

Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture

**Examination Regulations
of the International Master course Arid Land
Studies (ATLANTIS)
(„Double Degree-Programme“)**

Stand:08.08.10

Examination Regulations

Of the International Master course Arid Land Studies (ATLANTIS) („Double Degree-Programme“)

On the basis of § 17 par. 1, No.1 of the constitution of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Amtliches Mitteilungsblatt of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin No. 28/2006) the Board of the Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture has decreed the following examination regulations for the International Master programme „Arid Land Studies“ on July 14th 2010*.

- § 1 Bounds of validity
- § 2 Committee of examination
- § 3 Regular study time, Credit points, performance requirements
- § 4 Examiners
- § 5 Registration and admission for examinations
- § 6 Assessment, passing and repetition of exams
- § 7 Module final examinations
- § 8 Internship
- § 9 Master Thesis
- § 10 Final study degree, final grade, academic degree
- § 11 Further regulations
- § 12 Coming into force

Appendix 1: Summary of study attending exams

Appendix 2: Conversion of credits (Texas Tech University) into SP (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

§ 1 Bounds of validity

These examination regulations regulate objectives, procedures and requirements for the exams of the international Masters Course *Arid Land Studies* at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. They are valid in conjunction with the study regulations for the international Masters Course *Arid Land Studies* and the General Articles for study and examination affairs (ASSP) according to the currently valid versions.

(2) The International Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Arid Land Studies forms part of the transatlantic study programme ATLANTIS and is jointly offered by the Texas Tech University (USA) and the two European partners, the University of Sheffield (UK) and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany).

§ 2 Committee of examination

(1) The committee of examination is responsible for examinations in the subject *Biodiversity Management and Research* and has particularly the following duties:

- to appoint the examiners,

- to decide on admission to examinations,
- to decide on approval of performances, compensation of disadvantages and the consequences of delay and deceit in accordance with the ASSP
- to pay attention that the examination regulations are adhered
- to report regularly to the Board of Faculty resp. the Board of Institute on examinations, study times and grading
- to give motivation regarding academic reform.

(2) The committee of examination consists of 3 professors, 1 academic assistant and one student.

(3) The members will be appointed by the Board of the Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture of HU for a period of two years. In case a member drops out, a new member is appointed by the representatives of the member group for the rest of the tenure. Members maintain their mandate until the substitutes take the office.

(4) The Board of Faculty can decide that

- the tenure of the examination committee ends at an early stage and a new committee is appointed
- the tenure of the student member is restricted to one year

(5) The chairman and the vice chairman will be elected out of the circle of the professors and should belong to two different universities. The committee can revocably transfer particular tasks to the chairman or the vice chairman.

(6) The committee of examination holds closed meetings. The committee constitutes a quorum if at least 2 professors, including the chairman or the vice chairman, as well as another member are attending the meeting. The committee makes its decisions with ordinary resolution. In the event of a tie the vote of the chairman decides, if the chairman is absent the vote of the vice chairman decides. The student member of the committee has no right to vote regarding issues of performance appraisal. The committee of examination can make a decision in written procedure unless a member disagrees. Clauses 2 to 5 apply accordingly

(7) The members are subject to official secrecy. Unless they are associated to public service, they are committed by the chairman respectively.

* The Senatsverwaltung für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung has confirmed the study regulations on ____ .

(8) At decisions about contradictions against examination decisions, prejudiced members of the committee of examinations are not allowed to contribute. Their hearing as examiners remains regardless. Prejudiced is who:

- directly play a part at the evaluation
- is employed at the chair of the evaluator

§ 3 Regular study time, Credit points, performance requirements

(1) The international Masters Course *Arid Land Studies* has a regular study time of 4 semesters.

(2) Within International Masters Course *Arid Land Studies* 120 Credit Points (SP) have to be acquired by the students. The Credit Points are assigned if the relevant course achievements resp. the exam is fulfilled resp. passed successfully.

