

Only those regulations published by the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen in its Official announcements are legally binding. Any claims to rights or titles resulting from the English translation of these regulations are expressly excluded.

Inter-Faculty Articles:

According to the resolution of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences on 04.04.2019 and the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology on 23.04.2019, and according to the decision of the Senate of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen as of 22.05.2019, the Foundation Committee of the University of Georg August-Universität Göttingen public law foundation approved the regulations governing the determination of the special suitability for the doctoral degree programmes included in the graduate school of Forestry and Agricultural Sciences (GFA) on 19.06.2019 (§§ 9 section 3 sentences 2 and 4, 44 section 1 sentence 1 NHG in the version published on 26.02.2007 (Nds. GVBl. p. 69), last amended by Article 10 of the Act dated 18.12.2018 (Nds. GVBl. p. 317); § 41 section 1 sentence 1 together with § 18 section 6 sentence 3, section 8 sentence 4 NHG; §§ 62 section 4 sentence 1, 60 a section 1 sentence 1 NHG together with §§ 18 section 6 sentence 3, section 8 sentence 4, section 14 NHG).

**Regulation concerning the assessment of particular suitability
for doctoral degree programmes included in the graduate school of Forestry
and Agricultural Sciences (GFA)**

§ 1 Scope

(1) These regulations regulate the determination of the particular suitability for the following doctoral degree programmes:

- a) "Agricultural Sciences in Göttingen" (PAG),
- b) "Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology" and
- c) "Wood Biology and Wood Technology".

(2) The university carries out an autonomous procedure for assessing the entry qualifications for all university places to be awarded in each case in accordance with the following provisions.

§ 2 Qualifications for entry

(1) ¹The prerequisite for access to a doctoral degree programme according to § 1 section 1 is that the applicant proves at least the successful completion of a master, diploma or a magister degree programme in a subject which is relevant according to section 3, of a degree programme corresponding to this, which leads to a state examination, or of a degree programme equivalent to this at a university belonging to one of the Bologna signatory states.

²The standard course length of the prior degree programme must be at least eight semesters. A consecutive Master degree programme or equivalent degree programme must last at least one year and produce an aggregate course length of no less than eight semesters.

(2) ¹For degrees acquired in a country outside the Bologna signatory states, it must be seen whether they are equivalent to those referred to in section 1 sentence 1, taking into account the proposals of the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) at the office of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education of the states of the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) for the recognition and assessment of foreign educational qualifications, which can be found at <http://anabin.kmk.org>. ²The graduate committee decides whether a degree programme is equivalent or not.

(3) ¹It also decides whether preliminary studies under sections 1 and 2 are relevant. ²Proof of the following achievements is a prerequisite for the relevance of preliminary studies:

Proof of achievements in agricultural sciences, forest sciences or environmental sciences, life or natural science, plant science, animal science, resource or ecosystem management, mathematics, computer science, economics or social sciences in a scope of at least 120 credits (ECTS credits) in total.

(4) ¹Another entrance requirement is that the degree should be obtained in accordance with sections 1 and 2 with a minimum final grade "good" (2.5). ²Deviating from sentence 1, the entrance requirement is also fulfilled if a person proves that he/she has obtained a degree in accordance with sections 1 and 2 and that he/she is particularly suitable for doctoral studies. ³In this case, the particular suitability is demonstrated by an interview with the applicant.

(5) ¹A further requirement is a written declaration from one or more authorised examiners of the selected doctoral programme that they will supervise the applicant if he/she gets admission as a doctoral candidate and that they can ensure proper supervision (confirmation of supervision). ²Furthermore, authorisation is provided only if

- a) no agents were appointed for locating doctoral opportunities subject to a fee,
- b) in the context of the doctoral process and its preparation, neither fees have been paid, charged credits obtained nor services that are contrary to the meaning and purpose of an examination procedure have been claimed free-of-charge,
- c) the right to examination still exists,

- d) there are no reasons that may give due cause for withdrawal of the doctoral degree,

and this is declared by the applicant.

