

# Translation

Examination Regulations  
for the Joint Consecutive Master's Degree Program

**“Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security”**

at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the  
University of Bonn  
and  
the United Nations University – Institute for Environment and  
Human Security  
(hereinafter referred to as UNU-EHS)

This document is an official translation of the Examinations  
Regulations published in Amtl. Bek. der Universität Bonn,  
50. Jg., Nr. 50, 21. September 2020.

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

**Examination Regulations  
for the Joint Consecutive Master's Degree Program  
"Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security"  
of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences  
of the University of Bonn  
and of the United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security  
(hereinafter referred to as UNU-EHS)**

**September 7, 2020**

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 10 of the Act for the Systematic and Solidary Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic in North Rhine-Westphalia and Adjustment of State Law with regard to the Effects of a Pandemic (Gesetz zur konsequenten und solidarischen Bewältigung der COVID-19-Pandemie in Nordrhein-Westfalen und zur Anpassung des Landesrechts im Hinblick auf die Auswirkungen einer Pandemie) of April 14, 2020 (Legal and Regulatory Gazette of North Rhine-Westphalia, p. 218b), the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Bonn issued the following Regulations:

## Content

Part 1 Scope.....	4
§ 1 Scope .....	4
§ 1a Coronavirus pandemic.....	4
Part 2 Program Objective, Degree and Standard Period of Study .....	4
§ 2 Objective of the master’s degree program and purpose of the master’s examination.....	4
§ 3 Academic Degree.....	5
§ 4 Standard period of study, ECTS credit point system, range of courses, program structure and language of instruction/examinations .....	5
Part 3 Admission requirements and recognition of academic achievements.....	6
§ 5 Degree program admission requirements .....	6
§ 6 Recognition of and granting credit for academic achievements.....	6
§ 7 Admission to individual courses .....	8
Part 4 Academic board and examiners.....	8
§ 8 Academic board and exam office .....	8
§ 9 Examiners and assistant examiners.....	9
Part 5 Scope, conduct, modalities and forms of examinations.....	10
§ 10 Scope of the master’s examination .....	10
§ 11 Admission to the master’s examination and to module examinations.....	10
§ 12 Examination modalities and compulsory attendance .....	11
§ 13 Module examinations – registration and withdrawal .....	13
§ 14 Resitting examinations .....	13
§ 15 Written examinations.....	14
§ 16 Multiple choice model.....	14
§ 17 Oral examinations.....	15
§ 18 Presentations/term papers, project reports, assignments, internship reports, research proposals and reports .....	16
§ 19 Compensation for disadvantages and deadline extension .....	17
Part 6 Master’s thesis .....	18
§ 20 Registration, topic and scope of the master’s thesis .....	18
§ 21 Submission, evaluation and repetition of the master’s thesis .....	18
Part 7 Procedural irregularities and protective regulations.....	19
§ 22 Cancellation, default, withdrawal and reprimand.....	19
§ 23 Deception and disruption of examinations .....	20
§ 24 Protective regulations .....	20
Part 8 Grading and final documentation .....	21
§ 25 Grading of examinations, grading system and pass requirements for the master’s examination ....	21
§ 26 Certificate .....	22
§ 27 Master’s Diploma .....	22
§ 28 Diploma Supplement .....	23
§ 29 Access to examination records.....	23
§ 30 Invalidity of the master’s examination and revocation of the master's degree .....	23
§ 31 Additional examinations.....	24
Part 9 Entry into force .....	24
§ 32 Entry into force and publication.....	24

### Annexes:

1. Module structure
2. Regulations for admission to courses

Part 1

Scope

**§ 1**

**Scope**

(1) Students who commence their studies within the consecutive master's degree program "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" of the University of Bonn and UNU-EHS 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 and the United Nations University for the consecutive master's degree program "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" dated March 31, 2017 (Official Announcements of the University of Bonn, Year 47, No. 11 of April 18, 2017), hereinafter referred to as MPO GeoRisk 2017, will be repealed as of 9/30/2023. Examinations in accordance with MPO GeoRisk 2017 will be admissible until 9/30/2022. The academic board may extend this period by six months upon valid request.

