



**Subject-specific study and examination regulations for the English-taught master's
programme in Biophysics offered by the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Ulm
University of 29 February 2024**

Based on § 32 (3) sentence 1 of the Baden-Württemberg Higher Education Act (Landeshochschulgesetz - LHG) in the version of 1 January 2005, amended several times and most recently by Article 8 of the Act of 7 February 2023 (Law Gazette p. 26, 43), the Senate of Ulm University adopted the following subject-specific study and examination regulations (FSPO) for the English-taught master's degree programme in Biophysics at its meeting on 21 February 2024, following approval by the Faculty of Natural Sciences .

The President of Ulm University gave his consent on 29 February 2024 in accordance with § 32 (3) sentence 1 of the *LHG*.

Content

I. General	2
§ 1 Scope of application (§ 1 ASPO)	2
§ 2 Study objectives (§ 2 ASPO).....	2
§ 3 Start of the programme (§ 3 ASPO).....	2
II. Study organisation.....	2
§ 4 Organisation and content of the master's programme in Biophysics (§ 4 ASPO)	2
§ 5 Multiple use of modules	3
§ 6 Compulsory attendance at courses (§ 7 ASPO)	3
§ 7 Deadlines (§ 8 (1) and (2) ASPO)	3
III. Exams	3
§ 8 Thesis (§ 18 ASPO)	3
§ 9 Final grade (§ 24 (6) ASPO)	4
IV. Final provisions.....	4
§ 10 Effective date.....	4

I. General

§ 1 Scope of application (§ 1 ASPO)

These Subject-specific study and examination regulations contain subject-specific regulations for the master's programme in Biophysics.

§ 2 Study objectives (§ 2 ASPO)

Graduates have comprehensive scientific and technical knowledge and skills in the field of biophysics. They are able to apply, develop and implement experimental and theoretical scientific methods to solve practical and theoretical problems and issues in a broad-based and interdisciplinary manner. They are able to work independently in a scientific manner, analyse and actively use current technical literature in a specific field and plan research processes. They have a high level of interdisciplinary skills that allow them to take on scientific tasks in peripheral areas of biophysics and neighbouring disciplines. In particular, completion of the programme qualifies graduates to pursue doctoral studies.

§ 3 Start of the programme (§ 3 ASPO)

Studies in the English-taught master's programme in Biophysics start in the winter and summer semester.

II. Study organisation

§ 4 Organisation and content of the master's programme in Biophysics (§ 4 ASPO)

- (1) The following compulsory, compulsory elective and complementary modules must be completed in the master's programme in Biophysics:

No.	Area/module	CP
A	Compulsory courses	69
1	Biophysics lecture series	6
2	Biophysics laboratory course - A	9
3	Biophysics laboratory course - B	6
4	Biophysics advanced seminar	3
5	Research project Biophysics	15
A1	Thesis	30
6	Master's thesis	30
B	Compulsory elective area	min. 48
B1	Adaptation area	min. 9
B2	Biophysics - electives	min. 6
B3	Practical course	min. 15
B4	Specialisation	min. 18
C	Complementary area	min. 3
C1	Transferable and language skills	min. 3

- (2) Students must complete modules in the compulsory elective areas B1 to B4, each amounting to at least the CP specified in paragraph 1, from the respective module catalogues.
- (3) The mobility window is planned for the 3rd semester. Modules from the areas of the Practical Course (B3) and Specialisation (B4) with approx. 30 CP are planned, in particular an industrial placement, a scientific project at a research institution or a period of study abroad. The application for recognition of the study and examination achievements in accordance with sentence 2 must be submitted to the examination board before commencement.
- (4) In complementary areas, students must complete modules of their choice from the courses offered by the Humboldt Study Centre for Philosophy and Humanities and the Centre for Languages and Philology to the extent of at least 3 CP.

