

# Translation

Examination Regulations  
for the Consecutive Master's Degree Program

**“Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems”**

at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the  
University of Bonn

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Please note that only the original German version is legally  
binding.

**Examination Regulations  
for the Consecutive Master's Degree Program**

**“Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems”**

**of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences  
of the University of Bonn**

**August 23, 2021**

By virtue of § 2, para. 4 and § 64, para. 1 of the NRW Higher Education Act (Gesetz über die Hochschulen des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Hochschulgesetz) of September 16, 2014 (Legal and Regulatory Gazette of North Rhine-Westphalia, p. 547) as last amended by Article 2 of the Act for Amending the Arts Higher Education Act and for Amending other Provisions in the Area of Higher Education (Gesetz zur Änderung des Kunsthochschulgesetzes und zur Änderung weiterer Vorschriften im Hochschulbereich) of March 25, 2021 (Legal and Regulatory Gazette of North Rhine-Westphalia, p. 329), the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Bonn issued the following Regulations:

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Part 1

Scope

**§ 1**

**Scope**

(1) Students who commence their studies within the consecutive master's degree program "Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems" at the University of Bonn after entry into force of these Examination Regulations are subject to these Examination Regulations.

(2) The Examination Regulations of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Bonn for the consecutive master's degree program "Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems" dated February 4, 2016 (Official Announcements of the University of Bonn, 46<sup>th</sup> year, no. 5 of February 19, 2016), hereinafter referred to as MPO 2016, will be repealed as of September 30, 2021. Students who commenced their studies under MPO 2016 prior to the coming into force of these Examination Regulations shall adopt these Examination Regulations ex officio on October 1, 2021. Credit for prior academic achievements shall be transferred in full; if module LIMES-005, LIMES-006 or LIMES-007 was successfully completed under MPO 2016, it shall replace module LIMES-005 under these Examination Regulations.

**§ 1a**

**Coronavirus pandemic**

If the Rectorate has made use of the authorization to issue provisions concerning academic studies that it was granted under the Ordinance on Overcoming Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 Epidemic Related Challenges Posed on University Operations (Corona-Epidemie-Hochschulverordnung) dated April 15, 2020, as amended, which was issued based on § 82a of the NRW Higher Education Act, the provisions issued by the Rectorate shall supersede the corresponding provisions in these Examination Regulations.

Part 2

Program Objective, Degree and Standard Period of Study

**§ 2**

**Objective of the degree program and purpose of the examination**

(1) The consecutive master's degree program "Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems" offered by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Bonn is research-oriented.

(2) Students in this master's degree program are to acquire the necessary scientific knowledge, skills and methods as well as relevant key qualifications for an occupation in the field, enabling them to conduct sound research, to critically assess and practically apply research findings and methods as well as to act responsibly. This includes giving due regard to changes and requirements in the working world and, if applicable, in cross-disciplinary references. The program objectives mainly focus on

- building expert knowledge regarding current research by expanding the students' basic knowledge;
- building methodical and analytical competences, enabling students to expand their research findings on their own authority, with a strong emphasis on research methods and strategies.

(3) Students are to learn how to approach complex problems and work on their solution beyond the existing scope of knowledge, using research methods.

(4) The master's examination shall lead to conferral of a master's degree in Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems, which qualifies the holder for positions demanding extensive skills in this field.

### § 3

#### **Academic degree**

Candidates who successfully complete the master's examination for the "Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems" degree program shall be awarded a Master of Science (MSc) degree by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Bonn.

### § 4

#### **Standard period of study, ECTS credit point system, range of courses, program structure and language of instruction/examinations**

- (1) The standard period of study, including the master's thesis, is four semesters (120 ECTS CP) when pursuing the degree program full-time.
- (2) The contents of the degree program are selected and limited in a manner that the master's examination can be completed within the standard period of study. They are organized in modules that, as a rule, consist of courses with a thematic, methodical or systematic connection.
- (3) As a rule, each module is completed by passing a module examination, awarding credit points (CP) in accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). One ECTS credit point is equivalent to a calculated student workload in contact hours and self-learning of 30 hours.
- (4) The degree program includes 60 ECTS CP in compulsory modules, 30 ECTS CP in subject-specific elective modules and 30 ECTS CP for the master's thesis. Details on electives, compulsory modules, admission to courses and the amount of ECTS credit points per module are set forth in the module structure (Annex 1).
- (5) Students receive a curriculum as recommendation on how to structure their course of studies. Students may receive an individual study schedule upon request.
- (6) The language of instruction and examinations is English. The examination board may make exceptions for individual elective modules and shall announce them before the beginning of the semester, pursuant to § 8, para. 7.
- (7) The degree program starts in the winter semester of each year.
- (8) The examination board may invite students who have acquired less than 20 ECTS CP after three program-related semesters to attend mandatory subject-specific study counseling. The goal of this subject-specific study counseling is to conclude a study progress agreement in which the further course of studies is planned, the student commits to certain measures to achieve the study goals and further University measures suitable for promoting further study progress are stipulated. If such a study progress agreement is not concluded, the student may be required, based on the results of the subject-specific study counseling, to complete certain examinations or course work as specified in § 12, para. 4 within a specified period of time. The student's personal situation must be taken into account appropriately when specifying the requirements. The requirements shall be specified by two examiners appointed by the examination board in accordance with § 9, para. 5, based on the results of the subject-specific study counseling. The student shall receive written notification of the requirements from the examination board; the notification shall include information on legal remedies.

### Part 3

#### Admission requirements and recognition of academic achievements

##### § 5

##### **Degree program admission requirements**

- (1) The consecutive master's degree program "Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems" is open to applications from graduates from a university undergraduate degree program in molecular biomedicine or a related field. Applicants must have completed an experimental bachelor's thesis or a bachelor's thesis in the field of bioinformatics in this degree program.
- (2) English skills at level B2 or higher according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) are a prerequisite for admission to the degree program and are to be proved by submitting a recognized language certificate (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS) or equivalent proof.
- (3) Foreign students who are not given equivalent status to Germans by or based on international treaties and do not have German university entrance qualifications must provide proof that they have passed the aptitude test for university studies in accordance with Annex 3 of these Examination Regulations.
- (4) This does not affect admission restrictions due to capacity limits (numerus clausus).
- (5) The selection of successful applicants is subject to the regulations on selection procedures for degree programs with admission restrictions of the University of Bonn.
- (6) Students who do not meet the admission requirements stated in para. 1, but have already taken all examinations necessary for graduating from an undergraduate degree program, may already enroll for a master's degree program if there is sufficient proof of their aptitude for that degree program, which is determined with special regard to the average grade for all examinations taken to that point. Enrollment is revoked with effect for the future if necessary proof of meeting the admission requirements is not submitted to the admission office within three months after the date of enrollment.

##### § 6

##### **Recognition of and granting credit for academic achievements**

- (1) Academic achievements in degree programs at other public or officially recognized universities, at public or officially recognized vocational academies, in degree programs at foreign public or officially recognized universities, or in another degree program at the University of Bonn will be recognized if the acquired skills are deemed equivalent to those that would have been acquired at the University of Bonn; an equivalency assessment is not performed. The examination board assigns credit points for these achievements to the corresponding modules defined in the curriculum. Enrollment may be denied to applicants who failed the final attempt at an examination that cannot be compensated for in a degree program with substantial similarities in content with the consecutive master's degree program "Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems", provided the module examination was for a compulsory module or an elective module included in lab rotation in the consecutive master's degree program "Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems".
- (2) The question of recognition shall be reviewed with special regard to the significance of differences. In order to determine whether significant differences do or do not exist, the topic, scope and requirements of the academic achievement to be recognized is compared to the same aspects of the academic achievement that the former is to replace. This shall not be done by skeletal comparison but rather in the form of an overall review and evaluation. A difference in the amount of awarded ECTS credit points alone does not constitute significant difference. The aforementioned regulations apply analogously to academic achievements in degree programs designed for continued education. Academic achievements are recognized to their full extent if significant difference cannot be determined. If the reviewers, in accordance with the principles

described above, find that a certain academic achievement can only be recognized in part, credit points shall partially be assigned to the respective module. The respective module shall only be considered passed when all missing course work and/or examinations are completed; only then, ECTS credit points shall be awarded to the extent stipulated in these Regulations. Scope and nature of course work and/or examinations to be completed are at the discretion of the examination board. Equivalence agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Rectors' Conference as well as agreements under university partnerships shall be observed.

