

**This is a translation of the original German document. For all legal purposes, only the German version of the Examination Regulations shall be considered binding.**

## **Examination regulations**

**for the Master's program in International Business  
conferring the degree  
Master of Arts  
of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law  
at Technische Hochschule Köln (University of Applied Sciences)**

**of  
November 24, 2009**

**As amended on December 12, 2022**

By virtue of section 2 (4) and section 64 (1) of the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act (*Gesetz über die Hochschulen des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen*) of September 16, 2014 (GV. NRW. p. 547, Technische Hochschule Köln (University of Applied Sciences) has determined the following examination regulations by statute:

# Table of contents

## I. General information

Section 1 Applicability of the examination regulations; module catalog and curriculum

Section 2 Objectives of the program; purpose of the examinations; degree conferred

Section 3 Admission requirements; placement test

Section 4 Standard program duration; scope of the program; internationalization

Section 5 Scope and structure of examinations; examination deadline

Section 6 Examination board

Section 7 Rights and duties of the examination board

Section 8 Decisions by the examination board

Section 9 Examiners and co-examiners

Section 10 Recognition of examinations and assessments

Section 11 Evaluation of examinations

Section 12 Credits in accordance with the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)

Section 13 Evaluation of examinations in accordance with the ECTS grading scheme

Section 14 Retaking examinations

Section 15 Absence; withdrawal from examinations; cheating

## II. Module examinations

Section 16 Objectives, length and type of module examinations

Section 17 Admission to module examinations

Section 18 Conduct of module examinations

Section 19 Written examinations (*Klausuren*)

Section 20 Written multiple-choice examinations

Section 21 Oral Examinations

Section 22 Other types of examination

## III. Curriculum

Section 23 Modules and completion of the program; additional modules

Section 24 Module examinations

#### **IV. Master's thesis**

Section 25 Master's thesis; purpose; topic; examiners

Section 26 Admission to the Master's thesis

Section 27 Assignment of the topic and completion of the Master's thesis

Section 28 Submission and evaluation of the Master's thesis

Section 29 Final oral examination (*Kolloquium*)

#### **V. Results of the Master's examination**

Section 30 Results of the Master's examination

Section 31 Examination certificate; final cumulative grade; diploma supplement

#### **VI. Final provisions**

Section 32 Inspection of examination papers

Section 33 Invalidity of examinations

Section 34 Entry into force; transitional regulations

Annex: Curriculum

## I. General information

### **Section 1 Applicability of the examination regulations; module catalog and curriculum**

(1) The examination regulations are to administer the studies and examinations of the Master's program in International Business at Technische Hochschule Köln (University of Applied Sciences).

(2) Based on these examination regulations, Technische Hochschule Köln (University of Applied Sciences) is to create a curriculum (*Studienplan*; see annex) and a module catalog (*Modulhandbuch*). Taking into account developments in the fields of science and university teachings as well as profession-specific requirements, the module catalog is to outline the course contents and structure of the Master's program. The curriculum is to provide students with a guideline for adequately scheduling their studies.

### **Section 2 Objectives of the program; purpose of the examinations; degree conferred**

(1) By passing the Master's examination, graduates are awarded a university degree qualifying them to exercise professional work in the field relevant to the program and entitling them to admission to doctoral/PhD-level studies in accordance with section 67 (4) sentence 1 letter c) of the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act.

(2) Taking into account general study objectives (section 58 of the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act), the program leading to the Master's examination is designed to convey application-oriented topics of the discipline on the basis of scientific findings. It also is to enable students to analyze business processes and problems, to find economically justifiable solutions and, in doing so, be mindful of interdisciplinary perspectives. The program is designed to enhance the students' creative skills and to prepare them for their Master's examination. Moreover, the program is to provide students with an opportunity to specialize in and delve deeper into an academic discipline.

(3) Courses are to be held in English.

(4) The Master's program builds on the contents of the Bachelor's program in International Business at Technische Hochschule Köln (University of Applied Sciences).

(5) The Master's examination (section 5) is to determine whether the examinee has acquired sound specialized knowledge required to exercise work in his/her profession independently and whether he/she is capable of independently exercising work and conducting research on the basis of scientific findings and methods.

(6) By passing the examinations listed in section 5, students will have completed a scientific degree program, allowing them to exercise work in the designated profession. Based on the successful completion of all examinations, students are to be conferred the academic degree Master of Arts in accordance with the regulations stated hereinafter.

### **Section 3 Admission requirements; placement test**

(1) Admission to the Master's program requires the successful completion of an undergraduate program in Business Administration with an international profile leading to at least a Bachelor's degree and with a final grade of at least "good" (2.5) in the German grading system or its equivalent, or the completion of a different suitable program. A strong international profile is given if at least half of the following subject areas were part of the curriculum: International Marketing,

International Finance, International Human Resource Management, International Economics, International Corporate Strategy, International Accounting, International Cost Accounting, International Law, and Intercultural Competence. Decisions on the suitability of a program and the profile are to be made by the examination board.

(2) Applicants who possess the qualifications stated in subsection 1 and have additionally acquired knowledge and skills in other ways than through university studies are to be admitted to a stage of the program that corresponds to the results of the placement test pursuant to section 49 (11) of the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act, unless regulations on admission procedures conflict with this provision. Details are provided in the regulations on placement tests of Technische Hochschule Köln (University of Applied Sciences).

(3) Applicants are additionally required to present their Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) results or their results obtained in an equivalent test. The GMAT score must not be below 500 points. The examination board may recognize other evidence as equivalent. Only applicants with excellent English language proficiency (B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) can be admitted. Relevant supporting documents are to be submitted at the time of application. Apart from proficiency in English and their mother tongue, applicants are required to provide evidence of at least basic proficiency in another foreign language. In addition, students are to possess qualifications which may anticipate a successful completion of the program. Besides the requirements stated above, applicants are therefore required to possess social skills, to have gained experience abroad and to display the proper motivation to enroll in the Master's program. The information on said qualifications is substantiated and documented based on the applicants' voluntary disclosure during the application process. The review of admission requirements may be complemented by a personal interview held with each candidate.

