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The Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony (MWK) approved by decree of 07.05.2019 (ref. 27.5-74503-109) the following eligibility and admission regulations for the consecutive master's degree programme Landscape Sciences in accordance with section 18 paragraphs 6 and 14 of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG) in conjunction with section 51 paragraph 3 of the NHG. These regulations shall take effect on the day following publication in the official bulletin of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover.

Eligibility and Admission Regulations for the Consecutive Master's Degree Programme Landscape Sciences

Section 1

Scope

- (1) These regulations specify eligibility to apply for and admission to the master's degree programme Landscape Sciences.
- (2) The requirements for eligibility to apply are specified in Section 2.
- (3) In the event that more applicants fulfil the requirements for eligibility to apply than there are places available, places shall be allocated according to a selection procedure determined by the university (section 4). If fewer applicants fulfil the requirements for eligibility to apply than there are places available, no selection process shall be conducted.

Section 2

Requirements for eligibility to apply

- (1) In order to be eligible to apply to the consecutive master's degree programme Landscape Sciences, the applicant must have obtained
 - a bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree in a suitable previous degree programme at a German university or at a university in a Bologna signatory country. Suitable previous degree programmes for the master's degree programme in Landscape Sciences are degree programmes with a focus on ecology, geosciences, landscape sciences or environmental science.
 - an equivalent degree in a suitable previous degree programme at a different university abroad; equivalence shall be determined in accordance with the suggested evaluations issued by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) at the secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) (<http://anabin.kmk.org>).

The decision whether the previous degree programme is suitable is made by the selection committee; the decision may include an ancillary provision requiring completion of missing modules within two semesters.

- (2) In deviation to paragraph 1, applicants who have not yet completed their bachelor's or an equivalent degree at the time of application are provisionally eligible to apply if they have obtained at least 150 credit points and it is to be expected that they will complete the bachelor's or equivalent degree by the end of the first semester of the master's degree programme at the latest. The average mark of the assessments completed so far shall be determined; it shall be taken into account in the selection process as per section 4, irrespective of the final bachelor's degree mark.
- (3) Applicants who cannot present evidence of either a German university entrance qualification or a bachelor's degree completed at a German university must additionally CEFR provide evidence of sufficient German language proficiency for the degree programme (level B2 GER). For details on

the evidence to be presented, see: <https://www.llc.uni-hannover.de/en/language-examinations/accepted-language-certificates-at-the-luh>.

- (4) Furthermore, applicants expressing interest in the Double Degree programme with Yamagata University must provide evidence of sufficient English language proficiency (level B2 CEFR). For details on the evidence to be presented, see: <https://www.llc.uni-hannover.de/en/language-examinations/accepted-language-certificates-at-the-luh>.

Section 3

Beginning of the Degree Programme and Application Deadline

- (1) Students may begin the master's degree programme Landscape Sciences in the winter semester. Applications, including the required documents specified in paragraph 2, must be received by the university by 15 July for the winter semester. Applicants must submit both a written application and an online application (via the university's online portal). Applications for admission outside of the process for allocating university places and outside of the determined number of candidates to be admitted must be received by the university by 01.10. for the winter semester. Applications, including those as per sentence 3, shall be effective only for the allocation of places corresponding to the respective application deadline. The university is not required ex officio to verify the information provided by the applicant.
- (2) Applications, including those as per paragraph 1 sentence 3, must be accompanied by the documents listed below. Certified copies are required for certificates and official confirmations; if these documents were not issued in German or English, certified German or English translations must be provided.
- a) the certificate of results (Zeugnis) for the bachelor's degree programme or – if this is not yet available – confirmation of completed coursework and assessments, credit points, as well as the average mark,
 - b) curriculum vitae,
 - c) evidence as per section 2 paragraphs 3 (and 4)
 - d) as appropriate, evidence of professional experience and placements,
 - e) furthermore, applicants should indicate whether they are interested in participating in the Double Degree programme with Yamagata University.
- (3) Applications that are incomplete or do not meet the requirements regarding form or deadline will be excluded from the admissions procedure. The university will retain the submitted documents.