(3) In accordance with § 8, para. 4, sentence 2, the examination board has authority over the processes that underlie recognition of or granting credit for academic achievements. The examination board decides which degree programs are related to or show substantial similarities in content with the master's degree program "Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems". Representatives of the relevant departments shall be consulted when reviewing the significance of differences. In case of doubts regarding whether academic achievements completed abroad should be recognized, the Central Office for Foreign Education may be consulted. Students shall be notified within twelve weeks of whether an academic achievement is recognized, including information on legal remedies available. In case an achievement is not or only partially recognized, the examination board shall provide the reasons for its decision, thus bearing the burden of proof. If the examination board denies recognition, students may apply for an internal audit of the decision to be conducted by the Rectorate.

(4) If examinations are recognized, the same grades—provided grading systems are comparable—shall be added to the student's transcript of records and, weighted with the ECTS credit points of the module to which credit points are assigned, considered when calculating the overall grade. If course work is recognized, the entry "pass" shall be made in the student's transcript, not assigning a grade. Should the grading systems not be comparable, the entry "pass" shall also be made in the student's transcript. Recognized academic achievements shall be identified as such in the student's certificate. Academic achievements in degree programs not using the ECTS credit point system shall be translated by the examination board into the ECTS credit point system, provided that the respective examination is equivalent to the module examinations defined in these Examination Regulations. Such translation must adhere to the scale approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder of the Federal Republic of Germany for comparisons to the ECTS system.

(5) If the requirements defined in para. 1 are met, students are legally entitled to have their academic achievements recognized. The student must provide all information on the academic achievement in question deemed necessary for recognition. Each semester, the examination board defines a deadline in that semester by which applications for recognition must be submitted. Applications submitted after that deadline cannot be processed until the subsequent semester.

(6) Applicants who, due to their performance in a placement test as per § 49, para. 12 of the NRW Higher Education Act, have earned the right to enter the degree program in a higher program-related semester will be granted credit for the knowledge and skills demonstrated in the placement test, with credit points being assigned to examinations that form part of the master's examination. The examination board is bound to the results of the placement test stated in the certificate.

(7) Upon request, up to 50% of the ECTS credit points to be earned pursuant to § 4, para. 1 can be granted towards this degree program for knowledge and qualifications acquired in a manner other than academic studies if the knowledge and qualifications are equivalent in terms of content and level to the academic achievements they are to replace.

## **§ 7**

### **Admission to individual courses**

- (1) If admission to a course, due to its nature, purpose or to other reasons, needs to be limited and the number of applications exceeds the defined capacity, the lecturer may file a request with the examination board of the degree program to which the respective module is assigned to manage admissions to that course, giving due regard to § 59 of the NRW Higher Education Act . Criteria for admissions in these cases are stipulated in Annex 2 of these Examination Regulations.
- (2) The examination board shall define the maximum number of participants in courses with limited capacity. The examination board shall announce capacities at the beginning of each semester.

## Part 4

### Examination board and examiners

## **§ 8**

### **Examination board and exam office**

- (1) The faculty council of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences shall appoint a joint examination board that is to organize examinations in the master's degree programs "Biochemistry" and "Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems" in the Molecular Biomedicine unit and manage the tasks outlined in these Examination Regulations. The dean shall ensure that the examination board is able to duly fulfill its tasks and does reliably do so. The dean shall give appropriate instructions and provide necessary administrative support.
- (2) The examination board shall consist of seven voting members, including
  - four members from the group of professors of the faculty (including the chairperson and deputy chairperson);
  - one member from the group of academic staff of the faculty and
  - two members from the group of students of the faculty.The faculty council appoints the chairperson, deputy chairperson and other members separately by group. All professors who teach in one of the two master's degree programs are eligible to become members of the examination board. From the group of academic staff, those who are teaching in one of the two master's degree programs, or are involved in the management of one of these degree programs, are eligible to become members. From the group of students, those enrolled in one of the master's degree programs are eligible to become members. For each of the seven members—except the chairperson and deputy chairperson—a deputy shall be appointed to represent the member in his or her absence. The term of office of members from the group of professors and from the group of academic staff is three years. The term of office of members from the group of students is one year. Members may be re-elected.
- (3) The examination board is an administrative body as defined by German administrative procedure law and the German law governing procedure in contentious administrative matters. The faculty shall create an exam office (Molecular Biomedicine Coordination Office) for administrative support of the examination board.
- (4) The examination board shall ensure compliance with the provisions of the Examination Regulations and make certain that the examination procedure is conducted in accordance with regulations. The examination board shall appoint examiners as well as assistant examiners and is responsible in particular for recognizing academic achievements as well as handling objections against decisions made within examination procedures. The examination board shall report to the faculty council on a regular, at least annual basis on the development of examination and study periods, including the time taken to complete master's theses and the distribution of overall grades. Once a semester, the examination board shall inform the Student Registry on which students, according to final ruling by the examination board, have failed their



final attempt at passing the master's examination in accordance with § 24, para. 6 or do not meet the requirements to be admitted to the master's examination as per § 11, para. 1. The examination board shall provide input for amendments to the Examination Regulations and curriculum. It may delegate clearly defined tasks to the chairperson, in particular the appointment of examiners and assistant examiners. It shall not delegate

- decisions on objections as per sentence 2,
- reviews of decisions on deception and disruption of examinations as per § 22, para. 1, sentences 1 and 2,
- assessments of whether a student repeatedly or otherwise seriously attempted to cheat as per § 22, para. 3,
- decisions on the invalidity of the master's examination and revocation of the master's degree as per § 29 and
- reporting duties to the faculty council as per sentence 3.

(5) Examination board meetings are not open to the public. All members of the examination board as well as their deputies shall be bound to confidentiality. Members who are not civil servants shall be bound to confidentiality by the chairperson of the examination board. Summary minutes shall be taken as record of the examination board's discussions and decisions.

(6) The examination board shall have a quorum when, in addition to the chairperson or their deputy, at least four more members or their deputies, including at least two members from the group of professors, are present. Resolutions shall be passed by simple majority. In the event of a tie vote, the chairperson's vote or, in case of his/her absence, the deputy chairperson's vote shall be the deciding vote. Members of the examination board have a right to attend examinations upon resolution of the examination board.

(7) Directives, dates set and other communication of the examination board with public relevance shall, giving due consideration to data protection requirements, be made available by public display or in electronic form with legally binding effect. Additional publications of other nature are admissible but not legally binding.

(8) If a member of the examination board is present, his or her deputy shall have a right to speak, but no right to vote in meetings of the examination board; if the member is absent, his or her deputy shall have the right to speak and vote. The examination board may include exam office staff involved in the examination procedure for consultation on a regular basis or for individual meetings or agenda items. These staff shall have a right to speak but no right to vote. If necessary, additional staff may also be called in for the individual agenda items. Persons who are called in shall be bound to confidentiality by the chairperson.

## **§ 9**

### **Examiners and assistant examiners**

(1) Examinations in modules that conclude with a written examination and the "Methods Course I" and "Methods Course II" modules shall be held by the person responsible for the module indicated in the module guide. If necessary, the second examiner pursuant to § 12, para. 7, sentence 6 shall be the deputy responsible for the module indicated in the module guide. If the person responsible for a module is unable to hold module examinations in due time due to illness or other important cause, the examinations shall be held by the deputy responsible for the module indicated in the module guide; if necessary, the examination board shall then appoint a second examiner pursuant to § 12, para. 7, sentence 6 in accordance with § 65 of the NRW Higher Education Act.