(6) ¹Applicants whose native language is not English must show adequate English language skills. ²Adequate knowledge of English must be demonstrated with standardised or accredited certificates at minimum B2 level or higher in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). ³The following shall serve as proof:

- a) UNIcert®: min. certificate UNIcert® II;
- b) NULTE certificates: min. level B2;
- c) Cambridge English Scale: min. 160 points;
- d) "International English Language Testing System" (IELTS Academic): min. band 6.0;
- e) "Test of English as a Foreign Language, internet-based test" (TOEFL iBT): min. 81 points;
- f) Global Scale of English (Pearson Academic): min. 59 points.

⁴These tests (a-f) must have been successfully completed within two years prior to receipt of the application for admission. ⁵Proof of adequate English language proficiency also includes at least two years of residence in an English-speaking country for the purpose of relevant study or work within the last three years prior to the application for admission or the successful completion of an English-language degree programme.

(7) ¹Deviating from section 6, those with adequate German proficiency are also entitled for admission. ²Applicants, whose native language is not German and who have neither a German university entrance qualification nor have obtained a Bachelor's or equivalent degree in a degree programme in German from a German university, will provide proof of this in accordance with the examination regulations for the German Language Examination for University Entrance (DSH) for prospective foreign applicants by passing the examination with a total score of DSH-2. ³Applicants who are exempt from the German Language Examination for University Entrance, in accordance with the examination regulations for the German Language Examination for University Entrance (DSH) for prospective foreign applicants at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, are exempted from the obligation of writing a test. This particularly applies to those applicants who have furnished proof of requisite German language proficiency by successfully completing the "Test German as a Foreign Language" (TestDaF) with TestDaF Level 4 (TDN 4) at least four times or by passing the examination section "German" of the assessment test for the preparatory course.

(8) If the applicant wishes to obtain the degree of Doctor of Natural Sciences (Doctor rerum naturalium, abbreviated as "Dr. rer. nat.") or the degree of Doctor of Economic Sciences (Doctor rerum politicarum, abbreviated as "Dr. rer. pol."), the further qualifications for entry are:

- a) the first supervisor has a corresponding examination authorisation within the sense of § 5 section 4 of the doctoral degree regulations for the graduate school Forestry and Agricultural Sciences (GFA), in the respective current version;
 - b) the applicant proves minimum performance in mathematical-scientific or economics research areas due to his/her educational background so far, namely
 - ba) achievements in a research area of mathematics or natural sciences in a scope of at least 60 credits, or,
 - bb) either achievements in a scope of at least 100 credits in a research area of economic sciences or prerequisites in a scope of at least 30 credits in a research area of economic sciences with additional achievements of at least 70 credits that, in the opinion of the first academic advisor, suitably complement the topic of the dissertation, and
 - c) the proposed dissertation topic is focused on mathematics and natural sciences or economics.
- (9) Otherwise, the general provisions of the enrolment regulations of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen shall otherwise remain unchanged.

§ 3 Qualifications for entry

(1) ¹The application for admission must be sent to the office of the graduate school of Forestry and Agricultural Sciences (GFA) with the application documents required under section 2 and must be received there by 15th January for the following summer semester and by 15th July for the following winter semester. ²This applies only to the issue of university places for the relevant admission date. ³The university is not obliged to review the details of the applicants as a matter of course.

(2) The following documents should be enclosed with the application for admission:

- a) proof of the entrance requirement according to § 2 section 1 and 2 or § 2 section 8; for each certificate that is not in German or English, a translation must be enclosed, either in German or English; if a diploma is not yet available, a certificate of completion of studies, achievements produced, the credits and the average grade and the underlying grading system must be submitted;
- b) if applicable, evidence of sufficient language skills according to § 2 section 6 or 7;
- c) a curriculum vitae in tabular form in German or English, which also provides information about the scientific career of the applicant;
- d) Statement on whether the applicant has successfully, unsuccessfully completed until now or not completed or is expected to complete a doctoral programme or doctoral process;

- e) the indication of the chosen doctoral programme according to § 1 section 1 and the provisional working title of the dissertation;
- f) if applicable, a copy of the thesis of the successfully completed Master or comparable degree programme in electronic form;
- g) Confirmation of supervision as specified under § 2 section 5 sentence 1;
- h) Declaration of assurance as specified under § 2 section 5 sentence 2;
- i) a research sketch with information on the topic, research problem, status of the research and the aim of the research project, the methodology and a preliminary work schedule.

