

Disipline-Specific Admission Regulations for the Master's Degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Potsdam

July 6, 2016

On July 6, 2016, the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science at the University of Potsdam has approved the following regulations pursuant to Section 9 subsection 5 sentence 2 in connection 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 Section 2 of the law of July 1, 2015 (GVBl. I/15 [no. 18]) in connection with Section 5 subsection 4, Section 7 subsection 2, Section 8 subsection 2, and Section 16 subsection 2 of the Brandenburg Higher Education Admissions Act (BbgHZG) of July 1, 2015 (GVBl. I/15 [no. 18]), last amended by the law of December 17, 2015 (GVBl. I/15 [no. 38]) in connection with Section 2 subsections 1–3 and 5, Section 19 subsection 1, and Section 20 of the Higher Education Admission Regulations (HZV) of February 23, 2016 (GVBl. II/16, [no. 6]) and pursuant to Section 21 subsection 1 no. 2 of the Basic Constitution of the University of Potsdam (GrundO) of December 17, 2009 (Bulletin UP no. 4/2010 p. 60) in the Third Amended Version of the Basic Constitution of the University of Potsdam (GrundO) of April 22, 2015 (Bulletin UP no. 6/2015 p. 235) and the General Admission Regulations for Master's Degree Programs at the University of Potsdam Not Related to Teacher Education (Zulassungsordnung, ZulO) of February 24, 2016 (Bulletin UP no. 3/2016 p. 76):¹

Contents:

- § 1 Applicability
- § 2 Assignment of Tasks in the Procedure
- § 3 Admission Requirements
- § 4 Application Periods and Documents
- § 5 Quota of International Applicants
- § 6 University Selection Process
- § 7 Validity

§ 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 program in Biochemistry and

Molecular Biology at the University of Potsdam. Otherwise, the admission regulations (ZulO) 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 program who are not members of the Examining Board.

§ 3 Admission Requirements

(1) The following special admission requirements apply to the Master's program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology:

- a) An undergraduate academic degree in a discipline/program related to the Master's program, such as biology, biochemistry, biosciences, biotechnology, or biomedicine totaling 180 credit points; academic degrees in related fields may be recognized provided they are equivalent or comparable.
- b) Proof of knowledge in molecular biology and biochemistry totaling at least 60 credit points. If the applicant's total number of demonstrable credit points is up to 4 fewer than the required 60 credit points, the Examining Board shall decide on a case-by-case basis whether the applicant meets the prerequisites despite the missing credit points.
- c) English-language proficiency that corresponds to at least Level B2 of the European Framework for Languages. The required English-language proficiency is to be proven by one of the documents listed in Section 4 subsection 1 of the Admission Regulations (ZulO). The Examining Board issues decisions regarding equivalent credentials on a case-by-case basis.

(2) Applicants whose native language is not German must demonstrate sufficient German language proficiency corresponding to Level A2 of the European Framework for Languages.

§ 4 Application Periods and Documents

(1) The application for the Master's program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, when matriculating as of the first semester, can begin in either the winter or summer semester. The application for the Master's program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, when matriculating as of a later semester, can begin in either the winter or summer semester.

(2) In accordance with Section 6 subsection 3 of the ZulO, the application deadline for the winter semester is June 1 and for the summer semester December 1.

¹ Approved by the President of the University of Potsdam on October 7, 2016.

(3) In addition to the application materials listed in Section 5 subsection 3 letters (a) to (f), evidence of language proficiency is to be submitted as specified under Section 3 subsection 1 letter (a) and subsection 2.

(4) If the program has restricted admissions, the following materials must be submitted in addition to those listed under Section 5 subsection 4:

- a) Any evidence of any research internships or occupational experience directly connected to the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology master's program pursued outside of institutions of higher education.
- b) Any evidence of special discipline-related achievements under Section 6 subsection 2 (e).

§ 5 Quota of International Applicants

At variance with the quota specified under Section 20 subsection 2 of the HZV, a quota of 14% is reserved for international applicants and for stateless applicants who are not accorded rights equal to Germans.

§ 6 University Selection Process

(1) As part of the admission allocation procedure, under Section 8 of the ZulO, a university selection process is carried out under Section 9 of the ZulO with the objective of ranking the applicants.

(2) To establish the ranking, a total point value is calculated under Section 9 of the ZulO. In calculating the total point value under Section 9 of the ZulO, the following criteria are weighted as follows:

- a) Average grade or current average grade: 51%
- b) Relative grade: 25%
- c) Average module grades from the degree qualifying the applicant to the Master's program for modules that determine discipline-specific eligibility – these include mathematics, physics, inorganic and organic chemistry – weighted by their credit points: 12%
- d) Evidence of research internships, occupational experience, or other qualifications directly connected to the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Master's program pursued outside of institutions of higher education: 6%
- e) Evidence of special discipline-related achievements such as scholarships, academic publications, awards, or other distinctions with a connection to the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Master's program: 6%

The relative grade will not be considered until the selection process for the winter semester of 2017–18.

(3) The criteria d) and e) have the following options: either “present/met” or “absent/not met.”

§ 7 Validity

(1) The regulations take effect on the day of their publication in the Official Public Notices of the University of Potsdam.

(2) These regulations first apply to the admission process for students seeking to matriculate in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Master's program in summer semester 2017.