(3) Students who commenced their studies under MPO GeoRisk 2017 prior to the coming into force of these Examination Regulations and have not yet completed all necessary examinations may continue their studies under MPO GeoRisk 2017 until the deadline stated in para. 2. Students who continue their studies under MPO GeoRisk 2017 and do not graduate by 9/30/2022 shall adopt these Examination Regulations ex officio on 10/1/2022. Credit for prior academic achievements shall be granted. Para. 2 sentence 3 shall remain unaffected; these Examination Regulations shall then be adopted ex officio on 4/1/2023.

**§ 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 master's degree program and purpose of the master's examination**

(1) The consecutive master's degree program "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" offered by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Bonn and the UNU-ENS is interdisciplinary and research-oriented.

(2) Students in this master's degree program 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 interdisciplinary 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 independently, 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 scientific methods. The interdisciplinary nature of the master's degree program is aimed at enabling students to capture interdisciplinary correlations as well as to apply research methods and findings independently in order to contribute to a better understanding of the interrelatedness of social, economic, political and physical factors when dealing with environmental risks and their effects on human security.

(4) The master's examination shall lead to the conferral of a master's degree in "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security," which qualifies the holder for positions demanding extensive skills in this field, with particular consideration of the area of application in international cooperation organizations in the fields of "sustainable development," "disaster risk reduction", and "vulnerability."

### **§ 3**

#### **Academic Degree**

Candidates who successfully complete the master's examination for the "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" degree program shall be awarded a Master of Science (MSc) degree jointly by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Bonn and the UNU-EHS.

### **§ 4**

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

- (1) The standard full-time period of study, including the master's thesis, is four semesters (120 ECTS CP).
- (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 consist of courses with a thematic, methodical or systematic connection.
- (3) 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 of 30 hours, including contact hours and self-study.
- (4) The degree program includes 90 ECTS CP in compulsory modules and 30 ECTS CP for the master's thesis. Details on 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 module schedule 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 academic 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.

Part 3

Admission requirements and recognition of academic achievements

**§ 5**

**Degree program admission requirements**

- (1) The consecutive master's degree program "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" is open to applications from graduates from a university undergraduate degree program in geography or a related field in which they have acquired at least 100 credit points (CP) in the following three areas:
  - Human geography and the social sciences with a focus on the topics of space, society and development;
  - Scientific methods and empirical research methods;
  - Physical geography and environmental sciences with a focus on earth system science.
- (2) The university degree in paragraph 1 must have been completed with a grade of at least 2.5.
- (3) 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 to be proved by submitting a recognized language certificate (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS) or equivalent proof.
- (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 the Master's Degree Program 'Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security'" (Selection Procedure Regulations).
- (6) Students who do not meet the admission requirements stated in paras. 1–3, 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 four months after the date of enrollment.

**§ 6**

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

- (1) Academic achievements from degree programs at other public or officially recognized universities, at public or officially recognized vocational academies, from degree programs at foreign public or officially recognized universities, or from 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 academic 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 "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security."
- (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 respectively apply to academic achievements in postgraduate programs. 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 academic 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 academic board has authority over the processes that underlie recognition of or granting credit for academic achievements. The academic board decides which degree programs are related to or show substantial similarities in content with the master's degree program "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security". 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 academic board shall provide the reasons for its decision, thus bearing the burden of proof. If the academic board denies recognition, students may apply for an internal audit of the decision to be conducted by the Rectorate of the University of Bonn.

(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 academic 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 having their academic achievements recognized. The student must provide all information on the academic achievement in question deemed necessary for recognition. Each semester, the academic 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 academic board is bound to the results of the placement test stated in the certificate.

(7) Upon request, up to 10% 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 academic 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 academic board shall define the maximum number of participants in courses with limited capacity. The academic board shall announce capacities at the beginning of each semester.

## **Part 4**

### **Academic board and examiners**

## **§ 8**

### **Academic board and exam office**

(1) The faculty council of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences shall appoint an academic board that is to organize examinations and manage the tasks outlined in these Examination Regulations. The dean shall assure that the academic 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 academic board shall consist of five voting members, including

- three 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
- one member from the group of students of the faculty.

