

**Examination regulations for the Master's program**  
**"History & Philosophy of Science and Logic"**  
**of the Faculty of Philosophy and Educational Science**  
**of the Ruhr University Bochum**  
from **xxx**

Based on §§ 2 para. 4, 64 of the Act on the Universities of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Higher Education Act - HG) of 16.09.2014 (GV.NRW p. 547), last amended by Art. 3 of the Act on Securing the Accreditation of Study Programs in North Rhine-Westphalia of 17. 10. 2017 (GV. NRW. S. 806) the Ruhr-Universität Bochum has issued the following examination regulations:

**Table of Contents:**

**I. General**

- § 1 Scope of Application and Aim of the Study Program
- § 2 Academic Degree
- § 3 Access Requirements
- § 4 Duration, Structure of the Program, Types of Courses and Credit Points
- § 5 Examinations, Examination Performances and Forms of Examination
- § 6 Registration and Access to Modules and Module Examinations
- § 7 Assessment of Examination Performances and Examination Grades
- § 8 Passing and Repeating Modules and Module Examinations
- § 9 Compensation for Disadvantages and Statutory Periods of Protection
- § 10 Missing, Withdrawal, Deception and Breach of Regulations
- § 11 Crediting and Recognition of Periods of Study, Study Achievements and Examination Results, Placements in Higher Semesters
- § 12 Audit Committee
- § 13 Examiners and Assessors

**II. Master's Examination**

- § 14 Type and Scope of the Master's Examination
- § 15 Final Module
- § 16 Admission to the Master's Thesis
- § 17 Master's Thesis

- § 18 Acceptance and Assessment of the Master's Thesis, Assessment of the Master's Colloquium
- § 19 Repetition of the Master's Thesis or the Master's Colloquium
- § 20 Passing the Master's Examination

### **III. Final provisions**

- § 21 Certificate, Diploma Supplement and Transcript of Records
- § 22 Invalidity of the Master's Examination, Revocation of the Academic Degree
- § 23 Inspection of the Examination Files
- § 24 Scope of Application and Transitional Arrangements
- § 25 Coming into Force and Publication

### **I. General**

#### **§ 1 Scope of Application and Aim of the Study Program**

- (1) These examination regulations apply to the master's program "History & Philosophy of Science and Logic" (HPS+Logic).
- (2) The aim of this interdisciplinary course program is to enable students to analyze and evaluate science and logical analysis as a signum of modernity in terms of their specific claims to validity and responsibilities, their historical conditions of origin and development, and their cultural influences and forms of mediation and communication. To this end, the program imparts knowledge and methods from disciplines of philosophy (philosophy and history of science, logic and ethics of science) as well as from cultural and social science-oriented science research. After successful completion of the program, the acquired knowledge and analytical skills enable students to work competently and in a goal-oriented manner in institutions and organizations that serve to research, teach, promote and apply science and logic. The master's examination as a second professional qualification qualifies students in particular to work in these fields of activity.

#### **§ 2 Academic Degree**

Upon successful completion of the master's program, the Faculty of Philosophy and Educational Science awards the academic degree of "Master of Arts".

#### **§ 3 Access Requirements**

- (1) Admission to the master's program is open to students who have completed at least six semesters of a Bachelor's program with a total of 180 CP or a comparable program with a focus on humanities or social sciences or a focus on mathematics, natural sciences or engineering and who have a special aptitude for the program.
- (2) A further admission requirement is proof of
  - Foundations in philosophy and/or history of science and logic of at least 6 CP each.