(4) In exceptional cases, students may enroll in the Master's program prior to having met the admission requirements stated in subsections 1 and 3 if they provide proof of having done so within one year after enrollment at the latest.

#### **Section 4 Standard program duration; scope of the program**

(1) The standard duration of the Master's program is four semesters. In compliance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), students are awarded a total of 120 credits (section 12). The standard duration of the program includes the examination period.

(2) The program is segmented into individual modules. Detailed information can be found in section 23 and the curriculum (annex).

(3) Students are enrolled in the program's first semester in the winter semester of each year.

#### **Section 5 Scope and structure of examinations; examination deadline**

(1) A student's successful completion of the program is to be determined by the examinations taken throughout the program (module examinations) and a final examination (Master's thesis and final oral examination). Group examinations are permissible.

(2) Module examinations are to be held when the corresponding module has been concluded in accordance with the curriculum. The curriculum is to guarantee that the examinee can have taken all module examinations by the end of the fourth semester.

- (3) In compliance with section 26, registration for the final part of the Master's examination is to be filed prior to the end of the penultimate semester of the program.
- (4) The examinations are to make allowance for the legal provisions for maternity and parental leave periods as well as the leave for the nursing and care of spouses, registered partners, relatives in direct line of descent or brothers and sisters in-law if they are in need of nursing or care.
- (5) Examinations are to be held in English.

### **Section 6 Examination board**

- (1) The Faculty of Business, Economics and Law is to establish an examination board to be in charge of the organization of examinations and the arrangement of the duties entrusted to it by these examination regulations. The examination board is an independent body of the faculty.
- (2) The examination board is to be elected by the faculty council and is to be made up of seven persons:
  1. chairperson and vice chairperson selected from the pool of faculty professors;
  2. two additional members selected from the pool of professors;
  3. one member selected from the pool of research assistants or lecturers;
  4. two members selected from the pool of students.
- (3) Deputies are to be elected for all members of the examination board except for the chairperson and the vice-chairperson. The members of the board employed in full-time positions at the university and their deputies have tenure of two years; the student members and their deputies have tenure of one year. Re-election is permissible.

### **Section 7 Rights and duties of the examination board**

- (1) The examination board is to be responsible for the organization of examinations. It is also to ensure that the examination regulations are complied with and that examinations are conducted properly. In particular, it is to rule on objections brought forward against decisions that were made in exam-related matters.
- (2) Moreover, the board is to report to the faculty council on developments related to examinations and the duration of studies, if so requested. It is to give advice on potential reforms of the examination regulations, the module catalog and the curriculum. The examination board may transfer its regular duties to the chairperson of the examination board; this does not apply to decisions on objections.
- (3) The members of the examination board and a representative of the President's Office have the right to be present during examinations. Exempt from this right are student members of the examination board who are to take the examination concerned in the same examination period.
- (4) Sessions of the examination board are not open to the public.

### **Section 8 Decisions by the examination board**

- (1) The examination board has a quorum if, in addition to the chairperson or vice-chairperson, a member from the pool of professors and at least two additional members eligible to vote are present. Decisions require a simple majority. In case of a tie, the chairperson is to have the casting

vote. Student members and research assistants do not have a say in decisions on matters related to education and academics, particularly when it comes to the recognition or other evaluation of examinations and assessments, or the appointment of examiners or co-examiners. Moreover, student members are not to participate in the debate and decision-making on matters related to examination topics or their own examinations.

(2) The members of the examination board, their deputies, the examiners as well as co-examiners are to be sworn to secrecy. If they are not employed in the German civil service, they are to be sworn to secrecy by the chairperson of the examination board.

(3) Incriminating decisions of the examination board or its chairperson are to be reported to the affected student immediately. Prior to any action, the affected student has to be granted the right to be heard.

## **Section 9 Examiners and co-examiners**

(1) The examination board is to appoint the examiners and co-examiners. A person may be appointed examiner if he/she holds at least the qualification that is to be determined by the examination or an equivalent qualification and – provided that no compelling reasons necessitate a divergence – has held an independent teaching position in the subject relevant for the examination. Examiners are independent for examination purposes. A person may be appointed co-examiner if he/she holds at least the qualification that is to be determined by the examination or an equivalent qualification.

(2) The examinee may suggest one or more examiners for his/her oral examinations. He/she may also suggest an examiner to be his/ her thesis adviser. If possible, a student's suggestion is to be taken into consideration.

(3) The examination board is to ensure that examination duties are split as evenly as possible amongst the examiners. It is also to ensure that the examinee will be informed about his/her examiner in time. This shall happen simultaneously to the registration for the examination, i.e. usually at least two weeks before the examination is held or before the topic of the Master's thesis is assigned. Posting the information on the corresponding bulletin board is deemed sufficient.

## **Section 10 Recognition of examinations and assessments**

(1) Examinations and assessments completed in other degree programs within the jurisdiction of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region of April 11, 1997 (Federal Law Gazette (BGBl) II 2007; p. 712 - Lisbon Recognition Convention) are to be recognized upon request unless it can be proven that they considerably differ from the examinations and assessments required. If the recognition of such examinations and assessments is denied, the university is to issue a substantiated notification on this matter. If the request is rejected the president's office may be asked to review the decision.

(2) Examinations and assessments completed in degree programs outside the jurisdiction of the Lisbon Recognition Convention are to be recognized upon request pursuant to section 10 (1).

(3) Accomplishments that were not part of a degree program may be recognized as examinations or assessments upon request if they are equivalent to the examinations and assessments required. Such accomplishments may constitute for up to half of the total number of examinations and assessments required for the successful completion of the program.

