Registration for module examinations takes place as prescribed by the module descriptions. Students may

withdraw from an examination within the registration period without giving reasons to the examinations office. A withdrawal from partial examination performances is not possible. After that, withdrawal is only possible if valid reasons are given and accepted. Withdrawal will not be possible if an inability to take the exam or another valid reason for withdrawal was already known or could reasonably be expected to have been known at the start of the examination.

- (3) Each module is concluded with a module examination.
- (4) The examinations pertain to the modules and take place during the study period. As a rule, they must be completed by the end of the semester in which the last class or lecture pertaining to the module was attended.
- (5) A module may require the prior completion of another module.
- (6) Course-specific appendices may specify that the admission to module examinations or the granting of credit points depend on regular attendance and/or on active participation in one or several courses of the module, if attendance or active participation is necessary to reach the goal of the course. These courses must teach contents based on practical or demonstrative methods or primarily in dialogue between students and teachers (exercises and seminars). Active participation is an ungraded course achievement. Course-specific appendices need to regulate clearly which mandatory criteria and requirements must be met to ensure that the active participation and/or the regular attendance requirements are complied with.

Section 10

Structure and content of the modules

- (1) The course-specific appendices to these examination regulations specify the scope and examination components for the modules to be completed in the corresponding Master's programmes.
- (2) When the curriculum is announced, descriptions will be made available for each module. Module coordinators are responsible for the content and coordination of the course units within each module. As a rule, a module coordinator may be any professional with a doctoral degree and teaching obligations at the University of Oldenburg or a university that is allied to the University of Oldenburg through cooperation agreements.
- (3) In well-founded exceptional cases and upon approval of the study committee and module coordinator the type and number of courses as mentioned in the course-specific appendices might be changed when the curriculum is announced,

Section 11

Types of module examinations

(1) The types and numbers of the module examinations are laid down in the course-specific appendices. Module examinations may take the following forms:

1. Written examination (11.5),
2. Oral examination (11.6),
3. Formal presentation (11.7),
4. Term paper (11.8),
5. Practical exercise (11.9),
6. Project report (11.10),
7. Internship report (11.11),
8. Portfolio (11.12),
9. Presentation (11.13),
10. Report (11.14),
11. Other types of examination (11.15).

(2) Module examinations in the form of group work are permitted. In that case, the examination component to be assessed for each individual student must meet the requirements set for the examination as well as being clearly defined and assessable as an individual examination component, e.g. on the basis of chapters, page numbers or other objective criteria.

(3) The form of the module examination must reflect the competences taught in the module. If requested, an explanation must be given of the assessment of the examination performance, with reference to the considerations on which the assessment is based.

- (4) A module examination may consist of multiple assessed components completed in course units associated with the module.
- (5) In a written examination, the examinee must show, under supervision, that he or she can carry out an assignment in a limited period of time, with the resources provided, and in accordance with the current methods applicable for the subject area. The duration of a written examination is laid down in the course-specific appendices.
- (6) The duration of an oral examination is also specified in the course-specific appendices. The main content of an examination and the assessment of performance in the examination are to be recorded in minutes.
- (7) A formal presentation consists of:
1. an independent and in-depth written analysis of a problem from the context of the course unit, including and evaluating appropriate literature, and
 2. presenting the work and conveying the results in the talk and subsequent discussion.
- (8) A term paper is an independent in-depth written assignment that is either interdisciplinary or specific to the study programme. The scope and content of a term paper is specified in the course-specific appendices.
- (9) A practical exercise consists of practical experiments with written reports (e.g. test records) or a test procedure and evaluation, or exercises or programming tasks. The scope and content of practical exercises are specified in the course-specific appendices.
- (10) A project report consists of a written experimental, documentary, representational or practical scientific assignment (project). The scope and content of a project report are specified in the course-specific appendices.
- (11) An internship report consists of a written documentation of assignments completed in an internship within or outside the university and includes a critical evaluation that clearly shows how the assignments were carried out. The scope is stipulated in the course-specific appendices.
- (12) A portfolio comprises a set number of components (e.g. a report, handout, review, learning diary, short presentation, exercises and short test). The scope and number of components in a portfolio are specified in the course-specific appendices. A portfolio may not contain examination components as referred to in Section 11.1, numbers 1 to 7. Portfolios are assessed as a whole.
- (13) A presentation is a talk about a topic relating to the current state of scientific knowledge and using suitable methods and means (e.g. an oral presentation with PowerPoint slides or based on a poster).
- (14) A report is an examination component consisting of an independent written or graphic documentation of the contents of a course unit.
- (15) Other types of examinations, such as internet projects, learning journals and learning assessments, are possible in addition to the above-mentioned module examinations if defined in the course-specific appendices.
- (16) The course-specific appendices may stipulate that a grade given for a module examination can be improved on based on a defined performance (bonus arrangement). The grade of 1.0 can be achieved independently of the bonus. A bonus cannot improve a failed module examination.
- (17) The course-specific appendices specify the type of examination for each module. The module descriptions lay down in detail how the examinations are organized.

