

Joint Examination Regulations for the consecutive Master's Degree Programme "International Food Business and Consumer Studies"

of Kassel University, Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences and Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Department of Nutritional, Food and Consumer Sciences



Approved by the Faculties in July 2016 with changes till July 2023. The translation does not have any legal binding effects, the official version in German is published in "Mitteilungsblatt" of the University of Kassel

§ 1 Scope

The joint examination regulation for the consecutive Master's degree programme "International Food Business and Consumer Studies" complements the currently valid versions of the "General Provisions for Examination Regulations for Bachelor and Master Programmes" at Kassel University and Fulda University of Applied Sciences, respectively. In case of contradictory regulations in the General Provisions for Examination Regulations the provisions of the university apply which is responsible for the offered module. Excluded from this are the template of module descriptions, as well as the number of ECTS credits awarded per module; to this extent the General Provisions for Examination Regulations of the University of Kassel apply to all modules of the study programme.

§ 2 Academic Degrees

(1) On successful completion of the Master's examination the Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences of Kassel University and the Department of Nutritional, Food and Consumer Sciences of Fulda University of Applied Sciences award the degree Master of Science (M.Sc.).

(2) The study programme "M.Sc. International Food Business and Consumer Studies" is designed with an application-oriented focus of study. Further details are given in the Diploma Supplement, issued within the terms described by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the UNESCO/CEPES.

§ 3 Regular Scope and Structure, Standard Duration, Start and Language

(1) The Master's degree program comprises 120 ECTS credits. The credits are assigned to each module. The assigned number of credits to the modules is derived from § 7 and Annex I

(2) The standard duration of study is four semesters.

(3) The Master's degree programme starts annually in winter term.

(4) The language of instruction for the study programme is English, including the exams.

§ 4 Examination Board

(1) The responsibility for decisions concerning examination matters lies with the MSc examination board for "International Food Business and Consumer Studies".

(2) Members of the examination board are and shall be entitled to vote

- three professors teaching in the degree programme "International Food Business and Consumer Studies",
- one member of the academic staff from the university that appoints only one professorial member of the examination board,
- one student of the Master's degree programme "International Food Business and Consumer Studies".

§ 5 Objectives/Qualification

(1) The Master's degree programme enables its students to gain expertise in natural sciences, economic and social sciences, as well as methodological competence required to implement their knowledge and skills in responsible and leading positions in national and international enterprises and institutions of the food sector, especially at the interfaces between different cultures.

(2) As a preparation for this professional field students learn to

- plan and implement, document and evaluate complex projects in the area of food business, especially in the fields of
 - product quality, product development and innovation
 - marketing including intercultural aspects
 - management of processes and data flow in the food supply chain
 - product management,
- think and act interdisciplinary,
- communicate intercultural, in particular to perceive cultural differences and their impact on consumer and organizational behaviour,
- work responsibly with respect to the environment and future generations and take into account principles of ethics and sustainability,
- conduct academic research in the area of food business and related fields.

§ 6 Admission Requirements

(1) Requirements for admission are a first academic degree of minimum three years (equivalent to 180 ECTS credits minimum) in the field of nutrition, food or agricultural sciences, with an average final grade of at least 2.5 (on German Scale), or a degree with an average final grade of at least 2.5 (on German scale) in a related study program or a different field of specialisation where the applicant has gained sufficient professional and methodological competencies enabling him/her to successfully complete the Master program.

(2) In general, the applicants provide evidence that they have gained knowledge and skills in agricultural and food business enabling them, after participation in appropriate bridging module, to successfully complete the Master's degree program within the standard duration. A motivation statement and a reference letter that prove the professional suitability shall be submitted.

(3) If the grade of the final degree is less than 2.5 (on German scale), or if an applicant cannot adequately provide evidence according to § 6 no. 1 or 2, an interdisciplinary commission of the faculties, appointed by the examination board, shall decide whether the applicant has the academic qualifications required for admission to the Master's program. The Commission consists of two members of both universities - including one professor at least. The proof of knowledge shall be provided by a personal selection interview lasting 30 minutes. The interview focuses on:

a) relevant professional practice acquired after obtaining the first academic degree, which is conducive to the qualification objectives of the Master's program,
b) motivation to study this specific program, and
c) knowledge obtained in the Bachelor's program that is of specific relevance to the learning objectives of the master's program and the applicant's intended career objectives.

The selection committee can award up to three points for each of these aspects, so that a total of nine points can be achieved in the selection interview. The points are added together. Admission is granted to applicants who achieve at least five points in the selection interview. Minutes are taken of the selection interview.

(3) In addition, submission of a one-page motivation letter in English is required, including:

- Motivation to study the IFBC Master program, taking into account previous subject-related educational and professional qualifications as well as personal experience.
- Expectation of the master's program in terms of content, teaching and learning formats, as well as specialization options.
- Longer-term professional goals and the contribution of the Master's program towards reaching them.

The selection committee can award up to three points for each of these aspects, so that a total of nine points can be achieved. The points are added together and

admission is granted if at least five points are achieved. (4) In addition, evidence of English language proficiency is usually provided at CEF-level B2 (Common European Framework), or equivalent.

