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CONDITIONS OF STUDY
FOR MASTER STUDY PROGRAM
INTERNATIONAL MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
AT
UNIVERSITÄT ZU KÖLN
dd. mm. 2007

Consistent with § 2 Sec. 4 of the Hochschulgesetz (Higher Education Act) of North Rhine-Westphalia as amended by the Hochschulfreiheitsgesetz of 21.10.2006 (GV.NRW p. 474), the Faculties of the University of Cologne participating in this degree program have adopted the following conditions of study:

INDEX

Preamble

1. General policies and information
   § 1 Purpose of conditions of study
   § 2 Study requirements
   § 3 Commencement and duration of study program
   § 4 Structure of study program
   § 5 Credits for coursework (Leistungsnachweise)
   § 6 Restrictions on the number of participants

2. Structure of study program
   § 7 General information
   § 8 Individual requirements for study program

3. Concluding provisions
   § 9 Competence of examination board
   § 10 Study counseling
   § 11 Timetable for degree program
   § 12 Commencement and publication of study conditions

4. Appendix: Recommended Study Schedule
PREAMBLE

Owing to a variety of environmentally-related research and academic programs in which a number of Faculties are involved, the University of Cologne has established an interdisciplinary cross-faculty Master of Science degree program with English as language of instruction, alongside the specialized study programs in environmental sciences offered by other institutions of higher education. Thus, this degree program - an adjunct to the traditional study programs - provides an opportunity for a more effective multi-disciplinary education geared towards research and the use of applications. The course shall lead to the academic degree of „Master of Science“.

1. GENERAL POLICIES AND INFORMATION

§ 1 PURPOSE OF CONDITIONS OF STUDY

§ 2 STUDY REQUIREMENTS
(1) Admission requirements are governed by §3 Sec. 1 of Examination Regulations. A necessary requirement is proficiency in spoken and written English. In order to ascertain entrance qualifications to the Masters degree course in Environmental Sciences an aptitude assessment shall be carried out. Details on this are provided in a relevant special procedure in line with §3 Abs. 2 of Examination Regulations.

(2) Requirement for admission to the study program is registration at or admission to the University of Cologne as visiting student.

§ 3 COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION OF STUDY PROGRAM
(1) Students can enrol on this degree course in the winter semester only, as the study program’s curriculum is tailored to the start of winter. Application deadline for each year is 1 April.

(2) The regular study period including all examination results is 4 semesters (2 academic years).
§ 4 STRUCTURE OF STUDY PROGRAM

(1) Content wise, the study program is structured on a modular basis. Modules are thematically correlated courses covering lectures, seminars, colloquia, exercises, practicals/internships, excursions as well as a final degree project work (please see Module Descriptions), not excluding private study, notably during the semester break. Participating Faculties shall offer lectures designed to broaden students’ understanding of work routine. Attendance at such lectures by students is highly recommended.

(2) The temporal amount of work expected of full-time students following the Masters study program International Master of Environmental Sciences shall involve attending courses (time of attendance) with own time schedule for preparatory and follow-up work, preparing reports, writing term papers, long essays and final project work, as well as for presentations and preparation of examination, including the examination period itself. In the lecture-free period, students are required to use their time to gain specialized knowledge in areas, such as foreign languages and computer literacy, or to acquire practical experience by participating in ongoing activities within or outside the University. According to ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) norms, the overall level of courses students are expected to attend shall amount to a total of 120 credit points or 3,600 working hours. Under §7 of Examination Regulations, attainment shall be controlled by way of graded examining.

(3) The degree program shall be three-phased:

- In the first phase, compulsory modules in multi-disciplinary foundation courses spanning a period of 2 semesters shall be imparted to students. Students are expected to obtain 60 credit points in the required modules through successful attendance and successful examination results. Credit points obtained in each of the required modules as well as the nature of examination results shall be recorded on a module description form.

- The second phase (third semester) shall offer students the opportunity to make their own choices as part of the elective modules on offer. Here, 30 credit points are required.

- The fourth semester covering a 6-month Masters coursework and ending with a viva voce examination shall make up the third phase, under §8 of Examination Regulations. Out of a total of 30 credit points 25 shall be allocated to the Masters program and 5 credit points to Viva.
§ 5 CREDITS FOR COURSEWORK (LEISTUNGSNACHWEISE)
Credit points corresponding to the workload expected of students shall be given for all examinations conducted in the various courses within a module and passed by student. Successful participation in a course requiring a credit certificate is considered as an examination grade of at least 4 (Adequate) (see § 7 of Examination Regulations). Such achievements may cover work done as academic assignment in the form of exercises, field and laboratory measurements including the accompanying assessment work, as well as presentations, class tests, viva examinations or preparation of academic reports. The modalities involved are specified in the various Module Descriptions. Students must be informed of their graded achievement certificates in each case 6 weeks after achievement at the latest, while they are to be notified of the results obtained directly after each viva examination.

§ 6 RESTRICTIONS ON THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
(1) To guarantee a proper training program, the University’s Faculties involved in the degree program may limit participation in the courses relating to the degree program “International Master of Environmental Sciences” to the number of students already enrolled on the degree course at the University or those admitted as visiting students, in compliance with the relevant Module Description.