(3) The expected course performances to be achieved within the international Masters Course *Arid Land Studies* are specified in § 7 and the appendices of the study regulations, the exams to be completed are specified in the appendix of these examination regulations.

(4) Coursework and examination grades, which are rendered at a partner university or cooperating institutions, will be accepted without an examination on equal in terms of the „Double Degree

(5) The acceptance of coursework and examination grades takes place through the committee of examination of the Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. All grades of students been taken over to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) by the committee of examination and based on the conversion of credits, according to Par. 2 of the examination regulations. Based on this the final grade of every student will be determined.

§ 4 Examiners

(1) For the study attending exams the committee of examination appoints examiners in agreement to the ASSP.

(2) Master theses are reviewed by two examiners. The committee of examination therefore appoints two Professors or habilitated academic assistants. As the first examiner is generally appointed who assigned the topic of the thesis and who supervised the thesis. Aberrant from clause 2 also a non-habilitated academic assistant or assistant lecturer can be appointed as the second examiner, as long as he/she is authorized to unaffiliated teaching and in case professors and academic assistants are not available.

Clause 4 applies accordingly if, referring to § 6 Par. 2, a third examiner is appointed as an exception.

(3) Persons with experiences in professional practice and vocational training can also be an examiner, even if they do not teach.

§ 5 Registration and admission for examinations

(1) The participation for exams or re-examinations requires a registration. If there is an administrative system for examinations with the possibility to register online, the registration generally should be made online. The registration concurrently is considered as the application for the admission to examination.

- (2) Accepted for the study attending exams is who
- is enrolled at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in the international Master course Arid land Studies or who was enrolled within the last year before registration of examination and requires or chooses the examination in line with his or her study programme
 - fulfils the admission requirements for the examination as specified in the appendix
 - did not fail a final exam or an in amount and topic equal exam in the master courses Horticultural Science, Fishery Science and Aquaculture, Prozess- und Qualitätsmanagement, Organismische Biologie, Arid Land Studies at another University in the Federal Republic of Germany
 - fulfils the specifications of examination consultations made by ASSP in the context of the regulations for consultancy and reproducibility of exams, if it is a matter of re-examination.

The admission is in the sole discretion if one or more of the mentioned admission requirements in this clause are not fulfilled.

- (3) Accepted for the Master thesis is who
- is enrolled at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in the international Master course Arid land Studies or was enrolled within the last year before registration of the Master thesis.
 - passed the elective subjects and the studium generale in an amount 60 SP of the 1. academic year and who finally failed the master thesis, in study courses of par. 2 at another University in the Federal Republic of Germany
 - has not already failed a Master thesis finally in the international Master course Arid land Studies at another University in the Federal Republic of Germany
 - fulfils the specifications of examination consultations made by ASSP in the context of the regulations for consultancy and reproducibility of exams, if it is the last re-examination.

The admission is in the sole discretion if the enrolment according to section 1 (1) dates back to more than one year.

(4) The committee of examination decides about the admission to an examination or re-examination. The committee can confer its authorization upon the examination office or the examiners. The authorization for discretionary decisions about admission, can only be conferred as far as the exertion for discretion is regulated in written form. In case of an online registration the electronic confirmation is presumed as the admission to the examination. Beyond the online registration procedure admissions can also be

announced via the ad board stating the matriculation number.

(5) The admission of guest auditors conforms with the ASSP.

§ 6 Assessment, passing and repetition of exams

(1) Examinations are graded, unless it is exceptionally regulated in the appendix that they merely are accounted as „passed“ or „not passed“. The scale of grades conforms with the ASSP.

(2) If an examination is reviewed by two examiners, the grade is calculated via the arithmetic mean of the two appraisals. If the deviation of the appraisals is two grades or more or if one examiner evaluates the written performance with „fail“ (4.1-5.0), a third examiner will be appointed by the committee of examination and, on the basis of the grading of all three examiners, the committee makes the final decision generating the arithmetic mean. For the Master thesis this applies also upon request of the student, if the deviation is more than one grade.

