

**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 June 9, 2022**

**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, section 4 and § 64, North Rhine-Westphalia University Act ("Hochschulgesetz", HG) of September 16, 2014 (Law and Ordinance Gazette GV.NRW p. 547), last changed based on article 1 of the act to further amend the University Act and the Art School Act of November 25, 2021 (Law and Ordinance Gazette GV.NRW p. 1210a) the Ruhr University Bochum issued the following statute:

**Article I**

The studies and examination regulations ("Studien- und Prüfungsordnung") for the Master's Programme Biochemistry at the Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Ruhr University Bochum, of October 8, 2012 (AB No. 934 of October 9, 2012), last changed on September 23, 2015 (AB 1085) is amended as follows:

**1. § 4, section 7 is altered as follows:**

(7) The statutory maternity protection regulations and deadlines, the deadlines for parental leave and downtime due to the care and upbringing of children within the meaning of paragraph 25 section 5 of the Federal Training Assistance Act ("Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz") and due to the care of spouses, registered life partners or a direct relative or relatives in the first degree are to be considered.

**2. § 5 is replaced by the following text:**

**§ 5 General Admission Requirements**

- (1) Anyone who has completed an at least six-semester Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry with a total of 180 CP or a comparable degree can be admitted to the Master's Programme Biochemistry.
- (2) Additional admission requirements are proof of:
  - having obtained at least one third of the CP (= 60 CP) from practicals excluding the bachelor thesis, and providing a written specification of previous practical laboratory experience according to the specifications listed in the online application portal
  - knowledge of the English language according to section 3
  - a counselling interview about the structure of the Master's Programme Biochemistry and the options for specialization.
- (3) Applicants who have not acquired their study qualification at an exclusively English-speaking institution or in an English-speaking degree program or who have English as their mother tongue must demonstrate knowledge of the English language at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference. The following evidence is recognized: German Abitur, TOEFL 420, TOEFL iBT 87, IELTS 5.0 or equivalent evidence.
- (4) Evidence of the admission requirements must be submitted by June 15, if possible, but by July 15 at the latest, of the year in which the course begins and is to be submitted to the admission office of the Ruhr University Bochum. The application includes: the certificate (or provisional certificate) and the transcript of records of the completed Bachelor's degree or comparable degree as well as information on the maximum grade that can be achieved in the grading system

used (maximum grade), the minimum grade required to pass (minimum grade) as well as in the case of alphanumeric grades all grades in between minimum and maximum grades.

- (5) If at the application deadline according to section 4 the applicant does not yet have a final Bachelor's degree, and if applicants are not responsible for this, an application can be submitted by providing evidence of at least 150 credit points or 83% of the credit points required for completion of the applicant's Bachelor's degree according to the curriculum. The average grade is a grade weighted with the available credit points for each examination completed and graded up to that point.
- (6) If admission is granted on the basis of section 5, the Bachelor's certificate or equivalent must be submitted for enrollment. If no Bachelor's certificate or equivalent is available at the time of enrollment, applicants can be enrolled provisionally for the course in justified exceptional cases in accordance with paragraph 49 section 6 HG. In this case, enrollment expires if the final certificate (usually the Bachelor's certificate or an equivalent) is not presented to the Admission Office by the end of the re-registration period for the semester in which enrollment took place. A repeated application for the Master's Programme Biochemistry is then excluded.
- (7) Admission to the Master's Programme Biochemistry can be subject to conditions, provided these do not exceed 30 CP. The conditions and the time of provision are determined by the examination board.
- (8) Anyone who has passed or finally failed a Master's Programme in biochemistry or a related or comparable programme at a scientific university cannot be admitted to the Master's Programme Biochemistry.
- (9) The examination board shall determine whether the admission requirements according to sections 1 to 3 have been met.

**3. Paragraph 8, section 2 is amended as follows:**

- (2) Oral examinations are usually taken as an individual examination by two examiners or by one examiner in the presence of a competent observer. They may be conducted via electronic communication.

**4. Paragraph 9, section 4 is amended as follows:**

- (4) Written exams last between 90 and 120 minutes. They may be conducted in electronic form or via electronic communication.

**5. Paragraph 12 is supplemented by the following sections:**

- (3) The software-supported examination of written examinations, including the master thesis, is carried out obligatorily if there is a suspicion of plagiarism. For this purpose, Master theses must be submitted in electronic form in accordance with paragraph 14, section 4. Other written examination papers (term papers, protocols, etc.) must also be submitted in verifiable electronic form at the request of the examiner.
- (4) The software-supported examination is carried out by the examiner. Plagiarism is determined by the examination board. In cases of suspected plagiarism, students are only informed about the software-supported examination of their written work if plagiarism is detected.
- (5) Plagiarism checks of written coursework (essays, homework, etc.) are carried out in accordance with sections 3 and 4.

**6. Paragraph 16, section 4 is amended as follows:**

- (4) If students attempt to influence the result of an examination or coursework by cheating or using non-approved aids, the examination or coursework in question is graded as "insufficient" (5.0). The occurrence of such an event is officially noted in writing by the respective examining or

supervising person. The assessment of severity is made by the examination board. In the event of multiple or otherwise serious attempts at cheating, students can be excluded from taking further examinations and may be exmatriculated after a previous hearing. Students who disturb the proper course of the examination can be excluded from continuing the examination, by the examining or the supervising person, usually after a prior warning. In this case, the examination in question is considered to be "insufficient" (5.0). The reasons for the exclusion must be put on record.