(4) For examinations and assessments that have been recognized, students are awarded the number of ECTS credits listed in the curriculum (cf. annex). Non-graded examinations taken at other universities or in other programs are to be recognized in accordance with subsections 1 and 2. They are to be labeled accordingly on the examination certificate and are not accounted for in the calculation of the final grade.

(5) The examination board decides on all matters related to subsections 1 to 4. In cases of doubt, it is to consult the examiners responsible for the individual modules.

## Section 11 Evaluation of examinations

(1) Examinations are to be evaluated in a differentiated and comprehensible manner by means of grades. Reasons for the evaluation are to be explained in writing upon request of the examination board. Grades for individual examinations are to be determined by the respective examiner.

(2) All module examinations of the Master's program are graded examinations pursuant to subsection 1.

(3) If several examiners participate in an examination, the examiners are to jointly evaluate the examination, provided that no other provisions are made hereinafter. Should the evaluations differ from one another, the grade is to be determined by the arithmetic mean of the individual grades.

(6) The following grades are to be used for the evaluation of examinations:

1.0/1.3	= excellent	= an excellent examination result
1.7/2.0/2.3	= good	= an examination result well above average requirements
2.7/3.0/3.3	= satisfactory	= an examination result that meets average requirements
3.7/4.0	= sufficient	= an examination result that meets the requirements despite its shortcomings
5	= insufficient	= an examination result that does not meet the requirements due to substantial shortcomings

The grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3 are invalid.

(5) Calculated grades that differ from the grades listed above are to be determined as follows. Figures:

up to 1.5	equal the grade	"excellent"
above 1.5 to 2.5	equal the grade	"good"
above 2.5 to 3.5	equal the grade	"satisfactory"
above 3.5 to 4.0	equal the grade	"sufficient"
above 4.0	equal the grade	"insufficient"

When it comes to the calculation of grades, only the first decimal is to be factored in; all other decimals are to be dropped without rounding.

(6) An examination is passed if the student's performance is deemed "sufficient". If the module examination is made up of various individual examinations, it is passed if the weighted average of examination grades equals the grade "sufficient" (4.0).

(7) The evaluation of an examination is to be completed within six weeks after the end of the examination period, as laid down in section 18 (1). Students are to be informed of the results; posting the results on the respective bulletin board or publication via an electronic examination management system is deemed sufficient. The results of the Master's thesis are to be reported to the students within eight weeks.



## **Section 12 Credits in accordance with the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)**

- (1) Credits are to be assigned to every component of the Master's program, enabling recognition in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The credits are a quantitative measure of the workload that averagely gifted students typically need to successfully complete a component of the program. This workload includes courses, preparation and follow-up work of a course, autodidactic study as well as examinations and preparation for examinations.
- (2) The workload required to successfully complete the Master's program, as laid down in the curriculum, amounts to 60 credits per academic year. 1 credit corresponds to a workload of 30 hours.
- (3) Students only receive credits if they have successfully completed a module. Pursuant to section 11 (2 and 6), this means that students are awarded the total number of credits for every graded module examination that has been passed with a grade of at least "sufficient", irrespective of the grade received for the examination. A total of 120 credits are required to successfully graduate from the Master's program. Students will receive credits for non-graded module examinations if these have been passed.
- (4) The curriculum (cf. annex) gives an overview of the number of credits assigned to the individual modules and to the Master's thesis. More detailed information can be found in the module catalog (*Modulhandbuch*).
- (5) Credits obtained in accordance with the ECTS at other universities within and outside the jurisdiction of the German constitution are to be recognized with at most the number of credits assigned in the current program, provided that the respective examinations and assessments are deemed equivalent. For other relevant matters, the regulations set down in section 10 apply.

## **Section 13 Evaluation of examinations in accordance with the ECTS grading scheme**

The examination certificate awarded to graduates in accordance with section 31 (1) is also to list ECTS grades. Details are to be determined at a later point in time based on the decisions made at the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the German *Länder* and the German Rectors' Conference.

## **Section 14 Retaking examinations**

- (1) Students may retake module examinations if they do not pass them or if the examinations are considered "not passed". If a module examination is not passed, all exam components of the concerned module are to be retaken, even if one or more of these components have been passed. Students are required to retake an examination in the examination period that follows the failed attempt. If the examination is not retaken within one year after the failed attempt, students will lose the right to take this examination attempt. A second retake of the examination is to take place in the examination period that follows the first retake. If the second retake of the examination does not take place within one year after the failed second attempt, students will irreversibly lose the right to take examinations. Sentences 4 and 6 are rendered invalid if students provide evidence that they are not responsible for having missed the stipulated deadline. When determining the deadlines for retaking examinations according to sentences 3 and 5, time spent on a mandatory or voluntary semester abroad or internship or a leave of absence are not taken into account.

- (2) If a student does not pass the Master's thesis or final oral examination, he/she may retake each examination once. Module examinations may be retaken twice.
- (3) An examination graded at least "sufficient" may not be retaken unless the provisions stated in subsection 1 sentence 2 apply.

### **Section 15 Absence; withdrawal from examinations; cheating**

- (1) An examination is deemed "insufficient" (5.0) if the examinee does not appear for an examination and is not able to present a good reason for his/her absence. An examination is also deemed "insufficient" if the student withdraws from it without good reason after the examination has begun, or if he/she does not submit the examination by the given deadline. The provisions stated above also apply if the student fails to submit his/her Master's thesis in due time.
- (2) The reasons stated for missing or withdrawing from an examination are to be immediately reported to the examination board, to be documented in writing and to be substantiated by the student. In case of sickness, students are required to submit a comprehensible medical certificate attesting to their incapability of taking the examination. If the examination board accepts the reasons given, the examinee is to be notified that he/she may again file a request to be admitted to the examination concerned.
- (3) If a student attempts to manipulate the result of his/her examination by cheating or by using non-permissible means, the examination concerned is to be graded "insufficient" (5.0). An examinee who disrupts the proper course of an examination may be expelled from the examination by the examiner or the exam supervisor after having been given prior warning; in such a case, the examination concerned is to be graded "insufficient" (5.0). The reasons for the expulsion are to be put on record. If the examinee is barred from retaking the examination, he/she may request the examination board to review this decision. This also applies to the decisions made by an examiner or an exam supervisor, such as the ones laid down in sentence 1. Possible penalties as set down in section 63 (5) of the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act are to be acknowledged.

