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Translation by DeepL.*

Regulations on the Determination of Special Qualifications for the Doctoral Programs Accepted in the Göttingen Graduate Center for Neurosciences, Biophysics and Molecular Biosciences (GGNB)

[20 January 2026]

§ 1 Scope of Application

- (1) These regulations govern the determination of special aptitude and admission to the doctoral programs listed in Appendix 1.
- (2) In accordance with the following regulations, the University shall conduct a university-internal procedure to determine the admission requirements for all study places to be awarded.

§ 2 Admission Requirements

- (1) 1The prerequisite for admission to a doctoral program according to Annex 1 is the successful completion of a consecutive mathematics and natural science Master's program with a standard period of study of at least one year and a total period of study of at least four years, the successful completion of a mathematics and natural science program with a standard period of study of at least eight semesters, or proof of an equivalent degree at a German university or at a university belonging to one of the Bologna signatory states. 2The decision as to whether a course of study is equivalent shall be made by the competent study and examination committee (hereinafter: program committee).
- (2) 1Departing from Paragraph 1, students who are enrolled in a relevant Master's program, have already successfully completed at least 90 credits in this program, and have a grade point average that is among the best ten percent of the grade point average of a year in the respective program are also eligible for admission. 2The average grade determined from the previous examination results in the Master's degree program shall be taken into account instead of the Master's grade in the procedure for determining the admission requirements, regardless of whether the result of the Master's examination deviates from this. 3Departing from sentence 1, those who can prove at least 60 credits at the time of application are also eligible for admission; this eligibility expires if at least 90 credits are not proven before the beginning of the semester in which the doctoral studies begin.
- (3) 1Degrees obtained in a country outside the Bologna signatory states shall require a determination of equivalence to the degrees pursuant to paragraph 1, sentence 1, taking into account the proposals of the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) at the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) for the recognition and evaluation of foreign educational certificates, which are set forth at URL <http://anabin.kmk.org>. 2The decision as to whether a course of study is equivalent shall be made by the Program Committee.

(4) 1The decision as to whether a previous course of study is subject-relevant within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall be made by the responsible program committee. 2The prerequisite for the subject-related relevance of the previous studies is proof of knowledge in the field of mathematics and natural sciences to the extent of at least 150 credits as well as proof that the Master's thesis was completed in the mathematics and natural sciences partial course in the event that the study of a mathematics and natural sciences partial course is proven. 3The program committee may make the determination of the relevance of the subject dependent on the completion of achievements according to sentence 2, which have not yet been completed, to the extent of a maximum of 15 credits within two semesters; in this case, the determination of the relevance of the subject and the admission are conditional until the proof of the missing achievements, which must be received by the university within two semesters since the enrollment (cut-off period). 4If the proof of the still missing achievements is not submitted in due time, the determination of the subject-related relevance and an admission notice based on it shall become invalid.

(5) 1Applicants whose native language is not English must have a very good knowledge of English. 2Very good knowledge of English must be demonstrated with standardized or accredited certificates at least at level C1 or higher according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. 3In particular, the following shall serve as proof:

- a) UNICert®: at least certificate UNICert® III;
- b) NULTE certificates: at least level C1;
- c) Cambridge English Scale: min. 180 points;
- d) "International English Language Testing System" (IELTS Academic): min. band 6.5;
- e) "Test of English as a Foreign Language, internet-based test" (TOEFL iBT): min. 110 points;
- f) Global Scale of English (Pearson Academic): at least 76 points.

4Exempt from the requirement to provide proof of a test are applicants with at least two years of study or professional experience in an English-speaking country within the last two years prior to receipt of the application for admission. 5The program committee shall decide on the recognition of other proof of sufficient English language skills.

(6) Another prerequisite is a declaration in text form by an authorized examiner that he or she will accept and supervise the applicant as a doctoral candidate in the event of admission and that he or she can ensure proper supervision, if necessary with the assistance of a supervisor (supervision commitment). 2Furthermore, access authorization is only given if

- a) no intermediaries have been engaged for the purpose of presenting doctoral opportunities in return for payment,
- b) in connection with the doctoral examination procedure and its preparation, no fees have been paid, no services equivalent to fees have been rendered, and no services have been used free of charge which contradict the purpose of an examination procedure,
- c) the right to examination still exists,

d) there are no reasons which could justify the withdrawal of the doctoral degree,
and this is assured by the applicant (doctoral candidate declaration according to RerNat-O, Annex 1).

(7) 1Another admission requirement is proof of special aptitude by:

- a) proof of above-average academic and examination performance, and
- b) in an aptitude interview.

2The basis for determining the above-average study and examination performance is in particular the performance of the same cohort of graduates of the applicant's previous degree program.

(8) 1In all other respects, the generally applicable regulations of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen for enrollment remain unaffected. 2The enrollment of applicants who are considered provisionally eligible for admission according to paragraph 2 is conditional until proof of successful completion of the Master's program or an equivalent program is provided. 3The proof must be provided by 15.11. in the case of enrollment for the winter semester, and by 15.05. in the case of enrollment for the summer semester.

