

- UNOFFICIAL READING VERSION -

Examination Regulations for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master Programme of Faculty III - School of Economic Disciplines of the University of Siegen

of 2 November 2011

as last amended on 20 June 2016

(applicable to students having enrolled for the first time for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master programme at the University of Siegen as from the 2014/2015 winter semester)

The present regulations shall be based on the wording:

- of the Examination Regulations for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master Programme of Faculty III - School of Economic Disciplines of the University of Siegen of 2 November 2011 (Official Notification 36/2011);
- the Regulations Amending the Examination Regulations for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master Programme of Faculty III - School of Economic Disciplines of the University of Siegen of 10 July 2014 (Official Notification 65/2014);
- the Second Regulations Amending the Examination Regulations for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master Programme of the University of Siegen of 4 May 2015 (Official Notification 58/2015);
- the Third Regulations Amending the Examination Regulations for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master Programme of Faculty III - School of Economic Disciplines of the University of Siegen of 20 June 2016 (Official Notification 57/2016).

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I. General

Section 1

Study Objectives

- (1) The Master programme shall provide the students with the required specialised knowledge, abilities and method in terms of interaction technique, taking into account the requirements of and changes in the professional world, to ensure that they will be enabled to carry out scientific work, to make critical assessments and to act responsibly.
- (2) By completing the more strongly research-oriented Master programme, the scientific qualifications acquired by a previous Bachelor programme shall be enhanced and developed in terms of an increasing technical complexity by gaining further specialised knowledge and practising more specific scientific methods. The Master examination shall form another degree qualifying for a profession and shall substantially broaden the professional perspectives compared to the Bachelor degree. The Master examination shall be used to determine whether the students have acquired the expanded specialised knowledge, abilities and methods required for the transition into professional practice, and whether they have an overview of more detailed technical correlations as well as the ability to analyse problems and to autonomously elaborate and apply scientific methods and findings to describe or solve them. The passed Master examination shall further enable them to be admitted to a doctorate and thus to pursue a scientific career.

Section 2^{*1,3}

Study Access and Duration

- (1) Access to the Master programme shall require a technically pertinent academic "Bachelor of Science" degree in Business Informatics or a related or comparable study programme, a Business Administration study programme with a pertinent specialisation in Business Informatics or Informatics or an Informatics study programme. The associated Bachelor programme must at least have been completed with a grade of 2.5.
- (2) Applicants with Bachelor degrees of another study programme should already have prior knowledge in the presentation (design) and implementation (programming, especially object-oriented programming) of software systems. The scope of achievements for the two Bachelor programme areas should be at least 30 ECTS credit points (CPs) in total. The distribution in this context shall be arbitrary. In this case, too, the underlying Bachelor degree must have been completed with a grade of 2.5 or better.
- (3) Alternatively, a qualification equivalent to the Bachelor degree may serve as an access requirement. The examination committee shall decide on the equivalence.
- (4) The examination committee shall assess all applications based on the aforementioned criteria and shall subsequently decide on the students' access.
- (5) The standard period of study for the Master programme shall be four (4) semesters incl. the Master project thesis, the practical and the Master thesis. To successfully complete the programme with the Master certificate, 120 CPs (cf. section 4) must be acquired.
- (6) Enrolment shall be denied if the applicant has ultimately not passed an examination required acc. to the Examination Regulations in the same programme or in a programme with a considerable content proximity.
- (7) Sufficient command of the English language shall be demonstrated by those applicants who have not acquired their study qualification at an exclusively English-speaking institution or have learned English as their mother tongue. The following supporting documents shall be recognised:
 - a) TOEFL (Test of English as a foreign language) IBT (Internet-Based Test) test with a result of at least 90 points;
 - b) IELTS test with a result of at least 5.5;

- c) Cambridge test - Certificate in Advanced English (CAE);
- d) First Certificate in English (FCE) with a grade of at least B;
- e) a certificate demonstrating command of the English language at B2 level of the “Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)”. This supporting document shall be provided, e.g., by presentation of a German *Abitur* certificate showing that English has been continuously taken until the end of qualification phase 1 (form 11 for the *G8 Abitur*, otherwise form 12) and was completed with at least sufficient achievements.

Section 3

Academic Degree

Once the Master examination has been completed successfully, the “Master of Science” (“M.Sc.”) degree shall be awarded.

Section 4^{*1}

Modularisation of the Range of Courses, Awarding of Credit Points

- (1) The Master programme shall be modularised. Modules shall be thematically and chronologically complemented, self-contained, examinable and autonomous qualification units, which are provided with CPs and summarise a subject area. A module may comprise several module elements (courses). Each module shall be assigned CPs acc. to the stipulations of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). One CP shall equal a study expenditure of 30 hours of effective study time. The scope and corresponding CPs of the individual modules shall be defined by module descriptions in the module handbook. The CP system shall serve the record the achievements rendered by the students and to recognise study examination achievements from other programmes. An overview of the individual modules can be found in the appendix (Module Overview).
- (2) The faculty shall draw up a module handbook based on and as a content-related complement to the present Examination Regulations. The module handbook shall provide information on the components, scope, content and objectives of the modules, the respective teaching and learning methods and the prior knowledge required.
- (3) The programme shall be comprised of the HCI basic compulsory area (33 CPs), the HCI basic compulsory optional area (24 CPs) and the HCI compulsory optional complementary area (18 CPs) as well as the Master project thesis, the practical and the Master thesis. All modules of the compulsory area must be studied. In the compulsory optional area and in the compulsory optional complementary area, a selection may be made from a predefined range of modules.
- (4) CP accounts shall be kept for all students on which the CPs shall be credited.
- (5) CPs shall be pre-defined acc. to the following terms:
 - 1. CPs shall be awarded upon provision of the respective requested examination achievement.
 - 2. The number of CPs to be credited shall be determined by the module underlying the examination.
 - 3. CPs shall be credited only if the student’s CP account does not yet contain any CPs from the same module of any previous semester or examination date or from any study or examination achievement credited accordingly.