Section 4

Admissions procedure

- (1) Selection shall occur according to a ranking list which shall be established based on the final or average mark as per section 3 paragraph 2 letter a) as well as possible grade improvement as per section 4 paragraph 2. In the event that multiple applicants hold an equal rank, their ranking shall be determined by drawing lots.
- (2) The final or average mark will be improved as per section 3 paragraph 2 letter d) by the indicated points if the following criteria are met:
- a) 0.1 for a relevant placement or employment amounting to a period of at least 12 weeks full-time that was not compulsory as part of previous studies,
 - b) 0.2 for professional experience completed nationally or abroad over a period of at least half a year, following the bachelor's degree (BSc),
 - c) 0.3 for professional experience completed nationally or abroad over a period of at least one year, following the bachelor's degree (BSc).
- (3) The selection committee (section 5) shall decide upon admissions.
- (4) In all other respects, the provisions of the university's enrolment regulations that generally apply shall remain unaffected. The enrolment of those applicants who must complete missing modules as specified in section 2 paragraph 1 sentence 2 shall expire if the evidence required for this is not provided within one year and the applicant is responsible for such neglect. The same shall apply if,

as specified in section 2 paragraph 2, evidence of successful completion of the bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification is not provided by 15 April (for enrolment in the winter semester) or 15 October (for enrolment in the summer semester) and the applicant is responsible for such neglect.

Section 5

Selection committee for the Master's Degree Programme Landscape Sciences

- (1) The Faculty of Natural Sciences shall establish a selection committee to prepare decisions regarding selection.
- (2) The selection committee shall comprise at least three members entitled to vote, who must be a professor or junior professor or another member of academic staff, in addition to a student member acting in an advisory role. At least one member must belong to the group of professors and junior professors. Members are appointed by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. The members are appointed for a term of two years, the student member is appointed for one year; re-appointment is possible. The selection committee has a quorum provided that at least two members entitled to vote are present.
- (3) The duties of the selection committee include:
 - a) reviewing whether applications have been submitted in the correct form,
 - b) reviewing whether the requirements for eligibility to apply have been met,
 - c) deciding whether to admit or reject applicants.
 - d) assessing the criteria concerning grade improvement indicated in section 4 paragraph 2,
 - e) establishing a ranking list as per section 4 paragraph 1.

Section 6

Notification, Allocation of Remaining Places ("Nachrückverfahren"), Completion of the Procedure

- (1) Successful candidates will receive written notification of admission from the university. A deadline will be specified in the notification within which the applicant must declare in writing or electronically whether they wish to accept the place or not. If this declaration is not received in correct form by the deadline, the notification of admission becomes invalid. This legal consequence must be indicated in the notification of admission.
- (2) Unsuccessful candidates shall receive a notification of rejection stating their rank and the rank of the last admitted applicant. The notification of rejection must include information on legal remedies.
- (3) Remaining places shall be allocated ("Nachrückverfahren") in the order of the ranking as per section 4 paragraph 1.
- (4) The admissions procedures shall be concluded at the latest two weeks after commencement of the lecture period. Thereafter, admission to any remaining places will be allocated by drawing lots; applicants may request to participate in this procedure without using a particular form. The application period for this shall begin two weeks before the beginning of the lecture period and shall end upon conclusion of the admissions procedure.

Section 7

Admission to Advanced Semesters

- (1) Available places in an advanced semester of a degree programme with restricted admission shall be allocated to applicants according to the order below:
 - a) applicants for whom, due to personal reasons, rejection of admission would mean undue hardship,
 - b) applicants who are or were enrolled in the same or a comparable degree programme
 - ba) at another German university or a university in another EU member state or another signatory state to the EEA Agreement, or

- bb) at a foreign university and have German citizenship or are of equal legal status to German citizens with respect to admission regulations, or
 - c) who claim any other grounds.
- (2) Within each of the three groups in paragraph 1, admission shall be decided depending on the mark attained for the bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification; in the case of identical results, admission shall be allocated according to social aspects that were decisive in the choice of location, especially familial or financial aspects; thereafter, places shall be allocated by drawing lots.

Section 8

Entry into Force

These regulations shall enter into force the day after publication in the university's official bulletin.