

This is a translation of the original German document. For all legal purposes, solely the German version of the examination regulations shall be considered binding.

Examination regulations

**for the Master's program in
Integrated Design
with the study courses
»Interdisciplinary Studies in Design« and
»European Studies in Design«**

**conferring the degree
Master of Arts (M.A.)
of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences
at Cologne University of Applied Sciences**

of

November 20, 2014

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), Cologne University of Applied Sciences has determined the following examination regulations by statute:

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I. General information

Section 1 Applicability of the examination regulations; catalog of modules

(1) These examination regulations (*PO*) are to administer the studies and examinations in the Master's program in »Integrated Design« at Köln International School of Design (KISD) of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences at Cologne University of Applied Sciences. The degree program divides into the study courses »Interdisciplinary Studies in Design« and »European Studies in Design«.

(2) The regulations stated hereinafter apply for both study courses, if not specifically indicated otherwise

(3) Based on these examination regulations, Cologne University of Applied Sciences is to create a program schedule curriculum (Annex) and a catalog of modules. Taking into account developments in the fields of science and university teaching as well as profession-specific requirements, the catalog of modules is to outline the course contents and structure of the Master's program. The program schedule curriculum is to provide students with a guideline for adequately scheduling their studies.

(4) The study course »European Studies in Design« is conducted at present in cooperation with six European institutions of higher education:

- Communication and Art Department, University of Aveiro, Aveiro (Portugal),
- Glasgow School of Art (Scotland),
- Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture Helsinki (Finland),
- Konstfack University, Stockholm (Sweden),
- E.N.C.S.I. (Les Ateliers), Paris (France),
- Politecnico di Milano (Italy).

(5) The curriculum of the three semester Master's degree program in »European Studies in Design« stipulates that students spend their first semester abroad at a European partner university. For their second semester, the students return to study at KISD where they complete their degree program in the third semester with the Master's examination.

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 no. 3 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 (section 4) is designed to convey mainly design- and problem-solving oriented contents of the discipline on the basis of scientific findings. It also is to enable students to analyze processes and problems of design, to find interdisciplinary 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 of the mandatory modules are to be taught in English; electives are to be taught in German or English.

(4) The Master's program is consecutive to the Bachelor's program in »Integrated Design« at Cologne University of Applied Sciences.

(5) The Master's examination (section 5) is to determine whether the examinee has attained 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 a university degree in a Design program with a minimum degree of Bachelor of Arts, or a different university degree pertaining to the field of design which comprises at least 210 ECTS credits. Moreover, potential students are to attest to their program-related aptitude and to a good command of the English language (subsection 4). Decisions on whether a degree pertains to the field of design are to be made by an admissions committee appointed by the KISD. For applicants who were not enrolled in the Bachelor's program in »Integrated Design«, KISD is to offer preparatory courses that applicants might be required to participate in. Decisions on this matter are to be made individually by the admissions committee as part of the placement test. Prospective students applying to the study course »European Studies in Design« additionally are to have completed at least three semesters at two of the in section 1 (4) listed partner universities.

(2) Applicants with a Bachelor's degree which comprises less than 210 ECTS credits are given the opportunity to earn up to 30 ECTS credits until registering for the Master's thesis in courses of the Bachelor's degree program »Integrated Design«. Applicants with adequate aptitude at the time of enrollment in the Master's degree program may receive recognition of pertinent practice oriented experiences earned after the Bachelor's degree and awarded with up to 30 ECTS credits. The decision about the pertinent transfer is to be carried out by the admissions committee.

(3) The admissions committee as stipulated in subsection 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 is to be made up of three KISD professors and is to be elected annually. Should the program director or his/her deputy not be among the elected members of the admissions committee, he/she is to be made an additional member. The committee is to decide on the admission of applicants.

(4) Applicants are required to attest to English skills at the B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The assessment of skills is to be carried out by the admissions committee during the application process. For applicants with particular artistic aptitude, the admissions committee may forgo the assessment of English skills during the application process and require them to provide the according proof by the end of the second semester after enrollment instead. In such cases, applicants are to be enrolled under the condition that they provide proof of their English skills in time.