The faculty council appoints the chairperson, deputy chairperson and other members separately by group. All professors teaching in the master's degree program "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" are eligible to become members of the academic board. From the group of academic staff, those teaching in the master's degree program "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security", or involved in its management, are eligible to become members. From the group of students, those enrolled in the master's degree program "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" are eligible to become members. For each of the five members a deputy shall be appointed to represent the member in his or her absence; these deputy members may not assume the position of chairperson of the academic board. 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 academic 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 office (Geography Examination Office) for administrative support of the academic board.

(4) The academic 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 academic 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 academic 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 academic board shall inform the Student Registry on which students, according to final ruling by the academic board, have failed their final attempt at passing the master's examination in accordance with § 25, para. 6 or do not meet the requirements to be



admitted to the master's examination as per § 11, para. 1. The academic board shall provide input for amendments to the Examination Regulations and curriculum. The academic board may delegate clearly defined tasks to the chairperson. It shall not delegate

- decisions on objections as per sentence 2,
- reviews of decisions on deception and disruption of examinations as per § 23, para. 1, sentences 1 and 2,
- assessments of whether a student repeatedly or otherwise seriously attempted to cheat as per § 23, para. 3,
- decisions on the invalidity of the master's examination and revocation of the master's degree as per § 30 and
- reporting duties to the faculty council as per sentence 3.

(5) Academic board meetings are not open to the public. All members of the academic 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 academic board. Summary minutes shall be taken as record of the academic board's discussions and decisions.

(6) The academic board shall have a quorum when, in addition to the chairperson or their deputy, at least two more members or their deputies, including at least one member 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. The academic board may adopt resolutions by means of a circulation procedure if none of the members objects. In corresponding application of sentence 1, the academic board shall have a quorum for resolutions voted on using a circulation procedure if the chairperson of the academic board has received the number of member votes stipulated in sentence 1 by the deadline set for the circulation procedure; the resolution is otherwise not passed. Members of the academic board have a right to attend examinations upon resolution of the academic board.

(7) Directives, dates set and other communication of the academic 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) The academic board may include examination 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.

## **§ 9**

### **Examiners and assistant examiners**

(1) The professors and junior professors of the Department of Geography of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and the Institute for Environmental and Human Security of the United Nations University (UNU-EHS) are examiners without express appointment by the academic board. This also applies to members with postdoctoral qualification (Habilitation) in the Department, contract lecturers, honorary professors, academic staff and lecturers with special responsibilities, provided that the person concerned has teaching responsibilities in the master's degree program "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" during the respective semester. All those holding a position named in sentences 1 and 2 can also act as assistant examiner. The academic board has the right to appoint additional examiners and assistant examiners in accordance with § 65 of the NRW Higher Education Act. Assistant examiners must have at least passed the master's examination or an equivalent examination.

(2) Module examinations are usually held by the responsible teaching staff of that module. If a teacher, due to illness or other important cause, is not able to hold module examinations in due time, the academic board shall be responsible for the appointment of another examiner for these module examinations.

- (3) Examiners shall be independent of instructions in their conduct of examinations.
- (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.
- (5) The academic board assures that the candidate is informed of the name of the examiners in due time, as a rule within 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 to provide evidence of a further professional, in-depth and research-related 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. proof that the requirements in the module structure for acquiring ECTS credit points instead of a module examination are satisfied;
  3. 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 will be indicated on the degree certificate. Students must successfully complete a module in order to be awarded the assigned credit points. A module is considered successfully completed once
  - a. the assigned module examination or all of the assigned examination components of the module have been graded "Sufficient" or higher, or
  - b. proof has been provided that the requirements in the module structure for acquiring ECTS credit points instead of a module examination are satisfied.
- (4) If a module consists of more than one course, with associated partial module examinations, the credit points will be awarded after the last partial module examination 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. 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 academic 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 and United Nations University;
  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.

4. Photo.

- (2) The academic 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 academic 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 academic board.

- (5) The academic 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 academic 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 a degree program at the University of Bonn and UNU-EHS 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 its interdisciplinary embedding. Module examinations can be completed by passing graded partial examinations. Module examinations and partial module examinations can be

- written examinations;
- oral examinations;
- presentations/term papers;
- project reports;

- assignments;
- internship reports;
- research proposals;
- reports.

The type of examination, course work and, if applicable, division into partial module examinations is stipulated in the module structure. Deviating from the specifications stipulated in the module plan is possible in accordance with § 15, para. 4 and § 17, para. 4; the academic board shall, in conjunction with the examiners, determine the type of examination and, in accordance with § 8, para. 7, announce its decision in due time before the beginning of the semester.

