

***Prüfungs- und Studienordnung* (Examination and Study Regulations)  
for the Master's Degree Course Architecture  
at Hochschule Wismar: University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design**

Of 20 November 2015

last amended by the Amending Statutes of the *Prüfungs- und Studienordnungen* at Hochschule Wismar: University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design (hereinafter UAS Wismar) of 10 July 2020

## **Table of Contents**

### **I. General Provisions**

§ 1 Scope of Application

### **II. General Information**

§ 2 Standard Length of Study

§ 3 Degree

§ 4 Admission Requirements

### **III. Examinations**

§ 5 Examination Board

§ 6 Types of Examinations

§ 7 Written Examinations

§ 8 Assessment Components

§ 9 Taking Module Examinations

§ 10 Recognition of Credits for Professional Practice

§ 11 Evaluation of the Individual Pieces of Marked Coursework, Calculation of Marks

§ 12 Resitting Examinations

### **IV. Master's Dissertation and Colloquium**

§ 13 Master's Dissertation and Colloquium

§ 14 Calculation of the Overall Mark

### **V. Study Regulations**

§ 15 Purpose of the Study Regulations

§ 16 Study Goal

§ 17 Start of Studies

§ 18 Degree Structure

§ 19 Contents of the Degree

§ 20 Types of Teaching and Learning

§ 21 Excursions

§ 22 Study Advice

## **VI. Final Provisions**

§ 23 Interim Regulations

§ 24 Entry into Force

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Examination Schedule

Appendix 2 Course Schedule

Appendix 3 Diploma Supplement

## I. General Provisions

### § 1

#### Scope of Application

(§ 1 *Rahmenprüfungsordnung* (hereinafter Framework Examination Regulations))

These Examination and Study Regulations apply to the master's degree course Architecture at UAS Wismar. UAS Wismar's Framework Examination Regulations shall be applied directly for all matters not covered by these Examination and Study Regulations.

## II. General Information

### § 2

#### Standard Length of Study

(§ 2 Framework Examination Regulations)

The standard period of study is four semesters. This covers the subject semesters for theory and the module examinations, as well as the master's dissertation.

### § 3

#### Degree

(§ 3 Framework Examination Regulations)

After passing the master's examination, UAS Wismar will award the university degree 'Master of Arts' (M.A.).

### § 4

#### Admission Requirements

(§ 4 Framework Examination Regulations)

Admissions to the master's degree course in Architecture are granted according to a selection procedure. The details are regulated by the *Zulassungsordnung* (Admission Regulations) for the master's degree course Architecture.

### III. Examinations

#### § 5

#### Examination Board

(§ 5 Framework Examination Regulations)

(1) The Examination Board is formed by a resolution made by the Faculty Council. It is made up of six members, including three professors, one member of academic staff and two students.

(2) The Examination Board has a quorum if, in addition to the chairperson of the examination board or his/her deputy and one further professor, at least one further member is present. Decisions are passed by means of simple majority. If there is a tie of votes, the chairperson's vote, or, in his/her absence, the vote of the deputy chairperson, will be decisive. The student member shall be excluded from the vote in matters concerning examination decisions, in particular with regard to passes or fails and the recognition of study periods, study achievements and credits. The student member shall not take part in the consultations and decision making with regard to matters concerning the determination of examination tasks or relating to his/her own examinations.

#### § 6

#### Types of Examinations

(§ 6 Framework Examination Regulations)

(1) The following types of examination can be demanded of the student:

1. Oral examination,
2. Written examination as written examination under examination conditions and other written assignments,
3. Coursework essay,
4. Presentation,
5. Participation in simulations/case studies
6. Project work
7. Alternative marked coursework can entail:
  - Presentations,
  - Computer programmes,
  - Role plays,
  - Leading discussions,
  - Colloquiums,
  - Other written assignments,
  - Experimental work,
  - Modelling and drawing of designs (design projects, sketch designs, presentations),
  - Coursework essay,
  - Project work.

(2) A presentation must be held as part of the course's teaching/learning. It comprises the independent systematic exploration of a topic or topic area of the respective course, using the corresponding literature. The short presentation of 15 to 30 minutes should introduce and elaborate discussions about the corresponding topic.

