

**EXAMINATION REGULATIONS**  
**for the binational Master's Program in**  
**Transnational Ecosystem-Based Water Management**  
**T W M**  
**at the**  
**University Duisburg-Essen**  
**in collaboration with**  
**Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen**  
**dated August 9, 2005 <sup>1</sup>**

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last changed by the fifth amendment order dated August 1st, 2017 (Gazette, vol. 15, 2017 p. 269 / No. 105)

On basis of § 2 para. 4 and § 94 para. 1 of the Law regarding the Universities of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Act on Higher Education) dated March 14, 2000 (legislative decree North Rhine-Westphalia, p. 190) last changed by the law of November 30, 2004 (Law and Ordinance Gazette North Rhine-Westphalia, p. 752), the Faculty of Biology at University Duisburg-Essen has issued the following Examination Regulations.

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**I. General Provisions**

furthermore qualifies for admission to graduate programs (phd student).

**§ 1 <sup>2</sup>**

**Scope and grant of admission**

(1) These Master's Examination Regulations govern the final degree by completion of the Master's Program in **Transnational Ecosystem-Based Water Management** (short: TWM) at University Duisburg-Essen.

(2) The prerequisite for the admission to the TWM Master's Program is

- a) the successful completion of a graduate school program (Diploma, Bachelor's or Master's), a technical university program or a state graduate program in a natural science or engineering discipline or a comparable international degree;
- b) adequate proficiency in the English language; students, whose native language is not English, shall provide verification of adequate English language proficiency by submission of a TOEFL Test passed with a score of at least 550 (paper-based) or 215 (computer-based) or an IELTS Test with Vol.6.5 or higher or a comparable verification;
- c) the result of the determination of the particular qualification in the discipline.

(2) The Examination board is responsible for conducting a test of qualification. The "Board of Study Management"<sup>1</sup> provides advisory support to the Examination board.

**§ 2**

**Aim of the course of studies and the purpose of the Master's exam**

(1) The course of studies in the TWM Master's Program is to provide the students with the qualification for independent scientific work, critical assessment of scientific insights, and responsible action. In particular, the program conveys knowledge and skills serving for the development, evaluation and implementation of water engineering planning, measures, concepts, renaturalization projects in consideration of the correlations between ecology, water engineering, society and economy. It is specifically focused on international cooperation and communication.

(2) The Master's exam represents the scientific completion of the degree. It is determined in the Master's exam whether the students have obtained in-depth specialist knowledge, skills and methods, understand the correlations of their field of study, and possess the capacity for independent scientific work so to solve problems by application of scientific methods and know-how in the field of study. The passed Master's exam

**§ 3**

**Master's degree**

After the successful completion of the Master's exam, the Faculty of Biology at University Duisburg-Essen confers the Master's degree "Master of Science", abbreviated "M.Sc.".

**§ 4 <sup>3</sup>**

**Normal program duration, structure and scope of the studies**

(1) The normal program duration in the TWM Master's program including the processing times for the project report and Master's thesis is two years, respectively 4 semesters.

(2) The program is structured into three phases. Phase 1 (first and second semester) includes the six compulsory modules "Basics Water Ecology", "Applied Water Ecology", "Water Engineering", "Social Environmental Sciences", "Water Basin Management" and "Sustainability/Wetland Management". The start of studies is possible in the winter and summer semesters. If the course of studies is started in the winter semester, the first semester will be taught at Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen and the second semester at University Duisburg-Essen. If the course of studies is started in the summer semester, the first semester will be taught at University Duisburg-Essen and the second semester at Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen. Phase 2 (third semester) is reserved for the study in optional classes as well as for the project work (Internship). In Phase 3 (fourth semester) the Master's theses will be prepared. For the second year of studies, the students have a choice at which university they would like to study primarily.

(3) Each course will earn ECTS credits, which appropriately reflect the respectively required academic work invested. Objectives and contents of courses are defined in writing by the Faculty in the module reference guide. Orientation in terms of content and requirements as well as information regarding the required exams can be found in the module handbook; an overview of the individual modules and courses is described in the course program (see Annex 4). The project report (16 ECTS credits) and the Master's thesis (30 ECTS credits) are not included in this overview.

<sup>1</sup> Board of Study Management: According to the Cooperation Agreement dated 05/30/2005, a Board of Study Management shall be established, which is composed of representatives from the University Duisburg-Essen and Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen and which assists the national Exam Boards in advisory capacity.

**§ 5<sup>4</sup>**  
**ECTS credits**

(1) A total of 120 ECTS credits can be earned in the TWM Master's Program. Of these,

- 60 ECTS credits are allocated to the specialized and optional modules that are examined in courses;
- 16 or 21 ECTS credits are allocated to the Internship according to § 6;
- Depending on the Internship 14 or 9 ECTS are allocated to optional courses
- 30 ECTS credits are allocated to the Master's thesis according to § 16.

(2) An ECTS Credit Account will be established for each student in the TWM Master's Program for purposes of documenting the performed work in the files of the examination authority. When a module has been passed, the number of corresponding ECTS credits will be credited to that account. Within the scope of organizational possibilities, the students may receive access to the status of their accounts.

(3) For each year of studies 60 ECTS credits are to be earned. Students who have earned less than 45 ECTS credits are required to attend study counseling in the field of specialization.

**§ 6<sup>5</sup>**  
**Internship**

(1) The Internship has the purpose of conveying the relevance in practice as well as the application and deepening of knowledge and skills, and serves as an exercise of work conduct in own responsibility. In the course of the project work, which will be conducted as group work (preferably in international composition), the students are to prove that they can work on an interdisciplinary and practical set of tasks within a limited time in cooperation with other students.

