

This document is a translation and is provided for information purposes only. In the event of any inconsistency between the German version and the English version, only the German version shall apply.

On 24.01.2022 (ref: Az.: 27.5 – 74503-112) the following regulations governing special requirements for admission to the consecutive master's degree programme North American Studies were approved by the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony (MWK) in accordance with section 18 paragraphs 6, 8 and 14 of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG) in conjunction with section 51 paragraph 3 of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG). These regulations shall take effect the day after publication in the official bulletin of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover.

**Revised Regulations Governing the Requirements for Admission
to the Consecutive Master's Degree Programme
North American Studies**

The Faculty of Humanities of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover resolved the following regulations on 8 December 2021 in accordance with section 18 paragraph 8 of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG) and section 7 of the Lower Saxony University Admissions Act (NHZG):

Section 1

Scope

- (1) These regulations govern the requirements for admission to the master's degree programme North American Studies of the Faculty of Humanities, Leibniz University Hannover.
- (2) The requirements for admission are governed by the specifications in section 2.
- (3) In the event that more applicants fulfil the admission requirements than there are places available, places shall be allocated according to the university's own selection procedure (section 4). If fewer applicants fulfil the admission requirements than there are places available, a selection process shall not be conducted.

Section 2

Admission Requirements

- (1) To qualify for admission to the master's degree programme North American Studies, the applicant must
have acquired a bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification at a German university or a foreign university belonging to the Bologna signatory states in the degree subject or in another relevant undergraduate degree,

or

have attained an equivalent qualification at a foreign university in another relevant undergraduate degree subject; equivalence shall be evaluated in accordance with the recommendations of the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) of the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK) (<https://anabin.kmk.org>).

Relevant undergraduate degree subjects include English studies, American studies and English/American studies. Applicants must have advanced subject-related knowledge in literary and cultural studies. If the final certificate does not list any specific courses, the applicant must include evidence (official course description or syllabus) in their application. The body responsible – as specified in the examination regulations – shall decide whether an a degree programme is suitable; the decision may be accompanied by the condition that missing lectures or courses amounting to 10 credit points must be completed within two semesters.

- (2) In exception to paragraph 1, provisional acceptance may be granted to applicants who have not yet completed their bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification at the time of application, if at least 150 credit points have been attained and it is expected that the bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification will be completed by the end of the first semester of the master's degree at the latest. An average mark from the completed assessments should be determined, which will be taken into account in the selection process as per section 4, irrespective of the final bachelor's degree mark.

- (3) Furthermore, proof of English language proficiency (level C1 CEFR) is required to qualify for admission to the master's degree programme North American Studies. For details regarding proof of language proficiency visit: <https://www.llc.uni-hannover.de/de/testen-pruefen/akzeptierte-sprachnachweise-an-der-uh/>. Applicants with a degree in English/American studies (as per section 2 paragraph 1) are not required to provide any further evidence of English language proficiency other than their certificate.
- (4) If an applicant has been granted refugee status and they fulfil the admission requirements as per section 2 paragraphs 1–3 and can substantiate this, but are unable to submit the documents specified in section 3 paragraph 2, they may take an aptitude test according to section 2 paragraph 5. Evidence of passing the aptitude test must be included in the application.
- (5) The body responsible – as specified in the examination regulations – may offer a subject-related aptitude test for applicants as per section 2 paragraph 4. This aptitude test will be conducted as a 30-minute online oral assessment on the fundamental knowledge required for the master's degree programme. The assessment will be conducted in English. Applicants as specified in section 2 paragraph 4 will be invited to the aptitude test via letter or email and, upon passing the assessment, will be admitted to the degree programme according to section 4 paragraph 1. An assessment evaluated as “insufficient” (“nicht ausreichend”) has been failed.