(3) Project work usually serves to prove the students' ability to work in teams and, in particular, to develop, implement and present concepts. The candidates should prove that they can define goals for more complex tasks and develop solutions and concepts.

Project work is usually assessed by two examiners, this is mandatory if the project work is being repeated. The writing-up period for project work usually covers a period of a maximum of six months.

If project work has been submitted as team work, the individual contribution of the candidates must be clearly recognisable.

(4) Experimental work comprises the theoretical preparation, the setting up and the implementation of an experiment and the written depiction of the individual stages, the test procedure and the results of the experiment.

(5) A design project is an independent piece of work that is usually a visually portrayed solution to a design task. It helps to develop the students' design and practical skills they are learning at the University. The design project usually spans a period of time that has been defined previously. It can be presented as a group or independent piece of work. If the design project was submitted as group work, the contribution for each candidate that is to be marked as individual coursework must be identifiable and assessable.

(6) The sketch design is non-supervised work on a small task (design), that must be completed within a week at most and the result of which must be presented in a colloquium and reflected upon critically.

(7) Alternative types of examination can also take place as assessments during term time, outside of the examination period stipulated by the University. Students must be informed about the alternative type of marked coursework in the first study week of the respective semester, in which the assessment is to take place.

## **§ 7**

### **Written Examinations**

(§ 7 Framework Examination Regulations)

Written examinations are usually marked by two examiners, this is mandatory if it is a result of an examination.

## **§ 8**

### **Assessment Components**

(§ 10 Framework Examination Regulations)

The results for assessment components that must be passed as a prerequisite for admission to a module examination must be announced to the students at least one week prior to the date of the respective examination.

## **§ 9**

### **Taking Module Examinations**

(§ 12 Framework Examination Regulations)

(1) The Faculty must only provide instruction in a compulsory elective module if at least five students have chosen to take the course.

(2) Only candidates who have registered correctly for the respective module examination before the end of the registration deadline have a right to the assessment of their examination. Registration should be made by submitting the corresponding form to the Examination Office. The examination board will set a deadline for registrations for the examination. There must be at least four weeks between the end of the registration deadline and the respective examination date.

(3) Registration for module examinations can be withdrawn up to one day before the respective examination date by submitting a written or electronic declaration to the Examination Office without having to provide any specific details.

## **§ 10**

### **Recognition of Credits for Professional Practice**

It is suggested that students complete a period of professional practice between the bachelor's and master's degree courses. Students can submit a request to the examination board for this period to be recognised with credits. This requires the submission of a written internship report. A maximum of 6 credit points shall be recognised, if at least six months of relevant professional practice have been completed.

## **§ 11**

### **Evaluation of the Individual Pieces of Marked Coursework, Calculation of Module Marks**

(§ 16 Framework Examination Regulations)

(1) The marks for individual pieces of marked coursework are defined by the respective examiners. The following marks are to be used for evaluating the marked coursework:

1,0; 1,3	= very good	= excellent work;
1,7; 2,0; 2,3	= good	= work that is well above the average requirements;
2,7; 3,0; 3,3	= satisfactory	= work that corresponds with the average requirements;
3,7; 4,0	= sufficient	= work that fulfils the requirements despite its deficiencies;
5,0	= not sufficient	= work that does not fulfil the requirements due to serious deficiencies.

(2) Module examinations that are only evaluated as 'passed' or 'failed' are named in the examination schedule (Appendix 1).

## **§ 12**

### **Retaking of Examinations**

(§ 19 Framework Examination Regulations)

(1) Module examinations that are not passed at the first attempt count as not taken, if they have been taken during the standard period of study and on the regular examination dates set out in the examination schedule (Appendix 1), this is known as a Freiversuch (free attempt).

(2) A failed master's dissertation can be repeated once, with a new topic. The allocation of a new topic must be requested from the examination board within six weeks after the result of the first master's dissertation has been announced.

#### **IV. Master's Dissertation and Colloquium**

##### **§ 13**

##### **Master's Dissertation and Colloquium**

(§§ 20 and 21 Framework Examination Regulations)

(1) Students will be granted admission to the master's dissertation if they have successfully completed both the dissertation seminar and all the other modules in accordance with the examination schedule (Appendix 1) and have thus attained 90 credit points.

