

Regulations for examinations within the international MSc study program

Food and Resource Economics

at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn

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I. General

§ 1

Goal of MSc study program

The MSc study program *Food and Resource Economics* is offered by the Faculty of Agriculture of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn in cooperation with selected international partner universities on the basis of mutual agreements. The organization of the study program offers students the opportunity to simultaneously earn a degree from the Faculty of Agriculture Bonn as well as from the respective international partner university. With an internationally focused post graduate study program students will be prepared for executive positions in business, organizations and institutions within the global food sector with its global interdependencies and dependencies including those related to food safety and food security, consumer protection, and consumption. Due to the complexity of the food supply chain and the variation of professional needs, the study program differentiates between three principal study lines with specific relevance for the international agri-food sector. They include

- A. the study line ‘Business Management’ with its concentration on the solution of managerial tasks in production, trade, and the distribution of food,
- B. the study line ‘Policy and Markets’ with its concentration on the design of the political and organizational sector environments, and
- C. the study line ‘Economics and Sociology of Household and Consumption’ with its concentration on the determinants and the organization of consumer behavior.

§ 2

MSc degree

The study program is research focused. The Faculty of Agriculture awards, based on a successful MSc examination, the academic degree ‘Master of Science (M.Sc.)’ in *Food and Resource Economics*.

§ 3

General requirements for admission and admission procedure

(1) The study program *Food and Resource Economics* is intended for applicants who fulfil the following requirements:

1. A BSc degree or equivalent in study programs linked to agricultural sciences, agribusiness management, agricultural economics, food and household economics, economics, business management, or similar with a grade of ‘good’ or an equivalent grade in other grading systems;
2. Proof of sufficient knowledge of English by having successfully passed TOEFL550, Computer-TOEFL213 (Test of English as a Foreign Language), IELTS 6.0 (International English Language Testing System) or any other comparable test. The acceptance of other proofs is subject to approval by the examination committee, and
3. in case of participation in the student exchange program with partner universities (note: refers to students from the partner university) proof of admission to the relevant MSc study program at the partner university and the fulfilment of study requirements stated in the agreement with the partner university for participation in the program.

- (2) The application for admission to the study program needs to include:
1. the BSc certificate or equivalent,
 2. the proof of sufficient knowledge of English (see §3(1)),
 3. a declaration stating that the applicant has not failed or not definitely failed an MSc examination in the study program *Food and Resource Economics* or equivalent and is not presently involved in examinations of this or any equivalent study program, and
 4. in case of participation in the student exchange program with partner universities (note: refers to students from the partner university) proof of admission to the relevant MSc study program at the partner university and the fulfilment of study requirements stated in the agreement with the partner university for participation in the program.

§ 4

Duration and extent of study program

- (1) The regular duration of the study program including examinations is 4 semesters. It builds on the successful participation in study modules (courses) with together 120 credit points including a master thesis.
- (2) If the student participates in the student exchange with partner universities, a maximum of 72 credits points can be accepted from studies at the partner university. For the acceptance of a master thesis with supervision by the partner university, a joint supervision is obligatory. If the principle supervision is by the partner university, the credit points for the master thesis are counted towards the credit point limit for studies at the partner university.
- (3) Study modules are instruction units that could involve teaching classes, exercises, seminars, project seminars, a colloquium or any other equivalent form of instruction and the master thesis. Admission to a study module examination might be conditioned on the successful delivery of written home work or oral presentations. Furthermore, students might have to provide proof of a regular and active participation in class. At the start of study modules, the responsible examiner makes the conditions known that could proof regular and active participation.
- (4) Students have no legal right for admission to the partner university. If the partner university refuses admission, the student cannot receive a degree from the partner university. In this case, the student may only continue studies at the university of Bonn for the MSc degree awarded by this university.

§ 5

Organization of the study program

- (1) The study program is organized in modules, which usually consist of units of instruction within a semester that have a thematic, methodical or systematic link. The study program builds on 5 study sections that include obligatory modules, electives from specified obligatory groups of modules, and electives (see annex 1 A-C). The last section involves the master thesis. Each module concludes with a module examination that might consist of several individual examination elements and provides credit points (CP). Each module provides 6 credit points, the master thesis 30 credit points. The credit points are determined according to

the ECTS system (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) (note: 6 credit points are usually based on a face-to-face instruction period of 4 hours per week for one semester of about 15 weeks).

(2) The modules of study sections 1 and 2 are obligatory for all students of the study program *Food and Resource Economics*. In study section 3 students opt for any one of three specializations according to §1. In study section 4, each specialization offers one or several modules as advanced courses ('majors', see annex 1 A-C). The advanced courses provide the basis for the theme of the master thesis which will be linked to the selected advanced course ('major').