**7. Paragraph 16 is supplemented by a new section 6:**

- (6) In the event of exmatriculation, examinations registered before exmatriculation must be taken unless the registration has been revoked in accordance with section 2 or a failure to show or a withdrawal occurs the justification of which is recognized by the examination board. Otherwise the examinations are considered "failed" ( grade 5.0).

**8. Paragraph 17 is amended as follows:**

- (1) Examinations that have been completed at other state or state-recognized universities, at state or state-recognized vocational academies, in studies courses at foreign state or state-recognized universities or in another studies course at the same university will be recognized upon application, provided that the acquired competencies are not significantly different from the ones being replaced; an equivalence test does not take place. Recognition according to clause 1 serves the continuation the studies course and the taking of exams.
- (2) Significant differences exist in particular if the skills acquired do not meet the requirements of the Master's Programme Biochemistry. No schematic comparison is applied, but an overall consideration and overall assessment. The equivalence agreements approved by the Conference of Ministers of Education ("Kultusministerkonferenz") and agreements within the framework of the university partnership ("Hochschulpartnerschaft") must be observed for the recognition or crediting of periods of study, study achievements and examination achievements that were completed outside the scope of German Basic Law ("Grundgesetz"). Insofar as treaties and agreements between the Federal Republic of Germany and other countries regarding equivalence in higher education (equivalence agreements) favor students from foreign countries in deviation from section 1, the provisions of the equivalence agreements take precedence. If in doubt, the International Office and the Central Office for Foreign Education can be consulted.
- (3) Upon application, other, non-university acquired knowledge and qualifications can be recognized up to a maximum of 50% of the credit points intended for this degree programme if this knowledge and these qualifications are equivalent in content and level to the examinations they are intended to replace.
- (4) The examination board is responsible for crediting or recognition in accordance with sections 1 to 3. Before determining whether there are any significant differences, a representative of the subject area in question should usually be heard. Students must submit the documents required for crediting. After submission of the complete documents, a notification, which must be provided with instructions on legal remedies, is usually issued within 6 weeks. If the recognition requested on the basis of an application within the meaning of section 1 is refused, the applicant can apply for a review of the decision by the Rectorate, without prejudice to procedural law or procedural deadlines.
- (5) If study and examination achievements are credited, the grades - insofar as the grading systems are comparable - are to be adopted and included in the calculation of the overall grade. In the case of incomparable grading systems, the note "passed" is included. This recognition is indicated in the certificate and in the diploma supplement.
- (6) If the requirements of sections 1 and 2 are met, there is a legal right to crediting or recognition.

**9. Paragraph 18, section 7 is amended as follows:**

- (7) The meetings of the examination board are not open to the public. The members of the examination board, their deputies, the examiners and the assessors are subject to official secrecy. Unless they are in public service, they are to be sworn to secrecy by the person chairing the examination board. A record of the results of the deliberations of the examination board is prepared.

**Article II**

These amended statutes come into force on the day after their publication in the Official Announcements (AB) of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum and apply to all students who become enrolled in the Master Programme Biochemistry after these statutes come into force.

Issued based on the decision of the Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry of May 23, 2022.

Bochum, June 9, 2022

The Rector  
Ruhr University in Bochum  
University Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Martin Paul

## Reading Version

### Examination regulations ("Prüfungsordnung") for the Master's Programme Biochemistry at the Ruhr University Bochum issued October 12, 2012

Amended with 1st statute of amendment of September 24, 2015

Last amended with 2nd statute of amendment of June 9, 2022

Based on § 2, section 4 and § 64, section 1, North Rhine-Westphalia University Act ("Hochschulgesetz", HG) of October 10, 2006 (Law and Ordinance Gazette GV.NRW p. 474), last changed on January 31, 2012 (Law and Ordinance Gazette GV.NRW p. 90), the Ruhr University Bochum issued the following examination regulations:

#### Table of Contents

##### I. General Regulations

- § 1 Objective of Master Examination
- § 2 Intended Programme Duration and Course Start
- § 3 Modularization and Grading Methods
- § 4 Due Dates
- § 5 General Admission Requirements
- § 6 Admission to Assignments and End-of-Term Examinations
- § 7 Definition of Examinations and Assignments
- § 8 Oral Examinations
- § 9 Written Examinations and Other Written Contributions
- § 10 Seminar Contributions and Written Reports
- § 11 Grading System, Formation, and Weighting of Grades
- § 12 Pass and Failure of Assignments and Examinations
- § 13 Repetition of End-of-Term Examinations and Assignments
- § 14 Assignment, Delivery, Grading, and Repetition of Master Thesis
- § 15 Passing the Master Examination
- § 16 Unexcused Absence, Withdrawal, Malicious Fraud, and Violation of Regulations
- § 17 Crediting of Study Periods, Assignments, and Examinations
- § 18 Examination Board
- § 19 Examiners and Assessors
- § 20 Transcript of Records and Master's Certificate
- § 21 Invalidation of Master Examination
- § 22 Inspection of Examination Documents

##### II: Assignments and Examinations

- § 23 Course Duration, Course Plan, and Credit Points
- § 24 Subject, Type, and Extent of Assignments and Examinations
- § 25 International Orientation
- § 26 Master Degree

##### III: Final Clauses

- § 27 Scope
- § 28 Effective Date and Publication

## I. General Regulations

### § 1

#### Objective of Master Examination

The Master degree constitutes the second degree of the degree programmes in biochemistry and qualifies for work in biochemistry-related professions. It is based on and follows a bachelor degree. The Master examination ascertains that the student has obtained in-depth knowledge of advanced topics in the field of biochemistry as well as an understanding of their interconnections. It certifies that the student is able to independently apply scientific methods and gauge findings, and has acquired the specific knowledge necessary for a successful transition to a professional career.