(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 academic board shall, in accordance with § 8, para. 7, announce the specific requirements regarding such course work before the beginning of the semester.

(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 academic board shall, in accordance with § 8, para. 7, announce all examination dates as well as the duration of individual examinations before the beginning of the semester. Candidates who only take the examination at one of the two examination dates and do not pass the examination are not entitled to another examination date during the current semester.

(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. Depending on the type of course, the following absences are permissible:

- |                                     |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| - Field trips (Excursions):         | 0%,             |
| - Field trips for project seminars: | 0%,             |
| - Seminars, project seminars:       | maximum of 30%. |

In individual cases, upon valid request by the lecturer, the academic board may set different maximum limits for absences and shall announce them 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 academic board shall appoint a third examiner. In this case, the two better 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 § 21, para. 4.

(8) The academic board can permit module examinations to be taken in electronic form or using electronic communications. The academic 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 academic board by the prescribed deadline. Where justified, registrations may be submitted in writing.

(2) The academic 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. For presentations/term papers, project reports and assignments, withdrawal must take place no later than three weeks after the beginning of the semester, and by the second day of the block for block courses. The date of receipt by the academic board prevails. In cases of examinations that spread over a whole semester or are assigned to a specific course, candidates may not withdraw without giving reasons after the deadline indicated above.

(4) Rules for the registration for the master's thesis are defined separately in § 20, 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 academic board's decision has come into force.

(6) If an examination is failed, students shall register for one of the next examination dates themselves. Automatic registration does not occur.

### **§ 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 the repetition of the master's thesis are defined in § 21, 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 academic board's decision that the final attempt at the master's examination has been failed has come into force.

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

(4) In modules in which examinations spread over a whole semester or are assigned to a specific course, examinations cannot be repeated in that same semester. The module examination in such modules can only be repeated by retaking the entire module or course. Respective examinations and course work to be repeated are designated as such in the module structure.

**§ 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 solve 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 120 minutes. § 12, para. 7 applies accordingly. The academic board shall announce the specific date before the beginning of the semester, in accordance with § 8, para. 7.
- (4) The academic 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; in accordance with § 8, para. 7 this shall be announced in due time before the beginning of the semester.

**§ 16**

**Multiple choice model**

- (1) Written examinations as per § 15 with a minimum of 50 registered candidates may be conducted entirely or in part using the multiple choice model.
- (2) The examination questions shall be adapted to the specific knowledge covered in the respective module and facilitate reliable results. The examination questions shall be cooperatively developed by two examiners with at least the same or an equivalent qualification as the one to be determined through that examination. When designing the examination questions, the examiners shall define how many and which answers will be considered correct. The number of answers to be ticked shall be indicated on the task sheet. Questions with only one correct answer shall be considered solved correctly if the correct answer is the only one ticked. If the candidate does not tick the correct answer, ticks a wrong answer or ticks more than the one correct answer, the question shall be graded with 0 points. If there is more than one correct answer, the question shall be graded in proportion to the number of correct answers ticked. If the candidate does not tick any answer or ticks too many answers, the question shall be graded with 0 points.
- (3) Before determining the result of an examination, its questions shall be checked for errors with regard to the module's requirements. Erroneous examination questions shall not be considered when determining the result of an examination. The reduced number of examination questions shall be taken into account when grading the examination. A candidate's grade shall not suffer under a reduced number of examination questions. Deducting points in individual examination questions or the examination as a whole shall not be permitted when grading a written examination. Offsetting wrong answers with correct answers shall also be prohibited.
- (4) Examinations using the multiple choice model shall be considered passed when the candidate reaches a minimum of 50 percent of the total score or a score that does not fall below the average score reached by all candidates in this examination by more than 22 percent.
- (5) Results in a multiple choice examination shall be graded as follows: If the candidate reaches the minimum score necessary to pass the examination as per para. 4, the grade shall be

1.0	Very good,	if 90 – 100%	} of points above the necessary minimum score have been reached.
1.3	Very good,	if 80 – < 90%	
1.7	Good,	if 70 – < 80%	
2.0	Good,	if 60 – < 70 %	
2.3	Good,	if 50 – < 60%	
2.7	Satisfactory,	if 40 – < 50%	
3.0	Satisfactory,	if 30 – < 40%	
3.3	Satisfactory,	if 20 – < 30%	
3.7	Sufficient,	if 10 – < 20%	
4.0	Sufficient,	if 0 – < 10 %	

Candidates who do not reach the minimum score necessary to pass the examination shall receive the grade “Insufficient”.