(2) The Internship will be defined and advised by a professor, an associate professor or a scientific assistant.

(3) The processing time for the Internship is 12 or 16 weeks and will be awarded with 16 or 21 credits, respectively. The topic and questions of the Internship must be of such nature to allow that the time limit required for processing will be met.

(4) The project report shall be drafted in the English language. The advisor shall note the submission date in the file. If the project report is not delivered on time, it will be deemed graded as "inadequate (5.0)".

(5) The project report shall be graded by the advisor in accordance with paragraph 2 sent. 1.

**§ 7**  
**Examination board**

(1) For the organization of exams and additional exam-related tasks assigned by these Examination Regulations, the Faculty of Biology will constitute an Examination board in coordination with the additionally involved faculties.

(2) The Examination board is composed of the Head, his or her Deputy and three additional members. The Faculty Board will select the Head, the Deputy and one additional member from the group of university professors, one member from the group of scientific assistants, as well as one member from the group of students upon recommendation by the respective group. In addition, the Board will have one member from Radboud Universiteit (RU) Nijmegen as advising member. The term in office of the members from the group of university professors as well as from the group of scientific assistants is three years; the term in office of student members is one year. Reelection is permissible. The term in office of the member delegated from RU Nijmegen will be determined by the regulations applicable at RU Nijmegen regarding the composition of comparable boards and commissions.

(3) The Examination board ensures that the provisions of the Examination Regulations are adhered to and that the exams are conducted according to the rules. It has particular competence for deciding objections against the decisions made in the exam procedure. Furthermore, the Examination board shall report to the Faculty Board at regular intervals, at least once per year, with regard to the development of the exams and periods required for the course of studies. It makes suggestions regarding the reform of the Examination Regulations, the Study Regulations and course programs, and discloses the conferred grades and cumulative grades. The Examination board regularly reviews the attribution of the ECTS credits in comparison to the actual time expended and will make adjustments to the distribution as applies. The Examination board may delegate the fulfillment of its tasks in all normal cases to the Head; this does not apply to deciding objections or the report to the Faculty Board.

(4) The Head convenes the Examination board. He or she is required to convene it if it is requested by at least one member of the Examination board or by the Dean, respectively Dean of Students at the Faculty of Biology.

(5) The Examination board has a quorum if two additional members from the group of university professors as well as at least one more voting member are present besides the Head or Deputy. The Examination board decides by simple majority. In case of a tied vote, the vote of the Head will decide. The student members of the

Examination board do not contribute to the evaluation and recognition of study and exam results.

(6) The members of the Examination board have the right to attend the exams being conducted.

(7) The meetings of the Examination board are non-public. The members of the Examination board and their substitutes have an [obligation of discretion](#). Unless they are already obligated for discretion on basis of a public service or employment relationship, they shall be obligated for discretion by the Head of the Examination board pursuant to the law on the formal obligation of persons who are not civil servants (Law on Formal Obligation).

(8) The Examination board consults with the competent exam authority regarding the organization and implementation of the Master's exam procedure.

(9) The Examination board is an agency in the definition of the laws on administrative procedures and administrative processes.

### **§ 8**

#### **Credit for study and exam results, admission to senior graduate school semesters.**

(1) Periods of study, study and exam results in the same accredited program at other scientific universities in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands or equivalent academic programs at domestic or foreign universities with ECTS grading will be credited without an assessment of equivalence.

(2) Periods of study, study and exam results in different academic programs or other universities in the Federal Republic of Germany will be credited insofar as equivalence is determined. Periods of study, study and exam results at foreign universities, which do not conform to paragraph 1, will be credited upon application insofar as equivalence is determined. Equivalence shall be determined if periods of study, study and exam results largely conform to those of the studies in the TWM Master's Program at University Duisburg-Essen in terms of content, scope and requirements. For the equivalence of periods of study, study and exam results at foreign universities, the equivalence agreements approved by the Conference of Secretaries of Education and the Conference of University Deans, as well as the agreements in the context of university partnerships shall be observed. Furthermore, in case of doubt as to equivalence, the Central Office for Foreign Education may be called upon.

(3) Student applicants, who are entitled to commence studies in a senior graduate school semester due to a placement exam in accordance with § 67 Act on Higher Education, will receive credit toward the study and exam results for the knowledge and skills proven in the placement exam. The determinations in the Diploma regarding the placement exam are binding for the Examination board.

(4) Competent for the award of credits pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 is the Examination board. Prior to the determinations regarding equivalence, competent representatives of the discipline may be heard.

(5) If study and exam results are credited insofar as the grading systems are comparable, the grades shall be adopted and the corresponding ECTS credits shall be awarded as applies according to § 5. The adopted grades shall be included in the calculation of the grade in the grade for the subject and in the cumulative grade. In case of incompatible grading systems, the grade "passed" will be recorded. This evaluation will not be considered in the calculation of the grade and the cumulative grade. The recognition will be noted in a footnote in the Diploma.

(6) If the prerequisites of paragraphs 1 to 3 are fulfilled, a legal right to recognition is established. The recognition of periods of study, study and exam results from within the Federal Republic of Germany will be granted by the authorities in own motion. The students shall submit the documents required for the recognition to the Examination board.

### **§ 9**

#### **Examiners and observers**

(1) The Examination board appoints the examiners and the observers. It may delegate the appointment to the Head.

