Acting on the basis of § 2 Sec. 4 und §94 Sec. 1 of Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia dated 14 March 2000 (GV.NRW. p. 190) as last amended per ordinance of 21 March 2006 (GV.NRW. p. 119), the Faculties of the University of Cologne taking part in the degree program have adopted the following Examination Regulations:

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§ 1 Objective of study program and purpose of degree examination

(1) Regardful of the changes and demands in the working world, the Masters degree course is designed to impart to students the required specialized knowledge, skills and methodology in a way that will enable them to undertake scientific work, to critically assess and integrate gained insights as well as to take decisions in a responsible way.

(2) The Masters program is an interdisciplinary, research-oriented degree course with professional qualification content. English shall be the language of instruction.

(3) The aim is to determine whether students have acquired the required specialized knowledge and competence - via examinations - in the field of Environmental Sciences so as to be able to link the scientific methodology and insights gained from the Masters program with students’ previous program of study and to apply these when implementing practical environmentally-based programmes or projects in their planning, realization and evaluation stages.

§ 2 Academic Degree

On successful completion of the Masters study program, a Master of Science degree in „International Master of Environmental Sciences“ - “M. Sc.” in abbreviated form - shall be conferred on students.

§ 3 Admission to degree program

(1) Admission to the Masters degree program „Environmental Sciences“ shall be granted candidates who

- hold a Bachelor degree or an equivalent or a higher university degree with professional qualification content in an environmentally-related field of study, notably in the areas of Natural Sciences, Education, Medicine, Agriculture & Forestry, Law, Economics & Business Studies or Engineering, and

- show proficiency in written and spoken English.

(2) Pursuant to Annex 1 and in compliance with § 65 Sec. 2 of Higher Education Act (HG), a panel shall be asked to carry out an aptitude assessment procedure designed to determine applicants’ qualification for the Masters study program in Environmental Sciences.

§ 4 Examination Board

(1) Participating Faculties of the University of Cologne shall form a „Committee for the Masters Examination in International Master of Environmental Sciences“, hereinafter referred to as „Examination Board “.

(2) The Examination Board shall be made up of five members with voting rights: a chairman, deputy chairman, an additional member representing the group of professors, one member from the research assistants’ group and a fifth representing the student body. Representatives from the professorial and research assistants’ groups elected as members of the Examination Board must be persons playing a key role in the study program. Except for the chairman and
deputy chairman, all other members shall have elected representatives. Members representing the professorial and research assistants’ groups shall serve a three year-term, while the student representative shall serve for one year. Members may be re-elected. The student representative must be a registered student of the University of Cologne enrolled on the course „International Master of Environmental Sciences“. The Examination Board may appoint an administrator charged with implementing the resolutions adopted by it. Such an administrator shall be a member of the examining body but one ineligible to vote, except where he was at the same time elected as a member with voting rights.

(3) The Examination Board shall elect from its midst a professor as chairman and another professor as deputy chairman. Both must be staff members of the University of Cologne.

(4) It shall have a quorum when, in addition to the chairman or his deputy and two further professors, at least two more members with voting rights representing the professorial and research assistants’ groups are present. Resolutions shall be passed by the majority of votes cast by members present. In the event of a tie vote, the chairman’s vote shall be the overriding one. The student member of the Board of Examiners students shall be precluded from voting involving pedagogic-scientific decisions, especially in issues regarding the distribution of grades for coursework or examinations or those pertaining to the recognition and evaluation of coursework and the achievements transfer involved, as well as in appointing examiners and assessors.

(5) It shall be responsible for the proper organization and conduct of examinations especially in appointing examiners, as well as for all decisions concerning examinations. Examiners are to be selected from the prescribed group of people indicated under §95 Sec.1 of HG. This category of persons shall be responsible for deciding on appeals lodged against examination policies. It shall report to the Faculty every two years on the development of coursework attainment by students and on periods of study, as well as offer proposals on how to reform the examination and study policies, including the study plan. The Board of Examiners shall appoint members of the panel charged with determining eligibility to the Masters study program, as stipulated under Annex 1 No. 3 of aforementioned policies.

