Folkwang
Universität der Künste

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OFFICIAL NOTICES

Examination Regulations

for the Master's Degree Program Design Futures

at Folkwang University of the Arts

from 13/12/2023

The German version of this document is the legally binding version.
The English translation is provided for information purposes only.

Based on §§ 2 (4), 25 (2) and 56 of the Law on Universities of the Arts of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Kunsthochschulgesetz - KunstHG) of 03/13/2008 (GV. NRW. p. 195), last amended by Article 2 of the Law of 11/25/2021 (GV. NRW. p. 1210a), Faculty 4 of Folkwang University of the Arts has issued the following regulations:

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§ 1
Scope of Application

These regulations govern the subject-specific requirements for university education and the examination procedure for the Master's degree program in Design Futures in addition to the framework examination regulations for the degree courses at Folkwang University of the Arts in the currently valid version. It applies in conjunction with the curriculum for this degree program.

§ 2
Aim of the Degree Program and Purpose of the Master's Examination

(1) The Master's examination is a further professional qualification. The Master's degree proves that graduates possess individual knowledge and competence profiles in the field of design. This includes the qualified scientific examination in the creative discourse and engagement with social developments as well as the mediation of a design process of open-endedness, personal examination, responsibility and attitude of the designer.

In particular, transformation, reflection and mediation skills are trained.
Graduates are qualified for independent creative, conceptual and artistic work as well as for employment in strategic positions in institutions and companies in the public, private and economic context. In addition, the course prepares students for further academic activities in the context of design at universities and research institutes and places a special focus on acquiring skills in the field of knowledge transfer.

(2) The module and partial module examinations prove that the main learning objectives of the respective modules have been fulfilled.
The final module examination proves that the student has achieved the objectives of the degree program.

§ 3
Admission Requirements

(1) Admission to the program takes place in the winter semester.

(2) Admission requirements are a first professionally qualifying degree, on which the Master's degree program builds, and artistic aptitude.
The aptitude test procedure is governed by the Framework Regulations for the Assessment of Artistic or Program-Specific Aptitude and Special Artistic Talent at Folkwang University of the Arts (Framework Aptitude Test Regulations) as amended. In addition, the course-specific regulations set out in the appendix to these examination regulations apply.

(3) Applicants who did not obtain their university entrance qualification at a German-speaking institution must provide proof of their language skills in accordance with the examination regulations for proof of German language skills for applicants and students at the Folkwang University of the Arts – language examination regulations – in the currently valid version.

§ 4
University Degree

Upon successful completion of the course, the Folkwang University of the Arts awards the academic degree "Master of Arts", abbreviated to "M.A.".

§ 5

Standard Period of Study, Program Structure and Scope of Study

(1) The standard period of study for the Master's degree program in Design Futures is 4 semesters.

(2) The course comprises 30 ECTS credits per semester and therefore 120 ECTS credits in total. One ECTS credit is based on 30 working hours, 30 ECTS credits therefore represent 900 working hours. The distribution of ECTS credits is regulated by the study plan.

(3) 30 ECTS credits should be earned per semester. Students who have earned fewer than 40 ECTS credits after the second semester must take part in a subject-related study consultation. Further details are regulated by the examination board.

(4) Courses can be held online instead of in person. Classroom teaching is the rule. Individual courses may be offered online by decision of the faculty council; the approval procedure is regulated by the faculty council.

(5) It is recommended that students spend a semester abroad for study purposes in their third semester.

§ 6

Provisions on (Partial) Module Examinations

(1) The modules to be completed are specified in the study plan. The module examinations may consist of partial module examinations.

(2) Failed (partial) module examinations can be repeated a maximum of two times. If an examination candidate fails a composite module examination, he or she only has to repeat each failed partial module examination.

(3) When calculating summarized grades, only the first decimal place is taken into account. If the module examination consists of several partial module examinations, the module grade is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the grades of the partial module examination weighted according to the relevant ECTS credits.

§ 7

Final Module Examination

(1) The final module examination in the Master's degree program Design Futures consists of:

a) a theoretical-scientific thesis,

b) a creative-artistic master's project,

c) a presentation of the thesis and the Master's project with a colloquium and
d) documentation of the work.

The deadline for registration for the final module examination will be announced by the Examination Office in good time on the website of the degree program.

(2) 60 ECTS credits must be proven for admission to the final module. The missing 30 ECTS credits, including the grading, must be submitted to the Examinations Office no later than 3 weeks after registration; the registration only becomes effective at this point, but the processing time is not extended by a further 3 weeks.

