

Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development

Faculty of Forest and Environment

STUDY and EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

for the International Master Study Programme *Forest Information Technology* (“Master of Science”)

*dated 08.11.2017 in the version of the **third amendment statute dated 10.02.202**
valid from winter semester 2021/2022*

Only the original German version of these regulations is legally valid.

The faculty board of the faculty of forest and environment of Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development issued the following third amendment statute to the Study and Examination Regulations on 10.02.201:

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§1 Scope

The *Forest Information Technology (M.Sc.)* study programme is implemented in cooperation between the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (EUSD), Faculty of Forest and Environment, and the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (WULS), Faculty of Forestry. These regulations govern and specify the structure, content and examination procedures for this four-semester international master study programme, based on the general study and examination regulations of the respective universities. The certificates of the double degree are issued exclusively by the two enrolling partner universities EUSD and WULS.

§ 2 Subject and objectives of the study programme

The International Master's Programme in Forest Information Technology teaches students to solve complex problems on the basis of:

- an expanded understanding of structures, processes and interrelationships in natural and managed forest ecosystems, natural and agricultural landscapes, as well as in the political and social environment of climate-sensitive environmental management and sustainable forest management and
- a broad spectrum of scientific methods and (IT) tools for the collection and analysis of empirical data and for the collection, analysis, storage, visualisation and communication, primarily of environmental data. Students are in particular enabled to creatively apply software products widely used in the forest and environmental sector, to use and adapt them appropriately, to open up new areas of and to independently plan and develop new application software.

§ 3 Learning and study programme objectives

Students learn how to solve complex problems on the basis of (I) a deeper and extended understanding of structures, processes and interrelationships in forest and forestry ecosystems natural and agricultural landscapes, as well as in the political and societal environment of climate-smart environmental management and sustainable forestry, and (II) a broad spectrum of scientific methods and IT tools for the acquisition and analysis of empirical data as well as for the collection, analysis, storage, visualisation and communication, primarily of environmental data. In particular, students are enabled to creatively apply, appropriately use and adapt software products that are widely used in the forest and environmental sector, and to develop new areas of application.

To achieve these goals, the following competences are taught:

- Students have knowledge of the utilisation forms of forest ecosystems and of technological processes.
- Students have knowledge of organisational and administrative processes in forest management.
- Students have a solid knowledge of the technical fundamentals and the current development trends of modern information technologies (IT). They know basic terms and concepts of current IT applications and current IT technology (hardware and software).
- The students know the main areas of application of IT in the forest and environmental sector as well as future trends and challenges.
- Students are familiar with commercially available software systems and solutions for questions in the forestry and environmental sector.
- Students have knowledge regarding product development and use as well as the IT technology transfer.
- Students know the different scientific approaches and methodological concepts of various disciplines in the environmental field.
- The students know the basics and procedures for computer- and model-supported situation analysis and impact assessment in forest ecosystems and in the environmental sector.
- Students know the relevant concepts and methods for obtaining, analysing, storage, visualisation and dissemination of environmental data.
- Students are particularly familiar with the theoretical foundations of database and information technology as well as geo-informatics and applied remote sensing.

- Students know the potential intersections and innovation points between IT and practical and scientific issues in the forest and environmental sector.
- Students are able to derive IT-related tasks, develop, and implement solution strategies.
- Students are able to evaluate the chances of success and the effectiveness of IT tasks and applications.
- Students will be able to carry out empirical data analyses, use databases and Geographical Information Systems as well as to use and develop appropriate application software.
- Students are able to apply special methods of forestry and environmental data collection and analysis.
- Students have content and technological knowledge for the processing of IT-relevant tasks within complex projects.
- Students know commercial and non-commercial software products relevant for the forest and environmental sector (commercially available software products). Particularly important are products in the field of Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing.