(6) It shall appoint members of the panel charged with carrying out the aptitude assessment procedure, according to Annex 1 N° 3 of present Study Conditions.

(7) The Examination Board may place the chairman In charge of all normal duties, save for deciding on matters regarding appeals and the report to the Faculty.

(8) Members of the Examination Board shall have the right to take part in the award of examination grades and coursework credits and are entitled to inspect examination files.

(9) Board meetings shall be held in camera. Board members, their representatives as well as examiners and assessors are bound by official secrecy. The chairman shall administer the oath of secrecy to members who are not already civil servants.

(10) Upon application, students shall have the right to plead their case personally before the examining body.
The Examination Board shall act as a governing body, as outlined under the Administrative Proceedings and Administrative Procedure Acts.

§ 5 Program duration and structure

1. The prescribed period of study including time for writing the Master thesis and the actual examinations period shall be 4 semesters.
2. The structure of the Masters program shall be on a modular basis. Modules may cover several lessons consisting of different lecture and learning courses.
3. Admission to a particular module may be bound by certain prerequisites, notably the successful participation in a different module or may depend on attending several other modules. The admission requirements are set forth in the relevant Module Descriptions.
4. A total of 120 ECTS credits (Leistungspunkte) are required for a successful completion of the degree course.

§ 6 Credits and other requirements for study program

1. Students admitted to the degree program are required to attend module-based courses regularly. The structure of the modules is outlined in the Module Descriptions and shall at the same time be made known to students by an appropriate channel (e.g. notice board).
2. Under the ECTS grading standards, successful attendance of modules shall be sanctioned by the distribution of credits based on examination results. The number of credits for each module shall be specified in the Module Descriptions.
3. Credits (Leistungspunkte) shall be calculated in line with the required workload expected of students. 1,800 working hours shall be set as average workload per Academic Year. Students shall be awarded 30 credits on successful completion of the core courses in the first and second semesters, 30 credits for attending elective courses in the third semester and 30 credits for presenting the Master thesis and sitting the final degree examination during the fourth semester. In order to earn one credit students are required to put in a workload of around 30 hours.

§ 7 Coursework and examinations

1. Achievements in examinations shall be the prerequisite for distribution of credit points. Examination grades in the Major subjects (Examination Subjects) which are clearly defined in the Study Conditions, namely Atmosphere, Biosphere, Geosphere, Hydrosphere, Environmental Engineering, Clinical Environmental Medicine, Environmental Law, Environmental Economics, Environmental Behavior and Cultural Ecology, Environmental Education including Spatial Environmental Methods shall be awarded to candidates on an individual basis.
2. Coursework refers especially to an active and regular participation in courses and may serve as the yardstick for admission to examinations. The examination or coursework credits, outlined in the Module Descriptions, may be achieved through written tests, presentations, practicals and internships, oral tests, reading a paper, preparing reports and term papers. Publication of changes to
Module Descriptions shall take place at the beginning of the first course at the latest, in consultation with the Examination Board.

(3) Examination and coursework shall be conducted in English.

(4) Coursework and examination credits, as well as the time schedule to register for examination are set forth in the Module Description, in terms of scope, form and content. Should an examination grade be attained by way of a written or an oral test students shall be granted at least two chances for them to be able to achieve the mark required for the successful completion of a course or module.

(5) Lecturers shall not be constrained by directives when conducting examinations.

