

Student Office
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**Study and examination regulations for the
Design for Digital Futures
Master of Arts programme
at the Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm
(SPO M-DDF)**

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indicated in the colour **green**.

Pursuant to

- art. 9 line 1 and line 2, art. 77 para. 1 line 1, art 3, line 1 (2) alt. 1, para. 6 line 1, art. 80 para. 1 (1), art. 84 para. 2, art. 90 para. 1 line 1 and 2 of the BayHIG, art. 96 para. 1 line 1 of the Bavarian Higher Education Innovation Act (BayHIG) of 5 August 2022 (GVBl. S. 414 BayRS 2210-1-3-WK) that was amended by § 3 of the act on 23 June 2023 (GVBl. S. 251) and by § 2 of the act on 24 July 2023 (GVBl. S. 455),

the Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm adopts the following regulations:

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Section 1 General Provisions

§ 1

Purpose of the Study and Examination Regulations

The present study and examination regulations (SPO) are intended to implement and supplement the current version of the examination regulations of the Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm (ASPO) of 29 June 2023 (Official Gazette of the Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm 2023, Issue 18; www.th-nuernberg.de).

§ 2

Degree Programme Objective, Specialisations

¹The Design for Digital Futures programme aims to equip students with knowledge in the field of computational design to an international standard in an interdisciplinary manner through the integrated interplay of competence in the areas of design, creative practice, society, technology, computer engineering, and research. The programme prepares graduates to carry out independent project and application-oriented work as well as artistic, design-theoretical, and research-driven activities integrating digital technologies and computer science skills with design, while fostering their ability to develop their own design practice in an ever-evolving professional field of design. ²These key skills enable graduates to work as creative professionals within the traditional design field, as experts for regionally and internationally operating companies and organisations, particularly in the areas of culture, communication, business, and society (transformation processes driven by digital developments) and as innovators and drivers of new ideas in both academia and industry. ³The Design for Digital Futures Master of Arts programme is not designed as a consecutive (konsekutiv) programme. Courses are conducted in English in order to promote the English proficiency of German-speaking students and to facilitate access to the master's programme for foreign students.

Section 2 Admission Requirements

§ 3

International Students

For the purpose of these study and examination regulations, the phrase international student refers to students who completed their first university degree outside of Germany and intend to pursue a master's degree at a German university.

§ 4

Admission Requirements

(1) Admission requirements for the Design for Digital Futures (M.A.) programme:

1. A degree comprising at least 180 ECTS in design or design-related or other related field completed at a German higher education institution or another equivalent qualification obtained on the basis of a university degree.
 - a) English proficiency (B2 level, Common European Reference Framework for Languages). A German 'Abitur' is accepted as documentation of B2 level.
 - b) Successfully completing the procedure for determining the aptitude for the programme (programme-specific suitability) in accordance with Art. 89 (2) line 1 of the BayHIG. This procedure follows the process described in the 'Satzung über die Eignungsprüfung für Masterstudiengang Design for Digital Futures' (EISA M-DDF) (Official Gazette of the Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm 2024, Issue 22; www.th-nuernberg.de) in its applicable version.
2. Degrees that are not based on a credit system are evaluated based on hours (workload) converted to credits; the calculation of the conversion allocates 25 hours to one credit point. If a workload cannot be documented, 30 ECTS will be recognised for each semester of theory curriculum.

Kommentiert [BA1]: Reflects Ausgangstext

(2) ¹Applicants with a university degree that reflects 180 ECTS, but who are lacking one theory semester, may be provisionally admitted under the condition that they complete the missing semester according to the requirements of the examination board no later than one year after beginning the programme (a supplementary semester).

(3) ¹If an applicant is found to lack necessary skills or knowledge specified in para. 1, they may be admitted under the condition that they complete additional modules or subjects. ²The selection committee pursuant to § 9 defines which courses and examinations they must complete. ³This coursework and/or examinations must be completed within one year after enrolment, with one opportunity, at most, to re-sit or repeat any exams or course.

(4) The grade conversion for foreign academic credentials is done according to the Bavarian formula:

Maximum possible grade minus the grade achieved, divided by
the maximum grade minus the lowest passing grade;
the result then multiplied by three; plus 1.

(5) The examination board decides whether a candidate meets the admission requirements (programme-specific suitability) for admission.

(6) Applicants, who do not have a final grade for their previous degree by the time the application period closes, but have a maximum of 45 credits incomplete at the time they apply and can successfully complete (pass) the preliminary exams for admission to the programme pursuant to art. 89 (2) line 1 of the BayHIG, may be provisionally admitted under the condition that they present documentation of the final grade point average for their completed degree within the first semester.

§ 5

Application Process and Admission

(1) ¹Applications for admission to the programme are submitted through the online process established by the Student Office of the Ohm. ²The deadline for application submissions is 31 May for admission to the subsequent winter semester. ³Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. ⁴Foreign application documents and/or application documents that are in any language other than German and/or English must be submitted as a scan of the original together with a translation into German and/or English as translated by an officially recognised translator.

