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The German version of the Master Examination Regulations (Master-HPO) shall prevail.*

Georg Agricola University of Applied Sciences

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Bochum, 13 March 2026

Serial No.: 14/26

**Publication of the
University Examination Regulations
for the Master's Degree Programmes
at Georg Agricola University of Applied Sciences**

State-recognised University
of DMT-Gesellschaft für Lehre und Bildung mbH

dated 12 March 2026

Issued

Issued by the President of Georg Agricola University of Applied Sciences

Official Announcement 14/26 – Master-HPO

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On the basis of Sections 2 (4), 22 (1) No. 3 and 64 in conjunction with Section 72 of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz – HG) of 31 October 2006, last amended by the Act of 19 December 2024 (GV. NRW. p. 1222), THGA has issued the following regulations:

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Section 1 Scope

(1) These Examination Regulations shall apply to all Master's degree programmes at THGA and contain programme-wide provisions governing the examination procedure as well as general information on study planning and the course of studies. They shall apply in conjunction with the subject-specific examination regulations and the module handbook of the respective degree programme. In cases of doubt, the provisions of these University Examination Regulations shall take precedence.

(2) The module handbooks shall be updated annually in the sections "Literature" and "Module Coordinator" with the approval of the management of the responsible academic department. All other amendments to the module handbook shall be adopted by the Senate.

(3) These regulations have been drafted in the German language. Should the contents differ from any existing English reading version, the German version shall be authoritative.

(4) In addition to these regulations, the relevant provisions of the Higher Education Act (HG NRW) and the enrolment regulations of THGA shall apply.

Section 2 Purpose of the Programme, Academic Degree

(1) The Master's degree programmes continue, independently within themselves, a higher education programme completed with a Bachelor's degree or a Diplom degree in an engineering or comparable field of study.

(2) The objective of the programme, taking into account the general study objectives (Section 58 (1) HG), is the acquisition of interdisciplinary advanced subject-specific and methodological knowledge through practice-oriented education based on scientific principles. The Master's programme shall provide students, taking into account the requirements and changes in the professional world, with the necessary subject-specific knowledge, skills and methods so that they are enabled both to carry out scientific work and to critically assess scientific findings, as well as to independently apply engineering and technical methods in the development of practice-oriented solutions to problems, including responsible conduct. Furthermore, it shall develop an understanding of technical, economic and social interrelations for later professional activity and provide the necessary fundamental knowledge for changing tasks in professional life.

(3) Upon successful completion of all module examinations of the Master's programme, the academic degree "Master of Science" (M.Sc.) shall be awarded.¹

(4) The academic degree Master of Science constitutes a further professional qualification. In accordance with Section 67 (4) HG, the Master's degree is a prerequisite for admission to doctoral studies in accordance with the respective doctoral regulations.

¹ See also Section 24 (4)

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Section 3 Admission to Studies, Selection Procedure and Criteria, Admission Subject to Conditions

(1) The prerequisite for admission to a Master's degree programme is a university degree completed with a Bachelor's degree or Diplom degree in the same field of study or in a comparable programme. Details regarding the requirements, procedures and responsibilities for admission to and enrolment in the Master's programme shall be regulated on a programme-specific basis in the respective subject-specific examination regulations.

(2) For the admission of persons with disabilities to studies, the United Nations Convention based on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities shall apply (Federal Law Gazette II, 2008, p. 1419).

(3) The number of study places for the respective Master's degree programmes is limited. The Presidium shall decide each semester on the minimum number of students and the exact number of study places per programme.

(4) If the number of applications exceeds the total number of available study places, these shall be allocated on the basis of the results of a selection procedure.

The selection procedure shall be carried out on the basis of the submitted application documents and, in individual cases, an interview conducted with the applicant by an admissions committee. The following criteria shall be used for the assessment:

- a) Academic qualification (type of degree, final grade of the degree certificate),
- b) Programme-related practical experience (type and duration of practical experience).

