

*This translation of the admission regulations is solely for informational purposes.
Only the German version is legally binding.*

**Program-specific examination regulations for the master program
“Physical Geography: Environmental History” at the University of Bremen**

as announced in the "Amtsblatt der Freien Hansestadt Bremen" of 16 March 2016

Faculty Council 8 (Social Sciences) approved the following examination regulations at its meeting on 8 July 2015 in accordance with § 87 par. 1 no. 2 of the Bremen Higher Education Act (Bremisches Hochschulgesetz: BremHG) in conjunction with § 62 BremHG in the version of the announcement of 9 May 2007 (Brem. GBl p. 339), last amended with Article 1 of the Higher Education Reform Act of 24 March 2015 (Brem. GBl p. 141).

These examination regulations apply in conjunction with the General Section of Examination Regulations of the University of Bremen of 27 June 2010 as amended.

§ 1

Study requirements and degree

(1) A total of 120 CP (credit points) are needed for successful completion of the master program “Physical Geography: Environmental History” in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). This corresponds to a standard study period of four semesters.

(2) The degree

Master of Science (M.Sc.)

is awarded on the basis of the passed master examination.

§ 2

Program structure, modules and credit points

(1) The master program “Physical Geography: Environmental History” is offered as a master study program in accordance with § 4 par. 1 General Section of the Examination Regulations.

(2) Appendices 1, 2 and 3 specify the necessary examinations and govern the program structure.

(3) The compulsory and elective modules included in the curriculum are offered on an annual basis.

(4) Compulsory and elective modules of the Consecutive Core Subjects are conducted in English. Compulsory and elective modules of the Additional Core Subjects are conducted in English or in German.

(5) The module descriptions govern the assignment of lectures to their corresponding modules.

(6) Modules may be offered as either compulsory or as a required option (Core Subjects: see Appendix 1).

a. Compulsory modules (57 CP):

- i. Research Process I (3 CP)
- ii. Computer-based Analyses (6 CP)
- iii. Historical Political Ecology (6 CP)
- iii. Research Process II (12 CP)
- iv. Master Thesis (30 CP)

- b. Modules to be selected from a list of required options (63 CP):
- i. Modules amounting to 45 CP from “Consecutive Core Subjects”: Climatology, Lacustrine Environmental Archives, Vegetation History and Archaeobotany, Archaeology, Environmental Physics, Climate Change (see Appendix 2). The modules of the Consecutive Core Subjects chosen in the first semester must be continued in the second semester. Once a Consecutive Core Subject was selected, a change can only be applied from the examination board in the first semester.
 - ii. The “Additional Core Subjects” amounting to 18 CP in the first or the third semester help the students develop their individual profiles and include:
 - a. an internship lasting 8 weeks as part of the module “Internship” amounting to 12 CP
 - b. supplementary modules or courses on offer by this study program (see Appendix 3) amounting to no more than 18 CP and/or
 - c. recognized courses from a study period abroad after previous determination in a learning agreement and grade conversion in accordance with the modified “Bayrische Formel” and amounting to no more than 18 CP
 - d. “General Studies” or other courses on offer at the University of Bremen amounting to no more than 6 CP (graded or ungraded) and recognized on an individual basis.

(8) Study courses take place in accordance with § 6 par. 1 AT MPO. In addition, they can be carried out as field courses.

§ 3

Examinations

(1) Examinations are carried out in accordance with §§ 8 AT MPO. Furthermore, examinations may be carried out in the following forms: short tests (lasting around 10 to 45 minutes), presentations (lasting around 20 to 45 minutes) including written summaries, work on written exercises or reports on field trips. The examination board of the master program may accept further types of examinations and at an examiner's request.

(2) Repeated examinations may take place in a different form than the original examination.

(3) Students are informed of deadlines for course work and the scope of testing at the beginning of each module.

(4) Examinations may be carried as multiple choice or e-examinations. See Appendix 4 for further details.

§ 4

Transfer of academic achievements

Academic achievements are transferred in accordance with § 22 AT MPO as amended.

