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# Examination Regulations

for

## Information and Communication Design, B.A.

Faculty of Communication and Environment

Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences

Dated 14 August 2019

In accordance with Section 2 (4) sentence 1 and Section 64 (1) of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia [*Hochschulgesetz NRW*], in the amended form produced by the Act for the Future Development of Universities [*Hochschulzukunftsgesetz*] of 16 September 2014 (GV.NRW. 2014, p. 547), which entered into force on 1 October 2014 and was last amended by the Act of 17 October 2017 (GV.NRW. 2017, p. 806), which entered into force on 1 January 2018, and the General Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences (RPO) from 3 January 2018 (Official Notices 07/2018), the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Communication and Environment of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences has enacted the following examination regulations:

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## **Section 1 Applicability**

These examination regulations shall apply to the bachelor's degree programme Information and Communication Design, offered in English by the Faculty of Communication and Environment of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, in conjunction with the General Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes ("RPO") of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. They govern the standard, seven-semester mode of study (full-time study).

## **Section 2 Academic Objectives and Purpose of Examination, Bachelor's Degree**

(1) The bachelor's examination concludes this degree programme and entitles graduates to continue their studies in a master's degree programme. This degree programme aims to qualify students to work as communication designers at companies or in self-employment; typical employers in this field are design agencies, advertising agencies and media companies. Additional aims and objectives are outlined in Section 3 RPO. A strong command of the English language is essential to success in this degree programme, as it is a necessary prerequisite for the overarching goal of consolidating and expanding students' technical language and communication skills.

(2) The academic degree "Bachelor of Arts", abbreviated as "B.A.", is awarded upon successful completion of the final bachelor's examination.

## **Section 3 General Admission Requirements**

(1) General admission requirements are defined in Section 4 RPO.

(2) Identical degree programmes or degree programmes with a significant overlap in content within the meaning of Section 4 (6) RPO are defined as any undergraduate (bachelor's or German "*Diplom*") programme at a university or university of applied sciences in Germany whose content largely and predominately falls under the mantle of communication design. In addition, applicants must pass an artistic aptitude test for Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. For details, refer to the related Aptitude Test Regulations.

(3) Sufficient proficiency in English can be demonstrated by submitting a valid and recognised language certificate equivalent to CEFR level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). Generally, the following language tests are accepted as valid proof:

- IELTS
- TOEFL (internet based test)
- TOEFL (paper based test)

Exempted from this language certificate requirement are applicants who have acquired English language proficiency equivalent to level B2 over the course of earning their university entrance qualification [*Hochschulreife*] at a secondary school in Germany. This is considered the case when an applicant has successfully completed at least seven years of English at a German secondary school and earned a final cumulative mark of at least "sufficient" (4.0 or better on the German grading scale) for the subject.

#### **Section 4 Basic Internship**

Proof of completion of a basic internship within the meaning of Section 4 (3) RPO is not required for this degree programme due to a sufficient amount of content which provides opportunities for the transfer of skills to practice.

#### **Section 5 Programme Structure; Volume of Instruction Hours; Progression of Studies**

(1) This degree programme has a total volume of instruction of 136 SWS (combined hours per week from all lecture periods in the standard study duration).

(2) The modules of this degree programme comprise a total sum of 210 credits according to the ECTS framework defined RPO in Section 6(5).

(3) All modules and examinations are conducted in English. However, students in Information and Communication Design B.A. may, with the prior approval of the Examination Board, complete electives offered in German by other degree programmes at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences.

(4) Additional information about how this degree programme is organised and about the type, form and scope of modules can be found in the attached study and examination plan (see annex). Additional information about learning outcomes, qualification aims, contents and forms of examination can be found in the corresponding module guide, which is available for viewing in the faculty's central office.

#### **Section 6 Scope of Examinations**

(1) The time allotted to students for a written examination is based on the credit value of the respective course and shall not exceed 120 minutes. In the case of combined examinations (Section 14 (3) RPO), the time allotted is reduced accordingly.