Criteria a) and b) shall be weighted relative to each other, with a weighting of two thirds for criterion a) and one third for criterion b), and each shall be assigned a grade between 1.0 and 5.0. For criterion a), particular consideration shall be given to the type of degree pursuant to paragraph 1 (type of higher education institution, programme of study and type of degree) and the final grade achieved. For criterion b), the type and duration of practical experience relevant to the intended programme of study shall be taken into account.

The grades for the assessment criteria a) and b) shall be recorded in an evaluation form. The total score shall be calculated as the arithmetic mean of the individual grades for criteria a) and b).

The allocation of study places shall be carried out taking into account the quota pursuant to paragraph 3 and on the basis of a ranking list established on the basis of the individual assessments under this paragraph. In the event of equal ranking, the decision shall be made by lot.

Programme-specific selection criteria may be defined in the respective subject-specific examination regulations.

(5) Admission to a Master's degree programme may be made subject to the condition that certain knowledge must be demonstrated by no later than the completion of the Master's programme. The type, scope and deadline for fulfilling the study and examination requirements defined as conditions shall be determined individually on the basis of the content completed within the framework of the previous degree as well as the study content required for the intended degree.

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Section 4 Academic Advising

(1) Subject-specific academic advising accompanying the course of studies shall be the responsibility of the respective academic department. It shall be provided by the academic advisor appointed by the head of the academic department and shall support students—while preserving the principles of freedom of study—in matters relating to the commencement of studies, the organisation of studies, study techniques, and the choice of field of study, specialisations, elective areas and elective modules.

(2) Students who, as full-time students, have achieved fewer than 20 credit points by the end of the third semester, or as part-time students by the end of the fourth semester, shall be offered academic advising by the head of the academic department in accordance with Section 36 of the Basic Regulations.

Section 5 Commencement and Structure of Studies

(1) The programme is designed to commence in the winter semester. As a general rule, it is possible to begin studies in the summer semester by entering into the ongoing teaching programme.

(2) The forms of study and the respective standard periods of study shall be regulated in the subject-specific examination regulations.

(3) Comprehensive academic advising supports entry into the programme. In order to promote study success, THGA shall ensure, as far as possible, that no course requires knowledge of subject matter that is only taught later in the programme.

(4) The programme is structured into modules to which credit points are assigned in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). One credit point corresponds to a workload of 30 hours. The specifications of the modules belonging to a Bachelor's degree programme are set out in the respective subject-specific examination regulations.

(5) The following types of modules shall be distinguished:

- compulsory modules,
- modules of a defined specialisation or defined field of study,
- elective modules,
- additional modules.

Compulsory modules, modules of a specialisation or field of study, and elective modules shall be completed by means of the examinations provided for in the University Examination Regulations and in the study and examination plans.

Additional modules pursuant to Section 10 (6) are voluntary and may be freely selected from the range of courses offered by THGA.

(6) Upon written application, students shall be permitted, once during their studies, to change their specialisation, field of study, elective area and elective module of their degree programme, provided that the student has not definitively failed an examination in any module of the programme.

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(7) If it is necessary, for the purpose of ensuring the intended success of studies, due to the form of instruction provided for practical courses, for research purposes, or due to the available capacity of teaching and supervisory staff, to limit the number of participants in a practical course, this shall be carried out in accordance with Section 59 (2) HG. In doing so, students who, according to their study plan, are dependent on attending the practical course at a specific time shall be given priority. Further criteria shall be applied in the following order: compulsory or elective requirement, advanced Master's modules, voluntary additional modules.