(2) Exclusively university professors, assistant professors, associate professors as well as scientific assistants may be appointed as examiners, provided they have passed an exam that is at least equivalent of the Master's exam or comparable and have exercised an independent teaching function in the discipline at subject of the exam. Only persons who have taken the corresponding Master's exam or comparable exam may be appointed as observers. These regulations shall apply analogously to professors or scientific assistants working at RU Nijmegen.

(3) The students may respectively propose the first examiner (advisor) for the Master's thesis. The proposals shall be considered as far as possible. The proposals however do not establish a right.

## II. Master's Exam

### § 10

#### Prerequisites for the admission to the Master's exam

- (1) The Examination board will set the due dates for the application for admission to the Master's exam. The application shall enclose:
1. the verification of the fulfillment of the prerequisites stated in § 1,
  2. a declaration as to whether the student has previously conclusively failed a Master's exam, or a diploma exam, or graduate exam in the same or equivalent course of studies, and stating whether he or she is already undergoing another exam procedure.
- (2) The admission to the participation in exams shall be refused if
- (a) the prerequisites stated in paragraph 1 are not fulfilled, or
  - (b) the documents are incomplete, or
  - (c) the student has conclusively failed one of the exams stated in paragraph 1 no. 2, or
  - (d) the student is already undergoing an exam procedure stated in paragraph 1 no. 2.

### § 11<sup>6</sup>

#### Structure of the exam, registration

- (1) The Master's exam consists of module and sub-module exams (§ 12) for individual courses, lectures and exercises, the project report relating to course work (§ 6) and the Master's thesis completing the academic program (§ 16).
- (2) The exams relating to course work serve for the timely verification of successful attendance of courses, respectively modules and as evidence of the knowledge and skills conveyed in these courses, respectively modules. In the scope of these exams, the students are to demonstrate that they recognize contexts in the respective exam field and are able to set special questions into these contexts.
- (3) An exam relating to course work must normally be taken within the semester in which the relevant course it relates to is held. Re-examinations are excluded from this rule. The dates must be announced within due time.
- (4) The student must register for all exam parts within the application period in the form determined by the Examination board. Exams related to course work have to be registered at the university at which they will be taken. The Internship and the master thesis have to be registered at the UDE. An additional registration at the RU is only necessary, if the first supervisor is situated at the RU. The withdrawal of an exam application shall also be filed in the form determined by the Examination board and within the withdrawal period. The student is required to seek information about the exam dates.

- (5) If the student credibly asserts by presentation of a medical certificate that he or she is not able to participate in an exam in the form required or scope required, due to long-term or permanent physical disability, the Head of the Examination board shall permit the student to submit equivalent performances in another form upon application.

### § 12

#### Form of the module and sub-module exams

- (1) Module and sub-module exams may be taken as
1. oral exams; or
  2. as written tests, term papers, protocols; or
  3. talks; or
  4. oral presentations: or
  5. other exam form (*as determined by the faculty*); or
  6. a combination of the exam forms 1. - 5.

The students shall be informed of the exam form applicable to them at the beginning of the courses in the respective course and also about the amount of time required for the exams. Exam form and time required will be determined by the examiner uniformly for all candidates of one semester. § 11 paragraph 5 remains unaffected.

- (2) The exams are generally held in the English language.

### § 13

#### Oral exams

- (1) Oral exams are generally taken before one examiner or one examiner in attendance of an observer. Deviations thereof are possible for pressing reasons with the approval of the Examination board. Prior to the determination of the grade according to the grading pattern in § 21, the observer shall be heard.
- (2) Oral exams take at least 15 minutes and at most 45 minutes.
- (3) The essential subject matters and results of an oral exam shall be recorded in minutes. The student shall be informed of the result in subsequence to the oral exam. The grading of an oral exam shall be notified to the Examination board in writing within one week as of the exam date.

(4) Students, who would like to undergo the same exam at a later exam date, may be admitted as audience depending on the requirements of space, unless the student taking the exam objects. However, the admission does not extend to the consultation regarding the exam results and their disclosure.

**§ 14**  
**Written tests**

(1) The candidate is to prove in a written test that he or she is able to recognize and find a solution for a problem in the exam field on basis of the necessary basic knowledge, within limited time, in using of the permitted means and in application of the common methods of his or her discipline. Written tests require between 45 and up to 120 minutes of time. Exceptions shall be approved by the Examination board.

(2) Each written test shall be evaluated by two examiners according to the grading pattern in § 21. Deviations thereof are possible for pressing reasons with the approval of the Examination board; the reasons shall be noted in the file. The criteria for the exam grading shall be disclosed.

**§ 15**  
**Term papers, journals, talks, presentations**

The regulations for term papers, journals, talks and presentations as well as other exam results are determined by the Examination board. The regulations for written tests apply to term papers and journals with the particularity that grading by one examiner is sufficient. Talks and oral presentations shall be held according to the more detailed definitions provided by the examiner and be graded only by him or her.

**§ 16<sup>7</sup>**  
**Master's thesis**

(1) The Master's thesis is a written test, which completes the scientific education in the TWM Master's Program. It is to illustrate that the student is able to work independently on a problem in the field of water and catchment area management, hydrobiology or a related discipline, within a predefined period and according to scientific methods.

(2) Only students who have earned a total of 74 ECTS credits and who have already completed the project report successfully may be approved for the Master's thesis.