(2) The examiners for the modules in the "Lab Rotation 1" and "Lab Rotation 2" elective areas shall be the supervising lecturers, provided they are also teaching or have previously taught in one of the two master's degree programs "Biochemistry" or "Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems"; otherwise the examination board shall appoint the examiners in accordance with § 65 of the NRW Higher Education Act.

- (3) The examination board shall appoint the examiners for the "Oral Examination Immunology" module in accordance with § 65 of the NRW Higher Education Act.
- (4) Candidates may propose examiners for their master's thesis. A candidate's proposal should be followed whenever possible; however, it does not substantiate a claim. The examination board shall appoint the examiners for the master's thesis in accordance with § 65 of the NRW Higher Education Act.
- (5) The examination board shall appoint additional examiners or assistant examiners in accordance with § 65 of the NRW Higher Education Act. This also applies if the examiners provided for in paragraphs 1 to 4 are unable to hold module examinations in due time due to illness or other important cause.
- (6) Examiners shall be independent of instructions in their conduct of examinations.
- (7) The examination board shall ensure that the candidate is informed of the names of the examiners in due time, as a rule at least two weeks before the date of the respective examination.

## Part 5

### Scope, conduct, modalities and forms of examinations

#### § 10

##### Scope of the master's examination

- (1) The master's examination is intended as proof of qualification for positions demanding extensive skills in the respective field as well as in-depth and research-oriented scientific qualification.
- (2) The master's examination consists of
  1. module examinations completed during the course of studies and reflecting the contents and qualification targets of the modules specified in the module structure (Annex 1);
  2. the master's thesis.All examinations are to be completed within the standard period of study stipulated in § 4, para. 1.
- (3) Examinations are completed during the course of studies. As a rule, one module examination is assigned to each module, even when a module consists of more than one course. The grade of the module examination based on the weighting information indicated in the module structure (Annex 1) will be indicated on the degree certificate. Students must successfully complete a module in order to be awarded the assigned ECTS credit points. A module is considered successfully completed once the assigned module examination, or all examination components associated with the module, have been graded "Sufficient" or higher.
- (4) If a module consists of more than one course, with associated module examination components, the ECTS credit points will be awarded after the last module examination component has been passed.
- (5) Examinations are generally held in the language of instruction. Upon request by the student and after consultation with the examiner, examinations or parts of examinations can also be taken in another language related to the degree program. However, no right to take parts of the examination in this language exists.

#### § 11

##### Admission to the master's examination and to module examinations

- (1) The student must apply for admission to the master's examination. This application shall be submitted to the examination board in writing and prior to registration for the first module examination. The application shall include the following documents as proof of meeting the admission requirements:
  1. Proof of meeting the general admission requirements stipulated in § 5;

2. A certificate of enrollment as proof of enrollment as a student in this degree program at the University of Bonn;
3. A statement whether the student has failed a final attempt at an examination or the final attempt at the master's examination in this degree program or, at the time of registration for a module examination, is involved in another examination that, if failed, would give cause for denial of enrollment. The same applies to examination procedures of degree programs with substantial similarities in content.

- (2) The examination board may only admit students to module examinations who
  1. can provide proof of meeting the admission requirements as per para. 1;
  2. meet all requirements that may be stipulated in the module structure (Annex 1) for the respective module and module examination.

The proof specified in sentence 1, point 1 is not required for admission to module examinations if proof of enrollment as a student in another degree program at the University of Bonn is provided and that degree program imports the respective module in accordance with its examination regulations, or proof of admission as a cross-registered student in accordance with § 52, para. 1 of the NRW Higher Education Act is provided.

- (3) Should the candidate not be able to submit documented proof as per para. 1 sentence 3 in the required form, the examination board may allow the candidate to provide proof in another form.

- (4) Admission to the master's examination procedure or, respectively, module examinations is at the discretion of the examination board.

- (5) The examination board may only deny admission to the master's examination procedure where
  - a. documents submitted are incomplete as per para. 1 and/or not submitted as requested by a certain deadline;
  - b. the requirements specified in para. 1 are not met;
  - c. the student has failed a final attempt at an examination that cannot be compensated for or failed the final attempt at the master's examination in this degree program or in a degree program with substantial similarities in content; or
  - d. the student is registered for an examination procedure at another university in the chosen degree program or a degree program with substantial similarities in content as per § 6, para. 1, if failing the examination procedure would mean failing the final attempt at the master's examination.

- (6) The examination board may only deny admission to a module examination where the criteria defined by para. 2 are not met.

## **§ 12**

### **Examination modalities and compulsory attendance**

- (1) Module examinations cover the contents and qualification targets of the modules specified in the module structure (Annex 1).

- (2) Candidates in module examinations must be students enrolled in this degree program at the University of Bonn or, respectively, in a degree program at the University of Bonn of which modules are imported in accordance with the Examination Regulations, or admitted as cross-registered students as defined by § 52, para. 1 of the NRW Higher Education Act.

- (3) In the module examinations, students are to demonstrate the knowledge and competences acquired in the respective module as well as their ability to understand cross-disciplinary correlations. Module examinations can be completed by passing graded examination components. Module examinations and module examination components can be
  - written examinations;
  - oral examinations;

- seminar talks;
- presentations;
- reports and
- lab exercises.

The type of examination and, if applicable, division into module examination components is stipulated in the module structure. Deviating from the specifications stipulated in the module plan is possible pursuant to § 15, para. 4 and § 16, para. 4; the examination board shall, in conjunction with the examiners, determine the type of examination and announce its decision in due time before the beginning of the semester pursuant to § 8, para. 7.

(4) The module structure may stipulate that students must have completed certain assessments (course work) prior to taking a module examination. Where required course work has not been completed, students shall not be admitted to the module examination. Upon request filed by the lecturer, the examination board shall announce the specific requirements regarding such course work before the beginning of the semester pursuant to § 8, para. 7.

(5) Two examination dates shall be set for all written and oral module examinations. As a rule, the first examination date shall be set at the end of the lecture period in which the module or assigned course is completed. The second examination date shall be set in a manner that the degree program can be properly continued and completed within the standard period of study. The examination board shall announce all examination dates as well as the duration of individual examinations at the beginning of the semester pursuant to § 8, para. 7.

(6) For courses in which achieving the qualification target requires active participation by students, the module structure may stipulate mandatory regular participation (compulsory attendance) as prerequisite to being admitted to the examination. Before the beginning of the semester, the examination board shall give reasons for its decision on which courses require compulsory attendance. In such cases, the examination board shall also define when participation can be considered regular. Depending on the qualification target, absences of up to 30% are permissible, including absences excused by means of a medical certificate. The examination board shall announce the decisions in sentences 2 to 4 before the beginning of the semester pursuant to § 8, para. 7.

(7) The following applies when grading examinations:

1. Examinations submitted in writing shall be graded by a minimum of one examiner. Candidates shall be informed of the result of such examinations within four weeks. In accordance with the applicable data protection regulations, results shall be made available by public display or in electronic form via the examination management system; as a rule, results are to be made available before the standard period of study ends.
2. Oral examinations shall always be graded by a minimum of two examiners or by a single examiner in the presence of a competent assistant examiner. A record shall be kept of the essential topics and results of each examination. If the examination is conducted by a single examiner in the presence of an assistant examiner, the examiner shall hear the assistant examiner in private prior to setting a grade. Candidates shall be informed of their grade immediately following the oral examination.