(8) The following forms of teaching shall be offered:

- lectures, in which basic and specialised knowledge and methods are systematically conveyed,
- exercises, in which the material of the lecture is deepened and consolidated by means of tasks,
- seminar-style teaching, in which basic and specialised knowledge and methods are systematically conveyed in a group usually consisting of up to 35 participants; due to the smaller group size, interaction and dialogue are possible to a greater extent than in lectures,
- practical courses, in which the acquisition and deepening of specialised knowledge takes place through observation and experimental work under supervision and guidance,
- seminars, which aim to deepen and broaden specialised knowledge through discussion and presentations prepared by students,
- research-oriented courses in self-study, in which students, under guidance, carry out independent engineering-related work,
- excursions, which establish a link between studies and the professional world.

(9) Depending on the degree programme, studies shall be conducted in German, in German and English, or exclusively in English. Further details shall be regulated in the subject-specific examination regulations.

(10) Details regarding the structure of studies as well as programme-specific special requirements shall be regulated in the subject-specific examination regulations.

Section 6 Examination Board

(1) An examination board shall be established for the organisation of examinations and the performance of the tasks assigned by these Examination Regulations; the responsibility of the competent head of the academic department pursuant to Section 27 HG shall remain unaffected. The examination board shall be an authority within the meaning of administrative procedure law and administrative court procedure law. It shall consist of a maximum of 13 members, of which:

- a) up to six members from the group of professors,
- b) up to three members from the group of academic staff,
- c) up to three students,
- d) up to one member from the group of technical and administrative staff.

If the total number of elected members does not result in a majority of members pursuant to letter a) over the total of members of groups b) to d), the members from the group of professors shall, as a rule, have a voting right counted twice.

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(2) The members of the examination board shall be elected by the Senate. In the election, care shall be taken to ensure that the academic departments are, as far as possible, represented in each of the groups of board members pursuant to paragraph 1 sentence 3 letters a) to c). The term of office of members employed full-time at THGA shall be four years; that of student members shall be one year. Re-election shall be permissible. If individual members leave, a by-election shall take place. Only members of the group pursuant to paragraph 1 sentence 3 letter a) or d) may be elected as chairperson and as up to two deputy chairpersons; in the case of letter d), only on the condition that the elected member possesses particular legal expertise (as a rule, qualification for judicial office) and is exempt from instructions with regard to the exercise of the chairmanship. Further details regarding the election of the chairperson, the assignment of tasks, as well as procedures and resolutions of the examination board shall be regulated in rules of procedure issued by the examination board in agreement with the Senate.

(3) The examination board shall ensure that the provisions of the examination regulations are complied with and shall supervise the proper conduct of examinations. In particular, it shall be responsible for decisions on objections against decisions taken in examination procedures. It shall report regularly to the responsible Vice President for Studies and Teaching and to the Senate on the development of examinations and shall provide suggestions for the reform of the study plan, programme-specific regulations and examination regulations.

(4) The members of the examination board shall have the right to be present during examinations; student members are excluded if they are required to take the same examination during the same examination period.

(5) The meetings of the examination board shall not be public. The members of the examination board shall be bound by official secrecy and shall be obliged to maintain confidentiality by the chairperson of the examination board. The examination board may invite guests to its meetings. Department 6 Mining and Energy in North Rhine-Westphalia at the District Government of Arnsberg shall be entitled to send a representative to the meetings of the examination board and to all examinations. The representative shall be authorised to inspect all examination processes and to participate in all discussions and deliberations.

(6) Decisions of the examination board that are adverse to the student shall be communicated to the affected students without delay in writing, stating the reasons and including information on legal remedies. They shall be granted the right to be heard beforehand. Section 2 (3) No. 3 of the Administrative Procedure Act for the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, in particular regarding the exemption from the obligation to hear and give reasons in the case of assessments of a scientific or artistic nature, shall remain unaffected.

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Section 7 Examiners and Co-Examiners

(1) The examination board shall appoint the examiners as well as the co-examiners. The examination board shall ensure that examination duties are distributed as evenly as possible among the examiners.