(3) Focus and number of modules of the study sections as well as the opportunity for electives within the study sections (see annex 1 A-C) are organized as follows:

- **Study section 1:** 6 credit points from obligatory module 'Methods of Empirical Research'
- **Study section 2:** 24 credit points from obligatory modules in knowledge area 'Focused Basics'
- **Study section 3:** 30 credit points from electives out of modules from selected lines of specialization (study lines):
 - Specialization 'Management'
 - Specialization 'Policy and Markets'
 - Specialization 'Economics and Sociology of Household and Consumption'At least 6 credit points need to come from seminars; up to 12 credit points could be earned through modules from specializations not selected by the student.
- **Study section 4:** 30 credit points from electives in different categories of modules that involve advanced courses in majors and allow further intensification of studies in selected specialization.
- **Study section 5:** 30 credit points from master thesis in selected major.

The individual modules, types of examinations and credit points are listed in annex 1 A-C of these regulations.

§ 6

Examination committee

(1) For the organization of examinations and the fulfilment of responsibilities outlined in these regulations, the Faculty of Agriculture appoints an examination committee. The dean of the Faculty of Agriculture is responsible for the examination committee to fulfil its responsibilities as stated. The examination committee consists of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson, and three additional members. The chairperson, the vice-chairperson and one of the additional members are elected by and from the group of professors of the departments involved in the study program *Food and Resource Economics*, one member is elected by and from the group of scientific personnel of these departments, and one member by and from the students of the study program *Food and Resource Economics*. For each member of the committee the groups elect a substitute.

(2) The election period is three years for members from the groups of professors and scientific personnel, one year for student members. Re-election of members is possible.

(3) The examination committee is a legal entity according to German law of administration.

(4) The examination committee is responsible for enforcing the regulations stated herein, appoints the examiners and assures the correctness of examinations. It is especially responsible for

- the determination of examination periods,
- decisions on appeals against decisions in examination processes, and
- the acceptance of study and examination results from other study programs and/or other universities.

It reports to the board of the Faculty of Agriculture on the development of time spent by students in the study program including the time spent on the master thesis as well as on the distribution of study grades. It proposes changes in the study and examination regulations and in the study program. The examination committee can authorize the chairperson to act on behalf of the committee in all routine matters except for decisions on examination appeals and reports to the board of the Faculty of Agriculture.

(5) The examination committee is able to act, if the chairperson or the vice-chairperson, an additional member of the group of professors, and another committee member are present. The committee can authorize the chairperson to act on behalf of the committee in all routine matters except for decision on appeals. The examination committee decides with majority vote. In a stalemate situation, the vote of the chairperson is decisive. Student members are not involved in decisions on the acceptance of study and examination results, the determination of examination contents, and the appointment of examiners and supporting personnel. The members of the examination committee have the right to be present in examinations.

(6) The meetings of the examination committee are not open to non-members. The members of the examination committee and their substitutes are bound to secrecy. As far as they are not public employees, the chairperson has to ask for their obligation to secrecy. The results of meetings of the examination committee are documented in a protocol.

§ 7

Examiners and supporting personnel

(1) The examination committee appoints the examiners and the supporting personnel. It can authorize the chairperson to do this. Appointments as examiner are usually restricted to professors, 'Universitätsdozenten', and 'Privatdozenten' engaged in the examinations' discipline. In general, appointment as examiner should be limited to people who have at least passed an MSc examination or equivalent in the discipline and, if no overriding reasons ask for a deviation from the rule, who have been engaged in independent instructions in the discipline during the study phase preceding the examination. Appointment as supporting personnel is limited to people who have passed an MSc examination or equivalent in the discipline. Appointments as examiner can also be extended to instructors of the partner university if they are engaged in instructions in the discipline of the examination.

(2) The examiners for the master thesis may be suggested by the student. However, this is no legal right. The primary examiner should be the instructor who was the primary supporter of the master thesis. The examination committee appoints examiners from the eligible groups mentioned in paragraph (1). They must be members of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn. For students who participate in the exchange program with the partner university the second examiner will be appointed by the partner university. If the master thesis is written and supported at the partner university, the second examiner will be appointed by

the examination committee from the eligible groups mentioned in paragraph (1). Examiners for the master thesis are appointed at the time, the theme of the master thesis is determined.

(3) The chairperson of the examination committee is responsible for informing the student about the names of the examiners and the examination dates at least two weeks prior to the examination dates.

(4) The examiners are free in their examination activity. They are bound to secrecy. As far as they are not public employees, the chairperson has to ask for their obligation to secrecy.

