

Unofficial reading version

Regulations of the Faculty of Biological Sciences at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main for the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences with the degree "Master of Science (M. Sc.)" of June 19, 2023

Based on §§ 25 and 50 (1) no. 1 of the Hessian Higher Education Act (Hessisches Hochschulgesetz, HessHG) in the version of December 14, 2021, promulgated as Article 1 of the Act on the Revision and Amendment of Higher Education Regulations and the Adaptation of Further Legal Provisions of December 14, 2021 (Law and Ordinance Gazette (GVBl.) p. 931), last amended by Article 9 of the Act of April 1, 2022 (GVBl. pp. 184, 204), the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biological Sciences at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main adopted the following regulations for the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences on June 19, 2023. These regulations were approved by the Executive Board of Goethe University on November 28, 2023, in accordance with §§ 43 (5) of the Hessian Higher Education Act. They are hereby published.

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Abbreviations:

CP	Credit Point
ECTS	European Credit Point Transfer System
GVBl.	Law and Ordinance Gazette for the State of Hesse
HessHG	Hessian Higher Education Act of December 14, 2021, promulgated as Article 1 of the Act on the Revision and Amendment of Higher Education Regulations and on the Adaptation of Further Legal Provisions of December 14, 2021 (GVBl. p. 931), last amended by Article 9 of the Act of April 1, 2022 (GVBl. pp. 184, 204)HImmaVO Hessian Matriculation Ordinance of February 24, 2010 (GVBl. I, p. 94), last amended on October 24, 2018 (GVBl. P. 651)
FR	Framework Regulations for Tiered and Modularized Degree Programs at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main April 30, 2014 as amended on July 15, 2020

Section I: General information

§ 1 Scope of the regulations (FR: § 1)

These regulations contain the provisions specific to the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences. They apply in conjunction with the Framework Regulations for Tiered and Modularized Degree Programs at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main (hereinafter referred to as Goethe University) dated April 30, 2014, in the version dated July 15, 2020, UniReport Statutes and Regulations dated December 22, 2020 in the respective valid version, hereinafter referred to as Framework Regulations (FR).

§ 2 Purpose of the Master's examination (FR: § 2)

(1) The Master's degree program concludes with a further professional qualification. The Master's examination serves to determine whether students have achieved the objective of the Master's degree program. The examinations are cumulative, i.e., the sum of the module examinations in the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences, including the Master's thesis, together form the Master's examination.

(2) The cumulative Master's examination is intended to determine whether the students have acquired thorough specialist knowledge in the areas being examined and have an overview of the content of the area being examined, as well as whether they have the ability to apply scientific methods and knowledge independently and to critically relate the knowledge acquired to other areas of knowledge, and whether they are prepared for the transition to professional practice.

§ 3 Academic degree (FR: § 3)

After the candidate has successfully completed the program and passed the examination, the Faculty of Biological Sciences awards the candidate the academic degree of Master of Science, abbreviated as M.Sc.

§ 4 Standard period of study; part-time studies (FR: § 4)

(1) The standard period of study for the Master's degree course in Molecular Biosciences is four semesters. The Master's degree course may be completed in a shorter period of time.

(2) If in order to achieve equivalence of a degree for admission to the Master's degree program in accordance with § 8 (4) more than 7 CPs are required, the period of study will be extended by one semester.

(3) The Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences is a consecutive Master's degree program. For consecutive degree courses (Bachelor's + Master's degree), the total standard period of full-time study is five years (ten semesters).

(4) As part of the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences, 120 credit points – hereinafter referred to as CPs – must be achieved in accordance with § 13.

(5) The Faculty of Biological Sciences provides a range of courses on the basis of these regulations and ensures that suitable examination dates are set so that the degree program can be completed within the standard period of study.

§ 5 Study abroad (FR: § 5)

Candidates are advised to study at a university abroad during the course of the Master's degree program or to plan a relevant stay abroad. Goethe University's connections to universities abroad can be used for this purpose. Information on these connections can be obtained from the Student Advisory Service and the Global Affairs Study and Teaching Department. The third semester is particularly suitable for a stay abroad. It is strongly recommended that candidates arrange the time individually in advance with the help of the Master's program advisor.

Section II: Objectives of the degree program; start of studies and admission requirements

§ 6 Objectives of the degree program (FR: § 6)

(1) The Master's degree program aims to provide students with advanced training in the interdisciplinary fields of molecular biology, molecular genetics, biochemistry, developmental biology, physiology and cell biology. Students should also be enabled to carry out interdisciplinary research through a broad education in different methodological and conceptual areas. The Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences aims to provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills, teach them to think independently and guide them in taking responsible action. As the fields of work in molecular biology, genetics, biochemistry and physiology, developmental biology and cell biology are constantly changing, one of the aims of the course is to enable students to quickly familiarize themselves with new developments after completing their studies, to familiarize themselves with new areas and to contribute to further developments in their specialist field in science and technology.

(2) The Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences is research-oriented, with a particular focus on basic research. A broad-based academic course of study is designed to ensure that students are qualified for demanding fields of work in business, science, research and teaching.

(3) The degree program is conducted in English to enable foreign students to participate and to promote internationalization.

(4) Successful completion of the degree program qualifies the graduate to enroll in a doctoral program. Potential fields of work for graduates of the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences include basic research, academic teaching, the public sector, publishing houses and the chemical, biotechnological and agrotechnical industries.

§ 7 Start of studies (FR: § 7)

The program can only be started in the winter semester.

§ 8 Requirements for admission to the Master's degree program (FR: § 9)

(1) Applications for admission to the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences must be submitted to the Examination Board or to an office specified by the President of Goethe University. The Examination Board regulates the details of the application procedure and decides on the admission of applicants. § 8 (7) sentence 2 remains unaffected by this. If admission restrictions are in place for the Master's degree program, the provisions of the university selection regulations in their currently valid version must be observed. The regulations for the aptitude test will then not apply.

(2) General admission requirements for the Master's degree program are

a) Proof of a Bachelor's degree in Biosciences or in the same subject area with a standard period of study of at least six semesters or

b) Proof of a degree that is at least equivalent to a Bachelor's degree from a German university or a German university of applied sciences in the same or a related subject area with a standard period of study of at least six semesters or at least 180 credit points (CPs) or

c) Proof of a foreign degree in the same or a related subject area with a standard period of study of at least six semesters or three years of study or at least 180 CPs that is at least equivalent.

The Examination Board decides on the same or related subjects. § 8 (1) sentences 2 and 3 of the FR apply accordingly.

(3) The previous studies must have a subject area profile that can serve as a basis for admission to the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences.

(4) In the cases of §8 (2) b) and c), admission may be granted on the condition that additional coursework and module examinations are completed up to the equivalence with the Bachelor's degree program in Biosciences at Goethe University Frankfurt up to 30 CPs. The additional credits are not part of the Master's degree program. In the event that conditions are attached, the study program may be extended accordingly. The Examination Board determines and provides information on the deadline by which the student must provide proof that the requirements have been met. § 8 (6) sentence 2 remains unaffected. If the conditions are not duly fulfilled, the decision associated with them must be revoked.

(5) A further admission requirement is proof of English language proficiency at level B2 of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) of September 2000. Proof of language skills can be provided by means of the higher education entrance qualification, by certificates of successfully completed language courses from German and/or foreign universities, whereby at least 120 hours of instruction must be proven, by an English-language Bachelor's thesis, or by reviews or lecturer examinations on language skills

acquired through stays abroad or university language courses or by a TOEFL test (57 points (iBT)) or IELTS Skill Level 5-6.

(6) If the degree certificate for the Bachelor's degree has not yet been issued when the candidate applies for a place in the Master's degree program, the application may instead be supported by proof of enrollment and a certificate. This certificate must be based on completed examinations amounting to at least 80% of the CPs required for the Bachelor's degree, contain a provisional average grade calculated on the basis of these examinations in accordance with the relevant regulations, and have been issued by the office responsible for issuing the degree certificates at the university at which the applicant is currently enrolled. The admission procedure is based on the provisional average grade unless proof of the final grade is submitted before the end of the procedure. Admission on the basis of the certificate described above is subject to the proviso that the Bachelor's degree certificate is submitted by the end of the first semester. If this proof is not provided by the deadline, the student's admission is revoked and their enrollment must also be revoked.

(7) The Examination Board shall decide whether the admission requirements have been met and, if applicable, grant provisional admission in accordance with § 8 (4). It may also appoint an admission committee to perform this task. § 8 (1) sentence 4 remains unaffected.

