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# TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT ILMENAU

## Examination and Study Regulations - Special Provisions - for the degree program International Business Economics with the degree “Master of Science“

in the version of the first amendment statute dated January 16, 2023

According to § 3 paragraph 1 in conjunction with § 38 paragraph 3 of the Thuringian Higher Education Act (ThürHG) of May 10, 2018 (GVBl. p. 149), last amended by Article 7 of the Act dated March 23, 2021 (GVBl. pp. 115, 118), Technische Universität Ilmenau (hereinafter referred to as "University") issues on the basis of the Examination and Study Regulations - General Provisions - for degree programs "Bachelor", "Master" and "Diploma" of the University, published in the University Gazette No. 174 / 2019, last amended by the second amendment statute, published in the University Gazette No. 184 / 2020, the following Examination and Study Regulations - Special Provisions - for the degree program International Business Economics with the degree "Master of Science", published in the University Gazette No. 199 / 2021, last amended by the first Amendment Statute, published in the University Gazette No. 244 / 2023.

The Council of the Department of Economic Sciences and Media has decided on these Regulations on March 9, 2021. The Academic Committee issued a positive opinion on them in a resolution dated March 29, 2021. The President approved them on April 20, 2021. The Council of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Media decided on the First Amendment Statutes on October 18, 2022. The Academic Committee commented favorably on them by a resolution on November 08, 2022. The President approved them on January 16, 2023.

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## **A. General regulations**

### **§ 1 Scope of application**

(1) The Examination and Study Regulations - Special Provisions - for the degree program International Business Economics with the degree "Master of Science" determine, on the basis of the Examination and Study Regulations - General Provisions - for degree programs with the degree "Bachelor", "Master" and "Diploma" of the university ("PStO-AB"), published in the University Gazette No. 174 / 2019 as amended, the contents, objective, structure and organization of the studies as well as details of the examination procedure in the above-mentioned degree program. The annexes are part of these Regulations.

(2) All references to persons and positions shall apply in the same way irrespective of gender.

## **B. Studies and degree program**

### **§ 2 Academic degree**

The university, upon the proposal of the Department of Economic Sciences and Media, awards students who successfully complete this Master's program the academic degree  
Grad

"Master of Science"

as further professionally qualifying academic degree.

### **§ 3 Study requirements and prior knowledge**

(1) In addition to the general admission requirements for admission to a Master's degree program according to the Thuringian Higher Education Act, the further admission requirements for this degree program shall apply as specified in the annex "Special Admission Requirements".

(2) For modules in a language of instruction and examination other than English (§ 9 para. 1) as well as in the context of double degree programs (§ 9 para. 2), it is recommended that the student is proficient in the language of instruction and examination at level B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) to successfully complete the degree program.

#### **§ 4 Objectives of studies, occupational field, profile type**

- (1) The study program aims at a research-oriented deepening of the technical and methodological competences in the field of International Business Economics already acquired in a university degree program and, if applicable, in professional practice.
- (2) The qualification goals and the content-related focal points of the degree program as well as the demand for graduates on the labour market are specified in detail in the annex "Profile Description".
- (3) The degree program is consecutive with a profile of "research-oriented" according to § 4 Thüringer Studienakkreditierungsverordnung (ThürStAkkVO, ordinance on accreditation of degree programs).

#### **§ 5 Standard length of study**

According to § 52 ThürHG, the standard length of study is four semesters. The program begins in the winter semester.

#### **§ 6 Content, structure, and scope of the degree program, curriculum**

- (1) The curriculum (Annex) outlines the content and the structure of the studies that the degree program can be completed with all final examinations and the Master's thesis (§ 14) within the standard length of study according to § 5.
- (2) The program covers a total of 120 credit points (LP/ECTS).
- (3) In addition to the subject-specific modules, students are also recommended to attend the optional classes offered by the university exceeding the curriculum's requirements.
- (4) Self-study is essential for gaining specialized knowledge and for the deepening and broadening of the contents presented in the lectures and classes.
- (5) Students aiming for the academic degree within the framework of a double degree program based on a cooperation agreement with a partner university shall, unlike the curriculum described in the annex, complete classes at the partner university in accordance with the provisions of the respective cooperation agreement and its amendments.
- (6) According to § 3 para. 7 PStO-AB, the corresponding regulations are defined in the Annex "Competence goals and regulations for classes of the course catalogue".
- (7) Should the student intend to complete studies during a stay abroad ('semester abroad'), an individual study agreement must be concluded for this purpose. For

the recognition of the academic achievements and examinations abroad, § 26 PStO-AB.