If the examination is conducted by two examiners, the grade shall be calculated using the average of the two individual grades. If only one of the grades for a written examination is "Insufficient", the examination board shall appoint a third examiner. In this case, the two best grades shall be averaged together for the final grade. An examination may, however, only be awarded the grade "Sufficient" or higher when at least two of the individual grades were "Sufficient" or higher. Examinations to be completed in the course of studies that cannot be compensated for once the final attempt has been failed shall always be graded by a minimum of two examiners. Rules for grading the master's thesis are set forth in § 20, para. 4.

(8) The examination board can permit module examinations to be taken in electronic form or using electronic communications. The examination board shall determine the details for conducting these examinations.

### **§ 13**

#### **Module examinations – registration and withdrawal**

(1) For each module examination, students shall electronically register with the examination board by the prescribed deadline. Where justified, registrations may be submitted in writing.

(2) The examination board shall make the examination dates as well as registration periods available by public display or in electronic form; registration periods are cutoff periods.

(3) Candidates may withdraw from a written or oral examination in writing or electronically without indicating reasons until one week before the examination date. This shall not affect para. 6. The date of receipt by the examination board determines whether the deadline has been met. In cases of examinations that spread over a whole semester or are assigned to a specific course (lab exercises), candidates may not withdraw without giving reasons once topics or places have been assigned.

(4) Rules for registration for the master's thesis are defined separately in § 19, para. 2.

(5) Students must register for their first attempt at an examination by the end of the third semester after the semester in which the course assigned to the examination as per the module structure was planned. Students who fail to register within this period lose their right to examination unless they can prove that they were not at fault for failing to register in a timely manner. Students who lose their right to examination are deregistered from the degree program by the Student Registry once the examination board's decision has come into force.

(6) Students who fail a module examination or withdraw from the examination shall automatically be registered for the next examination date in the following semester, from which withdrawal without giving reasons is not possible unless the student registers himself or herself in due time for the next possible examination date. Notwithstanding sentence 1, the following applies to the "report" type of examination: The new deadline for repetition of reports that are not submitted in due time shall automatically be set to one month after the missed deadline. The new deadline for reports that are failed is one month after the grade announcement.

### **§ 14**

#### **Resitting examinations**

(1) Examinations that have been failed may only be repeated twice. Resits shall be conducted in accordance with § 13, para. 6. Rules for repetition of the master's thesis are defined in § 20, para. 7.

(2) Students who fail the same compulsory module three times lose their right to examination and are deregistered from the degree program by the Student Registry once the examination board's decision that the final attempt at the master's examination has been failed has come into force.

(3) Students who fail the same elective module three times lose their right to examination in that module. Loss of the right to examination in two elective modules in the "Elective Lectures" area or the two "Lab Rotation 1" and "Lab Rotation 2" elective areas shall lead to deregistration from the degree program by the Student Registry once the examination board's decision that the final attempt at the master's examination has been failed has come into force.

(4) Module examinations graded "Sufficient" or higher cannot be repeated.

- (5) Should a student fail to attend a compulsory resit examination without valid excuse, that examination will be graded "Insufficient".
- (6) If a module examination component is failed, only the examination component must be repeated, not the entire module.

### **§ 15**

#### **Written examinations**

- (1) In written examinations, students are to demonstrate that, within a specific period of time and with limited auxiliary means, they are capable of understanding a problem from the module's thematic field and solving this problem using methods commonly used in that field. The examiners shall announce in a timely manner which auxiliary means may be used during a written examination.
- (2) Written examinations may be handwritten or computer-aided examinations, both conducted under supervision. Computer-aided written examinations are in particular free text or clozes that are completed using a computer.
- (3) Written examinations shall last a minimum of 60 minutes and a maximum of 180 minutes. § 12, para. 7 applies accordingly. The examination board shall announce the specific examination date at the beginning of the semester, in accordance with § 8, para. 7.
- (4) The examination board may, in conjunction with the examiner, decide that instead of a written examination, an oral examination shall be held that covers the module's subject area; this shall be announced in due time before the beginning of the semester pursuant to § 8, para. 7.

### **§ 16**

#### **Oral examinations**

- (1) In oral examinations, candidates are to demonstrate sound knowledge in the subject of examination, identify correlations and analyze specific questions arising from these as well as provide possible solutions.
- (2) Oral examinations shall be conducted by either a panel of several examiners (Kollegialprüfung) or a single examiner in the presence of a competent assistant examiner, with candidates being examined either individually or in a group. If the examination is conducted by a panel of several examiners, the candidate shall be examined by one examiner per subject of examination. This shall not affect the provisions set forth in § 12, para. 7. Each oral module examination shall last a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 60 minutes per candidate. When candidates are examined in a group, each candidate within that group shall be examined for the same amount of time.
- (3) Students who wish to take the same oral examination at a later date may be admitted to sit in on the examination, provided that spatial circumstances allow for it and no candidate objects to their presence. The decision shall be made by the examiner, and in the case of examinations conducted by a panel of several examiners (Kollegialprüfung), by the examiners. Students sitting in on an examination shall attend neither the discussion nor the announcement of results. They shall also be prohibited from taking notes during the examination.
- (4) The examination board may, in conjunction with the examiner, decide that, instead of an oral examination, a written examination shall be held that covers the module's subject area. This shall be announced in due time before the beginning of the semester pursuant to § 8, para. 7.

### **§ 17**

#### **Seminar talks, presentations, reports and lab exercises**

- (1) Seminar talks are oral talks that last a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 45 minutes, including a discussion, and are based on original scientific texts. In seminar talks, candidates demonstrate their ability to comprehensibly present research results and explain them in a discussion. Candidates shall have a minimum of one week to prepare an oral presentation. The oral presentation for a seminar talk must, as a rule, be held during the course of the semester in which the respective course is offered (by March 31 for courses in the winter semester and by September 30 for courses in the summer semester).
- (2) Presentations are oral presentations that last a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 45 minutes. Candidates demonstrate their ability to comprehensibly present and discuss their own documented research results obtained using scientific methods. Candidates shall have a minimum of one week to prepare a presentation after receiving the topic. Presentations must be held by the end of the semester in which the respective course is offered (by March 31 for courses in the winter semester and by September 30 for courses in the summer semester).
- (3) Reports are summaries of individual scientific research in which candidates comprehensibly present the sequence and results of their work. Reports are based on notes, original scientific texts and individual research. Their layout, structure and scope (10–30 DIN A4 pages) shall reflect that of scientific publications. Candidates shall have a period of 3 months from the start of a lab rotation to prepare reports for the lab rotation. Candidates shall have a minimum of three weeks from the start of a course to prepare reports for the methods courses; the time permitted will be announced in due time. In the event of late submission or insufficient achievement, the corresponding module examination component shall be graded “Insufficient” (5.0). The new deadline for the repeat attempt shall automatically be set to one month after the missed deadline or one month after the grade announcement.
- (4) Lab exercises are completed in a working group in a lab course. They are intended to provide an introduction to scientific work in the laboratory and expand a topic that has been introduced theoretically with additional content and practical experience. The results of the lab exercise shall be documented in accordance with certain provisions made by the examiner before the beginning of the semester. The examination shall be completed in the course of the semester.
- (5) Otherwise, the provisions for grading oral and written examinations stipulated in § 12, para. 7 apply accordingly.

### **§ 18**

#### **Compensation for disadvantages and deadline extension**

- (1) Students who are unable to take an examination in the designated manner due to a disability or chronic illness, or due to maternity law provisions, can submit a request for compensation for disadvantages to the examination board together with suitable proof; the same shall apply to the completion of course work as specified in § 12, para. 4. Compensation for disadvantages shall be granted on a case-by-case basis. It can, in particular, provide for differences with respect to how the examination is taken, the length of the examination and the use of auxiliary means or support persons. For students with disabilities or chronic illnesses, the entitlement to compensation for disadvantages shall extend to all of the examinations to be taken during the degree program, provided no change is expected in the illness or disability; sentence 2 remains unaffected. In the case of compulsory attendance courses, compulsory internships and compulsory study periods abroad that cannot be completed due to the impairment, even with the support of the university, alternative forms of assessment that can provide equivalent competence and qualifications shall be permitted.