(8) If the admission requirements are met, the applicant will be admitted by the President of Goethe University. Otherwise, the Examination Board or Admission Committee will issue a written rejection notice including a legal instruction on the right to appeal. Any conditions in accordance with § 8 (4) can be imposed either in the letter of admission or in a separate letter from the Examination Board or Admission Committee.

(9) The requirements for admission to the Master's examination are regulated in § 22. When being admitted to the Master's examination, the student must in particular submit a declaration stating whether they have already failed an intermediate examination (Zwischenprüfung), a preliminary Diplom examination, a Bachelor's examination, a Master's examination, a Diplom examination, a church university examination, a Magister examination or a state final examination in the respective subject or in a comparable degree program (degree program with a predominantly similar subject focus) at a university or whether they are currently undergoing an examination procedure in the respective subject or in such a degree program at a university in Germany or abroad that has not yet been completed.

Section III: Program structure and organization

§ 9 Program structure; modularization (FR: § 11)

(1) The Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences has a modular structure. A module is a teaching and learning unit that is self-contained in terms of content and time. It comprises a set of courses with similar content, including practical phases and self-study periods, and aims to help students fulfill a predefined learning objective. Modules usually extend over one to two semesters.

(2) Modules can be: Compulsory modules, which are obligatory, including the Master's thesis, or compulsory elective modules, which must be selected from a given catalog of modules.

(3) The Master's degree course in Molecular Biosciences includes five compulsory modules (the basic modules "General Molecular Biology" and "General Biochemistry," the "Specialization Module," which includes a practical course that can be freely selected from the courses offered by the lecturers involved in the degree course, the module "Introduction to Scientific Working Methods," which prepares students for the Master's thesis, and the Master's thesis itself), and students must also choose two of eight compulsory elective modules (one from the range of compulsory elective modules 3-6, a second from compulsory elective modules 7-10) in order to enable them to specialize within the subject area.

(4) The ability of students to freely choose compulsory elective modules may be restricted by resolution of the Faculty Council if capacity is insufficient, provided that the subject-related structure and orientation of the degree program remain unchanged. The Dean's Office must notify students of the restriction without delay. § 16 (2) shall apply.

By resolution of the Faculty Council, compulsory elective modules can also be deleted without amending these regulations (e.g., if the composition of the teaching staff changes) or additional compulsory elective modules can be admitted if their scope and requirements correspond to the compulsory elective modules regulated in these regulations. § 12 (3) and § 16 (2) apply accordingly.

(5) The courses in the modules are divided into compulsory and semi-elective courses with respect to their binding nature. Compulsory courses are clearly defined in the module description according to the content and format of the course. Semi-elective courses are courses that students have to select within a module from a specific subject area or on a specific topic.

(6) If courses in a module build on each other, students are bound to the sequence specified in the module description.

(7) Within the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences, students have the opportunity to undergo an examination or performance assessment in modules other than those prescribed in these regulations (additional modules), subject to the availability of places. The results of the examination are not taken into account when calculating the overall grade for the Master's examination.

§ 10 Use of modules (FR: § 12)

The provisions of § 12 of the Framework Regulations apply.

§ 11 Practical module (FR: § 13)

As part of the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences, an external research internship can be carried out within modules 3-12.

§ 12 Module descriptions/module handbook (FR: § 14)

(1) Annex 2 of these regulations contains a module description for each compulsory and compulsory elective module in accordance with § 14 of the Framework Regulations. The module descriptions are part of these regulations.

(2) The module descriptions are supplemented by a regularly updated module handbook. This handbook contains additional information in accordance with § 14 (2) FR and Annex 6 FR and serves in particular to inform students.

(3) Changes to the module handbook that do not concern the content of the module descriptions in accordance with Annex 5 FR are possible by resolution of the Faculty Council in good time before the start of the course period of a semester and must be announced on the website for the degree program by this time. They must not lead to significant changes to the curriculum. The University Computing Center and the Examination Office responsible for the degree program must be consulted on the changes in good time before a resolution is passed by the Faculty Council. The consultation covers administrative content only.

§ 13 Scope of studies and modules; credit points (CPs) (FR: § 15)

(1) Credit points (CPs) are allocated to each module in the module description on the basis of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), taking into account the resolutions and recommendations of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK), and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK). The CPs enable the transfer of credits earned to other degree programs at Goethe University or another university and vice versa.

(2) CPs are a quantitative measure of the workload that students of average ability have to expend to successfully complete the corresponding module for in-class instruction, participation in extramural practical courses or excursions, preparation and follow-up of the course material, and preparation and development of their own contributions and examinations. One CP corresponds to a workload of 30 hours. The regular workload is set at a maximum of 1800 working hours per academic year. Thirty CPs correspond to the average workload of one semester.

(3) At least 300 CPs are required for the Master's degree in Molecular Biosciences – taking into account the previous studies up to the first professionally qualifying degree.

(4) CPs are only awarded for a fully and successfully completed module.

(5) A credit point account is set up at the Examination Office for each student in the degree program.

(6) The workload is reviewed as part of the evaluation in accordance with § 14 (1) and (2) HessHG and for the reaccreditation of the degree program and adjusted to the workload determined by the evaluation.

§ 14 Teaching and learning formats; admission to modules (FR: § 16)

(1) The courses in the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences are held in the following formats:

- a. Lecture: Cohesive presentation and communication of basic and specialized knowledge as well as methodological skills through lectures, if necessary in conjunction with demonstrations or experiments. Instructors develop and teach course content with the involvement of students;
- b. Seminar: Development of scientific findings or processing of current problems using scientific methods through contributions, usually prepared by students, learning and practicing presentation and discussion skills or further developing these skills;
- c. Practical course: Guided execution of practical tasks in the experimental and instrumental field and/or computer simulations; training in the application of scientific investigation and solution methods; teaching of technical skills and insights into functional processes;
- d. Colloquia: Presentation and discussion of current research results in the respective subject area. As a rule, research group leaders from Germany or abroad give a presentation on their work, followed by a discussion;
- e. Research internship: an internship that is carried out outside the Institute of Molecular Biosciences (e.g., in another faculty, at a Max Planck Institute, a research institute, in industry). It must be equivalent in duration and requirements to a compulsory elective module or a specialization module.
- f. Guided research: Independent performance of scientific experiments or independent development of theoretical concepts (e.g., modeling) in consultation with and with feedback from the supervisor.

(2) If, in accordance with the module description, admission to the courses of a module is dependent on the successful completion of other modules or a visit to the Student Advisory Service, or if the module description makes participation in an individual course dependent on proof of attendance or coursework for another course, the eligibility to participate will be verified by those in charge of the course.

(3) If it is anticipated that the number of students interested in a course will exceed the capacity of the course, the individuals in charge of the course may institute a sign-up procedure. The sign-up requirements and the sign-up deadline are announced in the annotated course catalog or by other means. If the number of students who have signed up exceeds the capacity of the course or if the course is overcrowded and students cannot be referred to alternative courses, the Dean's Office will check whether an additional course can be set up at the request of the individual in charge of the course. If this is not possible for capacity reasons, it is permissible to accept only a limited number of students who are willing and entitled to participate in order to ensure that the course is carried out properly; in this case, the guidelines for the minimum group sizes of the course types in accordance with the implementation decree of the Hessian Ministry of Science and Art on the Hesse Capacity Ordinance (Kapazitätsverordnung Hessen) in the respectively valid version must be observed. In this case, the individuals in charge of the course must carry out an appropriate, transparent selection procedure in accordance with the guidelines of the Dean's Office that does not take into account the chronological order of registrations. When drawing up the selection criteria, it must be ensured that priority is given to those students for whom the course is compulsory and who have a particular interest in being admitted to the course; the interests of students in special circumstances within the meaning of § 27 (1) FR must be taken into account. The relevant proof must be submitted by the students. A special interest in admission to the course is also given in particular if the student was already entitled to the place in the previous semester according to the course plan and was unable to obtain a place despite having signed up for the course. In the case of compulsory courses, students who are registered but not admitted to the course must be issued a certificate upon request.

§ 15 Proof of attendance and coursework (FR: § 17)

(1) In addition to passing the module examination, the successful completion of the module may, insofar as this is regulated in the respective module description, be made dependent on the provision of proof of attendance and/or coursework as proof of proper study or as a prerequisite for admission to a module examination. § 11 (15) FR remains unaffected by this.

(2) Proof of attendance means proof of regular and/or active participation. Regular and/or active participation within the meaning of § 15 (3) and (4) can only be specified if they are necessary to ensure the acquisition of knowledge and skills associated with the module. For lectures, neither regular nor active participation may be required. This applies even if coursework within the meaning of § 15 (6) and (7) is required for a lecture.

