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**Examination Regulations (Rules)  
of the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences  
at Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel (Kiel University)  
for students of 'Dairy Science'  
leading to a Master of Science degree (M.Sc.) - 2024**

**of 15 June 2023**

Version published on 14 July 2023 (NBI. HS MBWFK Schl.-H- p. 43)

Based on Section 52 (1) 1 of the Schleswig-Holstein Higher Education Act (HSG) in the version published on 5 February 2016 (Law and Official Gazette for the Land of Schleswig-Holstein (GVOBl. Schl.-H. p.39), last amended by Article 1 of the Act of 3 February 2022 (GVOBl. Schl.-H. p. 102), after a resolution was passed by the Convention of the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences on 10 May 2023 and an urgent decision of the Dean of the Faculty of Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences on 2 June 2023, the following Rules were issued:

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**§ 1  
Scope of application**

- (1) In conjunction with the Examination Procedure Regulations of Kiel University for students of Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes (PVO), these Examination Regulations apply to the 1-subject Master's degree programme in Dairy Science at Kiel University.
- (2) For modules offered by other faculties or other institutes of the same faculty, in particular regarding admission and examinations, the examination regulations of the respective faculties or institutes apply.

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## **§ 2**

### **Objective of the degree programme**

The Master's degree programme in Dairy Science systematically builds on the Bachelor's degree programme in Agricultural Sciences and imparts to students advanced knowledge, skills and scientific methods in the specialist fields of milk production, processing and marketing of dairy products. The degree programme is both theory- and application-oriented and leads to an advanced professional degree qualification to enable employment in a diverse range of professional fields within the above specialist areas. Depending on the specialised focus of the selected compulsory elective modules, the degree programme prepares graduates for occupations in operational management, consulting, the fodder industry, animal husbandry, agricultural technology, environmental consulting and/or the fields of processing, commercialisation, marketing and nutrition in companies operating on a national and international level. Through successful qualification graduates are able to systematically analyse specified tasks and independently apply scientific methods in an efficient and team-based manner. Accordingly, graduates are particularly well-suited for challenging roles in professional practice (management personnel) or as early career researchers (doctoral degree).

## **§ 3**

### **Academic title**

The student is awarded the degree of Master of Science (M.Sc.) if he or she has obtained at least a final grade of 'sufficient'.

## **§ 4**

### **Structure of curriculum**

- (1) The standard period of study for the Master's degree programme is four semesters. The degree programme encompasses approximately 60 weekly 45-minute teaching units for the duration of one semester of about 12 weeks (Semesterwochenstunden - SWS) and 120 ECTS credits, including 30 ECTS credits for the Master's thesis. The type and scope of courses and lectures in the compulsory modules are listed in the annex. The examination grades required for the additional modules offered by the faculty under the interdisciplinary compulsory elective section are stated in the module descriptions approved by the Examination Board and the Faculty Convention before the start of the semester, which will be published in an appropriate location. The Examination Board shall decide on exceptions to these rules.
- (2) A Master's degree programme comprises modules totalling 90 ECTS credits, in addition to the Master's thesis totalling 30 ECTS credits.
- (3) Compulsory elective sections 1 and 2 comprise 36 ECTS credits and may be entirely or partially completed abroad. Selection and recognition of these modules must be approved by the Examination Board.
- (4) The modules are divided into the following sections:
  - compulsory section - 54 ECTS credits (9 modules)
  - compulsory elective section – 36 ECTS credits, of which at least 18 ECTS credits in compulsory elective section 1 and up to 18 ECTS credits in compulsory elective section 2
- (5) The modules which can be selected from the compulsory elective section are respectively approved by the Examination Board and Faculty Convention before the start of the

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semester and published in an appropriate location. The Examination Board shall decide on exceptions to these rules.

- (6) In compulsory elective section 2, up to 18ECTS credits can be selected from the additional options for students of Master's degree programmes offered by the faculty or from the options of degree programmes leading to a Master of Science degree from another faculty within the scope of available capacity or from the options of degree programmes leading to a Master of Science at a foreign university.

## **§ 5 Academic year**

- (1) The academic year applies to this degree programme. Courses in odd-numbered semesters are only offered in a winter semester.
- (2) Registrations for odd-numbered semesters are only possible in the winter semester and for even-numbered semesters only in the summer semester.

