

Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences

**Subject-specific Study and
Examination Regulation**

M.A. Governance and Public Policy

of 12 August 2024

**Subject-specific Study and Examination Regulation
for the degree programme
Master of Arts in Governance and Public Policy
at the University of Passau**

of 12 August 2024

On the basis of Art. 9 sentences 1 and 2 in conjunction with Art. 80(1) sentence 1, Art. 84(2) sentence 1 and Art. 90(1) sentence 2 of the Bavarian Higher Education Innovation Act (BayHIG) of 5 August 2022 (GVBl. p. 414, BayRS 2210-1-3-WK), as last amended by § 3 of the Act of 23 June 2023 (GVBl. p. 251) and by § 2 of the Act of 24 July 2023 (GVBl. p. 455), the University of Passau issues the following regulation:

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§ 1 Scope

¹The present subject-specific study and examination regulation (FStuPO) supplements the General Study and Examination Regulation (AStuPO) for the master’s degree programmes of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Passau, as amended. ²If it is found that a provision of this regulation is incompatible with a provision of the AStuPO, the provision of the AStuPO shall take precedence.

§ 2 Object and aims of the degree programme; language of instruction; commencement of studies

(1) The Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences at the University of Passau offers the consecutive degree programme Master of Arts in Governance and Public Policy.

(2) ¹the M.A. Governance and Public Policy imparts the knowledge, skills and methods needed to enable students to take up positions of responsibility in the field of public decision-making and action in the context of social science, economics and law. ²The degree programme offers a research- and application-oriented approach to questions of political and social control (“governance”) and statehood, whereby phenomena and objects are not viewed in a monodisciplinary, monocausal and state-centred manner but rather in a transdisciplinary, multicausal and internationally interdependent way befitting their

complex character. ³The M.A. Governance and Public Policy not only takes account of the dynamics of a changing world but also enables students to act responsibly and in accordance with the ideas of democracy in increasingly complex environments.

(3) ¹The master's examination, consisting of module assessments and the master's thesis, concludes the research and application-oriented master's degree programme in Governance and Public Policy. ²By passing the master's examination, students prove that they have a thorough understanding of the subject, a grasp of the interrelationships in their subject and the ability to work independently according to scientific principles.

(4) ¹The degree programme can be studied entirely in English. ²Module area A is offered exclusively in English, while the modules in module areas B and C are offered in German or English. ³The module assessments should be completed in the language of instruction of the respective modules. ⁴Notwithstanding sentences 2 and 3, the language of the assessment in the "Language Course" module of module area C corresponds to the respective foreign language of the language module.

(5) This degree programme begins in the winter semester each year.

§ 3 Entry qualifications (subject components, grade and language proficiency)

¹Applicants must have a university degree in accordance with § 4(1) AStuPO in one or multiple social sciences and/or economics and/or law, with an overall grade of at least 2.5 (under the German grading system) or the relevant equivalent foreign grade. ²If the 2.5 overall grade requirement is not met, the applicant can alternatively provide proof that he or she is qualified by means of documentary evidence that he or she was among the best 70 percent of his or her cohort (graduates at the respective examination date).

³Applicants must prove that they have:

- Knowledge of social sciences and/or economics and/or law amounting to a minimum of 60 ECTS credits.
- Knowledge of social and/or economic research methods to the extent of at least 10 ECTS credits (this includes, for example, modules in statistics, mathematics, empirical social research, etc.).
- Proof of English language skills at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) or equivalent levels from other certification systems.
- In deviation from the Enrolment, Re-registration, Leave of absence and De-registration Statute (ImmSa) of the University of Passau, applicants whose prior education was not delivered in German must provide evidence of basic knowledge of German at level A1 CEFR by means of a recognised language test or equivalent.

§ 4 Module areas and final grade

¹The degree programme consists of the module areas A: "Foundation" (40 ECTS credits), B: "Specialisation" (40 ECTS credits) and C: "Transfer" (10 ECTS credits) as well as the master's thesis (25 ECTS credits) and the accompanying master's seminar in accordance with § 8 (5 ECTS credits). ²The module areas are made up of the module groups and modules listed in §§ 5 to 8. ³The modules of the degree programme are examination modules and are graded, with the exception of the modules in module area C: "Transfer" and the "Master's Seminar" module (§ 8). ⁴The final grade for your degree is calculated based on the ECTS-weighted module marks and the mark you attain on your master's thesis.

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§ 5 Module area A: “Foundation”

¹Module area A: “Foundation” is made up of two module groups and comprises modules with a total of 40 ECTS credits. ²The module group “Governance and State in Globalised Societies” comprises modules totalling 25 ECTS credits. ³The modules “Perspectives on Governance (and Tutorial Academic Research and Writing)” and “Political Theory and Comparative Politics” are compulsory; the modules “International Politics and Political Aspects of Development” and “Sociology” are compulsory elective modules. ⁴All modules of the module group “Empirical Research Methods in the Social Sciences” are compulsory modules.

