

# Examination Regulations for the Master's programme in Biodiversity at the Ruhr-University Bochum and the University of Duisburg-Essen

dated from 17/01/2014

Because of §§ 2, paragraph 4 and 64 of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (Higher Education Act - HG) dated from 31 October 2006 (GV NRW S. 474..), as last amended by the act of 28/05/2013 (GV .. NRW, p. 272) the Ruhr-University Bochum and the University of Duisburg-Essen have introduced the following exam regulations:

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## I. General Provisions

### § 1

#### Scope and admission eligibility

(1) These exam regulations govern the completion of studies in the joint master's program Biodiversität / Biodiversity of the Ruhr-University Bochum and the University of Duisburg-Essen.

(2) The admission eligibility for the studies in the master's degree course Biodiversität / Biodiversity is provided by at least three years of relevant study (at least 180 ECTS credits) in biology or closely related fields of study at a university with a Bachelor of Science or a comparable degree, if the comparability and equivalent value of the applicant's studies and degree are assessed by the board of examiners.

(3) Prior to the start of studies applicants who have not acquired their study qualifications at a German-language facility have to prove they have the necessary knowledge of the German language in accordance with § 3 par. 1 of the Einschreibeordnung (enrolment regulations) of the RUB on the basis of the Framework Regulations on German language tests for the studying at German universities.

(4) Applicants must have sufficient language skills to be able to follow courses held in the English language. Students whose native language is not English are required to prove that the level of their knowledge of the English language is at least B2 CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference) before taking up the studies. It can be proven by the submission of the UNIcert® II certificate, or by passing the following international exams or by accomplishing the following scores: IELTS 6.0, TOEFL IBT 98, TOEFL PBT 597 or FCE (First Certificate in English).

(5) The board of examiners decides on the recognition of equivalent knowledge of the required qualifications.

(6) If the degree course has restricted access and there are more admission eligible applicants than there are places for study, the allocation of places for study is done according to the "Statute on the organization of the approval procedure for master's program Biodiversität / Biodiversity".

(7) The Ruhr-University Bochum is in charge of the joint admission procedure. The Ruhr-University Bochum is responsible for the application procedure and the enrolment as Ersthörer (students primarily enrolled at RUB).

(8) The start of studies is only possible in the winter semester. Applicants in higher subject-semester may be approved for summer and winter semesters.

### § 2

#### Programme Objectives and purpose of the tests

(1) The master programme Biodiversität / Biodiversity enables students to do scientific work, to critically assess scientific knowledge, to work practically in laboratories and to act responsibly. Students acquire knowledge and learn skills aimed at research-oriented careers.

(2) Through exams it is determined whether the student has acquired the relevant extended and advanced knowledge and skills, can survey subject-specific correlations and has the ability to independently apply natural scientific methods and findings and to work independently in a scientific way. In addition the degree qualifies the student for doctoral studies.

### § 3

#### Master degree

Upon successful completion of the master's programme, the Faculty of Biology and Biotechnology at the Ruhr-University Bochum - together with the Faculty of Biology, University of Duisburg-Essen - bestows graduates with the degree of "Master of Science", abbreviated "M.Sc."