(6) Deviating from para. 1, written examinations that are resits may partly or entirely be conducted using the multiple choice model on the second examination date, even when not reaching the minimum number of registered candidates, provided that

- the written examination is equal in level of expertise, difficulty and maximum score to the written examination on the first examination date, and
- the written examinations for both dates are developed by the same examiner simultaneously, and
- the decision on which written examination is assigned to which examination date is made by drawing lots.

The written examination held on the second examination date shall be graded using the same grading scale as the one used for the first written examination; the pass score defined for the first written examination in accordance with para. 4 shall also apply to the written examination held on the second examination date. Examiners shall confirm in the record that the conditions as per sentence 1 are met.

(7) Should the examination include both multiple choice questions and other questions, the part using the multiple choice model shall be graded in accordance with paras. 2–6. All other questions will be graded following the applicable provisions. The overall grade is calculated from the results of both parts, with results from each part being weighted in relation to the total achievable score. If one part of an examination is failed, this part shall be graded “Insufficient” (5.0) and taken into account as such when calculating the overall grade.

(8) Otherwise, § 15 shall apply accordingly.

## § 17

### 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 45 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 academic 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. In accordance with § 8, para. 7 this shall be announced in due time before the beginning of the semester.

### **§ 18**

#### **Presentations/term papers, project reports, assignments, internship reports, research proposals and reports**

(1) For the combined "presentation/term paper" examination, candidates are to demonstrate that they are able to perform independent research on a limited topic in one of the subject areas of the module using methods commonly used in that field, and to present this orally and in writing in a manner that satisfies scientific requirements. 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 raised using scientific methods. Candidates shall have a minimum of 2 weeks to prepare a presentation after receiving the topic. The term paper shall be a minimum of 15,000 and a maximum of 40,000 characters in length, including spaces and annotations. Candidates shall have a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 14 weeks to prepare a term paper after receiving the topic. As a rule, registration for the combined "presentation/term paper" examination, including topic specification, takes place in the semester in which the associated course is offered. The topic must be issued in timely fashion, so that – depending on the semester of the examination registration – the latest deadline, as a rule, is March 31 in a winter semester and September 30 in a summer semester. The presentation must be held by the end of the semester in which the course is offered. The weighting for the combination examination is 30% for the presentation and 70% for the term paper. The combination "presentation/term paper" examination is passed if both parts of the examination are passed. If one part of the examination is failed, both parts of the examination must be repeated.

(2) As a rule, project reports are used to show an ability to work in a team and, in particular, the ability to develop, implement and present concepts. Candidates are to demonstrate that they can define objectives and develop interdisciplinary problem-solving approaches and concepts for a complex assignment. Candidates shall have a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 14 weeks to prepare a project report after receiving the topic. In the case of group project reports, it must be possible to clearly identify and grade the contribution of each individual candidate, and the contribution must satisfy the requirements in sentence 1. The presentation should be a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 30 minutes long for each candidate. The report shall be a written document showing the project results. The text portion for each candidate shall be a minimum of 15,000 and a maximum of 40,000 characters in length, including spaces and annotations. As a rule, project reports must be completed 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) Assignments are tasks for which candidates independently provide written solutions for the respective study sections in an appropriate period of time. They are used to strengthen and secure the material developed in the course as well as to test achievement of the educational objectives. The examiners shall specify the number of assignments and the time that candidates have to complete them and shall announce this pursuant to § 8, para. 7. Assignments must be submitted in the semester in which the course is offered by the deadlines indicated by the examiners.

(4) Internship reports are written documents. The text portion shall be 15,000 to 20,000 characters in length, including spaces and annotations. The report is not given an individual grade, but is instead assessed on a pass or fail basis. Candidates shall have 4 weeks to prepare the report after the end of the internship.