(3) The topic of the Master's thesis must be presented in an exposé of approximately 1 A4 page. Proposals may be rejected if the reasons are justified. If the Master's thesis is to be carried out in another degree program or department at Folkwang University of the Arts or at an institution outside the university, a special justification from the candidate and the approval of the Examination Board are required.

(4) The turnaround for the Master's project and the Master's thesis is 22.5 weeks (30 ECTS credits). However, the Master's thesis must be submitted to the Examinations Office at least two weeks before the examination colloquium so that the candidate can be admitted to the examination colloquium. The date for the examination colloquium will be announced by the Examinations Office.

(5) In justified cases, the final module can be assigned in the form of group work if the contribution of the individual candidate to be assessed as an examination performance is clearly distinguishable and assessable due to the specification of sections, page numbers, draft sheets, models or other objective criteria that allow a clear delimitation of the individual performance.

(6) The theoretical-scientific thesis must be written in German or in a foreign language accepted by the examination board and submitted to the examination office in triplicate in printed and bound form and as a PDF file by the deadline. As a rule, the theoretical-scientific thesis should comprise approximately 50 pages. If necessary, detailed results can also be summarized in an appendix. When submitting the theoretical-scientific thesis, the candidate must confirm in writing that he/she has written his/her thesis or, in the case of a group thesis, his/her appropriately marked part of the thesis independently and has not used any sources and aids other than those specified and has marked quotations.

(7) The Master's thesis in the Design Futures degree program is assessed individually by two examiners.

The grade for the Master's thesis is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the individual grades, provided that the difference between two grades does not exceed 2.0. If there is a difference of more than 2.0, the Examination Board will appoint a third examiner to assess the Master's thesis. In this case, the grade is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the two better grades. However, the Master's thesis can only be graded as "sufficient" (4.0) or better if at least two grades are "sufficient" (4.0) or better. The Master's thesis must be assessed within six weeks.

§ 8
Calculation of the Overall Grade

(1) The overall grade of the Master's degree program in Design Futures results from the respective weighting of the modules listed. Only the first decimal place is taken into account when calculating the overall grade.

(2) The module examinations taken during the course count for 60% of the overall grade. The individual grades are weighted according to their ECTS credits. The final module examination counts for 40% of the overall grade.

(3) In addition to the grading, a grade distribution scale is provided. This is generally meaningful if at least 100 data records are available.

§ 9
Recognition of Non-Academic Achievements

(1) Non-academic achievements may be recognized upon application, provided that they are equivalent in content and level to the examinations they are intended to replace.

(2) The Examination Board of Faculty 4 decides on recognition and documents the criteria for recognition in accordance with the principle of equality.

§ 10
Interim Provisions, Effective Date and Publication

(1) These examination regulations shall come into effect on the day after their publication in the Official Notices of Folkwang University of the Arts. They shall apply for the first time to newly enrolled students starting in the winter semester of 2023/2024.

(2) All students who started their studies in the Master's degree program "Industrial Design" or in the Master's degree program "Design Futures" before the winter semester 2023/2024

are given the opportunity to complete their studies in accordance with the examination regulations applicable to them, subject to the provisions of Section 10 (3) and (4). Continuation of studies in accordance with these regulations is possible upon request to the Examination Board.

(3) The last examinations for students on the Master's degree program in Industrial Design will be offered in accordance with examination regulations no. 336 dated 06/13/2018 in the summer semester 2024. After the end of this transitional period, examinations will only be taken in accordance with these examination regulations.

(4) The last examinations for students on the Master's degree program "Design Futures" will be offered in accordance with examination regulations no. 424 dated 07/27/2022 in the summer semester of 2025. After the end of this transitional period, examinations will only be taken in accordance with these examination regulations.

Issued on the basis of the resolution of the Faculty Council of Faculty 4 of Folkwang University of the Arts dated 11/15/2023.

Pursuant to Section 13 (5) KunstHG NRW, a violation of procedural or formal regulations of the Kunsthochschulgesetz or the regulatory or other autonomous law of Folkwang University of the Arts can no longer be asserted against these regulations after the expiry of one year since their publication unless

1. the regulation has not been duly published,
2. the Rectorate has previously objected to the resolution of the body adopting the regulations,
3. the formal or procedural shortcoming has been notified to the university in advance, stating the relevant legal provision and the fact giving rise to the shortcoming, or
4. no reference was made to the legal consequences of the exclusion of complaints when the regulation was published.

