Course of Study-Specific Examination Regulations

for the Master’s Course of Study

Transforming City Regions

at RWTH Aachen University

Dated July 25, 2019

in the Second Revised Version

Dated September 2, 2022

Published as a Complete Version

Please note: This publication is an English translation. Only the German original of these regulations as published in the Official Announcements of RWTH Aachen University (“Amtliche Bekanntmachungen”) is legally binding.

Based on §§ 2 para. 4, 64 of the law governing the Universities of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Higher Education Act – HG) in the version dated September 16, 2014 (GV. of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia p. 547), last amended by Article 1 of the Act on the Membership of University Hospitals in the Employers’ Association of the State of June 30, 2022 (GV. NRW p. 780b), RWTH Aachen University has issued the following regulations:
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Appendix 1:

Curriculum
I. General

§ 1
Scope of Application and Academic Degree

(1) These regulations apply to the Master’s course of study Transforming City Regions at RWTH. They only apply in conjunction with the currently valid version of the General Examination Regulations (GER) in the relevant applicable version, supplementing it with an additional set of study-specific regulations. In cases of doubt, the provisions of the general examination regulations take priority.

(2) Upon successful completion of the Master’s course, the academic degree of Master of Science RWTH Aachen University (M. Sc RWTH) is awarded.

§ 2
Objectives of the Course of Study and Language Provisions

(1) This is a Master’s degree program that builds on the Bachelor’s degree program in architecture at RWTH Aachen University in accordance with § 2 (3) GER.

(2) The overall educational objectives are set out in § 2 para. 1, 3 and 4 GER. For further information and provisions on the objectives of this Master’s course, please refer to the description of the examination regulations, to be found at the beginning of the module catalog.

(3) Teaching takes place principally in English, and some courses in the elective and core elective sections are held in German.

(4) Examinations may be taken in German or English, in agreement with the examiner in question.

§ 3
Admission Requirements

(1) A basic requirement for admission is a recognized university degree according to § 3 (4) GER.

(2) As far as the educational background is concerned, it is required that the applicant demonstrates the competencies necessary for successful study in the Master’s program Transforming City Regions, amounting to a total of 30 CP in subjects/modules such as urban design, urban planning, spatial planning, regional planning, landscape architecture, architecture, transportation planning, environmental engineering, urban geography, urban ecology, urban governance, urban sociology, regional/urban economics, protection of cultural heritage, GIS, design, building, and planning law.

The drafts, projects, exercises and, if applicable, text contributions made during the previous course of study can also be used to check the candidate’s knowledge and skills. These should be uploaded digitally as a PDF via RWTHonline in the form of a portfolio of a maximum of 25 pages (A3 landscape format).

(3) For this Master’s course of study, sufficient knowledge of the English language must be proven according to § 3 (9) GER.
§ 3 (12) GER applies for determining whether the admission requirements are met.

(5) General regulations for the recognition of prior examinations are provided in § 13 GER.

§ 4

Standard Period of Study, Curriculum, Credit Points, and Scope of Study

(1) The standard period of study is four semesters (two years) full-time, including preparation of the Master's thesis. Students can only start their studies in the winter semester.

(2) The course of study consists of a mandatory section, a core elective section, three projects, an elective section, and the final thesis. For successful completion of the degree program, a total of 120 credit points must be acquired. The Master's examination is comprised of the following components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Credit Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory section</td>
<td>24 CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core elective section</td>
<td>12 CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>45 CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective section</td>
<td>9 CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's thesis</td>
<td>30 CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>120 CP</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3) The degree course, including the Master's thesis module, comprises 15 modules. All modules are specified in the module catalog. The weighting of the examinations with credit points to be taken in the individual modules is carried out according to § 4 (4) GER.

§ 5

Obligatory Attendance in Classes

(1) According to § 5 (2) GER, obligatory attendance can only be stipulated in courses of the following type:

1. Tutorials
2. Seminars and introductory seminars (“Proseminare”)
3. Colloquia
4. Lab courses
5. Excursions

(2) Classes, for which attendance is required in accordance with paragraph 1, shall be identified as such in the module catalog.
§ 6
Examinations and Examination Deadlines

(1) General regulations on examinations and examination periods are stipulated in § 6 GER.

(2) Provided that completion of modules, exams, or module components according to § 5 (4) GER is stipulated as a precondition for participation in other exams, this is indicated in the module catalog.

§ 7
Types of Examinations

(1) General regulations on types of examination are included in § 7 GER.

(2) No other forms of examination are stipulated according to § 7 para. 1 GER.

(3) The duration of an exam is as follows

- 60 to 90 minutes for up to 5 CP
- 90 to 120 minutes for up to 6 or 7 CP
- 120+ minutes for 8 or more CP

(4) The duration of an oral examination is at least 15 minutes and at most 30 minutes per candidate. An oral exam may be carried out as a group exam with up to four candidates. The duration of the group exam shall be 30 to 60 minutes.

