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Admission Regulations of the University of Hohenheim for the consecutive Master's program in "Environmental Science – Soil, Water and Biodiversity"

From 17 November 2025

The University of Hohenheim Senate passed the following Regulations on xxx based on § 63(2), § 60(2), § 59(1), and § 19(1) sentence 2, no. 10 of the State Higher Education Act (Landeshochschulgesetz, LHG) from 1 January 2005 (Law Gazette (GBI.) p. 1) as amended in Article 01 of the Third Higher Education Amendment Act (3rd HRÄG) from 1 April 2014, as amended by Art. 24 of the Budget Supplement Act 2025/2026 from 17 December 2024 (GBI. no. 114), § 6(4), § 6a, § 9(2) and (3) as well as § 11 of the Higher Education Admissions Act (Hochschulzulassungsgesetz, HZG) from 15 September 2005 (GBI. p. 629), last amended by Article 9 of the Fourth Higher Education Amendment Act from 17 December 2020 (GBI. pp. 1204, 1229) as well as § 19 et seqq. and § 33 of the Higher Education Admissions Ordinance (Hochschulzulassungsverordnung, HZVO) from 2 December 2019 (GBI. p. 489), last amended by the Ordinance from the Ministry of Science on amending the Higher Education Admissions Ordinance (HZVO) from 23 July 2025 (GBI. no. 73).

§ 1 Scope of Application

- (1) In the Master's program in Environmental Science – Soil, Water and Biodiversity the university allocates the university places it has available as stated in the respective ordinance of the Ministry of Science on the determination of admission numbers at universities in accordance with the following provisions.
- (2) Admission to the first subject-related semester is only to be granted for the respective winter semester. Admissions to higher subject-related semesters are not possible.

§ 2 Selection Quotas

- (1) The study places available under § 1 shall be allocated as follows:
 - a) 50 percent to German applicants,
 - b) 50 percent to foreign applicants who do not have German citizenship and stateless persons.Of these 50%, the following quotas are formed:
 - aa) 30% go to applicants with citizenship from an EU country,
 - bb) 70% go to applicants from non-EU countries and stateless persons,whereat the ranking in sub-quotas aa) and bb) is done separately and unfilled university places are added to the other sub-quota.
- (2) A separate ranking is established for each of these three quotas. Any university places remaining in a quota are allocated to the other quota.

§ 3 Deadline and Form

- (1) The application for admission must be submitted electronically to the University of Hohenheim using the website of the University of Hohenheim (online application) in accordance with the requirements stated in the application process and with the submission of the required documentation stated in § 3(2) by the application deadline. Upon request and to avoid undue hardship, the University of Hohenheim may waive the requirement for an electronic application and accept a written application.
- (2) Applications from applicants with citizenship from non-EU Member States and stateless persons must be received by the University of Hohenheim by 15 January of the year (cut-off deadline) for admission to the degree program in the following winter semester. Applications from applicants with citizenship from an EU Member State must be received by the University of Hohenheim by 15 April of the year (cut-off deadline) for admission to the degree program in the following winter semester.
- (3) The application must include the following documents:
 - a) Proof that the requirements specified in §§ 4 and 5 are fulfilled,
 - b) If applicable, proof of whether the applicant has lost the right to be examined in a Master's program listed in Annex 1 or is currently undergoing an examination procedure in these degree programs.

If the degree certificate for the first degree is not yet available by the application deadlines mentioned in § 3(2), an overview of the examination results available up to that point must be enclosed with the application for admission. The applicant takes part in the selection procedure with an average grade determined on the basis of previous examinations. In order to begin studying in the winter semester, the final degree certificate has to be submitted at the latest by **15 December** of the year for which admission was requested;
- (4) If the documentation of English proficiency according to § 4 (1) b) is not provided by the time of expiry of the application deadlines stated in (2), the admission committee may grant an extension until 15 July of the year for which admission is requested for applications from applicants from non-EU countries and stateless persons, and until 15 June for applications from German applicants and from applicants with a nationality from an EU country.