### § 2

#### Intended Programme Duration and Course Start

The Master's Programme Biochemistry is a consecutive programme. The intended programme duration is 4 semesters including the Master thesis. Courses normally start in the winter semester.

### § 3

#### Modularization and Grading Methods

(1) The Master's Programme Biochemistry consists of the modules listed on the course list in attachment 1. Modules comprise assignments according to § 7, section 2, lectures with accompanying exercises if applicable, and the Master thesis. The teaching language for all courses is English (see § 25).

(2) In general, lectures and accompanying exercises are assessed by graded end-of-term examinations; practicals and seminars receive graded work assessments. Work assessments may be composed of several individually graded assessments of parts of the assignment.

### § 4

#### Due Dates

(1) All assignments and examinations are carried out in a course-related fashion. Thus, all assignments and examinations except for the Master thesis are thematically correlated with specific courses. All master programme courses, including assignments and examinations, have to be organized such that the master degree can be completed within the intended programme duration.

(2) Assignments and examinations ideally should be completed within the semester to which the course is assigned according to the course list in attachment 1. If the admission requirements for a course are fulfilled, assignments and examinations may also be completed before the targeted semester.

(3) The last opportunity to pass the respective assignments and examinations is the first examination date two semesters after the semester assigned to the course according to the course list (attachment 1). If the student does not take the assignment or examination by that date, the assessment will be graded as "fail" ("nicht ausreichend"; 5.0). Exempt are cases in which the student cannot be held liable for missing the assignment or examination date. This period is prolonged

1. for the care and education of under-aged children as defined in § 25, section 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

(4) There are three opportunities to participate in an end-of-term examination per year. The first opportunity is provided within the three-week-period after lectures end in a semester, the second is scheduled within the three-week-period before the lectures of the next semester commence, and the third opportunity is provided within the three-week-period before lectures start in the semester after next.

(5) The student should be informed at the beginning of the course on the type, the number, and the dates of the mandatory assignments and examinations. Dates of end-of-term examinations in compulsory courses have to be announced at least three months in advance by posting them on the examination office public announcement board.

(6) In well-founded cases and on application, the examination board may extend the due dates defined section 3. The due date has to be extended if the student is not able to participate, fully or partially, in assignments or examinations in the expected way or time due to prolonged or permanent physical or mental disability. The examination board may allow replacing these assignments and examinations by equivalent assignments and examinations of a different form. The examination board may ask for a medical certificate. In doubtful cases a certificate provided by a medical examiner ("Vertrauensarzt") may be asked for.

(7) The statutory maternity protection regulations and deadlines, the deadlines for parental leave and downtime due to the care and upbringing of children within the meaning of paragraph 25 section 5 of the Federal Training Assistance Act ("Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz") and due to the care of spouses, registered life partners or a direct relative or relatives in the first degree are to be considered.

## § 5

### General Admission Requirements

- (1) Anyone who has completed an at least six-semester Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry with a total of 180 CP or a comparable degree can be admitted to the Master's Programme Biochemistry.
- (2) Additional admission requirements are proof of:
  - having obtained at least one third of the CP (= 60 CP) from practicals excluding the bachelor thesis, and providing a written specification of previous practical laboratory experience according to the specifications listed in the online application portal
  - knowledge of the English language according to section 3
  - a counselling interview about the structure of the Master's Programme Biochemistry and the options for specialization.
- (3) Applicants who have not acquired their study qualification at an exclusively English-speaking institution or in an English-speaking degree program or who have English as their mother tongue must demonstrate knowledge of the English language at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference. The following evidence is recognized: German Abitur, TOEFL 420, TOEFL iBT 87, IELTS 5.0 or equivalent evidence.
- (4) Evidence of the admission requirements must be submitted by June 15, if possible, but by July 15 at the latest, of the year in which the course begins and is to be submitted to the admission office of the Ruhr University Bochum. The application includes: the certificate (or provisional certificate) and the transcript of records of the completed Bachelor's degree or comparable degree as well as information on the maximum grade that can be achieved in the grading system used (maximum grade), the minimum grade required to pass (minimum grade) as well as in the case of alphanumeric grades all grades in between minimum and maximum grades.
- (5) If at the application deadline according to section 4 the applicant does not yet have a final Bachelor's degree, and if applicants are not responsible for this, an application can be submitted by providing evidence of at least 150 credit points or 83% of the credit points required for completion of the applicant's Bachelor's degree according to the curriculum.

The average grade is a grade weighted with the available credit points for each examination completed and graded up to that point.