Section 5^{*1}

Examinations and Examination Periods

- (1) A final module examination shall be taken for each module and shall be provided along with the programme. Any final module examination may be comprised of either one or several

examination achievement/s, whereby different types of examinations may be used and combined. The types of examinations and the modalities of the examination achievements must be determined by the examiner, at the latest in the first four weeks of the lecture period of the semester in which the related course takes place, and published by bill posting or notification on the Internet; this shall not apply to the practical, the Master project thesis and the Master thesis.

- (2) The examinations shall take place in written, electronic or oral form. The examiner shall announce at the beginning of the course in what manner the examination will be assessed (examination written in class, term paper, presentation, etc.).
- (3) Any written or electronic examination shall take at least 60 and not more than 180 minutes. The examinee shall be notified of the results six weeks after the examination by bill posting at the latest.
- (4) Any oral examination shall take at least 20 and not more than 60 minutes per examinee. It shall be assessed by an examiner in the presence of a competent assessor as an individual or group examination with a max. number of three (3) examinees. Before the grade is determined, the examinee shall hear the assessor. The essential objects and results of the examination shall be recorded in writing. The examination result shall be communicated to the examinee subsequent to the oral examination and shall be substantiated.
- (5) For any final module examinations performed in the form of a written examination in class, two examination dates per year shall be offered.
- (6) Each study and examination achievement shall require a separate notice. The notice may be given only if the examinee has been enrolled for the Master programme and requirements for admission to the Master examination (section 2) have been met. The notices may be given only as of the dates announced by bill posting or on the Internet by submission of a written application for admission to the examination with the examination committee or electronically via the online notification system of the examination committee; the way in which the registration shall be effected shall be defined by the examination committee. The examinee may de-register from the examination in writing no later than one week before the examination date defined. The notification and withdrawal dates shall be cut-off periods.
- (7) In principle, the examination shall take place in the German or English language.
- (8) The module shall be deemed to have been passed if the final module examination has been graded with "sufficient" (4.0) or better and the "passed" grade has been awarded for the study achievements of the module.

Section 6^{*1}

Evaluation of the Examination Achievements, Grading

- (1) There shall be graded examination achievements and ungraded study achievements.
- (2) For study achievements, the respective examiners shall award the "passed" or "failed" grade.
- (3) The grades for the individual examination achievements shall be determined by the respective examiners. The following grades shall be used for the evaluation:

1.0; 1.3 =	excellent	=	an outstanding achievement;
1.7; 2.0; 2.3 =	good	=	an achievement that exceeds the average requirements considerably;
2.7; 3.0; 3.3 =	satisfactory	=	an achievement that fulfils average requirements;
3.7; 4.0 =	sufficient	=	an achievement that fulfils the requirements despite flaws;
5.0 =	insufficient	=	an achievement that does not fulfil the requirements due to major flaws.

- (4) The grade for any module shall equal the grade of the final module examination. If the final module examination is comprised of several partial achievements, the grade of the final module examination shall be calculated based on the arithmetic average of the partial achievements rendered, with the partial achievements being weighted acc. to the CP distribution.
- (5) The module grade shall be:
 - for an average up to and incl. 1.5 = excellent;
 - for an average of more than 1.5 up to and incl. 2.5 = good;
 - for an average of more than 2.5 up to and incl. 3.5 = satisfactory;
 - for an average of more than 3.5 up to and incl. 4.0 = sufficient;
 - for an average of more than 4.0 = insufficient.
- (6) When forming the module grades and the overall grade of the Master examination, only the first decimal after the point shall be taken into account, with all other decimals being disregarded without rounding.

Section 7^{*1}

Compensation for Disadvantages for Disabled Students and Chronically Sick Persons

- (1) If any candidate furnishes prima facie evidence by a medical certificate stating that he/she is unable to render the examination achievements either in whole or in part in the intended form or within the examination dates provided for in the present Examination Regulations due to any chronic illness or any disability within the meaning of Section 2 Para. 1 Volume IX of the German Social Insurance Code (*Sozialgesetzbuch - SGB*), the chairperson of the examination committee or his/her deputy shall authorise the candidate to extend the editing time for examination achievements or the time limits for taking examinations or for taking equivalent examination achievements in a form suitable to the candidate's needs.

Section 8^{*1}

Family Protection Regulations

- (1) On application of any female candidate, the maternity protection periods defined in the respective applicable German Act Protecting Working Mothers (MPA) shall be taken into account accordingly. The application shall be accompanied by the necessary supporting document. The maternity protection periods shall interrupt any period acc. to the present Examination Regulations; the maternity protection duration shall not be included in the calculation of the period.
- (2) Likewise, the parental leave periods in acc. with the respective applicable German Act Granting Child-Raising Allowances and Parental Leave (FCRAA) shall be taken into account on application. No later than four weeks before the date as from which the candidate intends to take parental leave, he/she must communicate to the examination committee for what period/s she/he intends to make use of parental leave.
- (3) Any absences due to the need to care for or support spouses, registered civil partners, direct relatives or first-degree in-laws, provided that they are in need of care or support, must likewise be taken into account on application. The application shall be filed immediately after the prerequisites have been met.
- (4) The applications shall be accompanied by the supporting documents required for the examination.

Section 9^{*1,3}

Failure, Withdrawal, Deception, Offence

- (1) Any examination achievement shall be deemed to have been evaluated with "insufficient" (5.0) if the examinee fails to attend any examination date without good reason or withdraws from the examination after its start without good reason. The same shall apply if any written examination achievement is not rendered within the pre-defined editing time.

- (2) The reasons invoked for the withdrawal or failure must be immediately notified and demonstrated to the examination committee in writing. If the examinee is ill, a medical certificate on the existence of the inability to take the examination shall be presented to the examination committee. If the examination committee recognises the reasons, this matter of fact shall be communicated to the examinee in writing and a new date shall be fixed. The examination results already available shall be credited.
- (3) If the examinee attempts to influence the results of his/her examination achievement by deception, e.g. by carrying or using any unauthorised aids, or violates the good order during the examination, the examination committee may declare the relevant examination achievement as failed. The relevant examination achievement shall be deemed to have been evaluated with "insufficient" (5.0). The determination shall be made and put on record by the respective examiner or supervisor. Any examinee disturbing the proper conduct of the examination may be excluded by the respective examiner or the supervising person from continuing the examination achievement after having been called to order. In this case, the relevant examination achievement shall be evaluated with "insufficient" (5.0). The reasons for the exclusion shall be put on record. If the examinee is excluded from continuing to render any examination achievement, he/she may demand that this decision be examined by the examination committee.
- (4) Any detrimental decisions of the examination committee shall be immediately communicated to the examinee in writing and shall be substantiated. Before the decision is taken, the examinee shall be provided with the opportunity to a fair hearing.