§ 4 Admission Requirements

- (1) Admission requirements are:
 - a) proof of a degree including final grade or average grade in a Bachelor's program at a German or foreign university with a standard period of study of at least three years or an equivalent academic qualification in agricultural sciences or in a degree program in accordance with Annex 2,
 - b) proof of English language proficiency. English language proficiency can be proven by the following tests only:
 - TOEFL iBT (92 points)
 - IELTS Academic 7.0
 - Cambridge C1 Advanced

Proof of English language proficiency is not required from applicants from the following nations: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United States of America. The same applies to applicants who have already successfully completed an English-language Bachelor's or Master's degree at a recognized university in one of the above-mentioned English-speaking countries.
 - c) proof of basic knowledge in at least two of the following three groups of subjects:
 - Mathematics/Statistics (at least 6 ECTS credits)

- Biology/Ecology (at least 6 ECTS credits)
- Chemistry/Physics (at least 6 ECTS credits)

(2) If the final grade or the average grade according to § 4(1) a) is not above average, the applicant must also prove their particular aptitude for the degree program applied for as an admission requirement according to (3). The above-average requirement is considered to have been fulfilled with:

- a) a university degree or an average grade of at least 2.5 / good or a comparable equivalent qualification,
- b) proof that the applicant was in the best 50% of the cohort of the same study program of the university at the point of the final examination which is requirement for being admitted to this Master's program (ranking).

(3) The particular aptitude for the degree programs can be demonstrated by

- a) one or a maximum of two letters of recommendation, if possible from professors of the university at which the degree which is a requirement for being admitted to the Master's program was completed; and/or
- b) proof of completed vocational training or professional work in a recognized vocational training occupation, which provides information about the subject-specific aptitude, individually or in combination, and relevant previous education or practical activities which provide information about the subject-specific aptitude individually or in combination, and/or
- c) proof of particular social or societal volunteer work as well as other achievements that may provide particular information about the aptitude for the chosen degree program, such as participation in university self-administration and/or
- d) a letter of motivation of no more than one page in English, signed by the applicant, stating the primary reasons for choosing the degree program and explaining to the admission committee why the applicant is particularly well-suited for this degree program.

The statements on the points under § 4(3) a) to c) must be supported by documentation. The admission committee decides on the particular aptitude in the form of an overall assessment of the documents submitted.

(4) The admission committee decides on the equivalence of the previous education and the comparability of the qualified degrees. When recognizing foreign degrees, the recommendations of the Conference of the Ministers of Education and the agreements within the framework of university partnerships must be observed. The Office of International Affairs assists the admission committee in reviewing whether foreign degrees are recognized. In cases of doubt, the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) will be consulted.

(5) If the proof according to (1 to 3) is not in English, a certified translation into English is required.

§ 5 Selection Procedure

(1) If the number of qualified applicants acc. to § 4 exceeds the number of available university places, the study places available shall be allocated according to a ranking to be created using the following criteria:

- a. Overall grade of the final examination or the average grade of the examination results available up to that point for the degree program which is an admission requirement according to § 4 or proof of the applicant's ranking within the top 50% of the cohort (weighting: 60%).
- b. And furthermore cumulatively

- i. Completed vocational training (no restrictions on the field) or at least 0.5 years of full-time work in an area considered part of a vocation requiring training or agricultural intern examination (weighting: 20%), each individually or in combination,
- ii. Studies and/or practical work abroad (not in the applicant's home country) lasting at least 3 months per stay (weighting: 20%).

If the documentation for the criteria listed in letters a) and b) is not in English, a certified translation into English is required.

- (2) The assessment of the criteria pursuant to § 5(1) is carried out on a scale of 1 to 10 in accordance with Annex 3. The sum of the percentage points of the selection criteria determined from this is the total score, on the basis of which a ranking list is created from all participants. For applications in accordance with § 2(1) b), a ranking list is formed in accordance with (1), whereat only the best 3 applicants per nationality or group of stateless persons receive a university place. If there are still free university places available according to § 2(1) b), the 4th best applicant per nationality or group of stateless persons will receive a university place. Following the procedure of sentence 2, further applicants per nationality or group of stateless persons will be admitted until all university places have been allocated.

§ 6 Admission Procedure

- (1) The President of the University of Hohenheim decides on admission upon the recommendation of admission committee.
- (2) The application is to be rejected if
 - a) the online application form is not completed in full,
 - b) the requirements set out in §§ 3 to 5 are not met.
 - c) the applicant has lost the right to be examined in a Master's program listed in Annex 1 or is currently undergoing an examination procedure in these degree programs.
- (3) In addition, the general provisions of the University of Hohenheim's Admission and Enrollment Regulations apply to the admission procedure.

§ 7 Admission Committee, Evaluation Groups

- (1) An admission committee is appointed for the Master's program in Environmental Science – Soil, Water and Biodiversity. The admission committee consists of five members of the academic staff primarily employed by the university, at least three of whom must be professors, and one student member in an advisory capacity.
- (2) The chairperson, the deputy chairperson, and the members of the admission committee are appointed by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences.
- (3) The term of office for the members is two years, for the student member one year. Reappointment is permitted.
- (4) The admission committee shall have a quorum when at least three voting members are present. The admission committee decides by a simple majority of the members present; in the event of a tie, the chairperson has the casting vote. The meetings of the admission committee are not open to the public.
- (5) For evaluating the application documents in accordance with the requirements of these admission regulations, the responsible admission committee can appoint an evaluation group consisting of members of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences. The admission committee coordinates the selection procedure and the work of the evaluation group and ensures that the

requirements of these admission regulations are adhered to and that the evaluation standard is applied uniformly. To ensure uniform application of the evaluation standard, the admission committee may issue an explanatory guideline to Annex 3, which each member of the evaluation group must observe when evaluating the application documents.