- (6) If admission is granted on the basis of section 5, the Bachelor's certificate or equivalent must be submitted for enrollment. If no Bachelor's certificate or equivalent is available at the time of enrollment, applicants can be enrolled provisionally for the course in justified exceptional cases in accordance with paragraph 49 section 6 HG. In this case, enrollment expires if the final certificate (usually the Bachelor's certificate or an equivalent) is not presented to the Admission Office by the end of the re-registration period for the semester in which enrollment took place. A repeated application for the Master's Programme Biochemistry is then excluded.
- (7) Admission to the Master's Programme Biochemistry can be subject to conditions, provided these do not exceed 30 CP. The conditions and the time of provision are determined by the examination board.
- (8) Anyone who has passed or finally failed a Master's Programme in biochemistry or a related or comparable programme at a scientific university cannot be admitted to the Master's Programme Biochemistry.
- (9) The examination board shall determine whether the admission requirements according to sections 1 to 3 have been met.

## § 6

### Admission to Assignments and End-of-Term Examinations

- (1) In general, an assignment or an examination follows attendance of the respective course.
- (2) The admittance to any end-of-term examination date requires the registration of the student with the supervisor of the respective course. The supervisor at the beginning of the course will announce the registration procedure. The minimum registration period is 28 days and must allow registration up to 7 days before the examination. Until one calendar day before the examination, the student may cancel the registration; otherwise the registration becomes binding.
- (3) In the case of practicals, registration with the instructor of the practical is required. The registration procedure is decided by the instructor and is posted. The minimum registration period is 28 days. Candidates may cancel their registrations up to the start of the practical.
- (4) Some practicals have admittance requirements that are listed in attachment 1.
- (5) Admittance to an assignment or an end-of-term examination may only be denied if
  1. the requirements according to sections 2 through 4 are not fulfilled, or
  2. required documents are missing, or
  3. the student takes part in an examination in an equivalent degree programme at another university, unless the examination board has approved this examination procedure.
- (6) The admission to a particular experiment (e.g., as part of a practical course) may be suspended if the knowledge required to properly and safely carry out the experiment is lacking. In such a case the supervisor should strive to provide replacement dates so that the suspended experiment may still be completed within the same course.

## § 7

### Definition of Examinations and Assignments

- (1) Examinations may consist of
  - a) oral examinations (§ 8), and/or
  - b) written examinations or other written contributions (§ 9).
- (2) Assignments may consist of
  - a) a practical course

- a) a colloquium, and/or
  - b) a seminar contribution (§ 10, section 1), and/or
  - c) a written report (§ 10, section 2).
- (3) The examiner may change the type of examination for a particular course uniformly for all dates according to § 4, section 4. The change has to be posted on the examination office public announcement board within three weeks after course start.

**§ 8**  
**Oral Examinations**

- (1) In oral examinations, the student shall demonstrate the ability to understand the connections between different areas of the studied field and to rank specific problems accordingly. Furthermore, the student shall reveal a level of basic knowledge appropriate for the expected study progress.
- (2) Oral examinations are usually taken as an individual examination by two examiners or by one examiner in the presence of a competent observer. They may be conducted via electronic communication.
- (3) The minimum duration of an individual oral examination shall be 20 minutes, with a maximum duration of 45 minutes.
- (4) The essential topics and results of the oral examination shall be recorded in a written protocol. Immediately following the examination, the outcome of the examination has to be disclosed to the student.
- (5) Students planning to take an oral examination for the same course at a later date are allowed to attend the examination as spectators, provided there is enough space available and the examined student does not object. This admission does not cover the consultation and grade announcement phases of the examination.

**§ 9**  
**Written Examinations and Other Written Contributions**

- (1) In written examinations and other written contributions, the student shall demonstrate the ability to apply the required fundamental knowledge and established methods of the field to solve problems and discuss topics in this field within a limited time and with limited tools.
- (2) Written examinations and other written contributions that are a precondition for continuation of the studies course are to be graded by two examiners, according to NRW state university law ("Hochschulgesetz", HG-NRW) § 65 section 2. The final grade will be calculated as the mean according to § 11, section 1.
- (3) The examination board sets time limits for the grading of the written examinations. The outcome of the examination shall be disclosed to the student three weeks after the examination at the latest.
- (4) Written exams last between 90 and 120 minutes. They may be conducted in electronic form or via electronic communication.
- (5) The instructor may award bonus points for active participation in exercises that accompany a lecture. These bonus points will be added to the point total of the written examination. The points awarded to a student have to be disclosed to the student at latest 7 days before the examination date. The total bonus points must not exceed 10% of the point total achievable in the written examination. The procedure for obtaining bonus points must be approved beforehand by the examination board. The board is held to approve only those procedures that allow identification of individual contributions for all participating students. Awarded bonus points will expire at the start of lectures in the semester after next.

**§ 10**  
**Seminar Contributions and Written Reports**

- (1) Seminar contributions are assignments of a talk or a graphical presentation to be held by a student or a group of students in front of the seminar audience. Contributions will cover aspects of a larger topic and are presented by a student or a group of students. The seminar instructor is the examiner and

grades the contributions. The assessment must be documented in the form of a written protocol.

- (2) Written reports in German or English shall sum up the essential facts, interconnections and interpretations related to topics studied, e.g. in a course or research practical. The course instructor is the examiner and grades the written reports. The assessment must be documented in a comprehensible manner within the report.

**§ 11**  
**Grading System, Formation, and Weighting of Grades**

(1) The grades for individual assignments and examinations are determined by the respective examiner. The following grades are available:

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 = very good<br>(= sehr gut)        | = an excellent performance   |
| 2 = good<br>(= gut)                  | = a performance considerably above average   |
| 3 = satisfactory<br>(= befriedigend) | = an average performance   |
| 4 = adequate<br>(= ausreichend)      | = a performance which still meets the requirements despite shortcomings            |
| 5 = fail<br>(= nicht ausreichend)    | = a performance which no longer meets the requirements due to substantial deficits |

(2) For a more differentiated assessment of the examination performance, individual grades may be lowered or raised by 0.3; the grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7, and 5.3 are excluded. In case a grade is derived from several graded contributions, the arithmetic mean is calculated and rounded to the next best grade.