- (2) When determining the deadline for the first attempt at an examination in accordance with § 13, para. 5 as well as upon automatic registration for a resit examination in accordance with § 13, para. 6, the examination board shall, upon application and provision of respective proof, consider additional time for:
- a. Caring for and raising underage children as per § 25, para. 5 of the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG) – for a maximum of three semesters per child;
  - b. Acting as elected representative in a university body, the student body, the student body's student councils or the Studierendenwerke – for a maximum of four semesters;
  - c. Acting as gender equality officer – for a maximum of four semesters;
  - d. Effects of a disability or severe illness prolonging the period of study;
  - e. Caring for spouses, registered partners, direct relatives, second-degree indirect relatives or first-degree in-laws – for a maximum of three semesters.

Part 6  
Master's thesis

**§ 19**  
**Registration, topic and scope of the master's thesis**

- (1) The master's thesis is an examination in the form of a written assignment in which candidates are to demonstrate their ability to conduct research on, develop a solution for and appropriately present a problem from the field of the master's degree program "Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems" within a specified period of time, on their own authority and using scientific methods.
- (2) Students must register their master's thesis with the examination board.
- (3) When registering their master's thesis, students must indicate the focus area to which the thesis shall be assigned as well as their choice of examiners for the master's thesis.
- (4) The topic for the master's thesis shall be assigned by an appointed examiner. As a rule, the examiner who assigned the topic also acts as supervisor of the master's thesis.
- (5) The topic for the master's thesis shall only be issued when the candidate meets all requirements for the master's thesis as stipulated in the module structure (Annex 1). The examination board shall issue the topic for the master's thesis. A record shall be kept of the topic and the date of issue. Prior to registration of the master's thesis, students shall be given the opportunity to submit proposals for the research area from which the topic of their master's thesis shall be taken; they shall not, however, have the right to a topic from a specific area. Upon request by the student, the examination board shall ensure that the student receives a topic for his/her master's thesis in due time as per para. 9.
- (6) Candidates may reject a master's thesis topic only once and only within the first two months after its issue. Rejecting a topic does not count as a failed attempt.
- (7) The master's thesis cannot be approved in the form of a group thesis.
- (8) The master's thesis shall contain a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 80 DIN-A4 pages of text.
- (9) Passing the master's thesis awards 30 ECTS CP, corresponding to 900 hours in student workload. Candidates shall have a minimum of four and a maximum of six months to complete it. The examination board shall determine the deadline by which the master's thesis must be submitted and notify the student of that deadline. Topic, task and scope of the master's thesis shall be limited in a way that candidates may complete it under reasonable requirements within the specified period. Upon valid request and in



conjunction with the supervisor, the examination board may grant an extension by a maximum of six weeks. As a rule, the topic of the master's thesis is issued during the third semester.

## **§ 20**

### **Submission, evaluation and repetition of the master's thesis**

- (1) Candidates shall submit their master's thesis in duplicate to the examination board (in both print and a digital format suitable for electronic evaluation); a record shall be made of the time and date of submission. Candidates may not withdraw an already submitted master's thesis. Master's theses that are not submitted by the stated deadline shall be graded "Insufficient".
- (2) Candidates shall declare in writing when submitting their master's thesis that the thesis is their own work, that they used only those sources and resources cited in the thesis and that they have marked citations as such.
- (3) Master's theses shall be evaluated and graded by two examiners. One of the examiners shall be the person who assigned the topic of the master's thesis. It must be ensured that at least one of the examiners is a member of the University of Bonn. The candidate shall be entitled to propose examiners but shall not have a right to be assigned a specific examiner.
- (4) The examiners shall each provide a grade separately and provide the reasons for the grade they assigned in writing in accordance with § 24, para. 1. When the difference between the two grades is less than 2.0, they shall be averaged together for the final grade for the master's thesis. When the difference is 2.0 or more or one of the grades is "Insufficient", the examination board shall appoint a third examiner for review of the master's thesis. In this case, the two best grades shall be averaged together for the final grade. Grades shall be averaged in accordance with § 24, para. 2. A master's thesis may, however, only be awarded the grade "Sufficient" or higher when at least two of the individual grades were "Sufficient" or higher.
- (5) Examiners shall submit their reviews of the master's thesis within eight weeks after the submission deadline.
- (6) Candidates who receive a grade of "Sufficient" or higher for their master's thesis are awarded 30 ECTS CP.
- (7) Master's theses graded "Insufficient" may be repeated once. The topic of the second master's thesis may be chosen from the same area as the topic of the first master's thesis but must be substantially different in nature. The candidate may reject the proposed topic for their master's thesis within the period specified in § 19, para. 6 only if they did not make use of this option with their first master's thesis. Should the second thesis also be graded "Insufficient", the candidate shall have failed their final attempt at the master's examination, losing their right to examination and being deregistered from the degree program by the Student Registry once the examination board's decision has come into force.

## **Part 7**

### **Procedural irregularities and protective regulations**

## **§ 21**

### **Cancellation, failure to appear, withdrawal and reprimand**

- (1) Candidates may electronically cancel their registration for module examinations with the examination board before the deadlines indicated in § 13, para. 3; if this is not possible, cancellation can also be submitted in writing. The date of receipt by the examination board determines whether the deadline has been met.

(2) If a candidate withdraws from an examination after the cancellation deadline without good cause, the examination is graded "Insufficient". The same applies when a candidate fails to appear for an examination or to submit an assignment within the specified period of time (failure to appear).

(3) Candidates who have registered for an examination but have good cause to withdraw from that examination, especially due to illness, may do so regardless of the cancellation deadline. The examination board shall be notified of such withdrawals immediately and in writing. Candidates shall immediately provide a written statement credibly substantiating the grounds for their withdrawal or failure to appear. In cases of illness, candidates shall present a medical certificate proving their inability to participate in the examination or, respectively, submit their assignment on time. Candidates who withdraw from an examination due to illness after the start of the examination and assignment of the respective task must consult a medical examiner that same day of the examination to obtain a certificate proving their inability to continue the examination. As a rule, it is not possible to withdraw from an examination after the start of the examination, especially when the candidate has already seen, or otherwise obtained knowledge of, the examination result. The examination board may, in individual cases, require the submission of a certificate from a medical examiner designated by the University if there are sufficient factual indications that the candidate would in fact have been able to participate in the examination or, respectively, submit their assignment on time or if the examination board deems other proof than that defined by sentence 4 appropriate in that case. If the examination board accepts a medical certificate allowing for withdrawal due to illness or other good cause given by the candidate, the examination attempt shall be deemed void.

(4) Candidates shall immediately reprimand any deficiencies related to an examination with the respective examiner or proctor. The reprimand shall be entered into the record and asserted in front of the examination board. If the examination board accepts the reprimand, the examination attempt shall be deemed void.

## **§ 22**

### **Deception and disruption of examinations**

(1) Candidates who try to influence the outcome of an examination through deception or the use of inadmissible auxiliary means shall receive the grade "Insufficient"; the respective examiner or proctor shall identify deception or use of inadmissible auxiliary means, include it in the record and notify the examination board. The respective examiner or proctor may bar any candidate from continuing an examination who, despite a warning, disrupts the orderly conduct of the examination; in such cases, the examination shall be graded "Insufficient". A record shall be made of the reasons for barring the candidate from the examination.

(2) Candidates may, within a period of two weeks, request that decisions taken pursuant to para. 1, sentences 1 and 2 be reviewed by the examination board.