(2) The application must include the following documents in German or English:

1. Degree transcript(s) and diploma(s), as evidence of the qualifications required in § 4 para. 1 (1) or a transcript pursuant to § 4 (6) in instances of provisional admission,
2. A curriculum vitae formatted as a table in German, and
3. Language certificates as evidence of English proficiency (B2 level, Common European Reference Framework for Languages). A German 'Zeugnis der Allgemeinen Hochschulreife' is accepted as documentation of B2 level.

(3) ¹Admission pursuant to § 4 (6) is provisional subject to the condition that the final official transcript must be presented within three months after the programme commences. ²The examination board decides any exceptions in justified individual instances.

Section 3 Structure and Curriculum

§ 6

Degree programme organisation

(1) ¹The programme is offered as a non-consecutive (full-time) programme. ²Cohorts are admitted in winter semester.

(2) ¹The standard duration of the programme is four semesters with 30 credits each semester. ²The third semester is a required semester abroad; international students pursuant to § 3 may complete the third semester at a German university. ³Students must complete a master's thesis within the standard duration of the programme.

(3) ¹Students enrolled in the programme who, due to reasons beyond their control, are unable to complete the required semester abroad pursuant to paragraph 2 line 2, may instead complete it at a German university, provided they submit a request to do so to the competent examination board promptly after becoming aware of the reasons. ²The reasons referred to in line 1 must be substantiated by presenting appropriate documentary evidence. ³In cases of doubt, the competent examination board may request documents in the original or as certified

copies be submitted for verification.

(4) ¹Courses or lectures follow a modular structure. ²Students must complete the coursework, presentations, projects, seminars, colloquiums, and examinations as planned within and associated with each module.

(5) There is no guarantee that the master's degree programme will be offered if there is an insufficient number of qualified applicants.

§ 7

Modules, Credits, Workload, and Examinations

(1) ¹The curriculum comprises nine required modules and three required elective modules. ²The modules, their respective number of credits, the teaching formats, and assessments, are specified in the Appendix to these study and examination regulations.

(2) ¹Students shall receive the number of credits (credit points) specified in the Appendix for each module successfully completed. ²Credits are awarded based on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). ³A credit reflects a workload of 25 hours. ⁴The number of credits are specified the Appendix to these study and examination regulations.

(3) All modules are either required modules, required elective modules, or elective (facultative) modules:

1. Required modules are modules that are mandatory for all students in the degree programme.
2. Required elective modules are modules that are offered alternatively. Each student must select modules from the elective modules in accordance with the regulations in these study and examination regulations. Required elective modules may be listed in the Appendix or modules from other master's programmes offered at the Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm. All courses selected by students as required electives must be authorised by the examination board before the respective semester begins.
3. Elective (facultative) modules are completely voluntary modules that are not mandatory for reaching the objectives of the programme and are not included in the curriculum.

(4) ¹Individual courses are delivered and examinations are usually conducted in English. Selected required elective modules may be offered in German in accordance with specifications defined in the module catalogue. ²In these cases, the associated examinations may also be conducted in German.

§ 8

Programme Overview and Module Catalogue

(1) ¹The Faculty of Design produces and compiles a degree programme overview and module catalogue that details the course of study in order to ensure the availability of the courses and to inform students. ²The degree programme overview shall be adopted by the Faculty board and must be publicly announced to the university community. ³New regulations must be announced at the latest by the beginning of the lecture period of the semester in which the regulations are to take effect for the first time. ⁴The degree programme overview and module catalogue must contain sufficiently specific information pursuant to § 16 of the ASPO.

(2) ¹There is no guarantee that all planned required elective modules will be offered. ²Likewise, the university is not obligated to offer required elective courses, if the minimum number of participants is not reached.

Section 4 Examination Procedures and Assessments

§ 9

Examination Board

¹An examination board will be established, consisting of a chairperson and two other members. ²Members of the examination board must be full-time professors who teach in the Design for Digital Futures programme.

§ 10

Master's Thesis and Colloquium

(1) ¹The topic must be defined so that the master's thesis can reasonably be completed within six months, when worked on continuously and exclusively. ²The period must not exceed nine months, if the master's thesis topic is registered no later than one month after the start of the third semester in the planned programme duration. ³Otherwise, the period must not exceed six months.

(2) ¹At least 80 credits must have been completed, in order to begin working on the master's thesis. ²The topics are issued by the faculty teaching in the programme. ³The examination board confirms the topics or may name the topic and supervisor in individual instances.

(3) The master's thesis shall be written in English.

(4) The master's thesis (Module 4.01) is evaluated by two independent examiners, who are named when the thesis topic is registered.

(5) The results of the master's thesis must be presented in a colloquium (Module 4.02), which must be evaluated with the grade 'passed' in order to pass the module.

§ 11

Completing the Degree ('Masterprüfung')

The 'Masterprüfung' (master's examination) is considered to have been passed if the student has obtained 120 credits, as specified in the Appendix to these study and examination regulations.

