

**Joint course and exam regulations
of Nürtingen-Geislingen University
and
Hochschule Weihenstephan-Triesdorf
Addendum
for the master's program
"International Master of Landscape Architecture" (IMLA) (M.Eng.)**

**Date: 13 July 2016
last updated in the 2nd amendment of 15 June 2023**

Legal basis

Based on section 8 (6) in conjunction with section 30 (1) and section 32 (3) of the state higher education act in Baden-Württemberg ("Landeshochschulgesetz" - LHG) dated 01 January 2005 (law gazette 2005, page 1), last amended by article 8 of the act dated 07 February 2023 (law gazette pp. 26 and 43) the senate of Nürtingen-Geislingen University on 25 May 2023 agreed the following amendment of the course and exam regulations dated 13 July 2016 and last amended on 13 February 2019.

Preamble

The master's program "International Master of Landscape Architecture" (IMLA) is a cooperative degree program of Nürtingen-Geislingen University (Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Umwelt Nürtingen-Geislingen) and Hochschule Weihenstephan-Triesdorf. As per the cooperation agreement of 01 July 2016 on a joint master's program, course and exam regulations must be established in accordance with Baden-Württemberg laws.

Applying the course and exam regulations of Nürtingen-Geislingen University

For these exam regulations, the course and exam regulations of Nürtingen-Geislingen University (general provisions for bachelor's and master's programs (SPO-AT) of 24 January 2022 in its currently valid version applies, unless stipulated differently in these exam regulations.

1. Objective of the degree program

After achieving a first degree in landscape architecture (or in related disciplines like architecture, spatial or town planning) students then qualify for complex planning and design tasks within an international context. A further focus is on qualifying the students for interdisciplinary cooperations and for taking on leadership roles in projects.

The four areas of specialization in the program are as follows: *International Planning and Design, Information Technologies in Planning and Design, Planning and Project Management and Planning and Design Methods*. The superordinate goals of the IMLA program will be achieved if the four objectives that are related to the four specialization areas can be fully realized:

- Learning about widely used international planning and design approaches
- Applying digital planning and design technologies in a professional manner
- Gaining skills and competencies in process management and project management in spatial planning
- Developing and applying extensive expertise in planning, design, and research methods

These four specialization areas are applied in practical projects with the objective of solving complex spatial challenges with the help of sustainable planning and design approaches. In addition to this, graduates will be capable of developing, carrying out and rethinking research designs for complex problems in landscape architecture. The students can apply advanced methodical approaches, modern digital technologies and project management techniques in practice-oriented and unfamiliar situations. As current environmental challenges are becoming more and more complex, these competencies are essential.

Typical tasks in IMLA projects include large-scale landscape development concepts in urban, peri-urban or rural contexts, strategic open space planning for towns and communities or researching and designing in areas where landscape and sustainable development topics overlap (e.g. climate change, renewable energies and mobility). Students must take into account a multitude of spatial factors (e.g. settlement development, climate change, flooding, spatial quality, biodiversity and agriculture) and develop innovative approaches and solutions. They can assess the development dynamics of a particular space and develop a specific spatial strategy using appropriate methods. Increasingly, communication, participation and financing models must also be included in this process.

Graduates are therefore well qualified for dealing with these tasks in international and mainly European contexts. This is also aided by the fact that the composition of the study groups is international and interdisciplinary and by the use of English as the language of instruction.

2. Joint coordination and examination committee

- (1) Contrary to sect. 19 (1) SPO-AT and based on sect. 3 of the cooperation agreement, a separate coordination and examination committee was established. It has the same rights as an examination board in accordance with sect. 19 SPO-AT. This joint coordination and examination committee consists in equal measure of at least one full-time professor from both faculties of the two universities involved in the master's program and the respective program coordinators. The term of office for the members is three years. It is possible to delegate the same person repeatedly. The chair of the joint coordination and examination committee is chosen by the committee members. Resolutions can only be passed if they are unanimous. The joint coordination and examination committee is deemed to have a quorum if both universities are represented by members with voting rights.
- (2) If other professors, lecturers and teaching staff with special responsibilities are included in an advisory capacity, they are also bound to confidentiality according to sect. 19 (5) SPO-AT.
- (3) The committee also has the task of approving internships.