Section 11a Allowances for special needs, protective regulations

- (1) If the student can credibly demonstrate that they are unable to take examinations or study achievements in whole or in part in the intended manner, form or time due to a disability or chronic illness, the examining board shall, upon application, grant appropriate measures to compensate for disadvantages. Possible measures include, but are not limited to, changing the external examination conditions, extending the processing time, carrying out the examination in another equivalent form and providing technical aids.
- (2) If the student can credibly demonstrate that they are unable to take examinations or achieve credits in

whole or in part in the intended manner, form or time because they have to care for close relatives or a child of their own, the Examination Committee may, upon application, grant appropriate measures to compensate for disadvantages. The protective provisions of the Maternity Protection Act and the Federal Parental Benefit and Parental Leave Act remain unaffected.

- (3) Students may be requested to provide appropriate evidence.

Section 12 ECTS credit points

(1) ECTS credit points are awarded on the basis of module examinations passed. They reflect the average workload in time, including presence in classes and lectures, which is required to pass the module examinations. One credit point corresponds to 30 hours of effort, insofar as not contradicted by international agreements. The allocation of ECTS credit points to the module examinations and the Master's thesis is specified in the course-specific appendices.

(2) As a rule, 30 ECTS are allocated per semester. As a rule, the size of a module should neither fall below 6 ECTS nor exceed 15 ECTS.

(3) The examinations office keeps a credit point account for each student. Students can view the state of their credit point account subject to the organizational and data protection regulations.

Section 13 Assessment of the module examinations and the Master's thesis

(1) Each module examination is assessed and, as a rule, graded in accordance with Sections 13.2 and 13.3. If a module examination or a partial examination is not graded, it must be assessed as 'passed' or 'failed'. The Master's thesis is graded in accordance with Sections 13.2 and 13.3. A module examination has been passed if at least the grade 'satisfactory' is attained. The assessment must be made by the examiners and communicated to the examinations office within five weeks. Module examinations up to a maximum of 15 ECTS and partial examinations within a module will not be graded if this is stipulated in the course-specific appendices.

(2) The following grading scale will be used:

1= very good	outstanding performance
2= good	above average performance
3= satisfactory	average performance in all respects
4= sufficient	the basic standards have been met but with a number of shortcomings
5= insufficient	the performance does not meet the requirements due to considerable shortcomings

For a differentiated assessment, grades can be raised or lowered by 0.3 (grades of 0.7; 4.3; 4.7 and 5.3 are not possible).

(3) If a module examination consists of multiple assessed components, the overall module grade is the weighted arithmetic average of grades for the examination as established in the module descriptions. If the course-specific appendices do not specify any weighting of partial examinations, the partial examinations will be weighted in equal parts. All of the assessed components must be passed.

The grades are as follows:

with an average 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 insufficient

When grades are calculated in accordance with Section 13.3, only the first two decimal places are taken into account. Other places are deleted without being rounded off upwards or downwards.

(4) The final absolute grade will be listed together with an ECTS grade, which shows a relative assessment. The ECTS grade demonstrates how a student has performed in relation to other students in the same degree programme. Successful students are awarded the following grades:

- A the top 10%
- B the next 25%
- C the next 30%
- D the next 25%
- E the next 10%

The ECTS grade is determined on the basis of the final grades from all graduates of the degree programme obtained in the last six semesters before the date of completion of the study. An ECTS grade is provided when there are at least 20 graduates.