(3) The topic of the Master's thesis will be determined and advised by a university professor, associate professor at the Faculty of Biology, Engineering -

Department of Construction Engineering, or the involved discipline at RU Nijmegen. The examination board decides if exceptions will be granted. The student has a right to propose a topic for the Master's thesis. The process of developing a Master's thesis at an institution outside of the University is expressly encouraged. At request by the student, the Head of the Examination board shall see to the student receiving a topic for a Master's thesis on time. The starting date of the Master's thesis topic shall be noted in the file maintained by the examiner who passes on the issued topic, and it shall be reported to the exam authority.

4) The processing period for the Master's thesis is 6 months (= 30 ECTS credits). In individual cases, the Examination board may extend the processing time once by up to 12 weeks upon substantiated application by the student, provided an accordant application is filed at the latest two weeks before the date when the Master's thesis is submitted to the Head of the Examination board. The topic, questions and scope of the Master's thesis must be of such nature to allow that the time limit required for processing will be met. The topic may only be returned once and only within the first month of the processing time.

5) The Master's thesis may in justified cases be permitted in form of group work, provided the individual student's contribution that is to be graded as exam result is clearly distinguishable and assessable, and provided it fulfills the requirements pursuant to paragraph 1 by specification of sections, page numbers or other objective criteria making a delineation of the respective individual performance possible.

6) The Master's thesis shall be drafted in the English language in coordination with the examiner. Upon substantiated application, the Master's thesis may be drafted in the German or Dutch language in exceptional cases. The length of the Master's thesis without references and annex is required to be 60-80 pages. If the thesis is drafted in the German or Dutch language, a detailed English summary of one-fifth in length of the German or Dutch text part shall be enclosed. The thesis shall be submitted to the exam authority at the UDE within the deadline in two copies in printed and bound DIN A4 format. An electronic version (pdf format) has to be attached to each bound copies on a CD. If the print versions of the Master's thesis are submitted by regular mail, the date of the received stamp shall be decisive. Necessary detail results may, if applicable, be summarized additionally in an annex. In the submission of the Master's thesis, the student shall assure in writing that he or she has drafted his or her thesis, respectively his or her own appropriately marked contribution in group work for the thesis, on his or her own and that he or she has not used sources or means other than those cited, and that he or she has marked citations. The submission date shall be noted in the file. If the Master's thesis is not delivered on time, it will be graded as "inadequate (5.0)". As part of the master thesis a master colloquium will take place, which underlies the rules of oral examinations (§ 13). The result of the colloquium takes 20 % of the assessment of the master thesis grade.

(7) The Master's thesis shall be evaluated by two examiners, one of whom is to be a member of the involved faculties at University Duisburg-Essen and one a member of the involved faculties at Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen. Deviations thereof are possible for pressing reasons with the approval of the Examination board; the reasons shall be noted in the file. The Head of the Examination board shall appoint the examiners; the first examiner shall be the person who issued the topic. The individual evaluation shall be in accordance with the grading pattern in § 21. The grade of the Master's thesis is comprised of the arithmetic average of the individual grades, insofar as the difference does not exceed 2.0. If the difference is greater than 2.0 a third examiner will be appointed by the Examination board for the grading of the Master's thesis. In this case, the grade will be composed of the arithmetic average of the two better grades. The Master's thesis however can only be graded as "adequate (4.0)" or better if at least two grades are "adequate (4.0)" or better. A pre-correction by scientific assistants is permissible.

(8) The evaluation procedure may not exceed six weeks in the normal case. Deviations thereof are possible for pressing reasons; the reasons shall be noted in the file. The grading of the Master's thesis shall be notified in writing to the Examination board immediately upon completion of the evaluation procedure.

**§ 17<sup>B</sup>  
Repetition of exams**

(1) Passed exams for courses, passed Internship and a passed Master's thesis may not be repeated. The Examination board will decide on exceptions.

(2) Course-related exams not passed or deemed not passed may be repeated. Internship not passed and failed Master's thesis may be repeated once. Returning the topic of the second Master's thesis however is only permissible within the period stated in § 16 para. 4, sent. 4 if the student has not used this option in the drafting of his or her first Master's thesis.

(3) For the repetition, the respectively next possible exam date must be taken. The Examination board shall assure that each course-related exam is offered at least once in each semester.

**§ 18  
Deregistration, failure, withdrawal, deceit,  
breach of regulations**

(1) An exam is deemed graded as "inadequate (5.0)" if the student has failed to appear on the exam date that is binding for him or her, without a prior statement of pressing reasons, or if he or she withdraws from the exam after the start of the exam in absence of pressing reasons. The same applies if a written exam is not submitted within the defined processing time.

(2) Students may deregister from the exam in writing to the Head of the Examination board at the latest two weeks before the respective exam date without a statement of reasons.

(3) If the student is prevented by illness from participating in the exam and if he or she has verified his or her incapacity to take the exam by presentation of a medical certificate, the attempted exam will not be counted. In that case he or she shall appear at the next offered exam date. The medical certificate must be submitted to the Examination board immediately, generally within three workdays after the exam date. With regard to the reasons for the non-participation in exams or for the non-compliance with processing times according to paragraph 1, the illness of a child cared for by the student is equivalent to an illness of the student.

(4) If the student attempts to influence the result of his or her performance by deceit or use of prohibited resources, the relevant performance will be deemed graded as "inadequate (5.0)". The determination will be made by the relevant examiner or the supervisor and be noted in the file. A student who disrupts the orderly process of an exam may be excluded from the continued participation in the exam by the respective examiner or the supervisor; in that case the relevant performance will be deemed graded as "inadequate (5.0)". In serious cases, the Examination board may exclude the student from further exams.