(5) Applicants who possess the qualifications as stipulated in subsection 1 and have additionally acquired knowledge and skills in ways other than 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 (12) of the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act, unless regulations on admission procedures conflict with this provision. Details are to be stipulated by the examination board taking the regulations on placement exams of Cologne University of Applied Sciences into account.

(6) Applicant's holding a Bachelor's degree with a final cumulative grade 1.7 or better (in the German grading system or equivalent) in »Integrated Design« with the study course »European Studies in Design« are to be automatically admitted to the study course »European Studies in Design« of the Master's degree program. If the applicant earned a grade below 1.7 (in German grading system) in a Bachelor's degree

program, he/she is to take the placement test as stipulated in subsection 8. The committee is to decide on the admission of the applicant.

(7) In exceptional cases the admission to the degree program can be granted before the acquisition of the admission requirements as stipulated in subsection 1-5, if the proof is provided at the latest within one semester after the beginning of the degree program.

(8) The required program-related aptitude as stipulated section 1 is to be determined in a separate aptitude assessment by the admissions committee. The applicant's merits are to be evaluated by the admission committee overall according to the following criteria:

- applicant's experiences (practice, university, research) – previous experiences (academic, practice oriented experiences) in the field of design, reflection of these previous experiences,
- independence and confidence in creative work,
- the ability to grasp and depict complex ideas of design and to connect them with other discourses/disciplines,
- the ability to reflective articulation,
- the ability to (e.g. visually) transform circumstances and to attain both interdisciplinary cognitive processes and interdisciplinary communication processes,
- distinctive competence and motivation to work conceptually.

In the study course »Interdisciplinary Studies in Design« the placement procedure consists of two levels:

1. a written application containing the following documents:
 - portfolio,
 - at least one letter of recommendation (reference) issued by professional or academic institutions or organizations,
 - letter of motivation,
 - description of the applicant's expectations in regard to the degree program.
2. in case of aptitude in the first level, a degree program related interview will be conducted (in case of international applicants, a video conference is possible and additional inquiries by email if necessary).

In the study course » European Studies in Design « the placement procedure consists of two levels:

1. a written application containing the following documents:
 - portfolio,
 - letter of motivation,
2. a program-related interview (in case of international applicants, a video conference is possible and additional inquiries by email if necessary).

The results of the placement test are to be respectively put on record in the aptitude assessments.

(9) The determination of the program-related aptitude is to be in effect for the admissions period during which it was made as well as for the admissions period which immediately succeeds it.

(10) Admission is to be denied if the applicant has - within the jurisdiction of the German constitution - irreversibly failed the Master's, Diplom or any other final examination in the degree program »Integrated Design« or has lost the right to take examinations in this program. Admission is also to be denied if the applicant has - within the jurisdiction of the German constitution - irreversibly failed a comparable mandatory examination pertaining to the field of design in a different degree program with a substantial content-related proximity to the degree program »Integrated Design« or has lost the right to take this examination.

Section 4 Standard program duration; scope of the program

- (1) The standard duration of the Master's program is three semesters. In compliance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), students are awarded a total of 90 ECTS credits (section 12). The standard duration of the program includes the examination period.
- (2) The program is segmented into individual modules. See section 23 for details on the program structure.
- (3) Students are enrolled in the program's first semester each summer semester.
- (4) The curriculum of the study course »European Studies in Design« stipulates that students spend their first (graduates of the Bachelor's degree program in »Integrated Design«, study course »European Studies in Design« their second) semester at one of the international partner universities listed in section 1 (4). For their second and third semester the students return to study full-time or part-time at KISD.
- (5) In compliance with section 59 of the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act, students have the right to attend courses outside their chosen program.