(2) The examiners should have carried out independent teaching activities in the subject to be examined. The persons authorised to conduct university examinations are those teaching at the university and persons experienced in professional practice and training, insofar as this is necessary or appropriate for achieving the purpose of the examination. Examination performances may only be assessed by persons who themselves possess at least the qualification to be determined by the examination or an equivalent qualification. If several examiners are to be appointed, at least one examiner should have taught in the subject area concerned. The examiners shall be independent in their examination activities. Only persons possessing the necessary expertise pursuant to Section 65 (2) HG NRW may be appointed as co-examiners. The examiners and co-examiners shall be subject to confidentiality.

(3) Repeat examinations, in which no possibility of compensation is provided in the event of final failure, shall be assessed by at least two examiners within the meaning of paragraph 2. The determination of the exact number of examiners shall be made with the announcement pursuant to paragraph 4 sentence 1. Section 16 (3) and Section 18 (3) shall remain unaffected.

(4) The chairperson of the examination board shall ensure that the examination dates as well as the names of the examiners are announced to the examination candidates, as a rule, at least two months prior to the examination on a university-wide platform. As a general rule, it shall be assumed that those lecturers who are currently teaching or have taught a module or its sub-modules for a specific group of participants in accordance with the lecture schedule are also the examiners. In the case of written examinations, they shall be responsible for setting the examination tasks, and in the case of oral examinations, for conducting them. The examination board shall decide whether additional examiners must be appointed. After the announcement of the examiners, a short-term change of examiners shall only be permissible for compelling reasons.

Section 8 Recognition of Study and Examination Achievements

(1) Study and examination achievements completed in degree programmes at other public or state-recognised universities, at public or state-recognised universities of cooperative education, or in degree programmes at foreign public or state-recognised universities shall be recognised upon application by the examination board, provided that there is no substantial difference with regard to the acquired competences compared to the achievements to be replaced. The same shall apply to degrees by which degree programmes within the meaning of sentence 1 have been completed. Recognition within the meaning of sentences 1 and 2 shall serve the continuation of studies, the taking of examinations or the commencement of further studies.

(2) Substantial differences shall exist in particular where the acquired competences do not meet the requirements of the respective Master's degree programme. In this respect, no schematic comparison shall be carried out; rather, an overall assessment and evaluation shall be undertaken. For periods of study, study achievements and examination achievements completed outside the scope of application of the Basic Law, the equivalence agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs and agreements within the framework of university partnerships shall be taken into account. In cases of doubt, the Central Office for Foreign Education may be consulted.

(3) Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply accordingly to the recognition of study and examination achievements from other degree programmes at THGA. The recognition of advanced Master's modules completed within a Bachelor's degree programme of a Master's degree programme at THGA

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shall be governed by Section 8a of the Bachelor Examination Regulations and shall be carried out ex officio, both positively and negatively, after enrolment in the aforementioned Master's degree programme.

(4) Upon application, other extracurricular knowledge and qualifications (Section 63a (7) HG, for example knowledge and achievements acquired within the framework of vocational training or professional activity) may be recognised up to a maximum of 50% of the credit points provided for the degree programme, provided that such knowledge and qualifications are equivalent in content and level to the study and examination achievements they are intended to replace.

(5) THGA may conclude Structured Exchange Agreements with partner universities in which the mutual recognition of examination achievements is contractually regulated. Examination achievements completed at a partner university within the framework of such a Structured Exchange Agreement shall, upon application by the student and upon submission of appropriate documentation, be recognised in accordance with the recognition rules of the Structured Exchange Agreement.

(6) Study and examination achievements completed prior to the commencement of studies by junior students pursuant to Section 48 (6) HG shall be recognised upon written application.

(7) The application for recognition of study and examination achievements shall be submitted to the examination board. As a rule, all achievements for which recognition is sought shall be listed in a single application; the application must be submitted no later than the end of the first semester completed at THGA. The student shall submit the documents required for recognition in German or English. For documents not drafted in German or English, certified translations shall be provided upon request of the examination board. The documents must contain information on the competences acquired and, in this context, on the passed, failed or completed achievements to be recognised. In the case of recognition of periods of study and achievements from degree programmes, the corresponding module descriptions as well as the transcript of records or a comparable document shall generally be submitted.

