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A. Publications in accordance with the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG)

On 10 December 2021 (ref: 27.5-74503-115) the following regulations governing special requirements for admission to the consecutive master's degree programme Religion in the Public Sphere 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 Religion in the Public Sphere

The Faculty of Humanities of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover resolved the following regulations on 10 November 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 Religion in the Public Sphere at 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 consecutive master's degree programme Religion in the Public Sphere, 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 as specified in appendix 1, 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) (<http://anabin.kmk.org>).

The selection committee (section 5) shall decide whether an undergraduate degree is suitable; the decision may be accompanied by the condition that missing modules or courses amounting to a maximum of 30 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 B2 CEFR) is required to qualify for admission to the home track of the master's degree programme Religion in the Public Sphere. For details regarding proof of language proficiency visit: <https://www.llc.uni-hannover.de/de/testen-pruefen/akzeptierte-sprachnachweise-an-der-luh/>. Applicants who can present evidence of an English university entrance qualification, or who have completed a bachelor's degree taught in English are not required to take tests to prove sufficient English language proficiency.
- (4) Furthermore, applicants expressing interest in the Double Degree programme with Södertörn University (Sweden) or Roma Tre University (Italy) must provide evidence of sufficient English language proficiency (level C1 CEFR) upon applying for the Double Degree in course semester 1. For details regarding proof of language proficiency visit: <https://www.llc.uni-hannover.de/de/testen-pruefen/akzeptierte-sprachnachweise-an-der-luh/>.

Section 3 **Study Commencement and Application Deadline**

- (1) It is possible to commence the master's degree programme Religion in the Public Sphere in the winter semester. Applications, including the required documents specified in paragraph 2, must be received by the university by 31 May in the case of applicants from non-EU countries and by 15 July in the case of applicants from Germany and other EU countries. 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 course places and outside of the determined number of candidates to be admitted (e.g. scholarships) must be received by the university 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 (two or three pages, in German or English),
 - c) evidence as specified in section 2 paragraphs 3 and 4.
 - d) Furthermore, applicants should indicate whether they are interested in participating in the Double Degree programme with a) Södertörn University, Sweden, or b) Roma Tre University, Italy.
- (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) 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.
- (2) 40 per cent of the available places may be allocated in advance to applicants from non-EU countries under strict compliance with section 4 paragraph 1 and the deadline specified in section 3 paragraph 1. Places that are not allocated according to this provision shall be transferred to the regular allocation process for this degree programme. Applicants from non-EU countries who have not been offered a place in advance shall participate in the regular allocation process for this degree programme.
- (3) The selection committee (section 5) shall decide upon qualification for admission.
- (4) In all other respects, the provisions of the university'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 2, 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), and the applicant is responsible for such neglect.

Section 5

Selection Committee for the Master's Degree Programme Religion in the Public Sphere

- (1) The Faculty of Humanities shall establish a selection committee to prepare decisions regarding selection.
- (2) The selection committee shall comprise at least three members entitled to vote, who must be a professor or another member of academic staff, in addition to a student member acting in an advisory role. At least one member must be a professor. Members are appointed by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Humanities. The members are appointed for a term of two years, the student member is appointed for one year; reappointment is possible. The selection committee may pass a resolution provided that at least two members entitled to vote are present.
- (3) The duties of the selection committee include:
 - a) assessing whether applications have been submitted in the correct form,
 - b) verifying whether admission requirements have been met,
 - c) deciding on the acceptance or rejection of an application.

Section 6

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 7

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 8

Entry into Force

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

Appendix 1:

The following are considered relevant undergraduate degrees for the master's degree programme Religion in the Public Sphere:

A bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification in a religious studies or sociological degree programme or subject.

Alternatively, a bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification within the field of cultural studies or social sciences (preferably anthropology, ethnology, history, cultural studies, Judaic studies, Islamic studies, political science, a regional science or equivalent degree programmes in foreign countries with a corresponding name in the foreign language) including evidence of advanced knowledge in religious studies.

If the final certificate does not list any specific courses, the applicant must include evidence (official course description or syllabus) in their application.

In case of doubt, the selection committee shall decide.