(8) Students shall be invited to participate in the university's self-governing bodies, including the student body.

### **§ 7 Admission to modules**

There are no special requirements for admission to modules.

### **§ 8 Student advisory service**

The Department of Economic Sciences and Media appoints a study advisor who also acts as a mentor. Individual study counselling on organizational and examination-related issues is provided by the study advisor and the Education Office / Examination Office of the Department of Economic Sciences and Media.

### **§ 9 Language of instruction and examination**

(1) English is the language of instruction and examination in the degree program International Business Economics. Modules can also be offered in German, but at least 50 credit points (ECTS) must be earned in English. The language of the examination corresponds to the language of instruction.

(2) For students who are interested in an academic degree within the framework of a double degree program (Double Degree) based on a cooperation agreement with a partner university (§ 9 PStO-AB), classes and exams are held in the partner university's usual language of instruction and examination. The provisions of the cooperation agreement and its supplementary agreements apply to the Master's thesis.

## **C. Examinations**

### **§ 10 Admission to examinations**

There are no program-specific requirements for admission to final examinations.

## **§ 11 Type, form, and duration of examinations**

The type of examination to be taken (§ 10, para. 1 PStO-AB) is specified in the curriculum. The form and duration of the examination/academic achievements shall be determined by the person responsible for the module in the module description (§ 11 paragraphs 1 to 7 PStO- AB).

## **§ 12 Second resit of examinations**

According to § 19 para. 1 PStO-AB, six graded examinations can be repeated a second time.

## **§ 13 Grade improvement and free attempt (Freiversuch)**

(1) According to § 21, para. 1 PStO-AB, an examination that has not been passed for the first time is deemed not to have been taken upon application if it was taken for the first time before or at the time of the semester recommended in the curriculum (free attempt, Freiversuch). To claim free attempts, § 21 para. 1 PStO-AB applies.

(2) For grade improvement, § 21 paragraph 2 PStO-AB applies.

(3) According to § 21, para. 3 PStO-AB, four free attempts and grade improvements (total number of attempts) can be claimed.

## **§ 14 Master's thesis**

(1) According to § 24 PStO-AB, the Master's thesis is an examination in the fourth semester. It consists of the written academic assignment (§ 24 para. 1 PStO-AB), covers a workload of 30 credit points (ECTS) and is graded with an overall grade (Gesamtnote).

(2) The written academic assignment (thesis) must be completed within a period of six months.

(3) As a rule, the topic of the thesis is issued at the end of the third semester. The requirement for admission to the thesis is met when at least 50 credit points (ECTS) of the credit points required according to the curriculum have been achieved.

(4) The topic and supervision for the Master's thesis are always the responsibility of the respective supervising university teacher, who must be a professor, a junior professor or a habilitated staff member of the Department of Economic Sciences

and Media or of a group whose modules are included in the curriculum.

(5) The supervising university teacher has the right to suggest examiners in accordance with § 25 para. 2 and § 33 para. 1 PStO-AB.

(6) The grade for the thesis is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the grades of the available individual grades by the examiners. If it is necessary according to § 25 para. 3 PStO-AB that the thesis is graded by more than two examiners and if the arithmetic mean is more than 4.0 and less than 4.5, the final grade is 4.0.

(7) In accordance with § 9 in conjunction with Annex 1 PStO-AB, other provisions may be specified in the cooperation agreements and their supplementary agreements within the framework of double degree programs.

### **§ 15 Determination of the overall grade**

According to § 17 para. 5 sentence 2 PStO-AB, the curriculum determines the concrete weighting in case of a deviation of the regular weighting of the grades of final examinations for the overall grade. The same applies to the Master's thesis.

## **D. Final regulation**

### **§ 16 Validity**

These Examination and Study Regulations - Special Provisions - for the degree program International Business Economics leading to the degree "Master of Science" shall be valid on the day following their publication in the University Gazette. They apply to all students who are enrolled as of the winter semester 2021 / 2022.