(5) Research proposals are written summaries of the conception, theory, analysis and evaluation of a master's thesis topic, and are either 6000 to 12,000 characters in length, including spaces and annotations, or prepared in the form of a poster. Candidates shall have a minimum of two weeks to prepare a research proposal. The research proposal can be supplemented by an oral presentation that is a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 30 minutes in length. Research proposals must, as a rule, be submitted or held during the course of the semester in which the associated course is offered (by March 31 for courses in the winter semester and by September 30 for courses in the summer semester).

(6) Reports are written summaries of field trips in which candidates comprehensibly present the sequence and results of the field trips. Reports are based on notes, supplemented by original scientific texts and individual research, and are from 5000 to 40,000 characters in length, including spaces and annotations. In the case of a group report, it must be possible to clearly identify and grade the contribution of each individual candidate. Candidates shall have a minimum of 3 weeks to prepare a report after receiving the topic of the field trip. Reports must, as a rule, be prepared and submitted by the end of the semester in which the associated course is offered (by March 31 for courses in the winter semester and by September 30 for courses in the summer semester).

(7) For written work of any kind, students must provide a written declaration at the time of submission that they have written the work themselves and have not used any sources or auxiliary means other than the ones indicated.

(8) Otherwise, the provisions for grading oral and written assessments stipulated in § 12, para. 7 apply accordingly.

## **§ 19**

### **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 academic board together with suitable proof; the same shall apply to the completion of course work as specified in § 13, 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, the academic 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

**§ 20**

**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 "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" within a specified period of time, independently, and using scientific methods.
- (2) Students must register their master's thesis with the academic board. The academic board shall announce the deadline by which a master's thesis must be registered for the candidate to complete the master's degree program within the standard period of study.
- (3) When registering their master's thesis, students must indicate their choice of examiner for the master's thesis.
- (4) Any examiner may assign the topic for the master's thesis in accordance with § 9, para. 1. 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 academic 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 academic board shall assure that the student receives a topic for his/her master's thesis in due time as per para. 9.
- (6) The master's thesis can be registered with a working title. The title of the master's thesis can be modified during the first two months without changing the topic.
- (7) 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. The new topic issued to the candidate must be substantially different from the initial topic.
- (8) The master's thesis shall be a minimum of 100,000 and a maximum of 200,000 characters in length, including spaces and annotations.
- (9) Passing the master's thesis awards 30 ECTS CP, corresponding to 900 hours in student workload. It must be completed in a maximum of six months, submission is possible after three months at the earliest. The academic 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 academic board may grant an extension by a maximum of six weeks. As a rule, the topic of the master's thesis is issued at the end of the third semester.

**§ 21**

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

- (1) Candidates shall submit their master's thesis to the academic board by the specified deadline (two printed copies incl. a digital version, plus a digital version for the examination office); 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 particular 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; the second examiner shall be appointed by the academic board from among the group of examiners as defined by § 9, para. 1. It must be ensured that one of the examiners is a member of the group of professors or adjunct professors at the University of Bonn, and one of the examiners is lecturer at UNU-EHS. The candidate shall be entitled to propose the second examiner, but shall not have a right to being assigned a specific examiner.
- (4) The examiners shall each grade the master's thesis separately and provide the reasons for the grade they assigned in writing in accordance with § 25, 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 academic board shall appoint a third examiner for review of the master's thesis. In this case, the two better grades shall be averaged together for the final grade. Grades shall be averaged in accordance with § 25, 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 the grade "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. In case of doubt, the academic board shall decide. The candidate may reject the proposed topic for their master's thesis within the period specified in § 20, para. 7 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 of the University of Bonn and by the United Nations University once the academic board's decision has come into force.

## Part 7

### Procedural irregularities and protective regulations

#### § 22

#### **Cancellation, default, withdrawal and reprimand**

- (1) Candidates may electronically cancel their registration for module examinations with the academic 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 academic board prevails.
- (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 to an examination or to submit a graded assessment within the specified period of time (default).
- (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 academic 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 default. 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 academic 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 academic board deems other proof than that defined by sentence 4 appropriate in that case. If the academic 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 academic board. If the academic board accepts the reprimand, the examination attempt shall be deemed void.

### **§ 23**

#### **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 academic 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 academic board.