(2) The writing-up period for the master's dissertation spans twelve weeks. In individual cases, the examination board can grant an extension of a maximum of two weeks as an exception, if a request containing valid reasons has been submitted that has been approved by the first supervisor. The request must be addressed to the chairperson of the examination board and submitted in writing to the Examination Office.

(3) The candidate may make suggestions for the supervisor and the topic of the dissertation. However, this does not grant a right of legal claim for the suggestion to be met.

(4) The topic of the master's dissertation can only be returned once and within the first two weeks of the writing-up period. The chairperson of the examination board shall make sure that the candidate receives the new topic within six weeks.

(5) The master's dissertation can also be submitted as group work, if the contribution of the individual candidate that is to be evaluated as marked coursework can be differentiated and evaluated due to the indication of sections, page numbers or other objective criteria that allow for a clear distinction.

(6) Three copies of the master's dissertation must be submitted to UAS Wismar's Examination Office within the deadline. If models, drawings and other artistic work must be produced for the master's dissertation, the original and two photos of each object must be submitted.

(7) The master's dissertation can be written in either German or English.

(8) The marking procedure shall take no longer than four weeks.

(9) The mark for the colloquium will be weighted with 25 % of the overall mark for the master's dissertation.

**§ 14**  
**Calculation of the Overall Mark**  
(§ 22 Framework Examination Regulations)

(1) The overall mark is calculated from the module marks and the mark for the master's dissertation (including colloquium). The marks for the modules are weighted with 75 % and the mark for the master's dissertation (including colloquium) with 25 % of the overall mark.

(2) The overall assessment 'passed with distinction' can be issued for excellent achievements. This will be decided upon by the examination board on recommendation from the first supervisor of the master's dissertation.

**V. Study Regulations**

**§ 15**  
**Purpose of the Study Regulations**

The Study Regulations provide students with information and advice for an appropriate organisation of their studies. At the same time, it is the foundation for the subject-specific advice of the students during their studies and for the Faculty's planning of the courses on offer.

**§ 16**  
**Study Goal**

During the master's degree, UAS Wismar teaches students the details of the subject being studied, the ability to apply academic methods and knowledge, and the required skills for the transmission to professional practice. Therefore, training is aimed at enabling students to carry out independent academic work and teaching the methodology of the subject, as well as theoretical and analytical skills. The degree also aims to teach key qualifications, develop intellectual and social competencies, and foster personal development. At the end of their studies, students should have an overview of the subject's scope and be in a position to independently analyse complex problems in their context, to develop evaluations and solutions based on academic principles and to put them into practice in a social environment.

**§ 17**  
**Start of Studies**

Regular studies can be started in both the winter and summer semesters.

## **§ 18** **Degree Structure**

- (1) The degree course is split into modules. Modules are self-contained units of teaching, which are successfully completed by passing a module examination. Successful participation in a module examination is a requirement for the allocation of Credit Points in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The workload amounts to 30 hours per ECTS credit point.
- (2) Modules can be combined to create joint courses. This will be decided upon by the Examination Board. It is only possible to take both of the combined modules.
- (3) It is recommended that students study one semester at a university abroad. The recognition of modules that are to be completed abroad must be agreed with the Examination Board prior to starting the period of study abroad.

## **§ 19** **Contents of the Degree**

The range of courses for the master's degree course Architecture consists of the compulsory and compulsory elective modules listed in the course schedule (Appendix 2) and described in more detail in the module handbook.

## **§ 20** **Types of Teaching and Learning**

- (1) Types of course can be:
  - Lectures: Syllabus taught in the form of lectures,
  - Seminar tuition: Syllabus taught in the form of lectures and seminars,
  - Seminar: Treatment of specific areas using discussions, in some cases with presentations held by the participants,
  - Practical: Applying and consolidating the course contents by way of theoretical and practical application,
  - Excursion,
  - Project seminar,
  - Sketch designs.
- (2) The course schedule (Appendix 2) defines the kinds of course that the individual modules are made up of.
- (3) Courses can also be provided as block courses.
- (4) Courses and examinations can be held in German or English.