Furthermore, the following competences are being fostered:

- Students are able to recognise potential IT application fields in the forest and environmental sector including new technologies and media.
- Students are able to define or assess framework conditions that promote innovation.
- Students are able to critically evaluate IT concepts and organisational solutions
- Students are able to assess the most important hardware and software topics and issues organisationally and in terms of protection law.
- Students possess a sound systemic understanding of the natural structures, processes and interrelationships in forests and forest ecosystems, natural and agricultural landscapes and the extended environmental sphere.
- Students are able to creatively apply various IT applications for problem description and to find solutions creatively - especially methods of structural analysis, system analysis and ecosystem modelling and structured empirically based evidence analysis.
- Students can combine and use their content and methodological knowledge to provide end-user oriented solutions.
- Students can derive, implement and evaluate scenarios.
- Students are able to evaluate forestry-technological and legal framework conditions.
- Students are able to plan data acquisition and storage concepts depending on the problem and situation.
- Students are able to analyse, present and disseminate empirical data in a variety of ways.
- Students are able to safely use selected, especially data-related software products.
- Students are able to adapt standard software products for specific questions.
- Students are able to develop new application software.
- Students are able to plan IT components in projects and to evaluate solution strategies with regard to their effectiveness and scope.
- Students are able to independently solve adaptation and development tasks including programming tasks.
- Students have special skills in the application of geographic information and remote sensing systems as well as spatial surveying and analysis tools.

§ 4 Consecutivity and image

The study programme is a consecutive programme for undergraduate study programmes in the fields of forestry and forest science, land use and conservation, as well as other undergraduate science and ecological-environmental science programmes. Especially the Bachelor programmes "International Forest Ecosystem Management" and "Forestry" of the EUSD and the programme "Forest Engineer" of the WULS are suitable undergraduate programmes.

§ 5 Admission to the study programme

- (1) The programme starts in the winter semester of each year.
- (2) German applicants can apply to the HNEE by 15 July of the respective year. All other international applicants can only apply to HNEE by 1 May of the respective year. International student applications, with the exception of applications from graduates of partner universities, are subject to an external pre-check by UNI-ASSIST (Working and Service Point for International Student Applications; www.uni-assist.de).
- (3) The following criteria must be met for programme admission:
 - Proof of university degree (Bachelor, Diploma, Engineering, Magister Artium or Master) in forestry, agricultural or environmental studies with at least 180 academic ECTS credits in:
 - Forest management / forestry
 - Biology
 - Environmental sciences
 - Agricultural sciences
 - Land use planning
 - Geography
 - Other, thematically related degree courses, which require an approval by the study course representatives of the partner university.
 - All applicants must have a good knowledge of the English language according to the European Framework of Reference with at least level B2 or comparable qualifications. A copy of the corresponding language certificate must be submitted. Applicants with English as their language of education in their home country do not need to submit an English language certificate. The verification of the official or educational language of a country is carried out by UNI-ASSIST and is based on the current country information from the Foreign Office. Graduates of English-language degree programmes, e.g. the "International Forest Ecosystem Management" (B.Sc.) at the EUSD, do not have to provide any further language certificates. If applicants do not have a suitable English at the time of admission, applicants may be admitted for a limited period of time. The corresponding proof must then be provided by the end of the re-registration period for the second semester. Knowledge of the German language is not a prerequisite for admission, but is recommended, as the administrative and official language is German.
 - Applicants from forestry, landscape and environment-related and similar programmes (see sentence 1 of this paragraph) fulfil the entry requirements without further examination. Applicants from other programmes will be assessed according to their individual technical qualifications, based on previous study programme by the programme management of the enrolling partner universities.). In case of doubt, the examination board decides, in consultation with the head of the study programme, on the recognition of study programmes.
- (4) The following documents should be submitted for selection and allocation of study places:
 - Curriculum vitae (including documents proving the academic and professional qualification)
 - Letter of motivation (maximum two pages, no admission requirement)
- (5) The decision on the professional suitability of the applicants is made by the joint programme committee of the degree programme. The joint programme committee consists of full-time representatives of the respective departments or faculties of the EUSD and WULS (dean, head of study programme and programme coordinator of the respective university).
- (6) Places are generally allocated according to country groups (32% for German, 32% for Polish and 36% for international students). If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available study places, these will

be allocated, with the exception of the 32% of study places for Polish applicants, in accordance with the criteria of the University selection statutes of the EUSD in the currently valid version.