(5) The examination board may impose preconditions on admission with conditions of up to 30 credits and assign the bridging module.

§ 7 Master Examination, Assessment and Weighting of Grades

(1) The Master's degree programme is structured as follows:

7 Compulsory modules	42 Credits
Compulsory module „Project Work“	18 Credits
1 Bridging module	6 Credits
3 Elective modules („Business and Food“)	18 Credits
1 Elective „Profile module“	6 Credits
Master thesis including Colloquium	30 Credits
Total	120 Credits

(2) The Master's examination consists of

- Module examinations throughout the studies according to section (3)
- Master thesis and the colloquium according to § 8.

(3) Within the scope of the Master's degree program accompanying module examinations are to be completed (module descriptions, see appendix 2 Module handbook):

- 7 Compulsory modules (in total 42 credits) of which six primarily provide deepened knowledge and skills in the food- and nutrition-related scientific disciplines of the natural sciences, economics and social sciences, as well as one module designed to gain proficiency in scientific research methods:
 - International legislation on consumer protection and food
 - International organic food markets and marketing
 - Food product development
 - Research methods
 - Food quality management
 - Recent developments in food and nutritional sciences
 - Consumer science and sustainable consumption
- 1 Compulsory module “Project Work” in cooperation with professional enterprises and/or institutions. This module also aims to provide key qualifications, as well as the ability to intercultural communication.
- 1 Elective module of 6 credits from a catalogue of modules designed to compensate for different levels of background knowledge and skills which students have gained during their undergraduate studies („bridging module”, WP I), see Annex I and 2. The Examination board may assign students

to other Master level modules if these modules lead to the qualification needed.

- 2 Elective modules (6 credits each) from a catalogue of modules emphasising „Business” (WP II) see Annex I and 2.
- 1 Elective module (6 credits) from a catalogue of modules emphasising „Food” (WP III) see Annex I and 2.
- 1 Profile module (6 credits) to be chosen from the module catalogue of the Master’s degree programmes offered at Kassel University, Fulda University of Applied Sciences, or foreign partner universities; the module has to be relevant with respect to the student’s projected qualification profile.

(4) The modules’ contents, the respective number of ECTS points, as well as the respective exam requirements are specified in the module descriptions (Annex 2). The compulsory modules listed in Annex 2 may be replaced by other modules clearly conducive to the Master degree programme’s qualification aims. Decisions concerning this matter are taken by the Examination Board and in consultation with the member of faculty in charge of the academic subject.

(5) Students holding a first degree from a German institution shall acquire at least 12 of the required credits in a partner institution abroad. If sufficient places at partner institutions abroad are unavailable, as well as in special individual cases, the examination board may allow exceptions and impose conditions that ensure that the qualification aims of the study programme are fulfilled.

(6) The final grade is calculated as an arithmetic mean of all grades weighted according to the credits. The grade for the final exam weights threefold. The grade is calculated on a pro rata basis if the assessment of an exam is carried out by several examiners. The following score table is specified:

Points (100 points = 100%)	Grades
> 95 to 100	1.0
> 90 to 95	1.3
> 85 to 90	1.7
> 80 to 85	2.0
> 75 to 80	2.3
> 70 to 75	2.7
> 65 to 70	3.0
> 60 to 65	3.3
> 55 to 60	3.7
> 50 to 55	4.0
below 50	5.0 (failed)

Witzenhausen and Fulda,

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§ 8 Master Thesis and Colloquium

(1) Following an application by the student, the topic of the Master’s thesis is assigned by the chairperson of the Examination Board after admission to the master examination. The topic of the master’s thesis may be assigned at the earliest in the third study semester or in the second study semester (lateral entrant). The topic of the master’s thesis may be issued if no more than 12 credits are missing.

(2) The timeframe of work on the Master thesis is 22 weeks and begins on the day of the assignment of the topic by the Examination Board. For the master’s thesis including the colloquium 30 credits are awarded. As a rule, the Master thesis shall be written in English. Upon a reasonable request of the student, and with the consent of the supervisors, the Examination Board may permit the use of another official language of the European Union. In this case, the thesis must contain an extended summary in English. The thesis has to be submitted to the examination board with three bounded editions and as digital data carrier.

(3) The topic of the master thesis may be returned only once and only within seven weeks after the announcement. If, for reasons beyond the control of the candidate, the first deadline cannot be complied with, the deadline is extended by the time of the delay, but by a maximum of eight weeks.

(4) A colloquium on the subject of the Master thesis with the two examiners of the Master thesis is part of the final examination. It takes place within six weeks after submission of the Master’s thesis. The colloquium lasts 60 minutes. Participation in the colloquium requires at least the grade „sufficient,, in the master thesis. A colloquium which is not assessed as ‘sufficient’ or better can be repeated once. The grade of the final examination (Master thesis including colloquium) is composed of the grade of the Master thesis multiplied by three and the grade of the colloquium multiplied by one.

§ 9

Interim Regulations

(1) This examination regulations apply to all students who enrol in the Master’s Program International Food Business and Consumer Studies in winter term 2021/22 or later.

§ 10 Entry into Force

These examination regulations shall enter into force on the day after publication in the Official Journal (Mitteilungsblatt der Universität Kassel).

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