(3) To calculate the final grade for the master degree the sum of the individual course grades weighted by the respective credit points (CP) according to attachment 1 is divided by the total number of credit points achieved.

(4) To obtain the final grade only the first decimal will be considered, all other decimals will be deleted without rounding. The following final grades may be achieved in a Master examination:

- |                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Average up to 1.5        | = very good    |
| Average above 1.5 to 2.5 | = good         |
| Average above 2.5 to 3.5 | = satisfactory |
| average above 3.5 to 4.0 | = adequate     |

**§ 12**  
**Pass and Failure of Assignments and Examinations**

(1) An assignment or a practical is passed if all applicable partial examinations have been passed. An end-of-term examination is passed if it is graded at least "adequate" („ausreichend“; 4.0).

(2) In case the first attempt to pass an assignment or an end-of-term examination has not been undertaken at the due date listed in § 4, section 3, this assignment or examination is graded "fail" („nicht ausreichend“; 5.0). Exempt are cases in which the student cannot be held liable.

(3) The software-supported examination of written examinations, including the master thesis, is carried out obligatorily if there is a suspicion of plagiarism. For this purpose, Master theses must be submitted in electronic form in accordance with paragraph 14, section 4. Other written examination papers (term papers, protocols, etc.) must also be submitted in verifiable electronic form at the request of the examiner.

(4) The software-supported examination is carried out by the examiner. Plagiarism is determined by the examination board. In cases of suspected plagiarism, students are only informed about the software-supported examination of their written work if plagiarism is detected.

(5) Plagiarism checks of written coursework (essays, homework, etc.) are carried out in accordance with sections 3 and 4.

### § 13

#### Repetition of End-of-Term Examinations and Assignments

- (1) If an end-of-term examination is failed at the first attempt it may be repeated up to two times within the time limits defined in section 2. After the third attempt the right to participate in any further attempt for this examination expires. The examination is irrevocably graded "fail" ("nicht bestanden"; 5.0).
- (2) Repeated attempts at an end-of-term examination have to be conducted at the next examination date offered. However, the student may cancel the registration once without justification. A cancellation has to be submitted at the latest seven days before the examination.
- (3) In case of a failure in an assignment or a practical course, the assignment or the practical course can be repeated once in the following year of studies. Afterwards the right to participate in any further assessment of this assignment or the practical course expires. In case of a repetition of an assignment or a practical, parts already passed will be retained.
- (4) 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.
- (5) After having passed the Master examination (§ 15, section 1) and having been issued the certificates (§ 20, section 1) all pending assessments are terminated. Repeat examinations are disallowed.

### § 14

#### Assignment, Delivery, Grading, and Repetition of the Master Thesis

- (1) The Master thesis is to be written in German or in English. It shall demonstrate that the student is capable of independently addressing experimentally a biochemical problem with scientific methods within a specified time frame. The topic of the thesis must be selected from the chosen focal point programme or the compulsory biochemical courses. The length of the thesis should not exceed 100 pages.
- (2) The Master thesis may be supervised by any professor, honorary professor, junior professor, or assistant professor ("Privatdozent") of the Ruhr University who participates in teaching Master courses in biochemistry. The examination board may grant exceptions. A senior scientist may supervise the thesis if the responsible professor agrees. If the Master thesis is to be carried out at an institution outside the Ruhr University, the examination board biochemistry has to agree. The student may suggest a topic for the master thesis.
- (3) The topic of the master thesis is officially assigned by the head of the examination board on application by the student. The time available to complete the master thesis and earn the 30 credit points associated with it is 6 months, starting from the date of assigning the topic. The topic of the master thesis and the assignment date has to be recorded. The student may petition the examination office to effect the timely assignment of a master thesis. The assigned topic can be rejected only once within two months after assignment. In case of a justified request the examination board may extend the allotted time until submission by six weeks at the most. The examination board may permit exceptions.
- (4) The master thesis has to be submitted to the examination board biochemistry in the form of two printed copies and electronically; the submission date has to be recorded. On submission of the thesis, the student has to affirm in writing that the work was performed independently, with no other means and sources used as those stated in the thesis, and that all sources have been cited properly. In case of out-of-time submission of the master thesis the thesis will be graded "fail" ("nicht ausreichend"; 5.0).
- (5) The master thesis has to be graded independently by two examiners, in written form. One of the examiners has to be the supervisor of the thesis. Exceptions are possible upon application in special cases. The head of the examination board assigns the second examiner. The thesis is graded according to § 11, section 1. The final grade will be obtained as the arithmetic mean of the two assessments, according to § 11, section 1. In case the difference of the two grades exceeds 1.0, or the average grade is

larger than 4.0, a third examiner will be assigned by the head of the examination board. In that case, the final grade will be obtained as the arithmetic mean of the two better grades according to § 11, section 1. A third examiner will not be called upon if both primary grades are "fail" („nicht ausreichend"; 5.0). The master thesis can only be graded "adequate" (ausreichend"; 4.0) or better, if at least two grades are „adequate" or better.

(6) The time required for the assessments must not exceed four weeks.