(3) An examination is regarded as passed if at least the grade „sufficient“ (4,0) is attained.

(4) Failed final examinations can be repeated two times. The first retesting should be enabled before semester start, the second retesting has to be enabled before the end of the semester, which follows the semester in which the examination was failed. A failed Master Thesis can be repeated just once, with a new topic. Failed attempts at other universities in the scope of the basic law will be taken into account. The work on the second Master thesis, should start at the latest 3 months after notification of the first thesis.

Already passed exams can not be repeated.

§ 7 Module final examinations

(1) Module final examinations can be assessed in different forms, especially as oral examinations, tests, homework and other written reports or multimedia examinations. The type of the examination is specified in the appendix. In case alternative types of examination are scheduled, the type is regulated and announced by the examiner. The announcement is made at the beginning of the semester in which the examination proceeds. If an examination relates to only one course and if this course continues for more than one semester the announcement is made at the beginning of that semester, in which the course begins.

(2) In oral examinations students prove that they are able to define and interpret the specifics, limitations, terminologies and doctrines of the subject, that they dispose of a far-ranging, detailed and critical understanding in one or more special subject at the current stage of research and practice and that they can facilitate information, problems, ideas and solutions on a scientific basis and to implement these practical proficiencies. The duration of oral

exams is ruled in the appendix. The duration is exceeded if a number of students are examined together. The examiner, and where applicable the assessor, the beginning, the end, the major subjects, the grade and particular occurrences are recorded. The grade is communicated and reasoned subsequent to the examination. The members of the examination committee are entitled to attend the oral examination. Other persons can attend if the student agrees or upon request.

(3) In written examinations students prove that they are able to define and interpret the specifics, limitations, terminologies and doctrines of the subject, that they dispose of a far-ranging, detailed and critical understanding in one or more special subject at the current stage of research and practice and that they can facilitate information, problems, ideas and solutions on a scientific basis and to implement these practical proficiencies. The duration of written exams is ruled in the appendix.

(4) Within homework, portfolios, essays and similar written exams students prove that they can apply scientific basics of the subject and their skills to problem solving also in new and not familiar situations and that at the same time they can establish interdisciplinary correlations; that they can integrate knowledge, face complexity and make fundamental scientific decisions even with incomplete informational basis. Working expenditure and extent are specified in the appendix. Homework, portfolios, and similar written examinations without supervision need to be provided with a clarification stating the student's independence, correct labelling of modified and unmodified resources, including internet resources, charts and pictures, and stating the student's knowledge about disciplinary action on violation against these rules because of deceit or try of deceit.

(5) In multimedia examinations students prove that they are able to work independently on issues from their field of study and present results on a scientific level considering the current stage of research and practice by establishing interdisciplinary correlations and using different media. Duration, type and extent of these examinations are specified in the appendix.

(6) Module final examinations will take In a study-accompanying way"

§ 8 Internship

During their 2. academic year students have to join an 8-week Internship at the University of Sheffield (UK). Students get insight current research projects of various research groups (Earth Observation, physical geography, geomorphology).

§ 9 Master thesis

(1) Within the Master thesis students prove that they can elaborate a topic scientifically and independently, establishing interdisciplinary correlations and considering the current stage of research and

practice. The master thesis should not exceed an extent of 150.000 (approximately 60 pages) characters. The thesis has to be provided with a clarification stating the student's independence, correct labelling of modified and unmodified resources, including internet resources, charts and pictures, and stating the student's knowledge about disciplinary action on violation against these rules in case of deceit or try of deceit.