(5) The following applies in detail to student research papers: a student research paper is a piece of theoretical work, a comprehensive analysis or development work from the field of urban planning. It may include planning, environmental, economic, social, technical, and historical topics. As a written work, it comprises at least 30 pages of text or corresponding technical or graphic representations. The duration of a student research paper, including the module “Theoretical and methodological seminar”, comprises one semester and 15 CP. It therefore replaces a one-semester project work.

(6) The research and writing-up time of a term paper usually corresponds to 30-60 working hours. The term paper shall be 10 to 20 A4 pages long.

(7) For project work, the following applies in detail: the project work consists of independent scientific work, in particular on spatial-design, technical, functional and scientific tasks with a graphic and written documentation of the results, which are presented and assessed in a final colloquium. For the implementation and assessment of colloquia, § 7 (12) GER and § 7 (9) of these examination regulations shall apply. As a rule, project work by students is supervised by faculty. Project work shall be carried out within one semester and is worth 15 credit points. They include a “Theoretical and methodological seminar” in each semester, which is defined as a module component.

(8) The written version of the oral presentation shall range from 5 to 10 pages. The duration of the presentation shall be at least 15 minutes and at most 30 minutes.

(9) For colloquia, the following applies in detail: the colloquium should be open to faculty members. Guest reviewers will be appointed and announced in advance (if applicable). Guest reviewers are experts with outstanding and proven achievements in teaching, research, and/or
practice. Upon invitation by the Faculty or by the examiners, they may also take part in the discussion. For individually completed project work, the duration of the colloquium is a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 30 minutes per candidate. For group work, the duration of the colloquium is a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 60 minutes.

(10) The examiner specifies the duration of the examination and, if applicable, other modalities of the examination at the start of the course.

(11) Admission to module examinations may be conditional on the successful completion of module components as examination requirements in accordance with § 7 (15) GER. For the relevant modules, this is outlined in the module catalog. At the start of term, or by the time of the first course session, the lecturer shall provide precise criteria in the CMS regarding possible improvement of grades through the completion of module components, particularly the number and type of tutorials that can be taken for extra credit as well as the mode of correction and assessment.

Passed module modules remain valid for all examination attempts belonging to a module.

§ 8 Assessment and Grading

(1) General regulations for assessing the examinations and the formation of grades are included in § 10 GER.

(2) A module has been passed if all associated partial examinations have been passed with a grade of at least "sufficient" (4.0), and all other credit points or module components have been achieved according to the relevant course of study-specific examination regulations.

(3) The overall grade is formed taking into account all module grades and the grade of the Master's thesis according to § 10 (10) GER.

(4) In the case that all module examinations of the Master's course of study have been completed within the standard period of study, one weighted module grade corresponding to a maximum of 6 credit points can be deleted.

(5) If the candidate has completed additional assessments worth at least 54 CP in the context of an international exchange program at a foreign university and if these are recorded in the study abroad module, the certificate will be marked with the addition "with International Honors". Recognition of these examination achievements is possible in principle under the conditions of § 13 GER. The Master's thesis is an exception to this. Of the at least 54 CP earned abroad, however, at least 24 CP must have been earned additionally, i.e. they may not have been credited to examination achievements of the Master's program Transforming City Regions at RWTH.

§ 9 Examination Board

The responsible Examination Board according to § 11 GER is the Master's examination board of the Faculty of Architecture. The Transforming City Regions Master's program director is responsible for organizing, conducting, and implementing agenda items pertaining to the Transforming City Regions Master's program. The program director cannot be chairperson at the same time.
§ 10 Repeating Examinations or the Master’s Thesis, Loss of the Right to Take an Exam

(1) General regulations governing retaking exams or the Master’s thesis, and the loss of the right to take exams are stipulated in § 14 GER.

(2) Modules that can be freely selected within the elective section of this Master’s course can be replaced, provided this is permitted in the module catalog. It is not possible to replace mandatory and the core elective modules.

§ 11 Deregistration, Non-Attendance, Withdrawal, Deception, Non-Compliance

(1) General provisions on deregistration, non-attendance, withdrawal, deception or non-compliance are included in § 15 GER.

(2) The following applies to the deregistration from seminars: de-registration from block courses is possible until one day before the first day of the course.

II. Master’s Examination and Master’s Thesis

§ 12 Type and Scope of the Master’s Examination

(1) The Master’s examination consists of

1. examinations that are to be completed based on the structure of the course of study according to § 4 (2) and detailed in the module catalog, as well as

2. the Master’s thesis and the Master’s final colloquium.

(2) The order of courses is based on the curriculum (Appendix 2). The Master’s thesis can only be registered once the student has attained 81 credit points. A prerequisite for admission to the Master’s thesis is that the candidate has passed the module “Scientific Integrity”.

§ 13 Master’s Thesis

(1) General provisions for the Master’s thesis are provided in § 17 GER. The Master’s thesis usually consists of a graphic and a written assignment. The written work should not exceed 80 pages, excluding appendices.