### § 4

#### Standard period of study, study design and study extent

- (1) The standard period of study in the Master's programme Biodiversität / Biodiversity - including the processing time for the master thesis - is two years or four semesters.
- (2) The degree course is modular. A module is a self-contained network of thematically and temporally coordinated courses (seminars, lectures or Übungen), which are awarded a certain number of credit points (CP), according to the expenditure time required for successful participation. 1 CP is a workload of about 30 hours. The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) is used to record the total time expenditure of the students' performance. No qualitative assessment of study performances is connected with the credit points. The Content, objectives and teaching methods, eligibility requirements, workload and the forms of examination of the modules are specified in writing inside the module handbook. All graded modules are connected with course examinations, whose grades will be included in the final grade. In the module handbook, in its current version, the present duties resulting from the learning objectives are also regulated.
- (3) The modules of the program are structured so that the studies can be completed in the standard period of study. It will be ensured - within the scope of the teaching capacity and facilities - that students can set priorities according to their own choice.
- (4) The courses will be held in German or English.
- (5) The extent of the studies is 120 credit points (120 CP). Of this amount 90 CP account for the course-related examined subject-specific modules. The study course and the distribution of the individual modules are specified in the study plan (Appendix 1) and are part of the present examination regulations. 17 CP account for the introductory specification during the first semester, 57 CPs are reserved for individual specialization, 16 CPs are reserved for the development of higher-level skills, and 30 CPs account for the master project referred to in Section III.
- (6) 60 CP have to be acquired per academic year. Students who have acquired less than 45 CP in the first year are invited to a subject-based study consultation. Details are governed by the joint board of examiners for this course of study.

### § 5

#### Recognition of study and examination achievements, assessment in higher subject- semesters

- (1) Study time and passed or failed exams (study or examination credits) that have been rendered at another university within the scope of the Grundgesetz (Basic Law) in the same course of study will be counted officially. Successful or failed credits in other courses of study or at other universities and at state or state-recognized professional academies within the scope of the Basic Law shall be counted unless investigated, no significant differences can be identified and justified; This also applies - upon application - to credits achieved at universities outside the scope of the Basic Law. Upon application the university can account for other knowledge and qualifications on the basis of the documents submitted.

(2) Significant differences exist in particular if the acquired skills do not meet the requirements of the Master's programme Biodiversität / Biodiversity. No schematic comparison, but an overall consideration and overall assessment shall be undertaken. For recognition or inclusion of study periods, study credits and examination credits which were performed outside the scope of the Basic Law the equivalence agreements approved by the Kultusministerkonferenz (Standing conference of the Ministers of Education and Culture of the Länder of the Federal Republic of Germany) as well as the agreements within the framework of the university partnership must be observed. In addition, the International Office and the Central Office for Foreign Education can be heard in case of doubt.

(3) The board of examiners is responsible for credits or approval referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2. The student has to submit the documents necessary for recognition. Before determining whether significant differences exist a subject representative has to be heard.

(4) If study and examination results are credited, the grades - if the grading systems are comparable - are to be adopted and included in the calculation of the overall grade. If the grading systems are not comparable, the credit will be remarked with the term "passed". The recognition will be identified in the certificate.

(5) There is a legal right to get credit or recognition, if the requirements of paragraphs 1 and 2 are present. The student or the student has to submit the necessary documents for recognition. After the submission of all documents notice shall be given within 6 weeks.

## § 6

### Board of Examiners

(1) For the organization of examinations and other exam-related tasks assigned by these examination regulations the Faculty of Biology and Biotechnology at the Ruhr-University Bochum and the Faculty of Biology at the University of Duisburg-Essen jointly form a board of examiners.

(2) The board of examiners consists of:

- a) two members from the group of teachers and university professors from each of the two faculties,
- b) one member from the group of the academic staff from each of the two faculties
- c) two members from the group of students of the programme Biodiversität / Biodiversity.
- d) Furthermore, up to three advisory members can belong to the board of examiners

(3) The respective faculty councils elect the members and their substitutes. For each member a substitute shall be elected. The term of office is three years, the ones of the student members are one year. Re-elections are allowed.

(4) The chairperson of the board of examiners and his/her deputy from the group of lecturers are elected by the board of examiners for three years. Members of the same university may not hold both offices. Re-elections are allowed.

(5) The board of examiners is the public authority for the purpose of the administrative procedure and the administrative procedural law (Verwaltungsverfahrenrecht and Verwaltungsprozessrecht).

(6) The board of examiners shall ensure that the provisions of the examination regulations are adhered to and ensure the proper conduct of the exams. It is particularly responsible for decisions on appeals against decisions taken in the examination procedure. In addition, the board of examiners has to regularly - at least once a year - report to the two faculty councils on

the development of the examinations and study periods. It gives suggestions for reform of the examination regulations and the curriculum. It controls the allocation of credits for the actual time expenditure and proposes redistribution if any is required. The board of examiners may confer the execution of its duties for all normal cases on the chairman; this does not apply to decisions on appeals and for the report to the two faculty councils.