(3) Participation in a course is deemed to have been regular if the student was present at all individual classes scheduled by the individual in charge of the course during the course of a semester. Participation must still be confirmed as regular even if the student has missed 20% of the course. The same applies to compact courses with fewer than five meetings. If the permitted period of absence is exceeded for reasons for which the student is not responsible, e.g., illness, maternity leave, necessary care of a child living in the same household or care of a close relative (e.g., children, parents, grandparents, spouse, partner in a non-marital relationship or participation as an appointed or elected representative in academic or student self-government), the lecturer shall decide in consultation with the module coordinator whether and to what extent equivalent coursework is necessary and appropriate. The regulations on disadvantage compensation in § 25 must be observed.

(4) The module descriptions may stipulate that the student has not only participated in the course regularly in the sense of § 15 (3), but has also participated actively in the course. However, it may also require only active participation. Depending on how it has been determined by the individual in charge of the course, active participation includes the completion of smaller pieces of work, such as class minutes, short oral presentations, proof of preparation for the subject matter of practical courses and group work. These papers are neither graded nor evaluated with a pass/fail grade.

(5) Coursework can only be required in modules that do not conclude with a cumulative module examination. The coursework has been successfully completed if it has been assessed as "passed" by the lecturer in accordance

with the module description or positively by means of a grade in accordance with § 35 (3). In the case of group work, individual work must be clearly distinguishable and assessable. The grades of the coursework are not included in the module grade. § 35 (5) remains unaffected.

If required by the module description, regular participation in the course as defined in § 15 (3) is required in addition to the coursework.

(6) Coursework can be in particular

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(7) Written work completed without supervision must be undertaken by the student in accordance with the rules of good academic practice. When submitting the paper, the student must confirm in writing that they have written it independently and that all sources and aids used by them have been listed in the paper. Furthermore, they must declare that the work has not yet been used – not even in part – in another degree program as coursework or examination work. § 27 (1) applies accordingly. In order to be able to verify compliance with the rules of good academic practice, lecturers are entitled to require students to submit an electronic copy of written work that has not been completed under supervision. The Examination Board shall make further specifications in this regard.

(8) Coursework that has been passed cannot be repeated. Coursework that has been failed can be repeated an unlimited number of times.

§ 16 Course plan; information (FR: § 18)

(1) The course plan attached as Annex 1 and the module handbook attached as Annex 2 provide students with information on how to organize their studies in a targeted manner. They take into account content-related references between modules and organizational conditions of the courses on offer.

(1) The faculty shall set up a website for the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences, where general information and regulations on the degree program can be found in their current form. The module handbook and the course plan and, if modules are imported and/or exported, the list of the current import and export offers of the degree program are also published there.

(3) For the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences, the faculty shall compile an annotated course catalog with a description of the content and organization of the courses offered on the basis of the module descriptions and the course plan. This is to be updated for each semester and should appear in the last week of lectures of the previous semester.

§ 17 Study counselling; student orientation (FR: § 19)

(1) Students have the opportunity to visit the Student Advisory Service for the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences at the Faculty of Biological Sciences throughout the course of their studies. Study counseling is provided by individuals appointed by the Dean of Studies. As part of the Student Advisory Service, students receive support in particular with regard to study design, learning and study techniques and the course selection. The study counseling services should be used in particular:

- At the beginning of the first semester;
- If the student has failed an examination and has failed to acquire the required certificates;
- In the event of difficulties in individual courses;
- When changing degree programs or universities.

(2) In addition to the study counselling service, the Student Advisory Service of Goethe University is available to students. As a general student advisory service, it provides information on study options, content, structure and requirements of a degree program and advises students on personal difficulties related to studying.

(3) Before the start of the lecture period of each semester in which students can begin their studies, a student orientation event takes place to which the first-year students are invited by notice or otherwise. The orientation course provides information about the structure and overall organization of the degree program and semester-specific features. Students are given the opportunity to clarify questions relating to the organization of their studies in particular.

§ 18 Academic Director and module coordinators (FR: § 20)

(1) The Dean of Studies of the Faculty of Biological Sciences is responsible for the academic direction of the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences, unless the Faculty Council delegates this task to a member of the group of professors authorized to examine in the Master's degree program for a period of two years at the suggestion of the Dean of Studies. The Academic Director is a member or advisory member of the Study Commission and has the following tasks in particular:

- Coordination of the teaching and examination offerings of the degree program in cooperation with the module coordinators, if necessary also from other faculties;
- Creation and updating of lists of examiners;
- Evaluation of the degree program and implementation of any quality assurance measures developed as a result in cooperation with the Study Commission (cf. § 6 Evaluation Statutes for Teaching and Studies);
- If applicable, appointment of the module coordinators (§ 18 (2) remains unaffected).

(2) For each module, the Academic Director of the degree program appoints a module coordinator from among the instructors of the module. For interfaculty modules, the module coordinator is appointed in cooperation with the Dean of Studies of the other faculty. The module coordinator must be a member of one of the following groups for compulsory modules and should be a member of one of the following groups for compulsory elective modules: either a university lecturer primarily employed by the university (professor, junior professor, qualifying professor) or an academic member of the teaching unit primarily employed by the university. Module coordinators are responsible for all content-related coordination concerning the module and the organizational tasks assigned to them by these regulations, in particular for participating in the organization of the module examination. The module coordinator is represented by the Academic Director of the degree program.

Section IV: Organization of examinations

§ 19 Examination Board; Examination Office; examination administration system (FR: § 21)

(1) The Faculty Council shall form an Examination Board for the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences.

(2) The Examination Board consists of seven members, including four members from the group of professors, one research assistant and two students.

(3) The members of the Examination Board, together with a deputy, are elected by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biological Sciences on the recommendation of the respective groups. The term of office of the students is one year, that of the other members two years. Examination Board members may be reelected.

(4) In matters concerning a member of the Examination Board, their membership shall be suspended in relation to this matter and shall be exercised by the deputy. This does not apply to purely organizational matters.

(5) The Examination Board elects a chair from among the professors who belong to it. The deputy chair is elected from among the professors or their deputies who are members of the Examination Board. The Chair conducts the business of the Examination Board. The Chair convenes the meetings of the Examination Board and chairs all discussions and resolutions. As a rule, at least one meeting of the Examination Board should take place each semester. A meeting must be convened if at least two members of the Examination Board so request.

(6) Examination Board meetings are not open to the public. It is quorate if at least half of the members, including the chair or deputy chair, are present and the professors' votes make up the majority. Resolutions require the approval of the majority of those present. In the event of a tie, the Chair has the tie-breaking vote. The resolutions of the Examination Board must be recorded in minutes. In all other regards, the procedure is governed by the rules of procedure for the committees of Goethe University.

(7) The Examination Office staff may attend the meetings of the Examination Board in an advisory capacity. § 19 (9) applies accordingly.

(8) The Examination Board may delegate individual tasks to its Chair for sole implementation and decision-making. The members of the Examination Board and the examinee in question have the right to appeal decisions made solely by the Chair. The Chair of the Examination Board may delegate the performance of tasks to the Examination Office. This is the office of the Examination Board. It conducts day-to-day business in accordance with the instructions of the Examination Board and its Chair.

(9) The members of the Examination Board and their deputies are subject to official secrecy. If they are not in public service, they must be sworn to secrecy by the Chair; they confirm this obligation with their signature, which is kept on file.

(10) The members of the Examination Board have the right to attend the oral examinations as members of the audience.

(11) The Examination Board may issue instructions, set deadlines and make other decisions with legally binding effect in compliance with data protection regulations by posting them at the Examination Office or by other suitable measures in accordance with § 41 of the Hessian Administrative Procedure Act (Hessisches Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz).

(12) Decisions made against the student by the Examination Board or the Chair of the Examination Board must be communicated to the student immediately in writing, stating the reasons and including an instruction on the right to appeal. The student must be given the opportunity to comment before the decision is made.

(13) § 21 (15) FR applies to electronic examination administration.

§ 20 Responsibilities of the Examination Board (FR: § 22)

(1) The Examination Board and the Examination Office responsible for the Master's degree course in Molecular Biosciences are responsible for the organization and proper execution of examinations in the Master's degree course in Molecular Biosciences. The Examination Board ensures that the provisions of these regulations are observed and decides on questions of interpretation of these regulations in the event of doubt. It decides on all examination matters that are not assigned to another body or committee or to the Chair of the Examination Board by the regulations or statutes.