(6) Performance in examinations shall be graded in line with §10 or rated by entries of „Pass“ or „Fail“. Examination achievements which count towards the final score in the Masters program must be graded. Every oral examination shall be conducted by an authorized examiner in the presence of an advisor acting as assessor. A report shall be prepared on the outcome of the oral examination. Candidate is to be notified of the results subsequent to the oral examination. Written examination achievements shall be rated by an authorized assessor. The Masters thesis (§ 8 the end of study if not eventually passed by student shall be rated by two authorized examiners. Should there be doubts about the authorship of an attainment in an examination the student concerned may be asked to swear and submit an affidavit, as §92 Sec. 7 No. 1 of Higher Education Act (HG) stipulates.

(7) Under the Code of Social Law (Sozialgesetzbuches IX), special arrangements excepting them from the existing examination and organisational policies and appropriate for their condition shall be put in place for the physically handicapped and the chronically ill. In case of doubt, the examining body may demand a health certificate from a designated medical doctor. A relevant application is to be submitted at the start of the course in question.

(8) As set forth in the Module Descriptions, grades may be given for individual courses and aggregated as one module score if several grades are required per module as specified under §10.

(9) Assessment of performance in coursework and examinations or in a module must, in each case, be made known within six weeks at the latest of attainment or conclusion of the module involved.

(10) Deadlines for achievements shall be published at the start of the relevant courses. Achievements which were attained behind schedule shall be rated "Insufficient" (5) or „Fail“.

(11) Between publication of date of achievement activity and actual date of achievement activity, there shall be a time lapse of up to one week. Withdrawal from a date which has been personally arranged must occur at least three days prior to appointed date.

(12) An achievement in coursework or examination may be considered as „failed“ if candidate fails to turn up for an examination for no good reason or resigns from the examination without good cause when it has already started. Candidate must specify in writing the reasons, credibly substantiated, for resignation or failure to appear and notify the examining board immediately. In the event of illness, candidate may be required to submit a medical certificate. Upon
acceptance of the reasons given, the Examination Board shall notify candidate in writing and a new date shall be appointed.

(13) Unless otherwise stated in the Module Descriptions, dates set for examinations accompanying the study program shall fall at the end of the first to third semester lecture period. The assigning of Masters thesis shall occur at the end of the lecture period for the third year of study, while the date set for the final degree viva examination shall fall at the close of the fourth year of study.

(14) Candidate shall demonstrate in the examinations accompanying their studies in the first to third semester period that they have a fundamental grasp of a broad range of the basic program that the course in Environmental Sciences entails, comprehend the correlations involved in the field to be examined and are in a position to interrelate specific problems in this field.

(15) Admission to sit the examination in „International Master of Environmental Sciences“ shall be granted only to those candidates who:

- are enrolled on the study program and are not on sabbatical,
- are not deemed to have conclusively failed the examination
- are not undergoing any other examination procedure for the same program at a different institution of higher education.

§ 8 Masters thesis and final degree examination

(1) The Masters thesis shall constitute an examination achievement as part of the final degree module, along with the final degree examination. 30 ECTS credits shall be allocated to the latter, with the Masters thesis and the final degree examination accounting for 25 ECTS credits and 5 ECTS credits respectively. The thesis is designed to establish whether candidate is in a position to present a problem of Environmental Sciences on his own within a specified time in a field of his own choice using scientific methods. In compliance with §4 Sec. 5, the Masters thesis shall be assigned and supervised by an examiner who shall be authorized by the Examination Board. Thesis must be written in English and shall comprise not more than 100 DIN-A4 -size pages.

(2) Permission to write the Masters thesis shall only be granted to those:

a. who are enrolled on the Masters degree course „International Master of Environmental Sciences“ at the University of Cologne and have not asked for time off

b. who have successfully attended the core and elective courses required for the program in the first to third semester period and obtained the 30 ECTS credits required in each of both course groups. Permission to write the Masters thesis may be granted on conditional basis if the full credit points required in the third semester were not achieved but the modular examination requirements in the third semester were met. Such conditional permission shall lapse if student is deemed to have conclusively failed a module-based examination required in the third semester.
Written applications for admission - to the Masters thesis and the final degree examination - containing documentary proof of compliance with the conditions of admission stipulated under Section 2 must be sent to the Examination Board.