Section 10^{*1,3}

Repetition of Examinations

- (1) Any failed study achievement may be repeated without constraints.
- (2) If any final module examination was evaluated with "insufficient" for the first time, it may be repeated twice. When failed for the first time, the project thesis and the final theses acc. to section 18 and section 19 may each be repeated once.
- (3) It shall not be permitted to repeat any passed examination. Section 10a shall remain unaffected.
- (4) Any examination evaluated with "insufficient" in the last attempt acc. to para. 2 shall be evaluated by a second examiner acc. to section 6 para. 3 (Section 65 Para. 2 NW HEA). In this case, the grade of the written examination shall be calculated from the arithmetic average of the individual evaluations.
- (5) The repetition of any examination achievement shall require a renewed notice acc. to section 5 para. 6.

Section 10a^{*3}

Grade Improvement

- (1) Up to the 6th semester, any passed and examination achievement (hereinafter: "First Exam") may be repeated once for grade improvement in the course of the Master programme. Seminar achievements, the Master project thesis and the Master thesis shall be excluded herefrom. The repetition for grade improvement shall not be considered to be an examination attempt.
- (2) The re-examination must be taken as of the next examination date on which the examination is offered again. Any studies abroad or any placement at the time of the next examination date on which the examination is offered again shall not extend this period.
- (3) The notice regarding the grade improvement shall be given to the examination office within the announced periods. The re-examination for grade improvement may be transferred to another examination, provided that the prerequisites for such other examination have been met.
- (4) In case of any de-registration from the re-examination no later than one week before the examination date, the grade improvement possibility may be transferred to another examination, provided that the prerequisites for such other examination have been met.
- (5) In case of any de-registration from the re-examination for good reason no later than one week before the examination date or, in case of any withdrawal from the re-examination for good

cause, the re-examination for grade improvement may, by way of derogation from para. 2, be taken as of the next examination date on which the examination is offered again. Para. 3 sentences 2 and 3 shall remain unaffected.

- (6) If the re-examination is evaluated better than or just as good as the First Exam, the grade of the second examination shall apply; otherwise, the grade of the First Exam shall apply.

Section 11^{*1}

Additional Achievements

- (1) The student may undergo further examinations (additional achievements) beyond the compulsory and the compulsory optional area. Additional achievements may also be study and examination achievements of any other Master or Bachelor programme.
- (2) The result of any examination acc. to para. 1 shall not be included in the determination of module grades and of the overall grade of the Master examination.
- (3) On the graduate's application, the examination results for the additional achievements shall be included in the Transcript of Records (ToR). The application shall state the additional achievements to be included.
- (4) If all partial achievements of one module have been passed successfully as an additional achievement, the module grade may be included in the ToR on application.

Section 12^{*1}

Examination Committee

- (1) The faculty councils of the faculties III and I shall form an examination committee for organising the examinations and the responsibilities assigned by the present Examination Regulations. The examination committee shall be comprised of the chairperson, the deputy and five additional members. The chairperson, the deputy and two additional members shall be elected from among the group of university professors, one member shall be elected from among the group of research fellows and two members shall be elected from among the group of students. Of the university professors, three shall be elected from faculty III and one shall be elected from faculty I. Two deputies each shall be elected for the groups of university professors and students and one deputy shall be elected for the group of research fellows. The term of office of the members from the group of university professors and from the group of research fellows shall be three years; the term of office of the student members shall be one year. They may be re-elected.
- (2) The examination committee shall elect the chairperson and the deputy from among its constituent group of university professors.
- (3) The examination committee shall be a public authority in terms of administrative procedural and administrative adjective law.
- (4) The examination committee shall monitor that the provisions of the Examination Regulations will be complied with and shall ensure proper implementation of the examinations. It shall be responsible, in particular, for the decision on objections against decisions taken in examination procedures. It shall regularly report to the two faculties, at least once a year, on the developments of the examinations and study periods. It shall provide suggestions on the reform of the Examination Regulations. The examination committee may transfer the performance of its tasks to the chairperson for all regular cases; this shall not apply to any decisions on objections.
- (5) The examination committee shall be deemed to have a quorum if, besides the chairperson or his/her deputy and two additional university professors, at least two additional voting members are present. It shall resolve by simple majority. In the event of a tie, the chairperson shall have the

casting vote. The student members of the examination committee shall not participate in the evaluation, acknowledgement and recognition of study and examination achievements, the definition of examination tasks and the appointment of examiners and assessors.

- (6) The members of the examination committee and their deputies shall have the right to attend the taking of the examinations.
- (7) The examination committee meetings shall be non-public. The members of the examination committee, their deputies, the examiners and the assessors shall be subject to the official duty of secrecy. Unless they are employed in the public sector, they shall be obliged by the chairperson of the examination committee to maintain secrecy.

Section 13^{*1}

Examiners and Assessors

- (1) The examination committee shall appoint the examiners and assessors.
- (2) The examiners and assessors shall be designated from among the group of university professors for the subject represented by them. In addition, university professors and other post-doctoral members of the University of Siegen who exercise a self-employed teaching activity in the relevant subject or have taken at least the corresponding or a comparable examination, unless any compelling reasons require any deviation, may, with their approval, be designated as examiners. Any former university professors may be appointed as examiners for the duration of two years after expiry of the semester in which they left the University of Siegen.
- (3) Only such person who has taken the Bachelor examination in Business Informatics or in any related programme at a scientific university or a comparable or higher-grade examination and is employed in an employment relationship under public law at the University of Siegen may be designated as an assessor.
- (4) The examiners shall carry out their examination activity independently.
- (5) The examinee may suggest the examiner or a group of examiners for the project thesis and the Master thesis. The examinee's suggestions should be taken into consideration, if possible.
- (6) The chairperson of the examination committee shall ensure that the names of the examiners will be communicated to the examinee. Announcement by bill posting shall be sufficient.

