

These degree program and examination regulations have been worded carefully to be up to date; however, errors cannot be completely excluded. The official German text available from L1 – Legal Affairs and Academic Quality Management is the version that is legally binding.

**Degree Program and Examination Regulations for the  
Elite Master's degree program in Standards of Decision-  
Making Across Cultures (M.A.) at the Faculty of  
Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology at  
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)  
– FPOSDAC –  
Dated June 14, 2017**

amended by statutes of  
May 12, 2022

Based on Section 13 (1)(2), Section 43 (5)(2), Section 58 (1) and Section 61 (2)(1) of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (Bayerisches Hochschulgesetz, **BayHSchG**), FAU enacts the following Degree Program and Examination Regulations:

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**Preamble**

Within the Elite Network of Bavaria, FAU offers the Elite Master's degree program "Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures (M.A.)" in cooperation with the European Center for Chinese Studies (ECCS) at Peking University.

**Section 1 Scope**

The degree program and examination regulations for the research-oriented Master's degree program in "Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures (MA) leading to the degree "Master of Arts (MA)" supplement the valid version of the General Examination Regulations for the Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programs at the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology at FAU – **ABMStPO/Phil** – dated 27 September 2007.

## **Section 2 Qualification for a Master's Degree Programme**

(1) Contrary to Section 35 **ABMStPO/Phil**, those applying for admission to the "Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures (MA)" Master's degree program will be required to:

1. Hold a university degree (Bachelor's, Diploma, Magister, Master's or State Examination) with an above-average grade, in particular in the fields of philology, social sciences, history, education, philosophy, religious studies, anthropology, economics, law, psychology or medicine with a specific academic or research-oriented emphasis or an equivalent degree in the same fields awarded by an institute of higher education in Germany or abroad, insofar as the academic or research-oriented nature of the degree does not deviate significantly from the specified requirements for admission
2. Successfully complete the qualification assessment process as described in **Appendix 2**.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Applicants shall belong to the best 50 percent of their class or shall have completed the degree program in question with a final grade of at least 2.00 ("gut"; good). <sup>2</sup>Section 15 (3) **ABMStPO/Phil** shall apply accordingly.

(3) <sup>1</sup>If, during the procedure specified in Section 1 (1)(2), the qualifications held by the applicant as required in Section 1 (1)(1) are found to be such that any differences to requirements are reconcilable, the Examinations Committee may grant admission on the condition that proof of further achievements to be specified by the committee and equivalent to a maximum of 20 ECTS credits is submitted within one year of admission to the Master's program. <sup>2</sup>Admission in this case shall be granted conditionally.

(4) <sup>1</sup>Notwithstanding paragraph 1 (1), students enrolled in a relevant Bachelor's degree program may be admitted to a Master's degree program if they have achieved at least 140 ECTS credits. <sup>2</sup>Proof of the successfully completed Bachelor's degree shall be submitted at the latest within one year of taking up the degree program; completing the Bachelor's degree program is a prerequisite for formally starting the Master's degree program. <sup>3</sup>Admission to the Master's degree program shall be granted conditionally.

## **Section 3 Scope and Structure of the Master's Degree Program, Examinations, Teaching and Examination Language**

(1) The scope and structure of the Elite Master's degree program "Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures (MA)" and the scope of and weighting afforded to examinations are specified in **Appendix 1**.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The Elite Master's degree program consists of two phases. <sup>2</sup>The emphasis during the first two semesters is on theoretical content. <sup>3</sup>The next two semesters concentrate on gathering practical intercultural experience with a strong focus on China (3rd semester: obligatory stay at ECCS in Beijing, at one of FAU's partner universities or a stay abroad organized independently by the student) and looking at the theoretical foundations in more depth (4th semester: writing Master's thesis).

(3) <sup>1</sup>The language of teaching and examination in the Master's degree program "Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures" is English. <sup>2</sup>Certain lectures and examinations in elective modules may be held in German and/or Chinese; the details are set out in the module handbook. <sup>3</sup>In any case of uncertainty, the examination language shall be the same as the teaching language.