(7) In case of failure the master thesis may be repeated only once. A rejection of the thesis topic pursuant to § 17 section 3 is only allowed in those cases where the student has not used this option before.

### § 15

#### Passing the Master Examination

- (1) The master examination is passed by accumulating 120 credit points, including the master thesis. Credit points have to be collected in accordance with § 24 section 3.
- (2) The master examination is irrevocably failed if a single course is irrevocably failed or a master thesis has been graded worse than "adequate" („ausreichend"; 4.0), taking into account a possible second attempt.
- (3) Students who fail the master examination may submit a request to receive a transcript of records. This transcript lists the assignments and examinations and their grades as well as missing assignments and examinations. This transcript of records must show that the master examination was not passed. It is handed out on proof that the student has signed off the student register.
- (4) Once the student has been stricken from the student register, no further examinations can be attempted.

### § 16

#### Unexcused Absence, Withdrawal, Malicious Fraud, and Violation of Regulations

- (1) If the student misses a compulsory examination date, or resigns from an examination that has already started, or is incapable of completing a written exam in the allotted time, the examination will be graded "fail" („nicht ausreichend"; 5.0). Exempt are cases in which the student cannot be held liable.
- (2) If a student resigns from or misses an examination without negligence, the asserted reason must be claimed in written form with the examination office within one week. The examination office in case of an illness may request a medical certificate. The certificate has to assert that the student was not able to participate in the examination. In doubtful cases the examination office may ask for a certificate from a medical examiner ("Vertrauensarzt"). Medical problems of the student are treated the same way as medical problems of a child raised predominantly by the student. If the stated reason is accepted by the examination board, a new examination date will be determined. Results obtained prior to the excused examination will be allowed.
- (3) If illness is claimed as the cause for withdrawing from an examination, starting from the second withdrawal from the same examination a certificate from a medical examiner ("Vertrauensarzt") is mandatory.
- (4) If students attempt to influence the result of an examination or coursework by cheating or using non-approved aids, the examination or coursework in question is graded as "insufficient" (5.0). The occurrence of such an event is officially noted in writing by the respective examining or supervising person. The assessment of severity is made by the examination board. In the event of multiple or otherwise serious attempts at cheating, students can be excluded from taking further examinations and may be exmatriculated after a previous hearing. Students who disturb the proper course of the examination can be excluded from continuing the examination, by the examining or the supervising person, usually after a prior warning. In this case, the examination in question is considered to be "insufficient" (5.0). The reasons for the exclusion must be put on record.

(5) The student may request within 6 weeks that decisions based on sections 2 and/or 3, are reviewed by the examination board. Unfavourable decisions have to be disclosed to the student immediately and in writing, together with instructions on the right to appeal.

(6) In the event of exmatriculation, examinations registered before exmatriculation must be taken unless the registration has been revoked in accordance with section 2 or a failure to show or a withdrawal occurs the justification of which is recognized by the examination board. Otherwise the examinations are considered "failed" ( grade 5.0).

### **§ 17**

#### **Crediting of Study Periods, Assignments, and Examinations**

(1) Examinations that have been completed at other state or state-recognized universities, at state or state-recognized vocational academies, in studies courses at foreign state or state-recognized universities or in another studies course at the same university will be recognized upon application, provided that the acquired competencies are not significantly different from the ones being replaced; an equivalence test does not take place. Recognition according to clause 1 serves the continuation the studies course and the taking of exams.

(2) Significant differences exist in particular if the skills acquired do not meet the requirements of the Master's Programme Biochemistry. No schematic comparison is applied, but an overall consideration and overall assessment. The equivalence agreements approved by the Conference of Ministers of Education ("Kultusministerkonferenz") and agreements within the framework of the university partnership ("Hochschulpartnerschaft") must be observed for the recognition or crediting of periods of study, study achievements and examination achievements that were completed outside the scope of German Basic Law ("Grundgesetz"). Insofar as treaties and agreements between the Federal Republic of Germany and other countries regarding equivalence in higher education (equivalence agreements) favor students from foreign countries in deviation from section 1, the provisions of the equivalence agreements take precedence. If in doubt, the International Office and the Central Office for Foreign Education can be consulted.

(3) Upon application, other, non-university acquired knowledge and qualifications can be recognized up to a maximum of 50% of the credit points intended for this degree programme if this knowledge and these qualifications are equivalent in content and level to the examinations they are intended to replace.

(4) The examination board is responsible for crediting or recognition in accordance with sections 1 to 3. Before determining whether there are any significant differences, a representative of the subject area in question should usually be heard. Students must submit the documents required for crediting. After submission of the complete documents, a notification, which must be provided with instructions on legal remedies, is usually issued within 6 weeks. If the recognition requested on the basis of an application within the meaning of section 1 is refused, the applicant can apply for a review of the decision by the Rectorate, without prejudice to procedural law or procedural deadlines.

(5) If study and examination achievements are credited, the grades - insofar as the grading systems are comparable - are to be adopted and included in the calculation of the overall grade. In the case of incomparable grading systems, the note "passed" is included. This recognition is indicated in the certificate and in the diploma supplement.

(6) If the requirements of sections 1 and 2 are met, there is a legal right to crediting or recognition.

### **§ 18**

#### **Examination Board**

(1) To organize the end-of-term examinations and the tasks assigned by these examination regulations the Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry forms an Examination Board Biochemistry. The Examination Board Biochemistry is a public authority according to German administrative law.

