Subject-specific study and examination regulations for the English-taught master’s programme in Molecular Medicine offered by the Medical Faculty at Ulm University

of 3 August 2015

On the basis of § 32 (3) sentence 1 of the Baden-Württemberg Federal State Higher Education Act (Landeshochschulgesetz – LHG) in the version of Article 1 of the third act amending higher education regulations (Drittes Hochschulrechtsänderungsgesetz) of 1 April 2014 (law gazette p.99ff), the Senate of Ulm University, at the proposal of the Medical Faculty in its meeting on 15 July 2015, adopted the following subject-specific study and examination regulations.

The President of Ulm University gave his consent on 3 August 2015 in accordance with § 34 (3) sentence 1 of the LHG.

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Preliminary Remarks on Language Usage

Under article 3 subsection 2 of the constitution, women and men are treated as equal; all references to person and function in these regulations are equally valid for both men and women.

I. General Provisions

§ 1 Scope of application

(1) These subject-specific study and examination regulations contain specific regulations for the master’s programme in Molecular Medicine.

(2) These subject-specific study and examination regulations supplement the general provisions on study and examination regulations for bachelor’s and master’s programmes at Ulm University (Framework Regulations). In cases of doubt, these Framework Regulations have precedence.

§ 2 Programme objectives, academic degrees (§ 2 Framework Regulations)

(1) The master’s programme in Molecular Medicine is a research-oriented programme. Building upon biomedical, molecularly oriented undergraduate studies, it aims to enable graduates to solve biomedical issues independently applying the methods of molecular and cell biology. The aim of the programme is the acquisition of knowledge and skills qualifying the graduate for activities in research, development and application in the areas of molecular medicine, in particular at universities, research institutes and in relevant research industries.

(2) Participants in the Joint Master’s Programme should also acquire additional intercultural skills and improved communication and cooperation with international scientists.

(3) The Medical Faculty at Ulm University, in the area or Molecular Medicine, offers the consecutive Master’s programme in Molecular Medicine, leading to the degree of “Master of Science” (short, “MSc”).

§ 3 Start of the programme (§ 3 Framework Regulations)

Studies in the master’s programme in Molecular Medicine begin in the winter semester.

§ 4 Standard period of study, credit points (§ 5 Framework Regulations)

(1) The standard period of study for the Master’s programme is four semesters.

(2) The overall minimum volume necessary for the successful completion of the master’s programme in compulsory and elective areas without the master’s thesis and disputation is 90 credit points. With the master’s thesis and disputation, a further 30 credit points are required.
§ 5 Transition to the PhD programme

If the examination results in modules no 1 to 10 under § 15 (1) were completed within the standard period of study and the average grade weighted according to CP was better than 2.0, students can request admission to the PhD programme at the end of their third semester in the programme and finish their master’s programme as part of their PhD studies. Admission to the PhD programme is governed by the applicable admission regulations, study and examination regulations and doctoral regulations for doctoral studies in the International PhD Programme in Molecular Medicine offered by the Medical Faculty at Ulm University with the aim of obtaining a PhD through the admissions committee of the PhD programme.

§ 6 Deadlines (§ 6 (9) Framework Regulations)

Students who have not completed their master’s studies by the end of the examination period of their 6th semester lose their right to examination in this programme, unless they are not responsible for exceeding this deadline.

§ 7 Courses, examination achievements

(1) Programme objectives and contents are conveyed in the following courses:
   - lectures
   - laboratory courses
   - seminars
   - classes

Courses marked as compulsory in § 15 require minimum attendance of 85%. Regular participation in the pertaining courses counts as part of the study performance. Study performance is an admission requirement for the respective module examinations.

(2) Alongside the master’s thesis and the disputation, study performances are written exams (tests, laboratory/placement reports, written assignments) and/or oral examinations, as well as presentations followed by discussions. The study commission Molecular Medicine decides on any changes in the implementation of courses and study performance.

(3) The type of study performance according to paragraph 2 is announced by the examiner in good time before the examination.

§ 8 Courses and examination in English (§ 7 Framework Regulations)

The language of instruction and examination is English.
§ 9 Subject examination board (§ 10 Framework Regulations)

(1) A subject examination board is formed for the master’s programme in Molecular Medicine.

(2) The subject examination board consists of 8 members. It is composed of five full-time university lecturers and habilitated members working full-time at Ulm University, a scientific staff member, as well as two students in an advisory capacity. One student should come from the bachelor’s programme in Molecular Medicine, and one from the master’s programme in Molecular Medicine. The term of office for the university lecturers, the habilitated members working full-time at the university and the scientific staff member is three years; for the student members, it is one year. Reappointment is possible.