(2) An oral examination generally lasts at least 15, but no more than 30 minutes per student.

(3) Assignments, term papers or projects for an entire module worth 5 credits should not exceed 54,000 characters (text portion). The scope of design projects shall be defined accordingly by the examiner in conjunction with the head of the module.

### **Section 6a** **Requirements for Admission to Examinations**

The following provisions apply to the module ICD\_W.01:

- a. For the module “ICD\_W.01 Design Projects” (see elective catalogue, curriculum and module guide) offered in semesters 3 to 5, design projects must be chosen from a new catalogue published each semester. Design projects cannot be repeated in subsequent semesters. If a project is failed, it must be replaced by an entirely new project in a later semester; Section 12 (1) sentence 1 RPO shall apply accordingly to this situation.
- b. Up to three design projects may be conducted simultaneously.
- c. Examinations shall be conducted concurrently to studies. Registration for examinations requires proof of successful completion of any prerequisite modules / module examinations, insofar as prerequisites for a particular module and/or for lectures offered as part of a particular module are explicitly defined in the annex of these regulations.

### **Section 7** **Scope and Form of the Thesis**

- (1) The thesis usually consists of a design project with accompanying documentation. The scope and form of the project are defined together with the thesis supervisor. The documentation should consist of approximately 30,000 characters and illustrate in text and image both the final results and the development process.
- (2) If submitting three copies of the thesis can be considered impossible or unreasonable, a more suitable form of documentation and/or individual media can be submitted contrary to Section 25 (1) RPO with the prior approval of the examiners.
- (3) The bachelor's thesis can also be admitted as group work if each student's individual contribution fulfils the requirements in Section 23(1) RPO and is clearly distinguishable – and thus assessable – due to clear and distinct identification by section, page numbers or other criteria.

### **Section 8** **Admission to the Thesis and Colloquium**

- (1) In addition to the thesis admission requirements defined under Section 24 RPO, students must have obtained 175 credits.
- (2) In addition to the colloquium admission requirements defined under Section 27 (2) RPO, candidates must have obtained 207 CP.

**Section 9**  
**Credit Values for the Thesis and Colloquium**

- (1) Twelve credits are awarded for passing the bachelor's thesis.
- (2) Three credits are awarded for passing the colloquium.

**Section 10**  
**Awarding of the Bachelor's Degree**

The bachelor's degree specified in Section 2 (2) is officially conferred with the issuing of the bachelor's degree certificate referred to in Section 30(1) RPO.

**Section 11**  
**Entry into Force**

- (1) These examination regulations shall enter into force on the day after their publication in the Official Notices of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. They apply to students who first enrolled in Information and Communication Design B.A. of the Faculty of Communication and Environment of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences in or after summer semester 2020.
- (2) Students who first enrolled in Information and Communication Design B.A. before summer semester 2020 may continue their studies according to the examination regulations dated 19 June 2013 (Official Notices 08/2013) until 30 September 2025 at the latest.
- (3) Students currently studying under the examination regulations dated 19 June 2013 (Official Notices 08/2013) may submit a written request to Examination Services (ZSB) to switch to the examination regulations defined in this document. The Faculty Examination Board is responsible for all decisions relating to the recognition of previously earned credits.

*Note: These examination regulations entered into force on 3 December 2019.*

## **Annex**

### **Supplementary Information to Section 6a Requirements for Admission to Examinations, Module Prerequisites:**

Students are not permitted to sit for the examination in

- ICD\_W.01 Design Project 4

until they have successfully passed the examination in

- ICD\_W.01 Design Project 1

Students are not permitted to sit for the examination in

- ICD\_W.01 Design Project 5

until they have successfully passed the examination in

- ICD\_W.01 Design Project 2

Students are not permitted to sit for the examination in

- ICD\_W.01 Design Project 6

until they have successfully passed the examination in

- ICD\_W.01 Design Project 3