- In the case of a degree with a mathematics/science or engineering focus, additional humanities and social science studies totaling at least 30 CP must be proven.
- (3) Applicants who did not obtain their study qualification at an exclusively English-speaking institution or have English as their native language must demonstrate knowledge of the English language at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Evidence includes TOEFEL, 88 points or better (on the internet-based test) or 227 points or better (on the computer-based test), and equivalent evidence such as IELTS (9-6), CPE (A-C), CAE (A-C). The board of examiners decides on the equivalence of the language examinations.
- (4) The examination of the special suitability consists of the examination of the submitted essay according to para. 5 and a selection interview according to para. 6. Participation in the procedure requires the timely submission of the application documents as well as their completeness. The application deadline for admission to the program for the winter semester is 15.07., for the summer semester 15.01. of the respective year. If, at the time of the application deadline, there is not yet a final evaluated degree according to para. 1 and the applicant is not responsible for this, an application can be made on the basis of proof of at least 80% of the credit points required for the degree. The degree certificate or its equivalent must be submitted no later than the time of enrollment in the program. Failure to submit on time or incomplete documentation will disqualify applicants from the special eligibility review process.
- (5) The application is to be addressed to the examination board of the study program. With the application, applicants submit an essay of approximately 5 pages, which deals with a thematic or methodological focus of the study program. The focal points are defined by the different modules described in the module handbook. The application essay must be written in English. It serves to establish the ability to formulate meaningful questions and individual topics relating to a focus of the degree program and to develop reasoned argumentation in a linguistically appropriate form that meets good scientific standards; the above criteria are equally weighted. It should demonstrate the applicant's particular aptitude for the course of study in writing. The examination board decides whether this is the case or not. If the essay does not prove the special aptitude, no admission to the study program will be granted and a selection interview according to para. 6 will be omitted.
- (6) On the basis of the written application documents, in particular the essay, a half-hour selection interview of the applicant takes place with two members of the examination board, who are appointed by the chairperson, as well as an assessor, who has acquired at least a master's degree in philosophy or an equivalent degree. The selection interview usually takes place by 15 September at the latest for admission to the winter semester and by 15 March at the latest for admission to the summer semester. The date and place of the interview will usually be announced two weeks in advance. (If an application is submitted from outside the university, it is possible to conduct the selection interview using instant messaging services). The selection interview will be recorded and graded as 'passed' or 'not passed', using the same criteria as for the essay outlined in para. 5. If an applicant does not attend the agreed appointment without a valid reason (such as illness), this will be graded as 'not passed'.
- (7) The grade of the selection interview must be 'satisfactory' (3.0) or better to be accepted into the program.
- (8) The examination of special suitability cannot be repeated.

- (9) Students who have already definitively failed a master's program in philosophy or a related or comparable program at an academic university cannot be admitted to the master's program.
- (10) The examination board determines whether the above-mentioned admission requirements according to paras. 1 to 3 are fulfilled and decides on admission to the study program. It may grant admission subject to conditions, provided that these do not exceed 30 CP of study achievements to be made up. The conditions and the time of their fulfillment are determined by the examination board.

#### **§ 4 Duration, Structure of the Program, Types of Courses and Credit Points**

- (1) The general standard period of study, including the completion of the master's thesis, is four semesters. The study program can be started in the winter and summer semester.
- (2) The program consists of modules with an amount of 120 CP, of which 60 CP are earned in compulsory modules, 30 CP in compulsory elective modules and 30 CP in elective modules. The master's thesis of 24 CP is part of the compulsory final module, which counts for 30 CP.

Two compulsory modules (each with 15 CP) must be completed in the *first year of study*:

Basic Module 1: "History & Philosophy of Science".

Basic Module 2: "Formal Logic and History of Logic".

Basic modules 1 and 2 are offered alternating in their focus. The sequence is arbitrary.

In addition to the two required modules, three elective modules (also with 15 CP each) are offered in the first year, two of which must be completed:

- Elective Module 1: "Knowledge, Science and its History".
- Elective module 2: "Philosophical Aspects and Problems of Logic".
- Elective Module 3: "Complementary Studies".

The first year of *study* thus comprises study credits totaling 60 CP.

In the *second year of study*, students choose between a research module and a practical module. Both are credited with 30 CP. The research module serves the formation of a content-related profile already oriented towards own research and comprises courses of a total of 10 semester hours (SWS); in one course a written term paper has to be written. The research module can be completed at a partner university abroad. The practical module offers the possibility to combine the study contents with insights into possible fields of activity. It covers a period of three months and must be completed with an internship report. Before choosing between the research and internship module, a consultation meeting is held with one of the two module coordinators. The module coordinators support the students in questions concerning the structuring of the research module or the choice of an internship. If a research module is completed at a university abroad, the student and the module supervisor will conclude a learning agreement beforehand.

The second year of study ends in the fourth semester with a mandatory final module. This consists of the master's thesis (24 CP) and a final colloquium (6 CP).

The second year of study thus also includes coursework totaling 60 CP.

