Examination Regulations

for

Usability Engineering, M.Sc.

Faculty of Communication and Environment

Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences

from 14 October 2025

(Official Notice 23/2025)

Acting on the basis of Section 2 (4) sentence 1 and Section 64 of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz*, HG NRW), in the version dated 16 September 2014 (GV.NRW. 2014, p. 547), which was last amended on 19 December 2024 (GV.NRW., p. 1222) and entered into force on 1 January 2025, as well as on the basis of the General Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences dated 3 January 2018 (Official Notice 07/2018), as amended by the fourth amending statutes on 2 April 2024 (Official Notice 05/2024), the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Communication and Environment of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences has enacted the following examination regulations for Usability Engineering M.Sc.:

Contents

Section 1
Scope

These examination regulations apply to the master's degree programme Usability Engineering M.Sc., which is offered in English by the Faculty of Technology and Bionics of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, and are valid in conjunction with the General Examination Regulations ("RPO") of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences.

Section 2
Academic objectives; Purpose of examination; Degree awarded

(1) This degree programme concludes with the master's examination. The overall aims and objectives for this degree programme are outlined in Section 3 RPO. In particular, this master's degree programme seeks to empower students to apply methodologies from the natural sciences and engineering, to develop practical solutions that incorporate connections that go beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries, and to conduct scientific research.

(2) The title Master of Science, abbreviated as M.Sc., is awarded for successfully completing the master's examination.

Section 3
Admission requirements

(1) General admission requirements are set forth in Section 4a RPO.

(2) A "related field" per Section 4a (1) RPO is defined as any degree programme listed in Annex 1 of this document.

(3) A cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 on the German grading scale, or alternatively an A or B on the ECTS grading scale, must have been achieved in the applicant's undergraduate degree referred to in subsection (2).

(4) Proof of sufficient proficiency in English for the degree programme is demonstrated by a language certificate attesting to at least the C1 level of the Common European Framework (CEFR). Applicants can be exempted from the proof of English proficiency upon request. Said requests are justified, for example, for applicants who completed their qualifying undergraduate degree in English. The Examination Board will decide on these requests.

(5) Applicants are ineligible for admission if they failed the final attempt at a mandatory examination in a previous degree programme that shared similar content with this degree programme and was offered by a university subject to German Basic Law.

Section 4
Standard duration of study; Programme structure; Volume of instruction hours

(1) The standard period of study, including all examinations, is three semesters.

(2) The total volume of instruction for this degree programme is 50 contact hours per week (CH, or SWS in German).

(3) Additional information about the breakdown of this degree programme and the type, form and scope of modules is available in the study and examination plans at the end of this document. The study and examination plans are recommendations for students on how to structure their studies in order to graduate within the standard period of study. Additional information about learning outcomes, qualification aims, teaching contents and types of examinations can be found in the module guide, which is published on the homepage of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences.

Section 5
Scope of examinations

(1) The time allotted for written examinations depends on the number of obtainable credits for the corresponding course. As a rule, 60 minutes shall be allotted for every two weekly contact hours (SWS).

(2) An oral examination generally lasts at least 30, but no more than 45 minutes per student.

(3) The time allotted for an assignment, term paper or project will not exceed four months. The text portion of the work should generally not exceed 30 pages (DIN A4, excluding annexes).

Section 6
Scope and form of the master's thesis

(1) As a rule, the text portion of the thesis should be between 40 and 80 pages (DIN A4) in length. The responsible supervisor will set the page requirement. The thesis may be supplemented with other media, provided their use as additional documentation is appropriate and helpful within the context of the assigned task. In this case, the length of the text portion of the thesis may deviate from the aforementioned minimum requirement.

(2) Students will be given a period of four months (from date of assignment to submission deadline) to complete the thesis. The thesis may not be submitted within the first eight weeks after the date of assignment.

Section 7
Admission to the thesis and colloquium

(1) In addition to the requirements set forth in Section 24 (1) RPO, students must have earned 50 credit points in order to be admitted to the master's thesis.

(2) In addition to the requirements set forth in Section 27 (2) RPO, students must have earned 87 credit points in order to be admitted to the colloquium.

Section 8
Credit values for the thesis and colloquium

(1) Twenty-seven credit points are awarded for passing the thesis.

(2) Three credit points are awarded for passing the colloquium.

Section 9
Awarding of the master's degree

The master's degree specified in Section 2 (2) is officially conferred upon issuing of the master's degree certificate defined in Section 30 (1) RPO.