Essen, 12/13/2023
The Rector
Prof. Dr. Andreas Jacob

Appendix

to § 3 paragraph 2 of the examination regulations for the Master's degree program Design Futures

Program-Specific Regulations for the Aptitude Test Procedure

1. The aptitude test procedure takes place once a year in the summer semester for the following winter semester. The deadline for submitting the application for admission to the main procedure is announced on the Folkwang University of the Arts website.

2. The aptitude test procedure consists of two stages. The application for admission to the main procedure must be accompanied by work samples from the subject Design Futures.

3. The aptitude test committee consists of at least two professors and at least one artistic-academic staff member.

4. In addition to the documents listed in § 4 para. 2 of the Framework Regulations for Determining Artistic Aptitude or Aptitude for a Degree Program and Special Artistic Talent at the Folkwang University of the Arts in its currently valid version, the following documents must be enclosed with the application for admission to the main aptitude test procedure:
   a) The assurance that the submitted portfolio was prepared independently by the applicant,
   b) a portfolio as a PDF file with meaningful documentation of previous work samples.
   The portfolio as a PDF file can contain study projects, free projects, texts, etc. and must include an approx. one-page DIN A4 "Letter of Intent", which clearly conveys your own motivation and future orientation for the Master's program.

The work submitted will be judged on the basis of its design, craftsmanship and conceptual quality as well as its subject-specific interest.

5. Applicants who appear to be qualified on the basis of their submitted work samples will be invited to the main procedure.
Applicants whose work samples show them to be clearly unsuitable will no longer take part in the main procedure. They will receive a decision on this with information on legal remedies.

6. The main procedure consists of an approx. 20-minute interview with the examination committee electronically via video conference. The topics of the interview are the submitted work samples and the future direction of the study project. The interviews serve to better assess the creative work, conceptual understanding, the ability to reflect, the ability to express oneself rhetorically, social competence as well as study and subject-specific interests.

Design Futures (M.A.)

1st Semester

	Module Type/ Event Type	Contact time	Self-study	Workload	ECTS Credits	Exam Type	Examination Form
Project	C	60	480	540	18	g	
Interaction and Inquiry	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Experimental Sustainability, Studies for the Future	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Computational Experience	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Society in Motion	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Form and Contexts	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Experimental Design	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Social Design	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Master's Degree Program in Communication Design, "Project" module	CE/PR/SE/EX	60	480	540	18	g	PR/PK
Master's Degree Program Photography Studies and Practice: "Photography Project" module	CE/PR/SE/EX	60	480	540	18	g	PR/PK
LAB	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PR/PK
MMT (Media, Methods, Theory)	C	30	150	180	6	g	
Sustainable Design	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Society in Motion	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Advanced Technologies and Generative Forms	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Interaction and Inquiry	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Contextual Studies	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Experimental Design and Art-Based Practices	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Offer Social Design	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Offer Design Research	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Offer Design Sciences	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Workshop/Symposium	C	30	150	180	6	g	
One-week block event + one-week symposium	C/PR/SE	30	150	180	6	g	TP/PE
1st semester total		120	780	900	30		

The Project module must be taken a total of 3 times during the course of study, at least 2 of which must be from the Master's degree program in Design Futures
The MMT module must be taken a total of 3 times during the course of study.

Module type:
C = Compulsory
CE = Compulsory Elective

Examination type:
g = graded
u = ungraded

Event type:
PR = Project
SE = Seminar
EX = Exercise
L = Lecture

Examination form:
TP = Term paper
EXM = Exam
COL = Colloquium
O = Oral examination
PR = Presentation with colloquium
PE = Practical examination
PO = Portfolio
PW = Project work
C = Paper

Design Futures (M.A.)