- (7) Students must provide proof of valid health insurance for the entire duration of their studies.
- (8) Students undertake independently to obtain a valid residence permit in accordance with the regulations of the respective host country. The EUSD and WULS support the students but are not responsible for the valid residence permit in the host country.
- (9) The enrolment of students (1st semester) is conducted at the EUSD.
- (10) Students who are granted admission shall be enrolled simultaneously at both the EUSD and at the WULS. The corresponding rules and regulations for registration shall apply. The corresponding enrolment fee is only payable at the actual place of study.

§ 6 Structure and crediting of the study programme

- (1) The official length of the course for completing this Master of Science degree is four semesters. The course is divided up as follows:

1 st semester:	Theoretical study semester (application of environmental information technologies in forestry- and environment-related relevant subject areas (place of study: EUSD))
2 nd semester:	Theoretical study semester (application of environmental information technologies in forestry- and environment-related relevant subject areas (place of study: WULS))
3 rd semester:	Practical semester with independent research project (organised by the EUSD, WULS or UVa) as well as taking further elective modules. The research project (mandatory module) can be carried out in Germany, Poland, Spain or another country. The elective modules can also be at one of the partner universities of the programme (EUSD, WULS or UVa) or, if applicable, also at another Erasmus EU partner university.
.4 th semester:	Theoretical study semester with focus on the preparation of the Master's thesis. In addition, students take further elective modules that are offered at one of the partner universities of the degree programme (EUSD, WULS or UVa) or, if applicable, at another Erasmus EU partner university. The successful study programme ends with a double degree awarded by the two partner universities WULS and EUSD.
- (2) The structure and objective of the study programme and the modules are set out in the curriculum and module description which is part of the study and examination regulations (see Appendix 1).
- (3) The entire study programme is modularised and comprises mandatory and elective modules. The teaching language is English.
- (4) On successful completion of these modules, credits shall be awarded in line with the European Credit transfer System (ECTS). Generally a total of 30 credits must be achieved from all available modules (mandatory and elective) per semester. The workload to achieve 1 ECTS credit point is 25 hours. The minimum number of credits needed for the master's degree is 300 ECTS credits (at least 120 of which can be attained from the FIT degree course, building on a degree with at least 180 ECTS credits).
- (5) In addition, further modules can be taken as elective modules according to § 5 para. 3 RSPO (General Study Programme and Examination Regulations). These do not contribute to the credit points according to Para. 4; however, they can be listed in the transcript at the student's request.
- (6) The ECTS credits to be earned in the elective area are transferable between semesters. Provided that the

requirements for module assignment are met, elective modules from higher semesters can be brought forward or, in individual cases, also made up from lower semesters. For mandatory modules from higher semesters, this is only possible with the consent of the module coordinator upon application to the examination board.

- (7) In the area of elective modules, up to 18 ECTS credits can generally be acquired through specialisation modules. Specialisation modules are elective modules that are not bound to the curriculum and serve to expand and specifically supplement the objectives of the study programme formulated under § 3 of the study programme. Specialisation modules can be currently offered in one's own study programme as well as from other Master's study programmes at the EUSD or another university. Crediting of modules from science-related institutions is possible. The acquisition of the maximum credit point limit is cumulative and does not require a specific module size. In the event of exceeding the maximum creditable ECTS credit points, the surplus credit points of the specialisation module will be cancelled and not taken into account for the credit point total. Specialisation modules must be approved by the head of study programme before they can be taken.
- (8) Elective modules can only be chosen once. If the number of applicants for a particular elective module exceeds the number of places available, applicants from the semester in which the elective module is offered for the first time according to the curriculum are given priority. 10% of places may be awarded directly by lecturers. The registration and selection procedures for assigning students to elective and facultative modules will be carried out by the head of study programme by the beginning of the examination period of the previous semester (exception: in the first semester, registration and selection shall be carried out in the first week of the lecture period). All other conditions for attending elective modules can be found in the relevant module descriptions.