#### **Section 4 Examinations Committee**

(1) <sup>1</sup>Contrary to Sections 11 (1) and (14) **ABMStPO/Phil**, a dedicated Examinations Committee will be tasked with organizing and implementing the examinations for the Elite Master's degree program "Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures (MA)". <sup>2</sup>It shall consist of five members. <sup>3</sup>The Professor of Cultural and Social Anthropology, the Junior Professor of Anthropology and the degree program coordinator shall be members of the Examinations Committee together with the two speakers for the degree program. <sup>4</sup>The members shall be appointed by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology. <sup>5</sup>The Examinations Committee shall elect one of the speakers for the degree program as the chairperson and shall appoint a deputy to act in the event of the chairperson's absence. <sup>6</sup>The term of office of the members shall be five years. <sup>7</sup>It is permissible to reappoint members and reelect the chairperson. <sup>8</sup>The chairperson may transfer tasks within their responsibility to a member of the Examinations Committee.

(2) In addition, the Degree Program Committee is responsible for verifying compliance with the qualifications and admission requirements as set out in (2) in conjunction with **Appendix 2**.

#### **Section 5 Resit Examinations**

<sup>1</sup>Contrary to Section 39 (1) **ABMStPO/Phil**, it is only possible to resit the examinations of the Elite Master's degree program once. <sup>2</sup>To ensure compliance with the deadline for resitting examinations specified in Section 39 (2) in conjunction with Section 34 (1)(3) **ABMStPO/Phil**, it will also be possible to resit examinations for the modules to be completed in Beijing (modules 7 to 9) in Erlangen.

#### **Section 6 Legal Validity and Transitory Provisions**

(1) These degree program and examination regulations shall come into effect on the day after their publication.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The first amendment statute shall come into effect on the day after its publication. <sup>2</sup>It shall apply to all students starting a degree program from winter semester 2022/2023 onwards.

## Appendix 1: Study plan of the Elite Master's degree program "Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures" (SDAC)

Module name	Teaching unit	SWS (semester hours)				ECTS credits	Workload per semester in ECTS credits <sup>1</sup>				Type and scope of the examination	Grade factor
		L	T	P	S		1st	2nd	3rd	4th		
<b>1st semester (30 ECTS credits)</b>												
Theories of decision-making across cultural contexts	Lecture	2				<b>10</b>	2.5				Oral examination (20 min) with handout (2 pages) (100 % + 0 %)	1
	Seminar				2		2.5					
	Lecture	2					2.5					
	CAS Colloquium & workshop series I				2		2.5					
Politics of culture	Lecture <sup>2</sup>	(2)				<b>10</b>	(5)				Final examination (90 min)	1
	Lecture <sup>2</sup>	(2)					(5)					
	Lecture <sup>2</sup>	(2)					(5)					
	Lecture <sup>2</sup>	(2)					(5)					
Specific approaches of selected academic disciplines Ia <sup>3</sup>	Seminar				(2)	<b>(5)</b>	(5)				Written assignment (12-15 pages)	0.5
Specific approaches of selected academic disciplines Ib <sup>3</sup>	Seminar				(2)	<b>(5)</b>	(5)				Written assignment (12-15 pages)	0.5
Specific approaches of selected academic disciplines Ic <sup>3</sup>	Seminar				(2)	<b>(5)</b>	(5)				Written assignment (12-15 pages)	0.5
Specific approaches of selected academic disciplines Id <sup>3</sup>	Seminar				(2)	<b>(5)</b>	(5)				Written assignment (12-15 pages)	0.5
<b>2nd semester (30 ECTS credits)</b>												
Concepts of Asian cultural orientations and decision-making	Seminar <sup>4</sup>				(2)	<b>10</b>		(5)			Written assignment (12-15 pages)	1
	Seminar <sup>4</sup>				(2)			(5)				
	Seminar <sup>4</sup>				(2)			(5)				
	Seminar <sup>4</sup>				(2)			(5)				
Advanced thematic and regional courses a <sup>5</sup>	Seminar				(2)	<b>(5)</b>		(5)			Oral examination (20 min)	0.5
Advanced thematic and regional courses b <sup>5</sup>	Seminar				(2)	<b>(5)</b>		(5)			Oral examination (20 min)	0.5
Advanced thematic and regional courses c <sup>5</sup>	Seminar				(2)	<b>(5)</b>		(5)			Oral examination (20 min)	0.5
Advanced thematic and regional courses d <sup>5</sup>	Seminar				(2)	<b>(5)</b>		(5)			Oral examination (20 min)	0.5
Introduction to research methodologies	CAS Colloquium & workshop series II				2	<b>5</b>		5			Report (2 pages)	0
	Spring school											
Specific approaches of selected academic disciplines IIa <sup>6</sup>	Seminar				(2)	<b>(5)</b>		(5)			Written assignment (12-15 pages)	0.5