## **§ 21** **Excursions**

Excursions can be used as a form of tuition in the modules.

## **§ 22 Study Advice**

(1) All students can receive general study advice from the Student and Academic Affairs Division at UAS Wismar.

(2) As part of general study advice, the University also provides information about the postgraduate study opportunities provided by UAS Wismar.

(3) Advice for matters regarding study organisation, including specific examination matters is provided by the Department of Architecture at the Faculty of Architecture and Design. For this purpose, the student will be assigned a member of teaching staff as a mentor. The students must be able to prove that they have attended a student advisory session with their mentor at least once a semester.

Students should also make use of this subject-specific advice, in particular, at the beginning of studies, if examinations have been failed, when planning a period of study abroad and if changing degree course.

## **VI. Final Provisions**

### **§ 23 (Interim Regulations)**

### **§ 24 (Entry into Force)**

## Appendix 1 Examination Schedule

Module		1 <sup>st</sup> Semester			2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester			3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester			4 <sup>th</sup> Semester			Σ CR
		PAA	E	Σ	PA	E	Σ CR	PAA	E	Σ CR	PAA	E	Σ CR	
CM 01	Design Project 1 Advanced Seminar 1	2 IP CoPa	PW 540 NB 2	18										18
CM 02	Design Project 2 Advanced Seminar 2				2 IP CoPa	PW 540 NB 2	18							18
CM 03	Design Project 3 Advanced Seminar 3							2 IP CoPa	PW 540 NB 2	18				18
CM 04	Sketch Designs								6 SD	6				6
CEM I	Compulsory Elective Module 1	NB 1	AE	3										3
CEM II	Compulsory Elective Module 2	NB 1	AE	3										3
CEM III	Compulsory Elective Module 3	NB 1	AE	3										3
CEM IV	Compulsory Elective Module 4	NB 1	AE	3										3
CEM V	Compulsory Elective Module 5				NB 1	AE	3							3
CEM VI	Compulsory Elective Module 6				NB 1	AE	3							3
CEM VII	Compulsory Elective Module 7				NB 1	AE	3							3
CEM VIII	Compulsory Elective Module 8				NB 1	AE	3							3
CEM IX	Compulsory Elective Module 9							NB 1	AE	3				3
CEM X	Compulsory Elective Module 10							NB 1	AE	3				3
CM 05	Dissertation Seminar											AE*	6	6
CM 06	Dissertation and Colloquium											PW O 20	24	24
Σ CR				30			30			30			30	120

Explanations:

CM: Compulsory module

CEM: Compulsory elective module

PAA: Proof of academic

E: Examination

CR: Credit points (ECTS)

IP: Interim presentation

M xx Oral examination in minutes

AE: Alternative examination

AE\*: Alternative examination without

NB 1: The type of examination

must be announced in the first week

of studies for the corresponding course.

PW xx: Project work in hours

6 SD: 6 Sketch designs

CoPa: Compulsory participation

NB 2: The advanced seminar relates to

the design and cannot be taken

as a separate component of the design topic.

## Appendix 2 Course Schedule

Module		1 <sup>st</sup> Semester			2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester			3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester			4 <sup>th</sup> Semester			Σ SWS	Σ CR
		SWS	Cs	Σ	SWS	Cs	Σ	SWS	Cs	Σ CR	SWS	Cs	Σ		
CM 01	Design Project 1 Advanced Seminar 1	8	PS	18										10	18
CM 02	Design Project 2 Advanced Seminar 2				8	PS	18							10	18
CM 03	Design Project 3 Advanced Seminar 3							8	PS	18				10	18
CM 04	Sketch Designs							1	PS	6				1	6
CEM I	Compulsory Elective Module 1	2	S	3										2	3
CEM II	Compulsory Elective Module 2	2	S	3										2	3
CEM III	Compulsory Elective Module 3	2	S	3										2	3
CEM IV	Compulsory Elective Module 4	2	S	3										2	3
CEM V	Compulsory Elective Module 5				2	S	3							2	3
CEM VI	Compulsory Elective Module 6				2	S	3							2	3
CEM VII	Compulsory Elective Module 7				2	S	3							2	3
CEM VIII	Compulsory Elective Module 8				2	S	3							2	3
CEM IX	Compulsory Elective Module 9							2	S	3				2	3
CEM X	Compulsory Elective Module 10							2	S	3				2	3
CM 05	Dissertation Seminar											2	S	6	6
CM 06	Dissertation and Colloquium													24	24
Σ SWS		18			18			15				2		53	
Σ CR				30		30			30			30			120