(7) The board of examiners shall constitute a quorum when more than 50% of the members eligible to vote and at least two representatives of each university are present. It can resolve on something by a simple majority. The vote of the chairman decides in the case of a tie. The student members of the board of examiners are not involved in the assessment and recognition of study and exam credits.

(8) The members of the board of examiners have the right to be present at examinations.

(9) The board of examiners' meetings are not public. The members of the board and their substitutes are bound to secrecy. If they are not already bound to secrecy because of a public service or employment relationship, they are required to be bound to secrecy by the chairman of the board of examiners under the law on the formal obligation for non-officials (Verpflichtungsgesetz).

## § 7

### Examiners and assessors

(1) The board of examiners appoints the examiners in accordance with § 65 HG. It may convey the appointment of the chairperson. Examiners must be university professors, university lecturers, or private lecturers at one of the two universities. Usually the teacher who taught in the corresponding subject of examination of the degree course Biodiversität / Biodiversity is appointed as examiner.

(2) The examiners are independent in their examination work. Accordingly § 6 par. 9 sentence 2 and 3 apply.

(3) Persons, who have passed at least the corresponding master's exam or a comparable examination and are a member of one of the two universities, may be appointed as assessors.

## II. Course-related examinations

### § 8

#### Extent and types of examination

(1) The course-related examinations serve the prompt proof of the successful completion of the modules and the acquisition of the knowledge and skills imparted in these modules. As part of these examinations, students have to demonstrate that they are able to identify the correlations of the respective subject of examination and that they can classify specific questions in these correlations. Within a module, either a module examination or several partial module examinations can be taken.

(2) At the latest after the last course of the module, and during the semester break, a course-related examination will be offered. According to paragraph 3 the dates will be announced on time, at least 14 days before the exam.

(3) The students must register for all course-related examination components according to the specifications in the respective module description in the eCampus of the Ruhr-University Bochum. Exam dates and locations will be announced by the examination office of the Faculty of Biology and Biotechnology at the Ruhr University Bochum. The obligation to provide information regarding the examination dates and locations is the responsibility of the students.

The withdrawal of a examination registration can take place at the person responsible for the respective module's office and in writing, taking account of §§ 13 and 14 of the respective module and is of no consequence up to 7 days before the test. The board of examiners approves exceptions to the examination organisation.

## § 9

### Form of the exams

(1) module and partial module examinations can be rendered

1. as oral exams or
2. in writing: as written exams, term papers, kept minutes (protocols), posters or
3. as lectures, oral presentations or
4. as a combination of examination types 1-3.

(2) Students are to be informed about the applicable type and language of the examination for each module at the beginning of the courses. The type of the exam and the time expenditure of the respective course are to be determined by the examiner for all students of the respective course as part of the examination regulations.

(3) The respective examiner determines which auxiliaries can be used to pass a course-related examination and informs the students about them.

## § 10

### oral examinations

(1) In the oral examination the students shall demonstrate that they can understand the correlations of the subject of examination and that they can classify specific questions inside these correlations. Because of the oral examination it shall also be determined whether they have achieved the course-related learning objectives.

(2) Oral examinations are usually held before an examiner and in the presence of an assessor as a single- or a group-exam. According to § 16 the assessor is to be heard before determining the grade.

(3) Oral examinations will not last less than 30 and not more than 45 minutes per examinee. In justified cases it may be differed from that time frame.

(4) The main subjects and the result of an oral examination are to be written down in a log/protocol. The grade has to be communicated to the student following the oral examination.

## § 11

### written exams

(1) In a written exam the students should prove that they are able to recognize - with a differentiated understanding of the common methods of the subject on the basis of a broad knowledge - a problem from the subject of examination in a limited frame of time and with the approved auxiliaries and that they can find independent ideas and ways to solve it.