§ 8

Acceptance of study and examination results

(1) Study and examination results of a similar study program from a university under German law are officially accepted without further proof of equivalence.

(2) Equivalent study and examination results from other study programs or from other universities under German law are officially accepted. Study and examination results from universities outside German law are accepted upon application and proof of equivalence. The determination of equivalence should consider the equivalence agreements of the 'Kultusministerkonferenz' and the 'Hochschulrektorenkonferenz' as well as relevant agreements between partner universities. Equivalence should be assumed if study and examination results are essentially equivalent in content, extent and requirements to those of the master study program *Food and Resource Economics*. The proof should not be based on a systematic comparison but be built on a comprehensive view and evaluation.

(3) Responsible for acceptance according to paragraphs 1 and 2 is the examination committee. Before determination of equivalence, the representatives of the relevant disciplines should be asked for their opinion. Furthermore, if doubts exist regarding the equivalence of study and examination results from abroad, the 'Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen' could be asked for an opinion.

(4) If study and examination results are accepted, the grades – as long as grading systems are comparable – are accepted as well and incorporated into the calculation of the overall grade with the weight determined by the respective credit points. If grading systems are not comparable, the results are marked as 'passed' and as 'accepted' in the final report. Accepted study and examination results from study programs without credit points are credited by the examination committee.

(5) The students have to provide the necessary documents and information. Acceptance may be refused if the student does not cooperate adequately.

§ 9

Protection rules, omissions, withdrawal, deception, violations of regulations

(1) On application by students, mother protection periods are to be considered as stated in the relevant law (MuSchG). The application has to be accompanied by the relevant documents. The mother protection periods interrupt any other time limit of these examination regulations,

the duration of the mother protection period will not be considered in the calculation of the time span available until a certain time limit had been reached.

(2) Similarly the mother protection periods are to be considered for 'Erziehungsgeld' and 'Elternzeit (BERzGG)' upon application and according to the relevant laws. The student is obliged to inform the examination committee in writing about the time periods he or she intends to utilize 'Elternzeit' latest about four weeks in advance. The examination committee has to check, if the application for 'Elternzeit' according to BERzGG is based on the relevant laws, informs the student about the outcome and informs him or her where applicable about newly determined examination periods. The duration specified for the master thesis cannot be prolonged by utilizing 'Elternzeit'. In this case, the master thesis is nullified. After return from the 'Elternzeit', the student receives a new theme for the master thesis.

(3) An examination result is valued as 'not sufficient' if a student does not participate in an examination he or she had applied for and which had been announced regarding time and place except in cases where the student withdraws before or during the examination with credible reasons. The same applies if an examination result could not be produced within a preset period.

(4) The reasons brought forward for withdrawing from or for missing an examination need to be brought to the attention of the chairperson of the examination committee in writing immediately and credibly. In case of illness, the student might be asked to provide a doctor's certificate that includes the diagnosis needed by the examination committee to declare a student's inability to participate in the examination. In individual cases, the chairperson of the examination committee could ask for a doctor's certificate from an independent expert doctor or a medical officer of his liking. If a student's reasons are accepted by the chairperson of the examination committee, the student receives the decision in writing together with the specification of a new examination date or in case the failing concerned the second examination date of a written module examination, a third examination date six weeks after the start of the teaching period of the following semester. This additional examination date may be organized as an oral examination if an additional written examination is considered organizationally unsuitable.

(5) If students intend to influence the examination results by using non-authorized means or by deception, the examination is valued as 'not sufficient'. The valuation is made by the examiner or the person in charge of the examination, documented and forwarded to the examination committee.

(6) A student who disturbs the orderly examination process can be excluded from further participation after a first unsuccessful caution. The exclusion has to be documented and forwarded to the examination committee. If a student is excluded from further participation in an examination, the examination results are considered to be valued as 'not sufficient'.

(7) Any decision according to paragraphs (3) and (4) are subject to a hearing offered to the student prior to the decision.

