

This English translation is offered for information purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy or doubt in interpretation, the original German texts published in the Official Notices of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences take precedence. Only the original German texts are considered legally binding.

Aptitude Test Regulations for Design and Interaction M.A.

Faculty of Communication and Environment

Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences

Dated 12 June 2020

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), as amended by Article 10 of the Law of 14 April 2020 (GV.NRW. 2017, p. 218b), which entered into force on 15 April 2020, 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 Notice 07/2018), the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Communication and Environment of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences has enacted the following aptitude test regulations:

Contents

- Section 1 Purpose
- Section 2 Aptitude test
- Section 3 Commission
- Section 4 Determining aptitude
- Section 5 Test records
- Section 6 Notification of results
- Section 7 Repeating the aptitude test
- Section 8 Period of validity
- Section 9 Entry into force

Section 1

Purpose

(1) Enrolment in Design and Interaction M.A. of the Faculty of Communication and Environment requires successful completion of a creativity/design-based aptitude test in accordance with these Regulations. General admission requirements, as well as additional degree programme-specific requirements set forth in the applicable Examination Regulations, remain unaffected by this aptitude test requirement.

(2) The purpose of the aptitude test is to determine whether applicants possess the innate artistic and design skills required to successfully complete the degree programme. A commission will judge whether applicants possess the necessary visual and creativity talents based on three categories: perceptive skills, conceptual skills, and design skills.

Section 2

Aptitude test

(1) The aptitude test is held each winter semester and applies to the intake period for the subsequent summer semester. The date of testing will be published on the homepage of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. Admission to the aptitude test requires the submission of a valid and timely application for admission to Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. The application must be submitted to the dean of the Faculty of Communication and Environment.

(2) Applications must include the following documents:

- a) Completed application form
- b) Project idea for the degree programme (exposé, no more than two pages)
- c) Two to three examples of past projects (explanations and images, no more than 15 pages)
- d) Interview with a professor of the degree programme (optional, see Section 4 (6))

(3) After conclusion of the testing process, documents can be returned in person; returns by post are not possible.

Section 3 Commission

- (1) A commission shall be formed in the Faculty of Communication and Environment for the purpose of judging submissions for the aptitude test.
- (2) This commission shall consist of two professors representing the field of design. These two professors shall be appointed by full-time professors in the field of Design and Interaction and their appointment shall be confirmed by the Faculty Council. At least one deputy representative shall also be selected.
- (3) The commission shall elect a chair from among its members. The commission shall meet and deliberate in closed sessions; it shall have a quorum when all members are present.

Section 4 Determining aptitude

- (1) The documents defined in Section 2 (2) (b) and (c) form the basis for decisions on the creative/design aptitude of applicants.
- (2) The project idea (Section 2 (2) (b)) and the past project examples (Section 2 (2) (c)) will be scored separately on a scale of 0 to 25 according to the categories “perceptive skills”, “conceptual skills” and “design skills”.
- (3) The scoring scale indicates the following:
 - 0 to 5 points = skills unrecognisable
 - 6 to 10 points = skills insufficient
 - 11 to 15 points = sufficient amount of skill
 - 16 to 20 points = good skills
 - 21 to 25 points = excellent skills
- (4) The aptitude of an applicant is derived from the total score awarded by all members of the commission for the project idea and past project examples. A maximum of 100 points can be awarded. Applicants who receive at least 45 points are considered to possess the necessary creative/design aptitude for admission.
- (5) If an applicant clearly meets all requirements of the aptitude test as demonstrated by his or her submitted documents, then an additional interview is not required. If an applicant does

not clearly meet the requirements of the aptitude test based on his or her submitted documents, then his or her creative/design aptitude cannot be determined without an additional interview.

(6) If a clear-cut decision cannot be made in accordance with subsection (3) and an applicant's score lies between 40 and 45 points, then in this specific case the commission will conduct an additional interview with the affected applicant. The interview should be between 30 and 60 minutes in length. It serves as an opportunity for the applicant to explain in greater detail his or her submitted documents and creative talents. A decision on the applicant's creative/design aptitude shall be made immediately following the interview.

Section 5 Test records

(1) A record shall be made for each applicant's aptitude test, containing the date and location of testing, the names of all participating members of the commission, the name of the applicant and/or his or her application number, as well as the final decision and reasons for reaching said decision in accordance with Section 4.

(2) Records may be disclosed to applicants upon written request. Requests must be submitted to the dean of the Faculty of Communication and Environment within one year of disclosure of the results of the aptitude test.

Section 6 Notification of results

The Faculty of Communication and Environment shall disclose the results of the aptitude test shall to applicants in writing. Negative decisions shall be justified in writing and include an explanation of available legal recourse.

Section 7 Repeating the aptitude test

Applicants who unsuccessfully demonstrated their creative/design aptitude may repeat the aptitude test at the next scheduled testing date at the earliest.

Section 8

Period of validity

(1) The creative/design aptitude test applies to the postgraduate degree programme Design and Interaction M.A. The results of the aptitude test shall apply for up to three semesters following its successful completion. The dean of the Faculty of Communication and Environment can extend the validity of results on a case-by-case basis and when justified. If a student is returning to university and has successfully completed examinations or other graded coursework in their prior interrupted studies, then their aptitude test results shall remain valid beyond the time period set forth in sentence 2.

(2) Decisions on creative/design aptitude from identical degree programmes or disciplines at universities subject to the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia can also be recognised fully. Subsection 1 sentences 2 and 4 shall also apply.

(3) The results of aptitude tests conducted by other universities and for other disciplines can also be recognised regardless of whether they occurred within the territorial validity of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia, provided their equivalence can be confirmed by the dean of the Faculty of Communication and Environment. Subsection 1 sentences 2 and 4 shall also apply.

Section 9

Entry into force

These Regulations shall enter into force on the day after their German-language publication in the Official Notices of Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences.

Note: These Aptitude Test Regulations entered into force on 20 November 2020.