3. Standard duration of the program, language of instruction, program structure and location

- (1) The standard duration of the program is three semesters. This includes all theory study semesters and the master's thesis.
- (2) Classes and examinations will be held in English.
- (3) Depending on the type and duration of the first degree (less than 210 credits), a practical semester (308-032, Internship) and an international seminar (308-033, International Seminar) are required as prerequisites for the master's thesis.
- (4) The program is divided up into modules and concludes with the master's examination. The total amount of modules required for successful completion of the program and the required module exams are outlined in table 1.
- (5) The location where the program takes place is announced during the enrollment and will be used for the duration of the course. It changes every year between the two cooperating universities.

4. Modularization

In addition to sect. 7 SPO-AT, the following regulations apply: The joint coordination and examination committee agrees on a module description for each module.

5. Compulsory elective module

The compulsory elective module either consists of an international online seminar on current topics in landscape architecture, an international project, a "HfWU" module or a suitable elective at HSWT Weihenstephan-Triesdorf. The international project takes place during the third semester. It is usually organized in cooperation with an international partner university and also involves the students there.

6. Exam prerequisites

- (1) All those students whose first degree is not from a core area in landscape architecture or landscape planning as well as those students who were admitted to IMLA following a three-year bachelor's degree (less than 210 credits) have to fulfill certain prerequisites before they are allowed to compose their master's thesis. The decision whether the first degree is from a core area is taken by the joint coordination and examination committee.
- (2) Based on sect. 3 SPO-AT, a practical semester in a landscape architecture business or similar is the prerequisite for being able to register for and compose the master's thesis. The internship provider must have the necessary qualifications in accordance with the program goals.
- (3) Module 308-033 ("International Seminar") is the prerequisite for the thesis defense.
- (4) The practical semester must consist of practical work lasting at least 90 working days.
- (5) Students must apply for approval of their internship to the joint coordination and examination committee. Students also need to submit a report on their internship. Further details can be found in the module description.

7. Language proficiency

Students whose mother tongue is not German must submit proof of proficiency in German at level A2 to the joint coordination and examination committee by the end of the third semester of study. The levels are in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

8. Purpose and procedure of the master's examination

After concluding the master's program with the master's examination, graduates are qualified for their profession. The master's examination determines if students have gained thorough knowledge about the interrelationships in their chosen discipline and if they have learned to apply scientific methods without outside help in complex and interdisciplinary contexts. It also serves to determine if students have acquired the required level of skills in their chosen subject which are necessary to start out in their professional career and the ability to apply scientific methods independently in any future research.

9. Allocation and time allowed for composing the master's thesis

- (1) The master's thesis is allocated and supervised by at least one professor of one of the cooperating universities (supervisor) provided they teach in a subject area at the university which is related to the degree program. If the master's thesis is to be composed in an external institution outside of the university, prior approval by the chairperson of the joint coordination and examination committee is required.
- (2) The joint coordination and examination committee sets fixed dates for allocating master's theses.
- (3) An application for allocation of a master's thesis can only be approved if students do not have more than three module examinations outstanding from previous semesters (project modules 308-016 and 308-024 are excepted).
- (4) Composing the master's thesis must be completed within a preset time frame which is announced during the second semester. The time allowed for composing the master's thesis is four months.
- (5) The master's thesis must be presented during an oral presentation and defended during the subsequent discussion. The date for this will be set by the joint coordination and examination committee. The students will be informed of the date.
- (6) Upon application, the master's thesis can also be written in German. For all final theses, a summary in English and German must also be submitted.
- (7) Further details can be found in the document "Hinweise zur Masterarbeit im Studiengang IMLA" (A guide to composing a master's thesis in IMLA).

10. Master's degree and master's certificate

Contrary to sect. 30 (2) and (3) SPO-AT, the following regulations apply:

- (1) After successful completion of the master's examination in the master's program, the cooperating universities award the master's degree "Master of Engineering (M.Eng.)".
- (2) Master's certificates are signed by the Rectors/Presidents of the universities cooperating in the master's program and stamped with the seal of the cooperating universities.

