

## **Discipline-Specific Admission Regulations for the Master's Program in Astrophysics 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).<sup>1</sup>

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### **§ 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 Astrophysics 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 Astrophysics:

- a) An undergraduate academic degree in physics adding up to 180 credit points; academic degrees in other scientific subjects, provided they are related to physics.
- b) Proof of knowledge in the fields of physics and mathematics adding up to 60 credit points, at least 6 credit points of which in astrophysics.
- c) Proof of English-language skills that correspond at least to Level C1 of the European Framework for Languages. The required English-language skills are to be evidenced by one of the documents listed in Section 4 subsection 2 of the Admission Regulations (ZuLO).

(2) In a deviation from Section 4 subsection 4 of ZuLO, German-language skills need not be demonstrated.

(3) The Examining Board issues decisions regarding credentials equivalent to those listed in subsection 1 on a case-by-case basis.

### **§ 4 Application Periods and Documents**

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

(2) The ZuLO specifies application deadlines as long as the course of study does not have restricted admissions. If the course of study does have restricted admissions, then, in accordance with Section 6 subsection 3 of the ZuLO, the application deadline for the winter semester is July 15 and for the summer semester January 15.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 of ZulO, the following application materials shall be submitted:

- English language proficiency that corresponds to at least Level C 1 of the Common European Framework for Languages as described in Section 4 subsection 2 of the ZulO.

(4) If the program has restricted admissions, in addition to the materials listed under Section 5 subsection 4, the applicant must submit a statement of purpose outlining his or her purpose for pursuing the program and his or her relationship to the selected course of study and aspired profession (see Section 6).

### § 5 Quota of International Applicants

At variance with the quota specified under Section 20 subsection 2 of the HZV, a quota of 35% is reserved for international applicants and for stateless applicants who are not accorded rights equal to Germans.

### § 6 University Selection Process

(1) If the Master's program in Astrophysics has restricted admissions, a university selection process is carried out under Section 9 of the ZulO with the objective of ranking the applicants as part of the admission allocation procedure under Section 8 of the ZulO.

(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: 60%
- b) Relative grade: 20% The relative grade will not be considered until the selection process for the winter semester of 2017–18.
- c) Statement of purpose outlining the applicant's purpose for pursuing the program and his or her relationship to the selected course of study and aspired profession: 20% This criterion is graded (on a scale from 1.0 to 5.0, with 1.0 being best) and contributes to the total point score. The grade is calculated based on the Examining Board's evaluation of the applicant's statement of purpose, incorporating the following equally weighted evaluation criteria:
  - Career goal
  - Scientifically justified proof of interest in Astrophysics in general and concretely in physics research questions regarding heavenly bodies
  - Specified astrophysical research areas
  - Realistic understanding of the course of study

Each criterion is graded from 1 to 3 points. This adds up to the following grade equivalences:

Total Points Attained	Grade
11–12	1.0
8–10	2.0
4–7	3.0
1–3	4.0

If materials to prove this selection criterion are missing at the application deadline listed in Section 4 subsection 2, the criterion is included towards the total point value as a grade of 5.0.

### § 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 admissions process for students seeking to matriculate in the Astrophysics Master's program in summer semester 2017.