Should it happen that work on the Masters thesis is being done at an institution other than the University of Cologne, this shall require the previous consent of the Board chairman. Candidate shall be allowed to offer proposals on the topic to the person who issued it. Candidate cannot lay claim to a preferred topic or a preferred supervisor to issue the topic.

The topic for Masters thesis shall be assigned through the chairman of the Examination Board. Candidates shall be allowed a period of six months to work on it. The nature of the topic and the specific problem to be explored in the Masters thesis must be such that thesis can be completed within the specified period. A record shall be kept of topic and date set for its assigning. Upon application, the chairman shall see to it that candidate receives a topic for the thesis. Topic may only be rejected once and only within four weeks after it has been assigned.

When submitting the Masters thesis candidate must affirm in writing that they wrote it on their own, that only the sources and aids listed were used and that quotations have been specially marked.

The Masters thesis must be submitted to the Examination Board on schedule and in triplicate. A record shall be kept of the date of submission. If posted, the date stamp shall be used as evidence. Any Masters thesis handed in behind schedule shall be judged as "Insufficient" (5). In individual cases and upon substantiated application by candidate, the examining body or its representative may, as an exception, extend the time allowed for work on thesis if candidate is beyond reproach for reasons given for seeking extension.

The Examination Board shall appoint the two assessors for the Masters thesis. As a general rule, First Assessor should be the one who issued the topic. Generally, assessment procedure should not last more than six weeks. It must conform with §10 Sec. 1 and justified in writing. The grade awarded for Masters thesis shall be calculated as the arithmetical mean of the individual grades if the difference is not more than 2. Should the difference be more than 2 or should Master Thesis be rated „Insufficient“ by assessor, the Examination Board shall appoint a third authorized examiner to assess it. In this case, the grade awarded for thesis shall be the arithmetic mean of all three marks. However, thesis can be assessed as „Sufficient“ or higher only when at least two of the grades are rated „Sufficient“ or higher. In the event of a third authorized examiner being appointed the deadline shall be extended by a further 6 weeks, according to §7 Sec. 9.

The Examination Board shall see to it that candidates are informed in good time - prior to date fixed for the examination - of the names of examiners and assessors for the final degree examination.

As a general rule, each candidate shall have a period of time of 40 to 50 but not less than 30 minutes.

Submission of the Masters thesis shall be considered as registration for the degree examination. Candidate shall receive notification of the examination date within three weeks prior to day of examination at the latest. Registration for individual examinations shall take effect one week prior to their respective dates.
if, by the date appointed for examination, candidate has not submitted any written application specifying reasons for cancelation. An examination which has been de-registered by cancelation shall be considered as not registered.

(12) In the final degree examination, candidate shall give a 10-minute summary in brief statements of the conclusions of their Masters thesis. The final degree examination shall be held in English. Tutors and students of the Masters program in Environmental Sciences shall have permission to attend the lecture and the subsequent colloquium if candidate is in agreement. Students pursuing the study program in Environmental Sciences shall not be allowed to attend the deliberations on the examination results and their release. Those who evaluated the Masters thesis as well as the chairman of the Examination Board and/or his deputy shall act as examiners. The examiners and one assessor shall form the Examination Committee. The assessor shall take down the minutes.

(13) Generally, as an interdisciplinary individual examination the final degree examination shall be taken before the Examination Committee. It shall be based on the conclusions of the Masters thesis presented at the lecture. The lecture and the ensuing discussion shall be the basis for evaluating the examination.

(14) The major conclusions of the discussion are to be recorded in the minutes of the examination. Subsequent to the final degree examination, candidate must be informed of the results.

§ 9 Accreditation of prior coursework and examinations

(1) Courses and examinations taken in the same program at other universities operating within the remit of the German constitution shall be officially credited with their ECTS points without looking at equivalency.