## **§ 6 Admission to the Master's degree programme**

- (1) Prerequisites for admission to the Master's degree programme are:
1. Submission of a complete application for the aptitude test for the Master's degree programme within the deadlines set by Kiel University and announced on the Dairy Science degree programme's website. The application must include a degree certificate and a transcript of records issued by the respective university displaying at least 120 ECTS credit points.
  2. Evidence of a professional qualification in agricultural sciences or a related degree programme with a standard period of study of at least three years and encompassing at least 180 ECTS credit points at a higher education institute in the Federal Republic of Germany or a recognised foreign higher education institute with an overall grade of at least 2.5.
  3. Evidence of
    - a. the acquisition of at least 30 ECTS credit points from lectures with non-overlapping contents in the field of Livestock Sciences in a degree programme in accordance with paragraph 2, or
    - b. practical activities in the field of Livestock Sciences in Germany or abroad of at least 425 hours (corresponding to 3 months of full-time work) in the past five calendar years. This can be evidenced via work experience, voluntary work or a professional occupation, for example.

The evidence of a practical activity can be exchanged for experience in the field of Livestock Sciences research with a comparable scope to sentence 1 in the past five calendar years. Experience in the field of Livestock Sciences research can be evidenced via, for example, cooperation in research projects, (co)initiation of a research project or successful publication of your own research results in scientific, peer-reviewed journals.
    - c. the motivation behind wanting to study this degree programme. This is evidenced by a motivational letter of up to 4000 characters included in the application. It must show which existing scientific knowledge and/or professional experience supports the applicant's consideration of him/herself

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as particularly suitable for participation in the Master's degree programme in Dairy Science in Kiel, which practical experiences he/she has in the field of Dairy Science and what the applicant expects the degree programme will provide for his/her later scientific and professional career. The Examination Board will determine whether a motivational letter in the sense of 3c has been presented.

4. Evidence of a sufficient English skills. This is to be demonstrated by:
  - a. IELTS 6.5 (no subsection scoring under 6.0) or
  - b. b. TOEFL®ITP (paper-based test) score 580 and 5.5 in the Test of Written English or
  - c. c. TOEFL®iBT (Internet-based test): score 90 (no subsection scoring under 20) or
  - d. Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE) or
  - e. Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) or
  - f. For applicants with a German general certificate of qualification for admission to higher education (HZB), an assessment in the examination subject English in the Abitur of at least 11 points or a grade of 2.0
- (2) Graduates of the Bachelor's degree programme in Agricultural Sciences at Kiel University with a qualification in the field of Livestock Sciences with a minimum grade of 2.5 are admitted to the degree programme without any further technical requirements, provided they fulfil the necessary language requirements according to paragraph 1 number 4.
- (3) The office in charge of decisions about recognition of coursework and examinations and the equivalence of qualifications in accordance with the Recognition Rules is responsible for decisions in accordance with this provision.

## **§ 7**

### **Restriction of admission to compulsory or compulsory elective courses**

- (1) The number of places available for the individual compulsory or compulsory elective courses will be determined by the Faculty Convention at the request of the module coordinator. If more students initially register for the seminars and practical exercises than there are places available, the responsible committee will determine whether the remaining students can be accommodated through other or additional lectures.
- (2) If it is not possible to accommodate all the remaining students, the course administrator will select a number of students from those registered for a degree programme in which the course is envisaged as part of the curriculum, who have promptly registered by the date stipulated by the course administrator and who satisfy the conditions of attendance. Preference is to be given to students whose number of semesters would be increased by non-admission. Equally ranked students will be selected by drawing lots. In order to avoid cases of hardship, the module coordinator may deviate from this procedure upon request.

## **§ 8**

### **Teaching and examination language**

Examinations and lectures for the compulsory modules and compulsory elective modules (compulsory elective section 1) are held in English. The teaching and examination language

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for compulsory elective modules of compulsory elective section 2 is specified in the module description.

## **§ 9**

### **Examination Board**

Contrary to Section 4 (2) 1 of the Examination Procedure Regulations (PVO), the Examination Board consists of four members who are university lecturers, one member from the scientific personnel and two members from the student body. The Dean of studies and the study coordinator shall have an advisory vote.