Section 14 Absence, withdrawal and fraud

(1) An examination component is deemed failed if a student, without valid grounds,

1. fails to appear on the date of an exam
2. withdraws after the start of the exam
3. does not resit it within the designated time limit.

(2) The examining board must be notified without delay of any valid grounds for withdrawal or absence, in writing and together with satisfactory evidence. The examination component will otherwise be assessed as 'failed'. In the event of illness, a doctor's certificate must be submitted. If the reason or reasons given are accepted, a new deadline or examination date will be set. As a rule, this will be the next regular examination date. In this case, existing examination results will remain valid.

(3) If a student attempts to influence the result of his or her performance in an examination by means of fraud or by using unauthorized means, the examination will be graded as 'failed'. Individuals who have violated the examination regulations may be barred from continuing the examination component concerned. In that case, the examination performance will be graded as 'failed'. Before the examining board takes a decision according to Sections 14.1 and 14.2, the student will be given the opportunity to be heard. The student may continue the examination until the examining board has taken a decision, unless the invigilator decides that it is necessary to provisionally exclude the student in the interests of proper conduct of the examination. In particularly serious or repeated cases of fraud, the examining board 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, clauses 1 to 4, will apply accordingly. In cases in which there are valid reasons for not meeting a deadline, the examining board will decide whether the deadline for the module can be extended or a new task will be given, taking into account the principles of equal opportunity and the precedence of academic achievements over compliance with procedural rules.

Section 15 Resits of module examinations, free attempt

(1) Failed module examinations may be sat twice more. If a module examination is assessed as 'failed' after the second resit, it will be rated as definitively failed. In the case of resits, the examination component concerned may be completed in a different form in consultation with the module coordinator.

(2) If a module examination in a compulsory module is assessed or rated as 'failed' after a second resit, the

Master's degree will be definitively failed. The Master's degree will also have been failed definitively if three compulsory elective module exams have been definitively failed after exhaustion of all opportunities to resit them.

(3) First resits will be taken during the course of the next semester at the latest. Subsequent resits must be taken no later than during the course of the next academic year.

(4) Unsuccessful attempts to take examination components in the same degree programme or in one of the chosen subjects at another university or equivalent institution for higher education in the Federal Republic of Germany or another European country will be considered as resits under Section 15.1.

(5) If the course-specific appendices for the degree programme do not stipulate otherwise, written exams taken on the first possible date within the standard period of study may, on request, be repeated once within one year as a free attempt with a view to achieving higher grades (free attempt to improve grades). If a date is not available in that year, the next possible date will apply. Each time, the best result will count. Equally, written examinations failed at the first possible opportunity may be regarded as not having been sat (free attempt), provided this is not excluded by the appendices specific to the degree programme. Resits are precluded from a free attempt and a free attempt to improve grades. Free attempts may be limited according to provisions in the course-specific appendices. In the case of Section 14.3, a free attempt will not apply.

Section 16

Transcripts of records and statements

(1) As soon as a Master's examination has been passed, a transcript of records will be issued in English and in German (Appendix 2a and b). The date shown on the transcript will be the date on which the last module examination was passed. The transcript will be accompanied by an overview of the module examinations passed. In addition, a diploma supplement is provided.

(2) If a Master's programme is definitively failed, the chair of the examining board will issue a document to this effect.

(3) If a student leaves the university or switches to a different course of study, a statement will be provided that shows the examination components completed and the grades and ECTS obtained. In the case of clause 2, a written confirmation is issued stating that the Master's examination in this degree programme has been definitively failed.

Section 17

Invalidity of examination results

(1) If a student has committed fraud during an examination and this does not become known until after a transcript is issued, the examining board may adjust the grades retroactively for the examination components concerned and declare the examination to be totally or partly failed.

(2) The student will have the opportunity to discuss the matter with the examining board before a decision is taken.

(3) The incorrect transcript will be confiscated and replaced by a correct transcript or statement. Together with an incorrect examination transcript, the Master's degree certificate must also be confiscated if the examination is graded as failed on the grounds of fraud.

Section 18

Access to examination records

On request, after completing a module examination or the Master's thesis, a student will be entitled to view the written examination papers, the examiner's comments, and the examination records. Such a request must be made to the examining board within a year of notification of the grades, or notification that the student has failed the examination. The examining board will determine the place and time of the inspection.