Ilmenau, 20 April 2021

Signed by

Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil.

Kai-Uwe Sattler

President

## Annex: Special admission requirements

1. The admission to the study program International Business Economics requires - without consideration of the general and other admission requirements - the professional qualifications listed below, to be verified in the aptitude test according to § 4 of the Regulations on Admission to Master's Programs at the University (MAZugO). The aptitude test determines whether the applicant meets the special subject-specific requirements for the degree program in International Business Economics.
2. Subject of the aptitude test is to demonstrate the subject-specific aptitude through a combination of the following subject-specific qualifications, which have been acquired in a bachelor's degree program in Business Administration and Economics:
  - at least 15 credit points in the field of economics 15 points,
  - at least 15 credit points in Business Administration 15 points,
  - at least 10 credit points in Mathematics 10 points,
  - at least 10 credit points in statistics 10 points.
3. In addition, the level of qualification is assessed according to the final grade of the degree program:
  - very good degree 20 points,
  - good degree 10 points,and also on the basis of the motivation for studying according to a convincing letter of motivation (max. length: 2 pages) 10 points.
4. When the applicant achieves, according to the assessments under (2) and (3)
  - a) a total score of 70 points, the aptitude test is to be assessed as "Special admission requirements" ( § 4 para. 4, sentence 1a MAZugO),
  - b) a total score of less than 70 points, the aptitude test is to be assessed as "Special admission requirements not met" (§ 4 para. 6, MAZugO).
5. The assessments according to items 2 and 3 shall be based on the documentation in the files not affecting § 4 para. 2 sentence 2 MAZugO.



## Annex: Curriculum

Modules	Module type (compulsory / optional)	Module exams and pass-fail certificates (Form, duration and details are defined in the module catalogues)	Semester				Total Credits	Weighting
			1st	2nd	3rd	4th		
			WS	SS	WS	SS		
			Credits	Credits	Credits	Credits		
<b>International Business Administration</b> (20 ECTS based on the <u>Course Catalogue International Business Administration</u> )	P	MPL	5	5	10		20	20
<b>International Economics</b> (20 ECTS based on the <u>Course Catalogue International Business Economics</u> )	P	MPL	5	10	5		20	20
<b>International Communication</b> (20 ECTS based on the <u>Course Catalogue International Communications</u> )	P	MPL	10	5	5		20	20
<b>Graduate Research Seminar</b> (10 ECTS based on the <u>Course Catalogue Graduate Research Seminar</u> )	P	MPL	5	5			10	10
<b>General / Electives / Languages</b> (20 ECTS based on the <u>Course Catalogue General / Electives / Languages</u> )	P	MPL	5	5	10		20	20
Master's Thesis	P	MPL				30	30	30
<b>Total Credits</b>			<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>120</b>	
<b>Key</b>								
	MPL	Module Examination						
	MSL	Module Academic Achievement						
	PL	Examination						
	SL	Academic Achievement						
	SWS	Weekly Hours per Semester						
	V	Lecture						
	Ü	Tutoria						
	P	Internship						
	s	written						
	m	oral						
	a	alternatively during semester						
	p	praktisch						
	e	elektronisch						
	k	Kolloquium						
	P	Compulsory Module						
	W	Optional module						

## **Annex: Profile description of the Master's program in International Business Economics**

### **1. Qualification goals of the Master's program International Business Economics**

The degree program "International Business Economics" (IBE) is a consecutive degree program in economics in English, which in addition to a methodologically sound, empirical-applied education also teaches intercultural competence. The degree program thus enables students to operate successfully from a professional, linguistic, and personal perspective in the international context of a globalized world.

The objective of the research-oriented degree program is to train students in the field of economics, social sciences and (international) communication, to provide the methodological tools for analysing economic and social issues and to enable students to develop well-founded proposals for solutions. Graduates of this degree program will thus have access to a wide range of possible fields of employment in science, business, and politics.