(3) The examination board shall determine whether the candidate's attempt at deception was repeated or otherwise grave. In such cases, the examination board can, after hearing the candidate, decide whether the candidate loses his or her right to examination in this degree program. The student will be deregistered by the Student Registry once the examination board's decision on the loss of the right to examination has come into force.

(4) Violation of the provisions in these Examination Regulations regarding deception in examinations is an administrative offense. This administrative offense may be subject to a fine of up to EUR 50,000. As competent administrative authority, the provost of the University of Bonn shall pursue and fine administrative offenses pursuant to sentence 1.

## **§ 23**

### **Protective regulations**

(1) Regulations on maternity leave stipulated in the Maternity Protection Act (MuSchG) as amended shall be respected; students shall provide all necessary proof. All time frames stipulated in these Examination

Regulations shall be suspended by maternity leave; time frames for periods of assessment shall not include periods of maternity leave. The examination board shall notify the student of newly determined examination deadlines once all necessary proof has been submitted.

(2) Allowances shall likewise be made on application for parental leave under the Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (BEEG) as amended. Candidates shall notify the examination board in writing of the period(s) during which they wish to take parental leave, enclosing necessary substantiating documentation, at least four weeks prior to the date on which they wish to enter parental leave. The examination board shall determine whether the statutory requirements have been met which would lead to an employee being entitled to parental leave under the BEEG and shall inform the candidate immediately of its findings and, if applicable, any new examination deadlines. Time frames for the completion of assignments may not be interrupted by a period of parental leave. The assignment topics shall be deemed not issued. The candidate shall receive a new topic at the end of their parental leave. This does not affect § 21, para. 3, sentence 1.

(3) Allowances shall likewise be made on application for leave taken for the care of spouses, registered partners, direct relatives, second-degree indirect relatives or first-degree in-laws who are in need of care. The examination board shall review whether the requirements defined by sentence 1 are met. The application is to be submitted as soon as these requirements are met. Relevant documentation shall be attached to the application. The examination board shall immediately notify the candidate of the result and, if applicable, of the new examination deadlines. Time frames for the completion of assignments may not be extended based on such leave taken. The assignment topics shall be deemed not issued. The candidate shall receive a new topic at the end of their leave. This does not affect § 21, para. 3, sentence 1.

## Part 8

### Grading and final documentation

#### § 24

#### **Grading of examinations, grading system and pass requirements for the master's examination**

(1) The grade for each examination shall be determined by the respective examiners. If the examination is conducted by more than one examiner, the grade shall be calculated using the average of the individual grades. This does not affect § 12, para. 7. The following grading system shall be used:

1	Very good	Excellent achievement
2	Good	Achievement well above average requirements
3	Satisfactory	Achievement corresponding to average requirements
4	Sufficient	Achievement that still meets necessary requirements despite deficiencies
5	Insufficient	Achievement that does not satisfy requirements due to substantial deficiencies.

In order to produce a graduate grading scale and provide a more nuanced evaluation, individual grades may be raised or lowered by values of 0.3; grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3 shall not be admissible. An examination is passed if it is graded "Sufficient" or higher; otherwise it is failed.

(2) Only the first decimal place after the decimal shall be used when calculating the grades for individual modules or for overall performance; all further decimal places shall be dropped without rounding off.

(3) A module examination shall be deemed passed when the module is graded at least "Sufficient". If a module grade includes more than one examination component, it shall be calculated using the individual examination weights indicated in the module structure. This does not affect § 10, para. 3, sentence 4. The grading scale for modules is:

With an average grade up to and including 1.5	= Very good
With an average grade from 1.6 up to and including 2.5	= Good
With an average grade from 2.6 up to and including 3.5	= Satisfactory
With an average grade from 3.6 up to and including 4.0	= Sufficient
With an average of 4.1 or higher	= Insufficient

(4) Candidates shall have passed the master's examination when they have passed all necessary modules as per § 4, para. 4 as well as the master's thesis and have thus been awarded a total of 120 ECTS CP.

(5) The calculation of the overall grade shall include all graded modules. The overall grade is the weighted average of the individual module grades. The weightings for the individual module grades are indicated in the module structure (Annex 1). Para. 3, sentence 4 applies accordingly. Deviating from this, the overall grade shall be "Excellent" if the overall grade is no lower than 1.3 and the master's thesis has been graded "Very good" (1.0). Modules marked "pass" due to lack of comparability between grading systems shall not be included when calculating the overall grade.

(6) The final attempt at the master's examination shall be deemed failed when

- the candidate has three times failed to pass a module examination in a compulsory module as defined by § 10, para. 3, sentence 4, or, respectively, § 14, para. 2;
- the candidate has, pursuant to § 14, para. 3, lost their right to examination in two elective modules in the "Elective Lectures" area or the two "Lab Rotation 1" and "Lab Rotation 2" elective areas; or
- the master's thesis has been graded "Insufficient" in the second attempt.

## **§ 25 Certificate**

(1) The candidate shall be notified of the results of their successful master's examination in a provisional certificate as soon as all grades have been submitted. A certificate shall thereafter be issued in German. Candidates may also receive an English translation of their certificate on application. The certificate shall include the following information:

- All modules for which ECTS credit points were earned;
- The semester in which ECTS credit points were earned;
- All grades from individual modules;
- The topic and grade of the master's thesis;
- The date of the last examination and
- The overall grade of the master's examination.

On application by the candidate, results from additional examinations as per § 30 may also be included in the certificate; these shall not be included when calculating the overall grade.

(2) The certificate shall state the date of issue. The certificate shall be stamped with the seal of the examination board and signed by the chairperson of the examination board.

(3) Candidates who have failed their final attempt at the master's examination shall be issued a written notification thereof by the examination board, including information on legal remedies available.

(4) Candidates who leave the University without a degree shall, after deregistration and on application, be issued a transcript including a list of all completed course work and examinations. This transcript shall be limited to those parts of the student's course of study which were successfully completed. In addition, a notification may be issued on application that indicates which examinations the student did not pass or still needs to complete in order to pass the master's examination.

**§ 26**  
**Master's Diploma**

Along with the certificate of the master's examination, candidates shall receive a Master's Diploma issued the same day in German stating that the candidate has been awarded the academic degree as per § 3. The Master's Diploma will be accompanied by an English translation. Master's Diplomas shall be signed by the dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Bonn and by the chairperson of the examination board as well as stamped with the seal of the Faculty.

**§ 27**  
**Diploma Supplement**

The Master's Diploma shall be augmented by a Diploma Supplement. The Diploma Supplement is a standard document in English and German that shall include the following information:

- Essential contents of the program underlying the degree;
- The course of studies;
- The competences acquired with the degree;
- Information on the accreditation of the degree program and
- Information on the university awarding the degree.

The Diploma Supplement shall give a relative classification of the overall grade of the master's examination on the ECTS grading scale.

**§ 28**  
**Access to examination records**

(1) Candidates shall, on application, be granted access to their examinations, the examiners' written reviews as well as records of oral examinations; applications must be submitted within three months after notification of the examination result. This does not affect § 29 of the Administrative Procedure Act (Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz).

(2) Candidates shall, on written application within three months after the examination board has issued the certificate as per § 25, be granted access to their examination records. This does not affect § 29 of the Administrative Procedure Act (Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz).

(3) The examination board shall determine when and where the examination records may be accessed and notify the candidate hereof in due time. The examination board shall determine the details concerning the possibility of preparing copies or other true reproductions, and shall announce them pursuant to § 8, para. 7. Copies and other reproductions of examination records or parts thereof are only intended for candidates to pursue their own rights arising under the legal examination relationship and are therefore only to be used by the candidates, or made available to persons engaged by the candidates to safeguard their legal interests. Any other duplication or distribution of copies or other reproductions is not permitted.

**§ 29**  
**Invalidity of the master's examination and revocation of the master's degree**

(1) Should it become known after the certificate has been issued that the candidate used deception in an examination or their master's thesis, the examination board may correspondingly correct the grades for those examinations or the thesis in which the candidate used deception as well as the overall grade and declare the entire master's examination or parts thereof failed.

