

Differences 2019/20 and 2024 Examination Regulations - Master

Note: The 2006 and 2019/20 study regulations expire in September 2026. If you have not completed the Master's course of studies by then, you will be forced to switch to the new regulations.

1 Pflichtbereich/ Mandatory Area

The mandatory area consists of one two-semester module with $12+12=24$ ECTS: The study project. In the old regulation, 12 ECTS points had to be additionally achieved in Interdisciplinary Courses.

2 Wahlpflichtbereich/ Mandatory Elective Area

- In the old regulation, there were six modules, whereas two had to be selected as majors. Both comprised 16 ECTS, hence 32 ECTS in the mandatory elective area in total.
- In the new study regulation, the mandatory elective area comprises 44 ECTS in graded classes. There are four modules, each containing different "Topics in. . ." modules. Additionally, there is a single 4 ECTS "Methods of Cognitive Science" module.

The focus areas are:

- Cognition: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Cognition: Mind, Ethics, and Society
- Cognition: (Computational) Neuroscience
- Cognition: Psychology, Language, and Communication

Each course is associated with one (and only one) focus area, eliminating the challenge of matching courses to the desired majors.

Students select courses from the modules covering 44 ECTS with the following constraints:

- at least 20 ECTS in total from a single focus area.
- not more than 32 ECTS from a single focus area
- Taking courses from the "Methods of CogSci" module is not mandatory

Each focus area in which courses with at least 20 ECTS is considered an area of specialization. Hence, students can have one or two areas of specialization.

There are no more oral module examinations.

3 Free Electives

There are no changes concerning the free electives. In both regulations, this part comprises 22 ECTS. There are no constraints. The classes can be graded or "passed"-only.

4 Master's Thesis

The thesis can be registered when 72 ECTS of coursework has been accomplished and a first and second examiner are set. The regular time for finishing the thesis is six months after registering. It can not be handed in more than three weeks before the deadline and extensions are only possible due to sickness or other unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances.

5 Final Grade

Final grade = $2/5 * \text{thesis grade} + 3/5 * \text{coursework grade}$

- The thesis grade is the average of the grades given by the examiners.
- The coursework grade is the average of the ECTS-weighted grades of mandatory and mandatory elective modules taken.

6 General recommendation

Students who have already passed the study project and have also taken many mandatory elective courses, planning to fill the two mandatory elective focus area modules of the old study regulation, or are even close to or have already started to work on their Master's thesis, should not switch to the new regulations. Students who have taken the Lab Rotation for the interdisciplinary area will have to take additional courses in the mandatory elective area, as the Lab Rotation is a free elective course in the new regulation, and are thus particularly recommended to keep studying according to their original regulation. Also, only some courses previously assigned to the interdisciplinary modules are counted as free electives in the new regulations.

If you only recently begun your studies (winter term 2023/24), you may consider to switch, but you may as well remain studying according to the old regulation and finish until the end of September 2026.

Please note that switching to the new regulations requires a substantial amount of processing in the examinations office to transfer your courses to the new regulation's modules, which may take some time, especially if many students want to switch.

7 Open questions

Where do I find the course-focus area affiliation list? On the IKW website → Students → Courses and Lectures → Courses in the winter term 2024/25: https://www.ikw.uni-osnabrueck.de/fileadmin/user_upload/download/course_lists/Module_Assignments_P024_WiSe2425_Web.pdf

(The list for previous semesters is coming shortly).

How do I switch to the new regulation? There is (or will be very shortly) a form available on the website. Look at Students → Support and Resources → FAQ Master (PO2019) → How to switch to the new study regulation.

Where do I find more information? On the website (Students → New 2024 Study Regulations) you can find the *Examination regulations* as well as the *Modulhandbuch* and the Guide: https://www.ikw.uni-osnabrueck.de/en/students/new_2024_study_regulations.html

Who do I contact if I am still unsure? You can contact Laura Krieger (laura.krieger@uos.de) to discuss your questions.