(2) Equivalent courses and examinations taken in a different study program outside the jurisdiction of the German constitution shall be recognized on application. Equivalency shall be determined where coursework and examinations at universities outside the remit of the German constitution correspond, in essence, to those of the study program offered at a university bound by the German constitution, in terms of scope, content and requirements. Here, equivalency shall not be established by schematical comparison but rather on the basis of an overall review and evaluation. In determining equivalency for study periods, coursework and examinations taken at foreign universities, the equivalency agreements approved by the Kultusministerkonferenz (Education Ministers’ Conference) and the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (German Association of Universities and other Higher Education Institutions) must be used. Otherwise, in case of doubts regarding equivalency, the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen (Central Office for Foreign Education) may be sought.

(3) For the recognition of state-approved correspondence courses and related examinations, the joint distance course units jointly developed by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia along with other Länder and the Bund, as well as for examinations and coursework done at the state-run or state-approved vocational academies or by way of further studies, Sec. 1 and 2 shall apply.

(4) The level of knowledge and skills demonstrated at a promotion test by students entitled to advance to a higher specialized semester on grounds of promotion...
under § 67 of Higher Education Act (HG) shall be recognized as part of their performance in coursework and examinations.

(5) Where credits have been granted for coursework and examinations and in as much as the grading systems are comparable, grades obtained shall be recognized and included in the calculation of the final grade, where applicable. With respect to grading systems which are not comparable, decision on recognition shall rest with the board of examiners. Such recognition shall be endorsed in the Zeugnis. Candidate must furnish the necessary documents required for recognition. Applications for recognition shall be decided by the Board.

(6) Competent professional representatives shall be consulted prior to establishment of equivalency.

§ 10 Assessment of examinations

(1) The following grades are to be used in assessing examinations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Very Good = Excellent achievement;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Good = Achievement considerably higher than average requirements;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Satisfactory = Achievement matching average requirements;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sufficient = Achievement matching requirements despite deficiencies;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Insufficient = Achievement that falls short of requirements due to serious deficiencies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This grading scale shall apply to graded coursework as well. For a sophisticated assessment, a graduated grading scale may be arrived at by raising or lowering grades for individual examinations by 0.3. The grades 0.7; 4.3; 4.7 and 5.3 are excluded.

(2) A module examination consisting of a single examination is to be graded as outlined in Section 1. It shall constitute the grade for this module. Otherwise a module grade is to be calculated a credit-weighted arithmetic mean from the grades (numeric) obtained in the relevant modules unless otherwise stated in the Module Description. Apart from the first decimal following the comma, all other decimal places shall be deleted - without being rounded.

Module scores obtained shall be graded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 1.5 (inclusive)</td>
<td>Very Good;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 1.6 to 2.5</td>
<td>Good;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 2.6 to 3.5</td>
<td>Satisfactory;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 3.6 to 4.0</td>
<td>Sufficient;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 4.0</td>
<td>Insufficient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A module shall have been successfully completed if all component parts have been graded with at least “Sufficient”. A grade of 4.0 in a particular module means candidate has passed and the corresponding ECTS credit points shall be awarded.
(3) Grades awarded for examinations assessed by two examiners shall be calculated as the arithmetic average of the individual grades provided the difference is not more than 2.0. Should the difference be more than 2.0 or should an examination be graded as „insufficient“ by only one of the examiners the examination board shall - in case of a written examination - appoint a third examiner to evaluate it. In this case, the grade shall be derived from the arithmetic mean of all three grades. However, the examination can be graded with „Sufficient“ or better only when at least two of the grades are „Sufficient“ or better. Should a third examiner be appointed this would extend the assessment period by six weeks.