§7 Responsibility for examination formalities

The present regulations govern the basic examination modalities for the International Master's programme Forest Information Technology (M.Sc.). The review of the regulations is exercised by the higher education institution where the students are staying and taking examinations at the time in question. In matters which are not regulated in these regulations, the Regulations of the respective university shall apply.

§8 Type and scope of examinations

- (1) The general examination requirements result from the respective regulations/ specifications of the university at which the examinations are taken. The type and scope of the module examinations are specified in the curriculum and the module description.
- (2) Examinations can only be taken by students enrolled in the degree programme. The universities shall ensure through the study and examination regulations for the degree programme and the modules offered that examinations are taken within the specified periods. The number and type of examinations are regulated in the Curriculum and Module Description (see Annex 1).
- (3) Upon enrolment or re-registration, students are automatically registered for the module examinations for the mandatory modules in the examination schedule for the corresponding semester and if applicable, also for the examinations during the semester.
- (4) The selection and enrolment modalities of the elective and facultative modules are carried out until the end of the lecture period of the previous semester. Only at the beginning of the first semester, the selection is made within the first week of lectures. If a module does not take place due to an insufficient number of participants (<5), the students have to split up among the remaining elective modules.

- (5) With the registration for a module as an elective module, the corresponding module is treated as a mandatory module in terms of examination law. The students are therefore also automatically registered for the corresponding module examinations.
- (6) Possibilities to withdraw from a registered examination are subject to the regulations of the respective university at which the corresponding examinations are to be taken.
- (7) If students take an examination without being registered, the examination is regarded as not having been taken. The examination board 1/ dean decides on exceptions.
- (8) Students with proven physical, mental or psychological impairments and disabilities are to be granted compensation for disadvantages upon application.

§ 9 Examination deadlines

- (1) The general regulations on deadlines are governed by the regulations of the respective university at which the examinations are taken.
- (2) The announcement of topics for the Master's thesis by the dean's office of the respective university takes place in the third semester, at the latest at the beginning of the 4th semester. Students can also propose topics themselves and, in particular, bring in experience and data from the previous research project.
- (3) In order to successfully complete the study programme within the standard period of study, all examination results of the respective year, all examination results, the evaluation of the Master's thesis as well as the results of the defence must be submitted by 31 August of the respective year.

§10 Assessment of examinations and formation of grades

- (1) A module grade is awarded for each module. Each module grade is included on the student's certificate; they form the basis for determining the overall grade for the course.
- (2) Examinations taken in facultative modules shall be shown on the student's certificate if requested. These grades are not considered in determining the overall grade.
- (3) The grades for each examination shall be determined by the respective examiners.
- (4) For the assessment and transfer of examination performances between the EUSD and the WULS, the following grades are to be used:

Numeric grading system (%)	German grading system	Polish grading system
96-100	1.0 (very good)	5
91-95	1.3 (very good)	5
86-90	1.7 (good)	4.5
81-85	2.0 (good)	4
76-80	2.3 (good)	4
71-75	2.7 (satisfactory)	3.5
66-70	3.0 (satisfactory)	3.5
61-65	3.3 (satisfactory)	3.5
56-60	3.7 (sufficient)	3
51-55	4.0 (sufficient)	3
<50	5.0 (unsatisfactory)	2

¹ The tasks and function of the EUSD Examination Committee correspond to those of the WULS Dean's Office.
The tasks and function of the EUSD Student Services & International Office correspond to those of the WULS Dean's Office.