(2) The Examination Board Biochemistry consists of three professors or junior professors from the Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry, two of whom have to be members of the biochemistry chairs, one professor or junior professor each from the Faculty of Biology and Biotechnology and the Medical Faculty, a senior scientist from the Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry and three students from one of the studies courses biochemistry. The Faculty Council, acting on proposals from the respective groups, elects the chair, the deputy chair, and two other professorial members out of the group of professors and junior professors, one member and a deputy member out of the group of senior scientists, and three members plus three deputy members out of the group of students. The term of office will be three years for the members from the groups of the professors and senior scientists, and one year for student members. Re-election is permitted.

(3) The examination board ensures that the Master's Programme and examinations are carried out according to the examination regulations. In particular the board decides objections against decisions and rulings on examination procedures. In addition, the examination board reports to the Faculty Council at least once a year on the outcome of examinations, the grade distribution, and the duration of study. This report will be published by the faculty in a suitable manner. The examination board may suggest improvements concerning examination regulations, the Master's Programme, and the course plan. For ordinary cases, the examination board may transfer its duties to the chair. This is not permitted for decisions on objections or for the faculty report.

(4) The examination board has a quorum if the chair or deputy chair plus two additional members of the group of professors and at least two additional voting members are present. Simple majority takes decisions. In case of a tie the vote of the chair decides.

(5) The student members of the examination board are not entitled to vote in cases of evaluation of assignments and examinations, the selection of examination questions, and the assignment of examiners and assessors.

(6) The members of the examination board are entitled to observe the examinations.

(7) The meetings of the examination board are not open to the public. The members of the examination board, their deputies, the examiners and the assessors are subject to official secrecy. Unless they are in public service, they are to be sworn to secrecy by the person chairing the examination board. A record of the results of the deliberations of the examination board is prepared.

### **§ 19**

#### **Examiners and Assessors**

(1) The examination board appoints the examiners and the assessors. Eligible as an examiner are only those university teachers involved in teaching the respective course in the Master's Programme Biochemistry. In addition, NRW state university law ("Hochschulgesetz", HG-NRW) specifies in § 65, section 1 that an examiner must have at least a diploma or master degree in biochemistry, or equivalent.

(2) The examiners assess the examinations independently.

(3) The candidate may propose examiners for the master thesis. While the suggestions will be considered favourably, however, they are not legally binding.

(4) The chair of the examination board ensures that the names of the examiners and assessors are published on the examination office public announcement board at least three weeks prior to the examination.

(5) For examiners and assessors, § 18, section 7, sentences 2 and 3 apply accordingly.

### **§ 20**

#### **Master's Certificate and Master's Diploma**

(1) After passing the master examination, the graduate receives a Master's Certificate within four weeks. The Master's Certificate shows the topic of the master thesis, the grade achieved for the thesis, the focal point programme, and the final grade of the master examination. In addition, a second sheet (Master Transcript of Records) lists the courses credited together with the respective grades and credit points. The graduate may request to have the grades achieved in additional non-compulsory courses listed in addition to the compulsory courses. The graduate may further request the duration of his studies to be documented on the Transcript of Records. The graduate furthermore receives a Diploma Supplement that explains the scientific level, contents, international comparability, and job relevance of the degree achieved.

(2) Simultaneously with the Master's Certificate the graduate will receive the Master's Diploma that carries the date of the Master's Certificate. With this document, the bestowal of the degree Master of Science (M.Sc.) is authenticated. The Master's Diploma will be signed by the head of the examination board and includes the seal of the Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

(3) The Master's Certificate carries the date on which the last grade required for fulfilling the curriculum was received. In the case of the master thesis it is the day when the thesis was submitted.

### § 21

#### Invalidation of Master Examination

(1) In case of malicious fraud in an assignment or an end-of-term examination that is only realized after handing out the Master's Certificate, the grade may be corrected according to § 16, section 4. In severe cases the assignment or the examination may be graded "fail" ("nicht ausreichend"; 5.0) and/or the master examination may be declared as "fail" ("nicht ausreichend"; 5.0). The same applies to the master thesis.

(2) If the preconditions for participation in an assignment or an end-of-term examination were not fulfilled, without any liability or attempt of fraud by the graduate, and if this fact is only realized after handing out the Master's Certificate, this deficiency is considered cured due to the passing the assignment or end-of-term examination.

(3) In case the graduate deliberately obtained an unjustified end-of-term examination, this examination may be graded "fail" ("nicht ausreichend"; 5.0) and the master examination may be declared as "fail" ("nicht ausreichend"; 5.0).

(4) Prior to a decision based on sections 1 and 2 the graduate shall have the opportunity to make his case.

(5) An incorrect Master's Certificate has to be withdrawn. If applicable, a new Master's Certificate will be issued. A decision based on sections 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.

### § 22

#### Inspection of Examination Documents

Upon request the student is granted access to his written examinations, the grading documents, and examination protocols within one year after completion of the master examination.

## II. Assignments and End-of-Term Examinations

### § 23

#### Programme Duration, Course Plan, and Credit Points

(1) The Master's Programme Biochemistry encompasses four semesters of advanced studies including a master thesis with the option to select a focal point programme in one of the fields given in § 24 section 5. Accumulating 120 credit points, contingent on fulfilment of the provisions of § 24, section 2, leads to passing of the master examination and bestowal of the master degree biochemistry.