(2) Should the need arise to limit attendance due to the type or purpose of a particular course and in the event of applications outstripping capacity, the final decision on admission shall, at the request of the academic tutor involved, rest with the Dean of the Department in question or shall be left to the discretion of an academic tutor authorized by the Dean (§ 59 Sec. 2 of Higher Education Act). This shall apply especially to elective courses involving specialisation. Where limited participant numbers are necessary, students may be admitted to courses in the following cases in their order of importance:

- Students who cannot forfeit attending the course at the time
- Students having to repeat a course
- Students who have at one time failed to support a chosen elective module
- After assessing students in a compulsory module on which an elective module is based (see § 8)
- other students
2. **STRUCTURE OF STUDY PROGRAM**

§ 7 GENERAL INFORMATION

(1) The training program is divided into core and elective modules involving the following areas of emphasis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deutsch</th>
<th>Englisch</th>
<th>Nachfolgender Abschnitt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atmosphäre</td>
<td>Atmosphere</td>
<td>§ 8 Abs. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biosphäre</td>
<td>Biosphere</td>
<td>§ 8 Abs. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geosphäre</td>
<td>Geosphere</td>
<td>§ 8 Abs. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrosphäre</td>
<td>Hydrosphere</td>
<td>§ 8 Abs. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umwelttechnik</td>
<td>Environmental Technology</td>
<td>§ 8 Abs. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klinische Umweltmedizin</td>
<td>Environmental Medicine</td>
<td>§ 8 Abs. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umweltrecht</td>
<td>Environmental Law</td>
<td>§ 8 Abs. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umweltmanagement und Politik</td>
<td>Environmental Policy and Governance</td>
<td>§ 8 Abs. 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umweltverhalten und Kulturökologie</td>
<td>Environmental Sociology and Cultural Ecology</td>
<td>§ 8 Abs. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umwelterziehung</td>
<td>Environmental Education</td>
<td>§ 8 Abs. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Räumliche Umweltmethoden</td>
<td>Spatial Environmental Methods</td>
<td>§ 8 Abs. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schwerpunkt übergreifende Veranstaltungen</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary courses</td>
<td>§ 8 Abs. 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) The basic modules referred to under § 8 represent compulsory modules, which shall take place in the first and second semesters and in which the overall achievement to be obtained by students shall total 60 points as set out in § 6 Sec. 3 of Examination Regulations. As part of the core modules mentioned under § 8 results obtained in a module may be compensatable as long as the 60 points have been attained.
(3) The specialized modules indicated under § 8 and constituting the elective modules in the third semester shall present student with the possibility of majoring in a particular field. In 2 of the modules described under said provision, achievement credits totaling 30 points are required, under § 6 Sec. 3 of Examination Regulations.

§ 8 INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDY PROGRAM

(1) Focus Area Atmosphere

1.1 Core Module Atmosphere

- General Aspects of Meteorology (3 score points, lectures)
- Introduction to Synoptic Meteorology (3 score points, lectures)

1.2 Specialized Module Atmosphere

In the Focus Area Atmosphere, elective courses relating to a specialization program in the third semester shall be offered with a minimum of 15 score points.

Taught courses may take the form of lectures, seminars, exercises, practicals/internships, field trips or may be project-oriented.

(2) Focus Area Biosphere

2.1 Core Module Biosphere

- Ecology I (3 score points, lectures)
- Ecology II (3 score points, lectures)

2.2 Specialized Module Biosphere

In the Focus Area Biosphere, elective courses relating to a specialization program in the third semester shall be offered with a minimum of 15 score points.

Taught courses may take the form of lectures, seminars, exercises, practicals/internships, field trips or may be project-oriented.

(3) Focus Area Geosphere

3.1 Core Module Geosphere

- Introduction to Environmental Geophysics (3 score points, lectures)
3.2 Specialized Module Geosphere

In the Focus Area Geosphere, elective courses relating to a specialization program in the third semester shall be offered with a minimum of 15 score points.

Taught courses may take the form of lectures, seminars, exercises, practicals/internships, field trips or may be project-oriented.

4) Focus Area Hydrosphere

4.1 Core Module Hydrosphere

- Physical Hydrology (3 score points, lectures)

4.2 Specialized Module Atmosphere

In the Focus Area Atmosphere, elective courses relating to a specialization program in the third semester shall be offered with a minimum of 15 score points.

Taught courses may take the form of lectures, seminars, exercises, practicals/internships, field trips or may be project-oriented.

5) Focus Area Environmental Technology

5.1 Core Module Environmental Technology

- Environmental Organic, Inorganic and Material Cycles (3 score points, lectures)
- Environmental Technologies (3 score points, lectures)

5.2 Specialized Module Environmental Technology

In the Focus Area Environmental Technology, elective courses relating to a specialization program in the third semester shall be offered with a minimum of 15 score points.

