Ulm University admissions statutes for the consecutive English-taught master’s programme in Biophysics of 9 March 2015

In accordance with §§ 63 (2), 60 (2) no. 2, 59 (1) of the Law on Higher Education of the Land of Baden-Württemberg (“Landeshochschulgesetz” = LHG) in the version article 1 of the third law on changes to regulations in higher education (Drittes Hochschulrechtsänderungsgesetz – 3. HRÄG) of 1 April 2014 (Law Gazette p. 99 ff and based on § 6 (4) Hochschulzulassungsgesetz (HZG - law on admission to higher education) in the version of Article 7 of the third HRÄG in conjunction with §§ 3 (1) sentence 3, 20 Hochschulvergabeverordnung (HVVO - decree on the allocation of places in higher education) in the version of Article 14 of the third HRÄG, the Senate of Ulm University adopted the following statutes on 25 February 2015.

Preliminary remarks on language use

According to Article 3 (2) Basic Law men and women have equal rights; all male designations of persons and positions used in these statutes apply equally to women and men.

§ 1 Scope of application

Ulm University allocates study places for the first subject-specific semester in its master’s programme in Biophysics according to the following provisions.

§ 2 Deadline and form

(1) Students are admitted once per year to the winter semester. Ulm University must receive applications for the winter semester by 15 June of the respective year.

(2) To apply for admission an online application form must be filled in and transferred electronically to Ulm University by the deadline indicated in paragraph 1 above unless an electronic application would impose hardship on the applicant. Hardship is given where the applicant can demonstrate that they were not able to or limited in their ability to use electronic data transfer for reasons beyond their control.

(3) The printed and signed online form and all documents listed on the form must be received by Ulm University by the deadline indicated in paragraph 1 above.

(4) The following documents must be enclosed with the application:
   a) Proof of compliance with the requirements listed in § 3;
b) Statement declaring whether the applicant has lost their right to examination in the master’s programme in Biophysics or any other study programme with essentially the same content at any institute of higher education in Germany or abroad. The subject-specific study and examination regulations indicate which study programmes are deemed to be related.

c) A written report (in English) in which applicants state their personal and subject-related reasons for applying for the chosen study programme and in which they explain their choice of programme (letter of motivation).

d) Copies of certificates and other documents demonstrating of the applicant’s previous career. This may be proof of vocational training and/or practical work as well as any previous studies allowing conclusions about the applicant’s aptitude for this programme.

(5) Where such proof is not in German or English, a certified translation into German or English is required.

§ 3 Entrance requirements

(1) Entrance is subject to the following requirements:

a) Proof of a bachelor’s degree awarded after completion of a minimum three-year study programme in physics, physics and management, chemistry, biochemistry, molecular medicine, biology or biotechnology at any university in Germany or abroad or any degree recognized as equivalent; the bachelor grade must be 2.5 or better.

b) A meaningful letter of motivation as defined in § 2 (4c) no longer than 2 pages considering and discussing the following aspects:
  - Interest in the master’s programme in Biophysics
  - Choice of Ulm University as place of study
  - Expected future life and career path

c) Proof of adequate English language competence (as a rule, by the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum of 570 points (paper-based TOEFL) or 230 points (computer-based TOEFL) or 88 points (internet-based TOEFL), or equivalent proof (e.g. IELTS with 6.5 points or more)).

No. 1c does not apply to applicants who are native speakers of English, or who had English as their only language of instruction during their bachelor’s or other first degree programme.

Moreover, the admissions committee may decide on exemptions in justified exceptional cases in agreement with the head of the language centre.

(2) Applicants are selected according to the following criteria:

a) Final grade of the bachelor’s degree or equivalent degree or, if this has not yet been determined, an average grade of 2.5 or better based on examinations corresponding to 140 or more credit points passed by the date of the application;

b) Individual grades and volume of education received in the subjects mathematics, physics, biochemistry and comparable subjects;
c) Letter of motivation as defined in § 3 (1b);

d) Copies of certificates and other documents providing evidence of the applicant’s previous career. This may be proof of vocational training and/or practical work as well as any previous studies allowing conclusions about the applicant’s aptitude for this study programme

(3) The criteria under § 3 (2) are assessed by the admissions committee according to an evaluation scale previously agreed by it.

§ 4 Admission procedure

(1) The presidential board decides on admissions at the recommendation of the admissions committee.

(2) The application must be rejected if
   a) the requirements described in § 2 and § 3 above are not fulfilled, or
   b) the applicant has lost their right to examination in the chosen master’s programme in Biophysics or in any other study programme with essentially the same content.

(3) In all other respects, the provisions related to admission procedures in general as stated in the admissions and enrolment statutes of Ulm University remain unaffected

§ 5 Admissions committee

(1) The board of the Faculty of Natural Sciences sets up an admissions committee. The admissions committee consists of two or more members and their deputies. The members’ term in office is three years. They may be reappointed.

(2) The equivalence of prior qualifications and the comparability of previous academic degrees is determined by the admissions committee. For the recognition of foreign degrees, the recommendations of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (“Kultusministerkonferenz”) and agreements within the framework of university partnerships must be considered. In cases of doubt, the Central Office for Foreign Education (“Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen”=ZAB) is heard.

§ 6 Coming into effect

These statutes come into effect on the day after their publication in the official information bulletin (“Amtliche Bekanntmachungen”) of Ulm University. They are first applicable to the admission procedure for the winter semester 2015/16.

Ulm, 9 March 2015

signed
Prof. Dr. Karl Joachim Ebeling
President