(2) Further details regarding the supervision of the Master’s thesis are outlined in § 17 (2) GER.

(3) The Master’s thesis is to be written in the English language. This thesis can usually be written in German or English, in agreement with the examiner in question.

(4) The writing-up time for the Master’s thesis is usually six months at maximum alongside studies. Upon special request to the Examination Board prior to starting to work on the thesis, the writing-up time may be set at a maximum of 11 months. In justified exceptional cases, the writing time can be extended by a maximum of up to six weeks upon application to the relevant Examination Board in accordance with § 17 (7) GER.
(5) The candidate shall present the results of the Master’s thesis as part of a Master’s colloquium, which, as a rule, is open to members of the relevant Faculties. § 7 (12) GER in connection with § 7 (9) apply accordingly. The Master’s degree colloquium may be conducted in a non-public setting upon application to the Examination Board together with the application for admission for good cause.

(6) The work required for preparing and writing the Master’s thesis as well as for the colloquium shall correspond to 30 credit points. The Master’s thesis can only be graded after the Master’s final colloquium has taken place.

§ 14
Acceptance and Assessment of the Master's Thesis

(1) General provisions on acceptance and assessment of Master’s thesis are stipulated in § 18 GER.

(2) A copy of the Master’s thesis is to be submitted on time, printed and bound, to the Examination Board. Printed copies of the draft and analytical-scientific part should be submitted. Deviations from this procedure must be approved by the Examination Board. The application for approval must be made together with the application for admission to the Master’s thesis. Furthermore, the thesis must be submitted as a PDF/PDF file on a data carrier; the plans must also be included.

III. Final Provisions

§ 15
Viewing of Examination Records

Review of exam documents is carried out in accordance with § 22 GER.

§ 16

(1) These regulations shall be published in the official announcements of RWTH Aachen University (“Amtliche Bekanntmachungen”) and enter into force on the day after publication.

(2) These examination regulations apply to all students who are enrolled in the Transforming City Regions Master’s course of study at RWTH.

(3) The provisions of § 12 (2) sentence 3 (academic integrity) apply to all students who have enrolled / enroll in the Master's program Transforming City Regions for the 2020/2021 winter semester or later.
Issued based on the resolutions of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Architecture dated December 22, 2021.

It is pointed out that, in accordance with § 12 (5) NRW HG, any claims regarding a violation of procedural or formal requirements of the regulatory or other autonomous rights of the University may no longer be asserted after one year has elapsed since the official publication of this announcement unless:

1) the announcement has not been properly published,
2) the Rectorate has objected, prior to publication, to the decision of the committee adopting the regulations,
3) the University has been previously notified about the defect of form or of procedure in a complaint, specifying the infringed legal provision and the fact which gives rise to the defect, or
4) the legal consequence of the exclusion of complaints was not pointed out in the public announcement.

The Rector
of RWTH
Aachen University

Aachen, dated September 02, 2022

sgd. Rüdiger
Univ.-Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Dr. h. c. mult. Rüdiger
Appendix 1 Curriculum

Curriculum Framework for Master of Science in Transforming City Regions
According to examination regulations 2019

1. Urban transformation
   - Planning & design for changing cities
   - Evolving environments, transforming landscapes
   - Impromptu courses / Field trip
   - Integrated Project I: Transforming urban structure
     - Theoretical and methodological seminar for the Integrated Project I

2. Evolution of Functional Urban Areas
   - Territorial analysis, digital tools
   - European urban policies & territorial governance structures
   - Research Module in Urban and Regional Transformation Seminar
   - Integrated Project II: Evolution of Functional Urban Areas
     - Theoretical and methodological seminar for the Integrated Project II

3. Elective courses
   - Multiple scales of urban planning and design
   - Integrated Project III: Networked urban systems in Europe
     - Theoretical and methodological seminar for the Integrated Project III

4. Master Thesis
   - Project work and presentation of the thesis

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* Depending on the field of study this course can last 1 or 2 semesters. In any case it is 3CP. Two semesters are recommended.
** Master thesis shall be prepared within one semester time. The presentation and defence of the thesis will take place at the end of the 4th semester.
The module component „Scientific Integrity“ must be submitted by the time of admission to the master’s thesis at the latest.

- RWTH Partners
- External Partners
- External course
- Core courses - compulsory modules
- Elective compulsory modules
- Projects
- Elective modules

Start in the winter semester
Curriculum Framework for Master of Science in Transforming City Regions

According to examination regulations 2019

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* Depending on the field of study this course can last 1 or 2 semesters. In any case it is 6CP. Two semesters are recommended.
** Master thesis shall be prepared within one semester time. The presentation and defence of the thesis will take place at the end of the 4th semester.

The module component „Scientific Integrity“ must be submitted by the time of admission to the master’s thesis at the latest.

Start in the summer semester...