

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

Faculty of Media

Examination regulations
for the master's degree programme
Computer Science and Media (MSc)

In accordance with § 3, par. 1 in combination with § 34, par. 3 of the Thuringian Higher Education Act (ThürHG) effective 21 December 2006 (GVBl. pp. 601 ff.) and as amended by Article 15 on 20 March 2009 (GVBl. p. 238), the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar issues the following examination regulations for the degree programme "Computer Science and Media" with the conferral of a Master of Science (MSc) degree. These regulations were approved by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Media on 9 February 2011 and were adopted on 6 April 2011 with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar.

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I. GENERAL

Preamble

The following examination regulations form the basis for the examinations administered in the master's degree (MSc) programme "Computer Science and Media".

§ 1 – Purpose of the examination

Upon successfully completing the examinations, master's thesis and presentation, the student demonstrates that he or she has gained advanced knowledge in the area of Computer Science and is able to advance and acquire scientific knowledge in the conception and development of digital information systems.

§ 2 – Academic degree

The degree programme concludes with the conferral of a "Master of Science" (MSc) university degree as the second-level professional qualification.

§ 3 – Scope and structure of the degree programme

(1) The standard duration of study is four semesters. The degree programme is divided into various modules. Each module is comprised of a unit of instruction and an examination. Modules last a maximum of two semesters and conclude with a final grade.

(2) The master's degree programme is comprised of courses worth a total of 120 credit points (CP). The study regulations should ensure that students can complete their examinations, master's thesis and its presentation in a period of four semesters.

§ 4 – Structure of examinations, examination deadlines

(1) Examinations are comprised of the graded assignments administered during the module in the examination subject or in a cross-disciplinary examination area. In certain cases, examinations may be comprised of only one graded assignment.

(2) Students are required to register for a module examination while taking the module in question at some point during the lecture period.

(3) Candidates are required to pass their master's examination by the end of their 6th semester. If a candidate fails to complete the examination within this time, he or she is barred from taking the examination, unless their failure resulted through no fault of their own.

§ 5 – Examination committee

(1) An examination committee is formed to ensure that the procedures put forth in these examination regulations are followed. The examination committee is comprised of five members: three professors, one member of the academic staff and one representative of the student body. The Faculty Council is responsible for appointing the chairperson, his or her deputy and the other members of the examination committee. Committee members are appointed for a two-year term and the student representative normally for one year.

(2) The examination committee passes resolutions based on the majority vote. In the event of a tie, the committee's chairperson is responsible for deciding the matter. The quorum of the committee is met when the majority of the members are present, which must include the chairperson (or his or her deputy). The sessions of the examination committee are not open to the public. The committee members are subject to professional discretion. If they are not civil servants, they are subject to professional discretion through the chairperson.

(3) The examination committee ensures that candidates comply with the procedures put forth in the examination regulations. The committee reports on the progress of the examinations and study duration to the Faculty Council on a regular basis. Furthermore, it can recommend changes to the study and examination regulations if needed.

(4) At the beginning of each semester, the examination committee is required to draw up and announce the schedule of upcoming oral and written examinations.

§ 6 – Examiners and observers

(1) The examination committee appoints the examiners and observers. The examiners must be individuals with university positions, duties or experience as stipulated in § 48, par. 2 of ThürHG. As a rule, two examiners are required for assessing written examinations and other written assignments, whereby at least one examiner must be a professor. The examination committee may only select examiners and observers who have at least passed the examination in question or attained an equivalent qualification.

(2) The chairperson of the examination committee ensures that the candidate be given sufficient advance notice of the names of the examiners.

(3) The examiners and observers are subject to professional discretion.

§ 7 – Recognition of periods of study, course work and examinations

(1) Periods of study, course work and examinations are automatically recognized if they have been completed in a comparable master's degree programme at a university or equivalent institution of higher education in the jurisdiction of the German Higher Education Framework Act. Recognition may be denied if the candidate's past academic achievement totals more than half of the examinations or includes the master's thesis. Decisions concerning the refusal of recognition are made by the examination committee.