- (5) If a module examination consists of one examination performance, the module grade is the examination grade.
- (6) If a module examination consists of several examination performances, the module grade is calculated from the average of the weighted individual examinations.
- (7) Module grades are calculated according to the regulations applicable at the university where the examinations were taken.
- (8) To determine the average grade for the course, a weighted average is calculated from all module grades. The overall grade for the course is calculated as follows:
Overall grade = (average grade * 2 + arithmetic average of grades for master thesis + grade for the oral defence) / 4
- (9) For performances achieved in group work, each student's individual share of work must be recognisable and assessable.
- (10) A module examination is passed if the module grade is at least "sufficient" (4.0 (HNEE) / 3.0 (WNU)). If several graded examinations (partial examinations) are to be completed in a module, the total grade is calculated from the arithmetic average of the partial grades, taking into account the weighting of the partial examinations defined in the curriculum. All (partial) examinations in a module must be passed. It is not possible to offset examinations that have already been passed against examinations that have not been passed.
- (11) The examiner must guarantee access to assessed written papers, examination protocols and expert opinions on the Master's thesis within the objection period. In the case of an objection against the examination result, the regulations of the respective university apply.
- (12) Examination documents can be inspected at the Dean's Office / with the examiner of the respective university. Examination papers are the property of the university. The inspection does not entitle to make copies and transcripts.

§ 11 Failure, withdrawal from examinations and breach of regulations

- (1) An examination performance is considered "unsatisfactory" (5.0 [German grading system] / 2.0 [Polish grading system]) if a candidate fails to keep a binding examination deadline without good cause or if a candidate withdraws from an examination before its completion without good cause. The same applies if a written examination performance is not completed within the stipulated period or if the deadline for coursework or a thesis is not met. If an examination is completed properly then a withdrawal is not possible.
- (2) The module examinations necessary to achieve the semester performance requirement (generally 30 ECTS credits) must be taken by the end of each semester. A cancellation – except for the case of illness - must be submitted to the EMMA+ Portal (Campus Management System of the HNEE) no later than 7 calendar days before the start of the examination. If a student fails to attend an examination and has not been excused, the examination is graded as a "fail". The alleged reason for a withdrawal or failure must be submitted in writing immediately to the examination office / faculty director's office and substantiated. In case of illness, the inability of the candidate to take the examination must be proven by submitting a medical certificate, and in cases of doubt by submitting an official medical certificate, at the discretion of the examining board / faculty director's office. In respect of keeping deadlines for initial examination registration, retaking examinations and the reasons for failing to complete examinations and complying with deadlines for examination work, the illness of a child predominantly in the candidate's sole care shall be considered the same as the candidate's illness. If the reason is recognised, then the examination will be rescheduled.

- (3) If a candidate attempts to influence the result of his or her examination through deception or using unauthorised means or does not mention sources or aids used for the written work, the examination performance shall be deemed "unsatisfactory" (5.0 / 2.0). A candidate who disrupts the orderly conduct of the examination may be excluded from continuing to take the examination by the examiner; in this case the examination performance will be given the grade "unsatisfactory" (5.0 / 2.0). In severe cases, the examining board / faculty director may exclude the candidate from taking any further examinations, whereby the candidate's examination entitlement is also lost.
- (4) If the examination result is contested, the stipulations of the respective university shall apply.

§ 12 Resitting module examinations

- (1) Resits will usually take place during the examination period of the subsequent semester. Failed examinations can be retaken twice.
- (2) Resits must usually be carried out in the same form. In exceptional cases, the examiner may determine another examination form for the resit (for example, oral examination instead of a written examination).
- (3) A free attempt (EUSD) is only permitted for examinations that are taken within the standard period of study and on the regular examination date in accordance with these study and examination regulations. A maximum of one failed module exam or partial exam is deemed not to have been if it was taken for the first time within the first two semesters. A module examination or partial examination for which a free attempt is claimed, must be taken no later than the examination dates of the two semesters following the free attempt. The application must be submitted to the examination office at least 4 weeks before the start of the next examination period. Deregistration or non-participation in the examination will result in the loss of the free attempt. Within the scope of the free attempt a passed module examination or partial examination may be repeated once in order to improve the grade.
- (4) Oral examinations, the passing of which is a prerequisite for the continuation of the studies (last repetition possibility EUSD / "Commission Examination" WULS), are to be examined by at least two examiners (EUSD) / by a commission convened by the dean (WULS).
- (5) Written examinations, the passing of which is a prerequisite for the continuation of the study programme (last opportunity to repeat) are to be assessed by a second examiner if they are not passed. The grade is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the individual grades (EUSD only).
- (6) The Master's thesis can only be repeated once with a new topic if the grade is worse than "sufficient" (4.0 / 3.0). A return of the topic of the Master's thesis within the period specified in § 13, Para. 12, is only permissible if the candidate was not using this possibility during his/her first thesis.
- (7) In case of a repetition, the Master's thesis must be registered at the latest 6 months after the announcement of the first examination attempt. If the deadline is not met the examination entitlement expires. The examination board / dean* decides on exceptions.
- (8) The defence can only be repeated once if the grade is worse than "sufficient" (4.0 / 3.0). If the oral examination for the Master's thesis is repeated with a grade worse than "sufficient" (4.0 / 3.0), the Master's thesis is definitively failed.
- (9) For all other modalities regarding the repetition of examinations and the maximum number of repetitions, the regulations of the respective university at which the examinations were taken shall apply.