Section 14^{*1.3}

Recognition of Study Periods, Academic and Examination Achievements, Admission to Higher Semesters

- (1) Study and examination achievements rendered in programmes at state-approved universities, at state-approved vocational academies or in programmes at foreign state or state-approved universities shall be recognised on application, unless any essential difference to the achievements replaced exists regarding the competences acquired.
- (2) The applicant shall be obliged to provide the necessary information about the achievement to be recognised.
- (3) Any decisions on applications in terms of para. 1 shall be taken within a period of two (2) months. The burden of proof that an application in terms of para. 1 does not meet the requirements of para. 1 shall lie with the examination committee. In case of doubt, the examination committee shall hear the subject representatives in charge. If any essential differences are identified and demonstrated acc. to the Lisbon Recognition Convention, the non-recognition decision shall be substantiated in writing.

- (4) Any person whose number results from the scope of ECTS credit points acquired by the recognition in proportion to the overall scope of the ECTS credit point acquirable altogether in the respective programme may be classified in a semester based on the recognition acc. to para. 1 and shall be classified in a semester on the student's application. If the decimal place is smaller than five, the value shall be rounded down to full semesters; otherwise, it shall be rounded up.
- (5) If any agreements and conventions of the Federal Republic of Germany with other countries on equivalencies in the higher education sector (equivalency agreements) favour students of foreign countries by way of derogation from para. 1, the regulations of the equivalency agreements shall prevail.
- (6) On application, any other knowledge and qualifications may be recognised based on the documents presented if such knowledge and qualifications are equivalent to the examination achievements intended to replace them in terms of content and level.
- (7) Section 63a Para. 5 HEA shall remain unaffected.

II. Master Examination

Section 15^{*1,3}

Admission to the Master Examination

- (1) The admission to the Master examination shall require an admission application upon notification for the First Exam achievement (registration).
- (2) The application for admission to the examination shall be accompanied by:
 1. the supporting documents of the fulfilment of the admission requirements specified in section 2; and
 2. a statement as to whether the examinee has made any attempts to take corresponding examinations or has already ultimately failed any studies of the Human-Computer Interaction programme or any programme with a considerable content proximity or is undergoing any other examination procedure. Programmes with a considerable content proximity shall include, but shall not be limited to, Interaction Design, Informatics, Applied Informatics and Business Informatics programmes.
- (3) The examination committee shall decide on the admission. Admission shall be rejected if
 1. the prerequisites specified in section 2 have not been met; or
 2. the documents are incomplete; or
 3. the student has ultimately failed any studies of the Human-Computer Interaction programme or any programme with a considerable content proximity; or
 4. the student is undergoing any other examination procedure of any programme with a considerable content proximity at a scientific university within the scope of application of the Germany University Framework Act and there are no outstanding reasons for any concurrent other examination procedure.

Section 16^{*1,2,3}

Scope of the Master Examination

- (1) The Master examination shall be comprised of the following parts (see appendix):
 1. the HCI compulsory modules with 33 CPs;
 2. the HCI compulsory optional modules with 42 CPs;
 3. the HCI compulsory optional complementary modules with 63 CPs;
 4. the HCI practical with 6 CPs;
 5. the Master project thesis with 9 CPs; and

6. the Master thesis with 30 CPs.
- (2) Passing of the Master examination shall require that
 1. the 33 CPs requested from the HCI compulsory area are rendered;
 2. the 24 CPs from the HCI compulsory optional area are rendered;
 3. the 18 CPs from the HCI compulsory optional complementary area are rendered;
 4. the practical (6 CPs) has been evaluated with the “passed” grade; and
 5. the Master project thesis (9 CPs) has at least been evaluated with “sufficient”; and
 6. the Master thesis (30 CPs) has at least been evaluated with “sufficient”.
 - (3) Any designations and allocation of modules and courses shall be defined in the module handbook.
 - (4) A free selection may be made within one compulsory optional module from the catalogue of related modules. If the compulsory optional modules have not yet been taken in full and more compulsory optional modules are taken than the number to be taken acc. to para. 2 no. 2 and 3 by registration for an examination date, the student concerned shall notify the examination office of the module to be involved at the time he/she registers for the respective examination. If the student concerned does not provide corresponding information, the module grade of the compulsory optional module examined earlier shall be authoritative.
 - (5) Within one compulsory optional module acc. to para. 1 no. 2 and 3, a one-time change of any selected alternative shall be possible for any compulsory optional module. The change may be effected only if the relevant final module examination has been passed or failed for the first time. The CPs acquired and/or the failed examination shall be deleted.
 - (6) The “Special HCI Aspects” (MA-HCI-B-6) and the “HCI Combi Seminars (2 Topics)” (MA-HCI-B-7) compulsory optional modules may be taken several times, unless the courses are the same.

Section 17^{*1}

Practical

- (1) A practical with a minimum duration of six (6) weeks must be performed during the studies. Any details shall be governed by Practical Regulations.
- (2) During the practical, the student shall become acquainted with the usual working processes and ranges of responsibilities within a company, undertaking or foreign research institute while cooperating in projects. The activities during the practical should be directly related to the contents imparted during the studies.
- (3) The practical must be performed in an undertaking, a company or a foreign research institute.
- (4) The practical shall be recognised as a study achievement if it has been evaluated by the respective examiners with the “passed” grade. For a practical evaluated with the “passed” grade, the examinee shall acquire 6 CPs.

Section 18^{*1}

Master Project Thesis

- (1) The Master project thesis may be rendered within a group or as an individual achievement. The scope shall be approx. 270 hours. The topic must originate from the Human-Computer Interaction area.
- (2) The topic of the Master project thesis may be assigned and supervised by any full-time university professor in the Business Informatics or Media Science programme.
- (3) For the Master project thesis evaluated with “sufficient” (4.0) or better, the examinee shall acquire 9 CPs.

- (4) Any Master project thesis evaluated with “insufficient” for the first time may be repeated once. Any second repetition of the Master project thesis shall be excluded.
- (5) If the Master project thesis has been evaluated worse than “sufficient” (4.0), the judgment of another appraiser shall be obtained additionally. The second appraiser shall be appointed by the examination committee. The grade of the Master project thesis shall subsequently be obtained from the arithmetic average of the individual evaluations.