§ 5

Admission requirements for modules

There are no admission requirements for modules other than the master thesis (see § 6).

§ 6

Module master thesis (and colloquium)

- (1) Evidence of at least 60 CP are required for registration of the master thesis.
- (2) A total of 30 CP are awarded for the master thesis and the accompanying colloquium.
- (3) A total of 18 weeks are provided for the master thesis. The examination board of the master program may accept a deadline extension of up to 6 weeks in case of submission of a duly justified request.
- (4) The master thesis must be completed as an individual piece of work.
- (5) The master thesis and presentation during the colloquium are completed in English.
- (6) The assessment of the master thesis by the two examiners must be completed within a time period of no more than 6 weeks.
- (7) A colloquium accompanying the master thesis must take place at the earliest possible date and no later than four weeks after the examiner's report has been submitted. The colloquium consists of a 20 minute presentation followed by a discussion of equal length.
- (8) A combined grade is awarded for the master thesis (24 CP) and the colloquium (6 CP). The grades of the master thesis and the colloquium are weighted according to their CP and form the grade for the module.

§ 7

Final grade of the master examination

The final grade consists of the module grades weighted according to their CP. Ungraded achievements are not taken into account.

§ 8

Inception

- (1) These examination regulations come into effect after approval by the Rector on 1 October 2016. They will be published in the Official Communication of the University of Bremen. They apply for students who wish to commence the master degree "Physical Geography: Environmental History" as of admission for the winter semester 2016/17.

Approved, Bremen, 16 September 2015

The Rector
of the University of Bremen

Appendix:

Appendix 1: Program structure

Appendix 2: List of elective modules

Appendix 3: List of supplementary modules

Appendix 4: Procedures for multiple choice and e-examinations

Attachment 1: Program structure

The program structure merely describes the recommended course of study. Students may also complete the modules in a different order. The "Consecutive Core Subjects" selected in the first semester (Part I) have to be studied consecutively and must be continued in the second semester (Part II).

2 nd year	4 th sem.	Master Thesis 30 CP/ CM/ ME		
	3 rd sem.	Research Process II 12 CP/ CM/ CE		Additional Core Subjects (see §2 par. 6 no. bII) 18 CP/ EM/ CE and ME
1 st year	2 nd sem.	Computer-based Analyses 6 CP/ CM/ CE	Historical Political Ecology 6 CP/ CM/ CE	Consecutive Core Subjects, Part II (see attachment 2) 18 CP/ EM/ CE and ME
	1 st sem.	Research Process I 3 CP/ CM/ CE		Consecutive Core Subjects, Part I (see attachment 2) 27 CP/ EM/ CE and ME

CP: credit points, CM: compulsory module, EM: elective module, ME: module examination, CE: combined examination (consisting of academic assessment and course achievements)

Attachment 2: List of elective modules

The modules of the "Consecutive Core Subjects" are selected in the first semester, have to be studied consecutively and must be continued in the second semester.

Course-ID	Module name	CP	ME/CE
	Consecutive Core Subject "Climatology"	15	
PG-CL1	Climatology I	9	CE
PG-CL2	Climatology II	6	CE
	Consecutive Core Subject "Lacustrine Environmental Archives"	15	
PG-EA1	Lacustrine Environmental Archives I	9	CE
PG-EA2	Lacustrine Environmental Archives II	6	CE
	Consecutive Core Subject "Vegetation History and Archaeobotany"	15	
PG-VA1	Vegetation History and Archaeobotany I	9	CE
PG-VA2	Vegetation History and Archaeobotany II	6	CE
	Consecutive Core Subject "Archaeology"	15	
PG-A1	Archaeology I	9	CE
PG-A2	Archaeology II	6	CE
	Consecutive Core Subject "Environmental Physics"	15	
PG-EP1	Environmental Physics I	9	CE
PG-EP2	Environmental Physics II	6	CE
	Consecutive Core Subject "Climate Change"	15	
MAR-C1	Climate Change I: Fundamentals	9	ME
MAR-C7	Climate Change II: Models and Data	6	ME

CP: credit points, ME: module examination, CE: combined examination (consisting of academic assessment and course achievements)

Attachment 3: List of supplementary modules

Supplementary modules of the "Additional Core Subjects" in the first and third semester.