(8) The examination board shall decide on recognition pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 6, usually after consulting the examiners responsible for the modules. The decision on recognition shall be made within a maximum of three months from the complete receipt of all required documents.

(9) If study and examination achievements are recognised, the grades shall be adopted—provided that the grading systems are comparable—and included in the calculation of the overall grade. If grading systems are not comparable, the notation “recognised” shall be recorded. Recognition shall result in classification into the semester corresponding to the number determined by the proportion of credit points acquired through recognition in relation to the total number of credit points obtainable in the respective degree programme.

(10) The decision on the non-recognition of domestic or foreign periods of study, study or examination achievements or other knowledge and qualifications shall be issued by written notice. The notice shall state the reasons and include information on legal remedies.

Section 9 Assessment Standards for Study and Examination Achievements

(1) The grades for individual examination performances shall be determined by the respective examiners. The following grades shall be used for assessment:

- 1 = very good = an outstanding performance;
- 2 = good = a performance that significantly exceeds the average requirements;
- 3 = satisfactory = a performance that meets the average requirements;

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4 = sufficient = a performance which, despite its deficiencies, still meets the requirements;
5 = fail (n.b.) = a performance which, due to significant deficiencies, no longer meets the requirements.

For a more differentiated assessment of examination performances, intermediate values may be formed by increasing or decreasing the individual grades by 0.3; the grades 0.7; 4.3; 4.7 and 5.3 are excluded.

(2) When calculating grades, a calculated value

- up to and including 1.5 corresponds to the grade “very good”,
- above 1.5 up to and including 2.5 corresponds to the grade “good”,
- above 2.5 up to and including 3.5 corresponds to the grade “satisfactory”,
- above 3.5 up to and including 4.0 corresponds to the grade “sufficient”,
- above 4.0 corresponds to the grade “fail”.

When calculating module grades and the overall grade, only the first decimal place after the decimal point shall be taken into account; all further decimal places shall be truncated without rounding.

(3) An examination shall be deemed to have been passed if it has been assessed at least as “sufficient”. If an examination has been passed, the student shall be awarded the credit points assigned to the examination in accordance with the subject-specific examination regulations or the module description.

(4) In the case of examinations consisting of several parts, the module grade shall be determined as the weighted average of the individual assessments based on the assigned credit points. If several examiners are involved in an examination, they shall jointly assess the examination performance. In the event of differing assessments, the grade shall likewise be determined as the arithmetic mean of the individual assessments, taking into account the credit points allocated to the individual parts of the examination.

(5) If a module is divided into sub-modules, the examination may, in accordance with Section 10 (1), be subdivided into corresponding sub-module examinations, whereby each sub-module must be assessed at least as “sufficient” in order to pass the module examination. The module grade shall be determined as the weighted average of the sub-module grades based on the assigned credit points.

(6) In the case of the examination format “written examination”, the respective examiner may provide that voluntarily completed preliminary work is taken into account in the determination of the examination result with a value of up to a maximum of 20 percentage points (bonus points). The number and type of bonus-eligible tasks as well as the correction and assessment method shall be announced to the students by the examiner no later than three weeks after the start of the lecture period. Participation shall not be mandatory for students. The module examination must be passed without the use of bonus points; an outstanding performance must be achievable without the use of bonus points. A bonus shall only apply to the examination attempt in the main or repeat examination date of the semester in which it was acquired. This shall not apply to courses in which the number of participants has been limited pursuant to Section 5 (8) HPO.

Section 10 Module Examinations; Additional Modules; Compensation for Disadvantages

(1) As a rule, module examinations shall be provided for the modules. Deviations from the rule that modules are completed with a single examination shall be permissible in exceptional cases, in particular if this serves the intended objective of an appropriate examination workload while maintaining the principles of competence-oriented assessment.