(2) As a rule, the Examination Board is responsible for the following tasks in particular:

- Decision on the fulfillment of the requirements for admission to the Master's degree program, including the imposition of conditions for catching up on coursework and examinations from the Bachelor's degree program and the decision on provisional admission;
- Determination of the examination dates, examination periods, and registration and withdrawal deadlines for the examinations and their announcement;
- Appointment of the examiners, if applicable;
- Decisions on admission to examinations;
- The decision on recognition and credit in accordance with §§ 29 and 30 as well as the imposition of conditions on coursework and examinations to be made up for within the scope of recognitions;
- The principles for calculating and announcing the grades of examinations and the overall grade for the Master's degree;
- Decisions on the Master's thesis;
- Decisions on passing and failing;
- Decisions on disadvantage compensation and the extension of examination or preparation deadlines;
- Decisions on violations of examination regulations;
- Decisions on the invalidity of the Master's degree;
- Decisions on appeals and objections by students to decisions made in examination procedures, insofar as these are to be upheld; § 46 (2) remains unaffected.
- Regular reporting to the Study Commission on the development of examination and study periods, including the preparation periods for the Master's thesis, as well as on student demand for the various compulsory elective modules;
- Disclosure of the distribution of subject and overall grades;
- Suggestions for reforming these regulations.

(3) For the purpose of verifying compliance with good academic practice, the Examination Board is entitled to check academic work for cheating and attempted cheating using suitable electronic means. To this end, it may request that the examination papers be submitted to it in electronic form within a reasonable period of time. If the author does not comply with this request, the thesis may be graded as failed.

§ 21 Examiners and co-examiners (FR: § 23)

(1) Members of the group of professors, academic and artistic staff who have been commissioned to independently carry out teaching tasks, lecturers and teaching staff for special tasks as well as persons experienced in professional practice and training who have been commissioned by the dean to conduct an examination are authorized to conduct university examinations (§ 22 (2) HessHG). "Privatdozenten," "außerplanmäßige" professors, honorary professors who teach in the examination subjects, as well as professors in the subject area who have retired or are no longer employed may be appointed as examiners by the Examination Board with their consent. § 34 (6) remains unaffected.

If the practical course of one of the compulsory or compulsory elective modules is completed in the form of an external internship outside the University, the Examination Board shall appoint an examiner from the group of authorized examiners according to §21 (1) sentences 1 and 2.

(2) Examinations may only be graded by persons who themselves possess at least the qualification to be determined by the examination or an equivalent qualification.

(3) As a rule, the examination belonging to a module is carried out by the lecturers in the module without special appointment by the Examination Board. If a lecturer is unable to conduct examinations for compelling reasons, the Examination Board may appoint another examiner.

(4) Written examinations that cannot be retaken must be assessed by two examiners. § 34 (17) remains unaffected. Oral examinations must be conducted by several examiners or by one examiner in the presence of a co-examiner.

(5) Only persons who have completed at least a Master's degree or a comparable examination and are a member of Goethe University may be appointed as co-examiners for oral examinations. The Chair of the Examination Board appoints the co-examiner. The Chair may delegate the appointment to the examiner.

(5) Examiners and co-examiners are subject to official secrecy.

Section V: Examination requirements and procedures

§ 22 Initial registration and admission to Master's examinations (FR: § 24)

(1) The student must submit a completed registration form for admission to the Master's examination to the Examination Office for the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences at the latest when registering for the first module examination in the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences. If not already submitted with the application for admission to the degree program, the application for the examination must be accompanied in particular by the following documents:

- a) declaration stating whether the student has already definitively failed a Bachelor's examination, a Master's examination, a Magister examination, a Diplom examination, a church university examination or a state final examination in the subject of Biosciences or in a comparable degree program (degree program with a predominantly similar subject focus) at a university or whether they are currently in an as yet still uncompleted examination procedure in the subject of Biosciences or a comparable degree program at a university in Germany or abroad;
- b) A declaration stating whether and, if so, how often the student has already failed module examinations in the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences or in the same modules of another degree program at a university in Germany or abroad;
- c) If applicable, proof of previous coursework or examinations that are to be included in the degree program.

(2) The Chair of the Examination Board decides on admission. In cases of doubt, the Examination Board decides on admission, if necessary after consulting a representative from the subject area. Admission will be refused if

- a) The documents are incomplete or
- b) The student has definitively lost the right to admission to the examination for a module according to § 22 (1) b) or for the respective degree program or has definitively failed one of the examinations mentioned in § 22 (1) a).

(3) The Examination Board shall decide on exceptions to § 22 (1) and (2) in special cases upon application by the student.

(4) The Chair of the Examination Board will inform the student in writing if admission is refused. This refusal must be accompanied by a justification and include an instruction on the right to appeal.

§ 23 Examination date and registration procedure (FR: § 25)

(1) Module examinations are taken during the time period of the corresponding module and related to the content of that module. Module examinations for compulsory modules and annually scheduled compulsory elective modules must generally be offered at least twice a year. Further details are regulated in § 39 (6).

(2) The oral examinations and written examinations at the end of the module should be carried out within examination periods to be determined by the Examination Board. The examination periods generally comprise the first two and last two weeks of the lecture-free period.

(3) The exact examination dates for the module examinations are determined by the Examination Board in consultation with the examiners. § 23 (4) remains unaffected by this. The Examination Office shall inform students of the time and place of the examinations and the names of the examiners involved in an examination plan as early as possible, but no later than four weeks before the examination dates, by means of a notice or other suitable measures. If it is necessary to deviate from this examination plan for compelling reasons, the date may only be rescheduled with the approval of the Chair of the Examination Board.

Dates for the oral final module examinations or for examinations taken in conjunction with individual courses or as a part of courses (partial module examinations) are set by the examiner, if necessary after consultation with the students. Students can apply to the Examination Board for the setting of alternative dates for examinations if work is prohibited for religious reasons on the planned examination date. The request must be justified.

(4) Students may only take the module examination if they are enrolled at Goethe University. In order to take the relevant module examination, students must have been admitted to the Master's examination and must not have definitively failed the relevant module examination. Furthermore, they must have completed the coursework and proof of attendance required for the module in accordance with the module description. If admission to a module examination depends on the completion of coursework (preliminary examinations) and this has not yet been completed in full, the Chair of the Examination Board may grant conditional admission to a module examination. The module is only passed when all coursework and module examinations have been passed. The Examination Board decides on exceptions. Students on leave of absence cannot take examinations or complete coursework. However, it is permissible to retake failed examinations during the leave of absence. Students are also entitled to complete coursework and examinations during a leave of absence if the leave of absence is due to maternity leave or parental leave or due to the care of relatives in need of care according to a medical certificate or due to membership of a squad formed at the federal level (A, B, C or D/C squad) of a top professional association in the German Olympic Sports Confederation or due to the fulfillment of a military service obligation in accordance with Article 12a of the Basic Law or because of participation as an appointed or elected representative in academic self-government.

§ 24 Failure to appear for and withdrawal from module examinations (FR: § 26)

(1) A module examination is deemed to have been given a grade of "fail" (5.0) in accordance with § 35 (3) if the student has missed a binding examination date without good cause or has discontinued participation before the end of the examination. The same applies if they have not completed a written module examination within the

specified preparation period or have submitted a blank sheet of paper as a module examination in a supervised written test or have remained silent in an oral examination.

(2) The reason given for missing or discontinuing the examination must be reported in writing to the Chair of the Examination Board immediately after the reason becomes known and must be substantiated. Any incapacity to take an examination that occurs during the performance of an examination must be reported immediately to the examiner or the proctor. This does not affect the obligation to notify the Chair of the Examination Board immediately and to provide credible reasons. In the event of illness, a medical certificate and a certificate of incapacity for the examination from a general practitioner/specialist must be submitted immediately, in any case within three working days, stating the type of examination (written examination, oral examination, longer examinations, other forms of examination) for which the incapacity for the examination date exists from a medical point of view. The Chair of the Examination Board decides on the basis of the form attached in Annex 10 of the Framework Regulations on the student's inability to take the examination. If there are reasonable doubts, a medical certificate from a public health officer must also be submitted.

(3) The illness of a child (who has not yet reached the age of 14) who is to be cared for by the student or the illness of a close relative (e.g., children, parents, grandparents, spouse or partner) shall be deemed equivalent to the student's own illness. Maternity leave is also considered an important reason.

(4) The Chair of the Examination Board shall decide on the recognition of the reason for missing or withdrawing from the examination. If the reason is recognized, a new date will be set immediately.

(5) In the event of recognized withdrawal or failure to attend, the examination results in parts of the module already taken will remain valid.