- (3) A module is a teaching and learning unit that is self-contained in terms of content and time and is successfully completed by passing the associated module examination. A module usually lasts one semester, at most two. The individual modules contain the teaching or development of a subject area and the corresponding competencies. All modules can be found in the attached study plan and the module handbook (in the current version).
- (4) The expected workload of all modules is indicated in an accumulating credit point system (credit points) according to the ECTS (European Course Credit Transfer System). An average workload of 1,800 working hours per academic year is assumed and converted into 60 credit points (30 credit points per semester). One credit point thus corresponds to the estimated workload of approx. 30 hours.
- (5) The following types of courses are offered as part of the modularized teaching program: Lecture, lecture series, seminar, colloquium, reading groups, workshops (especially summer schools) and exercises.
  - a. Lectures present the subjects of the subject in an exemplary and systematic way. They provide an overview of problem contexts.
  - b. Lecture series are dedicated to comprehensive topics. Lecturers alternate between the lecturers of a subject or - in the case of interdisciplinary orientation - of a subject group or several subjects.
  - c. Seminars serve to deepen scientific knowledge and can be offered on any topic of the subject area. In them, scientific work is taught within the thematic focus of the seminar. They are characterized by a high degree of interactivity between teachers and students.
  - d. Colloquia serve the in-depth discussion of selected scientific issues.
  - e. Reading groups are devoted to intensive shared reading and discussion of advanced and in-depth literature on key topics in the program.
  - f. Workshops are jointly organized by students and teachers of the program and serve the research-oriented development of topics with the participation of external speakers.
  - g. Exercises include, but are not limited to, written logic problems, library, archival, or museum research, and bibliometric analysis of provided text corpora using Digital Humanities tools.
  - h. The obligation of regular attendance can be provided for courses whose learning objective cannot be achieved without the active participation of the students. The compulsory attendance is to be indicated in the module description of the module manual.
- (6) For the purpose of planning preparation, instructors publish, well in advance of the start of courses, precise details of the planned course, learning objectives, and readings for each course, which are in accordance with the general description of the associated module. The announcements are made available to students in the form of the institute's own course catalog.
- (7) The program can be studied purely in English, i.e. the basic modules are only offered in English, for the elective modules and the research module English-language courses are provided in sufficient numbers; further courses are also available in German.

## § 5 Examinations, Examination Performances and Forms of Examination

- (1) Examinations consist of graded module examinations during the course of study in accordance with the study plan, which is attached as an appendix, and the master's thesis. It should be possible to complete these within the standard period of study. Students must be registered to take an examination.
- (2) Examinations can take the form of a written exam, an oral exam, a written term paper or an internship report. If the module description provides for alternative options, these will be communicated to the students in concrete form at the beginning of the courses of the relevant module.
- (3) In a **written exam**, proof is to be provided that tasks from the area of the module's courses can be worked on properly in a limited time and with limited aids and that suitable solutions can be found. Written examinations can be submitted in electronic form at workstations. The duration of a written exam is determined according to the subject content, taking into account the CP provided for the module. It is determined by the examiner and is between one and four hours. The duration of the assessment process may not exceed six weeks. Examinations take place under supervision; information about assessment criteria and, if applicable, permitted aids will be provided in good time.
- (4) In an **oral examination**, the candidate should demonstrate that he or she has sufficient knowledge in the examination area, recognizes contexts and is able to classify special questions in these contexts. Oral examinations are usually conducted by at least two examiners or one examiner in the presence of an expert assessor. Oral examinations are taken as group examinations or as individual examinations. The oral examination shall last 15 to 45 minutes at the most per candidate. The main subjects and results of the examination shall be recorded in a protocol. Before determining the grade, the examiners shall discuss the grade. The assessor must be heard before the grade is determined. The grade of the examination must be announced to the candidate immediately after the examination and the reasons for the grade must be given. Students who wish to take the same examination in a later examination period may be admitted as listeners in accordance with the space available, provided the candidate does not object. Admission does not extend to the discussion and announcement of the examination results.
- (5) Within the framework of a written **homework (term paper)**, a task from the area of the courses in a module is worked on appropriately with reference to the relevant literature and, if necessary, other suitable aids and suitable solutions are provided. Both are to be stated completely in the term paper. Permissible aids will be announced together with the assignment. The extent of the assignment will be determined according to the content of the subject, taking into account the CP planned for the module. The assessment by the lecturer is to be justified to the student with the return.
- (6) An **internship report** consists of an interim report and a final report. Both parts should comprise approximately 10 standard pages. In the report, essential elements of the internship are presented and critically reflected. Its evaluation by the teachers is done in a comprehensible written form. The deadline for submission is set by the first supervisor of the internship module.
- (7) At the completion of the M.A. degree, students must submit at least three written assignments as specified in para. 5.