Graduates of the Master's degree program IBE will have gained the following competencies:

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

Graduates master a wide range of modelling and analysis techniques as well as elaborate methods of qualitative and quantitative empirical research. They can reduce complex issues to essential cause-effect relationships, to verify them with the help of empirical methods, to estimate the effectiveness of possible alternative approaches and to evaluate their consequences. By deepening their knowledge of foreign languages combined with an optional stay abroad, graduates are well prepared for a career of an international dimension.

In detail, the graduates will have achieved the following competencies specific to the degree program:

- Graduates master the analytical thinking skills to model complex issues in business and society. They can successfully transfer and apply this knowledge to practical issues.
- Graduates have acquired the necessary analytical, methodological, and empirical expertise in the fields of *International Business Administration*, *International Economics*, and *International Communication Science*, which is essential for working in science, business, and politics.
- All graduates, regardless of the individual choice of study content according to the proposed study plan, have equally achieved the scientific level for further scientific activities.

- Graduates have gained in-depth knowledge of microeconomic and macroeconomic processes important for entrepreneurial decision-making at the international level.
- They have understood the economic interrelationships of an internationally committed business world and are able to fulfil consulting and advisory duties in business and politics.
- They will also have gained skills and expertise in international communication, which is necessary for a successful exchange in an international, intercultural environment.
- Graduates acquire appropriate foreign language skills due to the internationalization of business and society and are thus able to fulfil tasks in internationally active companies.
- Due to the cross-disciplinary approach of the degree program, graduates may be considered experts with interfacing skills.
- Graduates with a corresponding specialization have a sound overview of a wide variety of data science methods and have developed expert knowledge of a selection of these methods within the framework of their self-developed specialization, with the ability to apply them in a problem-oriented manner.

### **Use, application, and generation of knowledge**

Graduates can apply the knowledge and skills acquired in their studies to their work in science, business, or politics, develop and evaluate solutions for problems both analytically and empirically.

Graduates:

- can collect, evaluate, and interpret scientific findings and results in the relevant fields of research in economics and social sciences,
- outline research questions, select research methods on a well-founded basis, and apply critical interpretations of research findings to derive sound scientific judgment,
- recognize and understand (micro- and macroeconomic as well as societal and scientific) issues in the context of a globalized world and implement solutions in line with the state of the art in science,
- independently design further learning processes in terms of intensive self-study and literature study, work on group projects and participate in further research and educational events as well as (partly non-university) projects.

### **Communication and collaboration**

Graduates

- develop and define professional and factual solutions to issues using theoretically and methodologically sound arguments in a discourse with representatives of the economic and social sciences as well as with external experts,

- communicate and cooperate with representatives of their field and with professionals from other disciplines to solve a task in a responsible manner,
- carry out application-oriented projects and contribute as a member of a team to the solution of complex tasks, reflect and consider different points of view and interests of other participants.

Graduates acquire these skills and competencies through classes, courses, seminars, project-related group work, and possible stays abroad.

### **Scientific self-perception / professionalism**

Graduates

- develop a professional self-perception based on the goals and standards of professional action in science, business and politics or policy-related professional fields,
- use theoretical as well as methodological knowledge to provide reasons for their own professional activities,
- can assess their skills, reflect autonomously on relevant design and decision-making options, and use them under professional guidance,
- recognize situationally appropriate framework conditions for professional action and state reasons for their decisions in terms of responsible ethics,
- critically reflect on their professional actions in relation to social expectations and consequences.

## **2. Main focus of the Master's program International Business Economics (IBE)**

The standard length of study in the degree program International Business Economics for the "Master of Science" (M. Sc.) is four semesters. The course content is based on the three main fields of *International Business Administration*, *International Economics* and *International Communication Science*, the content of which can be selected individually. In addition, at least two research seminars must be completed, which can also be individually selected. In the field of General / Electives / Languages, students can select their own course content, which provides them with further profiling options.