Section 10
Entry into force and transitional provisions

(1) These Examination Regulations will enter into force on the day after publication of the German-language original in the Official Notices of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. They apply to students who first enrolled in Usability Engineering M.Sc. of the Faculty of Communication and Environment of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences in or after summer semester 2026.

(2) Students who enrolled in Usability Engineering M.Sc. before summer semester 2026 may continue their studies according to the examination regulations from 18 September 2012 (Official Notice 10/2012), as amended by the first amending statutes from 25 January 2021 (Official Notice 12/2021), until no later than 31 August 2029. Accordingly, the examination regulations dated 18 September 2012 (Official Notices 10/2012), as amended by the first amending statutes from 25 January 2021 (Official Notices 21/2021), will expire on 1 September 2029.

(3) Students currently studying according to the examination regulations from 18 September 2012, as amended by the first amending statutes from 25 January 2021, may request in writing to the Examination Board to switch to the examination regulations defined herein. The Examination Board is responsible for all credit recognition decisions for modules and examinations completed under previous examination regulations. Upon expiry of the examination regulations from 18 September 2012, as amended by the first amending statutes from 25 January 2021, any students still studying under said examination regulations are considered to have switched to the present examination regulations automatically.

Note: These examination regulations entered into force in their present version on 13 December 2025.

Annex: Study and examination plan for Usability Engineering

Code No (Kennnummer)	Module	SW (SWS)	Type (Veranstaltungsart)						V/N	TE (Prü)	CP (CP)	WS1	SS2	WS3	
			L (V)	SL (SL)	S (S)	Ex (Ü)	PT (Pra)	Pro (Pro)							
9711	**User Experience Design** User Experience Design	5	2	1		2			75	P	5	5			
9712	**Psychology for UX Practitioners** Psychologie für UX-Praktiker	5	3			2			75	P	5	5			
9713	**User Research and Testing** Nutzerforschung und Testen	5	2			1	2		75	P	5	5			
9717	**HCI I – Scientific Foundations and Skills** HCI I – Wissenschaftliche Grundlagen und Methodenkompetenzen	4		2		2			60	P	5	4			
9715	**Strategic Usability Engineering** Strategisches Usability Engineering	4	2		1	1			60	P	5	4			
9718	**Rapid Agile Design Project** Agiles Rapid-Design-Projekt	4					4		60	P	5	4			
9721	**UX Project Management** UX-Projektmanagement	3	2			1			45	P	5		3		
9722	**Digital Fabrication for Human-Interface Design** Digitale Fertigung für die Gestaltung von Mensch-Technik-Schnittstellen	5	2		1		2		75	P	5		5		
9723	**Innovation and Design Thinking** Innovation und Design Thinking	3	1				2		45	P	5		3		
9727	**HCI II – Current Topics and Developments in UE** HCI II – Aktuelle Themen und Entwicklungen in der Usability Engineering-Forschung	4		2		2			60	P	5		4		
9725	**Applied Interaction Design** Angewandtes Interaktionsdesign	4	2			2			60	P	5		4		
9728	**User Centred Design Research Project** Forschungsprojekt im nutzerzentrierten Design	4					4		60	P	5		4		
9701	**Master Thesis** Masterarbeit	27								P				27	
9702	**Colloquium** Kolloquium	3								P				3	
		80									60	27	23	30	

60 CP | 50 SW | 30

Annex 1

Anlage fachlich einschlägiger Bachelor-Abschlüsse als Zugangsvoraussetzung für den Masterstudiengang Usability Engineering

3 Psychologie
3.I Einschlägig:
- 3.I.a Kognitionspsychologie
- 3.I.b Ingenieurpsychologie
- 3.I.c Human Factors
- 3.I.d Ergonomie
- 3.I.e Lernpsychologie / Instructional Design (z. B. im Kontext der Gestaltung digitaler Lernsysteme)
- 3.I.f Arbeits- und Organisationspsychologie
- 3.I.g Pädagogische Psychologie nur, wenn klarer UX-Bezug besteht
- 3.I.h Wirtschaftspsychologie (wenn Schwerpunkte auf Usability, UX oder Arbeitsgestaltung liegen)

3.II Nicht einschlägig:
- 3.II.a Klinische Psychologie
- 3.II.b Neuropsychologie (ohne Human Factors-Anwendung)
- 3.II.c Psychotherapie

Im Einzelfall könne während der Bewerbungsphase durch den Prüfungsausschuss weitere Anerkennungen verwandter Studiengänge erfolgen.

Abkürzungen:

AI	Artificial Intelligence
UI	User Interface
UX	User Experience
HCI	Human Computer Interaction