## **§ 6 Registration and Access to Modules and Module Examinations**

- (1) Anyone may be admitted to participate in a module, including the module examination, who is enrolled in the HPS+Logic degree program, has not lost the right to take the examination in the HPS+Logic degree program or a equivalent degree program, or has passed the examination.
- (2) Registration for a module examination takes place with the registration for module participation. Registrations are made in the system for recording study and examination achievements of the Ruhr University Bochum.
- (3) Registration for a module examination must take place no later than three semesters after attending the course belonging to the module. If the student fails to register by this time and is responsible for this, the right to take the examination expires. This deadline is extended
  - a. for the care and upbringing of minor children within the meaning of § 25 para. 5 of the Federal Training Assistance Act by three semesters per child,
  - b. for participation as an elected representative in bodies of the university, the student body, the student representative bodies of the student body or the student unions by a total of up to a maximum of four semesters,
  - c. for holding the office of Equal Opportunity Officer by up to a maximum of four semesters,
  - d. by the time of the study-time-extending effects of a disability or serious illness, and
  - e. by up to three semesters for the period during which students assume a responsibility for close relatives with care and support needs.
- (4) A withdrawal from a module examination can be made at the latest 1 week before the start of the examination date without giving reasons.

## **§ 7 Assessment of Examination Performances and Examination Grades**

- (1) The grades for the individual examination performances are determined by the respective examiners. The following grades are to be used for the assessment:
  - 1 = very good = an excellent performance;
  - 2 = good = a performance significantly above average requirements;
  - 3 = satisfactory = a performance that meets average requirements;
  - 4 = sufficient = a performance that still meets the requirements despite its deficiencies;
  - 5 = insufficient = a performance that no longer meets the requirements due to significant deficiencies.

For differentiated assessment of the examination performance, intermediate values can be formed by decreasing or increasing the individual grades by 0.3. The values 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3 are excluded.

If the module examination is divided in justified exceptional cases, the grades of the individual partial examination performances are weighted. The weighting is carried out according to the proportional CP numbers. The achieved grades of the individual examination performances of the module are multiplied by the corresponding weighting factors and the product values are added; this sum is then divided by the sum of the weighting factors. In the case of decimal values, only the first digit after the decimal point is taken into account; all other digits are deleted without rounding.

In this case, the evaluation of the grade determined in this way is as follows in the case of an average

to 1.5:	very good,
over 1.5 to 2.5:	good,
above 2.5 to 3.5:	satisfactory,
above 3.5 to 4.0:	sufficient,
above 4.0:	not sufficient.

If an examination performance is to be evaluated by several examiners, the grade is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the individual examination evaluations. If the evaluations differ by at least 2.0 or if one evaluation is "not sufficient" but the other is "sufficient" or better, the examination committee will appoint a third examiner to evaluate the examination performance. The third examiner's evaluation is binding for the corresponding examination performance.

### **§ 8 Passing and Repeating of Module Examinations**

- (1) A module is passed if the associated module examination is graded with at least 4.0 ("sufficient"). Module examinations that have not been passed or are considered failed can be repeated twice. The repeat examination must be taken no later than the examination dates of the following semester. If the student fails to register by this date and is responsible for this, the examination entitlement expires. This period is extended
  1. for the care and upbringing of minor children within the meaning of § 25 para. 5 of the Federal Training Assistance Act by three semesters per child,
  2. for participation as an elected representative in bodies of the university, the student body, the student representative bodies of the student body or the student unions by a total of up to a maximum of four semesters,
  3. for holding the office of Equal Opportunity Officer by up to a maximum of four semesters,
  4. by the time of the study-time-extending effects of a disability or serious illness, and
  5. by up to three semesters for the period during which students assume a responsibility for close relatives with care and support needs.
- (2) Successfully completed exams cannot be repeated.
- (3) An examination is definitively failed if all examination attempts have been assessed as "insufficient" or "failed" or the candidate can no longer be admitted to an examination. Exmatriculation will follow.
- (4) Repeat examinations in written or oral examinations for which there is no possibility of compensation in the event of a final failure must be assessed by at least two examiners. Oral repeat examinations are to be taken by two examiners or by one examiner in the presence of an expert assessor.

### **§ 9 Compensation for Disadvantages and Statutory Periods of Protection**

- (1) It shall be taken into account the statutory maternity protection regulations and periods, as well as the periods of parental leave and the periods of absence due to the care and upbringing of children within the meaning of § 25 para. 5 of the Federal Training Assistance Act (Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz) and due to the care



of the spouse, the registered partner or a direct relative or first-degree relatives by marriage.