(2) Should it become known after the certificate has been issued that the candidate had not met the requirements for admission to the master's examination, and should this have happened without any fraudulent intent on the part of the candidate, this defect shall be remedied by the candidate's successful completion of the examination. Should the candidate have wrongfully secured admission with intent, the

examination board shall decide on the legal consequences in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

- (3) Candidates shall be heard before the examination board makes a decision.
- (4) The incorrect certificate shall be withdrawn and, where applicable, a new certificate shall be issued. If one or more examinations are declared failed due to deception, the incorrect certificate also makes the Master's Diploma and all other graduation documentation void. Decisions pursuant to para. 1 and para. 2, sentence 2 may be taken only for a period of five years after the issue of the certificate.
- (5) Should the master's examination be deemed altogether failed, the master's degree shall be revoked and the Master's Certificate, Master's Diploma as well as all other graduation documentation shall be withdrawn.

### **§ 30**

#### **Additional examinations**

Students may, until the end of the semester in which they complete the master examination as per § 10, para. 2, extend their standard scope of studies on application by up to 15 ECTS CP in additional modules. These may be modules from this master's degree program as well as other modules for which credit would otherwise not be granted, provided that they are offered at the University of Bonn and are eligible as additional modules for this master's degree program. Credit can only be granted for modules that are completed within one and a half times the standard period of study. The results of additional examinations shall be included in the certificate in accordance with § 25 on application by the candidate, however it shall not be included when calculating the overall grade.

### **Part 9**

#### **Entry into force**

### **§ 31**

#### **Entry into force and publication**

- (1) These Examination Regulations shall enter into force on October 1, 2021.
- (2) Under § 12, para. 5 of the NRW Higher Education Act, violations of the procedural or formal requirements of the Higher Education Act or regulatory or other legal provisions of the University of Bonn may no longer be asserted against these Regulations if one year has passed since their announcement.

W. Witke

The Dean  
of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences  
of the University of Bonn  
Prof. Dr. Walter Witke

Executed pursuant to the resolution adopted by the faculty council of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences on July 7, 2021 and the resolution passed by the Rectorate on July 28, 2021.

Bonn, August 23, 2021

M. Hoch

The Rector  
of the University of Bonn  
Professor Dr. Dr. h. c. Michael Hoch

**Annex 1: Module structure for the consecutive master's degree program Immunobiology: From Molecules To Integrative Systems**

**Module structure key:**

- Abbreviations of course types: LC = lab course, prE = practical exercise, S = seminar, E = scientific exercise, L = lecture.
- Marked with asterisk (\*): Courses for which the examination board may, pursuant to § 12, para. 6, require compulsory attendance as prerequisite for participation in the module examination (lab courses and practical exercises as well as comparable courses). In these cases, compulsory attendance is an additional requirement to other listed assessments.
- The "Course Type" column shows the type of a course within the module.
- The "Duration/Study Semester" column shows the duration (D) of the module (in semesters) and assigns it to a specific study semester (StS).
- The "Assessments" column shows requirements that must be met for admission to certain examinations pursuant to § 12, para. 4 or, respectively, to acquire ECTS credit points in modules without an examination. Assessments that form requirements for admission to certain examinations and must be repeated in case that examination is failed are marked with the letter "r" (r).
- In the "Type of Examination" column, examinations as defined by § 14, para. 6 that cannot be repeated within one semester but must rather be repeated along with the entire module or, respectively, the corresponding course are marked with the letter "r" (r).

The examination board shall make further details on individual modules, especially regarding the courses offered within or required for completion of a module, available in a module guide before the beginning of the respective semester pursuant to § 8, para. 7.

**Compulsory Modules**

Module Code	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration / Study Semester	Subject (content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Course Work	Type of Examination	Weighting	CP
LIMES-001	Methods in life sciences and statistics	L	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 1st sem.	Theoretical knowledge of methodology in the life sciences and statistics	None	Written examination	3/120	3
LIMES-002	Methods course I	LC*	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 1st sem.	Practical knowledge of current methods in the life sciences	Notes for the work performed	50% report, 50% written examination	15/120	15
Immuno-001	Immunology I	L, E, S	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 1st sem.	Sound knowledge of innate immunology and its methodology	<sup>1</sup> None/seminar talk	Written examination	3/120	6



Module Code	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration / Study Semester	Subject (content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Course Work	Type of Examination	Weighting	CP
LIMES-003	Introduction in experimental animal techniques and bioethics	L	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 2nd sem.	Basic principles of bioethics and handling laboratory animals	None	Written examination	3/120	3
MedImmun-04 <sup>2</sup>	Immunology II	L, E, S	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 2nd sem.	Sound knowledge of adaptive immunology and its methodology	<sup>1</sup> None/seminar talk	Written examination	3/120	6
LIMES-004	Methods course II	LC*	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 2nd sem.	Practical knowledge of current methods in the life sciences	Notes for the work performed	50% report, 50% written examination	6/120	6
LIMES-005	Good Scientific Practice	L, E	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 2nd sem.	Knowledge of good scientific practice	None	Written examination	0/120	3
Immuno-006	Genomics and epigenetics	L, S	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 3rd sem.	Sound knowledge of genomics and epigenetics and their methodology	<sup>1</sup> None/seminar talk	Written examination	2.25/120	4.5
Immuno-007	Systems immunology, bioinformatics and big data science	L, S	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 3rd sem.	Sound knowledge of systems immunology and bioinformatics	<sup>1</sup> None/seminar talk	Written examination	2.25/120	4.5
Immuno-008	The immune system in barrier organs and immune regulation	L, S	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 3rd sem.	Sound knowledge of the immune system in barrier organs and immune regulation	<sup>1</sup> None/seminar talk	Written examination	1.5/120	3
Immuno-009	Oral Examination Immunology		Immuno-001, -006, -007, and -008 and MedImmun-04	D: 1 sem. StS: 3rd sem.	Sound, overall knowledge in the area of immunology	None	Oral examination	27/120	6
Immuno-012	Master's thesis		Minimum of 60 CP from the degree program	D: 1 sem. StS: 4th sem.	Students will independently conduct and document a scientific research project	Attendance in at least 20 scientific talks <sup>3</sup> in the area of life sciences	Master's thesis	30/120	30

<sup>1</sup> For admission to module examinations in modules Immuno-001, Immuno-006, Immuno-007, Immuno-008 and MedImmun-04, one seminar talk must be held in at least one of these modules. The examination board shall determine the details.

<sup>2</sup> The legal provisions on examinations for the “Medical Immunosciences and Infection” master’s degree program in the corresponding examination regulations, as amended on the date of registration for the module examination, apply to module MedImmun-04.

<sup>3</sup> By visiting scientists, e.g. in Collaborative Research Centers; this can be achieved in the first and subsequent semesters.