(5) Within 14 days as of an exam date the student may request that the decisions be reviewed by the Examination board pursuant to paragraph 4. The decisions made by the Examination board charging the student shall be notified to him or her in writing and shall state the reasons and include instructions on the right to appeal.

(6) The Examination board requires an affirmation in lieu of an oath from the student stating that the exam has been performed independently by him or her and without impermissible external help. Anyone who intentionally provides a false affirmation in lieu of an oath pursuant to sentence 1 and who acts in attempted deceit according to paragraph 4 commits an administrative offense. The administrative offense may be punished with a monetary

fine of up to EUR 50,000. The administrative authority competent for the prosecution and punishment of administrative offenses pursuant to sentence 2 is the Head of Administration. In case of multiple or otherwise serious attempted deceit, the student taking the exam may be exmatriculated in addition.

**§ 19  
Students in special situations**

(1) For students with disabilities, the Examination board will determine the exam requirements in form, number, type and scope that are defined in these Examination Regulations in consideration of regulations equilibrating disadvantage and in consideration of the individual case upon application by the student.

(2) For students to whom the protection provisions according to §§ 3, 4, 6 and 8 of the Maternal Leave Act apply or to whom the periods of the Act on the Payment of Child Raising Benefit and Child Raising Leave apply, the Examination board will determine the exam requirements in form, number, type and scope that are defined in these Examination Regulations in consideration of the individual case upon application by the student.

(3) For students who provide nursing or care to their marital spouse, their civil partners or a direct relative or first in-law by marriage, provided they are in need of nursing or care, the Examination board will determine the deadlines and due dates that are defined in these Examination Regulations upon application by the student in consideration of absence times caused by this nursing care and in consideration of the circumstances of the individual case.

**§ 20  
Passing and failing the Master's exam**

(1) The Master's exam is passed if all exams according to § 12 as well as the Internship according to § 6 and the Master's thesis according to § 16 have been completed successfully and if 120 ECTS credits have been earned.

(2) The Master's exam will be conclusively failed if a required exam result according to paragraph 1 has not been completed successfully and if a repetition of this exam is no longer possible.

(3) If the Master's exam is conclusively failed, a certificate will be issued by the Examination board upon application by the student and against submission of the corresponding records, as well as the exmatriculation confirmation, which documents the successfully completed exams, their grades and earned ECTS credits and which reflects that the Master's exam has not been passed.

**§ 21  
Composition of exam grades**

(1) The grade points for the individual exams in courses are determined by the respective examiners. The following grade points shall be used in grading:

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1 = very good    | = an excellent result;   |
| 2 = good         | = a result that is significantly above the average requirements;             |
| 3 = satisfactory | = a result that meets the average requirements;                              |
| 4 = adequate     | = a result that still fulfills the requirements despite its deficiencies;    |
| 5 = inadequate   | = a result that no longer fulfills the requirements due to its deficiencies. |

For a differentiated evaluation of result, subtotals within the limits of 1.0 and 4.0 may be formed by lowering or raising the individual grades by 0.3.

(2) If an exam in a course is evaluated by several examiners, the grades will be calculated from the arithmetic average of the individual grades. In the composition of grades, only the first decimal behind the comma is considered; all additional decimals are struck without rounding. The grade:

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| with an average up to and including 1.5        | = very good;    |
| with an average of 1.6 up to and including 2.5 | = good;         |
| with an average of 2.6 up to and including 3.5 | = satisfactory; |
| with an average of 3.6 up to and including 4.0 | = adequate;     |
| with an average of 4.1                         | = inadequate.   |

(3) An exam in a course is passed if it has been graded as "adequate (4.0)" or better. An exam in a course is conclusively failed if it has been graded as "inadequate (5.0)" and all possibilities for repetition according to § 17 have been used up.



## § 22

### Composition of module grades

(1) A module has been completed successfully if all exams belonging to this module have been passed. By the successful completion of a module, the student will be credited the specified ECTS credits.

(2) The module grades are calculated from the ECTS credits weighted arithmetic average of all sub-module grades attributed to the respective module.

For this purpose the ECTS credits awarded for a successfully completed courses are multiplied by the grade point reached in the respectively associated exam. The sum of all credit points reached within a module divided by the sum of all ECTS credits earned within a module results in the weighted average grade (Grade Point Average, GPA) of a module. In this process, only the first decimal behind the comma is considered; all additional decimals are struck without rounding. (Regarding the definitions of grade point, credit point and grade point average cf. Annex 1)

(3) In addition, the following ECTS grades are attributed to the grade points, which provide insight into the relative performance of the students and which are also included in the Diploma Supplement.

The students receive the following ECTS grades:

A	"Passed - the best 10%"
B	"Passed - the next 25%"
C	"Passed - the next 30%"
D	"Passed - the next 25%"
E	"Passed - the next 10%"
<hr/>	
FX	"Not passed - improvements are required before the result can be credited"
F	"Failed - considerable improvements are required"

## § 23 <sup>9</sup>

### Composition of the cumulative grade

(1) The cumulative grade of the Master's exam is calculated as weighted average grade (Grade Point Average, GPA).