Section 19^{*1}

Master Thesis

- (1) The Master thesis shall be an examination thesis completing the scientific education. It shall demonstrate that the student is able to analyse an issue from the subject area within a pre-defined period and to autonomously elaborate, apply and comprehensibly illustrate scientific methods and findings to describe or resolve the issue. The topic must originate from the Applied Informatics area. The examinee may present a proposed topic without any legal entitlement to the topic assignment.
- (2) Only such person who achieved at least 70 CPs and successfully passed the Master project thesis may be allowed to complete the Master thesis.
- (3) The topic of the Master thesis may be assigned and supervised by any full-time university professor in the Business Informatics or Media Science programme.
- (4) On the student’s application, the chairperson of the examination committee shall ensure that the student will be assigned a topic for the Master thesis in good time.
- (5) The editing time for the Master thesis shall be six months. In individual cases, the examination committee may extend the editing time for up to four weeks on a duly motivated request of the student if a corresponding application is filed in writing with the chairperson of the examination committee no later than two weeks before the submission date for the Master thesis. The present regulations shall be applied mutatis mutandis to any extension application acc. to section 7 and section 8 para. 1. The topic and the tasks of the Master thesis must be such that the period pre-defined for its editing can be complied with. The topic may be returned only once and only within the first four weeks of the editing period.
- (6) The Master thesis may be admitted in the form of a group thesis if, due to the specification of paragraphs, page numbers or any other objective criteria allowing for an unambiguous delimitation of the respective individual achievement, the contribution of the individual student which shall be evaluated as an examination achievement can be distinguished and evaluated and meets the requirements acc. to para. 1.
- (7) The Master thesis should be drawn up in German, but may also be drawn up in English with the supervisor’s consent. If drawn up in English, the English title shall be complemented by its German translation; additionally, a German abstract shall be put at the beginning. The Master thesis must not have been drawn up for any other examination, neither in whole nor in extracts.
- (8) Upon submission of the Master thesis, the student shall assure in writing that the final thesis or, in case of any group thesis, the correspondingly marked portion of the final thesis has been drawn up autonomously, that no sources and aids other than the ones specified have been used and that all quotations have been identified.
- (9) The Master thesis shall be delivered to the examination committee in due time in two bounded copies. In addition, an electronic version of the Master thesis shall be submitted on a suitable storage medium for plagiarism assessment purposes. The submission date shall be put on record. If the final thesis is not submitted in due time, it shall be deemed to have been evaluated with “insufficient” (5.0).
- (10) After submission of the Master thesis, the student must present and illustrate the thesis results within the framework of a colloquium. In this context, the presentation incl. subsequent discussion

shall serve to verify the autonomy of the achievement rendered and shall constitute the last examination achievement in terms of section 21 para. 3.

- (11) The Master thesis shall be appraised and evaluated by two examiners. One of the examiners should be the university professor having assigned the thesis topic. The second appraiser shall be appointed by the examination committee. The individual evaluation shall be made acc. to section 6 para. 3 and shall be substantiated in writing. The grade of the Master thesis shall be obtained from the arithmetic average of the individual evaluations, unless the difference is greater than 2.0. In case of any difference of greater than 2.0, the examination committee shall designate a third examiner to evaluate the Master thesis. In this case, the grade shall be obtained from the arithmetic average of the two better grades. However, the Master thesis may be evaluated "sufficient (4.0)" or better only if at least two grades are "sufficient (4.0)" or better.
- (12) The evaluation of the Master thesis shall be communicated to the examinee no later than eight weeks after the submission date.
- (13) Any failed Master thesis may be repeated once. Any second repetition of the Master thesis shall be excluded.
- (14) However, any return of the topic of the second Master thesis within the period specified in para. 4 shall be permitted only if the student has not made use of this option when drawing up the first Master thesis.

Section 20^{*1}

Completion of the Master Programme

- (1) The Master programme shall be deemed to have been passed if the student has acquired 120 CPs acc. to the stipulations of the present Examination regulations.
- (2) The overall grade of the Master examination shall be calculated from the weighted arithmetic average of the module grades, the Master project thesis and the Master thesis. The weighting shall equal the number of CPs. The overall grade of the passed Master examination shall be in line with the specification in section 6 para. 3.
- (3) The Master programme shall be deemed to have been ultimately failed if the student
 1. has failed the Master project thesis acc. to section 18 at the re-attempt;
 2. has failed the Master thesis acc. to section 19 at the re-attempt; or
 3. has failed any final module examination for the compulsory and compulsory optional modules acc. to section 16 para. 2 no. 1 to 3 for the third time.
- (4) The examinee shall be provided with a written notice of the ultimately failed Master examination. The notice shall include an instruction on the right to appeal.

Section 21^{*1}

Master Certificate, ToR and Diploma Supplement

- (1) The Master certificate shall document the completion qualifying for a profession of the Human-Computer Interaction Master programme.
- (2) If the studies have been successfully completed acc. to section 20, the Master examination shall be deemed to have been passed. In this case, a Master certificate, a Transcript of Records (ToR) and a Diploma Supplement (DiS) shall be issued without delay, within eight (8) weeks, if possible. They shall contain the following information:
 1. the name of the university (certificate, ToR and DiS);
 2. the name, date of birth and place of birth of the graduate (certificate, ToR and DiS);
 3. the designation of the programme ("Master of Science in Human-Computer Interaction") (certificate, ToR and DiS) and the standard period of study (DiS);

4. the designations and weighted average grades of the completed modules incl. the acquired CPs and the allocated ECTS levels (ToR);
 5. all credited CPs, specifying in each case the course, the number of CPs and the grade; for the Master project thesis and the Master thesis, the topic shall be specified additionally (ToR);
 6. the overall grade incl. the CPs acquired altogether and the allocated ECTS level (certificate and ToR; in the DiS, the overall grade shall be specified);
 7. on the student's application: the results of the examinations completed in the additional achievements, if applicable (ToR).
- (3) The date to be specified as the date of the Master certificate shall be the day on which the last examination achievement has been rendered. The Master certificate shall be undersigned by and provided with the seal of the chairperson or deputy chairperson of the examination committee.
 - (4) Besides the Master certificate, the university shall hand over a Diploma Supplement to the graduate. The Diploma Supplement shall contain, in particular, the information specified in para. 2 and general remarks on the type of degree, on the university awarding the degree and on the degree course and programme. The Diploma Supplement shall bear the same date as the certificate. The Diploma Supplement shall be undersigned by and provided with the seal of the chairperson of the examination committee.
 - (5) The certificate and the Diploma Supplement shall be issued in the German and English languages.
 - (6) If the studies have not been completed successfully, no certificate and no Diploma Supplement shall be handed out. On application, a certification of the examination achievements rendered incl. the CPs and grades achieved shall be issued.