§ 25 Coursework and examinations in the event of illness and disability; extenuating circumstances (FR: § 27)

(1) In courses and examinations, consideration must be given to the nature and severity of a student's disability or chronic illness, or to stress caused by pregnancy or the upbringing of children or the care of close relatives in need of care.

(2) Proof of the nature and severity of the stress must be provided by the student to the Chair of the Examination Board in good time by submitting suitable documents, and in the case of illness a medical certificate must be submitted. In cases of doubt, a medical certificate from a public health officer may also be required.

(3) If the student can credibly demonstrate that he or she is unable to work due to a disability, a chronic illness, the care of a close relative in need of care, pregnancy or the upbringing of a child who has not yet reached the age of 14. If a student who has not yet reached the age of 18 is unable to take the examination or coursework in full or in part in the intended form, this disadvantage must be compensated for by appropriate measures, such as an extension of the processing time or a different organization of the examination procedure. Students must be permitted to make use of the statutory maternity protection periods and parental leave periods if appropriate proof is provided.

(4) Decisions on disadvantage compensation in the performance of examinations shall be made by the Chair of the Examination Board, in the case of coursework by the Chair of the Examination Board in consultation with the person responsible for the course.

§ 26 Mandatory study counseling; time limits for taking examinations (FR: § 28)

(1) The student must attend a mandatory consultation with the academic director of the degree program if the course of study has been delayed by more than two semesters compared to the recommended schedule of modules. For students studying part-time, the deadline is extended accordingly. Part-time semesters are counted as half subject-related semesters.

After the mandatory consultation, the Examination Board will require the student concerned to complete the module examinations still outstanding with respect to the recommended schedule of modules at the time the requirement is imposed within a period to be determined by the Examination Board (at least two semesters). Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the loss of the right to take examinations in the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences. This must be pointed out when the conditions are imposed. If the person concerned provides credible evidence in good time in accordance with § 26 (2) that they were prevented from fulfilling the condition for good cause, the Examination Board shall extend the deadline for fulfilling the condition by at least one further semester. The first time a student fails to attend a consultation, a new consultation will be arranged as soon as possible. If the student fails to attend the consultation again, § 26 (1) sentences 4 to 6 shall apply without the student being invited to another consultation.

(2) The deadline set for the fulfillment of the requirements under § 26 (1) shall be extended at the student's request if Goethe University is responsible for the delay or if the student was unable to meet the deadline due to serious extenuating circumstances. Extensions and interruptions of periods of study are not taken into account when adhering to deadlines if they are caused

1. By approved semesters of leave;
2. By study-related stays abroad of up to two semesters;
3. By participating as an appointed or elected representative in academic or student self-government;
4. By illness, disability or chronic illness or for any other reason for which the student is not responsible;
5. By maternity leave or parental leave;
6. Due to the necessary care of a child up to the age of 14 or the care of a close relative (children, parents, grandparents, spouse or partner) with assignment to a care level in accordance with § 1 (1) of the Eleventh Book of the German Social Code (SGB);
7. By belonging to an A, B, C or D/C squad of the top sports associations.

In the case of § 26 (2) number 5, at least the use of the deadlines in accordance with § 3 (2) and § 6 (1) of the Maternity Protection Act (MuSchG) and the regulations on parental leave in §§ 15 and 16 of the Federal Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (BEEG) must be taken into account accordingly. Furthermore, proper studies abroad of up to two semesters are not taken into account. The application should be submitted at the time when the student realizes that an extension of the deadline is necessary. The application must always be submitted before the deadline expires. It is the student's responsibility to provide the proof; it must be submitted together with the application. A doctor's certificate must be presented in the event of illness. In cases of doubt, a medical certificate from a public health officer may be required. The Examination Board decides on the application for an extension of the deadline.

§ 27 Cheating and violation of regulations (FR: § 29)

(1) If the student attempts to influence the result of their examination or coursework by cheating or using unauthorized aids, the examination or coursework shall receive a grade of "fail" (5.0). In particular, an attempt to cheat is also deemed to have been made if the student brings unauthorized aids into the examination room or has

submitted a false declaration in accordance with §§ 15 (8), 31 (7), 34 (15) or if they have submitted the same piece of work (or parts thereof) more than once as an examination or coursework.

(2) A student who actively participates in an attempt to cheat may be excluded from continuing the respective examination by the respective examiner or supervisor; in this case, the examination or coursework in question shall be assessed as "fail" (5.0).

(3) In the event of particularly serious cheating, especially repeated cheating or cheating accompanied by a written declaration by the student that the work was completed independently without the use of unauthorized aids, the Examination Board may decide to exclude the student from retaking the examination and completing further coursework, so that the right to take the examination in the Master's degree course in Molecular Biosciences expires. The severity of the cheating is to be assessed on the basis of the energy expended by the student, such as organized cooperation or the use of technical aids, such as radios and cell phones, and the extent to which equal opportunities are compromised as a result of the cheating.

(4) A student who disrupts the proper conduct of the examination may be excluded from continuing the examination by the respective examiner or the supervisor, usually after a warning; in this case, the examination in question is deemed to have been assessed as "fail" (5.0). § 27 (3) sentence 1 shall apply accordingly.

(5) A student may be excluded from a course or courses for the duration of a semester in the event of repeated disruptions in a course or in several courses; as a result, the course or courses shall be deemed not to have been regularly and actively attended.

(6) If a student has wrongfully gained access to an examination through culpable conduct, the Examination Board may decide that the examination in question is deemed to have been failed ("fail" (5.0)).

(7) § 46 (1) shall apply to the decisions taken in accordance with § 27 (1) to (5).

(8) Decisions made against the student by the Examination Board must be communicated to the student immediately in writing, stating the reasons and providing an instruction on the right to appeal.

(9) For course reports, written presentations and the Master's thesis, the subject-specific citation rules for the preparation of academic work apply. In case of non-compliance, an attempt to cheat must be investigated.

(10) In order to be able to verify any suspicion of academic misconduct, the Examination Board may decide that written examination and/or coursework that is not to be completed under supervision must also be submitted in electronic form.

§ 28 Procedural flaws in the examination procedure (FR: § 30)

(1) If it transpires that the procedure of an oral or written examination was flawed in a way that influenced the examination results, the Examination Board shall, at the request of a student or ex officio, order a particular student to retake the examination. In the case of written examinations, procedural flaws must be reported to the proctor during the examination and in the case of oral examinations to the Chair of the Examination Board or the examiner immediately after the examination. If the student does not consider the corrective measures taken by the supervisor to be sufficient for a written examination, they must submit the complaint to the Chair of the Examination Board immediately after the examination.

(2) Six months after completion of the examination ex officio orders pursuant to § 28 (1) may no longer be issued.

§ 29 Recognition of coursework and examinations (FR: § 31)

(1) Periods of study, coursework and examinations completed at a higher education institution in Germany shall be recognized, provided there are no significant differences in terms of the skills acquired and the qualification objectives achieved. For this recognition, overall consideration and overall assessment of the content, scope and requirements of the coursework and examinations is required, taking particular account of the qualification objectives achieved rather than a schematic comparison. If the Examination Board cannot prove a significant difference, the periods of study, coursework and examinations must be recognized.

(2) § 29 (1) shall apply accordingly to the recognition of periods of study, coursework and examinations in state-recognized distance learning courses, at other educational institutions, in particular at state or state-recognized vocational academies, for multimedia-based coursework and examinations as well as for coursework and examinations completed by pupils on the basis of § 60 (5) HessHG.

(3) § 29 (2) shall also apply accordingly to the recognition of work completed at foreign universities. The equivalence agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder (KMK) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) as well as agreements within the framework of university partnership agreements must be observed for recognition. If equivalence agreements do not exist, the Examination Board decides. If there is any doubt about equivalence, the German Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) must be consulted.

(4) If a study abroad period is recommended, the student should meet with the Chair of the Examination Board or an authorized representative to discuss the eligibility for recognition of coursework and examinations before beginning the study abroad.

(5) Final theses (e.g., Master's theses, Diplom theses, state examination theses) which students have already successfully completed outside the Master's degree course in Molecular Biosciences at Goethe University will not be recognized. Furthermore, multiple recognition of one and the same examination or piece of coursework in the same Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences is not possible.

(6) As a rule, coursework and examinations from a Bachelor's degree course cannot be recognized for the Master's degree course.

(7) If examinations are recognized, the grades – insofar as the grading systems are comparable – are to be adopted and included in the calculation of the overall grade. If the grading systems are not comparable, the note "passed" is included. As a rule, recognized achievements are marked in the final document with details of the university at which they were acquired.