§ 10 Organisation of module examinations (§ 13 Framework Regulations)

Deviating from the recommendation in § 13 (1) Framework Regulations, written module examinations in the master’s programme take place each semester, usually in the last two weeks of the lecture period and the following four weeks; the repeat examinations take place in the two weeks before the start of the lecture period of the following semester.

§ 11 Related study programmes (§ 14 Framework Regulations)

Related subjects in accordance with § 14 of the Framework Regulations are in particular Biochemistry, Biomedicine, Human Biology, Molecular Biology, Molecular Biotechnology and Molecular Life Science.

§ 12 Regulations governing the master’s thesis and disputation (§ 16c Framework Regulations)

(1) The time allowed from the assignment of the topic to the submission of the master’s thesis is six months. It is not permitted to start work on the master’s thesis before registration.

(2) The master’s thesis is written in English.

(2a) An external master’s thesis is possible. At least one reviewer must be employed by Ulm University and should supervise and account for the content of the thesis. He or she must be qualified to examine in accordance with § 11 (2) Framework Regulations. Admission to an external master’s thesis is granted by the subject examination board. Application for admission to an external master’s thesis must be made before work on the thesis has begun on presentation of a one-page exposé and written confirmation of supervision from an examiner from Ulm University.

(3) One reviewer is the supervisor of the master’s thesis; the second must not be from the same institute. They must be qualified to examine in accordance with § 11 (2) Framework Regulations.

(4) The master’s thesis must be submitted to the Studiensekretariat (student administration and examinations office) in two bound copies and as an electronic version.

(4a) On the date on which the master’s thesis is submitted, the Journal Club and Progress Report must have been successfully completed.
(5) The master’s thesis is supplemented by a public disputation. The disputation takes place before two members of the subject examination board who are not themselves reviewers, and before the two reviewers of the master’s thesis; together they form the examination committee. Public access does not include the discussion on the candidate’s performance. The disputation should as a rule not exceed 60 minutes and takes place in English.

(6) During the disputation, the student speaks freely in an oral presentation of no longer than 25 minutes about his or her master’s thesis, and is subjected to questions by the examination committee.

(7) Directly after the disputation, the examination committee confers on the oral performance. Each member evaluates the performance of the master’s student with a grade in accordance with § 17 Framework Regulations. The overall evaluation for the performance during the oral examination is the mean of the examiners’ individual evaluations. The oral examination is deemed passed if the final evaluation is at least “sufficient 4.0”.

§ 13 Evaluation of module examinations (§ 17 Framework Regulations)

The overall grade of the master’s examination is the credit point weighted average of all module examinations identified as “counting towards final grade” in § 15 (1).

§ 14 Repetition of module examinations (§ 20 Framework Regulations)

(1) Module and module part examinations which have not been passed may be repeated twice each, but only during the two semesters following the unsuccessful attempt. If students do not take a module examination on the date stipulated in sentence 1, then they lose their right to examination, unless they are not responsible for exceeding the time allowed. This is decided on by the subject-specific examination committee upon request.

(2) A disputation graded as “not passed” (5.0) may be repeated once – at the earliest 1 month, and at the latest 3 months following the unsuccessful attempt. A disputation repeated outside of the permitted time is deemed “not passed”.

courtesy translation
### II. MASTER’S EXAMINATION

**§ 15 Study contents, admission to module and module part examinations**

(1) The following modules must be completed in the master’s programme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>CP</th>
<th>C/CE</th>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>CH/W</th>
<th>Sem</th>
<th>Type of Examination</th>
<th>Counting towards final grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Current Concepts in Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>L,S</td>
<td>4 +2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bioinformatics and Systems Biology</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>L,S</td>
<td>4 +2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>New Drug Discovery, Development, and Evaluation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Practical Training in Laboratory Methods and Correlative Imaging</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>S,L,C</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>w/o</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>GLP/GSP Bioethics</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>L,S</td>
<td>2 +2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Clinical Trials Project Management and Funding</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>L,S</td>
<td>2 +2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Module 1 in 2nd semester</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7a</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>w/o</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7b</td>
<td>Four Week Research Course</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>CE</td>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>w/o</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7c</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Module 2 in 2nd semester</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8a</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>w/o</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8b</td>
<td>Four Week Research Course</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>CE</td>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>w/o</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8c</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Module 1 in 3rd semester</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9a</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>w/o</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9b</td>
<td>Four Week Research Course</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>CE</td>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>w/o</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9c</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Module 2 in 3rd semester</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10a</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>w/o</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10b</td>
<td>Four Week Research Course</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>CE</td>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>w/o</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10c</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Master’s thesis and disputation including Journal Club and Progress Report</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Comp</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>w/o</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CP = Credit points; C = Compulsory Course; CE = Compulsory Elective Course; L = Lecture; S = Seminar; Lab = Laboratory course; CH/W = Classroom Hour(s) per Week; Sem = Semester in the programme; w = written; o = oral

(2) The supervisor ratios for the formal calculation of the teaching workload are fixed as follows (without “University 2012”):
- lecture: 25, in the case of joint courses with students of Economics, 50.
- laboratory courses, seminars, classes: 25 each
The thematic content of modules equivalent in terms of volume in accordance with paragraph 1 nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10 and the practical training offered there are determined by the study commission and published in updated form at the latest four weeks before the start of a semester.