## **§ 10**

### **Examinations and module grades**

- (1) The type and number of examinations required for the compulsory modules is provided in the attachment. The examination grades required for the compulsory elective modules offered by the faculty for the compulsory elective section are provided in the module descriptions approved by the Examination Board and the Faculty Convention before the start of the semester, which will be published in an appropriate location. The Examination Board shall decide on exceptions to these rules.
- (2) Oral examinations (M) and oral presentations (R) are permitted as oral examination performance. The duration of an oral examination must be at least 15 minutes per candidate, but must not exceed 45 minutes.
- (3) Written examinations include written tests (K), term papers (H) and protocols (P). The duration of a written examination (K) is usually at least 30 minutes and no longer than 90 minutes. The Examination Board determines exceptions, such as in the case of examinations with a practical section.
- (4) A seminar contribution (Sb), consisting of a presentation and a written report, is admissible as a further examination.
- (5) If a module examination consists of several examinations, the module grade will be calculated using the weighting of the individual examinations indicated in the annex. Details of the examination weightings for the modules offered by the faculty in the compulsory elective section will be specified by the Examination Board and the Faculty Convention before the start of the semester and published in an appropriate location.

## **§ 11**

### **Requirements for admission to examinations**

- (1) If a module contains practicals or individual practical exercises labelled in the Annex, admission to the examination assumes regular participation in these courses. This also applies for practicals and practical exercises in modules from compulsory elective section 1, which are specified in decisions by the Examination Board and the Convention and published in an appropriate location before the start of the semester.
- (2) If a module contains courses which are not mentioned in (1), then admission to the examination requires regular attendance at these courses, if such courses are comparable with those in (1). This is the case for field exercises because the individual students cannot achieve the qualification objective without regular attendance, attendance is necessary in order to grasp the basic subject-specific methods, or acquiring competence is dependent on the presence of the other participants or on being present at a certain place. The key focus of the field trip, after appropriate preparation

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through traditional teaching formats (lectures, exercises, practical exercises), is for students to explore unknown terrain (or a company/business), with the aim of giving the students insight into practical agricultural and nutritional sciences through an interesting course offer. Field exercises and field trips do not differ significantly regarding their key attributes, but rather, field exercises are comparable with the teaching format of the field trips, due to their defined nature as predominantly "practical-oriented field trips" in terms of Section 52 (12) HSG.

- (3) In the case of regular weekly courses held over the entire lecture period, it is permissible to miss a maximum of 20% of the course dates without giving reasons for the non-attendance. If course dates which do not take place on a regular weekly basis are missed, a maximum of 20% of the attendance requirements for the dates, for reasons stated under Section 52 (4) HSG, in justified exceptional cases and at the request of the student, the module coordinator may specify substitute performance for those parts of the course that were missed. The reasons for failing to attend courses must be proven immediately; in the case of illness by a doctor's note.
- (4) Modules for which admission to the examination assumes regular participation in the courses are marked in the Annex. For all other courses, regular participation is not required for admission to the examinations.
- (5) Examination prerequisites in accordance with the Annex may be requested for admission to the examinations. Individual details will be announced at the start of the respective semester in a suitable manner.

## **§ 12 Master's thesis**

- (1) Students who have obtained at least 30 ECTS credits in examinations from completed modules may be admitted to a Master's thesis.
- (2) The period from when the topic is issued until the written part of the Master's thesis is submitted is 26 weeks.
- (3) The topic of the Master's thesis may be handed back only once and only within six weeks of the topic being issued.
- (4) Upon application for admission to the Master's thesis, the candidate is to nominate the topic in agreement with the supervisor.
- (5) In exceptional cases and with the consent of the Examination Board, the Master's thesis may be prepared at an institution outside the University, provided that appropriate supervision of the candidate is available there. Supervision may also be provided by postdocs working at the supervising facility, who are qualified in accordance with Section 5 of the Examination Procedure Regulations (PVO). In cases of doubt the Examination Board will decide.
- (6) The Master's thesis is to be written in English.
- (7) Two hard copies of the Master's thesis and one version stored on a medium suitable for electronic data processing are to be submitted to the responsible Examination Office in the form prescribed in the Examination Board guidelines.
- (8) The Master's thesis consists of the preparation of a written paper and the oral defence. These are weighted in the ratio 90/10 to the overall grade of the Master's thesis.
- (9) The Master's thesis is to be assessed by both examiners within six weeks of submission.