## **II. Module examination**

### **Section 16 Objectives, length and type of module examinations**

- (1) The Master's program is divided into individual modules, each of which concludes with an examination. The content of a module may be taught in one or more courses with different methods of teaching and study. A module normally takes place for the duration of one semester (or, if need be, for the duration of two semesters at the most). A module examination may be subdivided into several individual examinations with the same or differing types of examination pursuant to sections 19 to 22. The examinations are to determine whether students are proficient in the essential topics and methods taught in the modules and whether they are capable of independently applying the knowledge and skills acquired.
- (2) The examination requirements are to be aligned with the contents of the courses offered in the module catalog. Students may be required to be familiar with relevant contents of previous modules.
- (3) A module's examination type depends on the requirements of the individual module. Admissible types of examination are written examinations (sections 19 and 20), oral examinations (section 21) and other types of examination (section 22) as well as combinations of the aforementioned examination types. Written examinations (*Klausuren*) may last up to 90 minutes.

Oral examinations may last 10 to 30 minutes per examinee. A student's total workload for module examinations made up of a combination of several types of examination is not to exceed the typical workload that a single type of examination would generate. The share other types of examination have in the evaluation of module examinations may amount to one hundred percent.

(4) After consultation with the examiners concerned and in observance of the module outline and the feasibility to complete the program within the allotted time frame, the examination board is to determine the type and modalities of examination for every module at the beginning of each semester. If an examination within a module comprises several components or a combination of different types of examination, the examination board is also to specify how to weigh the individual components. At the suggestion of the examiners concerned, the examination board normally determines the examination period for written and oral examinations one month prior to the examination period for all students who intend to take the module examination concerned. The examination board's decision is to be uniform and binding. For scheduled examination dates, the regulations stipulated in section 18 (2) apply.

(7) If other types of examination have been determined, the examiner is to determine the schedule of examinations in the first quarter of the course and is to notify the examination board.

## **Section 17 Admission to module examinations**

(1) Students are to register for examinations within the registration period set down by the examination board via the electronic registration/withdrawal system provided by the Office of Student and Examination Services (*Studierenden- und Prüfungsservice*). Under specific circumstances, students may alternatively file a written registration with the Office of Student and Examination Services. Students are required to verify that their registration was properly recorded by consulting the appropriate registration lists. Only registered students may take part in an examination.

(2) Students may only be admitted to an examination if they

1. are enrolled at or admitted Technische Hochschule Köln (University of Applied Sciences) as regular students
2. are cross-registered students at Technische Hochschule Köln (University of Applied Sciences) pursuant to section 52 (1 and 2) of the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act and have neither taken an examination in the concerned subject as regular students at another institution of higher education nor have they registered for one.

(3) Students may be required to pass other module examinations in register for a module examination; see section 24 and the curriculum (annex) for detailed information.

(4) The optional required modules (*Wahlpflichtmodule*) in which the student intends to taken an examination and which are stated in the examination registration become binding with the registration. For all other relevant matters, the regulations set down in subsection 6 apply.

(5) Students are required to include the following documents with the registration or hand them in by a date set by the examination board, unless they have already done so:

1. proof of having met the admission requirements stated in subsections 2 and 3
2. a statement on previous relevant examination attempts as well as on previous attempts to take the Master's examination or another final examination in the same program.
3. a statement on whether the examinee objects to the presence of an audience during oral examinations.

If the examinee cannot submit one of the documents required according to sentence 1, the examination board may allow him/her to provide the according proof in a different manner.

(6) Students may revoke the registration for a module examination via the electronic registration/withdrawal system provided by the Office of Student and Examination Services or in writing with the Office of Student and Examination Services up until one week prior to the set examination date. By doing so, students will not lose an examination attempt.

(7) Admission to a module examination is to be decided upon by the chairperson of the examination board and, in cases of doubt, the examination board itself.

(8) Admission is to be denied if

- a) the examinee does not meet the requirements stated in subsections 2 to 4, or
- b) the documents are incomplete and the examinee does not submit the remaining ones by the date set by the examination board, or
- c) the examinee has irreversibly failed a corresponding examination in a comparable program or has irreversibly failed a Master's or other type of final examination in the same program within the jurisdiction of the German constitution, or
- d) the examinee has – within the jurisdiction of the German constitution – lost the right to take an examination deemed required by the examination regulations.

### **Section 18 Conduct of module examinations**

(1) For the module examinations specified in sections 19 and 20, one examination date is usually scheduled per semester. The examinations are to be held within the examination periods determined by the examination board and to be announced at the beginning of the semester or towards the end of the previous semester. No classes are to be held during the examination period.

(2) Students are to be informed of the individual examination dates and their registration for examinations in time - usually at least two weeks prior to the examination concerned. Posting the information on the corresponding bulletin board is deemed sufficient.

(3) Upon request, students are obliged to identify themselves with an official photo ID.

(4) If the examinee – by submitting a medical certificate or in a different manner – substantiates that he/she is not capable of completely or partly taking the examination in its intended form due to a permanent physical disability, the chairperson of the examination board may allow the student to take an equivalent examination in a different form. These modifications are to guarantee that disabled persons will not be put at a disadvantage wherever possible. In exceptional cases, sentences 1 and 2 also apply to persons with temporary physical disabilities.

### **Section 19 Written examinations (*Klausuren*)**

(1) In written examinations, the examinee is to prove that – within a limited time frame and with limited resources – he/she is capable of identifying and correctly solving problems stemming from areas covered in the respective module by means of common scientific methods of his/her subject field.

(2) A written examination is to be held under supervision. Examiners decide whether students are allowed to use additional resources.