(2) Written exams last between 60 and 120 minutes.

(3) Each exam is evaluated according to § 16. If a written exam consists of several parts, the grade is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the individual grades obtained in accordance with § 17. The student is to be granted the opportunity to access their own examination papers.

(4) The evaluation process should generally not exceed 6 weeks. This may be differed from only for compelling reasons. The evaluation of a written exam has to be communicated to the students.

## § 12

### Other forms of examination

(1) If necessary, particular specifications can be set by the examiner for term papers, kept minutes (protocols), posters, lectures and oral presentations. These specifications have to be announced to the students at the beginning of the course. The exam performance can also be assessed by only one examiner. The assessment has to be communicated to the students.

(2) The main subjects of the examination are to be recorded in a written protocol/ kept in a log.

(3) The evaluation process should generally not exceed 6 weeks. This may be differed from only for compelling reasons. The evaluation has to be communicated to the students.

## § 13

### Repetition of exams

(1) The course-related examinations of the modules 6 and 8 - in the case of a rating of less than fair (4.0) - can be repeated twice or the candidate can attend an alternative module as part of the elective modules. All other modules may be repeated twice at a rating of less than fair (4.0).

(2) Passed course-related examinations cannot be repeated. The student will have to use the respective next possible examination date. The repeat examination has to take place in the following semester at the latest.

(3) The shape of a repeat examination may differ from the shape of the examination that has to be repeated. It is important to ensure that the effort associated with the repeat examination matches that of the previous examination and therefore this repeat examination - in the case of its passing - is graded with the same weight as the previous examination - in the case of its passing - in the calculation of the module and final grades.

(4) In the case of a definitely failed examination the student will receive a notification with a legal remedy instruction (Rechtsbehelfsbelehrung).

## § 14

### Absence, Withdrawal, Deception, regulation violations

(1) A test is considered as failed, if the student neglects to attend a for him or her mandatory examination without good cause, or if he or she resigns after the start of the examination without good reason. The same applies if a written work is not completed and handed in within the allotted time.

(2) If the student is prevented by illness from attending a test, and he or she has proven the examination inability by handing in a medical certificate, the attempt will not be counted. In this case the student has to use the next exam date offered by the examiner. The submission of the medical certificate must take place immediately and basically within two business days after the date of the examination at the examination office of the Faculty of Biology and Biotechnology at the Ruhr University Bochum. An illness of the student is equivalent to the illness of a predominantly sole care child with regard to the reasons for non-participation in examinations or for non-adherence to given process time for written examinations like term

papers. In cases of doubt and repeat special requirements may be imposed on the student. Details are governed by the board of examiners.

(3) Should the student try to influence the result of his or her exam by cheating, plagiarism or using unauthorized tools, the exam in question will be assessed with the grade "fail (5.0)". The determination will be made by the respective examiner or invigilator and put on record. A student who disrupts the orderly conduct of an examination may be excluded from further participation in the exam by the respective examiner or invigilator; In this case, the performance in question will be graded as "fail (5.0)". In serious cases the board of examiners can exclude the student from taking further examinations.

(4) The affected student may request a review of that decision by the board of examiners within four weeks after the announcement of that decision under paragraph 3. The board of examiners is expected to complete the review by the end of the current semester. Decisions made by the board of examiners which burden the student must be communicated to him or her in writing and have to be provided with a legal remedy instruction.

(5) The board of examiners may require and take an affirmation in lieu of oath from the student that the examination performance has been rendered by him or her on his or her own and without undue outside help. Anyone who deliberately attempts to deceive during an exam - like referred to in paragraph 3 - acts improperly. The appropriate authority for the prosecution and punishment of offenses is the chancellor of the Ruhr-University Bochum. The student may be expelled in the case of multiple or other serious deception attempts.

## § 15

### Students in special situations

(1) If a candidate shows probable cause that he or she is unable - due to prolonged or permanent physical or mental incapacity - to completely or partially take any type of examination in the form provided for by submitting a medical certificate the board of examiners will check if equivalent exams are to be taken in a different form. The same applies for study credits.

