

**Mitteilungen der
Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen**

7.36.03 No 10

Special Regulation for the Master's programme in
Democracy and Governance

**Special Regulation for the Master's programme in
Democracy and Governance
of 9 June 2009**

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Tabular presentation of the version information

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Supplementing the General Regulations for modular and multi-stage study programmes (AllB) at JLU of 21 July 2004 (Official Gazette, p. 2154), Faculty 03 – Social Sciences and Cultural Studies of Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU) has adopted the following Special Regulation.

Article 1 (Article 1(1) of the General Regulations)

The Master's programme in Democracy and Governance leads to a professional qualification (degree) and lasts four semesters.

Article 2 (Article 1(2) of the General Regulations)

The Master's programme leads to a qualification in key areas of advanced political studies. A special feature is the focus on problems related to democracy and cooperation in the global context. Students are systematically familiarised with new research results and gradually involved in their development. Students are prepared for careers at the interface between politics, business and society (political parties, foundations and professional associations, national and international non-governmental organisations, trade unions and business enterprises, international organisations), within the administrative system of the Federal Republic of Germany (public authorities and administrative services at national, regional and municipal level), in marketing and media and at business consultancies in the sphere of education (e.g. adult education, further professional/vocational education) and for positions at international organisations (e.g. the EU and the United Nations). The programme equips next-generation researchers, following their MA studies, to develop their own independent dissertation projects. The study programme is suitably internationally oriented, with some of the courses being run in English (further details are provided in the module descriptions, see Annex 2). Particular specialisations are, for example, the theory and empiricism of modern democracies, democratisation processes, democracy and governance research methods, global governance and international integration. Advanced knowledge is conveyed in the fields of political science and related research results (government and governance, policy fields, standards and institutions). Individual modules also cover interdisciplinary knowledge (e.g. in Sociology, Geography, Economics and Business Administration, Philosophy) in order to ensure a broader view of the topics of democracy and governance.

Article 3 (Article 2 of the General Regulations)

On successful completion of the study programme, the Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies at Justus Liebig University Giessen shall award the degree of Master of Arts (MA).

Article 4 (Article 4 of the General Regulations)

Relevant Bachelor's degrees awarded at universities in Germany and abroad or similar qualifications constitute the requirements for admission to the Master's programme. All first degrees (*Diplom*), Master's (*Magister*) degrees or Bachelor's degrees are considered relevant, provided that the previous studies covered knowledge and skills in sociological disciplines (Political Science, Sociology, Economics) in particular or that combined study programmes had sociological emphases (e.g. area studies). It may be possible to make up essential knowledge during the first semester, possibly in a foundation course. The following qualifications shall be recognised as admission criteria equivalent to a Bachelor's degree: qualification to teach at lower-level secondary schools (*Hauptschulen and Realschulen*), qualification to teach at high schools (*Gymnasien*), qualification to teach at vocational training institutions (*berufsbildende Schulen*). The Examination Board may recognise other study programmes as equivalent.

Article 5 (Article 5 of the General Regulations)

The modules are described in Annex 2.

Article 6 (Article 5(4) and Article 8 of the General Regulations)

In the MA programme in Democracy and Governance, students must complete nine modules in addition to the thesis module.

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Article 7 (Article 6(1) of the General Regulations)

The Master's programme in Democracy and Governance consists of 10 modules, including the thesis module.

Article 8 (Article 6(1) of the General Regulations)

The modules in the programme are worth 10 credit points each, apart from the thesis module, which is worth 30 credit points (Annex 2).

Article 9 (Article 9(1), first sentence, of the General Regulations)

Students may complete an internship or work placement, for which 10 credit points in Module 9 (elective module) may be accredited.

Article 10 (Article 10(1), first sentence, of the General Regulations)

(1) The type of the end-of-module examination and of the first repeat examination is specified in the module descriptions (Annex 2). The scope and duration of the first repeat examination must be equal to the scope and duration of the failed module examination. With the exception of the thesis module, the second repeat examination consists of an oral examination (20-30 minutes).

(2) The final module grade is the result of the end-of-module examination or of the repeat examination.

Article 10a (Article 7 of the General Regulations)

(1) Admission to module examinations is conditional on regular attendance at the sessions and courses planned and conducting during any one semester. This rule does not apply to lectures.

(2) If more than half the sessions planned and conducted during any one semester are missed, the course must be repeated.

(3) Students are admitted to the examination before the end of the semester tuition period in accordance with the rules in paragraphs 1 and 2.

Article 11 (Article 10(1), third sentence, of the General Regulations)

The grading procedures (percentage shares) are set forth in the module descriptions (Annex 2). The examination performance is evaluated in accordance with Articles 28 and 29 of the General Regulations.

Article 12 (Article 10(3), first sentence, of the General Regulations)

(1) The types of examinations include oral examinations, timed written examinations, coursework, short essays, project reports, viva voce examinations, seminar presentations, presentations or placement or field trip reports. The type of examination is specified in the relevant module descriptions (Annex 2).

(2) A timed written examination shall last 120 minutes.

(3) An oral examination shall last at least 20 minutes and no more than 30 minutes.

(4) A presentation shall be based on a written paper on a topic from the material covered in one module. The oral presentation shall last at least 15 and no more than 30 minutes. The written presentation shall cover no fewer than 10 and no more than 20 pages.

(5) A piece of coursework shall comprise the write-up of a seminar paper on a topic from the subject area covered in a module. The written work shall cover no fewer than 15 and no more than 25 pages.

