

# **Discipline-Specific Admission Regulations for the Master's Degree Program Climate, Earth, Water, Sustainability at the University of Potsdam**

**Dated February 10, 2021**

The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science at the University of Potsdam has approved on February 10, 2021, the following regulations on the basis of Section 9 subsection 5 sentence 2 in conjunction with Section 12 subsection 2 sentence 2 in conjunction with Section 72 subsection 2 no. 1 of the Brandenburg Higher Education Act (BbgHG) of April 28, 2014 (Law and Ordinance Gazette [GVBl.] I/14, [no. 18]), last amended by the Act of September 23, 2020 (GVBl. I/20, [no. 26]) in conjunction with the Brandenburg University Admissions Act (BbgHZG) of July 1, 2015 (GVBl. I/15, [no. 18]), last amended by Section 3 of the Act of June 19, 2019 (GVBl. I/19, [no. 35], p. 10) in conjunction with the University Admissions Ordinance (HZV) (GVBl. II/16, [no. 6]), last amended by the ordinance of August 12, 2020 (GVBl. II/20, [no. 69]), and according to Section 21 subsection 2 no. 1 of the Basic Constitution of the University of Potsdam (GrundO) of December 17, 2009 (Bulletin UP no. 4/2010, p. 60) in the Fifth Amended Version of the Basic Constitution of the University of Potsdam (GrundO) of February 21, 2018 (Bulletin UP no. 11/2018 p. 634) as well as the General Rules and Regulations on Access and Admission to Non-Teaching-Oriented Master's Degree Programs at the University of Potsdam (ZuLO) of February 24, 2016 (Bulletin UP no. 3/2016, p. 76), last amended on May 13, 2020 (Bulletin UP no. 8/2020, p. 306):<sup>1</sup>

## **Table of Contents:**

§ 1	Applicability
§ 2	Assignment of Tasks in the Procedure
§ 3	Admission Requirements
§ 4	Application Deadlines and Documents
§ 5	Quota of International Applicants
§ 6	University Selection Process
§ 7	Entry into Force

## **§ 1 Applicability**

These admission regulations, combined with the General Admission Regulations for Master's Degree Programs at the University of Potsdam Not Related

to Teacher Education (Zulassungsordnung – ZuLO), govern the admission requirements and the university selection process for the non-teaching-oriented master's degree program Climate, Earth, Water, Sustainability at the University of Potsdam. In all other respects, the ZuLO shall apply.

## **§ 2 Assignment of Tasks in the Procedure**

While conducting the admission and selection procedure, the Examining Board can assign specific tasks of a purely administrative nature to qualified employees of the degree program who are not members of the Examining Board.

## **§ 3 Admission Requirements**

(1) The following special admission requirements apply to the master's degree program Climate, Earth, Water, Sustainability:

- a) a first undergraduate degree qualifying for a profession from an institution of higher education in geocology or physics with a scope of at least 180 CP,
- b) a first undergraduate degree qualifying for a profession from an institution of higher education in the natural sciences with evidence of successfully completed modules amounting to at least 12 credit points each in physics, earth and environmental sciences, and mathematics, and at least another 12 credit points in the natural sciences. The Examining Board in charge will decide on the recognition, and on the equivalence of academic achievements completed for the subject if the documentation provided comes from a system that does not use credit points.

(2) English language skills that correspond at least to level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The required English-language proficiency is to be proven by one of the certificates listed in Section 4 subsection 1 of the ZuLO.

(3) In deviation from Section 4 subsection 5 of the ZuLO, German language skills are not required.

## **§ 4 Application Deadlines and Documents**

(1) Applications for the first semester of study in the master's degree program Climate, Earth, Water, Sustainability are only possible for admission in the winter semester. (1) Applications for a more advanced semester of study in the master's degree program Climate, Earth, Water, Sustainability are possible for admission in the winter and summer semester.

<sup>1</sup> Approved by the President of the University of Potsdam on March 23, 2021.

(2) Section 6 of the ZulO governs application deadlines.

(3) If the degree program has restricted admissions, the following documents must be submitted in addition to the documents listed in Section 5 subsection 3 and 4 of the ZulO:

- Documentation of further qualifications in accordance with Section 6 subsection 2 b),
- Letter of motivation in accordance with Section 6 subsection 2 c).

## § 5 Quota of International Applicants

In deviation from the quota specified under Section 19 subsection 1 no. 1 of the University Admissions Act (HZV), there is a preliminary quota of 25% for foreign and stateless applicants insofar as they are not considered equivalent to German nationals under BbHG Section 9.

## § 6 University Selection Process

(1) If the degree program is subject to admission restrictions, a university selection procedure is implemented in accordance with Section 9 of the ZulO as part of the allocation procedure detailed in Section 8 of the ZulO with the objective to rank the applicants in accordance with the following guidelines.

(2) To establish the ranking, a total point value is calculated in accordance with Section 9 of the ZulO. To calculate the total point value in accordance with Section 9 of the ZulO, the following criteria are weighted as described:

- a) Average grade or current average grade: 55%,
- b) Study and research stays abroad with a minimum duration of one month: 15%,
- c) Relevant experience from vocational training or work experience: 15%,
- d) One-page letter of motivation, in which the applicant's motives and goals regarding the choice of the pursued master's degree program and the university of Potsdam as a location of higher education are described. In the letter, the applicant is expected to highlight the specific skills that qualify him or her, in particular, for the chosen master's degree program: 15%.

(3) The criterion in subsection 2 d) receives a grade (between 1.0 and 5.0) that is included when calculating the total point value.

The grade is determined as follows:

- highly persuasive letter of motivation: 1.0
- good letter of motivation: 2.0
- average letter of motivation: 3.0
- poor letter of motivation: 4.0
- unpersuasive or missing letter of motivation:

## 5.0

The degree of persuasiveness of the letter of motivation is based on the criteria mentioned in subsection 2, letter d).

(4) The criteria mentioned in letter 2 b) and c) can be graded as follows: "existent / fulfilled" or "non-existent / not fulfilled". If documentary evidence of the selection criteria is not submitted within the application deadline according to Section 4 subsection 2, the criterion is graded as "non-existent".

## § 7 Entry into Force

(1) These regulations take effect on the day after their publication in the Official Announcements of the University of Potsdam.

(2) These regulations first apply to all admission procedures for the Master's degree program Climate, Earth, Water, Sustainability carried out for the winter semester 2021/2022.