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Examination Regulations

for

Sustainable Development Management, M.A.

Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences

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(Official Notice 27/2021)

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Section 1 Scope

These examination regulations apply to Sustainable Development Management, M.A., which is offered in English by the Faculty of Society and Economics at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, and are valid in conjunction with the General Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences ("RPO").

Section 2 Academic objectives; Purpose of examination; Master's degree

(1) This degree programme concludes with a final overall assessment referred to as the "master's examination" (*Masterprüfung*). Academic aims and objectives are defined in Section 3 RPO. In particular, this master's degree programme empowers students to apply methodologies from the social sciences in the field of sustainable development and develop practical solutions that incorporate aspects which are both interdisciplinary and not confined to traditional subject-related boundaries.

(2) A Master of Arts degree, abbreviated as "M.A.", is awarded for passing the master's examination.

Section 3 Admission requirements

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

(2) A professionally qualifying undergraduate degree in a relevant field is defined as a degree in economics or the social sciences, particularly in one of the following fields: regional economics, political science, social science, business economics, interdisciplinary studies with an emphasis on economics or the social sciences, industrial engineering with an emphasis on business economics, or a different engineering discipline with an emphasis on industrial engineering. In addition, the Examination Board of the Faculty of Society and Economics can approve other interdisciplinary degrees with a connection sustainability for admissions purposes, provided said degree has an emphasis in the social sciences.

(3) A cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on the German grading scale, or alternatively an A or B on the ECTS grading scale, must have been awarded for the applicant's qualifying undergraduate degree per subsection (2).

(4) English proficiency requirements are defined in Section 4a (6a) RPO.

(5) Applicants are ineligible for admission if they have failed the final attempt at a mandatory examination in a previous degree programme that shared a significant overlap in content with this degree programme and was offered by a university that is subject to the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany.

(6) The selection process described in Section 5a of the Selection and Admission Procedure Regulations for Restricted-Admission Degree Programmes applies with regard to the admission of applicants from non-EU countries. Applicants from non-EU countries who hold a scholarship from a German organisation that is offered as part of a merit-based programme which furthers the qualification goals of this degree programme will receive an immediate

improvement of 1.0 to the average grade that is calculated to establish their ranking in the selection process; the improved grade cannot exceed the best possible German mark of 1.0.

Section 4

Standard duration of study; programme structure; volume of instruction hours

- (1) Further clarifying Section 5 (2) RPO, the standard duration of study for applicants with an undergraduate degree of 180 ECTS credits (or six full-time semesters) is four semesters.
- (2) The total volume of instruction for this degree programme is 44 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 plan at the end of this document. The study and examination plan is a recommendation 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, contents and types of examination can be found in the module guides, which are published and accessible to all students in an appropriate location.
- (4) Students in this degree programme may submit a written request to the Examination Board for permission to earn up to 6 elective credits from modules offered by other faculties of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. Requests will be approved if the content of these modules aligns with the main emphasis area of – or can be considered a suitable supplement to – the elective catalogue of this degree programme.
- (5) There is no legal entitlement to have all elective modules defined in the study and examination plan offered every semester. Furthermore, there is no entitlement that an elective courses continue despite an insufficient number of participants. The possibility for students to obtain the necessary number of credits from the elective catalogue for graduation will remain unaffected. An elective choice will always be available.
- (6) The modules M-SD 1 7101 (Current Issues in Sustainable Development), M-SD 2 7105 (Quantitative Research Methods), M-SD 3 7120 (Applied Project in Sustainable Development) are offered each semester so that students have the option of accelerating their graduation progress.

Section 5

Scope of examinations

- (1) The time allotted to students for a written examination is based on the number of obtainable credits and will not exceed 120 minutes. As a rule, 20 minutes will be scheduled for each credit point.
- (2) When registering for the first examination attempt in an elective module, students must make a binding decision as to whether the examination will be completed for credits or as a voluntary examination in accordance with Section 31 RPO.
- (3) Students must register for their first examination attempt for modules scheduled for the first semester (per the study and examination plan) by no later than their fourth semester of study; students must register for their first examination attempt for modules scheduled for the second semester (per the study and examination plan) by no later than their fifth semester of

study. Students who have not attempted an examination nor submitted a request to do so before the deadline will be registered on a compulsory basis by the Examination Board for the final examination date offered before the deadline. Subsection (5) applies accordingly.

(4) Students who have failed a module examination that was scheduled for the first two semesters (per the study and examination plan) and have not registered for a new attempt within two semesters will be automatically registered for a new attempt on a compulsory basis in accordance with subsection (5).

(5) Students who have not undertaken a new attempt at a failed examination nor submitted a request to do so before the deadline will be registered on a compulsory basis by the Examination Board for the final examination date offered before the deadline. This also applies if the examination in question had not yet been offered again prior to the deadline. Students who register themselves for the final examination opportunity offered before the deadline are not permitted to withdraw from said examination per the usual procedure set forth in Section 15 (6) RPO. Student who do not attend the examination and cannot provide a good reason for their absence will receive a failing mark (5.0). The Examination Board must be notified in writing immediately of any mitigating circumstances for missing the examination and credible supporting evidence must be provided. If the given reason is an illness, the Examination Board reserves the right to request a medical certificate from a doctor of its choosing. If the Examination Board deems the given reasons valid, the deadline will be extended until the next regular opportunity for the examination in question.