II. MSc examination

§ 10

Admission to and enrolment for the MSc examination

- (1) Admission to the MSc examination is subject to the following conditions:
1. Fulfilment of the admission requirements stated in §3(1)
 2. Enrolment as student at the university of Bonn in the master study program *Food and Resource Economics* or accepted as guest student according to §71 (2) HG.
- (2) Application for admission to the MSc examination is to be submitted in writing to the examination committee together with the application for participation in the first examination. The application needs to include
1. proof that the admission requirements of paragraph 1 are fulfilled,
 2. a statement clarifying if the student has failed or definitely failed an examination in the master study program *Food and Resource Economics* or in a related or similar study program or is simultaneously engaged in an examination procedure of the same, a related or similar study program.
- (3) A written application is necessary for each module examination according to § 11(3) and for the master thesis including a valid address for examination incitement. The application is only valid, if the admission requirements are fulfilled. The application periods are announced at the notice board; the dates are exclusive. The students may withdraw from the examination in writing latest one week before the examination date. Together with the application for module examinations in study sections 3 and 4, the student has to state the selected study specialization. Applications for admission to the master thesis have to be accompanied by proof on the successful fulfilment of the study requirements of study sections 1 to 3 as well as statements on the selected major and the examiners of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität and the partner university the student suggests for supporting the thesis.
- (4) Admission is decided upon by the examination committee or the chairperson of the examination committee according to § 6(4).
- (5) Admission may only be denied if
- a) the requirements stated in §3 are not fulfilled,
 - b) the documents according to §3 are incomplete and/or not provided upon request,
 - c) the student has definitely failed an examination or the MSc examination in the study program *Food and Resource Economics* or a related or comparable study program or
 - d) the student is engaged in another examination process in the study program *Food and Resource Economics* or in a related or comparable study program.

§ 11

Goal, type and extent of MSc examination

- (1) The MSc examination is aimed at determining that the student has acquired knowledge in the discipline in accordance with the goal of the master study program, understands the interrelationships in examination focus areas, and has the ability to independently apply the knowledge and methods of the examination focus areas.

(2) The MSc examination consists of

- the module examinations during the course of the study program according to §5(3) and the annexes 1 A-C and
- the master thesis as the concluding examination.

(3) Module examinations during the course of the study program focus on the content of the modules and include

- the examinations in lecture courses with and without exercises,
- the examinations in seminars,
- the examinations in project seminars, and
- the examinations in colloquium type of courses.

(4) Examinations in lecture courses focus on theoretical knowledge acquired in the lectures as well on the ability to understand predominant interrelationships. The module examination consists of a written or an oral examination. Examination languages are German and English. The examination material is provided in the language of the lecture. The examination committee informs at the start of the semester on the type of the respective module examination as well as on the type and extent of the necessary performance preconditions according to § 4 (3).

(5) Examinations in seminars focus on written papers with and without oral presentations on parts of knowledge areas that are dealt with in seminars. Papers and oral presentations together are valued as unified examination results. Examinations in project seminars usually focus on the independent preparation, documentation, and presentation of a project that may involve cooperation with professional partners. Examinations in a colloquium focus on the independent preparation, documentation, presentation and professional discussion of a scientific theme. Group work is possible if an individual valuation of students' engagement is assured.

§ 12

Written examinations, homework, presentations and papers

(1) In written examinations the student should proof that he or she is able, in limited time and with limited means, to identify a problem out of the focus areas of the respective module by applying the methods used in the focus areas and to identify approaches to its solution. Each written examination lasts for at least 60 and at most 240 minutes and is to be graded by two examiners according to § 7. A deviation is only possible in urgent needs which have to be documented. The grade of the written examination is computed as the arithmetic mean of the individual valuations according to § 15 (2).

(2) Written homework and oral presentations support the focused preparation and recapitulation of the content of lecture units. Homework has to be accompanied by a written statement confirming that the homework had been prepared independently. Homework and oral presentations are not graded but valued by an examiner according to § 7 as 'sufficient' or 'not sufficient'. Homework and oral presentations valued as 'not sufficient' can be delivered or presented again in improved versions. The examiners may question students regarding the content of the homework. Proficiency in the content of the homework is a precondition for the valuation of homework as 'sufficient'.

(3) Written papers and oral presentations on the content of the papers constitute a unified examination result. In determining the grade for the examination results, the grade for the written paper is counted two thirds, the grade for the oral presentation as one third. The grading builds on the valuations of two examiners according to § 7. To pass the module examination, both parts must reach a grade of at least ‘ausreichend (*sufficient*)’. Each written paper has to be accompanied by a written statement confirming that the paper had been prepared independently.

(4) In a colloquium the preparation, documentation, presentation and professional discussion of the scientific theme constitute a unified examination result. The final grade integrates equally the grade for the written documentation and the grade for the presentation and scientific discussion.

§ 13

Oral examinations

(1) In oral examinations students should proof that they have a broad basic knowledge in the focus area of the respective module, recognize interrelationships, be able to relate specific problems to these interrelationships and to identify solution opportunities.

(2) Oral examinations are carried out by a group of examiners (‘Kollegialprüfung’) or by an examiner together with a knowledgeable supporting person. In an examination with several examiners, the student is questioned only by one of the examiners in the examinations’ discipline. The determination of the grade according to § 15 (2) is subject to consulting with the other examiners respective the supporting person with the student not present.