Section 19

Appeal procedure

(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 1 et seqq. of the Administrative Procedures Code.

(2) The competent examining board will decide on the appeal. Before taking a decision, the examining board will inform the examiner of the appeal so that he or she can review the grading and form an opinion. If the examiner changes the grading as a result of the appeal, the examining board will uphold the appeal and change the decision accordingly. Otherwise, the examining board will review the decision on the basis of the examiner's opinion, in particular 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 not 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 an appeal is lodged against grading by more than one examiner.

(3) The competent examining board may appoint a reviewer to carry out the review in accordance with (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 7 and not previously involved in the assessment of this examination to reassess the examination component if

- the competent examining board
 - o finds a breach according to (2) sentence 4, and
 - o 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 appeal procedure may not lead to a lowering of the examination grade.

Section 20

Admission to the Master's thesis

(1) For admission to the Master's thesis, students must be enrolled in the corresponding Master's programme at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg and have proved that they have the necessary knowledge to undertake the Master's thesis by successfully completing modules with a student workload of at least 60 ECTS. The course-specific appendices may contain different provisions.

(2) Applicants for admission to the Master's thesis must submit the following documents:

- a. a proposal for the two examiners
- b. a proposal for the thesis topic which has been proposed by one of the nominated examiners
- c. a declaration as to whether a Master's examination or parts of such an examination or another examination in the same subject area at a university or equivalent institution for higher education in Germany or another European country has been definitively failed or whether the student is currently involved in an examination procedure.

(3) The examining board will decide on admission. Admission will be denied if:

- 1) the admission requirements are not met
- 2) the documents provided are incomplete
- 3) another examination has been definitively failed in the chosen subject area within the same degree programme at another university or equivalent institution for higher education in Germany or another European country.

Section 21

Master's thesis module

- (1) The Master's thesis must show that a student is capable of working on a problem from the chosen subject of study independently, within a fixed period of time and on the basis of scientific methods. The subject and assignment of the Master's thesis must correspond to the purpose of the examination (Section 4) and the allowed period of time for the thesis (Section 21.5). The nature of the assignment and its implementation must be established when the topic is assigned. A topic can only be returned once, and only within the first two months of the allowed period of time.
- (2) The topic of the Master's thesis may be set by any professor or junior professor of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science of the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg who is involved in teaching the Master's programme in question. With the approval of the examining board, the topic may also be set by other authorized examiners in accordance with Section 7.1, in which case the second examiner must be a professor or junior professor of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science of the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg who is involved in teaching the corresponding Master's programme. In deviation from sentence 2, the responsible examining board may, in individual cases, allow the Master's thesis to be assessed by two full-time lecturers who are not professors. The laboratory head must be involved in the decision. The laboratory head is the professor who is responsible for the infrastructure to be used by the master's candidate.
- (3) The topic will be determined by the first examiner following consultation with the student. Upon application by the student, the examining board will ensure that the student is assigned a topic in time. The topic will be assigned via the chair of the examining board; the assignment of the topic will be put on record. Upon assignment of the topic, the examiner who has set the topic (the first examiner), and the second examiner are appointed. While the Master's thesis is being written, the student will be supervised by the first examiner. If the Master's thesis is written at an organisation outside of this university and supervised or evaluated by an external examiner at the organisation in question, the approval of the examining board will be required.
- (4) As a rule, the Master's thesis must be written in German or in English (subject to further provisions in the course-specific appendices). On request, it may be possible for the thesis to be written in a different language, provided both of the examiners agree.
- (5) The time spent on the Master's thesis corresponds to the number of ECTS (30). 27 ECTS are awarded for writing the Master's thesis and 3 for the final colloquium, unless stipulated otherwise in the course-specific appendices. As a rule, the Master's thesis must be submitted within six months of assignment of the topic. On a case-by-case basis, a well-founded application can be made to the examining board to extend the period available for completing the Master's thesis by up to two months.
- (6) When the Master's thesis is submitted, the student must give assurance in writing that he or she produced the thesis independently and without using any sources and aids than those stated, and that the general principles of academic work and publications as laid down in the Guidelines for good scientific practice of the University of Oldenburg (*Ordnung über die Grundsätze zur Sicherung guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis an der Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg*) have been followed.
- (7) The Master's thesis must be submitted to the examinations office by the due date; the time of submission will be recorded.
- (8) As a rule, the thesis will be assessed by the two examiners within eight weeks of its submission.
- (9) In the final oral colloquium which may be attended by members of the university, the student is required to present the results of the Master's thesis, thereby demonstrating that he or she is capable of dealing with interdisciplinary and problem-oriented issues relating to the subject concerned in a scientific manner and is capable of presenting the knowledge gained clearly and comprehensibly.
- (10) As a rule, the final colloquium must be held by the examiners at the end of the Master's thesis colloquium, and must not exceed 60 minutes. Exceptionally, the examining board may decide that the second examiner is to be replaced by another examiner.
- (11) The grade for the final Master's module is based on the two module components and weighted in accordance with the ECTS (90% for the Master's thesis and 10% for the final colloquium).