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; publication and final oral examination/Final Thesis Defence). Group examinations are permissible.
- (2) Module examinations are to be held when the corresponding module has been concluded according to the catalog of modules. The program schedule curriculum is to guarantee that the examinee is able to take all module examinations until the end of the third program semester.
- (3) In compliance with section 26, the registration for the final part of the Master's examination is to be filed at the beginning of the last semester within the standard program duration. Registration is only possible if all required modules (comprising at least 60 ECTS credits) have been passed by then.
- (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 normally to be held in the English language.

Section 6 Examination board

- (1) The KISD 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 to be an independent body of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences.
- (2) The examination board is to be elected by the executive committee of the institute and to be confirmed by the faculty council. It 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 faculty 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.

(4) meetings of the examination board are to be recorded in writing; the decisions are to be put on record.

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 examination 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 catalog of modules and the curricula. 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 during the very 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 official 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 or 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. Only persons who completed at least a respective Master's or an equivalent examination or who are holding an equivalent qualification

may be appointed co-examiners (competent co-examiners). Examiners are independent for examination purposes.

(2) The examinee may suggest one or more examiners for his or her oral examinations. He or she may also suggest an examiner to be his or her thesis advisor. 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. The chairperson of the examination board is to ensure that the examinee will be informed about his or 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 or via an electronic examination management system is deemed sufficient.

Section 10 Recognition of examinations and assessments

(1) Examinations and assessments completed in the same program at different universities within the jurisdiction of the German constitution are to be officially recognized.

(2) Examinations and assessments completed in the completed in different degree programs within the jurisdiction of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region of 11 April 1997 (*Bundesgesetzblatt (BGBl.) II 2007, p. 712*) - so-called Lisbon Recognition Convention, may be recognized upon request, if they do not evidently, significantly differ from the required examinations and assessments. If the recognition cannot be granted, a reasonable decision is to be issued.

(3) Examinations and assessments completed in degree programs outside the jurisdiction of the Lisbon Recognition Convention may to be recognized upon request in accordance with subsection 2.

(4) Qualifications acquired outside the degree program, may be recognized as examinations and assessments upon request, provided that the underlying examinations and assessments are deemed equivalent. Recognition of such qualifications may be granted with at most half the number of credits designated in the current degree program.

(5) Recognized examinations and assessments will receive the equivalent amount of credits according to the program schedule curriculum (Annex). Non-graded courses completed at different universities or in other degree programs are to be recognized according to the subsections 1-3. They will be accordingly marked on the Master's certificate and not accounted for in the calculation of the final cumulative grade.

(6) The examination board is the decision-making body when it comes to the recognition of examinations and assessments, as laid out in subsections 1-5. In cases of doubt, it is to consult the examiners responsible for the individual courses.

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 taken throughout of the Master's program as well as the Master's thesis and the final oral examination 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 or should the module examination be made up of several individual components the grade is to be determined by the arithmetic mean of the individual grades.

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

1.0/1.3	= excellent	= an excellent examination
1.7/2.0/2.3	= good	= an examination well above average requirements
2.7/3.0/3.3	= satisfactory	= an examination that meets average requirements
3.7/4.0	= sufficient	= an examination that meets the requirements despite its shortcomings
5	= insufficient	= an examination 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 at least »sufficient«.

(7) The evaluation of examinations is to be completed within six weeks' time. Students are to be informed about the results; posting the results on the corresponding bulletin board or 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 catalog of modules amounts to 60 ECTS credits per academic year (full-time studies). 1 ECTS 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 60 ECTS credits are required to successfully graduate from the Master's program.

(4) The program schedule curriculum (Annex) gives an overview of the number of credits assigned to the individual modules, to the Master's thesis and if applicable to the final oral examination; the catalog of modules provides detailed information.

(5) Credits obtained in accordance with the ECTS at other universities within and outside the jurisdiction of the German constitution are to be recognized in accordance with section 10 with at most the number of credits designated in the current program.