⁵Module group “Governance and State in Globalised Societies”:

Course format	Module title	Assessment	WCH	ECTS
(L) and (E)	Perspectives on Governance (and Tutorial Academic Research and Writing)	Written exam	3	5
(MC)	Political Theory and Comparative Politics	Written assignment or Portfolio or Oral exam	2	10
(MC)	International Politics and Political Aspects of Development	Written assignment or Portfolio or Oral exam	2	10
(MC)	Sociology	Written assignment or Portfolio or Oral exam	2	10
Total: three modules			7	25

⁶Module group “Empirical Research Methods in the Social Sciences”:

Course format	Module title	Assessment	WCH	ECTS
(S)	Research Design	Written exam or Written assignment	2	5
(MC)	Qualitative/Quantitative Research Methods	Written assignment	2	10
Total: two modules			4	15

Total in module area A: two module groups			11	40
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§ 6 Module area B: “Specialisation”

¹All modules in module area B: “Specialisation” are compulsory modules.

²Module group “Integration and Governance”:

Course format	Module title	Assessment	WCH	ECTS
(MC)	Power, Authority and Democracy	Written assignment or Portfolio or Oral exam	2	10
(MC)	Conflict, Inequality and Violence	Written assignment or Portfolio or Oral exam	2	10
Total: two modules			4	20

³Module group “Regulation and Governance”:

Course format	Module title	Assessment	WCH	ECTS
(MC)	Regulation and Transformation	Written assignment or Portfolio or Oral exam	2	10
(MC)	Sustainability and Values	Written assignment or Portfolio or Oral exam	2	10
Total: two modules			4	20

Total in module area B: two module groups			8	40
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§ 7 Module area C: “Transfer”

¹In module area C, students can choose between the modules “Language Course”, “Internship” or “Research Tutorial”. ²If the “Language Course” module is selected, a language from the range of courses listed in § 29 sentence 1 AStuPO must be completed to the extent of 10 ECTS credits. ³English is only offered from level C1 CEFR, German as a Foreign Language from level A2 CEFR. ⁴In the “Language Course” module, students can choose between the subject-specific language tracks in Cultural Studies, Business/Economics and Law.

Course format	Module title	Assessment	WCH	ECTS
(E)	Language Course	Written exam or Written exam with oral exam	4–8	10
(PT)	Internship	Report	–	10
(S)	Research Tutorial	Portfolio	2	10
Total: one module			up to 8	10

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§ 8 Module: “Master’s Seminar”

¹The ungraded compulsory module “Master’s Seminar” must be completed in combination with the master’s thesis (§ 9). ²For this purpose, students must complete one of the research seminars offered – preferably one held by the master’s thesis supervisor.

Course format	Module title	Assessment	WCH	ECTS
(S)	Master’s Seminar	Presentation	2	5
Total: one module			2	5

§ 9 Master’s thesis

¹All students must complete a master’s thesis in either Political Science or Sociology. ²Authorised examiners from other departments may be appointed as supervisors in accordance with § 21(3) AStuPO. ³Students are given six months to write the master’s thesis. ⁴The master’s thesis should not exceed 200,000 characters (including spaces) in length. ⁵Students who attain a pass mark on their thesis are awarded 25 ECTS credits.

§ 10 Second resit of modules and mark improvement

(1) Students can resit failed module examinations up to two times.

(2) ¹A maximum of two passed examination modules can be repeated once for voluntary mark improvement. ²Before resitting the relevant examinations, students must submit a request for mark improvement to the Examinations Office.

(3) The provisions of the General Study and Examination Regulation (AStuPO) regarding repeat attempts at the master’s thesis apply.

§ 11 Composition of the Examining Committee

The examining committee consists of three university professors of the University of Passau who have the right to set and conduct examinations.

§ 12 Effective Date, Superseded Regulation and Transitional Provision

¹The present regulation shall enter into force on 1 March 2025. ²At the same time, the study and examination regulation for the M.A. Governance and Public Policy at the University of Passau dated 7 July 2008 (vABIUP p. 155), last amended by the regulation dated 30 September 2015 (vABIUP p. 207), shall cease to apply. ³Notwithstanding sentences 1 and 2, students who were already enrolled on the M.A. Governance and Public Policy programme at the University of Passau before the coming into force of the present regulation and whose studies have not been interrupted by de-registration for at least four consecutive semesters shall continue to study in accordance with the regulation referred to in sentence 2 with the proviso that:

1. notwithstanding § 6(2) of the regulation referred to in sentence 2, the examining committee formed in accordance with § 10 AStuPO in conjunction with § 11 of the present regulation is responsible for preparing and conducting the examinations and

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2. notwithstanding § 15(1) sentence 1 and (2) sentence 1 of the regulation referred to in sentence 2, each module assessed as “nicht ausreichend” (“insufficient”) or “nicht bestanden” (“fail”) may be repeated no more than twice.

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Issued as per the resolution of the Senate of the University of Passau of 10 July 2024 and as approved by the President of the University of Passau on 12 August 2024 (reference number V/S.I-10.3970/2024).

Passau, 12 August 2024

UNIVERSITY OF PASSAU
The President

Professor Ulrich Bartosch

This regulation was issued by the University on 12 August 2024 and announced on 12 August 2024 by posting on the noticeboards of the University.
The date of promulgation is 12 August 2024.