(6) A project shall comprise the application of empirical or statistical methods to a problem from the material covered in one module and the oral presentation and/or write-up of the results. The oral presentation shall last at least 15 and no more than 30 minutes. The write-up of the project shall cover no fewer than 20 pages.

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(7) Presentations, coursework, seminar-style presentations and write-ups of project work in the form of group work may also be accepted if, by indicating sections, page numbers or other objective criteria, the contribution to be assessed as the individual candidate's examination performance can be clearly separated off, is clearly distinguishable and appraisable and fulfils the requirements of paragraphs 4 to 6.

Article 13 (Article 11(1), first and second sentences, of the General Regulations)

(1) The programme structure is described in Annex 1.

(2) The Master's programme in Democracy and Governance consists of (see Annex 1) four basic modules, three of which (M1-M3) must be taken in the first semester, with one (M4) being taken in the second semester. In the field of political science (second/third semester), students must take three topic-oriented modules (M5-M7 or M11). In the third semester, students must also take two elective modules (M8 and M9) that enable the acquisition of interdisciplinary knowledge and/or offer a mobility window for achievements during a semester abroad to be taken into account. In Module M9 students have an opportunity to earn credit points in an optional work placement. The fourth semester is given over exclusively to the preparation of the MA thesis and the associated MA examination (M10).

(3) Through the fields of democracy (M1) and democratisation processes (M2) and the field of democracy and governance research methods (M3), the basic modules cover elements that are central to the study programme and an integral part of it. They are followed up in the second semester by the compulsory fourth basic module in Global Governance and International Integration (M4). In the topic-oriented modules (M5 to M7 or M11) the subjects are given broader treatment and explored in greater depth. The elective modules (M8 and M9) may be taken outside the sphere of political science. Students may take political science modules from among the elective modules (e.g. during period abroad). The introductory Module 1 in the MA in Democracy and Governance may not be explored in greater depth in one of the elective modules (M8 and M9). Students are free to determine the sequence in which the topic-oriented and elective modules are taken in the second and third semesters and to engage in an optional work placement worth 10 credit points.

Article 14 (Article 12(3) of the General Regulations)

With regard to part-time studies approved in accordance with Article 3 of the Regulation on the matriculation procedure, part-time study, implementation of the Hessian Law on Student Credit and the processing of personal data at universities in the German federal state of Hesse (Hessian Matriculation Regulation, ImmaVO) of 29 December 2003, the Examination Board shall apply appropriate regulations.

Article 15 (Article 13 of the General Regulations)

The Master's programme in Democracy and Governance begins in the winter semester or the summer semester.

Article 16 (Article 20(1) of the General Regulations)

When students register for the thesis module, they must present evidence of having successfully attended modules worth 60 credit points. Exceptions are determined by the Examination Board.

Article 17 (Article 23(1), first sentence, of the General Regulations)

(1) Students are automatically registered for the examination when they register for the corresponding part of a module.

(2) Students must register for the modules no later than in the second week of the courses in the semester concerned.

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Article 18 (Article 25(1) of the General Regulations)

The different types of examination are described in Article 11(1). The type of examinations is indicated in the relevant module descriptions (Annex 2). The examination performance is evaluated in accordance with Articles 28 and 29 of the General Regulations.

Article 19 (Article 25(2) of the General Regulations)

(1) The examinations generally take the form of individual examinations. Two up to a maximum of four candidates may submit a joint written application for a group examination to the Examination Board. The Chair of the Examination Board shall decide whether or not to accept this application in consultation with the examiner.

(2) The duration of an oral examination per examinee and subject is governed by the rules in Article 11.

Article 20 (Article 26(4) of the General Regulations)

The thesis may be written in English if the corresponding evaluation can be provided.

Article 21 (Article 26(5) of the General Regulations)

The time allowed for writing the thesis is four months. The thesis topic shall be issued by the Examination Board. The thesis shall consist of approximately 20,000 words or 60 pages (including the bibliography).

Article 22 (Article 26(6) of the General Regulations)

The thesis topic may be rejected once up to six weeks following its issue, with a factual reason being given in writing. Following rejection, a new topic shall be issued immediately and may not be rejected.

Article 23 (Article 30(2), second sentence, of the General Regulations)

Students shall achieve a pass in the study programme if they obtain a pass in all compulsory modules in the programme structure.

Article 24 (Article 31(1) of the General Regulations)

The overall grade is calculated from the arithmetic average of the grades for the modules selected from M2-M8 and M11, with the grade for the thesis module being tripled. Performances in Modules 1 and 9 are not graded but merely assessed. To be awarded a degree, students must obtain a pass in each module (see Article 22).

Article 25 (Article 32 of the General Regulations)

A table of the examination performance shall be drawn up in German for each student and shall contain the titles of the modules, the dates of the examinations, the grades for the oral examinations, the title of the thesis and the overall grade.

Article 26 (Article 33, second sentence, of the General Regulations)

After obtaining the consent of the examiner and the Examination Board, records relating to an examination may be viewed for a period of six weeks from the end of the examination.

Article 26 (Article 34(4) of the General Regulations)

The Examination Board shall notify students of the examination dates and repeat examination dates at the start of a semester.

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Article 28 (Article 40 of the General Regulations)

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following publication.

Giessen, 9 June 2009
Prof. Dr. Jutta Ecarius
Dean of Faculty 03