(2) Periods of study, course work and examinations in other degree programmes are recognized if they are deemed equivalent to those of the degree programme in question. Periods of study, course work and examinations are deemed equivalent if the student's former degree programme essentially resembles that of the master's degree programme "Computer Science and Media" in terms of content, scope and requirements. This assessment is not based on a schematic comparison, but an overall review and evaluation. When evaluating periods of study, course work and examinations completed at institutions outside the jurisdiction of the German Higher Education Framework Act, the examination committee must ensure that these comply with the equivalence agreements made by the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs and the German Rectors' Conference, as well as contractual agreements of university partnerships. If a student seeks recognition of course work completed at a different university in a different course of study, he or she must provide a brief description of the certificates of achievement.

(3) Par. 1 and 2 also apply to periods of study, course work and examinations from nationally accredited correspondence degree programmes, universities of cooperative education and the predecessor institutions of universities of applied sciences.

(4) If the course work and examinations are recognized and the grading schemes are comparable, the grades are then included into the calculation of the final grade. If the grading schemes are not comparable, the completed courses and examinations are marked as "passed". Recognized academic achievement may be distinguished as such on the official transcript.

(5) If the conditions of sections 1 – 3 are met, the candidate has a legal right to receive credit for his or her past academic achievement. The candidate is responsible for providing all necessary documentation in order to receive academic credit. Periods of study, course work and examinations completed in the jurisdiction of the German Higher Education Framework Act are recognized ex officio.

§ 8 - Absence, withdrawal, deception, violation of regulations

(1) A candidate receives an automatic grade of "insufficient" (5.0), if he or she does not show up for the examination without good reason or withdraws from the examination for no good reason after it has commenced. The same applies if a written examination is not completed within the time allotted.

(2) If the candidate fails to attend or withdraws from an examination, he or she must notify the examination committee or examiner immediately and substantiate their explanation in writing. In the case of sickness, the candidate must submit a doctor's certificate, and in substantiated cases, certification from a medical officer attesting the candidate's inability to be examined. Should the reason for failure to attend or withdrawal be recognized, the examination is rescheduled, usually for the next regular examination session. All previously attained examination results remain valid.

(3) If the candidate attempts to influence the outcome of his or her examination through deception or by means of impermissible aids, the candidate receives an automatic grade of "insufficient" (5.0) for the examination. The examiner or invigilator has the right to remove a candidate from an examination session if the candidate violates the rules of the examination. In such cases, the candidate receives a grade of "insufficient" (5.0) for the examination.

(4) Following notification of the examination results, the candidate has four weeks to contest the results and have the decision reviewed by the examination committee in accordance with par. 3, nos. 1 and 2. If the candidate receives an unfavourable assessment following review of the matter, he or she must be notified of the decision in writing with its justification, along with instruction on his or her options of legal recourse.

II. MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME

§ 9 – Scope and types of examinations

(1) This degree programme lasts four semesters and is comprised of the module examinations, a master's thesis and its presentation.

(2) The module examinations are comprised of mandatory assignments which the candidate must complete as prescribed in the module plan. The exact details of the assignments are determined at the beginning of the corresponding course.

(3) When appropriate, these assignments may be completed in the form of group work. The candidate's work must be clearly distinguishable from that of the other members of the group and allow for individual assessment. As a rule, groups should not exceed three members.

(4) If the candidate can prove that he or she is unable to partially or fully comply with the examination requirements in the prescribed form because of longer-term or permanent physical incapacity, the candidate may be granted an extension to complete the requirements or be permitted to comply with the requirements in an equivalent form. The examination committee may ask the candidate to provide a doctor's certificate.

§ 10 – Written examinations and other written assignments

(1) In written examinations, the candidate should demonstrate his or her ability to examine and solve problems of Computer Science within a limited period of time and with limited resources.