(3) The duration of the examination for each student is at least 15 and at most 40 minutes. In group examinations it must be assured that the time is allotted equally to each participating student.

(4) Relevant contents and the result of the oral examination are to be documented. The student is to be informed about the result following the oral examination.

(5) Students who intend to participate in the same oral examination at a later examination date may participate as listeners if space permits and the examination student does not object. The option for participation does not include the determination and announcement of the examination result.

§ 14

Execution of examinations within study program (course exams)

(1) For every student admitted to the MSc examination, the examination committee prepares a credit point account. As far as organizational feasible, students can always request information about their account without formalities.

(2) Modules according to annex 1 A-C are concluded with a module examination. The module examination in modules that are divided in annex 1 A-C in several sub-modules can be divided in several sub-examinations. In this case, the grades of the sub-examinations are incorporated equally into the grade of the module examination. A module is considered as

having been passed if all related examinations have been passed. The overall grade is calculated on the basis of the module grades, not on grades of individual examinations. For each module respective sub-module two examination dates are offered in every semester. The examination dates are announced on the notice board in due time by the examination committee.

(3) Examinations are valued with credit points according to the ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System). Credit points quantify the work load, the student has to deal with for participation in lectures, preparatory work and recapitulation in order to succeed with a module. An ECTS credit point corresponds with a work load of about 25-30 hours. The work load in a semester is organized such as to earn 30 credit points.

(4) An examination is considered successful, if graded as 'ausreichend' (4,0) or better. For each examination graded as 'ausreichend' or better, the student receives the credit points allocated to the module.

(5) Students that can proof through a doctor's certificate that a continuous and permanent disability or a chronic disease prevents them from participating in an examination fully or partly in the intended form for more than one semester are allowed through the chairperson of the examination committee to participate in comparable study and/or examination activities within a prolonged preparation period or in any other form.

§ 15

Evaluation of examination results and grading

(1) The grades for the individual examination results are determined by the respective examiners. Are several examiners involved in an examination, the grades are determined as the arithmetic mean of the individual grading proposals.

(2) For the grading the following grades are to be used:

1 = sehr gut (very good)	= an exceptional performance
2 = gut (good)	= a performance pronounced above the average requirements
3 = befriedigend (fair)	= a performance that equals average requirements
4 = ausreichend (sufficient)	= a performance that fulfils requirements despite deficiencies
5 = nicht ausreichend (not sufficient)	= a performance with major deficiencies that does not fulfil requirements anymore

For making distinctions in the grading of examination results the grades can be lifted or lowered by 0,3; the grades 0,7 and 4,3 as well as 4,7 and 5,3 are excluded.

(3) In the determination of grades out of intermediate values the following relationships are valid:

Until and including 1,5	the grade 'sehr gut' (very good)
From 1,6 until and including 2,5	the grade 'gut' (good)
From 2,6 until and including 3,5	the grade 'befriedigend' (fair)

From 3,6 until and including 4,0	the grade 'ausreichend' (sufficient)
From 4,1	the grade 'nicht ausreichend' (not sufficient)

Intermediate values are only considered with the first decimal after the comma; all other positions behind the comma are being deleted without rounding.

(4) For consideration in the MSc certificate according to the actual proposals of the 'Hochschulrektorenkonferenz' (conference of the university presidents), the examination results are transferred into the respective ECTS-grades.

§ 16 Master thesis

(1) The master thesis is a written examination for the student to show that he or she is able to work independently, within a pre-determined time, and with scientific methods on an assigned problem.

(2) The theme of the master thesis is determined and supported by the examiners appointed by the examination committee according to § 7(2). Prior to this, the student must be given the opportunity to make proposals for the theme of the master thesis; however, the examination committee is not bound to the proposals. The theme must be related to the selected specialization and should be linked to the selected major.

(3) On request, the chairperson of the examination committee cares for the student to receive a theme for the master thesis in time.

(4) The master thesis may be accepted as a group work if the contribution of the individual student to be valued as his or her examination result can be clearly identified through the specification of paragraphs, pages or other objective criteria, is clearly separable and valuable, and fulfils the requirements according to paragraph 1.

(5) The chairperson of the examination committee announces the theme of the master thesis. Theme and time of announcement are to be documented.

(6) The time span for preparation of the master thesis is six months. Theme, problem, and extent of the master thesis are to be delineated with acceptable requirements which allow the preparation time to remain within the time span.

(7) The student may give back the theme of the master thesis once within the first 4 weeks after the announcement of the theme without giving reasons. In this case, the master thesis counts as not yet announced.