(2) The module examinations shall determine whether the students have mastered the content and methods of the modules in their essential contexts and are able to apply the acquired knowledge and

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skills independently. The learning outcomes of the students shall be assessed on the basis of the learning objectives of the module described in the module descriptions. By way of derogation from sentence 2, the examination formats “written assignment” and “coursework-based written examinations” shall be announced by the beginning of the lecture period.

(3) Examinations may be conducted in the examination formats pursuant to Section 12 in German or English. As a general rule, the examination board shall determine the examination format and duration at least two months before an examination date, in consultation with the examiners or—if no agreement is reached between the examiners of an identical module—the module coordinator, in accordance with Section 7 (4). Care shall be taken to ensure that, across the entire degree programme, all examination formats provided for in these regulations are applied. Examination dates shall be scheduled in such a way that, as a rule, no teaching events are cancelled as a result. For each examination in the formats of written examination or oral examination, a maximum of two examination dates shall be scheduled per semester. If an examination is to be conducted in English, the examination board shall determine this at the same time as announcing the examination schedule.

(4) In module examinations relating to seminar-style courses or practical courses, the examination may be conducted wholly or partly by means of continuous assessment during the semester in the examination format “written assignment”. In all other respects, the provisions for written assignments pursuant to Section 12 shall apply accordingly.

(5) The above provisions shall apply mutatis mutandis to sub-module examinations.

(6) Students may take module examinations (additional modules) in modules other than those prescribed in the examination regulations from the range of courses offered by THGA, provided that these are not compulsory modules or selected elective modules of the respective degree programme. The result of an additional module examination shall not be included in the overall grade of the Master’s examination and shall not be included in the certificate upon written application by the student. Section 13 (1) sentence 1 shall apply accordingly. The conduct of a course exclusively as an additional module shall be subject to a minimum number of participants to be determined by the competent head of the academic department.

(7) If an examination candidate demonstrates, by means of a medical certificate or otherwise, that he or she is not able, due to a permanent disability, to complete an upcoming examination in whole or in part in the prescribed form, the examination board may permit the candidate to complete equivalent examination performances in another form or within another period of time. The application for the granting of compensation for disadvantages shall be submitted in due time, at least six weeks before the examination event. The examination board shall ensure that any identified disadvantage is compensated for as far as possible by the design of the examination conditions. In case of doubt, the chairperson of the examination board may require further evidence from the examination candidate. The compensation for disadvantages approved by the examination board shall be communicated by the student to the examiners immediately after registration for the examination.

(8) On the basis of the provisions of the Maternity Protection Act (MuSchG), the examination board shall, after notification of the pregnancy and upon application by the student, examine and determine whether and how pregnant or breastfeeding students can acquire, by other means, the knowledge and skills taught in courses from which they are excluded or which they are unable to attend due to maternity protection periods (so-called equivalent performance). The same shall apply to the inability to participate in an examination due to such circumstances. However, there shall be no legal entitlement to the provision of a special teaching offer or a specific examination format. As a rule, no more than 50% of the courses of a particular type of course may be replaced by equivalent performances.

(9) When taking a module examination, the examination candidate shall be obliged, upon request by the examiner or the invigilator, to identify themselves by means of an official identification document

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suitable for establishing identity, bearing a photograph and written in Latin characters; otherwise, he or she may be excluded from the examination.

Section 11 Admission and Registration for Examinations

(1) Only those who are enrolled at THGA or admitted as a secondary student may be admitted to an examination. Admission to examinations must be applied for by students within the registration period, as a rule via the electronic registration procedure; deviations may be stipulated in the subject-specific examination regulations. The examination board shall decide on admission and shall also determine the registration and deregistration deadlines.