Section 22 Resubmission of the Master's thesis

- (1) If a Master's thesis counts or is assessed as 'failed', it may be resubmitted once. A second resubmission is not possible. If a Master's thesis is resubmitted, the topic can only be returned if this option was not used for the

first Master's thesis.

(2) The new topic for the Master's thesis must be assigned within an appropriate period, usually within three months after the first thesis is assessed.

Section 23

Final result

(1) The Master's programme is considered to be have been concluded successfully when 120 ECTS have been gained in accordance with the course-specific appendix for these examination regulations, and all module examinations including the Master's thesis have been passed.

(2) To determine the final grade in accordance with Section 13.3, a weighted grade point average is established for the Master's programme. To this end, the grades for the separate module examinations graded according to Section 13.2, including the Master's thesis module, are multiplied by the ECTS credit points for each module. The total of the weighted grades is then divided by the ECTS total.

(3) The final grade will be given the title 'passed with distinction' if the overall result according to Section 13.3 is between 1.0 and 1.1.

Please refer to the official German version for the following appendices.

Appendix 1a

Degree certificate (in German) for the passed Master's examination (M.Sc.)

Appendix 1b

Degree certificate (in English) for the passed Master's examination (M.Sc.)

Appendix 2a

Academic transcript (in German) for the Master's examination (M.Sc.)

Appendix 2b

Academic transcript (in English) for the Master's examination (M.Sc.)

Appendix 4

Course-specific appendix for the degree programme in Molecular Biomedicine

Supplement to Section 2 Study objectives

The Master's degree programme Molecular Biomedicine focuses on the molecular mechanisms of cellular processes, combining methods and the molecular understanding of the natural sciences with current medical content. The students will be able to carry out basic and clinical research in the field of molecular biomedicine by means of a broad technical education as well as instruction in different methodological and conceptual areas. Thus, the Master's programme Molecular Biomedicine creates an excellent basis for a doctorate in the life sciences or demanding fields of activity in science and industry.

The internationality of the scientific community requires that candidates acquire good communication skills in parallel to the subject. Structured hypothesis-driven thinking, communication skills and social competence form the basis for successful work in science.

Students acquire the following skills:

- In-depth biological expertise
- In-depth knowledge of biological working techniques
- In-depth knowledge of medical-diagnostic procedures
- Ability to analyse data
- Computer-aided evaluation techniques
- Interdisciplinary thinking
- Critical and analytical thinking
- Independent research and knowledge of primary scientific literature
- Ability to conduct independent research
- Presentation and discussion of data in written and spoken form
- Ability to work in a team
- Ethics and professional behaviour
- Project and time management.

Supplement to Section 5 Duration, scope and structure of the programme, part-time study

To (4): The Master's programme "Molecular Biomedicine" comprises:

- **Compulsory elective modules** from the curriculum of the Molecular Biomedicine degree programme amounting to **60 ECTS**. These are subdivided according to Section 10 as follows:
 - 24 ECTS Background Modules
 - 12 ECTS Clinical Modules
 - 15 ECTS Research Modules
 - 9 ECTS Skills Modules
- **Elective modules amounting to 30 ECTS**. These can be chosen freely from the curriculum of the current Master's degree programme. Alternatively, upon request, modules from a related degree programme (at any German or foreign university) may be recognized as elective modules as long as these have been completed in accordance with the relevant legal foundations. Before choosing modules outside of these examination regulations, it is strongly recommended to have the examination board determine the content/thematic prerequisites for creditability - also with regard to the individual course of studies. A corresponding application can be made informally.
- the **Master's Thesis Module (30 ECTS)**.