- (2) If a candidate can credibly demonstrate by means of a medical certificate that he or she is unable to take the module examinations or the M.A. examinations in whole or in part in the intended form due to a prolonged or permanent physical or mental impairment, the Examination Committee may allow the candidate to take equivalent examinations in another form.

### **§ 10 Missing, Withdrawal, Deception and Breach of Regulations**

- (1) An examination performance shall be deemed to have been assessed as "insufficient" (5.0) or "failed" if the candidate fails to appear at an examination date without valid reasons or if he or she withdraws from the examination after it has begun without valid reasons. The same applies if a written examination performance is not completed within the specified processing time.
- (2) The reasons asserted for the withdrawal or the failure to attend must be notified to the Examination Committee in writing without delay and must be made credible. In the case of illness of the candidate, the submission of a medical certificate and, in cases of doubt, the certificate of a medical officer of the RUB is required. The illness of a child who has to be cared for predominantly alone is equivalent to the candidate's illness. If the examination board recognizes the reasons for the absence, the examination in question will not be counted towards the maximum number of retakes.
- (3) In the case of written examinations - with the exception of examinations under supervision - the candidate must affirm in lieu of an oath that he or she has performed the examination without unauthorized outside assistance.
- (4) If the candidate attempts to influence the result of an examination or study performance by deception or the use of unauthorized aids, the examination or study performance in question is deemed to have been assessed as "insufficient" (5.0) or failed. The determination will be made by the respective examiner or by the person responsible for the supervision and will be recorded in the records. A fine of up to € 50,000 may be imposed. A candidate who disrupts the orderly conduct of the examination may, as a rule, be excluded from continuing the examination performance by the respective examiner or the person responsible for supervision after a warning. In this case, the examination performance in question is deemed to have been assessed as "insufficient" (5.0) or failed. The reasons for the exclusion are to be recorded. In the case of multiple or other serious attempts at cheating, the candidate can be excluded from taking further examinations and exmatriculated after a prior hearing.
- (5) The candidate must be informed immediately in writing of any adverse decisions, the reasons for such decisions must be stated, and the decision must be accompanied by instructions on how to appeal.

### **§ 11 Crediting and Recognition of Study Periods, Study Achievements and Examination Results, Placement in Higher Study Semesters**

- (1) Examination results obtained in study courses at other state or state-recognized universities, at state or state-recognized universities of cooperative education, in study courses at foreign state or state-recognized universities, or in another study course at the same university, shall be recognized upon application, provided that

with regard to the competences acquired there is no significant difference to the achievements which are being replaced; an examination of equivalence shall not take place. Recognition within the meaning of sentence 1 serves the continuation of studies and the taking of examinations.

- (2) Significant differences exist in particular if the acquired competencies do not meet the requirements of the respective field of study according to these examination regulations, including the subject-specific regulations. In this case, no schematic comparison is to be made, but rather an overall consideration and evaluation. For the recognition or crediting of periods of study, coursework and examinations completed outside the area of application of the Basic Law, the equivalence agreements approved by the Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs as well as agreements within the framework of the university partnership must be observed. Insofar as agreements and conventions of the Federal Republic of Germany with other states on equivalences in higher education (equivalence agreements; Äquivalenzabkommen) favor students of foreign states in deviation from paragraph 1, the regulations of the equivalence agreements shall take precedence. In case of doubt, the International Office and the Central Office for Foreign Education can be consulted.
- (3) Upon application, other knowledge and qualifications acquired outside of the university can be recognized to the extent of a maximum of 50% of the credit points provided for this course of study, if this knowledge and qualification is equivalent in content and level to the examination achievements it is intended to replace.
- (4) The Joint Examination Committee is responsible for crediting or recognition (according to paragraphs 1 to 3) in accordance with § 12 para. 4. The student must submit the documents required for crediting. After submission of the complete documents, a decision is issued, which must be accompanied by instructions on how to appeal, usually within six weeks. If the recognition sought on the basis of an application within the meaning of paragraph 1 is denied, the applicant may request a review of the decision by the rectorate without prejudice to the procedural deadlines.
- (5) If study and examination achievements are credited, the grades - insofar as the grading systems are comparable - are to be adopted and included in the calculation of the overall grade. In the case of incomparable grading systems, the remark "passed" is included. All recognitions and credits will be marked in the Transcript of Records.
- (6) The crediting of study periods, study achievements and examination achievements requires that an appreciable amount of examination achievements still has to be completed in the single-subject master's program at RUB. Such an extent is always given if either the master's thesis still has to be written or a volume of studies amounting to a total of 30 CP still has to be completed.
- (7) On the basis of an application in accordance with para. 1, and upon additional application by the student, a placement is made in the semester whose number results from the extent of the CP (acquired through recognition) in relation to the total CP (that can be acquired). If the decimal place is smaller than five, the number is rounded down to whole semesters, otherwise it is rounded up.