(2) The course programme has to be designed and limited in such a way that it can be completed in four semesters. Students

must have the opportunity to select a focal point programme of their choice. The ratio of mandatory and elective subjects must be in good balance with independent preparation and study by the student, and with the student's participation in additional courses, also in other master programmes.

### § 24

#### Subject, Type, and Extent of Assignments and Examinations

(1) The credit points assigned for a given course according to Attachment 1 will be credited if the course has been graded "adequate" („ausreichend"; 4.0) or better. Credit point allocation complies with the European Course Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

(2) Course types that deliver credit points (see attachment 1) include lectures, seminars, exercises, and practicals, in particular research practicals. All assignments and examinations are graded.

(3) Out of the 120 credit points required (120 CP),

a) at least 14 CP have to be generated from the compulsory biochemistry courses "Biochemistry IV", "Bioinformatics", and "Biochemical Seminar",

b) 5 CP have to be contributed by the "Elective Course Chemistry",

c) 16 CP have to be generated from the Modular Advanced Practical within a focal point programme,

d) 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,

e) 14 CP have to be provided by the research practical, which can be carried out either in biochemistry or in a focal point programme, and which usually leads up to the master thesis

f) 30 CP are contributed by the master thesis.

On request by the student, and restricted to well-founded special cases, the examination board may allow exceptions from this procedure and/or the master programme course list (attachment 1).

(4) The assignments and examinations in the focal point programmes shall introduce the student to research in the respective fields.

(5) The following focal point programmes are offered:

- Biochemistry of the Nervous System,
- Biomolecular Chemistry,
- Proteins: Structure and Biological Function,
- Molecular Biology and Biotechnology of Plants and Microorganisms,
- Molecular Medicine,
- Molecular Biochemistry of Stem Cells.

The number and the topics of focal point programmes may be altered or emended annually by the Examination Board Biochemistry. There have to be at least three focal point programmes to choose from.

(6) At least 37 CP have to be earned from research practicals.

(7) The end-of-term examinations for the courses "Bioinformatics" and "Lecture Series in the Focal Point Programme" as well as the final exam for the course "Radiation Safety in the Radionuclide Laboratory" are typically taken in the form of written examinations, while other courses are typically assessed by oral examinations. The examiner can change the examination procedure for all examination dates, except for the "Lecture Series in the Focal Point Programme". Alterations of the examination procedure have to be posted on the examination office public announcement board within 3 weeks after course start.

The mandatory assignments and examinations and the corresponding credit points are listed in Attachment 1.

### § 25

#### International Orientation



- (1) To increase portability of course achievements, all passed courses will earn credit points that are calculated using the European Course Credit Transfer System (ECTS).
- (2) Course language is English. Course materials will be provided in English.
- (3) Examinations may be taken in German or in English.
- (4) If approved by the Examination Board, in well-defined special cases elective courses may be held in German.

### **§ 26 Master Degree**

After accumulating the 120 credit points (120 CP) required according to Attachment 1, the degree "Master of Science" ("M.Sc.") will be awarded.

## **III. Final Regulations**

### **§ 27 Scope**

- (1) These examination regulations are applicable to students registered in the Master's Programme Biochemistry of the Ruhr University Bochum starting from winter semester 2012/2013. Students who registered in the Master's Programme Biochemistry prior to the winter semester 2012/2013, can switch to these examination regulations on written application to the examination board. This switch is irreversible.
- (2) When the present examination regulations become effective, the examination regulations of June 29, 2009, of October 11, 2004, and of February 25, 2002 including all subsequent alterations, will become obsolete.
- (3) Examinations based on the examination regulations listed in section 2 can be undertaken for the last time at the end of summer semester 2015.

### **§ 28 Effectiveness and Publication**

- (1) These examination regulations become effective on October 1st, 2012.
- (2) These examination regulations will be published in the "Amtlichen Bekanntmachungen" (AB) of the Ruhr University Bochum.

Based on the decisions of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry of July 2, 2012.

Bochum, October 8, 2012

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

## Attachment 1

### Master's Programme Biochemistry: Course List

The following course list is valid in combination with the examination regulations of the Master's Programme Biochemistry of the Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

(1) The course programme assumes a programme start in the winter semester.

(2) It is recommended to take the courses in the order given. For some practicals requirements according to section 3 have to be fulfilled.

(3) The admittance to the following courses depends on specific preconditions, as specified in the following list. A course listed as a precondition for another course has to be passed before that other course can be taken.

Course	Precondition
Radiation Safety in the Radionuclide Laboratory	Practical experience in handling radioisotopes in at least one previous practical
Research Practical in the Focal Point Programme	Four Modular Advanced Practicals in the Focal Point Programme And Advanced Practical in the Focal Point Programme
Master Thesis	Research Practical in the Focal Point Programme

(4) Course Labels and Abbreviations

M = Mandatory  
 MC = Mandatory with choices  
 CP = Credit Points  
 SS = Summer semester  
 WS = Winter semester  
 SWH = Semester weekly hours

(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.

(6) The special lectures in the focal point programme must be different from the ones previously chosen in the Bachelor Programme

(7) Freedom of choice: Courses listed as "mandatory with choices" (MC) may be chosen freely from the entire course list of the master programmes of the Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry as well as courses from the focal point programmes contributed by the participating faculties.

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	-	-	MC	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 Thesis				M	30
	77.5 SWH	Total: 1st – 4th Sem.	16	13	48.5	