(2) The calculation of the cumulative grade of the Master's exam follows the same principle as the calculation of the module grades (cf. § 22). For all successfully completed exams in courses as well as for the Master's thesis, firstly the credit points according to § 22 are calculated. The sum of all credit points reached in the subjects of the compulsory and elective fields as well as in the Master's thesis divided by the sum of all ECTS credits earned in the subjects of the compulsory and elective fields as well as in the Master's thesis results in the grade point average, (GPA) of the entire Master's exam. In this process, respectively only the first decimal behind the comma is considered; all additional decimals are struck without rounding. Furthermore, § 22 applies accordingly. A calculation example is provided in Annex 3 to these Examination Regulations.

(3) In addition to the cumulative grade for the Master's exam ECTS grades according to § 22 para. 3 will be attributed.

(4) If the Master's thesis was graded with 1.0 and if the average of all other grades is 1.3 or better, the overall evaluation of "passed with distinction" will be conferred in the Diploma according to § 25 para. 1.

## § 24

### Optional subjects

(1) The student may undergo further exams in (optional) subjects in addition to the compulsory and elective fields.

(2) The result of an exam in such an optional subject will not be included in the determination of module grades and the cumulative grade. The result will be stated in the Diploma Supplement.

## § 25 10

### Certificate and Diploma Supplement

(1) If the candidate has passed the Master's exam, he or she will receive a certificate for the results achieved. This certificate states the topic of the Master's thesis, the grades achieved in the Master's thesis and in the individual exam subject grades, as well as the cumulative grade. Upon application by the candidate, the results of the exams in the optional subjects and the duration of the graduate studies until the completion of the Master's exam will be included.

The certificate will be provided with the date of the day on which the last exam of the Master's exam was completed. The certificate will be issued in the English language.

(2) Along with the graduation certificate, a Diploma Supplement in the English language will be conferred to the graduate. Besides the personal data and general information about the nature of the degree, the university conferring the degree as well as regarding the academic program and course of studies, the Diploma Supplement specifically contains detailed information about the completed studies and exams and their grading, as well as the ECTS credits earned by the respective exams. The Diploma Supplement bears the same date as the certificate.

**§ 26  
Master's Diploma**

The graduate will receive a diploma with the same date as the certificate at the same time as he or she will receive the certificate and the Diploma Supplement. In the diploma the conferral of the Master's degree will be certified according to § 3. The diploma will be signed by the Head of the Examination board and the Dean or the Dean of the Faculty of Biology and provided with the seal of the University Duisburg-Essen. The issuance of the Master's Diploma and certificate will be at the same time as the issuance of the Master's Diploma and certificate of RU Nijmegen.

**§ 27  
International Agreements**

The regulations defined in the Dual Master's Agreement or comparable agreements between the University Duisburg-Essen and foreign partner universities may differ from the provisions of these Examination Regulations in individual cases; this applies in particular to the description of the subjects of the exam and the calculation of grade points. If required, the Examination board shall ensure by appropriate resolutions that the provisions of these Examination Regulations may be treated according to the meaning of the relevant agreement.

**III. Final Provisions**

**§ 28  
Invalidity of the Master's exam, derecognition of the  
Master's degree**

(1) If the student has committed deceit in an exam and if this fact becomes known only after the issuance of the certificate, the Examination board may accordingly correct the grades for those exams in which the deceit was committed or declare the exam failed in full or in part.

(2) If the prerequisites for the admission to an exam have not been fulfilled without the student's intent to deceive about this fact, and if this fact becomes known only after issuance of the certificate, this defect will be remedied by passing the exam. If the admission was effected unjustly with intent, the Examination board shall decide on the legal consequences in consideration of the law on administrative proceedings for the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

(3) Prior to a decision, the person concerned shall be granted the opportunity to state explanations.

(4) The incorrect exam certificate shall be retracted and as the case may be, a new one shall be issued. The decision pursuant to paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, sent. 2 will be precluded after a period of five years as of the issuance of the exam certificate.

(5) If the exam has been declared failed on the whole, the conferred degree shall be derecognized and the issued diploma retracted.

**§ 29  
Access to the exam files**

The students shall be granted access to inspect their written exams upon application. The right to access for inspection may be exercised for a period of up to one year as of the completion of the entire exam procedure.

**§ 30  
Scope**

These Examination Regulations apply to all students who are matriculated for the first time in the winter semester 2005/2006 and who are enrolled in the TWM Master's Program at University Duisburg-Essen.

**§ 31  
Taking effect and publication**

These Examination Regulations will take effect on the day following to their publication in the Gazette of the University Duisburg-Essen - Official Notices.

Issued on basis of the resolution of the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Biology dated July 14, 2005.

Duisburg and Essen, on August 9, 2005

For the Founding President  
of the University Duisburg-Essen  
The Head of Administration  
per pro.  
Eva Lindenberg-Wendler

Annex 1:

**Legend to Annexes 2 and 3**

- Cr = ECTS credits (grade points)
- GP = here, fictional grade points for an exam
- CP = Credit Points for an exam  
= Cr multiplied by the grade points for an exam
- GPA = Grade Point Average (weighted average grade) of the module (Annex 2) or the Master's exam (Annex 3)  
=  $\Sigma$  all earned credit points /  $\Sigma$  all earned credits

Annex 2: <sup>9</sup>

**Example calculation for a module grade**

Example module "XXX"

Exam / Course	Cr	GP	CP	GPA	
Legend to Annexes 2 and 3					11
Example calculation for a module grade					11
Example calculation for a cumulative grade					12
<b>Sum</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>26.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	

Consequently, the respective student has earned 13 Cr (= ECTS credits) in this module and a grade point average of  $26.5 / 13 = 2.038 = 2.0$  (rounded to one digit after the comma).