(3) In cases of repeated or otherwise grave attempts at deception, the candidate may be deregistered from the degree program. The academic board shall determine whether the candidate's attempt at deception was repeated or otherwise grave. Deregistration of students due to deception is at the rector's discretion. Deregistration is performed by the Student Registry of the University of Bonn and the United Nations University.

(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 chancellor of the University of Bonn shall pursue and fine administrative offenses pursuant to sentence 1.

### **§ 24**

#### **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 academic 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 academic 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 academic 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 assessments may not be interrupted by a period of parental leave. The assessment topics shall be deemed not issued. The candidate shall receive a new topic at the end of their parental leave. This does not affect § 22, 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 academic 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 academic board shall immediately notify the candidate of the result and, if applicable, of the new examination deadlines. Time frames for the completion of assessments may not be extended based on such leave taken. The assessment topics shall be deemed not issued. The candidate shall receive a new topic at the end of their leave. This does not affect § 22, para. 3, sentence 1.

## Part 8

### Grading and final documentation

#### § 25

#### **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 differentiated 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. Each grade from individual modules shall be weighted by multiplying it with the number of ECTS credit points assigned to the respective module. The sum of these individually weighted grades is then divided by the total number of ECTS credit points (weighted average). 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, or
- the master's thesis has been graded "Insufficient" in the second attempt.

## **§ 26 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 and English (bilingual). 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 § 31 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 academic board and signed by the chairperson of the academic board for the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

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

(4) Candidates who leave both of the universities 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.

## **§ 27 Master's Diploma**

Along with the certificate of the master's examination, candidates shall receive a Master's Diploma issued the same day in English and German (bilingual) stating that the candidate has been awarded the academic degree as per § 3. Diplomas shall be signed by the dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

and director of the UNU-EHS and stamped with the seals of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and the United Nations University.

## **§ 28 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 universities 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.

## **§ 29 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 academic board has issued the certificate as per § 26, be granted access to their examination records. This does not affect § 29 of the Administrative Procedure Act (Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz).

(3) The academic board shall determine when and where the examination records may be accessed and notify the candidate hereof in due time. The academic 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.

## **§ 30 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 academic 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 academic board shall decide on the legal consequences in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

(3) Candidates shall be heard before the academic 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 suspended by both the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Bonn and the United Nations University, and the Master's Certificate, Master's Diploma as well as all other graduation documentation shall be withdrawn.

### **§ 31**

#### **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 12 ECTS CP in additional modules. These may only be modules from another degree program at the University of Bonn. Credit can only be granted for modules that are completed within the standard period of study times one and a half. The results of additional examinations shall be included in the certificate in accordance with § 26 on application by the candidate, however it shall not be included when calculating the overall grade.

### Part 9

#### Entry into force

### **§ 32**

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

These Examination Regulations shall enter into force on the day after their publication among the Official Announcements of the University of Bonn and shall apply for the first time to the winter semester 2020/21.

The Dean  
of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences  
of the University of Bonn  
Professor Dr. Johannes Beck

Executed pursuant to the resolution adopted by the faculty council of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences on July 1, 2020 and the resolution passed by the Rectorate on August 11, 2020.

Bonn, September 7, 2020

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 “Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security”**

**Module structure key:**

- Abbreviations of course types: F = field trip, I = internship, S = seminar, PS = project seminar, L = lecture.
- Marked with asterisk (\*): Courses for which the academic board may, pursuant to § 12, para. 6, require compulsory attendance as prerequisite for participation in the module examination (field trips, language courses, internships and practical exercises as well as comparable courses). In these cases, compulsory attendance is an additional requirement to other listed assessments.
- The column “Course Type” shows the type of a course within the module.
- The column “Duration/Study Semester” shows the duration (D) of the module (in semesters) and assigns it to a specific study semester (StS).
- The column “Assessments” 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 column “Type of Examination”, examinations as defined by § 14, para. 4 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 academic 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	Assessments	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
JM1	Theories and Concepts of Risk	S*	none	D: 1 sem. StS: 1st sem.	Ability to apply key concepts and theories of risk, vulnerability and resilience to critically engage with and examine environmental risks and challenges to human security	none	Written examination	6