(4) The overall score obtained in the Masters degree examination shall be calculated from the weighted average of the individual grades. The overall score shall be calculated as follows:

a. Examinations attending the study program and which are to be taken in the first and second semester shall be allotted a weighted total score of 0.2 each (overall weighted score of 0.4) based on the number of credit points.

b. The study-attending examination to be taken in the third semester shall be allotted a weighted total score of 0.1.

c. A weighted score of 0.2 shall be allotted to the Viva section of degree examination.

d. A weighted score of 0.3 shall be allotted to the Masters thesis

(5) The Masters degree examination is deemed to have been passed when all examinations have been graded with at least „Sufficient“. 

(6) The overall score attained shall be graded as follows:

- Up to 0.5 (inclusive) = Very Good;
- From 1.6 to 2.5 = Good;
- From 2.6 to 3.5 = Satisfactory;
- From 3.6 to 4 = Sufficient

Only the first digit after the decimal is taken into consideration when calculating the overall grade; digits that follow shall be deleted without being rounded.

§ 11 Repeating courses and examinations

(1) If a candidate sitting an examination or a component for the first time within the prescribed period of study following continuous studies fails this examination it shall be considered as not attempted ( “Free attempt” in line with § 93 HG, provisions governing sabbatical leave from studies according to §93 Sec. 2-5 of Higher Education Act (HG) shall apply).

(2) Also failed examinations or those deemed not to have been passed may be repeated twice. Candidate may arrange with the person in charge of a module to have it resat in another form. A failed Master thesis as well as an unsuccessful degree examination may be repeated once. For a module to be evaluated at least as „sufficient“ (4) the student must pass all examinations outlined in the Module Descriptions, including their component parts, with at least “Sufficient” (4) in the relevant courses. Components which student did not pass may be repeated separately.
(3) If a student sitting an examination for the first time within the specified study period after continuous study (§93 HG) passes the examination, the latter may be repeated once to better the grade. The student is to send in an application for admission by the next examination date.

(4) A student shall have definitely failed the Masters thesis if it was evaluated at the second attempt as „Insufficient“ or if candidate failed to pass a module on two occasions.

(5) A resit of courses may be subject to restrictions. Details are outlined in the Module Descriptions.

(6) Deadlines within which examinations are to be resat are detailed in the Module Descriptions. A resit should not take place within the three weeks following the failed examination and must happen prior to the start of the ensuing semester. The Examination Board may set further dates to resit an examination only in the case of justified reasons.

§ 12 End of degree program

(1) The Masters degree program is successfully completed when candidate has successfully participated in all the modules required for the Masters degree program, passed both the Masters thesis and the Masters degree examination and has achieved 120 ECTS credits.

(2) A module which a candidate is judged to have conclusively failed shall mark the end of an unsuccessful study program.

(3) Where the Masters program was not successfully completed by student, the chairman of the Examination Board shall issue candidate with a written notice to that effect, with a legal caution attached.

(4) On application and upon receipt of the necessary documented evidence including the certificate (Exmatrikulationsbescheiningung) confirming the removal of student’s name from the register of students, a written confirmation shall be issued indicating candidate’s achievements and, if possible, the grades they obtained as well as those achievements still to be produced by candidate in order to successfully complete the Masters program. It shall also carry the remark that candidate did not successfully complete the Masters program.

§ 13 Transcript of academic records and degree certificate

(1) Upon successful completion of study program by candidate and following the release of the last examination’s results, generally within four weeks of conclusion of such examination, candidate shall be awarded a Zeugnis (transcript of candidate’s academic record) issued in English language. The Zeugnis shall contain the designation of the study program, namely „International Master of Environmental Sciences“. Grades shall be indicated in words and digits with fractional parts.

The Zeugnis shall indicate:

a) overall grade

b) topic of Masters thesis
c) grade awarded for Masters thesis

d) grade awarded for the final degree examination.

(2) It shall bear the date on which candidate took his last examination.

(3) At the same time that candidate shall receive the Zeugnis he shall be issued a Masters degree certificate bearing the same date as the Zeugnis and indicating the designation of the course of study, namely „International Master of Environmental Sciences“. It shall document that a degree has been conferred on holder according to § 2.