§ 12

Examination Evaluation, Final Grade Point Average

(1) The provisions described in §§ 22, 26 - 28, and § 32 of the ASPO apply to the grading and re-sitting of module examinations or sub-module examinations and to their inclusion in the final official transcript.

(2) In this calculation, the final grades for the required and required elective modules and the grade of the final thesis are weighted, the arithmetic mean of those values is calculated, and the result is rounded to one decimal place.

§ 13

Final Official Transcript and Diploma Supplement

¹The university will issue a final official transcript ('Zeugnis') corresponding to the samples exhibited in the Student Office for the successful completion of the master's examination. ²In addition to the transcripts, a Diploma Supplement will be issued.

§ 14

Academic Degree

¹Upon successful completion of the degree programme, graduates will be awarded the academic degree of Master of Arts (abbreviated M.A.). ²The university will issue a certificate ('Urkunde') corresponding to the samples exhibited in the Student Office for the award of the degree.

Section 5 Final Provisions

§ 15

Entry Into Force, Transitional Regulations

These study and examination regulations enter into force on 1 October 2024 and apply to all students who enrol in the programme beginning in or after winter semester 2024/25.

Issued on the basis of the resolution adopted by the Senate of the Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm on 9 April 2024 and the authorisation granted by the President of the Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm on 24 April 2024.

Nuremberg, 24 April 2024

Prof. Niels Oberbeck, President

These regulations were published in the Official Gazette of the Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm 2024, Issue 23; www.th-nuernberg.de. Their publication was announced on the university's bulletin board on 26 April 2024.

Appendix

Summary of the **Design for Digital Futures (M.A.)** modules and examinations for students who enrolled in the programme in **winter semester 2024/2025 at the Technischen Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm**

No.	Module	SWS	Teaching format	Assessments		Additional regulations	LP
				Type	Duration (in min.)		
Required Modules / Pflichtmodule							
1.01	Computer Science Foundation I	8	SU, Ü, S	1) 4)			10
1.02	Design Project I	5	SU, Ü, S	1) 4)			8
1.03	Design Research I	5	SU, Ü, S	1) 4)			8
2.01	Computer Science Foundation II	8	SU, Ü, S	1) 4)			10
2.02	Design Project II	5	SU, Ü, S	1) 4)			8
2.03	Design Research II	5	SU, Ü, S	1) 4)			8
2.04	Masterdays	1	SU, Ü, S	Ref 1)	2)		2
Semester Abroad							
3.01	Semester Abroad						20
3.02	Monitoring& Reporting	4		StA 1)			10
Required Elective Modules / Wahlpflichtmodule							
1.01	Modulgruppe Project Management	1	SU/Ü	1) 4)			2
1.02	Modulgruppe Communication Skills	1	SU/Ü	StA, Ref 1)			2
2.01	Transfer Science Theory	1	SU, Ü, S	1) 4)			2
3. Master Thesis							
3.01	Master Thesis						25
3.02	Master Thesis Verteidigung				2)		5
Summe							120

Footnotes

1)	Details about the type and scope of assessments and examinations are defined in the degree programme overview and module catalogue.		
2)	Must be passed in order to pass the module.		
3)	A written assignment (StA) is an independently written paper on a subject-specific or interdisciplinary topic. The written assignment (StA) should demonstrate the development of logically and factually comprehensible problem solving, making use of appropriate literature and presented in a formally and stylistically convincing manner. The scope of the paper should not exceed 30 DIN A4 pages. The deadline for submission is defined by the supervisor when the topic is assigned. If not submitted by the deadline, the written assignment (StA) will be evaluated as 'failed'.		
4)	If the course formats S and/or Pr are listed, besides SU, for a module, those components must be passed in order to pass the module. Generally, attendance is required for the course formats S (seminar) and Pr (practical). Further details are defined in the degree programme overview. § 32 (7) of the ASPO applies. Information per module		
5)	For SU formats:	with 2 SWS:	schrP 90 min./RechP 60 - 90 min. or Interview 20 min.
		with 4 SWS:	schrP 90 min./RechP 90 - 120 min. or Interview 30 min.
	For S formats:	Written assignment, 15-30 minute presentation plus discussion	
	For Pr formats:	Summary/report, oral questions	

Abbreviations	
,	and
/	or
;	and/or
LV	<i>Lehrveranstaltung</i> (course)
MA	<i>Masterarbeit</i> (master's thesis)
Pr	Practical course / Laboratory
RechP	<i>rechnergestützte Prüfung</i> (computer-aided exam)
S	Seminar
schrP	<i>schriftliche Prüfung</i> (written examination)
StA	<i>Studienarbeit</i> (written assignment / paper)
SU	<i>seminaristischer Unterricht</i> (seminar-style lecture)
SWS	<i>Semesterwochenstunden</i> (lecture hours per week)
Ü	<i>Übungen</i> (exercises)