Course-ID	Module name	CP	ME/CE	Semester	Note
PG-REH	Regional Environmental History	6	CE	1 st /3 rd	
PG-BK	Soil Science	6	CE	1 st /3 rd	G/E, Univ. Oldenburg
MAR-C2	Marine Environmental Archives: Methods	9	ME	1 st /3 rd	FB 5, Univ. Bremen

CP: credit points, CM: compulsory modules, EM: elective modules, ME: module examination, CE: combined examination (consisting of academic assessment and course achievements), G: German, E: English, Univ.: University of

Attachment 4: Procedures for multiple-choice and e-examinations

§ 1

Procedures for multiple-choice examinations

(1) A multiple-choice examination consists exclusively of selecting or matching the correct/incorrect answers to attain the number of points required to pass the examination. Multiple choice examinations/ examination questions are permitted providing that they are suited to determining whether the examination candidate fully masters the contents and methods taught in the module, is able to put them into proper context and thereby convey the fundamental knowledge and skills attained. A multiple-choice examination must be prepared by an examiner in accordance with § 27 AT MPO. The examiner selects the examination material, phrases the questions and decides upon possible answers. Furthermore, he/she comes up with the assessment scheme in accordance with par. 4 and applies it following the examination. The deduction of points within one question as part of a multiple-choice examination is permitted.

(2) The examination questions must be comprehensible, with clear solutions and suited to test the examination candidate's knowledge in accordance with par. 1. The examiner may also create a pool of questions of equal value. During the examination, the students each receive different examination questions from this pool. The allocation of questions to students occurs randomly. The equivalence of examination questions must be assured. The requirements to pass the examination are to be determined beforehand. Furthermore

- the selected questions,
- the proposal for solution and

the assessment criteria are to be determined before each examination.

(3) At least 50% of the total points must be attained for the candidate to pass the examination. If the total average score for the examination lies below 50% of total attainable points, the examination is also passed if the number of points attained by the candidate is no less than 15% lower than the average number of points attained by all candidates. An assessment scheme based on an absolute pass mark is not permitted.

(4) The achievements are to be evaluated as follows: if the number of points required to pass the exam has been achieved in accordance with par. 3, the grade will be

"excellent", at least 87.5%,
 "good", between 75 and 87.5%,
 "satisfactory", between 62.5 and 75%,
 "sufficient", between 50 and 62.5%.

Exceptions are possible in individual cases.

(5) Should an exceptionally high number of incorrect answers for certain questions be ascertained during marking of the examination, the examiner must check these questions straight away and before announcing the examination results to see whether they are incorrect in accordance with par 2. If it is the case that they are incorrect, these examination questions must be re-evaluated or are not to be taken into account for the finalized examination result. The number of examination questions to be taken into account for the examination result must be reduced accordingly. The reduction in the number of examination questions may not be disadvantageous for the students. In case the loss of points due to eliminated questions is greater than 20% of the total attainable points, the examination must be repeated; this also applies to examinations only partly consisting of multiple-choice questions.

(6) This attachment is valid with the exception of par. 5, 5th sentence (2nd clause) if only part of the examination consists of multiple-choice questions.

§ 2**Procedure for e-examinations**

(1) An e-examination is an examination that is created, completed and marked (with the exception of open questions) using a computer. An e-examination is permitted providing that it is suited to determining whether the examination candidate fully masters the contents and methods taught in the module, is able to put them into proper context and thereby convey the fundamental knowledge and skills attained.

(2) The e-examination is to be carried out in the presence of a qualified member of staff (minute-taker). A record of the course of the examination must be kept, containing at least the name of the minute-taker, the start and end of the examination and any possible incidents. The clear and permanent assignment of the electronic data to the individual students must be guaranteed. The candidate must be permitted to view the computer based examination and his/her results in accordance with § 24 par. 6 AT MPO. The examination questions and example solution, the evaluation criteria, individual grades and the examination record must be archived in accordance with legal provisions.