(2) In other written assignments, namely term papers, the candidate should demonstrate that he or she is able to systematically or analytically define problems of Computer Science, suggest methods to address them, describe them at length and develop ways of solving them by taking all the related areas of Computer Science into consideration. The written assignment may also be combined with an oral presentation (*Referat*) and, if necessary, supplemented or substituted by other form of written documentation.

(3) The candidate is given at least 30 minutes and no more than four hours to complete written examinations. Other written assignments, such as term papers, are to be completed within the current semester. The candidate is expected to spend approx. 90 hours to complete term papers outside of class.

§ 11 – Oral examinations

(1) In an oral examination, the candidate should demonstrate understanding of his or her area of examination and be able to categorize specific problems with regard to their context.

(2) Oral examinations of groups or single candidates should be administered by at least two examiners (faculty members) if possible or by one examiner in the presence of an expert observer.

(3) The duration of the oral examination should be at least 15 minutes and no longer than 60 minutes per candidate.

(4) The important points and outcome of the oral examination must be documented in a written protocol. The grade must be announced to the candidate directly following the oral examination.

(5) Students who plan on taking the same examination at a later date are welcome to attend the presentation if space allows and the candidate does not object. The public part of the presentation does not include the feedback and announcement of the examination results.

§ 12 – Assessment of examinations, grade calculation

(1) The grades for each task of the examination are determined by the corresponding examiners. The following grade scheme is used for grading the different sections of a candidate's examination:

1.0 – 1.5	very good	excellent
1.6 – 2.5	good	significantly above-average mark
2.6 – 3.5	satisfactory	average
3.6 – 4.0	sufficient	meets the requirements despite some faults
over 4.0	insufficient	fails to meet the requirements as a result of too many faults

(2) The grade of a module is calculated by averaging the weighted grades from all the examinations and written assignments completed in the module.

(3) When calculating the grades for the individual sections of the examination, the module grades and final grade may only be calculated to one decimal place. All additional decimal places are neither considered nor rounded.

(4) The German grades are supplemented by ECTS grades, based on the following grading scheme:

ECTS grade	Percentile of students who receive this grade
A	top 10 %
B	next 25 %
C	next 30 %
D	next 25 %
E	next 10 %

Candidates receive the ECTS grade "F" for a failed examination.

§ 13 – Retaking examinations

(1) The candidate is allowed to retake examinations which receive a failing grade or are marked as failed. If an examination is comprised of several sections, of which one or more received a failing

grade, the candidate need only retake those sections marked "insufficient". Failed examinations and retakes from other universities or equivalent institutions of higher education are to be taken into account.

(2) The candidate is permitted to retake examinations a second time. However, if the candidate fails the second retake, the examination may not be repeated again and is permanently marked as failed.

(3) Failed oral or written examinations must be retaken within the next two examination periods. Otherwise, the right to retake the examination lapses unless the candidate was not at fault for failing to do so in the allotted time period. Exceptions require approval by the examination committee.

(4) If the candidate fails to attend the first retake for no good reason, the examination is marked as failed. If the candidate fails to attend the second retake for no good reason, the examination is permanently marked as failed.

(5) The candidate may not retake module examinations which have received a passing grade.

§ 14 - Master's thesis

(1) After passing all the required module examinations, the candidate must submit a written application to the examination committee for permission to commence with the master's thesis. The application must include:

1. Certificates confirming passed examinations
2. Proposal for the first examiner
3. Proposal for the topic of the master's thesis
4. Written confirmation from the proposed first examiner agreeing to supervise the candidate
5. Proof of English proficiency at the C 1 level (GER) in accordance with § 5, par. 4 of the study regulations for this degree programme

(2) The master's thesis should demonstrate that the candidate is able to independently define, recognize, assess and solve a problem in the field of Computer Science using scientific methods.

(3) The master's thesis must be written and orally presented in English.

(4) The candidate is allotted five months to complete the master's thesis. The first examiner should ensure that the topic, proposed treatment and scope of the thesis is restricted to an extent that the candidate can meet the submission deadline. The examination committee may grant the candidate an extension of up to three months if he or she cannot meet the submission deadline for reasons beyond his or her control. The examination committee should grant the candidate an extension of suitable length if sickness prevents the candidate from completing the thesis on time.