Explanations:

CM: Compulsory module  
CEM: Compulsory elective  
CR: Credit points (ECTS)

SWS: Contact hours per week  
Cs Type: Type of course

PS: Project seminar  
S: Seminar

## Appendix 3

### Diploma Supplement

This Diploma Supplement model was developed by the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES. The purpose of the supplement is to provide sufficient independent data to improve the international 'transparency' and fair academic and professional recognition of qualifications (diplomas, degrees, certificates, etc.). It is designed to provide a description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies that were pursued and successfully completed by the individual named on the original qualification to which this supplement is appended. It should be free from any value judgements, equivalence statements or suggestions about recognition. Information in all eight sections should be provided. Where information is not provided, an explanation should give the reason why.

#### 1. HOLDER OF QUALIFICATION

##### 1.1 Family Name:

«Nachname»

##### 1.2 First Name:

«Vorname»

##### 1.3 Date, Place, Country of Birth:

«GebDatum», «GebOrt»

##### 1.4 Student ID Number or Code:

not of public interest

#### 2. QUALIFICATION

##### 2.1 Name of Qualification (full, abbreviated; in original language):

Master of Arts (M.A.)

**Title Conferred** (full, abbreviated; in original language):

Master of Architecture/ Diploma Architectue

##### 2.2 Main Field(s) of Study:

Architecture

##### 2.3 Institution Awarding the Qualification (in original language):

Hochschule Wismar, University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design **Status**

**(Type / Control)**

University of Applied Sciences

##### 2.4 Institution Administering Studies:

[same]

##### 2.5 Language of Instruction/Examination:

German and English

**3. LEVEL OF THE QUALIFICATION****3.1 Level:**

Second degree (2 years), with thesis

**3.2 Official Length of Programme:**

2 years fulltime

**3.3 Access Requirements:**

B.A. degree or an engineering „Diplom“ (the German „Diplom-Ingenieur (FH)“ or „Diplom-Ingenieur“ either in Architecture or in a related area of study, from a national or international institution of higher education with a grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher (on the German grading scale of 1 through 5 as described in the section „Examinations and Grading“)

**4. CONTENTS AND RESULTS GAINED****4.1 Mode of Study:**

Fulltime, 2 years

**4.2 Program Requirements:**

The degree programme is divided into examination areas. The Masters Programme curriculum consists of the examination areas 1 – 6 and 10 elective modules. In the Masters programme, comprehensive examinations are executed at the completion of each examination area. These examinations test students on the subjects covered in the respective course modules. A comprehensive examination consists of a set of examinations on the course content of the individual modules; this can also be taken in the form of a team or group examination. Students have to collect 120 credit points (CP) in total, 24 credit points can be awarded for the master thesis.

**4.3 Program Details:**

See Final Examination Certificate (Masterzeugnis) for a list of the subjects offered for final examinations (written and oral) and for the thesis topics, including evaluations.

**4.4 Grading Scheme:**

General grading scheme df. Sec. 8.6

**4.5 Overall Classification (in original language):**

«GesNoteT»

Based on weighted average of grades in examination fields.

**ECTS – Grading Table**

The reference quantity constitutes “xx” completed courses in the period from “dd/mm/yyyy” until “dd/mm/yyyy”. The grading table is created after the completion of each semester; this means the graduates of the current semester are not included.

Grade	As a percentage %	Number	Grade range
1,0 to 1,5	x	x	very good
1,6 to 2,5	x	x	good
2,6 to 3,5	x	x	satisfactory
3,6 to 4,0	x	x	sufficient

The individual values are shortened to two decimal places. The sum of percentages may therefore differ slightly from 100%.