§13 Master thesis

- (1) The master thesis is a written examination. It aims to demonstrate that the candidate is able to deal with a problem independently within a specified period of time according to scientific methods.
- (2) The Master's thesis, including the defence, has a scope of 20 credit points and a processing time of 13 weeks. The master's thesis shall take place parallel to the completion of other modules.
- (3) The subject, issues and scope of the master thesis must be limited such that the deadline for completing the thesis can be met. The student may submit a desired subject.
- (4) Professors, including visiting professors, representatives of professors and honorary professors from the respective university may propose subjects for the master thesis in their specialist areas, supervise the master thesis and provide advice on the assessment of the thesis.
- (5) The master thesis shall be examined by two experts. One of those experts, normally the first examiner, needs to fulfil the qualification for employment of a professor according to the higher education act of Brandenburg or Poland and to teach self-dependent in the area of the thesis' subject at one of the two universities. The examiner can also be employed as a junior professor in the subject. The university expert is the contact for any issues concerning the master thesis. The second expert is designated by the examiner who issued the subject.
- (6) The thesis' subject will be issued for the thesis and defence at the earliest after the successful termination of the explicit majority of studies and examinations, generally after the achievement of at least 75% of the total number of credits of the course less the credits for the master thesis and defence (66 ECTS credit points). After the completion of all course and examination achievements the subject of the thesis shall be issued four weeks after the registration at the latest. If registration does not take place after all examination results have been submitted or if an extension of the deadline is not applied or not adhered to, the Master's thesis is regarded as having been failed. The examination board decides on exceptions.
- (7) The thesis may be completed by a group of maximum 3 students, if the individual candidate's contribution to be assessed as his or her examination performance can be clearly distinguished and is assessable based on the use of sections, page numbers or other objective criteria.
- (8) The processing time may be extended at the request of the candidate for reasons for which he/she is not responsible, in accordance with the regulations of the respective university.
- (9) The candidate is required to independently find a topic for the master's thesis and a supervisor, who is usually also the first examiner. In consultation with the first examiner, the candidate also looks independently for a second examiner.
- (10) The registration of the master thesis is to be put on record in the faculty director's office.
- (11) On registering their thesis, a candidate shall declare whether he or she agrees to let the university publish their master thesis or parts thereof, and to grant the university use and exploitation rights, and that if the master thesis is blocked for library use, the exploitation rights are withdrawn for the blocking period.
- (12) The subject of the thesis may only be returned once within four weeks of registration.
- (13) The master thesis should be evaluated within six weeks.
- (14) The Master's thesis must be handed in in five printed and bound copies (as a rule unless otherwise agreed, but at least three copies) to the Dean's Office by the deadline or sent to the Dean's office postmarked no later than the last day of the deadline. The date of submission is to be recorded. Candidates must guarantee in writing in the thesis that they have written the master thesis themselves – in case the work was done in a

group, that they have written their section of the work themselves – and that they used no sources or aids other than those specified. The dean's office of the university at which the Master's thesis was submitted, sends two copies of the thesis to the other university at the latest 14 days before the scheduled defence (see paragraph 16)., unless otherwise agreed with the head of study programme. The two copies intended for WULS must also contain the cover page and the title in Polish.