(5) Each examiner is authorized to approve the thesis topic, as well as supervise and assess the master's thesis. If the candidate wishes to write the master's thesis at an institution outside the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, approval by the chairperson of the examination committee is required.

(6) After discussing the proposed topic with the candidate, the first examiner approves the topic of the master's thesis and notifies the examination committee of the topic and date of approval. The date of approval must be put on record. The first examiner is responsible for supervising the candidate's progress during the completion of the master's thesis.

(7) The topic may only be discarded once and only within the first third of the allotted time permitted to complete the thesis.

(8) A master's thesis in the form of group work is permissible as long as the candidate's achievement can be clearly distinguished from that of the other members (e.g. by means of separate sections, page numbers or other objective criteria) and individually assessed.

(9) Upon submission of the master's thesis, the candidate must provide written assurance that his or her work – if a group work, then his or her portion of the thesis – was completed independently and no other sources or aids were used other than those explicitly cited.

(10) The master's thesis must also be submitted as a digital copy.

(11) One printed copy of the master's thesis (and its digital copy) become property of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar and can be destroyed one year after the conclusion of the examination process. This stipulation does not infringe on the author's copyrights in any way.

§ 15 - Submission and evaluation of the master's thesis

(1) The candidate must submit the master's thesis by the fixed deadline. The date of submission must be put on record.

(2) The master's thesis must be evaluated by two examiners within two months of submission. Following the evaluation, the candidate is required to hold a 20-minute presentation and answer questions in a follow-up discussion. All examinations and assignments required by the degree programme have to be completed before the candidate is allowed to hold this final presentation.

(3) The grade of the master's thesis is calculated by combining the weighted grades of the written thesis (worth 24 CP) and its presentation and follow-up discussion (worth 6 CP). The final grade is calculated by averaging the individual grades given by each examiner.

(4) If one of the examiners marks the thesis as "insufficient" (5.0), another examiner must be appointed.

§ 16 - Evaluation of examinations, grade calculation, passing the master's examination

(1) The final grade is calculated by averaging the weighted grades received for the modules (70%) together with the grades of the master's thesis and its presentation (30%). The conditions put forth in § 13 apply accordingly. The credit points awarded for each module are listed in the module plan.

(2) The master's examination is passed if the candidate receives passing grades for all the module examinations and receives at least a grade of "sufficient" (4.0) for the master's thesis and its presentation.

(3) In the case of outstanding achievement, the examination committee can confer the title "with honours". This requires that both examiners award a grade of "excellent" (1.0) for the master's thesis and its presentation, and that all modules receive final grades better than 1.3 and no examination receive a grade worse than 2.3.

§ 17 - Rewriting the master's thesis

(1) If the candidate receives a grade of "insufficient" for the master's thesis or the presentation, he or she may rewrite it (or repeat the presentation) only once. The candidate may discard the topic of the master's thesis within the time period stipulated in § 14, par. 7, if he or she did not do so already during the first attempt to complete the master's thesis.

(2) The candidate is not permitted to rewrite or repeat the master's thesis and/or its presentation a second time.

§ 18 - Certificate

(1) After successfully presenting the master's thesis, the candidate receives a certificate with the results of the master's examination. It includes the grades of the examinations, the topic of the master's thesis and its final grade, as well as the total number of credit points the candidate achieved.

(2) The certificate bears the date of the presentation of the master's thesis. It is signed by the Dean of the Faculty and the chairperson of the examination committee, and authenticated with the university seal. The certificate is issued in English and German.

(3) The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar issues a Diploma Supplement (DS) together with the certificate, also in English and German.

§ 19 - Diploma

(1) Along with the certificate, the candidate receives his or her master's degree diploma, bearing the date of the certificate. The diploma certifies the conferral of the master's degree.