2nd Semester

	Module Type/ Event Type	Contact time	Self-study	Workload	ECTS Credits	Exam Type	Examination Form
Project	**C**	**60**	**480**	**540**	**18**	**g**	
Interaction and Inquiry	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Experimental Sustainability, Studies for the Future	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Computational Experience	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Society in Motion	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Form and Contexts	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Experimental Design	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Social Design	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Master's Degree Program in Communication Design, "Project" module	CE/PR/SE/EX	60	480	540	18	g	PR/PK
Master's Degree Program Photography Studies and Practice: "Photography Project" module	CE/PR/SE/EX	60	480	540	18	g	PR/PK
LAB	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PR/PK
MMT (Media, Methods, Theory)	**C**	**30**	**150**	**180**	**6**	**g**	
Sustainable Design	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Society in Motion	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Advanced Technologies and Generative Forms	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Interaction and Inquiry	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Contextual Studies	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Experimental Design and Art-based Practices	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Offer Social Design	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Offer Design Research	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Offer Design Sciences	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Master's Degree Program in Communication Design, "MMT" module	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	TP/PE/PR/C
Master's Degree Program in Communication Design, "Scientific Specialization" module	CE/SE/EX/V	30	150	180	6	g	O/C/EXM or TP
Offers from all Master's programs of the FB4	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/COL
Presenting and exhibiting	**C**	**30**	**150**	**180**	**6**	**u**	
Exhibition seminar + exhibition	C/SE/T	30	150	180	6	u	PK/PE
2nd semester total		**120**	**780**	**900**	**30**		

The Project module must be taken a total of 3 times during the course of study, at least 2 of which must be from the Master's degree program in Design Futures
The MMT module must be taken a total of 3 times during the course of study.

Module type:
C = Compulsory
CE = Compulsory Elective

Examination type:
g = graded
u = ungraded

Event type:
PR = Project
SE = Seminar
EX = Exercise
L = Lecture

Examination form:
TP = Term paper
EXM = Exam
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O = Oral examination
PR = Presentation with colloquium
PE = Practical examination
PO = Portfolio
PW = Project work
C = Paper

Design Futures (M.A.)

3rd Semester

	Module Type/ Event Type	Contact time	Self-study	Workload	ECTS Credits	Exam Type	Examination Form
Project	C	60	480	540	18	g	
Interaction and Inquiry	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Experimental Sustainability, Studies for the Future	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Computational Experience	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Society in Motion	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Form and Contexts	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Experimental Design	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Social Design	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PK
Master's Degree Program in Communication Design, "Project" module	CE/PR/SE/EX	60	480	540	18	g	PR/PK
Master's Degree Program Photography Studies and Practice: "Photography Project" module	CE/PR/SE/EX	60	480	540	18	g	PR/PK
LAB	CE/PR	60	480	540	18	g	PR/PK
MMT (Media, Methods, Theory)	C	30	150	180	6	g	
Sustainable Design	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Society in Motion	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Advanced Technologies and Generative Forms	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Interaction and Inquiry	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Contextual Studies	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Experimental Design and Art-based Practices	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Offer Social Design	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Offer Design Research	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Offer Design Sciences	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/PE/C/TP
Master's Degree Program in Communication Design, "MMT" module	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	TP/PE/PR/C
Master's Degree Program in Communication Design, "Scientific specialization" module	CE/SE/EX/V	30	150	180	6	g	O/C/EXM or TP
Offers from all Master's programs of the FB4	CE/SE/EX	30	150	180	6	g	PR/COL
Workshop/Symposium	C	30	150	180	6	g	
Implementation of block event + organization of symposium	C/PR/SE	30	150	180	6	g	PK/PE
3rd semester total		120	780	900	30		

The Project module must be taken a total of 3 times during the course of study, at least 2 of which must be from the Master's degree program in Design Futures
The MMT module must be taken a total of 3 times during the course of study.

Module type:
C = Compulsory
CE = Compulsory Elective

Examination type:
g = graded
u = ungraded

Event type:
PR = Project
SE = Seminar
EX = Exercise
L = Lecture

Examination form:
TP = Term paper
EXM = Exam
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O = Oral examination
PR = Presentation with colloquium
PE = Practical examination
PO = Portfolio
PW = Project work
C = Paper

Design Futures (M.A.)

4th Semester

	Module Type/ Event Type	Contact time	Self-study	Workload	ECTS Credits	Exam Type	Examination Form
Master’s Thesis	C	12	888	900	30	g	
Master’s Project	C/PR	4	596	600	18	g	PW and PK
Master’s Thesis	C/PR	4	146	150	6	g	TP
Presentation/Exhibition	C/PR	4	146	150	6	g	PR/TP
4th semester total		12	888	900	30		

The Project module must be taken a total of 3 times during the course of study, at least 2 of which must be from the Master's degree program in Design Futures
The MMT module must be taken a total of 3 times during the course of study.

Module type:
C = Compulsory
CE = Compulsory Elective

Examination type:
g = graded
u = ungraded

Event type:
PR = Project
SE = Seminar
EX = Exercise
L = Lecture

Examination form:
TP = Term paper
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