### **§ 12 Audit Committee**

- (1) For the organization of the examinations and the tasks assigned by these examination regulations, the Department of Philosophy I of the Faculty of

Philosophy and Educational Science forms an examination board together with the other faculties involved in the study program. The faculties involved are the Faculty of History, the Faculty of Philology, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Social Science, the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Computer Science.

- (2) The examination board consists of the chairperson, his/her deputy and four other members. The chairperson is the current executive director of the study program. Two further members come from the group of professors of the Department of Philosophy I or the other faculties involved in the study program. One further member comes from the group of academic staff and one from the group of students of the study program. The same number of representatives are elected for the members of the examination board. With the exception of the student member, the term of office of the members is limited to three years; the term of office of the student member is one year. Re-election is permitted.
- (3) The Audit Committee is an authority within the meaning of administrative procedure and administrative process law.
- (4) The examination board ensures that the provisions of the examination regulations are complied with and ensures that the examinations are conducted properly. In particular, it is responsible for deciding on appeals against decisions made in examination procedures and for ensuring that deadlines are met. In addition, the examination board shall report regularly, at least once a year, to the faculty on the development of examinations and study periods. This report shall be published in an appropriate form. It shall make suggestions for reforming the examination regulations and the study schedule and shall disclose the distribution of grades and overall grades. The examination board may delegate the execution of its duties to the chairperson for all regular cases. This does not apply to decisions on appeals and the report to the faculty.
- (5) The examination board has a quorum if, in addition to the chairperson or his/her deputy, two other professors with voting rights or their deputies and at least one other member with voting rights or his/her deputy are present. It decides by simple majority. In the event of a tie, the chairperson has the casting vote. The student members of the examination board do not participate in the crediting of studies and examinations, the determination of examination tasks, the evaluation of application essays according to § 3 para. 4 and the appointment of examiners and assessors.
- (6) The members of the examination board have the right to attend the taking of examinations.
- (7) The meetings of the Audit Committee are not public. The members of the Audit Committee and their representatives are subject to official secrecy. If they are not in public service, they must be sworn to secrecy by the chairperson of the Audit Committee.
- (8) In the performance of its duties, the Examination Committee may avail itself of the administrative assistance of the Examination Office of the Faculty of Philosophy and Educational Science.

### **§ 13 Examiners and Assessors**

- (1) The examination board appoints the examiners from the group of persons authorized to examine as well as the assessors. Only those persons may be appointed as

examiners and assessors who have acquired at least the academic qualification corresponding to the respective subject of the examination.

- (2) The auditors are independent in their auditing activities.
- (3) The candidate may suggest the examiner for the master's thesis. If possible, such suggestions should be taken into consideration. However, the suggestions do not justify any claim.  
The chairperson of the examination board shall ensure that the candidate is notified of the examination dates and the names of the examiners in good time, at least two weeks before the date of the respective examination. Announcement by posting is sufficient. The principles of data protection must be observed.
- (4) § 12, para. 5, sentences 2 and 3 shall apply accordingly to the examiners and assessors.

## **II. Master's Examination**

### **§ 14 Type and Scope of the Master's Examination**

The master's examination includes

1. the compulsory modules BM 1 and BM 2 as well as two of the three compulsory elective modules according to § 4 para. 2;
2. the research module RM or (alternatively) the internship module IM;
3. the final module according to § 15.

### **§ 15 Final Module**

- (1) The final module consists of a final colloquium and a master's thesis. Only those who meet the admission requirements for the master's thesis according to § 16 paras. 1 and 2 can be admitted. The colloquium must be completed with a grade of at least 4.0. If this is not the case, the colloquium can be repeated once without having to write a new MA thesis. If the colloquium is not completed twice with a grade of 4.0, the degree program cannot be completed and the student will be exmatriculated.
- (2) The final colloquium serves to accompany the master's thesis in terms of content and methodology. Here, the students present the conception, progress and results of their final thesis.
- (3) As part of the final colloquium, there will be an oral presentation of 30-45 minutes (plus max. 45 minutes discussion), which will relate to the topic of the master's thesis and how it fits into the broader scientific context.
- (4) The grade of the final module is composed of the weighted grades of the master thesis (80%) and the final colloquium (20%).