**5. FUNCTION OF THE QUALIFICATION****5.1 Access to Further Study:**

Qualifies the bearer of M.A. degree for admission to doctoral work (thesis research)

**5.2 Professional Status:**

The M.A. degree is equivalent to the academic degree of „Diplom-Ingenieur“ from a German university and qualifies graduates for registration in the official German listing of professional architects.

**6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION****6.1 Additional Information:**

-

**6.2 Further Information Sources:**

On the institution: [www.hs-wismar.de](http://www.hs-wismar.de)

On the programme: [www.ar.hs-wismar.de](http://www.ar.hs-wismar.de) For national information sources cf. Sect. 8.8

**7. CERTIFICATION OF THE SUPPLEMENT**

This Diploma Supplement refers to the following original documents:

Awarded Masters Degree Certificate (Masterurkunde)

Master Degree Certification (Masterzeugnis)

**8. NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM: Germany**

The information on the national higher education system on the following pages provides a context for the qualification and the type of higher education institution that awarded it (DSDoc 01/03.00).

**8. INFORMATION ON THE GERMAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM<sup>1</sup>**

**8.1. Types of Institutions and Institutional Control**

Higher education (HE) studies in Germany are offered at three types of *Hochschulen*<sup>2</sup>

- *Universitäten* (Universities), including various specialized institutions, comprise the whole range of academic disciplines. In the German tradition, universities are also institutional foci of, in particular, basic research, so that advanced stages of study have strong theoretical orientations and research-oriented components.
- *Fachhochschulen* (Universities of Applied Sciences): Programs concentrate in engineering and other technical disciplines, business-related studies, social work, and design areas. The common mission of applied research and development implies a distinct application-oriented focus and professional character of studies, which include one or two semesters of integrated and supervised work assignments in industry, enterprises or other relevant institutions.
- *Kunst- and Musikhochschulen* (Colleges of Art/Music, etc.) offer graduate studies for artistic careers in fine arts, performing arts and music; in such fields as directing, production, writing in theatre, film, and other media; and in a variety of design areas, architecture, media and communication.

<sup>1</sup> The information covers only aspects directly relevant to purposes of the Diploma Supplement. All information as of 1 Jan 2000.

<sup>2</sup> Hochschule is the generic term for higher education institutions.

HE institutions are either state or state-recognized institutions. In their operations, including the organization of studies and the designation and award of degrees, they are both subject to HE legislation.