(2) Within the registration period and up to the expiry of the deregistration deadline, the application for admission to an examination may be withdrawn without giving reasons and without being counted towards the number of possible examination attempts. After the expiry of the deregistration deadline, withdrawal from the examination shall no longer be possible; Section 14 (2) shall remain unaffected.

(3) If a candidate applies for admission to an examination in a specialisation, an elective area or an elective module for the first time and does not withdraw this application within the prescribed period, the selection shall be binding. Section 5 (6), Section 14 (2) and any programme-specific regulations deviating from these provisions shall remain unaffected.

(4) Admission to an examination or participation in practical courses and seminars may, in particular where module content builds upon one another, be made dependent on the prior successful completion of other module examinations (mandatory prerequisites) or coursework requirements. A module for which a mandatory prerequisite was required may not itself serve as a mandatory prerequisite. Further details shall be regulated in the respective subject-specific examination regulations of the degree programmes, including the explicit designation of any modules affected.

(5) For courses in which the learning objective cannot be achieved without student participation in the course, regular attendance by students may be made compulsory. This shall only be the case if the requirement of attendance is obviously indispensable for achieving the specific learning objective and is expressly stipulated in the subject-specific examination regulations or in the module descriptions.

(6) Admission to an examination shall be refused if the requirements set out in paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 5 are not fulfilled. In all other respects, admission may be refused if an examination candidate has lost their entitlement to take examinations in the same degree programme within the scope of the Basic Law by missing a deadline for a repeat examination; this shall apply accordingly to related or comparable degree programmes.

Section 12 Forms of Examination

(1) Examination performances may be provided in the form of a written examination, an oral examination, a written assignment, or by completing coursework-based written examinations during the semester.

(2) Written examinations are written or software-supported examination performances conducted under supervision and having a total duration of between one and a maximum of three hours. A written assignment is the written, software-supported or comparable solution of a task set by the examiner during the course of the semester. The student prepares a solution within a specified period and submits it, possibly supplemented by a short presentation with discussion of approximately 15 minutes' duration.

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(3) In written examinations and written assignments, students shall demonstrate, within a specified period and using permitted aids, that they are able to recognise the relationships within the examination subject, to place specific questions within these relationships, and to find solutions to subject-specific problems by appropriate methods.

(4) The examiners shall decide on the aids permitted for use in a written examination and in any associated oral supplementary examination. A list of permitted aids shall generally be published by the examiners on a university-wide platform no later than six weeks before the examination date.

(5) The results of written examinations or written assignments shall generally be published by the Examinations Office within six weeks after the examination date.

(6) Before a grade of "fail" (n.b./5.0) is finally awarded after the last repeat of an examination in the form of a written examination, written assignment or coursework-based written examinations, the student may take an oral supplementary examination. This provision may be used only for two examinations during the entire course of study. The supplementary examination must be applied for in writing immediately after notification of the insufficient result and shall take place without delay after the application. The supplementary examination shall be conducted jointly by the examiners of the examination; otherwise, the following provisions for oral examinations shall apply accordingly. As a result of the supplementary examination, only the grades "sufficient" (4.0) or "fail" (n.b.) may be awarded. The preceding sentences of this paragraph shall not apply in cases of absence from the repeat examination or in cases of cheating pursuant to Section 14 (1) and (4)–(6).

(7) The provisions of paragraphs 1 to 5 shall apply accordingly to oral examinations; paragraph 6 shall not apply. Oral module examinations generally last between 20 and 40 minutes and may be conducted as group or individual examinations; the duration of the colloquium pursuant to Section 18 shall be between 30 and 45 minutes. Oral examinations shall be conducted by one examiner in the presence of another examiner or a co-examiner. The examiners may permit guests, in particular students of the same degree programme who intend to take the examination at a later date, to attend the examination, but not the deliberation and announcement of the result. Within the framework of the oral examination, tasks may also be set to be completed in writing to a reasonable extent, provided that this does not negate the oral character of the examination.

