

Entrance and Admissions Regulations for the Master's Program in Jewish Theology at the University of Potsdam

6 July 2016

On 6 July 2016, the advisory board of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Potsdam adopted the following statutes pursuant to § 9 para. 5 sentence 2 in conjunction with § 72 para. 2 no. 1 of the Brandenburg Higher Education Act (BbgHG) of 28 April 2014 (GVBl.I/14, [no. 18] amended by Art. 2 of the law of 1 July 2015 (GVBl.I/15, [no. 18]), in conjunction with § 5 para. 4, § 7 para. 2, § 8 para. 2 and § 16 para. 2 of the Brandenburg Higher Education Admissions Act (BbgHZG) of 1 July 2015 (GVBl.I/15, [no. 18]), last amended by the law of 17 December 2015 (GVBl.I/15, [no. 38]), in conjunction with § 2 para. 1-3, 5, § 19 para. 1 and § 20 of the Higher Education Admissions Regulations (HZV) of 23 February 2016 (GVBl.I/16, [no. 6]) and following Art. 21 para. 2 no. 1 of the Basic Regulations of the University of Potsdam (GrundO) of 17 December 2009 (AmBek. UP no. 4/2010 p. 60) in the version of the Third Amendment to the Basic Regulations of the University of Potsdam (GrundO) of 22 April 2015 (AmBek. UP no. 6/2015 p. 235) as well as the General Entrance and Admissions Regulations for non-teaching-track Master's programs at the University of Potsdam (Admissions Regulations – ZulO) of 24 February 2016 (AmBek. UP no. 3/2016 p. 76):¹

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§ 1 Scope

These admissions regulations as an extension of the General Entrance and Admissions Regulations for non-teaching-track Master's programs at the University of Potsdam (Admissions Regulations – ZulO) govern the entrance requirements and applicant selection process for non-teaching-track Master's programs in Jewish Theology at the University of Potsdam. Otherwise, the ZulO applies.

§ 2 Delegation of Tasks

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

In order to carry out the admissions and selection process, the examination committee may delegate tasks of a purely administrative nature to qualified colleagues in the department who are not members of the examination committee.

§ 3 Entrance requirements

For the Master's program in Jewish Theology, the following special entrance requirements apply:

a) completion of a first professional university degree with a major or minor field relevant to the Master's course of study, such as Jewish Theology, Jewish Studies or Rabbinical Studies, if the degree comprised

- at least 6 semesters of regular study and

- at least 180 credit points (CP);

b) English language proficiency corresponding to at least a B2 level as given by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The required language proficiency shall be evidenced by submitting one of the certificates listed in § 4 ZulO para. 1. Decisions regarding the equivalence of other types of evidence shall be made by the examination committee on a case-by-case basis;

c) Hebrew language proficiency at least to the standards of the Hebraicum.

§ 4 Application deadlines and supporting documents

(1) Applications for the first semester of the Master's program in Jewish Theology may be submitted for either the Winter or Summer semester. Applications for a higher semester of the Master's program in Jewish Theology may also be submitted for either the Winter or Summer semester.

(2) The ZulO governs the application deadlines, as long as the program does not cap admissions. If the program caps admissions, the last possible deadline for application is the 1st of June for the Winter semester and the 1st of December for the Summer semester according to § 6 para. 3 ZulO.

(3) In addition to the supporting documents required for application listed in § 5 para. 3 letters a) through d) and f) ZulO, proof of sufficient English proficiency following § 3 b) in conjunction with § 4 para. 1 ZulO and a Hebraicum Hebrew language certificate must be submitted.

(4) If the program caps admissions, besides the documents required by § 5 para. 4 ZulO, a motivational essay of 5,000 characters or less describing the applicant's reasons for applying must be submitted in either English or German. In the essay, the applicant should emphasize the specific abilities that qualify him or her in particular for the Master's program in Jewish Theology, as well as describe his or her personal and social involvement.

§ 5 Applicant selection process

(1) As stipulated in the allocation procedures given in § 8 ZulO, in the case of an admissions cap for the program, applicant selection shall proceed pursuant to § 9 ZulO according to the following guidelines to determine the applicant ranking.

(2) To determine the applicant ranking, a total point value shall be calculated following § 9 ZulO. The point value according to § 9 ZulO shall be determined by the following criteria weighted as follows:

- a) current or past average grade score weighted at 51 %,
- b) current or past relative grade score weighted at 13 % and
- c) a motivational essay weighted at 36%.

The relative grade score will not be considered until the selection process for the 2017/18 Winter semester.

(3) Criterium (c) with a grade of (1.0 – 5.0) will be included in the calculation of the total point value. The grade is calculated from the following components:

- very convincing motivational essay: 1.0
- good motivational essay: 2.0
- average motivational essay: 3.0
- weak motivational essay: 4.0
- incomplete or unconvincing motivational essay: 5.0

The motivational essay's ability to convince is determined by the criteria given in § 5 para. 3. If the documents fulfilling this selection criterium are not received before the application deadline according to § 4 para. 2, a grade of 5.0 will be entered into the total point calculation.

§ 6 Entry into force

(1) This regulation enters into force on the day after its publication in the Official Bulletin of the University of Potsdam.

(2) This regulation first applies to all selection procedures for the Master's program in Jewish Theology conducted for the Summer semester 2017.