Module name	Teaching unit	SWS (semester hours)				ECTS credits	Workload per semester in ECTS credits <sup>1</sup>				Type and scope of the examination	Grade factor
		L	T	P	S		1st	2nd	3rd	4th		
Specific approaches of selected academic disciplines IIb <sup>6</sup>	Seminar				(2)	(5)		(5)			Written assignment (12-15 pages)	0.5
Specific approaches of selected academic disciplines IIc <sup>6</sup>	Seminar				(2)	(5)		(5)			Written assignment (12-15 pages)	0.5
Specific approaches of selected academic disciplines IId <sup>6</sup>	Seminar				(2)	(5)		(5)			Written assignment (12-15 pages)	0.5
<b>3rd semester (30 ECTS credits)</b>												
Regional contexts of decision-making	Lecture	2				10			5		Oral examination (20 min)	1
	Seminar				2				5			
Specific approaches of selected academic disciplines – regional focus a <sup>7</sup>	Modern Asian language training		(6)			(10)			(10)		Final examination (90 min)	1
Specific approaches of selected academic disciplines – regional focus b <sup>7</sup>	1 Selected lecture in English at Peking University or partner university	(3)				(10)			(5)		Written assignment (12-15 pages)	1
	1 Selected lecture in English at Peking University or partner university	(3)							(5)			
Developing transcultural sensitivities	Lecture series at ECCS or partner university	2				10			2		Final report on stay abroad (12-15 pages)	1
	Observations & experiences in China or in cross-cultural settings				1				8			
<b>4th semester</b>												
Master's thesis	Master's thesis					30				25	Master's thesis (approx. 80 pages) and oral defense (approx. 20 min) (70% + 30%)	2
	Master's thesis Colloquium				2					5		
<b>Total SWS and ECTS credits</b>		<b>12 - 18</b>	<b>0 - 6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>		
			<b>43</b>									

<sup>1</sup> The distribution shown is a recommendation.

<sup>2</sup> Two of the four modules must be taken.

<sup>3</sup> Two of the four modules must be taken.

<sup>4</sup> Two of the four modules must be taken.

<sup>5</sup> Two of the four modules must be taken.

<sup>6</sup> One of the four modules must be taken.

<sup>7</sup> One of the two modules must be chosen.

## Appendix 2: Qualification Assessment Process

(1) The qualification assessment process will be carried out once per year before the start of the lecture period in the winter semester.

