

# **Special Provisions of the Examination Regulations for the Master's Program in Applied Neurosciences in Sports & Exercise of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Paderborn**

**dated 31.03.2022**

On the basis of § 2 para. 4 and § 64 para. 1 of the Act on the Universities of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Higher Education Act - HG) of September 16, 2014 (GV.NRW. p. 547), last amended by Article 1 of the Act of November 25, 2021 (GV. NRW. page 1210a), the University of Paderborn has issued the following regulations:

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**§ 31**  
**General and Special Provision**

These Special Provisions apply in conjunction with the General Provisions for the Examination Regulations for Master's Degree Programs of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Paderborn in the currently valid version (General Provisions). For a proper structure of the study program, a study plan can be found in the appendix. Details about the modules can be found in the module descriptions in the appendix, which are part of these Special Regulations.

**§ 32**  
**Acquisition of Competences and Language Regulation**

- (1) In the Master's program "Applied Neurosciences in Sports & Exercise", topics from health and performance are considered under a sports science-neuroscience focus. Students from different Bachelor's degree programs can also contribute their expertise from, for example, physiotherapeutic, psychological, and health science disciplines and thus actively help to shape the interdisciplinary course of study as well as develop an individually shaped professional expertise. In addition to the development of an overarching (neuroscientific) methodological competence, which is trained in the course of laboratory work, among other things, the research-oriented examination takes place in the area of the following content-related focal points: a) the importance of sport and exercise in the course of maintaining or restoring health and performance in the nervous system (e.g. neurological, neurodegenerative diseases as well as injuries of the nervous system) and b) the importance of the nervous system in maintaining and restoring health and performance in sport and exercise contexts (e.g. peripheral injuries, diagnostics and design of training). The development and teaching of the contents is based on literature as well as experimental/conceptual methods and should enable students to recognize research problems from the respective topics, to evaluate them based on the literature and to develop them further with experimental/conceptual methods. Despite some practice-based components of the curriculum, this is primarily a research-oriented course of study in order to provide students with access to doctoral studies, if applicable.
- (2) The Master's program and the Master's examination are held in English.

**§ 33**  
**Academic Degree**

On the basis of the successful completion of the Master's program, the academic degree "Master of Science" (M.Sc.) is awarded.

**§ 34**  
**Commencement of Studies**

The study program can only be started in the winter semester.

**§ 35**  
**Admission Requirements**

- (1) In implementation of § 5 of the General Regulations, the study program requires a degree which:

1. that has been obtained in a sports science, health science, physiotherapy or neuroscience program, and
  2. includes at least portions of study in two of the following three areas:
 

a) Physiology	at least 12 CP
b) Statistics and Research Methods	at least 12 CP
c) Bachelor Thesis	12 CP
- (2) The student must have graduated with an overall grade of at least 2.5 (or an equivalent final grade abroad).
- (3) In addition to the requirements specified in § 5 of the General Provisions, there is the following further requirement for admission:
- Foreign language skills in English at level B 2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) are required. English language skills can be proven in particular by a high school diploma showing level B2, by an English-language bachelor's degree or by TOEFL (internet-based: 87 points), IELTS (5.5), Cambridge ESOL (FCE) or Unicert II. The certificate presented must not be older than a maximum of two years from the beginning of the semester in which the enrollment takes place.
- (4) In deviation from § 5 of the General Provisions, German language skills are not required.
- (5) In the event that the applicant has definitively failed an examination required by the examination regulations in the previous course of study at a university within the area of application of the Basic Law, and the previous course of study has a considerable proximity in terms of content to the Master's course of study Applied Neurosciences in Sports & Exercise, enrollment shall be denied under the conditions of § 5 paragraph 3 of the General Regulations.