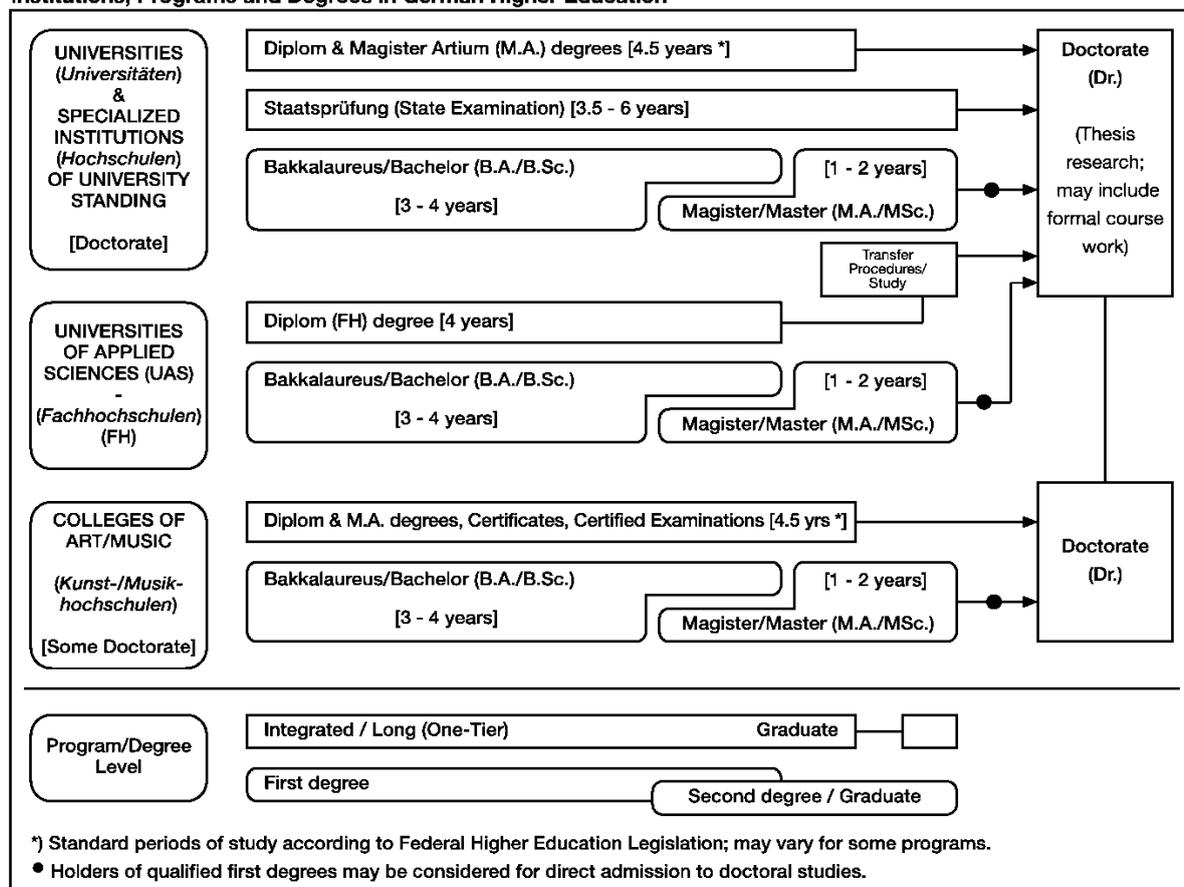
**8.2 Types of programs and degrees awarded**

- Studies in all three types of institutions are traditionally offered in integrated "long" (one-tier) programs leading to *Diplom- or Magister Artium* degrees or completion by a *Staatsprüfung* (State Examination).
- In 1998, a new scheme of first- and second-level degree programs (*Bakkalaureus/Bachelor* and *Magister/Master*) was introduced to be offered parallel to or *in lieu* of established integrated "long" programs. While these programs are designed to provide enlarged variety and flexibility to students in planning and pursuing educational objectives, they enhance also international compatibility of studies.
- For details cf. Sec. 8.41 and Sec. 8.42, respectively. Table 1 provides a synoptic summary.

**8.3 Approval/Accreditation of Programs and Degrees**

To ensure quality and comparability of qualifications, the organization of studies and general degree requirements have to conform to principles and regulations jointly established by the Standing Conference of Ministers of

**Institutions, Programs and Degrees in German Higher Education**



Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Länder* in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) and the Association of German Universities and other Higher Education Institutions (HRK). In 1999, a system of accreditation for programs of study has become operational under the control of an Accreditation Council at national level. Programs and qualifications accredited under this scheme are designated accordingly in the Diploma Supplement.

#### 8.4 Organization of Studies

##### 8.41 Integrated "Long" Programs (One-Tier):

###### *Diplom* degrees, *Magister Artium*, *Staatsprüfung*

Studies are either mono-disciplinary (single subject, *Diplom* degrees, most programs completed by a *Staatsprüfung*) or comprise a combination of either two major or one major and two minor fields (*Magister Artium*). As common characteristics, in the absence of intermediate (first-level) degrees, studies are divided into two stages. The first stage (1.5 to 2 years) focuses - without any components of general education - on broad orientations and foundations of the field(s) of study including propaedeutical subjects. An Intermediate Examination (*Diplom-Vorprüfung* for *Diplom* degrees; *Zwischenprüfung* or credit requirements for the M.A.) is prerequisite to enter the second stage of advanced studies and specializations. Degree requirements always include submission of a thesis (up to 6 months duration) and comprehensive final written and oral examinations. Similar regulations apply to studies leading to a *Staatsprüfung*.