Taught courses may take the form of lectures, seminars, exercises, practicals/internships, field trips or may be project-oriented.
(6) **Environmental Medicine**

6.1 Core Module Environmental Medicine

- Environmental Medicine I (3 score points, lectures)
- Environmental medicine II (3 score points, lectures)

(7) **Environmental Law**

7.1 Core Module Environmental Law

- Introduction to comparative environmental law systems (3 score points, lectures)
- Introduction to international environmental law systems (3 score points, lectures)

7.2 Specialized Module Environmental Law

In the Focus Area Environmental Law, elective courses relating to a specialization program in the third semester shall be offered with a minimum of 15 score points.

Taught courses may take the form of lectures, seminars, exercises, practicals/internships, field trips or may be project-oriented.

(8) **Environmental Policy and Governance**

8.1 Core Module Environmental Policy and Governance

- Environmental Policy and Management (3 score points, lectures)
- Political Ecology I (3 score points, lectures)
- Political Ecology II (3 score points, lectures)

8.2 Specialized Module Environmental Policy and Governance

In the Focus Area Environmental Policy and Governance, elective courses relating to a specialization program in the third semester shall be offered with a minimum of 15 score points.

Taught courses may take the form of lectures, seminars, exercises, practicals/internships, field trips or may be project-oriented.

(9) **Environmental Sociology and Cultural Ecology**

9.1 Core Module Environmental Sociology and Cultural Ecology
• Environmental Sociology: Basic Approaches and Research Results (3 score points, lectures)
• Introduction to Cultural Ecology (3 score points, lectures)
• Urban Environments (3 score points, lectures)

9.2 Specialized Module Environmental Sociology and Cultural Ecology

In the Focus Area Environmental Sociology and Cultural Ecology, elective courses relating to a specialization program in the third semester shall be offered with a minimum of 15 score points.

Taught courses may take the form of lectures, seminars, exercises, practicals/internships, field trips or may be project-oriented.

(10) Environmental Education

10.1 Core Module Environmental Education

• Basic Aspects of Environmental Education (1.5 score points, lectures)
• Didactics of excursions (3 score points, lectures + Practical)

10.2 Specialized Module Environmental Education

In the Focus Area Environmental Education, elective courses relating to a specialization program in the third semester shall be offered with a minimum of 15 score points.

Taught courses may take the form of lectures, seminars, exercises, practicals/internships, field trips or may be project-oriented.

(11) Spatial Environmental Methods

11.1 Core Module Spatial Environmental Methods

• Introduction to GIS (3 score points, lectures and exercises)

11.2 Specialized Module Spatial Environmental Methods

In the Focus Area Spatial Environmental Methods, elective courses relating to a specialization program in the third semester shall be offered with a minimum of 15 score points.
Taught courses may take the form of lectures, seminars, exercises, practicals/internships, field trips or may be project-oriented.

(12) **Interdisciplinary courses**

12.1 Core Module Interdisciplinary courses

- Excursions related to specific topics of the different environmental sciences (3 score points = 6 complete day excursions)

(13) **Final Degree Module**

The Final Degree Module is made up of two sections: a Masters thesis and the final degree examination. Prescribed period for working on thesis shall be 6 months. As a general rule, topic for thesis shall be assigned in the third semester at the close of lecture period and must be completed by mid-August. The viva voce section of the examination shall take place at the end of the fourth semester, with this and the thesis carrying 5 score points and 25 score points respectively.

3. **CONCLUDING PROVISIONS**

§ 9 **COMPETENCE OF EXAMINATION BOARD**

Transfer of credit points and examination results are governed by § 9 of Examination Regulations. Decisions on all matters arising out of said conditions of study shall rest with the Examination Board.

§ 10 **STUDY COUNSELING**

(1) The *Zentrale Studienberatung* (Student Counseling Center) and the *Akademisches Auslandsamt* (International Office) of the University of Cologne shall be responsible for general study counseling services, especially those involving study opportunities and relevant requirements.

(2) All matters involving specialized counseling on the degree program “International Master of Environmental Sciences” may be directed to any of the lecturers involved in the degree program described. Students may also make use of available guidance and counseling when in need of help at the start of their studies, in the lead-up to choosing a research focus, in the pre-selection phase involving a specialization program, after failed examinations, in times of
personal problems, in planning a period of study abroad or when seeking to move to another university or change a chosen program of study.

(3) In the event of personal problems stemming from their studies, students may also consult the psychological counseling service working under the student union of the University.

§ 11 TIMETABLE FOR DEGREE PROGRAM
Based on these conditions of study a timetable recommended for the proper conduct of a degree program was drawn up as supplement to present conditions of study (see Annex 1).

§ 12 COMMENCEMENT AND PUBLICATION OF STUDY CONDITIONS
Present conditions of study, which are to be published in the University of Cologne’s Official Gazette, shall take effect from 1 October 2007. These shall, at the same time, replace the current Study Conditions of 10 March 2003.

Agreed by virtue of the Resolution of (date)…adopted by the Faculty of Science and Mathematics, of…adopted by the Faculty of Medicine, of .. adopted by Faculty of Philosophy, and, of... adopted by the Faculty of Law, of ... by the Faculty of Economics and Business Studies following the University Senate advice of …and the Resolution of …by the President of the University of Cologne.

Cologne, dd,mm,yyyy

The President of the University of Cologne