

# Admissions Regulations for the Master's Degree Program M.Sc. Climate and Atmospheric Sciences within the Department of Earth Sciences at Freie Universität Berlin

**Disclaimer: Please note that only the German version of this document is legally binding. This translation is intended for the convenience of the non-German-reading public and is for informational purposes only.**

## Preamble

On the basis of Section 17.1.1.1 of Freie Universität Berlin's University Statutes from July 10, 2024 (*FU-Mitteilungen* 8/2025, p. 146), in conjunction with Section 15 of the Law on Admissions to Higher Education in the Federal State of Berlin for Programs with Admission Requirements (*Berliner Hochschulzulassungsgesetz*, BerlHZG), in the version of the announcement of the amended version from October 9, 2019 (GVBl., p. 695), last amended February 24, 2025 (GVBl., p. 149), in conjunction with Section 10.5.2 of the Berlin Higher Education Act (*Berliner Hochschulgesetz*, BerlHG) in the version of the announcement of the amended version from July 26, 2011 (GVBl., p. 378), most recently amended on July 10, 2025 (GVBl., p. 270), the Department Council (*Fachbereichsrat*) of the Department of Earth Sciences at Freie Universität Berlin issued the following regulations on October 22, 2025:

## Section 1 Scope

These regulations govern admission to the study program in accordance with Section 10.5.2 BerlHG and the selection procedure for the allocation of places in accordance with Section 15.1.1.1 BerlHZG for the master's degree program M.Sc. Climate and Atmospheric Sciences within the Department of Earth Sciences at Freie Universität Berlin. This is a consecutive master's program as defined under Section 23.3.1.1a BerlHG.

## Section 2 Number of Available Places and the Application Process

- (1) The number of places available for the master's degree program for each given admissions cycle is stipulated in Freie Universität Berlin's General Admission Regulations.
- (2) The application for admission must be submitted electronically to the Executive Board of Freie Universität Berlin – Admissions Office using the online application system. The form "Self-Indication of Admission Requirements and Selection Criteria" (Appendix 2) is a necessary part of the application. It must be completed in full and submitted with the application.
- (3) The application deadline is May 31 of each year.
- (4) Applications for admission must be accompanied by an official certified copy of the applicant's first university degree (or equivalent professional certification) referred to below in Section 3.1 in the format specified by the Executive Board of Freie Universität Berlin – Admissions Office.
- (5) Under certain circumstances, applicants may be admitted to the master's degree program even if they have not yet obtained the university degree stipulated under Section 3.1. In order to qualify for this exception, the applicant must demonstrate that, based on their academic performance to date (in particular their performance on previous assessments), they will have

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Please indicate the title of the course as stated in your transcript of records, e.g., "Earth I," "Linear Algebra I," etc.

Please indicate the institution that awarded the certificate for the course. If the course was completed at a university, please also indicate the respective department.

Please indicate the number of credits you received for the successful completion of the course and the unit that these credits are measured in, e.g., ECTS.

Please enter the field of study in natural sciences to which you would assign the course (atmospheric sciences, physics, mathematics, or computer science)

obtained the above-mentioned university degree prior to commencing the master's degree program. In addition, the applicant must provide evidence that the other admission requirements listed under Section 3.2 will also be met in due time. This exception will be granted if the applicant has completed at least two-thirds of the total coursework and this coursework has been evaluated. Under this rule, the applicant must also have officially registered to commence work on their final thesis and demonstrate that they will be able to complete this thesis before the start of the master's degree program. In this scenario, the applicant's grade point average will be used in lieu of a final grade during the selection procedure. The grade point average is based on the applicant's previous coursework as reflected in their current transcript, which they should submit with the application. Under this exception, the result of the university degree is considered irrelevant for the selection procedure (as it has not yet been obtained).

(6) Freie Universität Berlin has no obligation to investigate the facts of a case on its own initiative (*ex officio*).

### **Section 3 Admission Requirements**

(1) The admission requirement for the master's degree program is a first university degree or an equivalent degree from an institution of higher education within or outside of Germany. This degree must have been completed in the subjects of atmospheric sciences, physics, or Earth sciences in which at least 60 credit points were obtained in atmospheric sciences, physics, or mathematics for computer science, at least 10 credit points in mathematics, at least 15 credit points in physics, and at least 5 credit points in computer science and/or statistics.