(2) The following documents must be supplied with applications for admission to the Master's degree program:

1. Completed admission application form
2. Documentation demonstrating that the applicant holds a university degree as specified in Section 2 (1)(1) (degree certificate, transcript of records, diploma supplement or comparable documents) or a transcript of records in the case of Section 2 (4)
3. Proof of English language skills equivalent at least to Level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for languages or equivalent proof of English language skills if the university entrance qualification or the relevant initial professional qualification was not acquired in English (for example school leaving certificate stating level of English proficiency, proof of attaining UNlcert examination English II)
4. A CV in tabular form including a passport photograph
5. Other qualifications relevant to the degree program such as
  - a) Proof of completed modules in scientific or research-related studies, for example in qualitative research methods (worth at least 6 ECTS credits) or
  - b) Proof of completed modules in an explicitly cross-cultural topic or modules with an intercultural and transcultural focus (worth at least 6 ECTS credits)
  - c) Proof of completing work experience in a non-Western society (at least 3 months full-time).

(3) <sup>1</sup>Applications must be submitted to the university's Master's Office at the latest by July 15 of a given year for the following winter semester. <sup>2</sup>The Examinations Committee may grant an extension of this deadline on request.

(4) <sup>1</sup>In accordance with Section 4, the qualification assessment shall be the responsibility of the Examinations Committee for the Master's degree program. <sup>2</sup>The Examinations Committee may transfer the task of coordinating and carrying out the process to individual members unless otherwise specified.

(5) <sup>1</sup>Admission to the qualification assessment process shall be subject to the timely and complete submission of the documents listed in paragraph (2). <sup>2</sup>The qualification assessment process shall be carried out with those applicants who fulfill the requirements according to the provisions in (6). <sup>3</sup>Applicants who are rejected shall receive a rejection notification including reasons and information on legal remedies available.

(6) <sup>1</sup>The Admissions Committee shall carry out an initial selection based on the submitted documents as part of the qualification assessment process to assess whether an applicant qualifies for a Master's degree program. <sup>2</sup>Applicants holding the qualifications specified in Section 2 (1)(1) or, in cases in which the provisions of Section 2 (4) apply, who have an average grade to date of 2.00 (= good) or better and applicants who are among the top 50% of their intake will be invited to an interview of approx. 30 minutes that can also take the form of a video call; Section 15 (4) **ABMStPO/Phil** applies accordingly to qualifications with a differing grading system.

<sup>3</sup>Applicants holding the qualifications specified in Section 2 (1)(1) or, in cases in which the provisions of Section 2 (4) apply, with an average grade to date of 2.01 to 2.50 (= good) or better and/or applicants who belong to the top 60% of their intake will be invited to participate in a selection interview if they can furnish proof of qualifications of relevance to the Elite Master's degree program as specified in Section 2 (5). <sup>4</sup>The remaining applicants will receive a notification of rejection; this will specify the reasons for rejection and provide information on available legal remedies. <sup>5</sup>The selection interview will be carried out by at least two members of the Examinations Committee. <sup>6</sup>Applicants must present and, on request, justify their qualifications during the selection interview and provide adequate answers to questions on topics of relevance to the Elite Master's degree program. <sup>7</sup>The suitability of applicants for admission to the Elite Master's degree program shall be assessed on the basis of the following criteria (weighting accorded to criteria in brackets):

1. Quality of knowledge of cross-cultural issues and awareness of problems involved in interdisciplinary academic research (40%),
2. Their capacity for abstract thought and their ability to assess specific examples of intercultural decision-making practices (30%),
3. Their ability to express themselves and communicate (30%).

<sup>8</sup>The result of the selection interview will be rated as 'bestanden' (pass) or 'nicht bestanden' (fail). <sup>9</sup>Records shall be kept of the selection interview.

(7) <sup>1</sup>The qualification assessment process shall be considered passed if the selection interview is passed; otherwise it shall be considered failed. <sup>2</sup>Applicants will be notified of the result in writing. <sup>3</sup>A rejection notification shall include reasons and information on the legal remedies available. <sup>4</sup>It will not be possible to repeat the qualification assessment process on the basis of the documentation submitted with the first application.

(8) Applicants shall bear their own costs of the qualification assessment process.

(9) Confirmation of passing the qualification assessment process shall remain valid indefinitely, provided the Master's degree program has not been changed significantly.