Module Code	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/Study Semester	Subject (content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Assessments	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
JM2	General Approaches to Risk & Human Security	S*	none	D: 1st sem. StS: 1st sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of various theoretical approaches to society and development and major paradigmatic turns</li> <li>• Knowledge about fundamental concepts of earth system research and relevant earth surface processes</li> <li>• Understanding of relevant social theories and scientific approaches for the analysis of risk and human security in development contexts</li> </ul>	Exercises <sup>r</sup> in both courses	Written examination <sup>r</sup> in one of the two courses	12
JM3	Research Methods German-language courses can also be taken in this module. The examination language is German in this case.	S*	none	D: 1 sem. StS: 1st sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theoretical and applied knowledge of selected research methodologies</li> <li>• Theoretical background of selected methodologies</li> <li>• Potential and limits of selected research methods</li> <li>• Focus on e.g. qualitative methodologies, discourse analysis, ethnography, text analysis, quantitative methods, GIS, remote sensing, modeling, inter- or transdisciplinary methods</li> </ul>	none	Assignments <sup>r</sup>	6

Module Code	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/Study Semester	Subject (content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Assessments	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
JM4	Academic Writing & Intercultural Skills	S*	none	D: 1 sem. StS: 1st sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature search and knowledge of relevant academic search engines and journal databases</li> <li>• Familiarity with the requirements of academic writing (format, structure, argumentation)</li> <li>• Ability to critically assess academic literature and provide peer feedback</li> <li>• Increased cultural self-perception, intercultural communication skills</li> <li>• Working in intercultural settings</li> <li>• Cooperation and ethics in the UN system</li> </ul>	Exercises	none	4
JM5	Advanced Debates on Risk & Human Security	S*	none	D: 1 sem. StS: 2nd sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of cutting-edge debates on particular dimensions of risk and human security</li> <li>• In-depth engagements with particular theoretical perspectives and key concepts in the natural and social sciences</li> </ul>	none	Presentation/ term paper <sup>r</sup> in both seminars (weighting 1:1)	12

Module Code	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/Study Semester	Subject (content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Assessments	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
JM6	Research Seminar German-language courses can also be taken in this module. The examination language is German in this case.	PS*	none	D: 1 sem. StS: 2nd sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to identify and work on relevant research questions independently</li> <li>• Ability to design and undertake a research project in a small group</li> <li>• Develop and work on a research project in a small group</li> </ul>	none	Project report <sup>r</sup>	18
JM7	Academic Presentation & Communication Skills	S*	none	D: 1 sem. StS: 2nd sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target group-oriented communication of scientific interests and results</li> <li>• Use of various presentation aids</li> <li>• Improvisation training</li> <li>• Networking skills</li> </ul>	Exercises	none	2
JM8	Risk Management in the Context of Climate Change	S*	none	D: 1 sem. StS: 3rd sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application-oriented debates and programs on risk management in the context of climate change</li> <li>• Introduction to central decision-making bodies and mechanisms at the global level</li> </ul>	none	Presentation/term paper <sup>r</sup>	6
JM9	Disaster Management & Humanitarian Response	S*	none	D: 1 sem. StS: 3rd sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current debates in the area of disaster prevention and preparedness</li> <li>• Structures and mechanisms for humanitarian aid at the national and international level</li> <li>• Role of the media</li> </ul>	none	Written examination <sup>r</sup>	6

Module Code	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/Study Semester	Subject (content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Assessments	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
JM10	Field Trips	FT	none	D: 1 sem. StS: 3rd sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning the principles of geographic observation</li> <li>• Insights into institutions working in the field of environmental risks and human security</li> <li>• Ability to lead and participate in expert interviews</li> </ul>	Report	none	4
JM11	Compulsory Internship	I*	none	D: min 8 weeks StS: 3rd sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of and participation in specific workflows in organizations in the area of “environmental risks and human security”</li> </ul>	Internship certificate and internship report	none	12
JM12	Master’s Colloquium	C*	none	D: 1 sem. StS: 4th sem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and presentation of a research question and design of an appropriate project for preparing the master’s thesis</li> </ul>	Research proposal	none	2
8000	Master’s Thesis		Proof of 60 CP in the degree program	D: 1 sem. StS: 4th sem.	Preparation of the written master’s thesis	none	Master’s thesis	30

## **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 the United Nations University in the joint consecutive master's degree program "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" 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 and the United Nations University 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.