Supplement to Section 7 Examiners

To (5): In the case of oral examinations, a co-examiner may be called in at the request of the examiner or the person to be examined. In that case, the co-examiner must have at least the qualification to be determined by the examination or an equivalent qualification.

Supplement to Section 9 Admission to modules and module examinations

In modules where the content is primarily delivered practically-demonstrative or through dialogue between students and teachers, active participation is a prerequisite for earning credit points. Active participation remains Ungraded and includes regular attendance (at least 70% of the lectures), participation in discussions, preparation and follow-up of the teaching material provided.

Depending on the course, active participation could also include, but is not limited to, writing protocols, working on assignments, preparation of texts, taking on short presentations or reports.

The criteria for active participation in the individual modules can be found in the table in addition to section 10 and are specified at the beginning of the courses. The fulfilment of the criteria for active participation are decided by the lecturers, if necessary in consultation with the module coordinators.

Supplement to Section 10 Forms and contents of the modules

To (1): Modules of the Master's degree programme "Molecular Biomedicine"

There is a distinction between:

- Background Modules (BM), which provide in-depth knowledge of molecular life sciences through a combination of lectures, seminars and practical exercises.
- Clinical Modules (CM), which provide in-depth knowledge of clinical research through a combination of lectures, seminars and practical exercises.
- Research Modules (RM), which provide in-depth experimental, specialized knowledge and skills through active participation in ongoing research projects.
- Skills Modules (SM), which provide subject-relevant, professional skills in a combination of lectures, seminars and exercises.

a) Background Modules (BM) – compulsory electives, at least 24 ECTS to complete:

Module title	ECTS	Type of Courses	Form of Assessment (graded)	Form of Assessment (ungraded)
bio605 Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology	12		according to the examination regulations for the Master's degree programmes of the Faculty V (see Appendix 4: Master's degree programme in Biology)	
bio695 Biochemical Concepts in Signal Transduction	12		according to the examination regulations for the Master's degree programmes of the Faculty V (see Appendix 4: Master's degree programme in Biology)	
Bio845 Introduction to Development and Evolution	6		according to the examination regulations for the Master's degree programmes of the Faculty V (see Appendix 4: Master's degree programme in Biology)	
gsw010 Molecular Physiology	6	V, Ü	oral examination (20 min.)	
gsw020 Cellular and Subcellular Structures	6	V, S	60% written examination (45 min.), 40% presentation	
gsw030 Biophysical Chemistry	6	V, S	portfolio (short tests, presentation)	
neu141 Visual Neuroscience: Physiology and Anatomy	12		according to the examination regulations for the Master's degree programme in Neuroscience	
gsw040 Molecular and Cellular Biology of Hearing and Deafness	12	V, S, Ü	50% presentation, 50% protocol	short presentations in seminar
gsw050 Current Topics in Genetics	6	V, S	50% written examination, 50% portfolio (concept paper, short presentation)	technical implementation of the concept paper (production of digital content for science communication (video/podcast))
neu220 Neurocognition and Psychopharmacology	6		according to the examination regulations for the Master's degree programme in Neuroscience	

gsw231 Molecular Pharmacology and Toxicology	6	V	written examination or oral examination	
gsw235 Practical Molecular Pharmacology	6	S, Ü		S, Ü Protocol
gsw240 Basic Immunology in Health and Disease	6	V, S, Ü	50% presentation, 50% protocol	
gsw250 Molecular Microbiology	6	V, S, Ü	written examination	presentation, protocol
gsw260 Molecular Virology	6	V, S, Ü	written examination	presentation, protocol

V (Vorlesung): Lecture, S: Seminar, Ü (Übung): Exercise

A successfully passed examination of the module gsw231 is the prerequisite for attending the module gsw235 Practical Molecular Pharmacology.

b) Clinical Modules (CM) – compulsory electives, at least 12 ECTS to complete:

Module title	ECTS	Type of Courses	Form of Assessment (graded)	Form of Assessment (ungraded)
gsw060 Epigenetics and Gene Regulation	6	V, S, Ü	50% protocol, 50% presentation	
gsw070 Gene-based Therapies in Human diseases	6	V, S, Ü	50% presentation or written examination or oral examination, 50% lab protocols	
gsw080 Genetic Diagnostics: from chromosomal aberrations to gene mutations	6	V, S, Ü	70% written examination (90 min.), 30% presentation	signed lab protocols
gsw090 Current Topics in Clinical Research	6	V	written examination (90 min.)	
gsw100 Immunology and Inflammation	6	V, S, Ü	60% written examination (60 min.), 40% essay	formative feedback given for presentations
gsw110 Clinical Aspects of Degenerative Diseases	6	V, S, Ü	50% written examination (60 min.), 50% presentation	
gsw120 Tumor Biology	6	V, S	75% written examination (60 min.), 25% presentation	
gsw130 Regenerative Medicine in Ophthalmology	6	V, Ü	30% protocol, 70% presentation (20 min.)	

V (Vorlesung): Lecture, S: Seminar, Ü (Übung): Exercise, Ex: Excursion

c) Research Modules (RM) – compulsory electives, at least 15 ECTS to complete:

Module title	ECTS	Type of Courses	Form of Assessment (graded)	Form of Assessment (ungraded)
gsw150 Research Project Molecular Biomedicine	15	IFP, S	project report	presentation (30 min.)
gsw160 External Research Project Molecular Biomedicine	15	IFP, S	project report	presentation (30 min.)

IFP (Individuelles Forschungsprojekt): Individual Research Project, S: Seminar

A maximum of 2 research modules can be taken (e.g. 2x gsw150, 2x gsw160 or 1x gsw150 and 1x gsw160) as long as the corresponding research projects are completed in working groups with different research foci and differ in content.

d) Skills Modules (SM) – compulsory electives, at least 9 ECTS to complete:

Module title	ECTS	Type of Courses	Form of Assessment (graded)	Form of Assessment (ungraded)
neu760 Scientific English	6		according to the examination regulations for the Master's degree programme in Neuroscience	
gsw170 Research Techniques Molecular Biomedicine	6	S, Ü	presentation (20 min.)	lab protocol
gsw180 Ethics in Medicine	3	V, S	essay	
neu751 Laboratory Animal Science	3		according to the examination regulations for the Master's degree programme in Neuroscience	
gsw190 Journal Club	3	S	2 presentations	
gsw200 Microscopic Imaging in Biomedical Sciences	3	V, S	written examination (60 min.)	presentation
gsw210 Scientific Communication	6	S, Ü	portfolio	
gsw220 Bioinformatics and Omics	6	V, S, PR, Ü	portfolio	
gsw215 Introduction to academic writing	3	S, Ü		S, Ü, Portfolio

V (Vorlesung): Lecture, S: Seminar, PR: practical, Ü (Übung): Lab Exercise

e) Master's Thesis Module (30 ECTS):

Module title	ECTS	Form of Assessment (graded)
mam Master's Thesis Module	30	90% Master's Thesis, 10% final colloquium

Supplement to Section 11 Types of module examinations

To (5): Written examinations take at least 45 minutes and at most 2 hours.

To (6): Oral examinations take at least 20 and at most 30 minutes.

To (11): An internship report usually comprises 20 to 30 pages and is similar in structure to a scientific paper (introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion).

To (12): A portfolio comprises several components, as a rule a maximum of 6 different forms of examination (e.g. a report, handout, review, short presentation, exercises, short test)

To (13): A presentation takes at least 10 and at most 60 minutes and can include questions about the content of the presentation.

To (15): A module examination may include an essay. An essay is a short review on a scientific topic (e.g. in the style of a Nature "News & Views" article) that comprises 800-900 words and references (max. 10).

To (16): Except for the "neu" Modules there is no bonus scheme.

Supplement to Section 15 Resits of module examinations, free attempt

To (5): Throughout the entire course of study, each student is allowed a total of two attempts to retake previously passed exams in order to improve grades. In the following modules, retakes of previously passed exams are not allowed: gsw110, gsw231, gsw235, bio605, bio695.