(8) With the submission of the master thesis, the student has to provide a written statement that he or she has prepared the thesis – or the specified parts in a group thesis – independently, not used any other sources and means than those listed, and marked citations.

§ 17

Acceptance and assessment of thesis

- (1) Three copies of the master thesis have to be submitted to the examination committee in time. The time of submission has to be documented. If the master thesis is not submitted in time, it will be valued as 'nicht bestanden' (not passed).
- (2) The master thesis is judged and valued independently by two examiners appointed according to §7(2).
- (3) The individual valuations is to follow §15(2). The grade of the master thesis is calculated as arithmetic mean of the individual valuations. If the individual valuations of the examiners differ 2,0 or more, the examination committee appoints a third examiner. The final grade of the master thesis is calculated as arithmetic mean of the two best valuations. However, the master thesis can only be graded as 'ausreichend' (sufficient) or better if at least two individual grades are 'ausreichend' (sufficient) or better.
- (4) In case of a master thesis that builds on group work, the independent part of each individual student has to be valued within the overall group work.
- (5) The valuation of the master thesis should be finished within eight weeks after the thesis had been submitted to the examination committee; the student should be informed about the results.
- (6) Is the master thesis valued as 'nicht ausreichend' (not sufficient), the student may repeat it once. A second repetition is not possible. Failures in the same discipline in other universities are counted. The theme for the second master thesis does not have to be from the same focus area as the first master thesis. The opportunity to give a master theme back within the period stated in §16(7) is only valid, if this opportunity had not been used during the first master thesis.

§ 18

Regulations for performance evaluations

- (1) The student who has passed an examination in the first or in later trials with a grade of 'ausreichend' (sufficient) or better receives the connected credit points. An examination with a grade of 'ausreichend' (4,0) (sufficient) or better which provided credit points cannot be repeated.
- (2) Is a repeated module examination graded as 'nicht ausreichend' (not sufficient) or considered 'nicht ausreichend' (not sufficient), the student receives one (1) 'malus point'. The malus point will be deleted, if the student achieves a grade 'ausreichend' (sufficient) or better in one of the follow-up examinations.
- (3) Credit points are counted with the passing of an examination. Malus points are only counted with the conclusion of the examination period for the repetition of examinations. The counting of credit points precedes the counting of malus points. Malus points are only counted if the student after the repetition of the examination and without consideration of the master thesis has not yet reached the overall number of 90 credit points.

§ 19

Passing and repetition of MSc examination

- (1) The MSc examination has been passed as soon as the student reaches one-hundred-and-twenty (120) credit points including the master thesis.
- (2) The MSc examination has definitely been failed if
 - the student has unsuccessfully tried a module four times,
 - the student has reached a total of four (4) malus points before reaching an overall count of 90 credit points from module examinations, or
 - the repeated master thesis has been valued as 'nicht ausreichend' (not sufficient).
- (3) For the determination of the individual examination results, §15 is to be applied.
- (4) If the MSc examination has been successfully passed, each module (study section) is graded as the arithmetic mean of individual module examinations which are weighted according to the number of credit points allocated to each module. The arithmetic mean is calculated with one decimal, further decimals are omitted. The overall grade of the MSc examination is calculated as arithmetic mean of the average grades of the modules (study sections) which are weighted according to their contribution to the overall requirements according to §5.
- (5) The overall grade of 'sehr gut' (very good) is replaced by the overall grade 'mit Auszeichnung bestanden' (passed with distinction) if the master thesis is graded 1,0 and the overall grade of module examinations is at least 1,3.
- (6) A failed module examination can only be repeated three times. Failures at other universities are counted. A master thesis graded 'nicht ausreichend' (not sufficient) can be repeated once. A further repetition is excluded. If the student failed an obligatory module four times or if a repeated master thesis was graded 'nicht ausreichend' (not sufficient), the MSc examination has been failed definitely.

§ 20

Additional study achievements

Students may, upon application, incorporate examination results of at most 30 credit points from disciplines (additional disciplines or modules) that are not part of the study program but are accepted as examination studies at the Faculty of Agriculture or any other Faculty of the university. The results from these examinations may, upon application by the student, be integrated into the MSc certificate but not counted towards the overall grade. Malus points are not considered with regard to these examinations.

§ 21

MSc degree and certificate

- (1) If the MSc examination has been passed in total, the results are documented immediately, preferably within four weeks in an examination certificate in German accompanied by an English translation and a 'Diploma Supplement'. The examination certificate includes all instruction units that provided credit points, the semester the credit points were earned, the

grades reached in the instruction units according to §15, the average grades for the different modules (study sections) as well as the overall grade for the MSc examination. Examination results from other universities are marked. The examination certificate includes, in addition, the theme of the master thesis. The 'Diploma Supplement' provides, in a standardized form and in English, additional information on the content and approach of the study program, the academic and professional qualifications acquired with the masters' degree, and information about the university.