Possible classes that can be assigned to these blocks include:

1. International Business Administration – course catalogue (example)
  - Accounting & Management Control
  - Sustainable Production Research
  - Supply Chain and Closed Loop Management
  - International Service Marketing
  - Organization Theory
  - Motivation & Leadership
  - Strategic Management & Entrepreneurship

2. International Economics – course catalogue (example)
  - Competition, Strategy, and Institutions
  - Media Economics
  - The Economics of Entertainment, Culture and Events
  - Econometrics
  - Innovation Economics
  - International Economics
  
3. International Communication – course catalogue (example)
  - Qualitative and Quantitative Methods
  - Intercultural Communication
  - Academic Skills in Communication Science
  - Communication and Media Theories
  - Information and Communication Technology
  - Research Seminar
  
4. General / Electives / Languages

The first and second semesters of this degree program are to be completed at the university. The third semester should be spent at a foreign university, and the fourth semester completes the program with the successful submission of the Master's thesis.

### **3. Demand for graduates in business**

The interdisciplinary, methodical, qualitative and quantitative education of graduates of the Master's program in International Business Economics provides them with the opportunity to work in the fields of science, business, politics and policy-related professions.

The following fields shall be mentioned:

- International Project Management
- Sales Management/Key Account
- Business Development
- Marketing/Media Management
- Product Management
- Management Consulting
- Corporate Management
- Independent Business Management
- Human Resources Management
- Business Analysis
- Investment Banking
- Science and Research

The combination of business administration, economics, and communication skills, together with in-depth knowledge of foreign language and intercultural communication skills, creates the basis for an internationally oriented activity in the above-mentioned professional fields. The ability to reduce economic or social phenomena to their essentials and to understand them in a model-like manner to derive and (empirically) verify and review alternative courses of action in a complex environment creates the basis for a well-founded, goal-oriented, and accurate decision-making process.

The professional demand for graduates with this profile is already very high and will continue to increase in the future due to the growing complexity of economic and social processes.

## **Annex: Competence goals and regulations for classes of the course catalogue**

There are five fields with optional classes in the International Business Economics degree program leading to the Master of Science degree.

### **1. Elective courses in International Business Administration**

(1) The course catalogue in International Business Administration enables students to deepen their knowledge, skills, and competencies with an international focus in special areas of business administration. Students may choose their favourite subjects according to their preferences, interests and / or professional orientation. This may also serve as preparation for a scientific and / or professional specialization as well as for the preparation of the Master's thesis.

(2) Students must achieve 20 credit points (ECTS) in International Business Administration.

(3) Students are free to choose modules from the currently valid catalogue.

### **2. Elective courses in International Economics**

(1) The course catalogue in International Economics shall support deepening theoretical and empirical approaches in the field of economics, which refer to additional knowledge, skills, and competences in an international context. In this respect, students can select their own areas of specialization in accordance with their preferences, interests and / or professional orientations. This approach may also provide preparation for a scientific and / or professional specialization as well as for a Master's thesis.

(2) Students must achieve 20 credit points (ECTS) in International Economics.

(3) Students are free to choose modules from the currently valid catalogue.

### **3. Elective courses in International Communication**

(1) The course catalogue in International Communication serves to deepen quantitative, qualitative, and theoretical approaches in the field of communication science, which relate to additional knowledge, skills, and competencies in an international context. At the same time, students may set their own focus corresponding to their preferences, interests and / or career goals. This approach can also serve as preparation for a scientific and / or professional specialization as well as for the preparation of a Master's thesis.

(1) Students must achieve 20 credit points (ECTS) in International Communication.

(3) Students are free to choose modules from the currently valid catalogue.

#### **4. Elective courses in Graduate Research Seminar**

(1) The research seminar supports the acquisition of in-depth knowledge, skills and competences in scientific work as well as the preparation of the Master's thesis. The topics of these seminars cover the range of subjects of the Department of Economic Sciences and Media.

(2) Students must achieve ten credit points (ECTS) in the research seminar.

(3) Students are free to choose modules from the currently valid catalogue.

#### **5. Elective courses referring to General / Electives / Languages**

(1) The courses in the field of General / Electives / Languages offer students the opportunity to acquire or deepen their language skills and to deal with cross-disciplinary subjects beneficial for strengthening intercultural competence. The students can choose further topics according to their interests.

(2) Students must achieve 20 credit points (ECTS) in the field General / Electives / Languages.

(3) Students are free to choose modules from the currently valid catalogue.

#### **6. Preparation and updating of the course catalogues**

Preparation and updating of the course catalogues are carried out in accordance with § 3 para. 7 PStO-AB.