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### **§ 13**

#### **Passing the Master's examination and calculating the section grades and final grade**

- (1) The Master's examination has been passed if all the necessary compulsory examinations listed in the annex have been passed, a sufficient number of ECTS credits has been earned through passing examinations in the compulsory elective sections 1 and 2, and the Master's thesis has also been passed with the necessary number of ECTS credits.
- (2) The calculation of the final grade includes:
  1. the section grades for the compulsory modules and compulsory elective sections 1 and 2, weighted with the ECTS credits allocated to the relevant section. To calculate the section grades, the grades of the completed section modules are weighted with the ECTS credits allocated to the relevant module in question.
  2. the grade for the Master's thesis with 30 ECTS credits.
- (3) The section grades are calculated by taking the highest grades for the modules assigned to the compulsory elective sections 1 and 2, for which the total ECTS credits must reach the number of ECTS credits required as a minimum for that section. If the ECTS credits for the final module taken into account exceed the total of ECTS credits required for this section, only ECTS credits up to attainment of the total number of ECTS credits required will be taken into account.

### **§ 14**

#### **Transitional provisions**

- (1) If modules are offered in a different form, these must be completed under the new version. If compulsory modules from the old degree-specific examination regulations (see Section 15 (2)) are no longer offered after the regulations cease to be in force, the Examination Board will name replacement modules.
- (2) Students studying according to the examination regulations which cease to be in force according to Section 15 (2) can apply to change to the new degree-specific examination regulations. Module examinations which have been completed and passed in full by the date these Rules enter into force will remain valid.
- (3) If a student has completed and passed independent parts of a module examination, these will be recognised. The Examination Board determines which additional examinations are necessary to complete the module, under consideration of the module's learning targets and the purpose of the examination.
- (4) Examinations failed before these Examination Regulations entered into force will be set off against the number of attempts in accordance with the new Examination Regulations, provided the structure of the new module examinations permits recognition.
- (5) Upon application, the Examination Board decides regarding special cases of hardship for which the student is not responsible.

### **§ 15**

#### **Entry into force, Expiry**

- (1) These rules enter into force on 1 October 2024.
- (2) At the same time, the Examination Regulations (Rules) of the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences at Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel (Kiel University) for students of 'Dairy Science' leading to a Master of Science degree (M.Sc.) of 25 February 2021 (NBI. HS MBWK Schl.-H. p. 17), will cease to be in force.

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Approval in accordance with Section 52 (1) 1 of the Higher Education Act (HSG) was granted by the University Board at Kiel University in its letter dated 14 June 2023.

Kiel, 15 June 2023

Prof. Dr. G. Thaller  
Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences,  
Kiel University (CAU)



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### Annex: Programme schedule for the Master's degree in Dairy Science

Position	Module Code	Module Title	Compulsory	Import	Examination requirements	Graded PL	Teaching format	SWS	Compulsory participation	ECTS credits	
										Sem.	Year
1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	dsAEF002-01a	Eco-Efficiency of Dairy Systems	x		passed and graded oral presentation***	M	V/S/PÜ	2/1/1	PÜ	6	
	AEF-ds004	Dairy Processing and Quality	x			K	V/V	2/2		6	
	dsAEF005-01a	Dairy Cattle Breeding	x		passed and graded oral presentation****	M	V/S	2/2		6	
	dsAEF007-01a	Machine Milking	x		passed oral presentation – ungraded	M	V/S/PÜ/GÜ	2/0,5/1/0,5	PÜ, GÜ	6	
		compulsory elective module of compulsory elective section 1									6
										Σ 30	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	dsAEF003-02b	Health Management in Dairy Herds	x			Sb	S/GÜ	3/1	GÜ	6	
	dsAEF006-01a	Forage Quality and Conservation	x		passed and graded Sb**	M	V/S/GÜ	2/1/1	GÜ	6	
	dsAEF008-01a	Animal Behavior and Welfare	x		passed and graded oral presentation****	M	V/S/GÜ	2/1/1	GÜ	6	
	dsAEF009-01b	Ruminant Nutrition	x			M	V/PÜ*	4/1*		6	
	dsAEF010-01a	Biometrical Planning and Inference	x			M	V/PÜ	3/1	PÜ	6	
										Σ 30	Σ 60
3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester Mobility window		Compulsory elective modules compulsory elective section 1								12	
		Compulsory elective modules compulsory elective section 2								18	
										Σ 30	
4 <sup>th</sup> Semester	dsAEF012-01a	Master's Thesis	x		*****	SA 90%+V10%				30	
											Σ 30
											Σ 60

**Key:** M = oral examination (mündliche Prüfung) – R = oral presentation (Referat) – K = written examination (Klausur) - Sb= seminar contribution (composite examination – 2 partial examinations) (Seminarbeitrag (zusammengesetzte Prüfung - 2 Teilprüfungen)), SA + V = written report + defence (composite examination – 2 partial examinations) (schriftliche Ausarbeitung + Verteidigung (zusammengesetzte Prüfung - 2 Teilprüfungen))  
V = Lecture (Vorlesung), S = seminar (Seminar), Ü = Exercise (Übung), PÜ = Practical exercise (Praktische Übung), P = Practical (Praktikum), GÜ = Field exercise (Geländeübung), T= tutorial (Tutorium),  
SWS= hours per week during the semester

\* Supplementary course

\*\*The grade of the passed seminar contribution is included in the module grade by 25 %, provided that this leads to an improvement of the grade.