Section 22^{*1}

Master's Degree Certificate

- (1) Concurrently with the certificate and the Diploma Supplement, the graduate shall be provided with a degree certificate with the date of the certificate. This degree certificate shall authenticate the awarding of the Master degree. The degree certificate shall be undersigned by and provided with the seal of the chairperson of the examination committee and the Dean.
- (2) The degree certificate shall be drawn up in the German and English languages.

III. Final Provisions

Section 23^{*1.3}

Invalidity of the Master Examination, Withdrawal of the Academic Degree

- (1) If the examinee has deceived during any examination and this fact becomes known only after the certificate was handed out, the examination committee may retroactively and accordingly correct the grades for those examination achievements, during whose provision the examinee has deceived, and may declare the examination as failed either in whole or in part.
- (2) If the requirements for the admission to any examination had not been met, without the examinee intending to deceive about this fact, and this fact becomes known only after the certificate was handed out, this defect shall be remedied by the examination being passed. If the examinee has wrongly obtained the admission with intent, the examination committee shall decide on the legal consequences, taking into account the Administrative Procedure Act for the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia as amended.
- (3) Before any decision is taken, the student concerned shall be provided with the opportunity to express himself/herself.
- (4) The incorrect examination certificate shall be drawn in and a new one shall be issued, if appropriate. Any decision acc. to para. 1 and para. 2 after a period of five years following issuance of the examination certificate shall be excluded.

- (5) If the examination has been declared as failed altogether, the Master degree shall be deprived and the corresponding degree certificate shall be drawn in. The examination committee shall decide on the deprivation. The revocation of the awarded degree shall be governed by Section 48 Para. 1 and 3 of the Administrative Procedure Act for the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The revocation shall be permitted only within five (5) years after the awarding of the degree. The period between the initiation and termination of any administrative procedure to examine the revocation of the awarded degree shall not be credited against the five-year period acc. to sentence 2.

Section 24^{*1}

Insight in the Examination Files

- (1) On written application, each graduate shall be granted insight into the examination files concerning him or her, in the related expert opinions of the appraisers and in the examination minutes.
- (2) The application shall be filed with the chairperson of the examination committed within one month after the certificate was handed out. The chairperson shall define the place and time of inspection.

Section 25^{*1}

Scope of Application

The present Examination Regulations shall apply to all students having enrolled for the first time for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master programme at the University of Siegen as from the 2011/12 winter semester.

Section 26^{*2}

Transitional Provisions

- (1) Any students having enrolled for the Human-Computer Interaction Master programme at the University of Siegen up to and incl. the 2014 summer semester may still complete their studies by the end of the 2017 summer semester acc. to the Examination Regulations for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master Programme of Faculty III - School of Economic Disciplines of the University of Siegen of 2 November 2011 (ON 36/2011) in the version applicable at the time of their enrolment. After that date, the Examination Regulations for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master Programme of Faculty III - School of Economic Disciplines of the University of Siegen of 2 November 2011 (ON 36/2011) in the then applicable version shall apply without limitation to these students. After the end of the 2017 summer semester, it shall no longer be possible to take any final examinations, seminars and project theses during the course of studies acc. to the Examination Regulations for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master Programme of Faculty III - School of Economic Disciplines of the University of Siegen of 2 November 2011 (ON 36/2011). The effective date for submitting the Master thesis shall be 31/03/2018.
- (2) Any students having enrolled for the first time for the Human-Computer Interaction Master programme between the 2011/2012 winter semester and the 2014 summer semester may already complete their studies beforehand on application acc. to the Examination Regulations for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master Programme of Faculty III - School of Economic Disciplines of the University of Siegen of 2 November 2011 (ON 36/2011) in the version applicable at the time the application is filed. The application shall be addressed to the Business Informatics examination committee in writing and shall be irrevocable. The change shall take place as of the semester following the filing of the application.
- (3) If the application is filed acc. to para. 2, the "Regulations of the Change of the ER for the Business Informatics Programmes" resolved by the faculty council of faculty III (see appendix) shall apply.

Section 27^{*1.2}

Entry Into Force and Publication

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This stipulation shall govern the entry into force and publication of the initial Examination Regulations. This announcement shall contain the versions applicable from 1 October 2014, 1 April 2015 and 1 October 2016.