## § 36

### Structure, Course Content, Modules

- (1) In the Master's program Applied Neurosciences in Sports & Exercise the following modules must be completed:
- Module 1: Essentials of Sports Neurology (8 CP) (compulsory module)
  - Module 2: Essentials of Exercise Neuroscience (8 CP) (compulsory module)
  - Module 3: Methods I – Research Skills (5 CP) (compulsory module)
  - Module 4: Methods II – Statistical Skills (5 CP) (compulsory module)
  - Module 5: Methods III – Measurement Skills (8 CP) (compulsory module)
  - Module 6: Applied Sports Neurology (5 CP) (compulsory module)
  - Module 7: Applied Exercise Neuroscience (5 CP) (compulsory module)
  - Module 8: Study Project “Sports Medicine” (30 CP) (compulsory elective module) or
  - Module 9: Study Project „Exercise Neuroscience” (30 CP) (compulsory elective module)
  - Module 10: Internship (6 CP) (compulsory module)
  - Module 11: Fundamentals of Data Processing in Applied Neurosciences (5 CP) (compulsory elective module) or
  - Module 12: General Studies (5 CP) (compulsory elective module) or
  - Module 13: Intercultural Communication (5 CP) (compulsory elective module)
  - Module 14: Master Thesis (30 CP) (compulsory module)

## **§ 37**

### **Participation Requirements, Admission**

- (1) Participation requirements for a module according to § 7 paragraph 2 of the General Regulations are regulated by the module descriptions.
- (2) Only students who have successfully completed the modules M1, M2, M3, M4, M5 and M8 or M9 (= 64 CP) at the time of application for admission can be admitted to the Master's thesis.
- (3) Further requirements for participation in examinations according to § 12 paragraph 2 of the General Regulations are regulated in the module descriptions.
- (4) Admission of students of a Bachelor's program at the University of Paderborn to modules of the Master's program Applied Neurosciences in Sports & Exercise according to § 12 paragraph 4 of the General Regulations is not possible.

## **§ 38**

### **Examiners**

The range of examiners can be extended within the framework of § 65 of the Higher Education Act (HG). In particular, a research assistant with a corresponding dependent teaching position may be appointed as an examiner.

## **§ 39**

### **Performance in the Modules**

- (1) Performance in the modules must be in accordance with the module descriptions.
- (2) Examination achievements are provided in accordance with § 15 of the General Regulations in the form of written examinations, oral examinations, written assignments or in other forms. The following other forms are envisaged in particular:
  1. Reports:  
In the reports, depending on the competency acquisition within a module, students should either demonstrate that they can write scientific reports, criterion-based reflections, or task-related texts.
  2. Portfolio:  
In the portfolio, students keep a reflective journal in which they list their learning experiences with diversity as well as how they relate to intercultural concepts. The focus here should be on the examination of students' own multicultural experiences and relevant theories.
  3. Abstract  
In writing an abstract, students demonstrate that they can briefly and accurately summarize one or more scientific texts.
  4. Oral presentation:  
The oral presentation represents a typical form of presentation of scientific results. In the oral presentation, students present the processes and results of the preparation of a systematic review or an experimental research project.
  5. Written review:  
The systematic review represents a typical form of presentation of scientific results. For this purpose, the students write the individual steps of a systematic literature review on a specific question. This includes in particular the derivation of the research question, the methodological approach, the results as well as how they can be contextualized based on the literature.

6. Scientific poster:

The scientific poster represents a typical form of presentation of scientific results. The students present their literature-based or experimental/conceptual research work on a poster. A short presentation (approx. 3 minutes) completes the examination performance.

The module descriptions provide further details.

- (3) The duration of a written exam is 60-120 minutes.

The duration of an oral exam is 15-30 minutes.

The length of a written term paper is 30,000-40,000 characters.

The length of a report is 10-70 pages.

The length of a portfolio is about 5000 words.

The length of an abstract is about 1 page.

The duration of an oral presentation is approximately 10 minutes.

The length of a written review is 5-8 pages.

The size of a scientific poster is 1 Din A4 page (can be enlarged to A0), approx. 3 minutes short presentation.

The module descriptions provide further details.

- (4) If the module descriptions contain framework specifications regarding the form, duration or scope of examinations, the Examination Committee, in consultation with the examiner, shall determine how the examination is to be carried out in concrete terms. This will be announced by the respective lecturer and in the Campus Management System of the University of Paderborn or in any other suitable way within the first three weeks of the lecture period at the latest.

- (5) Within the framework of qualified participation, the following come into consideration in particular:

- Short presentation of approx. 10 minutes
- Report / protocol of 3-5 pages
- experimental demonstration, practical laboratory course of approx. 30 minutes
- progress report of 20-30 minutes
- Assignment in the scope of 1-3 pages
- Short colloquium of 10-20 minutes
- Written exercise of 1-5 pages.