(2) The topic of the thesis is provided by a professor or habilitated academic assistant, who supervises the thesis. The topic can be chosen out of any of the participating substantial subjects but also shall reveal the inclusion of other represented subjects. A meeting with the student precedes the topic. The student can propose a topic, though this has not to be obeyed. The topic becomes obligatory if the student is notified in writing. The wording of the topic and the time of announcement are documented in the audit file.

(3) The topic of the thesis can be replaced by the student without any reason within two weeks after the announcement; then a new topic is provided and announced

(4) The processing time for the master thesis comprises six months and begins from the day of announcement of the topic. Upon request of the student the time can be prolonged by the committee of examination for important reasons; rules on delay resp. exceeding of examination deadlines conform with the ASSP. The master thesis has to be handed in triplicate and additionally as an electronic resource to the examination office of the Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture. Time of issue resp. date of issue in case the thesis inbounds via mail, is documented in the audit file.

(5) When the master thesis is passed, it has to be defended as a viva-voce exam. The defence generally is made in presence of the examiners who evaluated the thesis. In exceptional reasonable cases the committee of examination can appoint other examiners; § 4 par. 2 applies accordingly so far. The defence can be organized within a colloquium if the student agrees. In this case the conversation is merely hold between the student and the examiners. The defence is graded; the grade is communicated to the student and reasoned subsequent to the defence. The members of the examination committee are entitled to attend the defence. Other persons can attend if the student agrees or upon request.

(6) The defence has to be passed separately and in case of failure also to be repeated separately. The final grade of the master thesis results from the grade of the thesis itself and the grade of defence at a ratio of 8 to 2.

§ 10 Final study degree, final grade, academic degree

(1) The international Master course Arid Land Studies is successfully completed if all study performances are completed, if all examinations are passed and if all Credit points are yielded.

(2) The final grade of the Masters Course comprises the grades of the elective module final examinations and the grade of the master thesis and is weighed according to the declared Credit points for the modules. Examinations without assessment or which are solely declared as „passed“ due to deficiency of comparable scales of grades, and examinations, which have been passed by the student within the general coursework (=studium generale) or upon request of the student are not considered to grading.

(3) The degree „Master of Science“ („M.Sc.“) is obtained by students who successfully completed the Masters Course. This degree will be obtained as a Double Degree of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Texas Tech University (USA).

(4) If an examination is not passed though all opportunities of repetition were exhausted, the student receives a written notice that the examination irrevocably is not passed. If it is matter of examination within the compulsory group or if the alternatives of the elective group concerned are completely exploited, the notice also contains the declaration that the Masters Course can no longer be completed successfully. Upon request the student receives a written confirmation stating the study performances including the failed examination with indication that the Masters Course can no longer be completed successfully according to the prevailing examination regulations.

§ 10 Further regulations

The language in examinations, deadlines and their announcements, the scale of grades, acknowledgement of study results, equation of disadvantages, examination consultancies, consequences of delay, deceit and breach of regulations, the conferring of certificates, documents and diploma supplement, the inspection of audit files and the procedure of remonstrance conform with the ASSP. Within the right of file inspection the student is eligible to make copies or have copies to be made

§ 11 Coming into force

(1) These regulations come into force the day after their publication in the paper of curatorial disclosure (Amtliches Mitteilungsblatt) of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Appendix 1: Summary of the study attending exams for the international Masters Course "Arid Land Studies"

