

**OFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF**

**Fachspezifische Bestimmungen für den Studiengang  
„Wood Science (M.Sc.)“**

**vom 17. April 2024**

**(Amtliche Bekanntmachung Nr. 45 vom 26. Juni 2024)**

**THIS TRANSLATION IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY –  
ONLY THE GERMAN VERSION SHALL BE LEGALLY  
VALID AND ENFORCEABLE!**

**Subject-Specific Provisions for the Master of Science in  
Wood Science (MSc)**

**dated 17 April 2024**

In its session held on 28 May 2024, the Executive University Board, in accordance with Section 108 subsection 1 of the Hamburg higher education act (Hamburgisches Hochschulgesetz, HmbHG), dated 18 July 2001 (HmbGVBl. p. 171) and last amended 11 June 2023 (HmbGVBl. p. 468), ratified the Subject-Specific Provisions of the Masters of Science in Wood Science adopted by the Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Natural Sciences on 17 April 2024 in accordance with Section 91 subsection 2 no. 1 HmbHG.

## **Preamble**

These subject-specific provisions supplement the provisions of the Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Natural Sciences' Examination Regulations dated 16 June 2021 as amended, governing master of science degree programs.

### **Section 1**

#### **Program and examination objectives, academic degree, and implementation of the degree program**

##### **Section 1 subsection 1:**

The consecutive Master of Science in Wood Science is a research-oriented, international degree program taught in English. Students use theoretical skills and practical research experience to develop and refine wood science topics. They combine fundamental forestry and environmental issues with the use of wood and wood-based materials and their effect on society. Students are also able to demonstrate the optimal use of lignocellulosic materials in various fields of application based on scientific, technological, and economic knowledge. Students are able to combine interdisciplinary issues and assess the effects of possible solutions. They acquire practical experience in conducting research projects and obtain professional qualifications and social skills.

### **Section 3**

#### **Subject advising**

##### **Section 3 subsection 4:**

Students must consult with the module coordinator for subject advising before registering to retake a final module examination a third time, whereby a decision is made as to whether module courses should be repeated.

### **Section 4**

#### **Program and examination organization, modules, and ECTS credits**

##### **Section 4 subsection 1:**

The master's degree program in Wood Science consists of a compulsory area (36 ECTS credits), a compulsory elective area (42 ECTS credits) and a free elective area (12 ECTS credits) and the master's thesis (30 ECTS credits).

Module No.	Module Name	ECTS credits	Semester
<b>Required Modules</b>			
MWS18	Biogeochemistry: An Analysis of Global Elemental Cycles	6	1
MWS26	Biomimetics—Functionalization of Wood	6	1
MWS04	Fibers and Fiber-Based Products	6	1
MWS24	Functional Forest Ecology	6	1
MWS27	Project Study	12	3
<b>Required elective modules</b>			
MWS08	Paper and Board Technology	6	first, second, or third
MWS09	Lignocellulose Biorefinery	6	first, second, or third
MWS10	Biopolymers	6	first, second, or third
MWS11	Solid Wood Technology	6	first, second, or third
MWS12	Composite Technology	6	first, second, or third
MWS13	Structural Applications of Wood	6	first, second, or third
MWS03	Project Management	6	first, second, or third
MWS22	Project Functional Forest Ecology	6	2
MWS25	Forest Ecophysiology	6	2
<b>Final Module</b>			
MWS-AB	Master's Thesis	30	4

		Leistungspunkte																													
Semester		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1		Biogeochemistry – An Analysis of Global Elemental Cycles					Biomimetics – Functionalization of Wood						Fibers and Fiber based Products																		
2		Functional Forest Ecology					Compulsory Elective Modules												Elective Modules												
3														Project Study																	
4		Master thesis																													

The description of all modules can be found in the table located in the Annex to the Subject-Specific Provisions for the Master of Science in Wood Science—Module Table. A detailed description of the modules can be found in the module catalog for the degree program.

**Section 4 subsection 3:**

The final module is comprised of the master’s thesis and an oral examination. The oral examination should be taken no later than six weeks after submission of the master’s thesis.

**Section 5  
Types of courses**

**Section 5 subsection 2:**

Attendance is mandatory for practical courses, field trips, laboratory work, and project work. Courses are held in English. Any deviations will be announced at the beginning of the course.

**Section 13  
Completed coursework and module examinations**

**Section 13 subsection 6:**

The examinations are held in English.

**Section 14  
Master’s thesis**

**Section 14 subsection 4:**

The master’s thesis must be written in English. The examinations board may allow an exception in justified cases.

**Section 14 subsection 5:**

An application to commence work on the master’s thesis may be submitted once at least 72 ECTS credits in the degree program have been earned and all required modules have been successfully completed.

The work required in the final module amounts to 30 ECTS credits, which is comprised of a master's thesis (27 ECTS credits) and an oral examination (3 ECTS credits). The time period to complete the work is six months. The oral examination should be taken no later than six weeks after submission of the master's thesis.

**Section 15**  
**Evaluation of examination performance**

Elective subjects (12 ECTS credits) are subject to the rules and regulations of the selected modules. The elective area and the Project Study module will not be used to calculate the overall final grade. The overall final grade is calculated as an average of module grades weighted according to ECTS credits.

**Section 23**  
**Effective date**

These subject-specific provisions become effective on the day following official publication by the University of Hamburg. They first apply to students commencing their studies in Winter Semester 2024/25. Students who commenced their studies earlier may apply to change to these examinations subject-specific regulations.

Hamburg, 26 June 2024  
**University of Hamburg**