(3) ¹Applications that are not submitted complete or in the proper form shall be excluded from the further procedure. ²The submitted documents are retained by the university.

(4) If an applicant credibly demonstrates that he or she is disadvantaged compared to other applicants due to a disability in relation to the procedure, an appropriate compensation for disadvantages shall be granted by the graduate committee upon request.

§ 4 Interview

(1) ¹Applicants within the sense of § 2 section 4 sentence 2 will be interviewed by a panel appointed by the graduate committee consisting of at least two authorised examiners for the doctoral programme, who are not dependent on each other in any way, and one member of the group of doctoral candidates. ²The panel will carry out an assessment following the interview and make a recommendation for admission or rejection. The member of the group of doctoral candidates has only an advisory vote here. ³Minutes are kept of the essential questions and answers within the interview and these minutes must be signed by the members of the panel. ⁴The minutes should clearly specify the date and location of the interview, the name of the panel members, the name of the applicant and the assessment.

(2) The interview extends to the motivation of the applicant as well as the following suitability parameters, in particular:

- a) previous coursework and examination components, as well as experience and reliable knowledge of the scientific fundamentals that are relevant to the chosen doctoral studies,
- b) ability to work in a scientific or basic and method-oriented manner.

(3) ¹The university will announce the exact dates as well as the location of interview with sufficient prior notice before the start of interviews. ²The university invites the candidates to the interview with sufficient notice. ³A video conference or a telephone interview is permitted for overseas applicants as well as in established exceptions, as far as the identity of the applicant can be determined beyond doubt. ⁴The details of the procedure in such cases are determined by the graduate committee.

§ 5 Graduate committee; Decision on admission

¹The graduate committee formed in accordance with § 3 of the doctoral degree regulations for the Graduate School Forestry and Agricultural Sciences (GFA), as amended, is responsible for decisions in accordance with the present regulations. ²Its duties include, in particular:

- a) Review of the incoming admission applications for correctness of form,
- b) Review and assessment of the qualifications for entry, if necessary,
- c) Decision on acceptance or rejection of the applicant.

§ 6 Notice of Admission, Notice of Rejection

(1) ¹Applicants who are entitled for admission receive a notice of admission in text form. ²The notice specifies a deadline by which the applicant must declare whether he or she is going to accept the university place. ³If this declaration is not provided in good time and in due form, the notice of admission becomes invalid. ⁴This legal consequence must be indicated in the notice of admission.

(2) ¹Applicants who have not furnished an authorisation receive a notice of rejection in text form. ²This notice must be justified and include instructions about legal remedies.

(3) ¹Notices pursuant to sections 1 and 2 are issued by the spokesperson of the Graduate School of Forestry and Agricultural Sciences (GFA). ²The notice of admission also serves as a certificate for enrolment procedures.

§ 7 Entry into Force

(1) ¹This regulation enters into force the day after its promulgation in the Official Announcements I of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. ²It applies for the first time for the awards procedure for the winter semester 2019/20.

(2) ¹The following cease to be in force at the same time:

- a) the regulations on the determination of the special qualification for the doctoral degree programme "Agricultural Sciences in Göttingen" (PAG) in the version published on 09.12.2008 (Official Announcement No. 40/2008 page 4655),
- b) the regulations on special qualifications for entry and on the admission to the doctoral degree programme "Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology" in the version published on 30.07.2007 (Official Announcements No. 13/2007 page 616), and
- c) the regulations on qualifications for entry and admission to the doctoral degree programme "Wood Biology and Wood Technology" in the version published on 30.07.2007 (Official Announcements No. 13/2007, page 606).

²The regulations according to sentence 1 shall continue to be applicable for proceedings before the winter semester 2019/20.