(4) Both the Zeugnis and degree certificate must bear the University’s seal and be signed by the chairman of the Examination Board.

§ 14 Diploma Supplement

Alongside the Zeugnis and the Masters degree certificate, a Diploma Supplement shall be issued to candidate. This shall contain information regarding the course of study program undertaken by holder, the various courses and modules attended, and the achievements attained during the study program, including their related assessments (credits and grades), as well as on the professional aspects of the study program being pursued by candidate.

§ 15 Inspection of examination records

Upon application and at the conclusion of every examination, candidates shall be granted access to written examinations, examiners’ comments and related assessment reports. Candidates may apply to the Examination Board within two weeks at the latest following the release of the examination results. It shall determine place and time for such inspection.

§ 16 Cheating, breach of rules, protection provisions

(1) Should the candidate attempt to influence his results in coursework or examinations by cheating, e.g. through the use of forbidden aids, the examination in question shall be assessed as “insufficient” (5). A candidate who disrupts the proper course of an examination may be excluded from continuing the examination by lecturer or supervisor on duty, in which case the examination concerned shall be assessed as “insufficient” (5). A record shall be kept of reasons for exclusion. In serious cases, the examining board may ban candidate from taking part in further examinations. It must be expressly noted that there could be further consequences, according to §92 Sec.7 Cl. 2-5 of Higher Education Act (HG).

(2) Under Sec. 1 Cl.1 and 2, the candidate concerned may demand in writing that decisions be revised by the examining board. Incriminating decisions including caution are to be substantiated and conveyed in writing to the person concerned within a period of two weeks.

(3) In accordance with the Maternity Protection Act, protection provisions shall apply under §§ 3, 4, 6 and 8. For the exercise of such protection rights or their relevant time limits, candidates are to send a written application containing the necessary documents to the Examination Committee. Pursuant to this
examination policy, time limits concerning maternity protection shall prevail upon any other deadline, and duration of maternity shall not count towards such deadline.

(4) Likewise, time limits involving parental leave according to legislation on child-raising benefit and parental leave (BErzGG), which must be applied for, shall be considered. Candidates are required to inform the examination board in writing from what time to what time they would like to start their parental leave. They shall have at the latest four weeks prior to the start of parental leave to do this. The board of examiners shall check whether all legal prescriptions guaranteeing salaried workers the right to parental leave under BErzGG have been met. It shall then notify those concerned immediately of the outcome of their application and, if possible, of the new dates fixed for examinations. It is not allowed for parental leave to cut in on time allowed to work on the Master thesis, in which case the set work shall be considered as not issued. Basically, the set work shall be deemed not issued if parental leave cuts into the time prescribed for thesis. At the end of parental leave, candidate shall apply for a new topic. Decision on exceptions shall be left to the examination board.

(5) An application, with the necessary documents attached, for periods of inactivity due to fosterage within the context of §65 Sec.5 Cl. 2 N° 5 of Higher Education Act for North Rhine-Westphalia (HG NRW) as well as for time off in keeping with §5 StKFG shall be duly considered by the Examination Board.

§ 17 Invalidity of examinations

(1) If candidate has cheated during an exam ination and should this become known after certificate has been issued the examination committee may subsequently correct the outcome of that examination accordingly, as well as the grades for those examinations in which cheating was involved, if necessary, and declare the examination as partly or completely failed.

(2) Should it become known after certificate has been issued that a particular candidate had not fulfilled the requirements for admission to a module within whose framework an examination was taken, and should this have happened without any fraudulent intent on the part of candidate, such failing shall be removed by candidate passing the examination. Should candidate have secured admission to sit the examination with wrongful intent, the examining board shall decide on the legal consequences, under the administrative procedure law governing the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

(3) Candidate shall be given the chance to state his case before a decision is reached.