- (2) Upon application by the student, the examination certificate includes the results from examinations in additional disciplines and the extent of these additional study activities.
- (3) The examination certificate carries the date of the last examination and the seal of the examination committee and is signed by the chairperson of the examination committee.
- (4) Together with the examination certificate the student receives an MSc document, in German, on the provision of the academic degree which carries the same date and is accompanied by a certified translation in English. The MSc documents are signed by the dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and the chairperson of the examination committee and carry the seal of the Faculty of Agriculture.
- (5) If a student has failed an MSc examination definitely, he or she receives, upon application, a report card that includes the examination results that had been earned..
- (6) Upon application by the student, the examination certificate is complemented by a report on the distribution of grades in the respective MSc examination group.

III. Final regulations

§ 22

Invalidity of MSc examination, nullification of MSc degree

- (1) If a student has cheated in an examination and if this becomes known only after the examination certificate had been handed out, the examination committee may adjust the grades of the examination in which the cheating took place as well as the overall grades and declare the examination partly or in total a failure. The partner university will be informed on the situation.
- (2) If the requirements for admission to an examination were not fulfilled without the student's intension to cheat and if this becomes known only after the examination certificate had been handed out, this deficiency is considered to be healed by the student's success in the examination. If a student has gained admission wrongly on purpose, the examination committee decides on the legal consequences under consideration of the 'Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz' for the state of North-Rhine-Westfalia.
- (3) Prior to a decision, the affected students must be given the opportunity to comment.
- (4) A decision according to paragraphs 1 and 2, sentence 2 is no longer possible if a period of 5 years after the handing out of the examination certificate has passed.

(5) The examination certificate wrongly handed out is to be confiscated; if applicable a new examination certificate is to be handed out. This applies similarly to the MSc document.

(6) If an MSc examination has been declared 'nicht bestanden' (not sufficient), the academic degree has to be withdrawn and the examination certificate as well as the MSc document has to be confiscated.

§ 23

Insight into examination protocols

(1) After conclusion of the examination process and within three months after the examination certificate had been handed out, the student, upon application, can have a look at the examination protocols. The application is to be addressed to the chairperson of the examination committee.

(2) The chairperson of the examination committee determines place and time for the look at the records. Dates for repetitions are to be considered adequately.

§ 24

Enforcement and publication

These examination regulations are enforced from the day after their publication in the official announcements of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn – 'Verkündungsblatt'.

Note:

*First version based on the decisions by the Faculty of Agriculture of May 5, 2004, the resolution by the rectorat of May 11, 2004 and signed by the rector Prof. Dr. M. Winiger
Subsequent versions based on the decisions by the Faculty of Agriculture of January 25, 2006 and of July 5, 2006, the resolution by the rectorat of July 25, 2006 and signed by the rector Prof. Dr. M. Winiger.*

Annex 1 A-C:
List of modules, type of exams and credit points

Master Program „Food and Resource Economics“

Annex 1A: Methodological Basics

Term 1: (6 CP)

Code	Name of course	CP	Exam
G-1	Methods of Empirical Research	6	WE

Annex 1B: Focused Basics

Term 2: (24 CP)

Code	Names of courses	CP	Exam
G-2.1	Microeconomics	6	WE
G-2.2	Quantitative Techniques for Planning and Decision Making	6	WE
G-2.3	Household Economics and Economic Sociology	6	WE
G-2.4	Management of Natural Resources	6	WE

Annex 1C: Specializations

Study Line A „Management“

Term 3: (30 CP)

(Minimum of 6 CP from seminars; up to 12 CP can be selected from other study lines)

Code	Names of courses	CP	Exam
A-3.1	Accounting and Balancing	6	WE
A-3.2	Cost Accounting	6	WE
A-3.3	Decision Theory and Financial Management	6	WE
A-3.4	Organization, Logistics and Information Management	6	WE
A-3.5	Project Planning and System Dynamics	6	WE
A-3.6	Legal Status, Cooperations and Taxation of Enterprises	6	WE
A-3.7	Strategy, Quality and Food Chain Management	6	WE
A-3.8	Industrial Economics of the Food Sector	6	WE
A-3.9	Marketing	6	WE/OE
A-3.10	Seminar Management of Complex Systems	6	PR
A-3.11	Seminar Quality and Food Chain Management	6	PR
A-3.12	Seminar Marketing	6	PR
A-3.13	Business Studies Seminar	6	PR

Term 4: Advanced Courses and Seminars (30 CP)

4a) Project Seminar (6 CP)

Code	Name of course	CP	Exam
A-4.1	Business and Food Chain Management	6	PR

4b) Advanced Courses (6 CP)

Code	Names of courses	CP	Prüf
A-4.2	Farm Management	6	WE
A-4.3	Strategic Business Management and Development	6	PR
A-4.4	Information, Trust and Knowledge Management in Chains and Networks	6	PR
A-4.5	Marketing and Market Analysis	6	WE

4c) Electives (12 CP)

Any course from Terms 3 or 4 of any line of study or, alternatively, project in focus study.