(8) The applicant shall submit to the Examination Board all the documents required for recognition or crediting in accordance with § 29 (9), which show the assessment, CPs and dates of all examinations the applicant has taken in another degree program or at other universities. The documents must also show which examinations and coursework were failed or repeated. The Examination Board may request the submission of further documents, such as the legally binding module descriptions of the modules to be recognized.

(9) Failed attempts in other degree programs or in degree programs at other universities will be recognized if they would have been recognized had they been passed.

(10) The recognition of examinations taken more than five years earlier may be refused in individual cases; the decision may be linked to the imposition of conditions. If the requirements of § 29 (1) to (3) in conjunction with (8) are met, there is a legal entitlement to recognition. § 29 (9) sentence 1 and § 29 (6) and (9) remain unaffected.

(11) Decisions with general validity on questions of recognition are made by the Examination Board; recognition in individual cases is made by its Chair, if necessary with the assistance of a subject examiner. Taking the recognition into account, the subject examiner will assign the applicant to a subject-related semester.

(12) If credits are recognized for coursework or examinations that are not assigned CPs, the corresponding equivalents must be calculated and noted accordingly in the student account.

(13) If recognitions are granted, they may be linked to conditions relating to subsequent coursework or examinations. The applicant must be notified in writing of any conditions and any deadlines for fulfilling the conditions. The notification must include an instruction on the right to appeal.

§ 30 Recognition of competencies acquired outside a university (FR: § 32)

For knowledge and skills that were acquired before the start of the degree program or during the degree program outside a university and that are equivalent in level and learning outcome to modules of the degree program, the CPs of the corresponding modules can be credited upon application. This applies in particular to module 11. Credit is awarded individually by the Examination Board on the recommendation of the module coordinator. Written proof (e.g., transcripts, certificates) of the scope, content and achievements is required. In total, no more than 50% of the CPs required in the degree program may be replaced by recognizing competencies acquired outside a university. The CPs are credited without a grade. This is indicated accordingly in the certificate.

Section VI: Conducting the module examinations

§ 31 Module examinations (FR: § 33)

(1) Students take module examinations during the course of the degree program. The module examinations conclude the respective module. They are examinations that can be retaken twice and are graded.

(2) Modules conclude with a single module examination, which can also be taken in conjunction with one of the courses in the module (course-related module examination).

(3) Through the module examination, the students should prove that they have mastered the fundamental principles of the content and methods of the module and can apply the knowledge and skills acquired. The subject matter of the module examinations is generally the content of the courses of the respective module as specified in the module descriptions. In the case of module examinations that are taken as part of a particular course, the overarching qualification objectives of the module are also examined.

(4) The respective examination format for the module examination can be found in the module description. Written examinations take the form of:

- Written exams

Oral examinations take the form of:

- Individual examinations

(5) The format and duration of the module examinations are regulated in the module descriptions. If the module description provides for several types of examination, the type of examination for the respective examination date is determined by the examiner and communicated to the students no later than the beginning of the courses of the module.

(6) The examination language is English.

(7) Written work prepared without supervision (e.g., reports) must be prepared by the student in accordance with the rules of good scientific practice. When submitting the paper, the student must confirm in writing that they have written it independently and that all sources and aids used by them have been listed in the paper.

Furthermore, they must declare that the work has not yet been used – not even in part – in another degree program as coursework or examination work. § 15 (8) applies accordingly.

(8) Participants in module examinations must be able to identify themselves by presenting an official photo ID or the Goethe Card.

(9) The examiner decides whether aids may be used in a module examination and if so, which ones. The permitted aids must be announced in good time before the examination.

§ 32 Oral examinations (FR: § 34)

(1) Oral examinations are held by the examiner as an individual examination in the presence of a co-examiner.

(2) The duration of oral examinations is between a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 60 minutes per student to be examined. The duration of the respective module examination can be found in the module description.

(3) The main subjects and results of the oral examination must be recorded by the co-examiner in an examination record. The examination record must be signed by the examiner and the co-examiner. Before the grade is determined, the co-examiner must be heard in private without the presence of the examinee or the public. The record must be forwarded to the Examination Office without delay.

(4) The result of the oral examination shall be announced to the student following the oral examination and, in the event of a failing grade or upon immediate request, a more detailed explanation shall be provided; the reasons given shall be noted in the record.

(5) Students in the same degree program are entitled to listen in on oral examinations. Oral examinations are open to the public for students who are due to take the same examination. The student to be examined may object to the admission of the public. The admission of the public does not extend to the consultation about the examination results or the notification of the examination results to the student being examined. It can also be limited for capacity reasons. The examiner may request appropriate evidence to verify the reasons stated in § 32 (5) sentence 1.

§ 33 Written examinations (FR: § 35)

(1) Written examinations involve answering one or more tasks or questions. In a written examination, the student should demonstrate that they can solve tasks independently in a limited time and under supervision with limited aids and can recognize a problem on the basis of the necessary basic knowledge or by applying the usual methods of the subject and find ways to work out a solution.

(2) Multiple-choice questions, including "single-choice" questions, are permitted in written examinations if they account for no more than 25% of the total number of points to be achieved in the examination and thereby enable the necessary transfer of knowledge to a sufficient extent. Written exams with more than 25% multiple-choice questions are not provided for. For exams with no more than 25% multiple-choice questions, the following requirements must be met:

1. The examination questions must allow for reliable examination results. The examination questions must be unambiguously comprehensible, clearly answerable and suitable for clearly determining the level of knowledge and skills of the students to be tested. In particular, no solution other than the one specified as correct in the assessment may be acceptable. The Examination Board must use a suitable procedure to ensure this.

2. If the tasks prove to be unsuitable in this respect, they must be excluded from the assessment. If answers do not correspond to the given model solution, but are nevertheless justifiable, they will be counted as correct in the student's favor. It is not permitted to deduct points for incorrect answers.
- (3) If the student arrives late for the examination, he or she cannot make up the time missed. Students may only leave the examination room with the permission of the proctor.
- (4) The person supervising a written examination must prepare a brief report of each examination. All incidents that are relevant to the determination of the examination results, in particular incidents pursuant to §§ 24 and 27, must be entered in this report.
- (5) The time for completing the written examinations should be based on the scope of the module to be examined. The time limit for written examinations is a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 90 minutes. The precise duration is specified in the respective module descriptions.
- (6) The written examinations are generally assessed by one examiner. They must be assessed by a second examiner if they are not passed on the student's final attempt to pass the examination. The grading must be justified in writing. If the grades of the two examiners differ, the grade of the written examination or other written supervised work is calculated from the average of the two grades. The grading procedure for examinations should not exceed four weeks.
- (7) Multimedia-based examinations ("e-examinations") are permitted, provided they are suitable for fulfilling the purpose of the examination. They may only be performed using data processing systems administered by the University or approved for this purpose by the responsible examination office in agreement with the University Computing Center. The unique identifiability of the electronic data must be ensured. It must be possible to clearly and permanently link the data to the examinee. The examination must be conducted in the presence of a qualified record keeper. An examination record must be kept of the examination process, in which at least the names of the record keeper and the examinees, the start and end of the examination and any special incidents must be recorded. § 45 applies to the inspection of the multimedia-based examination and the examination results. The examination question, including a model solution if available, the grading scheme, the individual examination results and the transcript must be archived in accordance with the statutory provisions.

§ 34 Master's thesis (FR: §§ 40, 41)

- (1) The Master's thesis is a compulsory part of the Master's degree program. It forms an independent module.
- (2) The Master's thesis aims to demonstrate that the student is able to work on a topic comprehensively and in depth using scientific methods within a specified period of time in accordance with the objectives set out in §§ 2, 6. The topic must be such that it can be completed within the specified period.
- (3) The Master's thesis counts for 30 CPs; this corresponds to a preparation period of six months.
- (4) Admission to the Master's thesis requires proof of 75 CPs from the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences.
- (5) The Master's thesis shall be supervised by an individual from the group of authorized examiners in accordance with § 21 (1). A separate appointment of the supervisor by the Examination Board is not required, unless the Master's thesis is completed at an institution outside Goethe University (external Master's thesis). The supervisor is charged with guiding the student in the preparation of the Master's thesis and with obtaining regular updates about the progress of the thesis. The supervisor must ensure that any equipment required for the Master's thesis is available. The supervisor is the first or second reviewer of the Master's thesis.

(6) With the approval of the Chair of the Examination Board, the Master's thesis may also be completed at an institution outside the Institute of Molecular Biosciences.

(7) The topic of the Master's thesis must be agreed upon with the supervisor and communicated to the Chair of the Examination Board when registering the Master's thesis. If the student is unable to find a supervisor, the Chair of the Examination Board will ensure that the student receives a topic for the Master's thesis and the necessary supervision in good time upon the student's request.