READING VERSION

Appendix: Human-Computer Interaction Master Programme Module Overview^{*1,2,3}

HCI basis (57 CPs)		
Compulsory modules (33 CPs)		
MA-HCI-A-1	Computer-Supported Working and Learning (Computerunterstütztes Arbeiten und Lernen)	9 CPs
MA-HCI-A-1.1	Computer-Supported Collaborative Work (CSCW) (Computerunterstützte Gruppenarbeit) (CSCW)	3 SH
MA-HCI-A-1.2	Computer-Supported Cooperative Learning (CSCL) (Computerunterstütztes Lernen) (CSCL)	3 SH
MA-HCI-A-2	HCI	9 CPs
MA-HCI-A-2.1	Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)	3 SH
MA-HCI-A-2.2	User Experience Design (UXD)	3 SH
MA-HCI-A-3	User Orientation (Anwenderorientierung)	9 CPs
MA-HCI-A-3.1	Usability and Empirical Design Methods (Usability and empirische Designmethoden)	3 SH
MA-HCI-A-3.2	Occupational and Organisational Psychology (Arbeits- und Organisationspsychologie)	3 SH
MA-HCI-A-4	Artistic Design (Künstlerisches Gestalten)	3 SH / 6 CPs
Compulsory optional modules (24 CPs)		
MA-HCI-B-1	Integration of Organisational and Technology Development (Integration von Organisations- und Technikentwicklung)	3 SH / 6 CPs
MA-HCI-B-2	IT Management Control (IT-Controlling)	3 SH / 6 CPs
MA-HCI-B-3	GUI Development with Windows Presentation Foundation (GUI Entwicklung mit Windows Presentation Foundation)	3 SH / 6 CPs
MA-HCI-B-4	Information Management (Informationsmanagement)	3 SH / 6 CPs
MA-HCI-B-5	Decision Support Systems (Entscheidungsunterstützungssysteme)	3 SH / 6 CPs
MA-HCI-B-6	Special HCI Aspects (Spezielle Aspekte der HCI)	3 SH / 6 CPs
MA-HCI-B-7	HCI Combi Seminars (2 Topics) (HCI Kombi Seminare) (2 Themen)	4 SH / 6 CPs
MA-HCI-B-7.1	HCI Seminar	
Complementary modules (18 CPs)		
MA-HCI-C-1	New Media Management	9 CPs
MA-HCI-C-1.1	Introduction to Electronic Business	3 SH
MA-HCI-C-1.2	Electronic Commerce	3 SH
MA-HCI-C-2	IT Security	9 CPs
MA-HCI-C-2.1	Security and Privacy in Communication and Distributed Systems	2 SH
MA-HCI-C-2.2	Selected Areas in Security and Privacy	2 SH
MA-HCI-C-2.3	Hacker Practical (Hacker Praktikum)	2 SH
MA-HCI-C-3	Cultural Technique (Kulturtechnik)	9 CPs
MA-HCI-C-3.1	Theories of Cultural Techniques (Theorien der Kulturtechniken)	2 SH
MA-HCI-C-3.2	History and Practice of Cultural Techniques (Geschichte und Praxis von Kulturtechniken)	2 SH
MA-HCI-C-4	Media Aesthetics (Medienästhetik)	9 CPs
MA-HCI-C-4.1	Text OR Image (Text oder Bild)	2 SH
MA-HCI-C-4.2	Sound OR Film (Ton oder Film)	2 SH
MA-HCI-C-5	Cultural Sociology (Kultursoziologie)	9 CPs
MA-HCI-C-5.1	Media, Culture and Society (Medien, Kultur und Gesellschaft)	2 SH
MA-HCI-C-5.2	Paradigms and Cultural Sociology (Paradigmen der Kultursoziologie)	2 SH
MA-HCI-C-6	Statistics (Statistik)	9 CPs
MA-HCI-C-6.1	Inferential Statistics (Schließende Statistik)	2 SH
MA-HCI-C-6.2	Multivariate Analysis (Multivariate Statistik)	2 SH

MA-HCI-C-7	Legal Aspects (Medienrecht)	9 CPs
MA-HCI-C-7.1	Media Law I (Medienrecht I)	2 SH
MA-HCI-C-7.2	Media Law II (Medienrecht II)	2 SH
Other modules (45 CPs)		
MA-HCI-P-1	Practical in an undertaking or a foreign research institute (Praktikum Betrieb oder ausländisches Forschungsinstitut)	6 CPs
MA-HCI-P-2	MA project thesis (Projektarbeit MA)	9 CPs
MA-HCI-P-3	Master thesis (Masterarbeit)	30 CPs

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Appendix: Regulations of the Change of the ER for the Business Informatics Programmes^{*2}

Bachelor Business Informatics:

Any students studying in the Business Informatics Bachelor programme acc. to the Examination Regulations for the Business Informatics Bachelor Programme with the Bachelor of Science Degree at the University of Siegen of 8 May 2008 (ON 27/2008) in the version of 8 May 2008 (hereinafter: 2008 ER) may continue their studies on application acc. to the Examination Regulations for the Business Informatics Bachelor Programme with the Bachelor of Science Degree at the University of Siegen of 8 May 2008 (ON 27/2008) in the version applicable at the time the application is filed (hereinafter: ER NEW). The application shall be addressed to the Business Informatics examination committee in writing and shall be irrevocable. The change shall take place as of the semester following the filing of the application. In case of any change, the following regulations shall be complied with:

- Only fully completed modules shall be recognised.
- Final module examinations may already be taken before the change to the ER NEW.
- Any examination achievements which are not in line with the scope of CPs of the ER NEW shall be recognised for the allocated module to the maximum extent permitted acc. to the scope of CPs, even if the scope of CPs rendered acc. to the 2008 ER is lower. If the scope of CPs rendered acc. to the 2008 ER is greater, any further CPs shall not be taken into account.
- If any individual examinations have been passed in the 2008 ER for any courses jointly forming a module in the ER NEW, the relevant module examination shall be recognised in the ER NEW.
- The number of failed attempts recognised for any final module examination shall equal the number of failed attempts of such partial examination of the module that records the lowest number of failed attempts.
- “Project Seminar” (BA-WI-TM 7 / 2008 ER) shall be recognised for “BA Project Thesis” (BA-WI-TM 5 / ER NEW).
- “Proseminar” (BA-WI-TM 3.1 / 2008 ER) shall be recognised for “BA Seminar” (BA-WI-TM 4 / ER NEW).

Master Business Informatics:

Any students studying in the Business Informatics Master programme acc. to the Examination Regulations for the Business Informatics Master Programme with the Master of Science Degree at the University of Siegen of 8 May 2008 (ON 28/2008) in the version of 8 May 2008 (hereinafter: 2008 ER) may continue their studies on application acc. to the Examination Regulations for the Business Informatics Master Programme with the Master of Science Degree at the University of Siegen of 8 May 2008 (ON 28/2008) in the version applicable at the time the application is filed (hereinafter: ER NEW). The application shall be addressed to the Business Informatics examination committee in writing and shall be irrevocable. The change shall take place as of the semester following the filing of the application. In case of any change, the following regulations shall be complied with:

- Only fully completed modules shall be recognised.
- Final module examinations may already be taken before the change of the ER.
- Any examination achievements which are not in line with the scope of CPs of the ER NEW shall be recognised for the allocated module to the maximum extent permitted acc. to the scope of CPs, even if the scope of CPs rendered acc. to the 2008 ER is lower. If the scope of CPs rendered acc. to the 2008 ER is greater, any further CPs shall not be taken into account.
- If any individual examinations have been passed in the 2008 ER for any courses jointly forming a module in the ER NEW, the relevant module examination shall be recognised in the ER NEW.

