

Subject-Specific Regulations Governing the Single-Subject Research Master's Degree Programme BioMed Supplementing the Joint Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology and the Center for Human and Molecular Biology at Saarland University

5 June 2025

Note: This translation is provided for information purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy between the translation and the original German version published in the Official Bulletin (*Dienstblatt der Hochschulen des Saarlandes*), the provisions of the latter shall take precedence.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology, the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science at Saarland University hereby issue the following Subject-Specific Regulations Governing the Research Master's Degree Programme BioMed. The subject-specific regulations are issued pursuant to Section 64(1), third sentence and Section 77(6), second sentence of the Saarland Higher Education Act (SHSG; Saarland Official Gazette I, p. 1080), most recently amended in law by Article 1 of the Act of 10 July 2024 (Saarland Official Gazette I, p. 555) and on the basis of the Joint Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology and the Center for Human and Molecular Biology at Saarland University of 4 November 2021 (Official Bulletin 2022, p. 272), with the consent of the Saarland University Senate and the University Board and with regard to the aptitude test required by the Saarland Ministry of Finance and Science.

Section 1 General information

(1) The Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology, the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science award the degree Master of Science (M.Sc.) to candidates who have successfully completed the final academic assessment phase of the Research Master's BioMed.

(2) The Research Master's BioMed places emphasis on scientific research.

(3) The Examination Board at Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology, Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science at Saarland University is responsible for conducting the academic assessments and examinations in the Research Master's BioMed.

Section 2 Programme structure

(1) The Research Master's BioMed is a single-subject degree programme within the meaning of the Framework Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at Saarland University of 17 June 2015 (Official Bulletin, p. 474).

(2) The degree programme comprises 60 ECTS credits, of which 30 credits are earned for the final thesis. More detailed provisions are set out in the study regulations.

Section 3

Standard period of study

The standard period of study is two semesters.

Section 4

Admission requirements

(1) Students seeking admission to the Research Master's BioMed must have a Bachelor's degree comprising at least 240 ECTS credits or an equivalent qualification with an overall grade of at least 2.0 in a related field of study and demonstrate particular academic aptitude [Section 77(6), second sentence of the Saarland Higher Education Act (Saarland Official Gazette I, p. 1080), most recently amended in law by Article 1 of the Act of 10 July 2024 (Saarland Official Gazette I, p. 555)] as defined in number two of this section.

A degree programme is considered related within the meaning of number 1 if it comprises 60 ECTS credits from the following subjects: Biology, bioinformatics, biophysics, biotechnology, chemistry, computer science, pharmaceutical science, physics or PlusMINT.

(2) The criteria used to assess particular academic aptitude are:

1. At least 8 credits from at least four of the following subject areas (at least 2 credits each): Biology, bioinformatics, biophysics, biotechnology, chemistry, pharmaceutical science, physics or PlusMINT, English language proficiency [at least B2 level on the Common European Framework for Reference for Languages (CEFR)] and
- 2.
3. at least 80 credits in the subject-specific assessment procedure within the meaning of Section 5.

(3) If an applicant's Bachelor's degree pursuant to Section 1(1), number 1 is not yet complete, the applicant can be granted provisional admission. Admission is granted on the condition that, within three months after the start of the first semester, the applicant provides proof of having completed their Bachelor's degree.

Section 5

Subject-specific assessment procedure

(1) Particular aptitude for the Research Master's BioMed according to Section 4(2), number 3 is determined through a subject-specific assessment procedure. The assessment procedure comprises two parts of equal weight:

1. a written research proposal (4 pages maximum) on a research topic in the field of biology, bioinformatics, biophysics, biotechnology, chemistry, pharmaceutical science, or theoretical medicine and biosciences
2. a thirty-minute oral presentation on the research proposal

(2) Both parts of the assessment procedure are evaluated by a selection committee appointed by the Examination Board. The selection committee must comprise at least two members and the majority of the members must be professorial staff. The selection committee must collectively possess proven expertise in the field of biomedical research and in particular the scientific methods and content taught in the degree programme. The evaluation is based on a standardized points system. The maximum score possible is 100. The written research proposal and the oral presentation are each worth 50 points.

- (3) The assessment is based on standardized criteria in the following rubric
1. the academic quality of the research plan
 2. the scientific relevance of the research plan
 3. evidence of a systematic approach
 4. communication and presentation skills (only in regards to the oral presentation)

The details of the assessment scale are set out by the Examination Board in an evaluation form.

(4) An applicant is considered to have particular aptitude for the subject when they earn at least 80 out of 100 points in the assessment. The results of the subject-specific assessment procedure shall be communicated to the applicant by means of a letter of notification which, in case of rejection, shall include information on the applicant's right of appeal.

Section 6 Language of instruction and examination

The language of instruction and examination is English. The Examination Board may, in certain individual cases, allow another language to be used if specifically requested by the candidate and agreed with the examiner or thesis examiner.

Section 7 Type and scope of student assessments/examinations

Written academic assessments include written examinations, written assignments, assessed lab reports and experience reports. If written group work is submitted, the individual contributions from each student in the group shall be clearly identifiable, thus allowing the contributions to be separately assessed.

(2) Oral assessments include oral examinations, presentations and work assignments. Oral examinations shall last at least 15 minutes and not more than 30 minutes per examination candidate.

Section 8 Student workload

Course attendance may be compulsory for certain seminars and practical training modules/laboratory courses. Students will be notified of this by the instructor at the beginning of the course. The compulsory attendance requirement is normally deemed to have been met if a student was present for at least 85 per cent of the course sessions. If there are reasonable grounds for a student's absence, the student may be offered the option of completing alternative assignments.

Section 9 Registering for the Master's thesis phase

(1) In addition to the admission requirements set out in the Joint Examination Regulations, candidates must also have passed the academic assessment of the research module.

(2) More detailed provisions are set out in the subject-specific study regulations.

Section 10 Master's thesis

By completing a Master's thesis, students demonstrate that they are able to work independently on tackling problems in BioMed. The subject of the Master's thesis shall fall within one of the BioMed subdisciplines. The completion period for the Master's thesis is 23 weeks. Students are awarded 30 ECTS credits for successfully completing their Master's thesis. The thesis topic and the problems to be addressed shall be such that the thesis can be completed within the allotted time.

Section 11 Procedural elements, presentation and layout of the thesis

A colloquium lasting 30 minutes shall be held in order to establish that the Master's thesis is the candidate's own original work. The colloquium shall be held no later than six weeks after the candidate submits the printed version of the Master's thesis. One of the colloquium examiners shall be the person who set the candidate's thesis topic.

Section 12 Overall grade

To graduate 'with distinction', a candidate must have attained a final overall grade of 1.1 or better and must have met all of the programme requirements within the standard period of study.

Section 13 Commencement

These regulations shall come into force on the day after they are announced in the Official Bulletin of the Institutions of Higher Education in Saarland (*Dienstblatt der Hochschulen des Saarlandes*).

Saarbrücken, 23 September 2025

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ludger Santen
President of Saarland University