(3) A written examination is normally drawn up by one examiner only. In specific cases, especially when a module examination covers several subject fields, the examination may also be drawn up by more than one examiner. In such a case, the examiners prior to the examination jointly determine how the individual components of the examination shall be weighted.

(4) If the examination is drawn up by more than one examiner, the examiners jointly determine prior to the examination how the individual components of the examination shall be weighted; each examiner is to evaluate the entire written examination irrespective of the individual components and their weighting. Due to the special character of a subject field, the examination board may alternatively determine that an examiner shall only evaluate the part of a written examination that corresponds to his/her subject field. In such a case, the examination is to be evaluated based on the previously determined weighting of the individual components.

(5) Examinations which conclude a program and examinations whose passing is a prerequisite for continuing a program are to be evaluated by a minimum of two examiners. If the second evaluation of the written examination differs from the first one, the grade is determined by the arithmetic mean of both grades. Oral examinations are to be held by several examiners or by one examiner and in the presence of a competent co-examiner.

## **Section 20 Written multiple-choice examinations**

(1) Written examinations may be completely or partly held as multiple-choice examinations. In multiple-choice examinations, students are asked to answer questions in writing and under supervision by selecting the correct answers from a list of suggested solutions. Multiple-choice examinations may be held in modules suitable for this type of examination upon request by the examiners and with approval of the examination board.

(2) The questions asked in multiple-choice examinations are to be geared to the knowledge and skills taught in the module concerned and need to ensure reliable examination results.

(3) It is the examiners' responsibility to determine the examination questions and the suggested solutions (examination exercises). It is to be recorded in writing which of the suggested solutions are to be accepted as correct answers.

(4) The evaluation of a written examination is to include the following information:

1. the number of questions asked and the number of questions answered correctly by the examinee;
2. the minimum number of questions required to be answered correctly in order to pass the examination;
3. in case the examination has been passed, the percentage by which the number of correctly answered questions exceeds the minimum requirements;
4. the grade obtained by the student.

(5) When correcting the examinations, examiners are to pay attention as to whether a frequent occurrence of wrong answers to a specific question might indicate that the question was worded incorrectly. If it is determined after the examination that individual questions or possible solutions are erroneous, the examination exercises concerned will not be factored in. As a consequence, the number of examination exercises is to be reduced. This reduced number of exercises is to form the basis of the evaluation. Reducing the examination exercises may not put students at a disadvantage.

(6) Examinations held by means of electronic equipment are to be treated like written examinations.

## **Section 21 Oral Examinations**

- (1) Oral examinations are to be held in the presence of an examiner and a competent co-examiner (section 9 (1)) or in the presence of several examiners (panel examination) as group examinations or individual examinations. If an examination covers several subject fields, every examinee will on principle be examined by only one examiner in each subject field. Prior to grading the examination, the examiner is required to consult with the co-examiner or the other examiners.
- (2) Minutes are to be kept about the essential topics and the results of the examination, in particular about facts that are essential for the grading of the examination. The grade is to be reported to the students after the examination.
- (3) Students who intend to take the same examination in a different examination period may be present at the examination as audience, provided that there is enough space and that no examinee did object to this provision when he/she registered for the examination. Students may neither be present during the examiners' consultation nor during the announcement of examination results.

## **Section 22 Other types of examination**

- (1) Besides written and oral examinations, other types of examination may be applicable for module examinations. These other types of examination are term papers (*Hausarbeiten*) or oral reports.
- (2) Other types of examination are normally evaluated by one examiner only.
- (3) A term paper (e.g. a case study or research paper) is to determine whether the examinee is capable of independently completing a written practice-based assignment within a given time frame, using scientific and subject-related methods. The examiner is to determine the topic and length of the paper (e.g. number of pages of the main part) at the beginning of the semester. Section 28 (1) sentence 4 applies accordingly.
- (4) An oral report (e.g. presentation, negotiation, mediation) is to determine whether the examinee is capable of independently solving a practice-based assignment by means of verbal communication within a given time frame, using scientific and subject-related methods. The examiner is to determine the duration of the oral report at the beginning of the semester. Minutes are to be kept about facts that are essential for the grading of an oral report.
- (5) Term papers and oral reports completed as part of a joint team project may be treated as an examination if the individual examinee's contribution to be evaluated as an examination is clearly distinguishable and can be assessed accordingly. In order to verify the examinee's contribution, aspects such as passages, subject fields, page numbers (for term papers) or other objective criteria allowing for a clear distinction are to be indicated.

## **III. Curriculum**

### **Section 23 Modules and completion of the program; additional modules**

- (1) In all compulsory modules (required and optional required modules), module examinations pursuant to the types of examination stipulated in sections 19 – 22 are to be held. The program's modules are listed in section 24; the corresponding types of examination can be found in the

module catalog, unless individually determined by the examination board (section 16 (4) sentence 1). Information on selecting modules and courses in the Master's program can be found in the curriculum and is further explained in the module catalog.

(2) The curriculum and the examination procedures are to be designed in a way that allows for the completion of all examinations required according to section 5 (1) by the end of the fourth semester.

(3) The examinee may take examinations in more modules than the ones required to gain the mandatory number of credits (additional modules). The results of these additional examinations may be listed on the examination certificate upon request of the examinee. However, they are not accounted for in the calculation of the final grade. If a student completes more optional required modules than required, those modules he/she registered for first are to be accounted for in the calculation of the final grade, unless he/she decides otherwise at the point of registration.