The study commission determines which modules may be taken as compulsory electives. These modules are then registered in the module handbook.

At the proposal of the study commission, the Faculty Council can decide on the establishment of specialisations. A specialisation is oriented to the research priorities of Molecular Medicine at Ulm University. The modules of a specialisation that can be selected in accordance with paragraph 1 nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10 are specified in the study curriculum. On successful completion of the required modules of a specialisation, the student receives confirmation which is issued by the Studiensekretariat together with documentation relating to his or her final degree.

Upon application and after approval by the subject examination board, the completion of equivalent external laboratory courses or placements is possible.

In the modules governed by paragraph 1 nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10, a change of place is no longer possible after commencement of the four-week research laboratory course or placement.

§ 16 Subject-specific admission requirements for the master’s thesis

Only those may be admitted to the master’s thesis who have successfully completed modules 1 to 10 in accordance with § 15 (1).

III. Provisions regarding the master’s programme in joint supervision with a foreign university (Joint Master’s Programme)

§ 17 Joint Master’s Programme

(1) A master’s programme carried out in cooperation with a foreign university – Joint Master’s Programme – requires that

a) an agreement has been concluded with the foreign university on the supervision of master’s students, and

b) admission to the master’s programme has been granted in accordance with Ulm University or the university with which an appropriate contract has been concluded for the implementation of a Joint Master’s Programme.

(2) The master’s thesis may be carried out and submitted both at Ulm University, to which these regulations apply, as well as the foreign university with which an appropriate contract has been concluded for the implementation of a Joint Master’s Programme.

(3) Within the framework of the Joint Master’s Programme, a student admitted to the programme may study for a maximum of 2 semesters (1 year) at the partner university. New students enrolled at Ulm University must complete their first semester at Ulm University.

(4) The university where each study part is concluded decides upon the assessment of grades. Each other university/institute awards the equivalent grade in accordance with its regulations.
§ 18 Master’s thesis

(1) During completion of the master’s thesis, supervision is conducted by a university lecturer from Ulm University and a university lecturer from the foreign university.

(2) If the master’s thesis has been accepted by Ulm University, it is then submitted to the foreign university for agreement on the proceedings.

(3) If the foreign university is in agreement, then the disputation takes place at Ulm University in accordance with § 12 (6). In this case, as well as the foreign supervisor one further member of the foreign university qualified to examine may be a member of the examination board in place of a member of the examination board of Ulm University.

(4) If the master’s thesis has been accepted by the foreign university, it is then submitted to the subject examination board to which these regulations apply for agreement on the proceedings. If agreement is given, the disputation takes place at the foreign university in accordance with the regulations applicable there.

(5) In the case of a master’s thesis completed at Ulm University in accordance with § 12, regarding submission of the master’s thesis, the provisions of the present regulations apply.

(6) In the case of a master’s thesis completed at a foreign university in accordance with paragraph 4, regarding submission of the master’s thesis, the relevant provisions of the foreign university apply. § 16c (9) sentence 2 Framework Regulations remains unaffected.

§ 19 Issuing of master’s examination and degree certificate

(1) Following successful completion of a Joint Master’s programme, a joint certificate on the conferral of the Master of Science degree is issued by Ulm University and the foreign university. This certificate carries the signatures and official seals of both institutes which are required according to the provisions of Ulm University and the foreign university.

(2) Separate certificates from Ulm University and the foreign university can take the place of a joint certificate; these must indicate that both certificates represent a Joint Master’s certificate.

(3) The joint certificate must indicate that the graduate is entitled to use the academic title of a master’s degree in Germany and in the foreign state. The entitlement to use the academic title of only one master’s degree is thus earned.
§ 20 Coming into effect

(1) These study and examination regulations apply with effect from the winter semester 2015/16. They are published in the Official Bulletin. At the same time, the subject-specific study and examination regulations of Ulm University for the Master’s Programme of 19 July 2011, published in the Official Bulletin of Ulm University No. 17 of 26 July 2011, pages 210-215 cease to be effective.

(2) Paragraph 1 is not valid for students who, in the winter semester 2015/16, are enrolled in a semester higher than the first semester in the master’s programme in Molecular Medicine. Such students complete their studies in accordance with the subject-specific study and examination regulations of 19 July 2011.

Ulm, 3 August 2015

signed
Professor Dr. Karl Joachim Ebeling
President