### **§ 16 Admission to the Master's Thesis**

- (1) Students who are admitted to the master's thesis
  1. may be registered for this M.A. program at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum or are admitted as a visiting student (Zweithörer:in),
  2. may be registered for the master's thesis,
  3. may provide evidence of successfully completed modules of this degree program amounting to at least 70 CP,

4. are not in a similar examination procedure at another university and have not definitively failed a similar examination at another university.
- (2) The application for admission must be submitted in writing to the Examination Committee with the required proofs according to para. 1 by the deadlines announced at the beginning of the semester.
- (3) If the requirements in paras. 1 and 2 are not met, admission to the master's thesis will not be granted.

### **§ 17 Master's Thesis**

- (1) The master's thesis is a written examination paper and is accompanied by a final colloquium. It is intended to show that the candidate is able to work independently on a problem in one of the thematic fields or focal points of the degree program using scientific methods within a specified period of time. The master's thesis corresponds to a workload of 24 CP and should not exceed 200,000 characters (approx. 80 pages).
- (2) The master's thesis is issued and supervised by two supervisors appointed by the examination board. One of the appointed persons should come from the Department of Philosophy I; the other may belong to one of the faculties involved in the study program.
- (3) The candidate has the right to propose the topic and the supervision of the master's thesis. After hearing the candidate, the topic proposer names the intended topic to the chairperson of the examination committee. The right to propose a topic does not constitute a legal claim.
- (4) The topic is issued by the chairperson of the examination committee. The date when the topic of the master's thesis is issued is to be recorded.
- (5) Upon request, the chairperson of the examination board will ensure that the candidate receives a topic for a master's thesis in good time.
- (6) The time between the issue of the topic and the submission of the master's thesis is five months. The topic, task and scope of the master's thesis are to be limited in such a way that the deadline for writing the master's thesis can be met.
- (7) The topic can only be returned once and only within the first month of the processing period. In the case of a repetition of the master's thesis, the return of the topic is only permitted if the candidate did not make use of this option at the first attempt. In individual cases, the examination committee may, upon justified request of the candidate, exceptionally extend the processing time by a grace period of up to six weeks. In the case of illness, the deadline for submission can be extended by a maximum of 10 weeks. This requires the submission of a medical certificate, in cases of doubt a certificate from a medical officer of the RUB. The extension corresponds to the period of illness. If the duration of illness exceeds 10 weeks, the candidate will be given a new topic. The master's thesis is usually written in English; in thematically justified cases, writing in German is possible.

### **§ 18 Acceptance and Assessment of the Master's Thesis; Assessment of the Master's Colloquium**

- (1) The master's thesis must be submitted to the examination board in due time in triplicate (typewritten, bound and with page numbers) as well as in examinable electronic form; the date of submission must be recorded. When submitting the

master's thesis, the candidate must assure in writing that he or she has written the thesis independently and has not used any sources or aids other than those indicated, and that citations have been clearly marked. If the master's thesis is not handed in on time, it is deemed to have been failed.

- (2) The master's thesis is to be evaluated independently by two examiners. One of the examiners should be the person responsible for the topic and supervision of the master's thesis. The second person authorized to examine is determined by the chairperson of the examination committee. As a rule, one examiner belongs to the Department of Philosophy I of the Faculty of Philosophy and Educational Science; the other examiner may belong to another of the participating faculties.
- (3) Each examiner assigns one grade. The overall grade of the master's thesis is formed from the arithmetic mean of the individual grades. If the grades differ by two grade levels, or if one grade is "insufficient" but the other is "sufficient" or better, the examination committee will appoint a third examiner from among the authorized examiners. Their assessment of the master's thesis is binding.
- (4) The master's thesis is passed if the overall grade is at least 4.0 ("sufficient").
- (5) The evaluation process should not exceed 8 weeks.

#### **§ 19 Repetition of the Master's Thesis and the Master's Colloquium**

- (1) A failed master's thesis can be repeated once and with a new topic.
- (2) The chairperson of the examination board shall notify the candidate in writing, stating whether and, if so, to what extent and within what period of time the failed master's thesis may be repeated, taking into account § 8, para. 1. The decision shall be accompanied by an explanation of legal remedies.