## **Section 24 Module examinations**

(1) Students are required to take module examinations in the following modules (required modules):

1. Global Economics
2. Data Analytics
3. Virtual Business Development Lab
4. Cross-Cultural Self and Management Competencies
5. Study, Career and Research Coaching 1,2, 3 and 4
6. Sustainable Global Strategy
7. Managing Risk and Business Resilience
8. International Entrepreneurship Lab
9. Business Research Methods
10. Decision Making in a Complex Environment

(2) Students are required to complete two modules with a total of 12 ECTS credits to be selected from the following optional required modules (*Wahlpflichtfächer*). The offered courses may vary:

First semester:

- International Sustainable Marketing and Branding
- International Accounting and Sustainable Finance
- Interdisciplinary Elective

Second semester:

- Global Logistics and Sustainable Supply Chains
- Private Law of International, Sustainable Trade
- Interdisciplinary Elective

(3) The module examinations Electives taken in the third semester are to be taken at a university abroad and are to sum up to 30 ECTS credits. The modules in these electives are to be selected from the following fields:

- Finance
- Accounting
- Business Ethics
- Human Resource Management
- Regional Studies
- Emerging Markets
- Economic Geography

- International Politics
- Local/Regional Business Culture
- Marketing
- Digitalization
- Sustainability

The examination board is to decide on the recognition of module examinations completed at universities abroad.

(4) Students are required to complete the modules of the third semester, as specified in the curriculum, with 30 ECTS credits at a university abroad. The examination board is to decide on potential exemptions and on the recognition of module examinations completed at universities abroad.

#### **IV. Master's thesis and final oral examination (*Kolloquium*)**

##### **Section 25 Master's thesis; purpose; topic; examiners**

(1) The Master's thesis is to be submitted as a written paper. It is to provide evidence that the examinee is capable of independently completing an assignment on a subject pertaining to his/her field of study within a given time frame, by elaborating on subject-related specifics as well as on interdisciplinary contexts and by making use of scientific and subject-related methods. When writing their Master's thesis, students should take an interdisciplinary collaboration into consideration.

(2) The topic of the Master's thesis may be determined by any examiner who is appointed as such in accordance with section 9 (1). This examiner may also function as thesis adviser. Upon request of the examinee, the examination board may also name an honorary professor or a qualified adjunct lecturer as thesis adviser in accordance with section 9 (1) if it has been determined that no professor of the faculty is able to function as thesis adviser for the intended topic of the Master's thesis. Students may write their Master's thesis at an institution outside the university if this institution provides sufficient assistance and advice. Students are to be given an opportunity to make suggestions on the topic of their Master's thesis. Examiners from other faculties may be chosen as thesis advisers if the topic of the thesis so allows.

(3) Upon request, the chairperson of the examination board is to ensure that an examinee is provided with a topic for the Master's thesis in time.

(4) A Master's thesis may also be written as part of a joint team project if the individual student's contribution to be evaluated is clearly distinguishable and can be assessed accordingly and if it complies with the requirements stated in subsection 1. In order to verify a student's contribution, aspects such as passages, page numbers or other objective criteria allowing for a clear distinction are to be identified.

(5) The Master's thesis is to be written in English.

##### **Section 26 Admission to the Master's thesis**

(1) Students may register for the Master's thesis if they meet the admission requirements stated in section 17 (2 and 5) and have, pursuant to section 12, obtained a total of 60 credits in the examinations required in accordance with section 24.

(2) The registration for the Master's thesis is to be addressed in writing to the chairperson of the examination board and to be submitted to the Office of Student and Examination Services. Students



are required to submit the following documents with their registration, unless they have already done so:

1. proof of meeting the admission requirements stated in subsection 1
2. statement on previous attempts to write a Master's thesis or another final examination and on attempts to take the Master's examination
3. statement on which examiner is willing and able to prepare the topic of the Master's thesis and to function as thesis adviser
4. suggested topic of the Master's thesis

(3) Students may revoke the registration for the Master's thesis in writing up until the day the decision on admission is announced. By complying with this provision, students will not lose an attempt to write the Master's thesis.

(4) Admission to the Master's thesis is to be granted by the chairperson of the examination board and, in cases of doubt, the examination board itself. Admission is to be denied if

- a) the student does not meet the requirements stated in subsection 1, or
- b) the documents to be submitted are incomplete, or
- c) within the jurisdiction of the German constitution, a final thesis written by the student has been evaluated as "insufficient" or if the student has irreversibly failed one of the examinations stated in subsection 2 sentence 2 no. 2.

In all other cases, admission is only to be denied if the examinee has, within the jurisdiction of the German constitution, lost the right to take examinations in the same program by having failed to meet a deadline for retaking examinations.

### **Section 27 Assignment of the topic and completion of the Master's thesis**

(1) The topic of the Master's thesis is to be assigned by the chairperson of the examination board. The time of assignment is to be the day on which the chairperson of the examination board informs the student of the topic of the Master's thesis assigned by the thesis adviser; the time of assignment is to be put on record.

(2) Students have 15 weeks to write the Master's thesis (starting with the time of assignment to the day of submission). This time frame may be extended by a maximum of four weeks for Master's theses covering empirical, experimental or mathematical topics. The topic and scope must be designed in a way that allows for the Master's thesis to be completed within the allocated time frame. In exceptional cases, the chairperson of the examination board may extend the deadline of submission by up to two weeks if the student concerned submits a request prior to the deadline, in which he/she is to justify the reasons for extending the deadline. The thesis adviser is to be consulted on the request.

(3) The main part of the Master's thesis is not to exceed 80 pages. Details are explained by the examination board in an information paper.

(4) Students may withdraw from a topic of their Master's thesis only once and may only do so within the first two weeks of the assigned time frame, without stating their reasons for doing so. If a student undertakes a second attempt to write a Master's thesis in compliance with section 14 (2), the student is only permitted to withdraw from the thesis if he/she did not do so during his/her first attempt.

(5) If a student is physically disabled, the regulations set down in section 18 (4) apply.