(2) The board of examiners will set specific examination conditions upon application, and under consideration of the respective case, for students, for whom the protection regulations in accordance with §§ 3, 4, 6 and 8 of the Maternity Protection Act apply or for whom the limits of the Federal Education Money Act on parental leave apply.

(3) the board of examiners sets the in these examination regulations regulated deadlines and dates upon request by the respective student for students who care for or provide for their spouse, their registered partner, a direct relative or a first-degree in-law - if he or she is care-dependent - taking into account downtime because of this care and in consideration of the specific case.

## § 16

### Generation of exam grades

(1) The grades for the study-accompanying examinations are determined by the respective examiners. The following system is used for grading:

1 = excellent, very good (excellent performance);

2 = good (a performance that is significantly above average);

3 = satisfactory (a performance that meets average requirements);

4 = fair (a performance that despite deficiencies still meets the requirements);

5 = not sufficient, fail (performance that does not meet the requirements due to significant deficiencies).



By lowering or raising the individual grades by 0.3 intermediate values can be formed within the limits of 1.0 to 4.0 for differentiated evaluation of the performance.

(2) A course-related examination is passed if the examination or all partial tests were graded as "sufficient (4.0)" or better. A course-related examination is definitely failed if the examination or one of the partial exams is graded as "unsatisfactory (5.0)" and all repeat options have been exhausted in accordance with § 13.

## § 17

### Generation of module grades

(1) A module is successfully completed when/if all partial examinations belonging to this module have been passed. With the successful completion of a module the student will be credited with the designated credit points.

(2) Module grades are calculated based on the arithmetic mean weighted with the credits of each partial module examination associated with the respective module. Only the first decimal place is taken into account after the decimal point; all other decimal places are deleted without rounding. The grades are:

with an average up to and including 1.5 = excellent;

with an average of 1.6 to 2.5 = good;

for an average of 2.6 to 3.5 = satisfactory;

for an average of 3.6 to 4.0 = fair;

with an average of 4.1 = fail.

(3) The examination and module grades are reported to the examination office of the Faculty of Biology and Biotechnology at the Ruhr University Bochum in a suitable form.

III. master project

## § 18

### Admission to the master project

(1) The master project consists of the master's thesis and the master colloquium and has a total extent of 30 CP.

(2) Those who

a) have the certificate of the Hochschulreife (Abitur) (Allgemeine oder fachgebundene Hochschulreife (Fachabitur)) or a certificate recognized as equivalent by law or by the appropriate public agency,

b) have a Bachelor's degree or have successfully completed a degree course recognized as equivalent in accordance with § 1,

c) are enrolled in the joint master's degree programme Biodiversität/Biodiversity of the Ruhr-University Bochum and the University of Duisburg-Essen,

d) can prove successfully completed modules according to the study plan to the extent of at least 90 credit points

can be admitted to the master project

(3) The application shall be rejected if the conditions referred to in paragraph 2 are not met, or if a candidate has lost her or his right to be examined by missing a registration deadline. Exceptions are regulated by the board of examiners.

## § 19 Master Thesis

(1) The master thesis is an examination paper which concludes the education in the master's degree course Biodiversität / Biodiversity. It should demonstrate that the student is capable of independently processing a scientific task from the subject area of the degree course within a specified time period, both in its subject-specific details and in the multidisciplinary contexts according to academic and subject-practical methods.

(2) The topic of the thesis is provided and supervised by a professor of the Faculty of Biology and Biotechnology at the Ruhr-University Bochum or the Faculty of Biology at the University of Duisburg-Essen. The student has the right to propose the topic of the thesis. It will require the approval of the board of examiners to undertake the Master thesis at another faculty of the participating universities or at an institution other than the involved universities. The topic of the master thesis will be issued by the chairman of the board of examiners.