Section 3

Study Commencement and Application Deadline

- (1) It is possible to commence the master's degree programme North American Studies in the winter or summer semester; in the summer semester only if there are still places remaining from the admission procedure for the previous winter semester. Applications, including the required documents specified in paragraph 2, must be received by Leibniz University Hannover by 31 May (applicants from non-EU countries) or by 15 July (applicants from Germany and other EU countries) for the winter semester and by 30 November (applicants from non-EU countries) or by 15 January (applicants from Germany and other EU countries) for the summer semester. Both a written application and online application (via the university's online portal) must be submitted. Applications for admission outside of the process for allocating university places and outside of the determined number of candidates to be admitted (e.g. scholarships) must be received by the university by 1 April for the summer semester and by 1 October for the winter semester. Application according to sentence 4 shall only apply for allocation of places within the respective application deadline. The university is not officially obliged to verify the information provided by the applicant.
- (2) As per paragraph 1 sentence 4, the application must be accompanied by the documents listed below; certified copies are required for certificates and official confirmations; if these documents were not issued in German or English, certified German or English translations must be provided.
 - a) the final certificate for the bachelor's degree programme or – if this is not yet available – confirmation of completed units and respective credit points, as well as the average mark,
 - b) curriculum vitae,
 - c) evidence as specified in section 2 paragraph 3,
 - d) evidence as specified in section 2 paragraphs 1 and/or 4, if necessary
- (3) Applications that are incomplete or do not meet the requirements regarding form or deadline will be excluded from the application process. The university will retain the submitted documents.

Section 4

Admission Procedure

- (1) In the event that more applicants fulfil the admission requirements than there are places available, places shall be allocated according to the university's own selection procedure.
- (2) Selection will occur according to a ranking list, which is established based on the final or average mark as per section 3 paragraph 2 letter a). In the event that several applicants hold an equal rank, the order of priority shall be drawn at random.
- (3) In all other respects, the provisions of Leibniz University Hannover's regulations for enrolment that generally apply shall remain unaffected. The registration of applicants, who must complete missing modules as specified in section 2 paragraph 1 sentence 3, shall expire if the evidence required for this is not provided within one year and the applicant is responsible for such neglect. The same shall apply if, as specified in section 2 paragraph 2, evidence of successful completion

of the bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification is not provided by 15 April (for enrolment in the winter semester) or 15 October (for enrolment in the summer semester), and the applicant is responsible for such neglect.

Section 5

Notification, Succession Procedure ("Nachrückverfahren"), Completion of the Process

- (1) Successful candidates will receive written notification of admission from the university. A deadline will be specified in the notification, within which the applicant must declare in writing or electronically whether they wish to accept the place or not. If this declaration is not received in correct form by the deadline, the offer of admission will become invalid. This must be indicated in the notification of admission.
- (2) Unsuccessful candidates will receive a notification of rejection, stating their rank and the rank of the last admitted applicant. The notification of rejection must include information on legal remedies.
- (3) Remaining places will be allocated by means of the ranking ("Nachrückverfahren") as per section 4 paragraph 1.
- (4) The admission process will be concluded two weeks after commencement of the lecture period at the latest. Thereafter, any remaining places will be drawn at random, upon informal request. The application period for this shall begin two weeks before the beginning of the lecture period and shall end upon conclusion of the admission process.

Section 6

Admission to Advanced Semesters

- (1) Available places in an advanced semester of a course with restricted admission shall be allocated according to the order below, to applicants
 - a) for whom, due to personal reasons, rejection of admission would mean undue hardship,
 - b) who are or were enrolled in the same or a similar degree programme
 - ba) at another German university or a university in another EU member state or another signatory state to the EEA Agreement, or
 - bb) at a foreign university and are of German nationality or are on equal terms with German nationals with respect to admission regulations, or
 - c) who claim any other grounds.
- (2) Within each of the three groups in paragraph 1, admission shall be decided depending on the mark attained for the bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification. In the case of identical results, admission will be allocated according to social aspects that were decisive in the choice of location – especially familial or financial aspects. Thereafter, places will be drawn at random.

Section 7

Entry into Force

These regulations shall take effect the day after publication in the university's official bulletin.