### **Section 28 Submission and evaluation of the Master's thesis**

(1) Students are to submit three hardcover copies of their Master's thesis and one electronic copy in a common word processing format to the chairperson of the examination board, or to a third party determined by the chairperson, by the submission deadline. Submitting the thesis via means of telecommunication is not permissible. The time of submission is to be put on record; if the thesis is submitted via mail, the decisive criterion is the point of time at which the thesis is submitted to the postal service. When submitting the thesis, the student is required to declare in writing that he/she has independently written the thesis – in case of a joint team project, his/her part of the thesis, which is to be identified accordingly – and has used no other than the sources and means indicated and appropriately identified in case of quotations. Moreover, the regulations on cheating as stated in section 15 (3) apply.

(2) The Master's thesis is to be evaluated by two examiners. One of the examiners is to be the thesis adviser. The other examiner is to be determined by the examination board. If section 25 (2) sentence 3 applies, he/she must be a professor. If the examiners' evaluations differ from each other and the divergence of both grades is less than 2.0, the grade for the Master's thesis is calculated by the arithmetic mean of both individual grades. If there is a divergence of 2.0 or greater, the examination board is to determine a third examiner. In this case, the grade for the Master's thesis is calculated by the arithmetic mean of the two better individual grades. However, the Master's thesis can only be graded "sufficient" or better if at least two of the grades are "sufficient" or better.

(4) Students who pass the Master's thesis are awarded 20 credits in accordance with section 12.

### **Section 29 Final oral examination (*Kolloquium*)**

(1) The final oral examination complements the Master's thesis. It is to be evaluated as an independent examination and is to be held within three months after the submission of the Master's thesis. It is to determine whether the examinee is capable of orally presenting and independently justifying the findings of the Master's thesis, its scientific and methodological fundamentals as well as inter- and multidisciplinary contexts, and of assessing the thesis' significance for practice. The examinee's approach to writing the Master's thesis shall also be discussed in the final oral examination.

- (2) Students may only be admitted to the final oral examination if they
1. have provided proof of having met the requirements for admission to the Master's thesis listed in section 26 (1),
  2. are enrolled as students or auditors in compliance with the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act. This, however, only applies to first-time admissions to the final oral examination.
  3. have passed all module examinations and
  4. have passed their Master's thesis.

The registration for the final oral examination is to be addressed to the chairperson of the examination board. Students are required to submit proof of having met the admission requirements stated in sentence 1, unless the examination board is already in possession of such proof. They are also required to enclose a statement on previous attempts to take the examinations concerned and a statement on whether or not they object to the presence of an audience during their final oral examination. In accordance with section 26, students may register for the final oral examination when they apply for admission to the Master's thesis; in this case, students are admitted to the final oral examination as soon as all required proof and documents have been submitted to the examination board. For all other matters related to the admission to the final oral examination or the denial thereof, section 26 (4) applies accordingly.

(3) The final oral examination is an oral examination (cf. section 21) and is jointly held and evaluated by the examiners of the Master's thesis. If section 28 (2) applies, the final oral examination is to be held by those examiners whose individual evaluations were used to calculate the grade for the Master's thesis. The duration of the final oral examination is approximately 30 minutes. For all other matters related to the conduct of the final oral examination, the regulations for oral examinations apply accordingly.

(4) In accordance with section 12, students are awarded 4 credits for passing the final oral examination.

## **V. Results of the Master's examination**

### **Section 30 Results of the Master's examination**

(1) The examinee has passed the Master's examination if he/she has obtained 120 credits. This requires students to have passed all required module examinations and to have obtained a grade of at least "sufficient" for the Master's thesis and the final oral examination.

(2) The examinee has failed the Master's examination if one of the examinations stated in subsection 1 has been irreversibly evaluated as "insufficient" or is irreversibly deemed "insufficient". Examinees are to be notified about having failed the Master's examination. This notification is to include information on legal remedies. After the student's removal from the register of students, the chairperson of the examination board will upon request issue a certified document, listing the examinations and assessments taken by the student and their respective grades, as well as the examinations missing in order for the student to complete the Master's examination. This certification must include a statement that the student has irreversibly failed the Master's examination. Upon request, the chairperson of the examination board will issue a document listing only the completed examinations and assessments and their respective grades.

### **Section 31 Examination certificate; final cumulative grade; diploma supplement**

(1) Graduates are to receive a certificate on the passed Master's examination promptly, if possible within four weeks of the last examination. This examination certificate is to include the grades and credits for all module examinations, the topic of the Master's thesis, the grades and credits for the Master's thesis and the final oral examination, the final cumulative grade for the Master's examination and - for transferred grades or recognized assessments from other universities - the locations at which these assessments were completed.

(2) The final grade for the Master's examination is determined by the average of the grades for the module examinations, the Master's thesis and the final oral examination, which have been weighted by the corresponding credits.

(3) As stated in section 23 (3), grades for additional modules are not accounted for in the calculation of the final grade.

(4) The examination certificate is to be signed by the chairperson of the examination board and is to bear the date of the day on which the last examination was completed.

(5) Graduates are to be handed out their Master's certificate along with the examination certificate, bearing the date stated on the latter. The Master's certificate is to attest to the conferral of the Master's degree in compliance with section 2(6).

(6) The Master's certificate is to be signed by the dean of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law and the chairperson of the examination board and is to bear the seal of Technische Hochschule Köln (University of Applied Sciences).

(7) In addition to the Master's and examination certificate, graduates are to receive a diploma supplement issued in English, which corresponds to the guidelines and agreements of the German Rectors' Conference.

## **VI. Final provisions**

### **Section 32 Inspection of examination papers**

After having taken a module examination or having completed the Master's thesis and the final oral examination, the examinee is - upon request - to be granted an inspection of the written examination concerned, of – if available – the examiners' records related to the written examination and of the examination records of an oral examination. The inspection of a Master's thesis that was graded at least "sufficient" is to be granted only after completion of the corresponding final oral examination. The inspection is to be requested with the chairperson of the examination board within one month of the announcement of the grade for the module examination or within one month after the examination certificate or the certification on irreversibly failing the Master's examination were issued. The chairperson is to determine time and place of the inspection.