(8) The Chair of the Examination Board decides on admission to the Master's thesis.

(9) The topic is assigned by the Chair of the Examination Board. The date of assignment and the topic must be recorded at the Examination Office. The student may not work on the Master's thesis before the topic has been officially assigned.

(10) The Master's thesis must be written in English. It must be accompanied by a summary in German.

(11) The assigned topic can only be returned once and only within the first third of the preparation period. The new topic must differ in content from the returned topic. If a new topic for the Master's thesis is issued as a result of withdrawal in accordance with § 34 (12) sentence 3, this topic may not be returned.

(12) If the submission deadline cannot be met for reasons for which the student is not responsible (e.g., illness of the student or of a child for whom the student is responsible), the Chair of the Examination Board shall extend the preparation period if the student requests this before the submission deadline. § 24 (2) shall apply accordingly. A maximum extension of 50% of the preparation period specified in § 34 (3) may be granted. If the absence lasts longer, the student may withdraw from the examination.

(13) The Master's thesis must be submitted to the Examination Office by the deadline. The time of receipt must be officially recorded. If the Master's thesis is sent by regular mail, the postmark serves as the definitive date of submission. If the Master's thesis is not submitted on time, it will receive a grade of "fail" (5.0).

(14) The Master's thesis must be submitted in an electronic version and three written (bound) copies. If the Master's thesis is not submitted in the prescribed form by the submission deadline, it will receive a grade of "fail" (5.0).

(15) The Master's thesis must be written in accordance with the rules of good scientific practice. In particular, all passages, images and drawings taken verbatim or in essence from publications or other third-party texts must be identified as such. The Master's thesis must be accompanied by a statement by the student that they have written the thesis independently and without the use of sources and aids other than those specified. Furthermore, it must be declared that the Master's thesis has not been used, not even in part, for another examination or coursework.

(16) The Examination Board forwards the Master's thesis to the first reviewer for assessment in accordance with § 35 (3). At the same time, it appoints another reviewer from the group of authorized examiners in accordance with § 21 for a second assessment and also forwards the thesis to this examiner for assessment. § 34 (5) sentence 5 remains unaffected. At least one of the examiners must be a professor who teaches in the degree program. The second reviewer may limit themselves to co-signing the first reviewer's report if both reviewers agree on the assessment. The examiners should make the assessment immediately; it should be available no later than four weeks after submission of the thesis. If the two examiners assess the Master's thesis differently, the grade for the Master's thesis is determined in accordance with § 35 (4).

(17) The Master's thesis shall be assessed within a further two weeks by another authorized examiner in accordance with § 21 if the assessments of the two examiners differ by at least 2.0 or if one of the two examiners has assessed the Master's thesis as "fail" (5.0). In this case, the grade is calculated from the grades of the first examiner, the second examiner and the third examiner in accordance with § 35 (4). § 34 (17) sentence 1 shall not apply if the requirements of § 24 or § 27 are met.

Section VII: Assessing coursework and examinations; calculating grades and the overall grade; failing the overall examination

§ 35 Assessing/grading coursework and examinations; calculating grades and the overall grade (FR: § 42)

- (1) Coursework is assessed as "passed" or "failed" by the respective lecturer.
- (2) Examination results are graded. The grading or assessment of the examinations is carried out by the respective examiners. The student's individual performance must always be taken into account.
- (3) The following grades are to be used for grading the individual examinations:

1	Very good	An outstanding performance;
2	Good	A result that is significantly above the average requirements;
3	Satisfactory	A result that meets average requirements;
4	Sufficient	A result that still meets the requirements despite its shortcomings;
5	Fail	A result that no longer meets the requirements due to significant deficits.

The grades can be raised or lowered by 0.3 to intermediate values in order to provide a more granular assessment of examination results; the grades 1.0; 1.3; 1.7; 2.0; 2.3; 2.7; 3.0; 3.3; 3.7; 4.0 and 5.0 are permissible.

(4) If the module examination is assessed differently by two or more examiners, the module grade is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the grades of the examiners' assessments. When calculating the module grade, only the first decimal place after the decimal point is taken into account. All other digits are deleted without rounding.

(5) An overall grade is calculated for the Master's examination, in which all results of the module examinations of the degree program are included.

(6) If more CPs are acquired in a semi-elective area than are required, the modules that were completed first will be used to determine the overall grade. If several modules have been completed in the same semester, the modules with the better grades count.

(7) The examiners may deviate from the calculated grade of a passed module examination if this better reflects the overall impression of the student's performance and the deviation has no influence on the passing grade (bonus regulation to improve the grade). In particular, the coursework completed during the semester in exercises or other courses is to be taken into account, up to a maximum of 25% of the overall assessment of the corresponding module examination. Further details can be found in the module handbook. The coursework leading to the awarding of bonus points must be announced publicly in an appropriate manner by the beginning of a semester

at the latest. Earned bonus points expire at the end of the semester following the semester in which the bonus was awarded.

(8) When calculating the overall grade, the CP-weighted average of the module grades is used, whereby the grades for modules 1, 2, 11 and 12 as well as one module each from modules 3-6 and 7-10 are included with a weighting of 15 CPs each. The grade for the final module is included in the overall grade with a weighting of 60 CPs.

(9) The overall grade of a passed Master's examination is calculated as follows, whereby only the first decimal place after the decimal point is taken into account; all other places are deleted without rounding:

1.0 up to and including 1.5	Very good
1.6 up to and including 2.5	Good
2.6 up to and including 3.5	Satisfactory
3.6 up to and including 4.0	Sufficient
More than 4.0	Fail

(10) If an English translation of the transcript is issued, the grades for the individual examinations and the overall grade are shown according to the following grading scale:

1.0 up to and including 1.5	Very good
1.6 up to and including 2.5	Good
2.6 up to and including 3.5	Satisfactory
3.6 up to and including 4.0	Sufficient
More than 4.0	Fail

(11) If the overall grade is better than 1.2 and the Master's thesis was graded 1.0, the overall grade is „mit Auszeichnung bestanden“, i.e. „with distinction“.

(12) An ECTS grading table in accordance with § 43 shall be included in the diploma supplement to ensure transparency of the overall grade.

§ 36 Passing and failing examinations; announcement of grades (FR: § 43)

(1) A module examination consisting of a single examination is passed if it has been assessed with the grade "sufficient" (4.0) or better.

(2) The Master's examination is passed if all modules prescribed in these regulations have been successfully completed, i.e., the proof of attendance required in the module description has been submitted and the course certificates and module examinations, including the Master's thesis, have been successfully completed, i.e., graded with at least "sufficient" (4.0).

(3) The results of all examinations must be announced immediately. The Examination Board decides whether grades are to be announced anonymously to the university public by means of a notice and/or the electronic examination administration system, whereby the legitimate interests of those affected must be protected. If a module examination has finally received a grade of "fail" or if the Master's thesis has been assessed as less than "sufficient" (4.0), the student will receive a written notification from the Chair of the Examination Board with an instruction on the right to appeal, which may include information on whether the module examination or the Master's thesis can be repeated and, if so, within what period.

§ 37 Compiling the examination results (transcript of records) (FR: § 44)

Upon request, students will be issued with a certificate of passed examinations in the form of a transcript of records (an example can be found in Annex 7 FR) in German and English, which contains at least the module titles, the date of the individual examinations and the grades.

Section VIII: Changing compulsory elective modules; retaking examinations; loss of the right of admission to an examination and failing the final attempt at an examination

§ 38 Changing compulsory elective modules (FR: § 45)

If a compulsory elective module is failed or has been failed with no possibility to retake it, the student may change to a new compulsory elective module no more than twice.

§ 39 Retaking examinations (FR: § 46)

- (1) Passed examinations cannot be retaken; § 39 (10) remains unaffected.
- (2) All failed compulsory module examinations must be retaken.
- (3) Failed module examinations may be retaken no more than twice.
- (4) A failed Master's thesis may be repeated once. A different topic is issued. The topic of the Master's thesis may only be returned as part of an examination retake if the student did not make use of this option when writing the first attempt at the Master's thesis. The student is not permitted to repeatedly return the topic.
- (5) Failed attempts at the same or a comparable module examination in another degree program at Goethe University or another German university shall be counted toward the permitted number of retakes. In special cases, particularly in the case of a change of degree program, the Examination Board may choose not to include a retake in the total number of retakes.
- (6) The first examination retake should be conducted at the end of the relevant semester, but at the latest at the beginning of the following semester. The second retake should take place on the next possible examination date after the failed examination retake. The Examination Board determines the exact dates for the retake and announces these in good time.
- (7) Students must take the examination retake on the next possible date.