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

The certificate awarded to graduates in accordance with section 31 (1) is to list also a relative grading of the final cumulative grade in accordance with the ECTS Grading Table. The degree program is to make up the reference group within which all final cumulative grades awarded for at least two years are compiled and the grade distribution is calculated according to the respective percentages. The table containing the grading percentage is a part of the diploma supplement as stipulated in section 31 (7).

Section 14 Retaking examinations

(1) Students may retake module examinations if they do not pass them or if the examinations are deemed not passed. If a student did not pass a module examination that is made up of several individual components or a combination of different types of examination, he/she only has to retake the components which he/she did not pass. 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. While calculating the deadline for retaking examinations in accordance with subsection 4 and 6, the mandatory or optional internship semester, semesters abroad or leave of absence are not considered.

(2) If a student does not pass the Master's thesis or the 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.

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 time stipulated. 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 invigilator 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 invigilator, 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.

(4) Non-permissible means are all documents or tools which have not explicitly been approved for the respective examination. If the examination is completed in written form, the usage of other authors' intellectual property (text passages, pictures, statistics etc.) is to be identified as such by citation. In the case of plagiarism allegations, an examination retake may be subject fulfillment of conditions, e.g. a successful participation in a seminar or a workshop on scientific working techniques. In the case of extreme plagiarism (entire usage of longer text passages which have not been identified as citations) or in the case of multiple or other severe cheating attempts, the examination board may rule the examination as irreversibly failed.

II. Module examinations

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 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, whether they acquired the required competencies and whether they are capable of independently applying the knowledge and skills acquired.

(2) On the basis of the courses offered, the examination requirements are to be aligned with the learning outcomes defined for the individual module and outlined in the catalog of modules. Students may be required to be familiar with relevant contents of previous modules. Courses can be taught and examinations can be held in English. Section 23 and 24, the program schedule curriculum (Annex 1) and the module catalog are to provide detailed information.

(3) A module's type of examination depends on the requirements of the individual module. Admissible types of examination are written examinations (sections 19 and 20) with an allocated time frame of at least one clock hour and three clock hours at the most, oral examinations (section 21) of 10 to 30 minutes duration per examinee and other types of examination (section 22) as well as combinations of the aforementioned types of examination. 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.

(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. If no specific weighting applies, the final grade is to be determined by the arithmetic mean of the individual grades.

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 examinations pertaining to a particular course, the regulations stipulated in subsection 5 apply.

(5) 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. During this time span, the examiner is to announce the schedule of examinations. Posting the results on the corresponding bulletin board or via an electronic examination management system is deemed sufficient. Section 18 (1) sentence 2 shall not apply.

Section 17 Admission to module examinations

(1) Students are to register for examinations within the registration period stipulated by the examination board via the electronic registration/deregistration process provided by the Office of Student and Examination Services. Under specific circumstances, students may alternatively file a written registration with the Office of Student and Examination Services (or the examination board of the degree program concerned). 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 or registered at Cologne University of Applied Sciences as current students
2. are cross-registered students pursuant to section 52 (1 and 2) of the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act and have neither taken an examination in the subject concerned as regular students nor have they registered for one.

(3) Students may be required to pass other module examinations in order for them to be admitted to a module examination; see section 24 and the program schedule curriculum (Annex) for detailed information.

(4) The optional required modules (*Wahlpflichtmodule*) in which the student intends to take 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 previously:

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 endeavors 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.

(6) Students may revoke the registration for a module examination in writing with the Office of Student and Examination Services or - if activated - via the electronic registration/deregistration process provided by the Office of Student and Examination Services up until seven days prior to the set examination date. By doing so, students will not be charged with an additional 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
- b) the documents are incomplete and the examinee does not submit the remaining ones by the date set by the examination board

- 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.
- d) the examinee has – within the jurisdiction of the German constitution – lost the right to take an examination deemed required by the examination regulations.

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, for instance by having failed to meet a deadline for retaking examinations.