- (15) All copies of the thesis are to be submitted with a digital storage medium (e.g. CD, DVD, USB) on which the copy of the entire thesis and all basic, code and metadata used for the thesis (in an editable format suitable for plagiarism check e.g. pdf, docx, xlsx, open office etc) are included.
- (16) Two graded assessments are to be compiled for the Master's thesis. If the two grades of at least "sufficient" differ from each other by more than 1.0, then the examination committee / dean shall commission another examiner with an expert opinion. The grade is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the evaluations. The assessment procedure should not exceed 6 weeks. Exceeding this period must be justified to the dean.
- (17) The HNEE and the WULS shall each appoint a co-tutor. The co-tutors shall report the registration of master theses at their own university to the partner university (exchange of registration forms [in English] of the master thesis). The co-tutor of the partner university shall receive a copy of the corresponding master thesis no later than 14 days before the defence.
- (18) Blocking periods for publication in the library are to be attached to the assessment and/or mentioned in the oral examination for the master thesis or the master thesis is to be released for library use.
- (19) The blocking period or release of the master thesis for library use should be stated on the last page of all deposit copies.
- (20) Master theses are always to be incorporated into and archived at the university library.
- (21) If a Master's thesis, including its defence, is not passed, there is the possibility of repeating this examination once, provided that the maximum permissible study time is not exceeded. In the case of a repetition, the thesis must be 6 months after the announcement of the result of the first examination attempt at the latest. Failure to comply with the deadline will result in the expiry of the examination entitlement.

§14 Master defence

- (1) After the successful completion of all study-related examinations (and thus obtaining 100 ECTS credits) and on submission of both assessments of the master thesis, which have to achieve a grade of at least 4.0 / 3.0, an oral defence / final exam (defence) shall be conducted on the contents of the thesis. The oral examination shall be held at one of the two partner universities (EUSD / WULS).
- (2) At the HNEE, the public examination is divided into a 20-minute presentation and a subsequent 30-minute discussion. Questions may only be asked by members of the examining committee which consists of the chairman and two other members. The examining committee (requirements for the examiners according to the criteria described in §13 (5)) is appointed by the examining board / dean of the university where the master thesis was submitted. In addition to members of the examining committee, members of the partner universities and invited guests may also participate in the final oral examination. The dean shall decide on any exceptions together with the candidate. After a brief presentation of the work, the two experts assessing the master thesis shall each ask a question from the examiner's specific area of expertise. All other arrangements for conducting the defence at the WULS are specified in the provisions of the WULS.
- (3) The final oral examination must be conducted no later than three months after the assessment of the master thesis.

§15 Master certificate and Master degree document

The master's degree certificate ("Transcript of Records") and the master's degree document and diploma supplement shall be issued in two language (English/German or English/Polish). The certificate contains all the grades of completed examinations and the grade of the master thesis. The certificate also lists the overall weighted grade for the course in accordance with the academic credits achieved. The graduation certificate is issued with the date of the last examination passed.

- (a) Successful graduates are awarded a certificate ("Transcript of Records") from each of the cooperating university. The "Transcript of Records" also contains the ECTS credits for the overall grade.
- (b) The preparation of documents, certificates and diploma supplements is the responsibility of the respective university. The character of the joint degree course should be expressed in the corresponding documents.

§16 Master degree

If the master's examination is passed, a "Master of Science" degree is awarded. The common international abbreviation "M.Sc." shall apply.

§17 Entry into Force and Transitional Provisions

- (1) These Study and Examination Regulations shall come into effect upon publication on the home page of the HNE Eberswalde website.
- (2) These Regulations apply for all students who matriculate in the Master Study Programme Forest Information Technology after these regulations have come into effect.
- (3) The Study and Examination Regulations for the Forest Information Technology Master's programme, valid since winter term 2018/2019, cease to be in force after the end of the double period of study after these provisions come into effect. Applicable examination requirements must be fulfilled by this time. Students who have not completed the study programme by the time the Study and Examination Regulations cease to be in force no longer have the right to examination.

Appendix to the Study and Examination Regulations:

1. Curriculum and module descriptions
2. Diploma supplement