Annex 3 <sup>10</sup>

Example calculation for a cumulative grade

Exam element	Cr	GP	CP	Module grade	Cr to be calculated for the Ø grade	Module grade * Cr	GPA
Partial result/course 1 of module 1	4	1.3	5.2				
Partial result/course 2 of module 1	6	2.7	16.2				
Partial result/course 3 of module 1	3	1.7	5.1				
<b>Module 1</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>26.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>26.5</b>	
Partial result/course 1 of module 2	9	1.3	11.7				
<b>Module 2</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>11.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11.7</b>	
Partial result/course 1 of module 3	3	2.3	6.9				
Partial result/course 2 of module 3	3	2	6				
Partial result/course 3 of module 3	2	3.3	6.6				
Partial result/course 4 of module 3	3	3.3	9.9				
<b>Module 3</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>29.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>29.4</b>	
Partial result/course 1 of module 4	7	3	21				
Partial result/course 2 of module 4	5	4	20				
<b>Module 4</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>41</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>41</b>	
Partial result/course 1 of module 5	2	3.3	6.6				
Partial result/course 2 of module 5	3	4	12				
Partial result/course 3 of module 5	6	3	18				
Partial result/course 4 of module 5	2	2.7	5.4				
<b>Module 5</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>42</b>	
Partial result/course 1 of module 6	4	2	8				
Partial result/course 2 of module 6	5	3.3	16.5				
Partial result/course 3 of module 6	7	4	28				
<b>Module 6</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>52.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>52.5</b>	
<b>Internship</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>49.6</b>	
<b>Master's thesis</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>105</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>				<b>120</b>	<b>357.7</b>	<b>3.0</b>

Annex 4: Course program M.Sc. TWM. <sup>11</sup>

<b>Module 1: Basics Water Ecology (compulsory)</b>				
	<b>Name of Course</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
M1.1	Hydroclimatology and Sustainable Water Management	UDE	1 oder 2	3
M1.2	Hydrogeology and Application	UDE	1 oder 2	4
M1.3	Water Quality Modelling Instead of: Hydraulics and Sediment Transport	UDE	1 oder 2	3
	<b>Sum</b>			<b>10</b>
<b>Module 2: Applied Water Ecology (compulsory)</b>				
	<b>Name of Course</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
M2.1	Ecology and Protection of Freshwater Ecosystems and Aquatic Organisms	UDE	1 oder 2	5
M2.2	Field Trips	UDE	1 oder 2	2
M2.3	Water-borne Diseases	UDE	1 oder 2	2
	<b>Sum</b>			<b>9</b>
<b>Module 3: Water Engineering (compulsory)</b>				
	<b>Name of Course</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
M3.1	Basics in Hydraulic Planning and Facility Design	UDE	1 oder 2	3
M3.2	Waste Water Treatment	UDE	1 oder 2	3
M3.3	Flood Management	UDE	1 oder 2	2
M3.4	Water Governance and Spatial Planning	RU	1 oder 2	3
	<b>Sum</b>			<b>11</b>
<b>Module 4: Water Basin Management (compulsory)</b>				
	<b>Name of Course</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
M4.1	River Basin Management	UDE	1 oder 2	3
M4.2	Orientation in Biology and Environmental Sciences	RU	1 oder 2	3
M4.3	Integrated Water Management	RU	1 oder 2	3
M4.4	Environmental and Ecological Modelling	RU	1 oder 2	3
M4.5	Management of Ecosystems	RU	1 oder 2	3
	<b>Sum</b>			<b>15</b>

<b>Module 5: Sustainability / Wetland Management (compulsory)</b>				
	Name of Course	Place	Semester	Credits
M5.1	Ecological and Environmental Concepts	RU	1 oder 2	3
M5.2	Biodiversity and Ecological Assessment	RU	1 oder 2	3
	<b>Sum</b>			<b>6</b>
<b>Module 6: Social Environmental Sciences (compulsory)</b>				
	Name of Course	Place	Semester	Credits
M6.1	Environmental Economics for Water Management	RU	1 oder 2	3
M6.2	Social Aspects of Water Management	RU	1 oder 2	3
M6.3	Philosophy of Water Management	RU	1 oder 2	3
	<b>Sum</b>			<b>9</b>
<b>Total year 1</b>			<b>Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
			<b>1 und 2</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Module 7: Project Water Management (compulsory)*</b>				
	Name of Course	Place	Semester	Credits
M7.1	Short Practical Course / Project	RU/UDE External	3	16
M7.2	Long Practical Course/Project		3	21
	<b>Sum</b>			<b>16 or 21*</b>
<b>Module 8: Optional Courses (elective-compulsory)*</b>				
	Name of Course	Place	Semester	Credits
M8.xx	Varying Courses on Ecology, Languages, Economics, Microbiology, Modelling, Sustainable Development, Socio-economics, Water Treatment, Statistics (specified in the module handbook)	RU/UDE	3	
	<b>From this to be selected</b>			<b>14 or 9*</b>
<b>Module 9: Master-Thesis (compulsory)</b>				
	Name of Course	Place	Semester	Credits
	Master-Thesis	RU/ UDE External	4	30
	<b>Sum</b>			<b>30</b>
<b>Total year 2</b>			<b>Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
			<b>3 und 4</b>	<b>60</b>

\*The student can choose between a short or a long duration of the internship. According to the workload the short internship is awarded with 16 credits, while the long internship is awarded with 21 credits. Within the third term students have to complete 30 credit points. To complete those 30 credits students have to gain 14 or 9 credits within Module 8 (Optional Courses).