Section 18 Conduct of module examinations

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

(2) Students are to be informed about the individual examination dates and about their admission to the 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 or chronic disease pursuant to section 3 of the German Act on Equal Opportunities for Disabled Persons (*Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz*), the chairperson of the examination board may extend the time frame allotted for writing an examination or the deadline for taking an examination. The chairperson may also allow the student to take an equivalent examination in a different form. If several equivalent ways of offsetting a disabled person's disadvantage come into consideration, the chairperson of the examination board is to decide on the type, date and duration of the examination at his/her discretion after having duly considered all circumstances. This provision also applies to assessments and admission tests. In exceptional cases, sentences 1 to 4 also apply to persons with temporary health impairments. Affected students are to file a request for offsetting their disadvantage in due time prior to the individual examination.

(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 19 Written examinations

(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 by the module by means of common scientific methods of his/her subject field.

(2) A written examination is to be held under supervision. It is the examiner's responsibility to decide as to whether students may 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 jointly determine prior to the examination how the

individual elements of the examination shall be weighted; regardless of these elements and their weighting, every examiner evaluates the entire examination. Notwithstanding the examination board can determine that an examiner is to evaluate only the element of the written examination corresponding with his/her subject field. In such a case, the evaluation takes place according to the previously determined weighting of the individual elements. Section 18 (5) shall remain unaffected.

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

Section 20 Written multiple-choice examinations

(1) Solely upon stipulation of the examination board 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 questions answered correctly 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, unless section 18 (5) applies, 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, unless one of the provisions set down in section 18 (5) applies. 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. See the catalog of modules for detailed information.

(2) Other types of examination are usually evaluated by one examiner, unless one of the provisions set down in section 18 (5) applies.

(3) A written paper (e.g. case study, research) is to determine whether the examinee is capable of independently solving a subject-specific assignment by means of written communication within a given time frame, using scientific and subject-related methods. The topic and the length (e.g. the number of pages of the written text) of the written paper are to be determined by the examiner at the beginning of the semester. The grade is to be announced to the examinee one week after the submission of the written paper at the latest.

(4) An oral examination (e.g. presentation, negotiation, moderation) is to determine whether the examinee is capable of independently solving and professionally presenting a practice-oriented assignment by means of verbal communication within a given time frame, using scientific and subject-related methods. The duration of an oral presentation is to be determined by the examiner at the beginning of the semester. Minutes are to be kept about facts that are essential for the grading of an oral presentation. The grade is to be announced to the examinee one week after the oral examination at the latest.

(5) Written papers and oral examinations may be completed as part of a joint team project if the individual student's contribution to be evaluated as examination is clearly distinguishable and can be assessed accordingly. In order to verify a student's contribution, aspects such as passages, fields or work, page numbers (in written 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 catalog of modules, unless individually determined by the examination board (section 16 (4); sentence 1). Information on electing modules and courses is provided and explained in detail in the catalog of modules.

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

(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 cumulative grade. When registering for an examination, the examinee is to determine the course that is to function as additional module. This decision is to be considered binding.

Section 24 Module examinations

(1) Students are required to take the following module examinations in the study program »Interdisciplinary Studies in Design« with the respective weighting of the grades for the final cumulative grade:

1. »Integrated« (22 ECTS credits, factored in with 15 percent of the final cumulative grade)
2. »Interdisciplinary« (25 ECTS credits, factored in with 20 percent of the final cumulative grade)
3. »Relate & Reflect I« (5 ECTS credits, factored in with 5 percent of the final cumulative grade)
4. »Relate & Reflect II« (5 ECTS credits, factored in with 5 percent of the final cumulative grade)
5. »Relate & Reflect III« (5 ECTS credits, factored in with 5 percent of the final cumulative grade)

(2) Students are required to take the following module examinations in the study program »European Studies in Design« with the respective weighting of the grades for the final cumulative grade:

1. »International« (25 ECTS credits, factored in with 15 percent of the final cumulative grade)
2. »Interdisciplinary« (25 ECTS credits, factored in with 20 percent of the final cumulative grade)
3. »Relate & Reflect I« (5 ECTS credits, factored in with 5 percent of the final cumulative grade)
4. »Relate & Reflect II« (5 ECTS credits, factored in with 5 percent of the final cumulative grade)
5. »Relate & Reflect III« (5 ECTS credits, factored in with 5 percent of the final cumulative grade)

In the module examination »International« (25 ECTS credits) students earn the attributed ECTS credits during their first semester at a European partner university based on the range of courses offered there. The international partner universities are to certify the amount of credits earned. The chairperson of the examination board is to decide on the recognition of the module examinations completed at the partner universities abroad and whether exceptions apply.

IV. Master's thesis and final oral examination

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

(1) The Master's thesis is to be submitted as a design work including a written elaboration (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 theses, students should take an interdisciplinary collaboration into consideration.

(2) The Master's thesis is to be supervised and examined by two equal advisers (supervisors). The supervisors are appointed by the examination board. Suggestions made by the students are to be taken into account.

(3) The topic of the Master's thesis may be determined by any professor who is appointed as examiner 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 about the topic of their Master's thesis. In specific cases, the Master's thesis may also be supervised by conditionally appointed examiners from other faculties as stipulated in section 9 (1).

(4) 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.

(5) A Master's thesis may also be written as part of a joint team project if the individual student's contribution to be evaluated as examination 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 indicated.

(6) The Master's thesis is to be written in the English language.

Section 26 Admission to the Master's thesis

(1) Students are permitted to write their 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 ECTS 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 endeavors to write a Master's thesis or another final examination and on endeavors to take the Master's examination
3. statement on which two examiners are 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« and may not be written again, 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, for instance 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 about 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 fourteen weeks to write the Master's thesis (starting with the time of assignment to the day of submission). The topic and assignment 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 advisers are to be consulted on the request.

(3) 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 the writing of his/her first Master's thesis.

(4) Section 18 (4) applies accordingly.

(5) Upon the students' request the allocated time frame for writing the Master's thesis can be shortened and the examinations can be brought forward.

Section 28 Submission and evaluation of the Master's thesis; presentation

(1) Students are to submit three hardcover copies (as well as one PDF file on a data storage device) of their Master's thesis to the chairperson of the examination board, or at a location determined by the chairperson, by the deadline of submission. Submitting the thesis via means of telecommunication is only permissible in exceptional cases which are to have been approved in advance in written form by the examination board (e.g. when the student is taking a semester abroad during the examination period). The time of submission is to be put on record; if the thesis is submitted by 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 has been marked accordingly – and has used no other than the sources and means indicated and stated in quotations.

(2) The Master's thesis is to be evaluated by three examiners. Two of the examiners are to be the thesis advisers (supervisors). The third examiner (co-examiner) is to be determined by the examination board. If section 25 (3) sentence 2 and 3 applies, he/she must be a professor. If the examiners' evaluations differ from each, the grade for the Master's thesis is calculated by the arithmetic mean of both 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.

(3) The student is to present the thesis to the examiners within one week after submission at the latest. This presentation is to be held in person and is to be open to other students and university members. The type of presentation may be chosen individually. The presentation is not a component of the final oral examination (Final Thesis Defence). It is to be evaluated by means of a partial grade, which is to be factored in with 20 percent in the grading of the Master's thesis. Only on the basis of this presentation will the examiners decide as to whether the student has passed the thesis.

(4) In compliance with section 12, students are awarded a total of 23 ECTS credits for passing the Master's thesis and the presentation (subsection 3) and 2 ECTS credits for the final oral examination.

(5) Should a student not pass the Master's thesis including the presentation, he/she may rewrite it once.

Section 29 Final oral examination (Final Thesis Defence)

(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 two weeks after the submission of the Master's thesis. It

is to determine whether the student 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.