(4) An incorrect examination certificate and all other incorrect attachments shall be withdrawn and, where applicable, new ones shall be issued. Decisions pursuant to Sections 1 and 2 Cl. 2 shall be ruled out after a time lapse of five years following the date of issue of examination certificate.
§ 18 Withdrawal of the Masters degree
The Masters degree may be withdrawn if it later becomes known that it was obtained by cheating or if the major requirements for its award are found to have been mistaken, as stipulated under § 17. This decision shall rest with the examining board.

§ 19 Temporary provisions
The Examination Regulations shall apply to all students enrolled on the study program „International Master of Environmental Sciences“ at the University of Cologne.

§ 20 Commencement and publication
(1) The Examination Regulations shall take effect from October 1, 2006, replacing at the same time those of 14 January 2003 (Official Gazette 11/2003).
(2) The Examination Regulations shall be published in the Amtlichen Mitteilungen (Official Gazette) of the University of Cologne.

Agreed by virtue of
- Resolution of 11.1.2006 adopted by the Faculty of Education
- Resolution of 15.12.2005 adopted by the Faculty of Mathematics and Science
- Resolution of 14.12.2005 adopted by the Faculty of Medicine
- Resolution of 20.4.2006 adopted by the Faculty of Philosophy
- Resolution of 3.3.2006 adopted by the Faculty of Law
- Resolution of 19.12.2005 adopted by the Faculty of Economics and Business Studies,

accompanied by the University Senate advice of 8.2.2006 and the Resolution of 13.2. 2006 adopted by the President of the University of Cologne.
Annex 1

Aptitude assessment
for the Masters program
International Master of Environmental Sciences
at the University of Cologne

1. Purpose of assessment

To qualify for the Masters degree course in Environmental Sciences applicants must in addition to the conditions outlined under § 3 Sec. 1 of Examination Regulations show proof of aptitude under § 3 Sec. 2 of Examination Regulations in keeping with the following provisions.

2. Aptitude assessment procedure

2.1 The procedure for assessing aptitude shall take place once every year in the summer semester under the authority of a panel as set forth in § 4 Sec. 6 of the examination regulations on the international Masters degree program in Environmental Sciences at the University of Cologne.

2.2 Applications for admission to the aptitude assessment procedure for the following Winter Semester should be handed in by 1 April (preclusive time limit) using special forms issued by the University of Cologne.

2.3 Applications must contain:
   1. A CV (resume) in tabular form
   2. Proof of an internationally recognized degree (e.g. Bachelor or Diploma) in an environmentally-related field or an equivalent university degree recognized by the panel, under § 4 Sec. 6 of Examination Regulations
   3. Names of two university professors as references
   4. Proof of English language proficiency on the basis of the TOEFL test or other equivalent proof. Candidates from English-speaking countries shall be exempted.
   5. A written justification for choosing the International Master of Environmental Sciences program.

3. Aptitude assessment panel

A panel - to be appointed by the Examination Committee under § 4 Sec. 6 of Examination Regulations and consisting of at least two of the participating university professors - shall carry out the assessment process. A student with consultative but no voting right shall serve on the panel.

4. Assessment procedure

4.1 Qualification for the assessment process shall be subject to No 2.3, which requires prescribed documents to be submitted in full and in good time.
4.2 Candidates who meet the necessary requirements may be subject to an oral screening in accordance with N° 4.3.

4.3 In the course of the assessment procedure, university professors involved in the study program shall select those to be admitted by means of the application documents and letters of recommendation submitted and, if possible, an oral test lasting 20 minutes.

5. Assessment and release of results

Applicants shall receive written notification of the assessment results by 15 July.

6. Minutes

Minutes are to be prepared on the course of the assessment procedure.

7. Repeat

Applicants who could not show proof of aptitude for the Masters program in Environmental Sciences shall have the chance to register again for the assessment process for the ensuing year. A further repeat is not possible.