Annex V<sup>14</sup>

**Grade translation:**

To translate grades from the grading system in the Netherlands into the German grading system, as well as to translate Grade Points from optional courses, polyvalent to courses of the study program Water Science, the following table has to be used.


<b>Conversion grades and grade points Water Science → TWM ← RU</b>		
<b>WATER SCIENCE</b>	<b>TWM</b>	<b>RU</b>
<b>grade point (%) WSc</b>	<b>German grades</b>	<b>grade point RU</b>
100-96	1	8,5 and more
	1,1	8,4
	1,2	8,3
95-91	1,3	8,3
	1,4	8,2
90-86	1,5	8,1
	1,6	8,0
	1,7	7,9
	1,8	7,8
85-81	1,9	7,8
	2	7,7
80-76	2,1	7,6
	2,2	7,5
	2,3	7,4
	2,4	7,3
	2,5	7,3
75-71	2,6	7,2
	2,7	7,1
	2,8	7,0
70-66	2,9	6,9
	3	6,8
	3,1	6,8
65-61	3,2	6,7
	3,3	6,6
	3,4	6,5
	3,5	6,4
60-56	3,6	6,3
	3,7	6,3
	3,8	6,2
	3,9	6,1
55-50	4	6,0
49-0	5	5,5 and less

**TWM ← WATER SCIENCE**



Direct conversion possible.

**UDE ← RU**



The RU grade point given in bold is valid.  
Example: RU 8.3 is equal to UDE 1.2, RU 7.8 is equal to UDE 1.8, etc.

**Annex I**

**Transition regulations  
for the effectiveness according to Article II of the third amendment order of the  
Examination Regulations for the TWM Master's Program  
dated April 27, 2011**

These Regulations apply to all students who are matriculated for the first time in the winter semester 2009/2010 and who are enrolled in the binational Master's Program in Transnational Ecosystem-Based Water Management at University Duisburg-Essen.

Students who enrolled prior to the winter semester 2009/2010 may apply in writing for the continuation of their studies in accordance with the Exam Regulations applicable to them until present. The Examination board will decide regarding the crediting of already completed exams on basis of § 8 of these Examination Regulations.

**Annex II**

**Transition regulations  
for the effectiveness according to Article II of the fourth amendment order of the  
Examination Regulations for the TWM Master's Program  
dated 5/3/2011**

These Regulations apply to all students who are matriculated for the first time in the winter semester 2010/2011 and who are enrolled in the binational Master's Program in Transnational Ecosystem-Based Water Management at University Duisburg-Essen.

Students who enrolled prior to the winter semester 2010/2011 may apply in writing for the continuation of their studies in accordance with the Exam Regulations applicable to them until present. The Examination board will decide regarding the crediting of already completed exams on basis of § 8 of these Examination Regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> "Faculty of Biology" in the overall set of rules last replaced by "Faculty of Biology and Geography" according to the 3rd AO dated 04/27/2011 (Gazette, vol. 9, 2011 p. 239 / No. 42), retroactively effective as of 04/01/2010

<sup>2</sup> § 1 para. 2, lit. b revised by the 2nd AO dated 11/9/2009 (Gazette, vol. 7, 2009 p. 239 / No. 139), effective as of 11/11/2009

<sup>3</sup> § 4 para. 2 amended by the 3rd AO dated 04/27/2011 (Gazette, vol. 9, 2011 p. 239 / No. 42), retroactively effective as of 04/01/2010

<sup>4</sup> § 5 para. 2, revised by the 1st AO dated 02/06/2009 (Gazette, vol. 7, 2009 / No. 8), retroactively effective as of 03/01/2008

<sup>5</sup> § 6 para. 3, revised by the 5th AO dated 1/8/2017 (Gazette, vol. 15, 2017 / No. 105), retroactively effective as of 03/08/2017

<sup>6</sup> § 11 para. 4, revised by the 5th AO dated 1/8/2017 (Gazette, vol. 15, 2017 / No. 105), retroactively effective as of 03/08/2017

<sup>7</sup> § 16 para. 3 and 6 last amended the 5th AO dated 1/8/2017 (Gazette, vol. 15, 2017 / No. 105), retroactively effective as of 03/08/2017

<sup>8</sup> § 17 para 2 revised by the 5th AO dated 1/8/2017 (Gazette, vol. 15, 2017 / No. 105), retroactively effective as of 03/08/2017

<sup>9</sup> § 23 para. 4, revised by the 1st AO dated 02/06/2009 (Gazette, vol. 7, 2009 / No. 8), retroactively effective as of 03/01/2008

<sup>10</sup> § 25 para. 1, revised by the 1st AO dated 02/06/2009 (Gazette, vol. 7, 2009 / No. 8), retroactively effective as of 03/01/2009

<sup>11</sup> Annex 2, revised by the 1st AO dated 02/06/2009 (Gazette, vol. 7, 2009 / No. 8), retroactively effective as of 03/01/2009

<sup>12</sup> Annex 3, revised by the 1st AO dated 02/06/2009 (Gazette, vol. 7, 2009 / No. 8), retroactively effective as of 03/01/2009

<sup>13</sup> Annex 4, revised by the 5th AO dated 01.08.2017 (Gazette, vol. 15, 2017/ page 569 / No. 105), retroactively effective as of 03.08.2017

<sup>14</sup> Annex 5, revised by the 5th AO dated 01.08.2017 (Gazette, vol. 15, 2017/ page 569 / No. 105), retroactively effective as of 03.08.2017