(3) The time limit to finish the Master's thesis is five months, including the written work. In specific cases the board of examiners can extend the time limit by up to 4 weeks because of a reasoned request by the student, if the request has been submitted to the chairman of the board of examiners in writing no later than two weeks before the date of the submission of the thesis and if the approval of the supervising professor is present. The topic and the setting of the task of the thesis must be such that the predetermined period of time for finishing the thesis can be maintained. The topic can only be returned within the first month of the time limit and only once.

(4) The Master's thesis must be written in German or English and submitted on time to the examination board. Four copies have to be submitted in printed and bound form and in DIN A4 format and additionally in electronic form. Required detailed results can additionally be combined in an appendix - in writing or on a suitable data medium. When submitting the thesis, the student has to certify in writing that he or she has written his thesis independently and no other sources and auxiliaries than the indicated ones have been used, and that quotes have been made recognizable and that no content-changing image processing has been made. The time of submission has to go on record. If the thesis is not submitted within the given time period, it will be rated as "fail (5.0)".

(5) The master thesis has to be reasonably evaluated by at least two examiners, the first examiner shall be the one who sets the topic of the thesis. Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the board of examiners. Students may propose the second examiner for the Master's thesis. The proposals shall be taken into consideration whenever possible. However, the proposals do not constitute a claim. At least one examiner must be a member of the Faculty of Biology and Biotechnology at the Ruhr-University Bochum or the Faculty of Biology at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

(6) The assessment of the thesis is carried out according to the evaluation scheme in § 16. The grade for the master thesis is formed from the arithmetic mean of the individual evaluations if the difference is not more than 2.0. In the case of a difference of more than 2.0 the board of examiners determines a third examiner to evaluate the thesis. In this case, the grade will be made up of the arithmetic mean of the three grades. But the master thesis can only be rated as "fair (4.0)" or better if at least two grades are "fair(4.0)" or better.

(7) The evaluation procedure shall not exceed eight weeks. The examination office must be notified of the evaluation of the thesis in writing after the completion of the evaluation procedure.

(8) A failed master thesis can be repeated once. Returning the topic of the second Master's thesis within the time period mentioned in paragraph (3) shall be permitted only if the student has not exerted this option while preparing his first thesis. A second repetition of the thesis is not possible.

## §20

### Master Colloquium

- (1) The Master's Colloquium is a final oral examination and consists of a presentation by the student and an examination by the examiners of the master thesis.
- (2) The presentation should not exceed a period of 15 minutes and the subsequent examination shall not exceed a period of 30 minutes.
- (3) The Master's Colloquium is public. The public may be excluded at the request of the student.
- (4) Examinees have to write the minutes for the examination as part of the Master's Colloquium.
- (5) The two examiners shall jointly determine a grade according to § 16 of the Master colloquium. The public is excluded from the discussion of the grade; present professors can be used for counseling.
- (6) A failed master colloquium can be repeated once within a period of one month. Exceptions must be requested at - and have to be approved by - the board of examiners.

## § 21

### Passing and Failing the Master's programme

- (1) The master's program is passed if all course-related module examinations as well as the master project have been passed and thus 120 CP were acquired.
- (2) The master's programme has been definitely failed if a course-related examination, the Master's thesis or the master colloquium was not successfully completed and a repetition of these examinations is no longer possible.
- (3) If the Master examination has been definitely failed, a certificate which shows the successfully completed exams, their grades and achieved credit points can be issued by the board of examiners at the request of the student and after submission of the respective proof as well as the submission of the certificate of the removal from the register of students. The certificate issued by the board also shows that the master examination has been definitely failed.

## § 22

### Generation of the final grade

- (1) The overall grade is calculated as a weighted average grade of all module grades.
- (2) The calculation of the final grade is based on the same principle as the calculation of the module grades (see. § 17).
- (3) If the master thesis was evaluated with 1.0 and all other modules were rated at least 1.3, the overall rating "with distinction" will be given in the certificate in accordance to § 24.