§ 3 Application

(1) 1The application, together with the application documents required in accordance with Paragraph 2, must be sent to the GGNB office at Göttingen University. 2Applications can be submitted at any time starting three months before the desired start date of the program. 3The university is not obliged to check the information provided by applicants ex officio.

(2) The application must be accompanied by the following documents:

- a) proof of the admission requirement in accordance with § 2 paras. 1 to 3; for each certificate that is not in German or English, a translation must be enclosed, optionally in German or English; if a degree certificate is not yet available, a certificate of completion of studies, achievements, credits, as well as the average grade and the underlying grading system must be submitted;
- b) proof of sufficient language skills in accordance with § 2 Para. 5;
- c) suitable documents to prove additional achievements (publications, internships, professional experience, teaching activities), which demonstrate the applicant's special suitability for participation in the doctoral program; in case of already existing publications, simple copies of the applicant's publications;
- d) a curriculum vitae written in English, which also provides information about the applicant's scientific career;
- e) a statement as to whether the applicant has so far successfully, unsuccessfully, or failed to complete a doctoral program or a doctoral procedure, or is likely to do so;
- f) a confirmation of supervision according to § 2 para. 6 sentence 1;
- g) a declaration according to § 2 para. 6 sentence 2 (doctoral candidate declaration according to

RerNat-O).

(3) 1Applications that are not received in full and in due form are excluded from the further procedure. 2The submitted documents shall remain with the University.

(4) As determined in more detail by the program committee, the application pursuant to paragraph 1 in conjunction with the required documents pursuant to paragraph 2 shall be submitted or uploaded via an online portal of the university; the university shall announce this in a suitable manner.

(5) If an applicant credibly demonstrates that he or she is disadvantaged by the selection process compared to other applicants due to a disability, the selection committee shall grant appropriate compensation for disadvantages upon request.

§ 4 Admission interview

(1) Admission interviews are conducted with a candidate by at least three members of the GGNB who are authorized to conduct examinations and who are appointed by the responsible program committee. Following the admission interview, the GGNB evaluates the candidate and makes a recommendation for acceptance or rejection.

(2) The aptitude interview shall cover the following aptitude parameters in particular:

(a) previous academic and examination performance as well as experience and secure knowledge of the scientific principles relevant to the doctoral program,

b) ability to work in a scientific or basic and methodological way.

(3) In the case of candidates who have already undergone an admission procedure for one of the Master's degree programs listed in Appendix 2, who can provide evidence of a supervisory commitment, and who have achieved a minimum grade of 2.0, the aptitude interview will be conducted by a member of the GGNB who is authorized to conduct examinations and who has been appointed by the responsible program committee and who may neither be a supervisor nor an instructor.

(4) 1The exact dates as well as the location of the aptitude interview will be announced by the GGNB at an appropriate time before the start. 2The applicants will be invited to the aptitude interview by the GGNB in good time. 3In the case of applicants residing abroad and in justified exceptional cases, a video conference or a telephone aptitude interview shall also be permitted, provided that the identity of the applicant can be established beyond doubt. 4The details of the procedure in such cases shall be determined by the Program Committee.

§ 5 Decision on admission

1The relevant program committee shall be responsible for examining, if necessary assessing and determining the admission requirements. 2Its tasks shall include in particular:

a) Examination of incoming applications for access for formal correctness,

- b) Examination and, if necessary, assessment of the admission requirements,
- c) deciding whether to accept or reject the applicants.

§ 6 Notice of admission, notice of rejection

(1) 1Applicants who are entitled to admission shall receive a notification of admission in text form. 2This notice shall specify a period within which the applicant must declare, at least in text form, whether he or she accepts the place of study. 3If this declaration is not made in due time and form, the notification of admission shall become invalid. 4The notification of admission shall refer to this legal consequence.

(2) 1Applicants who have not provided proof of eligibility for admission shall receive a rejection notice in text form. 2The reasons for the rejection shall be stated and an appeal notice shall be included.

(3) 1Decisions in accordance with paragraph 1 shall be issued by the responsible program spokesperson or a person authorized by him or her. 2The notification of admission also serves as proof of eligibility for enrollment.

§ 7 Entry into force

(1) 1These regulations shall enter into force on the day following their publication in the Official Notices I of the Georg-August University of Göttingen. 2It shall apply for the first time to the allocation procedure for the winter semester 2025/26.

Annex 1

Doctoral programs of the GGNB

Titel	Lead faculty	Notes
Microbiology and Biochemistry	Biology	final admission for the summer semester 2026
Genes in Development, Disease, and Evolution	Biology	final admission for the summer semester 2026
Biomolecules: Structure – Function – Dynamics	Biology	
Cells and Organisms: From Genes to Evolution	Biology	
Neurosciences	Biologie	first admission for the summer semester 2026
Systems Neuroscience	Biology	

Appendix 2

Master's programs of the Georg-August-University for simplified selection procedure with proof of a minimum grade

- Master's program "Computational Biology and Bioinformatics"
 - Master's program "Developmental, Neural and Behavioral Biology"
 - Master's program "Molecular Life Sciences: Microbiology, Biotechnology and Biochemistry"
 - Master's program "Molecular Biology"
 - Master's program "Neurosciences"
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