§ 5 Multiple use of modules

If modules are assigned to several areas, these modules can only be completed in one of the areas. Multiple use of modules within the master's programme is not permitted.

§ 6 Compulsory attendance at courses (§ 7 ASPO)

Attendance is compulsory for seminars, projects and practical courses. Students who do not attend at least 90% of seminars and 100% of projects and practical courses will not be admitted to the corresponding module examination. If there are reasons for the absences for which the student is not responsible, then

- a) the absence can be compensated by a competency-based substitute performance,
- b) parts of the course can be made up for.

The person responsible for the course checks whether parts of the course that have already been completed can be credited and specifies a substitute performance if compensation is possible in accordance with sentence 3.

§ 7 Deadlines (§ 8 (1) and (2) ASPO)

Students who have not completed at least 45 CP at the latest two months after the end of the 3rd semester lose their right to examination unless they are not responsible for exceeding the deadline.

III. Exams

§ 8 Thesis (§ 18 ASPO)

- (1) Students must have obtained at least 75 CP by passing the modules listed in § 4 in order to be admitted to the master's thesis. The application for admission to the master's thesis must be submitted to the subject examination board before starting the thesis. The subject examination board checks whether the topic meets the scientific requirements of the programme.
- (2) The master's thesis corresponds to 30 CP. The time from the admission to the submission of the master's thesis is six months. The master's thesis also includes a final, ungraded presentation on the subject of the thesis. 1 CP is awarded for this, 29 CP are awarded for the realisation and preparation of the master's thesis.
- (3) The topic of the master's thesis is set by an examiner from the Physics, Chemistry or Biology department at Ulm University.

- (4) The master's thesis can also be carried out outside the areas mentioned in paragraph 3 (external master's thesis) with the approval (prior consent) of the examination board. The application for admission to the master's thesis must be accompanied by the topic of the external master's thesis. The first examiner must belong to the Physics, Chemistry or Biology department of Ulm University.
- (5) The master's thesis must be written in English. With the consent of the first examiner it may be written in German.

§ 9 Final grade (§ 24 (6) ASPO)

The best graded compulsory modules count towards the final grade with 60 CP, with the master's thesis module being fully weighted, as well as the best graded modules from B2 and B4 with 15 CP and from B3 with 15 CP. The module with which the defined number of graded credit points is exceeded is weighted proportionally.

IV. Final provisions

§ 10 Effective date

- (1) These study and examination regulations apply with effect from the summer semester 2024. They are published in the Official Bulletin of Ulm University. At the same time, the subject-specific study and examination regulations of Ulm University for the English-taught master's programme in Biophysics offered by the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Ulm University of 5 August 2014, published in the Official Bulletin of Ulm University No. 23 of 14 August 2014, pages 266-271 cease to be effective.
- (2) For students enrolled in the master's programme in Biophysics in the summer semester 2024 in a semester higher than the first semester, the subject-specific study and examination regulations for the English-taught master's programme in Biophysics of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Ulm University dated 5 August 2014 shall continue to apply on a transitional basis. At the end of the second examination period of the summer semester 2027, the subject-specific study and examination regulations for the English-taught master's programme in Biophysics offered by the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Ulm University of 5 August 2014, published in the Official Bulletin of Ulm University No. 23 of 14 August 2014, pages 266 - 271, will finally expire. The students referred to in sentence 1 then continue the programme in accordance with the study and examination regulations pursuant to paragraph 1 sentence 1. The examination board shall decide on the recognition of achievements already completed up to then.
- (3) Studierende, die im Sommersemester 2024 in einem höheren als dem 1. Fachsemester im Masterstudium Biophysics immatrikuliert sind, können auf schriftlichen unwiderruflichen Antrag bis zum 30.05.2024 mit vorheriger Genehmigung des Prüfungsausschusses beantragen, ihr Studium nach dieser Studien- und Prüfungsordnung zu beenden.

Ulm, 29 February 2024

signed

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Michael Weber

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