(2) Applicants who completed a university degree as stipulated in Section 3.1 within a degree program in which English was not the language of instruction must provide proof of English language skills at a level equivalent to B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

(3) Applicants who completed a university degree as stipulated in Section 3.1 within a degree program in which German was not the language of instruction must provide proof of German language skills at a level equivalent to B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

(4) The examination board responsible for the master's degree program determines the equivalence of any documentation provided.

### **Section 4 Quotas, Selection Criteria, Organizational Aspects**

(1) 80 percent of the study placements that are still available after the preliminary quotas have been fulfilled will be allocated according to the selection process as outlined in this document (higher education quota). 20 percent of the study placements will be distributed according to Section 15.1.1.2 BerlHZG. 5 percent of the study placements are reserved for the quota stipulated in Section 15.2.1.1 and another 5 percent for the quota stipulated in Section 15.2.1.2 BerlHZG. 2 percent are reserved for the quota stipulated in Section 15.2.1.3 BerlHZG.

(2) Candidates are selected for the master's degree program according to the following criteria:

1. The level of qualification as demonstrated by the applicant's academic performance in their previous degree program (Section 15.2.1.1 BerlHZG).
2. Considerations of the applicant's academic background demonstrated by their choice of previous degree program that provides an indication of their specific motivation and aptitude for the master's degree program (Section 15.2.1.4 BerlHZG).
3. Other qualifications acquired outside of a university degree program (Section 15.2.1.5 BerlHZG).

(3) In the selection process, selection points will be awarded under the criteria defined above in Sections 4.2.1 to 4.2.3. The maximum number of points that can be awarded is 90.

(4) For the selection criteria listed under Section 4.2.1 of these regulations, a maximum of 60 selection points can be awarded in relation to the grade point average stated on the degree certificate for the candidate's previous degree program. The selection points for each grade point average are listed in Appendix 1 to these regulations.

(5) A maximum of 20 selection points can be awarded under Section 4.2.2 of these regulations; 10 of which can be awarded once for examinations and coursework carried out in the field of atmospheric sciences for which at least 30 credit points were obtained, and 10 of which can be awarded once for examinations and coursework in the application of programming skills relevant to the field of atmospheric sciences for which at least 8 credit points were obtained.

(6) 10 selection points can be awarded under Section 4.2.3 of these regulations for practical work (e.g., as part of a voluntary internship) in the area of atmospheric sciences where the practical work amounts to at least 150 hours or when the applicant has been published in a recognized scientific journal as a first or second author.

(7) At least two admissions officers will be appointed to supervise the selection process. The dean of the Department of Earth Sciences appoints these two people under the authority of Freie Universität Berlin's Executive Board. The appointed admissions officers must be authorized examiners for the master's degree program and must be university employees with Freie Universität Berlin as their main employer. These positions may not be filled by substitutes or alternates.

## **Section 5 Admission Decision**

(1) The final admission decision is made by the Executive Board – Admissions Office on the basis of the outcome of the selection process.

(2) The selected candidates receive a formal notification of admission stating the deadlines for their written acceptance and enrollment. Failure to meet these deadlines will result in the place being offered to another candidate.

(3) Candidates selected based on their transcripts are granted tentative admission and can enroll in the first semester of the program on a conditional basis. Generally, the university degree required for admission as described in Section 3.1 must be submitted by the end of the first semester of study, together with relevant documentation proving that any other requirements associated with the degree have also been met. If the necessary documents are not submitted on time, the student's admission will be retracted.

(4) Applicants who are not admitted will receive a rejection letter that states the reasons for the decision.

(5) The documents submitted for the selection procedure are to be kept until the decision is final; in the case of legal proceedings, they are to be kept until a legally binding decision has been made.

## **Section 6 Entry into Force**

(1) These regulations enter into force on the day following their publication in *FU-Mitteilungen* (the official bulletin of Freie Universität Berlin).

(2) The Admissions Regulations for the Master's Degree Program M.Sc. Meteorology from December 11, 2019 (*FU-Mitteilungen* 5/2020, p. 52), therefore lapse when the new regulations come into force.

**Appendix 1**  
**(to Section 4.4)**

Allocation of selection points based on the grade point average as recorded in the documentation for the first university degree in accordance with Section 4.4.