## Elective Modules

**Elective Lectures – 2 of 4 modules must be selected (total of 6 CP)**

Module Code	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Study Semester	Subject (content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Course Work	Type of Examination	Weighting	CP
Biochem-003	Biochemistry and organic chemistry	L	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 1st sem.	Knowledge of biochemistry and organic chemistry	None	Written examination	0/120	3
Immuno-002	Cell biology and immunology	L	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 1st sem.	Knowledge of cell biology and immunology	None	Written examination	0/120	3
Immuno-003	Genetics and molecular biology	L	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 1st sem.	Knowledge of genetics and molecular biology	None	Written examination	0/120	3
Biochem-004	Inorganic and physical chemistry	L	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 1st sem.	Knowledge of inorganic and physical chemistry	None	Written examination	0/120	3

**Elective Lab Rotation 1 – 1 of 2 modules must be selected (total of 12 CP)**

Module Code	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Study Semester	Subject (content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Course Work	Type of Examination	Weighting	CP
Immuno-004	Lab rotation 1: Immunology	prE	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 2nd sem.	Conduct an independent research project in the area of immunology	Notes for the work performed	60% lab exercise, 40% report	12/120	12
Immuno-005	Lab rotation 1: Genomics, epigenetics and systems immunology	prE	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 2nd sem.	Conduct an independent research project in the area of genomics, epigenetics or systems immunology	Notes for the work performed	60% lab exercise, 40% report	12/120	12

**Elective Lab Rotation 2 – 1 of 2 modules must be selected (total of 12 CP)**

Module Code	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Study Semester	Subject (content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Course Work	Type of Examination	Weighting	CP
Immuno-010	Lab rotation 2: Immunology	prE	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 3rd sem.	Conduct an independent research project in the area of immunology	Notes for the work performed	60% lab exercise, 40% report	12/120	12
Immuno-011	Lab rotation 2: Genomics, epigenetics and systems immunology	prE	None	D: 1 sem. StS: 3rd sem.	Conduct an independent research project in the area of genomics, epigenetics or systems immunology	Notes for the work performed	60% lab exercise, 40% report	12/120	12

The examination board may approve further elective modules and shall announce them before the beginning of the semester pursuant to § 8, para. 7.

## **Annex 2: Regulations for admission to courses**

If admission to a course, due to its nature, purpose or to other reasons, needs to be limited and the number of registrations exceeds the defined capacities, it is handled as follows:

Applicants shall be admitted in the following order:

- **Group 1:**  
Students who are enrolled at the University of Bonn, for whom, according to the curriculum, participation in this course is mandatory and who are in the same or a higher study semester as/than the one specified for participation in the curriculum, provided they
  - a. were kept from registering for the course due to a delay in the first semester, or
  - b. were not selected in a random selection procedure at least once in the past;
- **Group 2:**  
Students who are enrolled at the University of Bonn and who are in the same or a higher study semester as/than the one specified for participation in the curriculum, and who do not belong to Group 1;
- **Group 3:**  
All other students enrolled at the University of Bonn who are eligible for participation in this course pursuant to the curriculum;
- **Group 4:**  
All other students.

This does not affect further admission requirements. Within the groups – except Group 4 – students who have collected the largest number of credit points for this degree program or for another degree program at the University of Bonn that imports modules from this degree program shall have priority. Remaining places are allocated by drawing lots.

### **Annex 3: Procedure for the aptitude test for foreign applicants to a degree program who are not given equivalent status to Germans by or based on international treaties**

#### **I. General principles**

- (1) The admission requirements in § 5 of the Examination Regulations must be satisfied for admission to the “Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems” consecutive master’s degree program. Under § 5, para. 3 of the Examination Regulations, foreign applicants who are not given equivalent status to Germans by or based on international treaties must pass a special aptitude test for university studies.
- (2) This Annex sets down the provisions governing the aptitude test for university studies specified in paragraph 1.
- (3) The objective of the procedure is to determine whether applicants have the aptitude necessary to be expected to successfully graduate from the degree program.
- (4) §§ 6 (Recognition of and granting credit for academic achievements), 8 (Examination board and exam office), 9 (Examiners and assistant examiners), 28 (Access to examination records) and 29 (Invalidity of the master’s examination and revocation of the master’s degree) of these Examination Regulations shall apply accordingly.

#### **II. Eligibility and application procedure/admission to the examination procedure**

- (1) Foreign applicants who satisfy the other admission requirements in § 5 of the Examination Regulations or are expected to satisfy them in accordance with para. 5, sentence 2, can participate in the examination procedure for the aptitude test for university studies specified in Part I, para. 3.
- (2) Applications for admission to the examination procedure must be submitted electronically in German or English using the application forms provided by the examination board. Admission takes place each winter semester. The application deadline is March 31. The time of electronic receipt by the University of Bonn determines whether the application deadline has been met. The application deadline and issuing of the notices in Part VI shall be coordinated with the enrollment deadline.
- (3) The following documents shall be included in German or English in electronic form with the application:
  1. Proof of formal qualification in accordance with § 5, para. 1 of the Examination Regulations or a provisional certificate in accordance with para. 5, sentence 2;
  2. A completed admission application form;
  3. A curriculum vitae with a detailed description of prior education;
  4. Proof of English language proficiency in accordance with § 5, para. 2 of the Examination Regulations.
- (4) The chairperson of the examination board established in accordance with § 8 of the Examination Regulations shall make the decision on the application for admission to the examination procedure.
- (5) Admission shall be rejected if the application is incomplete. If the documents specified in para. 3 are not yet available at the time the application is submitted, a corresponding certificate from the university concerned and list of the modules completed and their grades shall be sufficient for the application. The applicant must submit formal proof immediately upon receipt.

#### **III. Performing the examination procedure**

- (1) The examination board formed in accordance with § 8 of the Examination Regulations is responsible for organizing and carrying out the examination procedure. The examination board shall hold discussions and make decisions in closed meetings. It shall appoint a committee consisting of a chairperson and at least two other members of the group of professors in the Molecular Biomedicine unit to carry out the procedure.

Decisions shall be made by simple majority. In the event of a tie vote, the chairperson's vote shall be the deciding vote.

(2) The examination board shall appoint the examiners and assistant examiners pursuant to § 9, para. 5 of the Examination Regulations.

#### **IV. Examination procedure**

(1) The application documents will be checked to determine the level of education achieved in the life science subjects in the first degree. Particular attention will be given to whether the applicant has the knowledge in the following areas that are required for successfully completing the "Immunobiology: From Molecules to Integrative Systems" consecutive master's degree program:

- Immunology
- Cell biology
- Molecular biology
- Genetics.

The standard used shall be the level of knowledge reached in the "Molecular Biomedicine" bachelor's degree program at the University of Bonn at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> program-related semester. The committee appointed by the examination board decides whether the aptitude test for university studies must be taken in order to assess the qualifications of the applicant based on the criteria above.

(2) Applicants who completed their bachelor's studies in the "Molecular Biomedicine" degree program or in a related or comparable degree program at another institution of higher education within the scope of the German Basic Law (Grundgesetz) or at an institution of higher education in a Member State of the European Union or a state that has ratified the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon Recognition Convention) have already proven their aptitude for university studies and are exempt from the test. This also applies to applicants with German university entrance qualifications; § 5, para. 1 and 2 of the Examination Regulations remain unaffected.

(3) The test shall take place in the form of an oral examination. The oral examination shall be a maximum of one hour in length. Applicants who satisfy the admission requirements for the aptitude test for university studies in Part II shall be notified in writing of the examination date. Examinations shall take place in English.

(4) § 12, para. 7 of the Examination Regulations applies accordingly.

#### **V. Grading of examinations**

(1) A point score is assigned for the oral examination. The highest possible score is 100 points. The examination is considered passed if a score of at least 50 points is achieved.

(2) The oral examination shall be conducted by several examiners or a single examiner as an individual or group interview in the presence of a competent assistant examiner. If the examination is only conducted by a single examiner, the examiner shall hear the assistant examiner in private prior to setting a grade.

#### **VI. Notification of the results and repetition of the examination procedure**

(1) The examination board shall notify the applicant in writing of the results of the examination. If the notice indicates a rejection, it must include information on legal remedies.

(2) Applicants who do not pass the examination procedure may repeat the examination on the date in the following year at the earliest; a new application is required. A second repetition is not possible.

## **VII. Students who change the location of their studies**

For students who change the location of their studies and were previously enrolled in a master's degree program in the life sciences or a comparable degree program at another institution of higher education, the examination board shall assess their individual qualifications, including an examination procedure if one was performed. If the examination board decides that the degree program and examination procedure are equivalent, the applicant will be exempt from participating in the examination procedure at the University of Bonn.