- The number of failed attempts recognised for any final module examination shall equal the number of failed attempts of such partial examination of the module that records the lowest number of failed attempts.
- “Special Business Informatics Aspects” (MA-WI-TM 1.13 / 2008 ER) or “Software Development in Organisations” (MA-WI-TM 1.6 / 2008 ER) or “IT Management Control” (MA-WI-TM 1.8 / 2008 ER) or “Data Warehousing” (MA-WI-TM 1.10 / 2008 ER) or “Development of Distributed Systems” (MA-WI-TM 1.11 / 2008 ER) or “IT Security Management” (MA-WI-TM / 2008 ER) shall be recognised for “Special Business Informatics Aspects” (MA-WI-TA-7.2 / ER NEW). Furthermore, alternatively, “Special Business Informatics Aspect” (MA-WI-TM / 2008 ER) shall be recognised for “BI Seminar” (MA-WI-TA-7.1 / ER NEW).
- “Infonomics” (MA-WI-TM 1.1 / 2008 ER) and “Product Life Cycle Management” (MA-WI-TM 1.2 / 2008 ER) shall be jointly recognised for the “Operational Information Systems” module examination (MA-WI-A-3 / ER NEW).
- If at least three partial examinations have been passed in the “Specialised BA” (MA-WI-TM 5A to MA-WI-TM 5I / 2008 ER), the three partial examinations with the best grades shall be jointly recognised for the corresponding “Specialised BA” module examination (MA-WI-C-1-A to MA-WI-C-1-I / ER NEW). The module grade shall be obtained from the arithmetic average of the module achievements to be recognised. If the fourth partial examination is taken in the 2014/2015 winter semester or later, this partial examination may not be taken into account for the recognition.
- “Media Management” (MA-WI-TM-4 / 2008 ER) shall be credited for “New Media Management” (MA-WI-C-2-B / ER NEW).
- “Introduction to the Problems of the European Economy” (MA-WI-TM 6.1 / 2008 ER) shall be recognised for “Introduction to the European Economic Policy” (MA-WI-C-2-A / ER NEW).

Master Human-Computer Interaction:

Any students studying in the Human-Computer Interaction Master programme acc. to the Examination Regulations for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master Programme of Faculty III - School of Economic Disciplines at the University of Siegen of 2 November 2011 (ON 36/2011) in the version of 2 November 2011 (hereinafter: 2011 ER) may continue their studies on application acc. to the Examination Regulations for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master Programme of Faculty III - School of Economic Disciplines at the University of Siegen of 2 November 2011 (ON 36/2011) in the version applicable at the time the application is filed (hereinafter: ER NEW). The application shall be addressed to the Business Informatics examination committee in writing and shall be irrevocable. The change shall take place as of the semester following the filing of the application. In case of any change, the following regulations shall be complied with:

- Only fully completed modules shall be recognised.
- Final module examinations may already be taken before the change to the ER.
- Any examination achievements which are not in line with the scope of CPs of the ER NEW shall be recognised for the allocated module to the maximum extent permitted acc. to the scope of CPs, even if the scope of CPs rendered acc. to the 2011 ER is lower. If the scope of CPs rendered acc. to the 2011 ER is greater, any further CPs shall not be taken into account.
- If any individual examinations have been passed in the 2011 ER for any courses jointly forming a module in the ER NEW, the relevant module examination shall be recognised in the ER NEW.
- The number of failed attempts recognised for any final module examination shall equal the number of failed attempts of such partial examination of the module that records the lowest number of failed attempts.
- “Infonomics” (MA-HCI-B-4 / 2011 ER) shall be recognised for “Information Management” (MA-HCI-B-4 / ER NEW).

- “Software Development in Organisations” (MA-HCI-B-1 / 2011 ER) shall be recognised for “Integration of Organisational and Technology Development” (MA-HCI-B-1 / ER NEW).
- If at least two partial examinations have been passed in the “Media Management” (MA-HCI-C-1 / 2011 ER), “Cultural Basics of Media Science” (MA-HCI-C-3 / 2011 ER), “Media Aesthetics” (MA-HCI-C-3 / 2011 ER) and “Media and Society” (MA-HCI-C-5 / 2011 ER) complementary modules, the two partial examinations with the best grades shall be recognised as “New Media Management” (MA-HCI-C-1 / ER NEW) or “Cultural Technique” (MA-HCI-C-3 / ER NEW) or “Media Aesthetics” (MA-HCI-C-4 / ER NEW) or “Cultural Sociology” (MA-HCI-C-5 / ER NEW) module examination. The module grade shall be obtained from the arithmetic average of the module achievements to be recognised. If the third partial examination is taken in the 2014/2015 winter semester or later, this partial examination may not be taken into account for the recognition.

READING VERSION

^{*1} Table of Contents, section 2, section 4, section 6, section 7, section 8, section 9, section 10, section 11, section 12, section 13, section 14, section 15, section 16, section 17, section 18, section 19, section 20, section 21, section 22, section 23, section 24, section 25, section 26 and appendix modified by Official Notification 65/2014 "Regulations Amending the Examination Regulations for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master Programme of Faculty III - School of Economic Disciplines of the University of Siegen of 10 July 2014, entered into force on 1 October 2014, resolved on 4 June 2014 and 9 July 2014.

^{*2} Table of Contents, section 16, section 26, section 27 and appendix modified by Official Notification 58/2015 "Second Regulations Amending the Examination Regulations for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master Programme" of the University of Siegen of 4 May 2015, entered into force on 1 April 2015, resolved on 10 December 2014.

^{*3} Table of Contents, section 2, section 9, section 10, section 10a, section 14, section 15, section 16, section 23 and appendix modified by Official Notification 57/2016 "Third Regulations Amending the Examination Regulations for the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Master Programme of Faculty III - School of Economic Disciplines" of the University of Siegen of 20 June 2016, entered into force on 1 October 2016, resolved on 8 June 2016.

READING VERSION