- (2) Students may only be admitted to the final oral examination if they
 1. have passed all module examinations
 2. are enrolled or admitted as students or auditors in compliance with section 52 (2) of the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act and
 3. have received a grade of at least »sufficient« for their Master's thesis including the presentation.
- (3) The examination board is to inform students about the dates of their final oral examination (Final Thesis Defence) by posting them on the bulletin boards or via an electronic examination management system.
- (4) The final oral examination is normally to be held and evaluated by the examiners of the Master's thesis.
- (5) The duration of the final oral examination is approximately 30 minutes. The provisions laid down for oral examinations (section 21) apply accordingly.
- (6) Should a student not pass the final oral examination, he/she may retake it once.
- (7) Students who pass the Master's thesis (including the presentation) and the final oral examination (Final Thesis Defence) are awarded a total of 25 ECTS credits in accordance with section 12. The Master's thesis and final oral examination are to be evaluated with a final cumulative grade. The Master's thesis (including the presentation) is to be weighted by 80 percent and the final oral examination by 20 percent.

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 90 ECTS 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 after 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 cumulative grade of the Master's examination is partly determined by the weighted grades in the module examinations in accordance with section 24 (1 or 2) and partly by the final cumulative grade for the Master's examination and the final oral examination (Final Thesis Defence).

(3) In accordance with section 23 (3), grades for the additional courses listed are not accounted for in the calculation of the final cumulative grade of the Master's examination.

(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 diploma along with the examination certificate, bearing the date stated on the latter. The diploma 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 Cultural Sciences or by the chairperson of the examination board and is to bear the seal of Cologne University of Applied Sciences.

(7) Alongside the examination certificate and diploma, graduates are to receive a diploma supplement in the English language which corresponds to the guidelines and agreements of the German Rectors' Conference. The diploma supplement is to be signed by the program director and the chairperson of the examination board.

VI. Final provisions

Section 32 Inspection of examination papers

(1) 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 after the grade for the module examination was published 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 certificate and the certifications mentioned in section 30 (2) sentences 3 and 5 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 certificate or the certification mentioned in section 30 (2) sentences 3 and 5 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, Master's certificate or diploma supplement or the incorrect certification mentioned in section 30 (2) sentences 3 and 5 are to be taken back and reissued if need be. A decision pursuant to subsection 1 is to be ruled out after five years have passed since the examination certificate or certification mentioned in section 30 (2) sentences 3 and 5 were issued.

Section 34 Entry into force; transitional provisions

(1) The examination regulations for the Master's program in Integrated Design enter into force as of September 1, 2014 and are to be published in Cologne University of Applied Sciences' official communication (*Amtliche Mitteilungen*).

(2) These examination regulations apply with exception of subsection 3 to all students who have enrolled or will enroll in the Master's program in »Integrated Design« at Cologne University of Applied Sciences as of March 1, 2015.

(3) The examination regulations for the Master's program »Integrated Design« at Cologne University of Applied Sciences of July 20, 2012 (*Amtliche Mitteilung 12/2012*) as well as the examination regulations for the degree program »European Studies in Design« conferring the degrees Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts at the Köln International School of Design of Cologne University of Applied Sciences of August 1, 2006 (*Amtliche Mitteilung 16/2006*) will cease to be in force as of August 31, 2016.

(4) The examination regulations are published on the basis of the resolution of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences at Cologne University of Applied Sciences of October 23, 2014 and after legal review by the President's Office of Cologne University of Applied Sciences on November 12, 2014.

Cologne, November 20, 2014

The President
of Cologne University of Applied Sciences
(Prof. Dr.-Ing. Chr. Seeßelberg)

Annex:
Program schedule curriculum

This is a translation of the original German examination regulations.

Cologne, July 22, 2015

Cologne University of Applied Sciences
On behalf of the President

Anna Dykta – Translator (Dipl.-Übersetzerin)

Program schedule curriculum

Master's program »Integrated Design«

MA Integrated Design: Interdisciplinary Studies in Design



9 ECTS für einzelne Lehrveranstaltungen / Module
 Ergebnis der Lehrveranstaltung ist Bestandteil der jew. Modulprüfung