11. Taking part in online classes

According to sect. 2 (9) SPO-AT, parts of lectures or examinations can be held in a so-called hybrid format with some online teaching, cf. module catalog. Therefore, students must ensure they have the necessary prerequisites available for taking part in online classes, especially an internet-ready device with a camera and a microphone and access to the internet.

Legend

CR	= Credits
GM	= Weighting for module grade ("Gewichtung für Modulnote")
K	= Written exam ("Klausur")
MA	= Master's thesis ("Masterarbeit")
MP	= Module examination ("Modulprüfung")
M	= Oral exam ("mündliche Prüfung")
NF	= Grading factor ("Notenfaktor")
NG	= Weighting of grades for overall grade ("Notengewichtung für die Gesamtnote")
O	= Module will take place online
PV	= Prerequisites for admission to examination ("Prüfungsvorleistung")
R	= Presentation ("Referat/Präsentation")
S	= Other types of graded assessments ("Sonstige Prüfungsleistung")
StA	= Research paper ("Studienarbeit")
SWS	= Contact hours per week per semester (complete student group)
SWS *	= Contact hours per week per semester (supervised groups)
WP	= Compulsory elective module ("Wahlpflichtmodul")

Tabelle1 Modules and module examinations

	Modules	Total		1st Sem.		2nd Sem.		3rd Sem.		PV	MP	GM	Comments
		CR	SWS	CR	SWS	CR	SWS	CR	SWS				
											Type/duration	(%) MP	
308 011	Planning and project management 1	5	5	5	5						R/S	30/70	
308 012	Information technologies in planning and design 1	5	5*	5	5						StA		
308 013	Planning and design methods 1	5	5	5	5						StA		
308 015	Landscape as system	5	5	5	5						StA		
308 016	Main project 1	10	5*	10	5*						StA		
308 021	Planning and project management 2	5	5			5	5				R/S	30/70	
308 022	Information technologies in planning and design 2	5	5*			5	5				R/S	30/70	
308 023	Planning and design methods 2	5	5			5	5				StA		
308 024	Main project 2	10	5*			10	5*				StA		
308 025	International planning and design	5	5			5	5				R/S	30/70	
308 031	Elective	5	3*					5	3*		StA		
308 034	Master's thesis	25						25			MA/M45	85/15	
	Total	90	53	30	25	30	25	30	3				

* Groups are split up

Table 2 Exam prerequisites

	Modules	Total		1st Sem.		2nd Sem.		3rd Sem.		PV	MP	GM	Comments
		CR	SWS	CR	SWS	CR	SWS	CR	SWS				
											Type/duration	(%) MP	
308 032	Internship	25						25			S		
308 033	International seminar	5	3					5	3		StA		O

Table 3 Weighting of grades in the master's examination

	Modules	CR	Weighting of grades
308 011	Planning and project management 1	5	5
308 012	Information technologies in planning and design 1	5	5
308 013	Planning and design methods 1	5	5
308 015	Landscape as system	5	5
308 016	Main project 1	10	10
308 021	Planning and project management 2	5	5
308 022	Information technologies in planning and design 2	5	5
308 023	Planning and design methods 2	5	5
308 024	Main project 2	10	10
308 025	International planning and design	5	5
308 031	Elective	5	5
308 034	Master's thesis	25	25
	Master's program (total)	90	90

12) Commencement, interim regulations

- (1) These course and exam regulations will come into effect on 01 September 2016. For students who have commenced their program before this date, the previous version will remain valid until graduation.
- (2) The amendment of the course and exam regulations of 13 February 2019 will come into effect on 01 March 2019. Module examinations taken under the regulations of the previous course and exam regulations remain unaffected by these changes. Module examinations taken and failed before the 01 March 2019 will be retaken according to the previous regulations.
- (3) The amendment of the course and exam regulations of 15 June 2023 will come into effect on 01 September 2023.

IMPORTANT NOTICE**COURTESY TRANSLATION**

Please refer to the German original version for the official document.