#### **§ 20 Passing the Master's Examination**

- (1) The master's examination is passed if
  1. the module examinations listed in § 14 para. 1 have been completed with a grade of at least 4.0 ("sufficient"),
  2. the evaluation of the final module has resulted in an assessment of at least 4.0 ("sufficient").
- (2) The overall grade of the master's examination is calculated from the weighted individual module grades. Two of the three elective modules EM 1 - EM 3 must be completed. The individual weightings are in each case for
  1. the module grades of the compulsory basic modules BM 1 and BM 2: 12.5%.
  2. the module grades of the elective modules EM 1, EM 2 and EM3: 12.5%.
  3. The module grades of the research and internship module RM or IM: 15%
  4. the module grade of the final module: 35%.
- (3) When calculating the overall grade in accordance with § 7 para. 1 and 2, only the first decimal place after the decimal point shall be taken into account; all other places shall be deleted without rounding.
- (4) The Master's examination is definitively failed if modules are definitively failed or if the master's thesis or the master's colloquium has been assessed with "insufficient" (5.0) in the second attempt or is deemed to have been assessed with "insufficient". A

decision is issued on the failed master's examination, which must be accompanied by an explanation of legal remedies.

### **III. Final Provisions**

#### **§ 21 Certificates, Diploma Supplement and Transcript of Records**

- (1) Upon passing the master's examination, the graduate will receive a certificate in English and a copy in German without delay, at the latest within 4 weeks. The overall grade, the topic and the grade of the thesis are to be included in the certificate. The certificate shall bear the date of the last examination. The certificate shall be signed by the chairperson of the examination board.
- (2) Simultaneously with the certificate of the master's examination, the graduate receives the master's certificate in English as well as a copy in German with the date of the certificate. This certifies the award of the master's degree. The master's certificate is to be signed by the chairperson of the examination board and by the dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Educational Science and bears the seal of the faculty.
- (3) Together with the certificate, the graduate will also receive a Diploma Supplement written in English, including a Transcript of Records. The Diploma Supplement provides information on the individual subject profile of the completed degree program. The Diploma Supplement also shows an ECTS grade for the final grade.
- (4) Students who leave the university without a degree receive, upon request, a document on the total academic and examination achievements (Transcript of Records).

#### **§ 22 Invalidity of the Master's Examination, Revocation of Academic Degree**

- (1) If the candidate has cheated in an examination and this fact only becomes known after the certificate has been issued, the examination board can subsequently correct the evaluations and grades for those examination performances in which the cheating occurred and declare the examination failed in whole or in part.
- (2) If the requirements for admission to an examination were not fulfilled without the candidate intending to deceive about this, and if this fact only becomes known after the certificate has been issued, this defect is cured by passing the examination. If the candidate has intentionally obtained admission unlawfully, the examination board shall decide on the legal consequences in compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act for the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.
- (3) Before a decision is made, the person concerned must be given the opportunity to comment.
- (4) The incorrect examination certificate shall be withdrawn and, if necessary, a new one issued. A decision in accordance with para. 1 and para. 2, sentence 2, is only permissible within five years of the date on which the degree was awarded. The period between the initiation and termination of administrative proceedings to examine the withdrawal of the degree conferral shall not be included in the five-year period pursuant to sentence 2.

- (5) If the examination as a whole has been declared failed due to cheating, the master's degree is to be withdrawn by the Faculty of Philosophy and Educational Science and the master's certificate is to be confiscated.

### **§ 23 Inspection of the Examination Files**

- (1) The candidate must be granted access to the examination documents upon request for up to one year after completion of the examination procedure. Deadlines within the framework of an appeal procedure remain unaffected by this.
- (2) The application must be submitted to the chairperson of the examination board. The chairperson shall determine the place and time of inspection in consultation with the person being examined.

### **§ 24 Scope of Application and Transitional Arrangements**

- (1) These examination regulations apply to the Master's program HPS+Logic at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum. They shall apply to all students who enrol in the program from the MN-semester MN onwards. For students who enrolled before the MN-semester MN, these examination rules shall apply upon request. The request for application of these regulations is irrevocable.
- (2) At the end of the XY-semester XY year, a Master's examination can be taken for the last time according to the examination regulations of March 20, 2019. From the XY-semester XY onwards, examination may only be taken in accordance with these examination regulations.

### **§ 25 Coming into Force and Publication**

- (1) These examination regulations shall come into force on the day of their publication in the official announcements of the RUB.
- (2) Issued on the basis of the resolution of the Council of the Faculty of Philosophy and Educational Science of xx.yy.zzzz.