### **Section 33 Invalidity of examinations**

(1) If a student cheated during an examination and the cheating was detected only after the examination certificate or the certifications mentioned in section 30 (2) sentences 4 and 5 and section 31 (1/6) were issued, the examination board is entitled to retroactively correct the grades for those examinations during which the student cheated and to render the Master's examination failed or partially failed.

(2) If the requirements for admission to an examination were not met but the student did not attempt to cheat, and if this matter was detected only after the examination certificate or the certification mentioned in section 30 (2) sentences 4 and 5 and section 31 (1/6) were issued, this shortcoming is offset by the student's passing of the examination. If the student deliberately effected a wrongful admission, the examination board is to decide on the legal consequences with due regard to the Administrative Procedures Act (*Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz*) of North Rhine-Westphalia.

(3) The incorrect examination certificate or the incorrect certification mentioned in section 30 (2) sentences 4 and 5 and section 31 (1/6) are to be taken back and reissued if need be. A decision pursuant to subsection 1 is to be ruled out after ten years have passed since the examination certificate or certification mentioned in section 30 (2) sentences 4 and 5 and section 31 (1/6) were issued.

### **Section 34 Entry into force; transitional provisions\***

(1) The examination regulations for the Master's program in International Business enter into force as of September 1, 2007 and are to be published in Cologne University of Applied Sciences' official communication (*Amtliche Mitteilungen*).

(2) These examination regulations apply to all students who have enrolled or will enroll in the Master's program in International Business at Cologne University of Applied Sciences as of winter semester 2007/08. It will upon request also apply to students commencing their studies prior to this semester.

(3) The examination regulations for the Master's program in International Business at Cologne University of Applied Sciences of July 10, 2006 will cease to be in force as of August 31, 2012. Students in the Master's program in International Business who commenced their studies prior to the winter semester 2007/08 may complete the program according to the regulations currently in place for them until the end of summer semester 2012.

(4) The examination regulations are published on the basis of the resolution of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Cologne University of Applied Sciences of November 13, 2007 and October 27, 2009, and after legal review by the President's Office of Cologne University of Applied Sciences on July 28, 2009.

Cologne, November 24, 2009

President  
of Cologne University of Applied Sciences

*[signature of Prof. Metzner]*  
Prof. Dr. phil. J. Metzner

\*Section 34 refers to the initial version of the examination regulations.

The following paragraphs refer to the amendments of February 24, 2016:

The amendments of February 24, 2016 enter into force on March 1, 2016 and will be published in Technische Hochschule Köln's official communication (*Amtliche Mitteilung*).

The amendments are based on the decisions of the faculty council of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law at Technische Hochschule Köln (University of Applied Sciences) of June 24, 2015 and January 19, 2016. The legal basis of all amendments was reviewed by the President's Office of Technische Hochschule Köln on February 17, 2016.

Cologne, November 24, 2009

President  
of Cologne University of Applied Sciences

p.p.

*[signature of Prof. Becker]*  
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus Becker  
Managing Vice President

## Annex: Curriculum International Business M.A.

Module code	Module title	PW MP	1. Sem.		2. Sem.		3. Sem.		4. Sem.		Σ SWS	Σ CP
			SWS	CP	SWS	CP	SWS	CP	SWS	CP		
<b>1. Core Curriculum</b>											<b>18</b>	<b>27</b>
1.01.	Global Economics	P 1	4	6								
<b>Electives (choose 1 out of the following modules), workload 6 CP</b>												
1.02.a	International Sustainable Marketing and Branding	W 1	4	6								
1.02.b	International Accounting and Sustainable Finance											
1.02.c	Interdisciplinary Elective											
1.03.	Sustainable Global Strategy	P 1			4	6						
<b>Electives (choose 1 out of the following modules), workload 6 CP</b>												
1.04.a	Global Logistics and Sustainable Supply Chains	W 1			4	6						
1.04.b	Private Law of International, Sustainable Trade											
1.04.c	Interdisciplinary Elective											
1.05.	Decision Making in a Complex Environment	P 1							2	3		
<b>2. Quantitative Methods</b>											<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>
2.01.	Data Analytics	P 1	4	6								
2.02.	Managing Risk and Business Resilience	P 1			4	6						
<b>3. Laboratories</b>											<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>
3.01.	Virtual Business Development Lab	P 1	4	6								
3.02.	International Entrepreneurship Lab	P 1			4	6						
<b>4. Personal Skill Development Program</b>											<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>
4.01.	Cross-Cultural Self and Management Competencies	P 1	2	3								
4.02.	Business Research Methods	P 1			2	3						
4.03.	Study, Career and Research Coaching 1	P 1	2	3								
4.04.	Study, Career and Research Coaching 2	P 1			2	3						
4.05.	Study, Career and Research Coaching 3	P 1					2	3				
4.06.	Study, Career and Research Coaching 4	P 1							2	3		
<b>StA. Study Abroad: Electives - connection to this program, workload 27 CP, e. g.</b>												<b>27</b>
StA.01.	Finance	1)										
StA.02.	Accounting											
StA.03.	Business Ethics											
StA.04.	Human Resource Management											
StA.05.	Regional Studies											
StA.06.	Emerging Markets											
StA.07.	Economic Geography											
StA.08.	International Politics											
StA.09.	Local/Regional Business Culture											
StA.10.	Marketing											
StA.11.	Digitalization											
StA.12.	Sustainability											
<b>5. Final Exam Period</b>												<b>24</b>
5.01.	Master's thesis	P 1								20		
5.02.	Final oral examination	P 1								4		
<b>Σ SWS (excluding semester abroad)</b>			<b>20</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>46</b>	
<b>Σ Credit points (total of 120)</b>				<b>30</b>		<b>30</b>		<b>30</b>		<b>30</b>		<b>120</b>

1) The module examinations of the electives in the 2nd year are to be completed at a university abroad and must comprise 27 ECTS credits. See Section 24 (3) and Section 24a of the examination regulations.

P = Required module; W = Elective; MP = Number of module examinations; CP = Credit Points