- Studies at *Universities* last usually 4.5 years (*Diplom* degree, *Magister Artium*) or 3.5 to 6 years (*Staatsprüfung*). The *Diplom* degree is awarded in engineering disciplines, the exact/natural and economic sciences. In the humanities, the corresponding degree is usually the *Magister Artium* (M.A.). In the social sciences, the practice varies as a matter of institutional traditions. Studies preparing for the legal, medical, pharmaceutical and teaching professions are completed by a *Staatsprüfung*.

The three qualifications are academically equivalent. As the final (and only) degrees offered in these programs at graduate-level, they qualify to apply for admission to doctoral studies, cf. Sec. 8.5.

- Studies at *Fachhochschulen* (FH) /Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) last 4 years and lead to a *Diplom* (FH) degree. While the FH/UAS are non-doctorate granting institutions, qualified graduates may pursue doctoral work at doctorate-granting institutions, cf. Sec. 8.5.

- Studies at *Kunst- and Musikhochschulen* (Colleges of Art/Music, etc.) are more flexible in their organization, depending on the field and individual objectives. In addition to *Diplom/Magister* degrees, awards include Certificates and Certified Examinations for specialized areas and professional purposes.

##### 8.42 First/Second Degree Programs (Two-tier):

###### *Bakkalaureus/Bachelor*, *Magister/Master* degrees

These programs apply to all three types of institutions. Their organization makes use of credit point systems and modular components. First degree programs (3 to 4 years) lead to *Bakkalaureus/Bachelor* degrees (B.A., B.Sc.). Graduate second degree programs (1 to 2 years) lead to *Magister/Master* degrees (M.A., M.Sc.). Both may be awarded in dedicated form to indicate particular

specializations or applied/professional orientations (B./M. of ... ; B.A., B.Sc. or M.A., M.Sc. in ... ). All degrees include a thesis requirement.

#### 8.5 Doctorate

Universities, most specialized institutions and some Colleges of Art/Music are doctorate-granting institutions. Formal prerequisite for admission to doctoral work is a qualified *Diplom* or *Magister/Master* degree, a *Staatsprüfung*, or a foreign equivalent. Admission further requires the acceptance of the Dissertation research project by a supervisor. Holders of a qualified *Diplom* (FH) degree or other first degrees may be admitted for doctoral studies with specified additional requirements.

#### 8.6 Grading Scheme

The grading scheme usually comprises five levels (with numerical equivalents; intermediate grades may be given): "*Sehr Gut*" (1) = Very Good; "*Gut*" (2) = Good; "*Befriedigend*" (3) = Satisfactory; "*Ausreichend*" (4) = Sufficient; "*Nicht ausreichend*" (5) = Non-Sufficient/Fail. The minimum passing grade is "*Ausreichend*" (4). Verbal designations of grades may vary in some cases and for doctoral degrees. Some institutions may also use the ECTS grading scheme.

#### 8.7 Access to Higher Education

The General Higher Education Entrance Qualification (*Allgemeine Hochschulreife*, *Abitur*) after 12 to 13 years of schooling gives access to all higher education studies. Specialized variants (*Fachgebundene Hochschulreife*) allow for admission to particular disciplines. Access to *Fachhochschulen* (UAS) is also possible after 12 years (*Fachhochschulreife*). Admission to Colleges of Art/Music may be based on other or require additional evidence demonstrating individual aptitude.

#### 8.8 National Sources of Information

- *Kultusministerkonferenz* (KMK) [Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Länder* in the Federal Republic of Germany] - Lennéstrasse 6, D-53113 Bonn; Fax: +49/[0]228/501-229; with
  - Central Office for Foreign Education (ZaB) as German NARIC and ENIC; www.kmk.org; E-Mail: zab@kmk.org
  - "Documentation and Educational Information Service" as German EURYDICE-Unit, providing the national dossier on the education system (EURYBASE, annual update, www.eurydice.org; E-Mail eurydice@kmk.org).
- *Hochschulrektorenkonferenz* (HRK) [Association of German Universities and other Higher Education Institutions]. Its "Higher Education Compass" (www.higher-education-compass.hrk.de) features comprehensive information on institutions, programs of study, etc. Ahrstrasse 39, D-53175 Bonn; Fax: +49/[0]228 / 887-210; E-Mail: sekr@hrk.de

DSDoc 01/03.00