§ 8 Entry into Force

- (1) These admission regulations come into force **only together with the admission regulations for the consecutive Master's programs in Agricultural Sciences, only for the majors "Advisory and Innovation Services in Agri-Food Systems," "Agricultural Economics," "Animal Science," and "Transformation Management for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems," Agricultural Sciences in the Tropics and Subtropics, Crop Sciences, Environmental Protection and Agricultural Food Production, Landscape Ecology as well as Organic Agriculture and Food Systems** on the day following their publication in the Official Communications of the University of Hohenheim and applies for the first time for the admission procedure as of winter semester 2026/2027.
- (2) At the same time, the **University of Hohenheim's admission regulations for the consecutive Master's programs in Agricultural Sciences, only for the majors in "Advisory and Innovation Services in Agri-Food Systems," "Agricultural Economics," "Animal Science," and "Transformation Management for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems," Agricultural Sciences in the Tropics and Subtropics, Crop Sciences, Environmental Protection and Agricultural Food Production, Environmental Science – Soil, Water and Biodiversity, Landscape Ecology, as well as Organic Agriculture and Food Systems** from 21 November 2024 (published in the Official Communications of the University of Hohenheim no. 1547) expire.

Stuttgart, dated 17 Nov. 2025

Prof. Dr. Christoph Schneider
- President -

Annex 1

Degree programs that fall under § 3(3) b) are:

all agricultural Diplom and Master's programs at German and foreign universities and vocational academies as well as all Master's programs in the fields of environmental and natural sciences.

For all of the Master's programs listed in the letters a) and b), the admission committee may determine the equivalence of degree programs other than those mentioned.

Annex 2

Degree programs that fall under § 4(1) a) are:

- Agricultural Biology
- Agriculture
- Biology
- Biobased Products and Bioenergy
- Ecology
- Environmental Sciences
- a Bachelor's program in which the subject content makes up at least 50% of a Bachelor's program in agricultural sciences or one of the Bachelor's programs mentioned under h)
- a Bachelor's or Master's program in which specific knowledge is shown that is a prerequisite for the Master's program in Environmental Science – Soil, Water and Biodiversity.

The admission committee may classify other degrees as suitable.

Annex 3

Creating a ranking list of applicants (a maximum of 100 percentage points can be achieved in an application)

All percentage points achieved for each application are added together for the admission committee meeting according to the following tables. The sum of the percentage points achieved results in the total score, according to which the applications are sorted in the ranking list.

1) Weighting the overall grade

Range of the overall grade	Scale points	Factor	Percentage points
3.25 – 4.00	1	× 6	6
3.00 – 3.24	2	× 6	12
2.75 – 2.99	3	× 6	18
2.50 – 2.74	4	× 6	24
2.25 – 2.49	5	× 6	30
2.00 – 2.24	6	× 6	36
1.75 – 1.99	7	× 6	42
1.50 – 1.74	8	× 6	48
1.25 – 1.49	9	× 6	54
1.0 – 1.24	10	× 6	60

Any further decimal places in the overall grade are mathematically rounded to the second decimal place. If the above-average grade is proven solely by a ranking in accordance with § 4(2) b), 30 percentage points are taken into account. If both the overall grade according to § 4(2) a) and the ranking according to § 4(2) b) are submitted, both corresponding percentage points are determined first and then the higher percentage point number is taken into account.

2) Weighting the vocational education

Vocational work or training is not limited to specific areas. 0.5 to 2-year vocational full-time work is weighted equally to an agricultural intern examination when the ranking list is created.

Vocational training		20% weighting	
Duration	Scale points (1-10)	Factor	Percentage points
< 0.5-year vocational work	0	x 2	0
≥ 0.5-year vocational work or intern examination	5	x 2	10
Completed vocational training or 2-year vocational work	10	x 2	20

3) Weighting the stays abroad

Studies and/or practical work abroad (not in the applicant's home country) lasting at least 3 months per stay are counted when the ranking list is created.

Stay abroad		20% weighting	
Assessment	Scale points (1-10)	Factor	Percentage points
Less than 3 months	0	x 2	0
Between 3 and 6 months	5	x 2	10
6 months or more	10	x 2	20