

Statute
to amend the Studies- and Examination regulations
("Studien- und Prüfungsordnung") for the Master's
Programme Biochemistry
at the Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry,
issued September 23, 2015

Disclaimer: This English translation of the German
original is intended to provide assistance for
international students.
However, only the German version is legally binding

Based on §§ 2, clause 4, 64, North Rhine-Westphalia University Act ("Hochschulgesetz", HG) of September 16, 2014 (GV. NRW p. 547), the Ruhr University Bochum issued the following statute amendments:

Article I

The Studies- and Examination regulations ("Studien- und Prüfungsordnung") for the Master's Programme Biochemistry at the Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry, of October 8, 2012 (AB No. 934 of October 9, 2012) is amended as follows:

1. § 4, clause 3 is supplemented by:

"This period is prolonged

1. for the care and education of under-aged children as defined in § 25, clause 5 of the Federal Support of Education Act ("Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz") by 3 terms per child,

2. for membership as an elected representative in committees of the University, the Student Body, the Student Councils or the Student Services by cumulatively maximally 4 terms,

3. for performing the duties of the Equal Opportunity Commissioner by maximally 4 terms,

4. by the time added to the regular duration of the studies course due to a medical handicap or a severe disease, and

5. by up to three terms for time required by the student to assist close relatives that are in need of care and support".

2. In § 4, clause 6 the sentence "In doubtful cases the medical certificate of a public health officer ("Amtsarzt") may be asked for" is replaced by "In doubtful cases a certificate provided by a medical examiner ("Vertrauensarzt") may be asked for".

3. § 13, clause 4 is replaced by: "An end-of-term examination of a lecture may be repeated once until the end of the 4th term to improve the grade. The better grade is counted".

4. In § 16, clause 2 the sentence "The examination office in case of an illness may request a medical certificate. In doubtful cases the examination office may ask for a certificate from a public health officer" is replaced by "The examination office in case of an illness may request a medical certificate. In doubtful cases the examination office may ask for a certificate from a medical examiner ("Vertrauensarzt")".

5. In § 16, clause 3 the words "a certificate from a public health officer" are replaced by "a certificate from a medical examiner ("Vertrauensarzt")".

6. § 17 is rewritten as follows:

§ 17

Crediting of Study Periods, Assignments, and Examinations

(1) Previous examinations in identical or similar studies courses at other state universities or universities accepted as equivalent to state universities, as well as at state universities of cooperative education ("Berufsakademien") or universities accepted as equivalent to state universities of cooperative education ("Berufsakademien") will be credited upon application. This regulation applies only if no material differences can be demonstrated, asserted, and justified. This also applies -- on application -- to examinations at universities outside of Germany. On application the university can credit other knowledge and qualifications, based on supplied documentation.

(2) Material differences exist, in particular, if previously gained competences do not match the requirements of the Master Programme Biochemistry. When gauging equivalency, the entire set of courses is to be considered as a whole rather than performing a schematic comparison of individual courses. Concerning equivalency determination and crediting for previous study periods, assignments, and examinations performed at universities in countries other than Germany, agreements with foreign countries on equivalency as well as university partnerships sanctioned by the Secretaries of Education Conference ("Kultusministerkonferenz") have to be taken into account. If equivalency is doubtful, the International Office or the Central Agency for Foreign Higher Education may be consulted.

(3) The Examination Board Biochemistry is responsible for crediting according to clauses 1 and 2. Faculty members shall normally be asked for statements on equivalency in their specialties prior to the decision. After submission of the full documentation, a decision is rendered together with written advice on legal recourse, usually within 6 weeks. If an application pertaining to clause 1 is denied, the applicant is entitled to a revision of the case by the Rectorate.

(4) If assignments and examinations are credited, assessments and marks -- if grading systems are comparable -- must be accepted and included in the calculation of the final grade average. If assessment and grading systems are not comparable, the remark "credited" will be entered on the transcript and noted on the Master's certificate as well as in the Diploma Supplement.

(5) If the conditions specified in clauses 1 and 2 are met, the student is entitled by law to receive crediting.

(6) Crediting of study periods and examinations pursuant to the previous clauses is limited to maximally 65% of the credit points required for passing the studies course.

(7) Based on an application pursuant to clause 1 and an additional application of the student, an assessment has to be provided which semester of the studies course the student will be classified in. This classification takes into consideration the number of credit points accepted from previous studies in relation to the 120 CP achievable in the studies programme Biochemistry. If the ratio's first decimal place is smaller than five, it is rounded down to the next full term; otherwise it is rounded up.

7. § 21, clause 5 is substituted by "An incorrect Master's Certificate has to be withdrawn. If applicable, a new Master's Certificate will be issued. A decision based on clauses 1 and 2, sentence 2, is only permitted within five years of the bestowal of the degree. The time between starting and resolving litigation of the degree withdrawal will not be counted against the five-year period specified in sentence 3".

8. § 24, clause 3a is substituted by "at least 14 CP have to be generated from the compulsory biochemistry courses "Biochemistry IV", "Bioinformatics", and "Biochemical Seminar".

9. § 24, clause 3d is substituted by "at least 26 CP have to be collected in one of the focal point programmes within the Master Programme Biochemistry. Special lectures within the focal point programme have to be different from lectures previously selected in the Bachelor Programme".

10. In Attachment 1, the course list is updated as follows:

(5) Focal point programmes

- Membrane and Nervous System Biochemistry,
- Biomolecular Chemistry,
- Proteins in Biomedicine
- Molecular Biology and Biotechnology of Plants and Microorganisms,
- Molecular Medicine,
- Molecular Biochemistry of Stem Cells.

Sem.	Course (= Module)	L	E/S	Pr	Type	CP
1. (WS)	Biochemical Seminar	-	2	-	M	3
	Bioinformatics	2	1	-	M	5
	Radiation Safety in the Radionuclide Laboratory	2	1	-	M	5
	Modular Advanced Practicals in the Focal Point Programme	-	3	18	MC	4x4
29 SWH	Total: 1st Semester	4	7	18		29
2. (SS)	Biochemistry IV	2	-	-	M	6
	Special Lecture in the Focal Point Programme	2	1	-	MC	5
	Lecture Series in the Focal Point Programme	2	-	-	M	5
	Advanced Practical in the Focal Point Programme	-	2	16	MC	2x8
25 SWH	Total: 2nd Semester	6	3	16		32
3. (WS)	Elective Course Chemistry	2	1	-	MC	5

	Instruction in Laboratory Animal Science	2	-	1.5	M	5
	Special Lecture in the Focal Point Programme	2	1	-	MC	5
	Research Practical in the Focal Point Programme	-	1	13	MC	14
23.5 SWH	Total: 3rd Semester	6	3	14.5		29
4. (SS)	Master's Thesis				M	30
77.5 SWH	Total: 1st – 4th Sem.	16	13	48.5		120

Article II

This statute will be applied to all students enrolled in the Master's Programme Biochemistry. The statute becomes effective on the day of its publication in the Official Announcements ("Amtliche Bekanntmachungen", AB) of the Ruhr University Bochum.

Based on the decision of the Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry of June 29, 2015.

Bochum, September 23, 2015

The Rector
Ruhr University Bochum
University Professor Dr. Elmar W. Weiler