4d) Colloquium

Term 5: Master Thesis (30 CP)

Thesis in one of the following majors:

- Management of Agricultural Business
- Business Management
- Information Management
- Marketing

Code		Exam	CP
A-5.1	Master Thesis	Master Thesis	30

Study Line B: „Policy and Markets“**Term 3: Core Courses (30 CP)**

(Minimum of 6 CP from seminars; up to 12 CP can be selected from other study lines)

Code	Names of courses	CP	Exam
B-3.1	European and International Agricultural Policy	6	WE
B-3.2	Public Choice in the Agri-Food Sector	6	WE
B-3.3	Applied Trade Theory and Policy	6	WE
B-3.4	Development Economics	6	WE
B-3.5	Marketing	6	WE/OE
B-3.6	Industrial Economics of the Food Sector	6	WE
B-3.7	Advanced Methods of Market Research	6	WE
B-3.8	Environmental and Resource Economics	6	WE
B-3.9	Seminar Policy Analysis	6	PR
B-3.10	Seminar Market Analysis	6	PR
B-3.11	Seminar Marketing	6	PR
B-3.12	Seminar on Environmental Economics	6	PR
B-3.13	Advanced Applied Econometrics	6	WE

Term 4: Advanced Courses and Seminars (30 CP)**4a) Project Seminar (6 CP)**

Code	Name of course	CP	Exam
B-4.1	Policy and Markets	6	PR

4b) Advanced Courses (6 CP)

Code	Name of course	CP	Exam
B-4.2	Simulation Models for Policy Analysis	6	WE
B-4.3	Marketing and Market Analysis	6	WE
B-4.4	Advanced Environmental Economics	6	WE

4c) Electives (12 CP)

Any course from Term 3 or 4 of any line of study or, alternatively, project in focus study.

4d) Colloquium (6 CP)

Term 5: Master Thesis (30 CP)

Thesis in one of the following majors:

- Policy Analysis
- Market Analysis
- Resource- and Environmental Economics

Code	Name of course	CP	Exam
B-5.1	Masterarbeit	30	Masterarbeit

Study Line C: „ Economics and Sociology of Household and Consumption “
Term 3: Core Courses (30 CP)

(Minimum of 6 CP from seminars; up to 12 CP can be selected from other study lines)

Code	Names of courses	CP	Exam
C-3.1	Socio-economic Theory of the Household	6	WE
C-3.2	Sozio-economic Hybrids	6	WE
C-3.3	Household Sector Analysis	6	PR
C-3.4	Applied Social Policy	6	WE
C-3.5	Sociology of Development	6	WE
C-3.6	Marketing	6	WE/OE
C-3.7	Food Law	6	WE/PR
C-3.8	Seminar Economic Sociology	6	PR
C-3.9	Seminar Sociology of Development	6	PR
C-3.10	Seminar Marketing	6	PR
C-3.11	Economical and Technical Analysis of Household Appliances	6	WE
C-3.12	Analysis of Appliance Technology and their Contribution to Sustainable Development	6	PR

Term 4: Advanced Courses and Seminars (30 CP)**4a) Project Seminar (6 CP)**

Code	Name of course	CP	Exam
C-4.1	Consumer Sociology, Household Economics and Household Appliances	6	PR

4b) Advanced Courses (6 CP)

Code	Names of courses	CP	Exam
C-4.2	Consumer Studies	6	WE

4c) Electives (12 CP)

Any course from Terms 3 or 4 of any line of study or, alternatively, project in focus study.

4d) Colloquium (6 CP)

Term 5: Master Thesis (30 CP)

Thesis in one of the following Majors:

- Economics of Consumers and Households
- Sociology of Consumers and Households
- Household Appliances

Code		Exam	CP
C-5.1	Master Thesis	Master Thesis	30

Abbreviations

WE Written exam

PR Oral presentation and written report

OE Oral exam

CP Credit Points (European Credit Transfer System – ECTS)

1 CP represents a work load of between 28 and 30 hours