(6) Students are exempted from compulsory examination registration if they are on an official leave of absence in accordance with Section 9 of the Enrolment Regulations of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. In exceptional cases, other students can apply for an exemption from compulsory examination registration, in particular those who:

- a) are responsible for the care and upbringing of minors within the meaning of Section 25 (5) of the German Federal Education and Training Assistance Act (*Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz*); or
- b) are acting as elective representatives in executive bodies of the university, the student body or the faculty; or
- c) are currently working as Equal Opportunities Officer for the university; or
- d) have an impairment or are suffering from a serious illness which will prolong their duration of study.

Requests for exemptions must be submitted no later than four weeks before the start of the examination phase or the first examination if it is scheduled to occur before the examination phase. In the case of a), exemptions should generally not exceed three semesters; in the cases of b) and c), exemptions should generally not exceed two semesters.

(7) An assignment, term paper or project must generally be completed before the end of the semester. The text portion of an assignment, term paper or project should not exceed 30 pages (DIN A4).

(8) An oral examination within the meaning of Section 18 (2) RPO will take at least 10 minutes (but no more than 20 minutes) per person.

Section 6

Formal requirements for the thesis

(1) In general, the text portion of the thesis should be between 60 and 100 pages (DIN A4) in length. The thesis may also be supplemented with other media as well, provided their use is appropriate and useful as additional documentation in accordance with the assigned topic. 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 cannot be submitted within eight weeks of the assignment date.

Section 7

Admission to the thesis and the colloquium

(1) In addition to the thesis admission requirements set forth in Section 24 (1) RPO, students must have earned 48 credits.

(2) In addition to the colloquium admission requirements set forth in Section 27 (2) RPO, students must have earned 87 credits.

Section 8

Credit values for the thesis and colloquium

(1) Twenty-two credits (22) are awarded for passing the master's thesis.

(2) Three credits (3) 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 (refer to Section 29 (1) RPO).

Section 10

Entry into force and transitional provisions

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 Sustainable Development Management, M.A. of the Faculty of Society and Economics of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences in or after winter semester 2026-2027.

Note: These examination regulations entered into force in their present version on 26 March 2026.

Annex

Study and examination plan for Sustainable Development Management M.A.

Version from 6 July 2020

Nr. No.	Module Modules	CH	Typ					Ex	CP	CH WT	CH ST	CH WT/S T
			V	SL	Ü	Pra	Pro					
M-SD 1 7101	Aktuelle Fragen der nachhaltigen Entwicklung Current Issues in Sustainable Development	4	2	2				P	6			4
M-SD 1 7102	Entwicklungsökonomik Development Economics	4	2	2				P	6	4		
M-SD 1 7103	Entwicklungsinstitutionen und Entwicklungspolitik Development Institutions and Development Policy	4	4					P	6	4		
M-SD 1 7104	Feldforschung und Wirkungsevaluierung Development Fieldwork and Impact Evaluation	4	2		2			P	6	4		
M-SD 2 7105	Quantitative Forschungsmethoden Quantitative Research Methods	4	2		2			P	6			4
M-SD 2 7106	Internationale Ökonomik und Entwicklung International Economics and Development	4	2		2			P	6		4	
M-SD 2 7107	Völkerrecht und Compliance International Law and Compliance	4	2			2		P	6		4	
M-SD 2 7108	Management von Entwicklungsprojekten Management of Development Projects	4	2			2		P	6		4	
	Wahlpflichtfächer*** Elective subjects***	8	4	4				P	12	4	4	
	Abschlussphase Final phase											
M-SD 3 7120	Angewandtes Projekt der nachhaltigen Entwicklung Applied Project in Sustainable Development	4	1				3	P	5			4
M-SD 3 7121	Masterarbeit Master's Thesis							P	22			22
M-SD 3 71 22	Colloquium Colloquium							P	3			3
	Gesamt Total	44	23	8	6	4	3		CH CP	16 24	16 24	12 42

Nr. No.	Wahlpflichtkatalog (Sommersemester) List of elective subjects (summer term)	CH	CP
M-SD_1 7111	Gender und Entwicklung Gender and Development	4	6
M-SD_1 7112	Nachhaltige Stadtentwicklung Sustainable Urban Development	4	6
M-SD_1 7113	Infrastruktur und menschliche Entwicklung Infrastructure and Human Development	4	6
M-SD_1 7114	Natürliche Ressourcen und Nachhaltigkeit Natural Resources and Sustainability	4	6

Nr. No.	Wahlpflichtkatalog (Wintersemester) List of elective subjects (winter term)	CH	CP
M-SD_2 7115	Diversitätsmanagement und Verhandlungstechniken Diversity Management and Negotiation Skills	4	6
M-SD_2 7116	Armut und Gefährdung Poverty and Vulnerability	4	6
M-SD_2 7117	Verhaltensökonomie im Entwicklungskontext Behavioural Development Economics	4	6
M-SD_2 7118	Sozialunternehmertum und Management von NPOs Social Entrepreneurship and Management of NPOs	4	6

Nr. No.	Wahlpflichtkatalog (Winter- und Sommersemester) List of Elective Subjects (winter and summer terms)	CH	CP
M-SD 1 7019	Foreign Language Course	4	6
M-SD 2 7019	Foreign Language Course		

Abbreviations:

Ex	Art der Prüfung, <i>Type of examination</i>
CH	Semesterwochenstunden, <i>Contact hours per week</i>
WT	Wintersemester, <i>Winter term</i>
ST	Sommersemester, <i>Summer term</i>
CP	Kreditpunkte, <i>Credit points</i> (= ECTS credits)
V	Vorlesung, <i>Lecture</i>
SL	Seminaristischer Unterricht, <i>Seminaristic lecture</i>
Ü	Übung, <i>Exercise</i>
Pra	Praktikum, <i>Practical training</i>
Pro	Projekt, <i>Project</i>
P	Prüfung, <i>Examination</i>