number	Name of modules	Credit points	Admission requirements, form and extent of examination
Elective subjects at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin			
WP 1	Mammalogy	9	none, written exam (90 minutes) or oral exam (20 minutes) (100%)
WP 2	Vertebrate Adaption to Xeric Environment	9	none, written exam (90 minutes) (100%)
WP 3	Functional Biodiversity of arid and semi-arid Ecosystems	9	none, written exam (90 minutes) (100%)
WP 4	Agriculture and Horticulture of Conurbations	6	none, project report 10 pages (50%) and oral defence 15 minutes (50%)*
WP 5	Evolutionary Morphology of Vertebrates	9	none, written exam (90 minutes) or oral exam (20 minutes) (100%)
WP 6	Organic Farming	6	none, written exam (90 minutes) or homework 10 pages (50%) and presentation 15 minutes (50%)*
WP 7	Special Aspects of Organic Farming	6	none, oral exam 30 minutes (100%) or homework 10 pages (50%) and presentation 15 minutes (50%)*
WP 8	Plants with Active Ingredients	6	none, written exam (90 minutes) (100%) in advance: term paper
WP 9	Hydroponical Systems in Horticulture	6	none, oral exam (30 minutes) (100%), in advance: protocol
WP 10	Plant Nutrition in Different Natural Areas	6	none, oral exam (30 minutes) (100%) or homework 20 pages (100%)
WP 11	Pasture Management	6	none, oral exam (30 minutes) (100%)
WP 12	Quality Assurance of Plant Products	6	none, homework 20 pages (100%) in advance: protocol 10 pages
WP 13	Land use systems for horticultural crops	6	none, presentation 10 minutes (40%), oral exam 20 minutes (60%)*
WP 14	Cultivation of vegetables in tropics and subtropics	6	None, protocols about 10 pages (20%), oral exam 20 minutes (80%)*
WP 15	Effects of plant nutrition and other environmental factor on composition and quality of vegetable and ornamental plants	6	none, oral exam 20 minutes (100%) or presentation 20 minutes (100%)
WP 16	Plant nutrition and nutrient supply in environmentally- friendly horticultural systems	6	none, oral exam 20 minutes (100%) or presentation 20 minutes (100%)
WP 17	Tropical Fish Communities	6	none, oral exam 30 minutes (100%)
WP 18	Gender and Globalisation	6	None, presentation and discussion, seminar paper
Master Thesis		20	passing all modules of the 1. academic year, 6 months, 60 pages (80%), defence (20%)
Internship		10	attendance, protocol (20 pages)

Elective subjects at Texas Tech University			
WP 19	Water Resources Management	10	
WP 20	Seminar in Geography of Arid Lands	10	
WP 21	Watershed Management	10	
WP 22	Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis	10	
WP 23	Ecology of Grazing Lands Systems	10	
WP 24	Weather, Climate, and Applications	10	
WP 25	Advanced Landscape Ecology	10	
WP 26	Surface Water Hydrology	10	
WP 27	Groundwater Hydrology	10	
WP 28	Groundwater Transport Phenomena	10	
WP 29	Natural Systems for Wastewater Treatment	10	
WP 30	Environmental and Wildlife Toxicology	10	
WP 31	Procedure & Techniques in Ecological Risk Assessment	10	
WP 32	Geographic Information Systems	10	
WP 33	Remote Sensing of the Environment	10	
WP 34	Advanced Geographic Information Systems	10	
WP 35	Seminar in Regional Analysis	10	
WP 36	Digital Imagery in Geosciences	10	
WP 37	Spatial Data Analysis and Modeling in Geosciences	10	
WP 38	Advanced Range Ecology	10	
WP 39	Advance Nongame Ecology and Management	10	
WP 40	Aerial Terrain Analysis	10	
WP 41	Imagery Interpretation for NRM	10	
WP 42	Geospatial Technologies in NRM	10	
WP 43	Precision Agriculture	10	
WP 44	Soil and Plant Relationships	10	
WP 45	Soils and Crops in Arid Lands	10	

** Moduls with more than one final examination correspond to the present state and will be edit contemporary by the Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture.*

Appendix 2: Conversion of credits obtained at the Texas Tech University into Studienpunkte (SP)

Modules at the Texas Tech University are evaluated with 3 credit points.

The conversion of credits (Texas Tech University) into SP (Humboldt-Universität) is necessary to make study performance comparable.

The Texas Tech University award 3 credits for one module, which are equal to 10 SP at the Humboldt- Universität zu Berlin.