(2) The diploma, issued in both English and German, is signed by the Dean of the Faculty and the chairperson of the examination committee, and is authenticated with the university seal.

III. FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 20 – Invalidity of examinations

(1) If the candidate has knowingly manipulated his or her examination results and this deception is discovered after the certificate has been issued, the examination committee is permitted to retroactively correct the manipulated results and mark the examination in part or total as "failed".

(2) If the requirements for admission to an examination were not fulfilled and the candidate had no intention of deceiving the committee, and if this fact is discovered after the certificate is issued, a passing grade on the examination automatically rectifies the mistake. However, if the candidate consciously deceived the committee to be admitted to an examination, then the examination committee is responsible for redressing the matter.

(3) The candidate is allowed to make a statement in his or her defence before a decision is made on the matter.

(4) The incorrect certificate must be retracted and, if necessary, replaced with a new one. If the examination is marked as "failed" on account of manipulation with intent to deceive, the diploma must also be retracted together with the incorrect certificate. In accordance with par. 1 and par. 2, no. 2, decisions concerning retraction may no longer be made after five years of the date on the examination certificate.

§ 21 - Reviewing the examination documents

The candidate may review (upon prior request and without undue delay) his or her written examination documents, the corresponding assessments by the examiners and the examination protocols within one year following the conclusion of the examination process.

§ 22 – Contesting the examination results

(1) If the candidate receives an unfavourable assessment on the basis on these examination regulations, he or she must be notified of the decision in writing with its justification, along with instruction on his or her options of legal recourse. The candidate is allowed to formally contest the decision with the examination committee within one month after receiving notification.

(2) The examination committee is responsible for deciding the matter after hearing the position of the examiners.

(3) If the candidate contests the assessment of one of the examiners, the examination committee forwards the matter to the examiner in question for re-evaluation. Should the examiner decide to change his or her assessment, the examination committee redresses the contested decision. Otherwise, the examination committee reviews whether the assessment:

1. was based on incorrect assumptions or irrelevant considerations,
2. violated generally recognized principles of assessment standards,
3. violated legal provisions, or
4. violated general principles of life experience.

If the committee determines that any of these occurred, it issues an "objection notice". In accordance with par. 4, the candidate is not permitted to contest an objection notice.

(4) If the candidate contests a decision made by the examination committee, the Dean holds a hearing with the committee, and, if the committee refuses to redress the decision, the Dean is responsible for settling the matter.

(5) Contested decisions must be addressed at the soonest possible date. If the decision is not redressed, the candidate must be notified of the reason and receive instruction on his or her options of legal recourse.

§ 23 - Equal treatment clause

Terms of status and function as applied in these regulations pertain to both sexes to an equal degree.

§ 24 - Statement of effect

These examination regulations entered into effect on the first day of the month following their public announcement by the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. First-semester students beginning in the winter semester 2011/12 are the first to which these regulations apply.

Approved by resolution of the Faculty Council on 9 February 2011.

Prof. Dr. Andreas Ziemann
Dean of the Faculty of Media

The statutes are approvable.

Dipl.-Jur. Rainer Junghanß
Legal advisor

Approved
Weimar, 6 April 2011

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Beucke
Vice-Chancellor

Attachment: Course and examination schedule

Students are required to attain a total of 120 credit points (CP) with the completion of the following modules in four semesters:

Module name	LP
Modelling	09
Intelligent Information Systems	09
Distributed Information Systems	09
Interactive Systems	09
Electives	24
Research Project I	15
Research Project II	15
Master module	
comprised of	
Master's thesis	24
Presentation	06
Total	120

The courses for each module are announced each semester in the course catalogue (prospectus). The electives module contains a selection of courses in the areas of Media Culture, Media Design, Media Management, courses offered by the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture, and Art and Design, graded language courses totalling a maximum of six credit points, and master's degree courses in Computer Science and Media not included in other modules. If a student completes more than the required 24 credit points in the electives module, the excess credit points are deducted from those which received the lowest mark. The master module is comprised of the master's thesis and its presentation.