The module descriptions provide further details. If the module descriptions contain framework specifications, the respective lecturer determines what is to be specifically provided within the framework of qualified participation. This will be announced by the respective lecturer and in the Campus Management System of the University of Paderborn or in any other suitable way within the first three weeks of the lecture period at the latest.

## § 40

### Master's Thesis

- (1) The Master's thesis can be written as a monograph, then with a minimum length of 60 pages of 2,500 characters each (= 150,000 characters) and a maximum length of 80 pages of 2,500 characters each (= 200,000 characters). Alternatively, the Master's thesis can be written in the form of a research manuscript (approx. 30 pages) with a detailed literature review (approx. 10 pages). Compared to the monograph, the research manuscript is the subject-specific condensed form of the final paper, which corresponds in form and content to a scientific research paper. Possible forms of the thesis are in particular the report of an experiment, a meta-analysis or a systematic review. The completion time

is 20 weeks. In deviation from § 17 of the General Regulations, the Master's thesis is written in English.

- (2) An oral defense according to § 19 of the General Regulations is required. The oral defense lasts 30 to 45 minutes and takes place in English. The master's thesis and oral defense have a weighting of 2:1 in the calculation of the grade for the final module.

#### **§ 41 Overall Grade**

The overall grade is formed according to § 21 of the General Regulations.

#### **§ 42 Additional Achievements**

Students may take additional credits according to § 20 of the General Regulations in modules of the degree program that are not limited in number of participants, up to a maximum of 5 CP. For this purpose, the third compulsory elective module from M11, M12, M13 (two out of three are to be studied) is eligible.

#### **§ 43 Retaking Examinations**

- (1) The number of examination attempts according to § 22 paragraph 1 of the General Regulations is limited to three.
- (2) Once per compulsory elective area (M8/M9 and M11/M12/M13), a compulsory elective module can be deselected and another compulsory elective module of the same area can be selected instead. This does not result in an increase in the number of examination attempts, i.e. any failed examination attempts are transferred to the newly selected compulsory elective module.

#### **§ 44 Transitional Provisions**

- (1) These Special Regulations apply to all students who are or will be enrolled in the Master's degree program Applied Neurosciences in Sports & Exercise of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Paderborn.
- (2) In deviation from paragraph 1, § 35 shall apply for the first time to applicants who wish to be enrolled as of the winter semester 2022/2023.
- (3) In deviation from paragraph 1, the examination regulations in the version of April 10, 2017 (AM.Uni.Pb. 29.17), amended by statutes of October 12, 2018 (AM.Uni.Pb. 36.18), shall apply up to and including the winter semester 2023/2024 for students who have already been enrolled prior to the winter semester 2022/2023 and have registered for the Nutrition module by the summer semester 2022 and have not deregistered in the summer semester 2022 or later

## § 45

### Entry into Force, Expiry and Publication

- (1) The Special Regulations come into force on October 01, 2022. At the same time, the examination regulations for the master's degree program Applied Neurosciences in Sports & Exercise of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Paderborn dated April 10, 2017 (AM.Uni.Pb. 29.17), amended by statute dated October 12, 2018 (AM.Uni.Pb. 36.18), shall expire. § 44 remains unaffected.
- (2) The Special Regulations are published in the Official Notices of the University of Paderborn (AM.Uni.Pb.).
- (3) Pursuant to Section 12 (5) of the Higher Education Act (HG), after the expiry of one year from the date of publication of these Regulations, the violation of procedural or formal requirements of the Higher Education Act or of the regulations or other autonomous law of the University may no longer be asserted against these Regulations, unless
  1. the Regulations have not been duly published,
  2. the Presidential Board has previously objected to the decision of the body adopting the Rules of Procedure,
  3. the formal or procedural violation has been notified to the university in advance, indicating the legal provision that has been violated and the fact that gives rise to the violation, or
  4. the legal consequence of the exclusion of objection was not pointed out in the public announcement of the Regulations.

Issued on the basis of the resolution of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of May 05, 2021, and after examination of the legality by the Presidential Board of the University of Paderborn of June 02, 2021.

Paderborn, 31.03.2022

The President  
of the University of Paderborn  
Prof. Dr. Birgitt Riegraf