<b>Grade point average</b>	<b>Selection points</b>
1.0	60
1.1	58
1.2	56
1.3	54
1.4	52
1.5	50
1.6	48
1.7	46
1.8	44
1.9	42
2.0	40
2.1	38
2.2	36
2.3	34
2.4	32
2.5	30
2.6	28
2.7	26
2.8	24
2.9	22
3.0	20
3.1	18
3.2	16
3.3	14
3.4	12
3.5	10
3.6	8
3.7	6
3.8	4
3.9	2
4.0	0

## Appendix 2

### M.Sc. Climate and Atmospheric Sciences

#### Self-Indication of Admission Requirements and Selection Criteria

##### Applicant Information

Application number:	
Email address:	
Last name:	
First name(s):	
Date of birth (DD.MM.YYYY):	
Bachelor's degree:	
Name and location of institution where bachelor's degree was obtained:	
Additional university degree(s):	

##### Admission Requirements

###### 1. Language Certificate

Please provide proof of your English language skills to the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) or equivalent. An official certificate must also be uploaded to the application portal.

Name and date (DD.MM.YYYY) of your English language certificate or equivalent document:

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You can find more information on how to provide proof of English language proficiency on the following website: <https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/studium/bewerbung/master/konsekutive-masterstudiengaenge/sprachliche-zugangsvoraussetzungen/index.html>

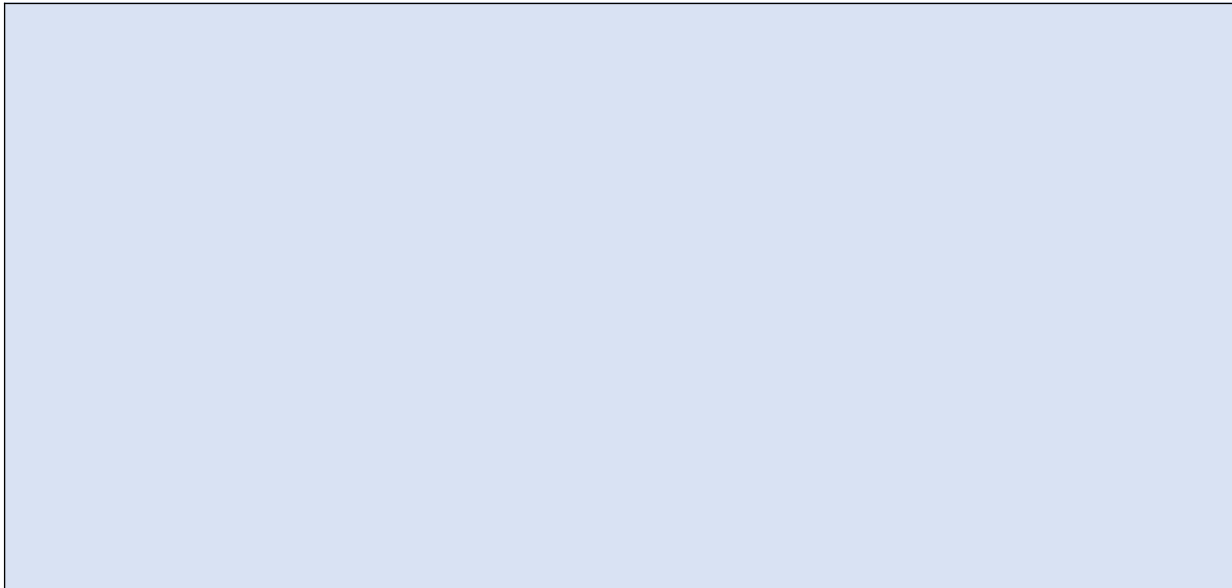




**2.2 Courses related to atmospheric and climate sciences**

For this selection criterion a total of up to 10 selection points may be awarded as follows: 5 selection points may be awarded for evidence of examinations and coursework in the field of atmospheric and climate sciences/meteorology in which at least 3 credit points were obtained. Alternatively, 10 selection points may be awarded for evidence of examinations and coursework in the field of atmospheric and climate sciences in which at least 10 credit points were obtained.

Please provide a brief description of your examinations and coursework in the area of atmospheric and climate sciences should the above apply.



**2.3 Research-based activities**

10 selection points may be awarded for evidence of practical work (e.g., as part of a voluntary internship, i.e., not part of the previous studies) in the field of atmospheric and climate sciences/meteorology amounting to at least 150 hours or, alternatively, a publication as first or second author in a recognized scientific journal.

Please provide a brief description of this practical activity (internship provider, period, number of hours). An official certificate must also be uploaded to the application portal or a reference for the publication must be given.