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- \*\*\* The grade of the passed oral presentation is included in the module grade by 25 %, provided that this leads to an improvement of the grade.
- \*\*\*\* The grade of the passed oral presentation is included in the module grade by 50 %, provided that this leads to an improvement of the grade.
- \*\*\*\*\* Admission requirements are at least 30 credit points in examinations from completed modules

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## Appendix

(Not part of the rules)

Status: April 2023

### Compulsory elective modules compulsory elective section 1 – 18 ECTS credits in accordance with to § 4 (5)

Position	Module code	Module title	Examination requirements	Graded PL	Teaching format	SWS	Compulsory participation	ECTS credits
WS	agraraEF897-01a	Dairy Economics: Production and Processing	passed and graded Sb 25%****	M	V/S/T*	2/2/2*		6
WS	agraraEF810-02b	Precision Livestock Farming	passed and graded Sb 25%****	M	V/S	2/2		6
WS	AEF-agr836	Grazing Systems for Dairy Cattle in Europe		M	V	4		6
WS	agraraEF059-01a	Quantitative Methods of Farm Planning and Performance Analysis		M	V/PÜ	3/1		6
WS	agraraEF060-01a	Agricultural Markets and International Trade		K	V	4		6
WS	agraraEF871-01a	Plant-Soil Microbiome Interactions for Sustainable Agriculture	passed and graded oral presentation 25%**	M	V/S	2/2		6
WS	AEF-agrig010	Utilization of Genome Analysis in Animal Breeding		M	V	4		6
WS	AEF-eg004	Development Economics	passed and graded oral presentation 25%**	K	V/S	2/2		6
WS	egAEF006-01a	Environmental Economics		K	V/PÜ	2/2		6
SoSe	AEF-eg003e	Food Policy	passed and graded oral presentation 25%**	K	V	4		6
SoSe	agraraEF069-01a	Productivity and Efficiency Analysis		K oder M	V/PÜ	2/2		6
SoSe	agraraEF200-02a	Management and Innovation in Food Supply Chains		K	V/S/S*	2/2/2*		6
SoSe	AEF-agrig017	Biological Systems as Bioreactors		M	V/S	2/2		6
SoSe	agraraEF867-02a	Field Experiment in Grass and Forage Science	passed and graded Sb 50%***	M	V/P/S	2/1/1	P	6
SoSe	agraraEF873-01a	Plant Nutrition in the Tropics and Subtropics		M	V/S/GÜ	2/1/1	GÜ	6
SoSe	agraraEF875-01a	Role of the Microbiome for Soil Fertility and Plant Growth		M	V/P	2/2	P	6
SoSe	agraraEF876-01a	Modelling Grass-Based Dairy Systems	passed and graded Sb 50%***	M	V/PÜ/S	2/1/1		6
WS/SoSe		Modules that can be assigned to the subject of "Dairy Science" in terms of content (after approval by the Examination Board)						up to 36

#### Key

M= oral examination (mündliche Prüfung) - R= oral presentation (Referat) - K= written examination (Klausur) - H= assignment (Hausarbeit) - P= protocol (Protokoll) – Sb= seminar contribution (composite examination – 2 partial examinations) (Seminarbeitrag (zusammengesetzte Prüfung - 2 Teilprüfungen))

V = lecture (Vorlesung) S = seminar (Seminar)

PÜ = practical exercise (Praktische Übung)

P = practical (Praktikum)

GÜ = field exercise (Geländeübung)

SWS= hours per week during the semester

\* Supplementary course

\*\* The grade of the passed oral presentation is included in the module grade by 25 %, provided that this leads to an improvement of the grade.

\*\*\* The grade of the passed seminar contribution is included in the module grade by 50 %, provided that this leads to an improvement of the grade.

\*\*\*\* The grade of the passed seminar contribution is included in the module grade by 25 %, provided that this leads to an improvement of the grade.