(8) The right of admission to an examination expires if the retake is missed, unless the student is not responsible for the failing to take the examination. If the student has exmatriculated in the meantime, this does not extend the retake deadline.

(9) Examination retakes must always be taken in accordance with the regulations under which the first examination was taken.

(10) A student may retake a passed final module examination from modules 1-10 once to improve the grade, whereby the better grade is counted. This applies to a single module that can be freely chosen by the student. The Examination Board determines the conditions and the deadline within which the retake of the examination to improve a grade is to be applied for and the retake examination is to be carried out.

§ 40 Loss of the right of admission to an examination and failing the final attempt at an examination (FR: § 47)

(1) The Master's examination is definitively failed or the right to take the examination is definitively lost if

1. A module examination has not been passed after all attempts to retake the examination have been exhausted and there is no possibility of changing in accordance with § 38,

2. A deadline for meeting certain requirements in accordance with § 26 has been exceeded,

3. A deadline for repeating a module examination in accordance with § 39 has been exceeded,

4. There is a serious case of cheating or a serious violation of regulations in accordance with § 27.

(2) A notification of the final failure of the Master's examination and the associated loss of the right to take the examination will be issued with an instruction on the right to appeal.

(3) If the student has definitively failed the Master's examination in the degree program and thus definitively lost the right to take the examination, he or she must be exmatriculated. Upon request, when presented with the certificate of exmatricultation the student will receive a certificate from the Examination Office which lists the passed and failed module examinations, their grades and the credit points earned and which indicates that the Master's examination in the degree program has been definitively failed or that the right to take the examination has been lost.

Section IX: Transcript of records; certificate and diploma supplement

§ 41 Transcript of records (FR: § 48)

(1) A certificate of successful completion of the Master's examination shall be issued in German, if possible within four weeks of receipt of the assessment of the last examination results, or upon application by the student with an English translation, in each case in accordance with the provisions of the templates in the Framework Regulations. The transcript contains details of the modules with the module grades (those modules that are not included in the overall grade for the Master's examination are marked), the topic and grade of the Master's thesis, the total number of CPs and the overall grade. The transcript also includes the results of examinations in additional modules taken voluntarily.

The transcript must be signed by the Chair of the Examination Board/Dean of Studies and the Dean of Studies of the Faculty of Biological Sciences and must bear the seal of Goethe University. The certificate bears the date of the day on which the last examination was completed.

(2) Upon request, the Examination Board shall issue a certificate confirming that the Master's degree obtained is equivalent to the Diplom degree in terms of content.

§ 42 Master's diploma (FR: § 49)

(1) At the same time as the Master's examination certificate, the student shall receive a Master's diploma with the date of the certificate. This certifies the conferral of the academic degree. The diploma must also be issued in English.

(2) The diploma shall be signed by the Dean of Studies of the Faculty of Biological Sciences and the Chair of the Examination Board and shall bear the seal of Goethe University.

(3) The academic degree may only be used after the diploma has been awarded.

§ 43 Diploma supplement (FR: § 50)

(1) A diploma supplement in accordance with international standards shall be issued with the Master's diploma and the transcript; the text agreed between the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) and the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder (KMK) in the currently valid version shall be used. The diploma supplement is signed by the Chair of the Examination Board.

(2) The diploma supplement contains an ECTS grading table. The overall grades awarded in the respective degree program in a comparative cohort shall be recorded and their numerical and percentage distribution across the grade levels shall be determined in accordance with § 35 (9) and presented in a table as follows:

Overall grades	Total number within the reference group	Percentage of graduates within the reference group
up to 1.5 (very good)		
from 1.6 to 2.5 (good)		
from 2.6 to 3.5 (satisfactory)		
from 3.6 to 4.0 (sufficient)		

The reference group results from the number of graduates of the respective degree program over a period of three academic years. The calculation only takes place if the reference group consists of at least 50 graduates. If fewer than 50 students within the comparison cohort have completed the degree program, additional cohorts must be included in the calculation by decision of the Examination Board.

Section X: Invalidity of the Master's examination; examination files; appeals and objections

§ 44 Invalidity of examinations (FR: § 51)

(1) If the student has cheated on coursework or during an examination and this fact only becomes known after the diploma has been issued, the Examination Board may subsequently correct the grades for the coursework and examinations in which the student has cheated and declare the examination or coursework failed in whole or in part. The examiners must be heard beforehand. The student must be given the opportunity to comment before a decision is made.

(2) If the requirements for admission to an examination were not met and the student was permitted to take the examination without intentionally misrepresenting his or her qualifications, and if this fact only becomes known after the transcript has been issued, this deficiency will be remedied if the student passes the examination. If the student has intentionally obtained unlawful admission to the examination, the Examination Board shall decide on the legal consequences in accordance with the Hessian State Administrative Procedure Act (HVwVfG) in the respectively valid version. § 44 (1) sentence 3 shall apply accordingly.

(3) The incorrect transcript shall be withdrawn and a new one issued if applicable. Together with the incorrect transcript, the diploma supplement and, if applicable, the corresponding transcript of records must also be withdrawn and, if necessary, reissued. The Master's certificate must also be confiscated with these documents if the examination has received a grade of "fail" due to cheating. A decision in accordance with § 44 (1) and (2) sentence 2 is excluded after a period of five years from the date of the transcript of records.

§ 45 Inspection of examination files (FR: § 52)

(1) Within one year after completion of a module and after completion of the entire examination procedure, the student shall be granted access to the examination files concerning the student (examination records, examination papers and reviews) upon request.

(2) The examination files shall be kept by the examination offices. The retention periods for examination documents are governed by § 21 of the Hessian Matriculation Ordinance (HImmaVO) in the respectively valid version.

§ 46 Appeals and objections (FR: § 53)

(1) Appeals may be lodged against decisions made by the Chair of the Examination Board. Appeals must be lodged with the Chair of the Examination Board within one month of notification of the decision. The Examination Board decides on the appeal. If the Examination Board does not remedy the objection, the Chair of the Examination Board will issue a justified rejection notice, which must include an instruction on the right to appeal.

(2) The student in question may appeal in writing to the Chair of the Examination Board (Examination Office) against negative decisions of the Examination Board and against negative examiner assessments within one month of notification, provided that an instruction on the right to appeal was issued, otherwise within one year of notification. If the Examination Board does not uphold the objection, if necessary after obtaining the opinion of the examiners involved, the President will issue the notice of objection. The notice of objection must state the grounds on which it is based and include an instruction on the right to appeal.

Section XI: Closing provisions

§ 47 Entry into force and transition provisions (FR: § 54)

(1) These regulations shall enter into force on the day following their publication in the UniReport/Statutes and Regulations of Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. At the same time, the regulations for the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences dated June 8, 2015, published in UniReport/Statutes and Regulations dated September 16, 2015, shall expire. Students who began their studies in the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences before these regulations came into force may take the Master's examination in accordance with the regulations dated June 8, 2015 by September 30, 2027 at the latest.

(2) These regulations apply to all students commencing their studies as of the winter semester 2024/2025.

(3) Students who were enrolled in the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences before these regulations came into force may, upon application to the Examination Board, complete their studies and take the Master's examination in accordance with these regulations. Coursework and examinations already completed will be credited in accordance with § 29. The application is irrevocable.

Frankfurt, January 15, 2024

Prof. Dr. Sven Klimpel

Dean of the Faculty of Biological Sciences

Annex 1: Course plan for the Master's degree program in Molecular Biosciences

Subject-related semester	Module title	Teaching format (CPs)	Number (SHW)	Number (CPs)	Module no.
1	General molecular biology	L(3), S(2), P(10)	13	15	MSc-MolBio-1
	General biochemistry	L(3), S(2), P(10)	13	15	MSc-MolBio-2
	Total 1st subject-related semester		26	30	
2	1. Compulsary elective module	L(3), S(2), P(10)	13	15	MSc-MolBio-3 to MSc-MolBio-6
	2. Compulsary elective module	L(3), S(2), P(10)	13	15	MSc-MolBio-7 to MSc-MolBio-10
	Total 2nd subject-related semester		26	30	
3	Specialization module	S(3), P(12)	13,5	15	MSc-MolBio-11
	Introduction to scientific research methods	P(15)	15	15	MSc-MolBio-12
	Total 3rd subject-related semester		28.5	30	
4	Master's thesis	MA (30)	30	30	MSc-MolBio-13
	Total 4th subject-related semester		30	30	
	Total 1st-4th semester		110.5	120	

L: Lecture, P: Practical course, S: Seminar, MT: Master's thesis