Discipline-Specific Admission Regulations for the Master's Program in Data Science at the University of Potsdam

Dated December 13, 2017

First Amendment of the Discipline-Specific Admission Regulations for the Master's Program in Data Science at the University of Potsdam

Dated February 13, 2019[1]

The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science of the University of Potsdam has approved, in accordance with Section 9 subsection 5 sentence 2 in combination with Section 12 subsection 2 sentence 2 and Section 72 subsection 2 no. 1 of the Brandenburg Higher Education Act (BbgHG) of April 28, 2014 (Law and Ordinance Gazette [GVBl.] I/14, [no. 18], p. 2), last amended by Section 2 of the law of September 20, 2018 (GVBl. I/18 [no. 21]) in combination with the Brandenburg University Admissions Act (BbgHZG) of July 1, 2015 (GVBl. I/15, [no. 18]), by Section 1 of the law of September 20, 2018 (GVBl. I/18 [no. 21], p. 6), in combination with the University Admissions Act (HZV) (GVBl. II/16, [no. 6]) and under Article 21 subsection 2 no. 1 of the Basic Constitution of the University of Potsdam of December 17, 2009 (Official Notices of the University of Potsdam no. 4/2010 p. 60) as amended in the Fifth Statute to Amend the Basic Constitution of the University of Potsdam (GrundO) of February 21, 2017 (Official Notices of the University of Potsdam no. 11/2018 p. 634) and the General Admission Regulations for Master's Degree Programs at the University of Potsdam Not Related to Teacher Education (Zulassungsordnung, ZulO) of February 24, 2016 (Official Notices of the University of Potsdam no. 3/2016, p. 76), on December 13, 2016, the following ordinance:[2]

Contents:

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[1] Approved by the President of the University of Potsdam on March 26, 2019.
[2] Approved by the President of the University of Potsdam on February 15, 2018.

§ 1 Applicability

These admission regulations, combined with the General Admission Regulations for Master's Degree Programs at the University of Potsdam Not Related to Teacher Education (Zulassungsordnung, ZulO), govern the admission requirements and the university selection process for the non-teaching-oriented master's program in Data Science at the University of Potsdam. Otherwise, the admission regulations (ZulO) apply.

§ 2 Assignment of Tasks in the Procedure

While conducting the admission and selection procedure, the Examining Board can assign specific tasks of a purely administrative nature to qualified employees of the program who are not members of the Examining Board.

§ 3 Admission Requirements

(1) The following special admission prerequisites apply to the master's program in Data Science:

(a) An undergraduate academic degree

- in either computer science, mathematics, or Data Science totaling 180 credit points; academic degrees in related fields may be recognized provided their content and objectives are comparable; or
- in business informatics totaling 180 credit points, as long as the applicant has completed computer science modules comprising at least 60 credit points and mathematics modules comprising at least 18 credit points; or
- in a natural science totaling 180 credit points, as long as the applicant has completed mathematics modules comprising at least 27 credit points and at least one module in computer science comprising 6 credit points.

(b) Competences that correspond to the two bridge modules described in Section 5 subsection 1 no. II of the Study and Examination Regulations for the Master's Program in Data Science at the University of Potsdam. This evidence is typically provided through successful participation in a total of 12 credit points of coursework in the bachelor's degrees outlined under (a) above. For applicants who do not meet these requirements, the Examining Board can specify in the letter of admission that the student must complete a maximum of two bridge modules (under Section 5 subsection 1 no. 1 of the Study and Examination Regulations for the Master' Program in Data Science at the University of Potsdam) as

mandatory modules totaling 6 credit points (a maximum of 12 credit points). If the applicant would require compensatory study comprising more than 6 credit points each in mathematics and computer science to reach the necessary knowledge level in the subjects specified under (a) above, the admission requirements are not satisfied.

(c) Proof of English language proficiency that corresponds at least to the C1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The required English-language proficiency is to be proven by one of the documents listed in Section 4 subsection 2 of the Admission Regulations (ZulO). The Examining Board issues decisions regarding credentials equivalent to those listed in subsection 1 on a case-by-case basis.

(2) In a deviation from Section 4 subsection 4 of ZulO, German language skills need not be demonstrated.

§ 4   Application Materials and Deadlines

(1) The application for the master's program in Data Science, when matriculating as of the first semester, can only begin in the winter semester. The application for the master's program in Data Science, when matriculating as of a later semester, can begin in either the winter or summer semester.

(2) The ZulO specifies application deadlines, as long as the course of study does not have restricted admissions. If the course of study does have restricted admissions, then, in accordance with Section 6 subsection 3 of the ZulO, the application deadline for the winter semester is June 1 and for the summer semester December 1.

(3) In addition to the application materials listed in Section 5 subsection 3 letters a) through d) and f) of the ZulO, the following application materials must be submitted: Evidence of required language proficiency under Section 3 subsection 1 letter (b).

(4) The special admission requirements under Section 3, comprising the content of the mandatory curriculum of the degree underlying the application, may be demonstrated by the deadline for final enrollment.

(5) If the program has restricted admissions, in addition to the materials listed under Section 5 subsection 4 of the ZulO, the applicant must submit a statement of purpose outlining his or her purpose for pursuing the program, his or her expectations for the program, and his or her relationship to the selected course of study and aspired profession (see Section 6).

§ 5   Quota of International Applicants

At variance with the quota specified under Section 19 subsection 1 of the HZV, a quota of 20% is reserved for international applicants and for stateless applicants who are not accorded rights equal to Germans.

§ 6   University Selection Process

(1) If the master's program has restricted admissions, an admissions selection process is carried out under Section 9 of the ZulO with the objective of ranking the applicants as part of the university selection process under Section 8 of the ZulO.

(2) To establish the ranking, a total point value is calculated under Section 9 of the ZulO. In calculating the total point value under Section 9 of the ZulO, the following criteria are weighted as follows:

(a) Average grade or current average grade: 70%
(b) Statement of purpose outlining the applicant's purpose for pursuing the program and his or her relationship to the selected course of study and aspired profession: 30% This criterion is graded (on a scale from 1.0 to 5.0, with 1.0 being best) and contributes to the total point score. The grade is calculated based on the Examining Board's evaluation of the applicant's statement of purpose, incorporating the following equally weighted evaluation criteria:
- The compatibility between the degree program's objectives and the applicant's aspired profession
- The plausibility of the applicant's explanation for his or her interest in Data Science
- The congruency of the applicant's expectations with the program's actual content.

If materials to prove this selection criterion are missing at the application deadline listed under Section 4 subsection 5, the criterion is included towards the total point value as a grade of 5.0.

§ 7   Validity

(1) The regulations take effect on the day of their publication in the Official Public Notices of the University of Potsdam.

(2) These regulations first apply to all admissions processes for the master's program in Data Science conducted in the winter semester 2018–19.