## § 23

### Additional Subjects

- (1) The student can undergo examinations in other subjects outside of the compulsory and elective subject areas.
- (2) The result of an examination in such an additional subject will not be included in the determination of module grades and the final grade.
- (3) At the request of the student the achievements will be displayed in the diploma supplement.

**§ 24****Degree documents**

- (1) After the completion of the required final examination a certificate which contains the module examinations, their grades, credit points, the topic and the grade of the master project as well as the overall grade will be compiled. At the request of the student the results of exams from the additional subjects will be included in the certificate.
- (2) The certificate shall bear the seal of the Faculty of Biology and Biotechnology at the Ruhr-University Bochum and the seal of the Faculty of Biology at the University of Duisburg-Essen and will be signed by the chairman of the board of examiners and the deans of the two faculties.
- (3) The student will also receive an English translation of the certificate.
- (4) The University will hand out to the graduate a diploma supplement in German and English with the certificate. The diploma supplement contains personal information and general information regarding the type of degree, the degree-awarding universities as well as the degree course and study programme. In particular it contains detailed information on the study achievements and examination results and their evaluations as well as information on the credit points obtained through the respective examinations and the overall grade. The diploma supplement bears the same date as the certificate and shall be signed by the chairman of the board of examiners and the deans of the two faculties.
- (5) Along with the certificate and the Diploma Supplement is replaced by a graduate or a graduate with a certificate with the date of the certificate. The awarding of the Master's degree will be certified. The certificate is signed by the Dean or the Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Biotechnology at the Ruhr-University Bochum and the Dean or the Dean of the Faculty of Biology, University of Duisburg-Essen and the chairman of the Audit Committee and with the seal of the two universities provided. The student will also receive an English translation of the Master Deed.

## IV. Final Provisions

**§ 25****Invalidity of the master examination, revoking of the Master's degree**

- (1) If the student has cheated during an examination and this fact is discovered after the issue of the degree documents, the examination board may subsequently declare the grades - for those examinations where the fraud took place - as fully or partially failed.
- (2) If the requirements for admission to an examination were not met without the student intending to deceive, and this fact is disclosed only after the delivery of the final documents, this deficiency is remedied by passing the examination. If the approval has been obtained through intentional deceit, the board of examiners shall decide on the legal consequences in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act for the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.
- (3) Before a decision the person concerned is to be given an opportunity to be heard.
- (4) The incorrect final documents are confiscated and, if necessary, new final documents are to be created. Within a period of one year from becoming known a decision in accordance to paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 sentence 2 is excluded.
- (5) If the Master examination in all is declared as failed, the awarded degree is to be revoked and the issued final documents are to be confiscated.

**§ 26****Access to the examination records**

- (1) Within four weeks after the announcement of the results of course-related examinations the students will be granted access to the exam documents (written exams, written minutes of oral examinations, assessment of seminar lectures, etc.).
- (2) Following an appeal period of four weeks after access, the examination-relevant documents (written exams, term papers, posters, etc.) can be handed out to the students.
- (3) Within one year after completion of the examination procedure the graduate - upon request - shall be granted access - within a reasonable time frame- to the evaluation of his or her Master's thesis.

**§ 27****Scope**

These regulations apply to all students who are enrolled - from the winter semester 2013/2014 on - in the master degree course Biodiversität / Biodiversity at the Ruhr-University Bochum and the University of Duisburg-Essen.

**§ 28****Coming into force and publication**

These examination regulations come into force on the day following their publication in the official bulletin of the Ruhr-University Bochum as well as in the "Verkündungsblatt of the University of Duisburg-Essen - official notes".

Executed on the basis of the resolutions of the faculty board of the Faculty of Biology and Biotechnology at the Ruhr-University Bochum on January 29 2013 and the Faculty of Biology, University of Duisburg-Essen on January 24 2013.

Bochum,  
##. ##. 2013  
The Rector of the Ruhr-University Bochum  
University Professor Dr. Elmar Weiler

Duisburg and Essen,  
##. ## 2013  
For the vice chancellor of the University of Duisburg-Essen  
The chancellor  
On behalf of  
xxx