(8) The essential subjects and results of the examination, in particular the facts relevant for the assessment, shall be recorded in a protocol. The result of the examination performance shall be announced individually to the student immediately after the oral examination.

(9) Coursework-based written examinations shall take place in parallel with the course during the same semester. The performances shall be distributed over at least three and at most six dates during the semester and must be completed in writing under supervision. The individual partial performances shall be combined into a module grade; the applicable modalities including weighting and the respective assignment dates shall be determined by the examiner no later than the first week of the lecture period. Group work may also be permitted, provided that an individual assessment of each group member's contribution is possible. The results of individual coursework-based written examinations shall generally be announced by the examiner within six weeks after the respective examination date. The overall grading of coursework-based written examinations shall generally be published by the Examinations Office within six weeks after the lecture period.

Section 12a Oral Examinations via Electronic Communication

(1) Oral examinations pursuant to Section 12 (7) may be conducted using electronic communication tools (audio and video connection, e.g. video conference or video call). The identity of the student shall be verified at the beginning of the examination; the student may conceal or cover those details in

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the identification document that are not relevant for identity verification. There shall be no legal entitlement to take an oral examination outside the university.

(2) If an oral examination is conducted using electronic communication tools, the following special obligations shall apply:

a) Candidates shall be obliged to remain alone in a room for the duration of the examination and to provide the necessary technical equipment for audio and video communication, as well as a sufficient internet connection.

b) Candidates shall ensure that they are not disturbed during the examination, in particular by calls or visits. The same shall apply to examiners and co-examiners.

c) Candidates shall not communicate with any person other than the examiner or co-examiner during the examination and shall not use any aids other than those permitted. Any attempt to do so shall be deemed an attempt to cheat and shall result in failure of the examination. In the event of justified suspicion of cheating, the examiner should interrupt the examination and hear the student; the student shall be given the opportunity to dispel the suspicion by allowing a visual inspection of the room via the camera. The suspicion and further proceedings shall be documented in the examination record.

d) All participants shall be obliged to remedy any technical disruptions as quickly as possible. The examination shall be interrupted for the duration of the disruption; the type and duration of the disruption shall be recorded. In the case of a short interruption, the examination shall be continued; in the case of longer or repeated disruptions, the examination shall be discontinued. If the examination is discontinued, it shall be deemed not to have been taken, provided that the disruption was not caused by the student. The decision on continuation or discontinuation shall be made by the examiner.

e) Recording or transmission of the examination to third parties, even in part, shall be prohibited. However, the examiner may document responses given during the examination in visual form (e.g. screenshot), provided that no personal data beyond the written or textual responses are recorded. Such documentation shall be deleted once its purpose ceases to apply.

Section 13 Repetition of Examination Performances

(1) Module examinations and sub-module examinations, with the exception of the Master's thesis, which have not been passed or are deemed not to have been passed, may be repeated twice. Section 12 (6) shall remain unaffected.

(2) The Master's thesis may be repeated once if assessed as "not passed". The repeat thesis must be registered no later than three semesters after the semester in which the thesis was submitted. Periods of maternity protection, parental leave, or care obligations pursuant to Section 48 (5) sentence 5 HG shall not be counted towards this period. Exceeding the deadline results in the loss of the right to examination and exmatriculation unless the student is not responsible.

(3) An examination that has been passed with at least "sufficient" may generally not be repeated. Upon application, the examination board may grant students up to two attempts to improve grades in written or oral examinations; the better grade shall count.

Section 14 Absence, Withdrawal, Cheating in Examinations

(1) If a student fails to attend an examination without valid reason, withdraws without valid reason after the examination has begun, or does not submit an assessable performance, the examination shall be graded "fail" (n.b./5.0).

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- (2) Reasons for withdrawal or absence must be submitted in writing without delay and substantiated. In case of illness, a medical certificate is required. If recognised, the examination is deemed not taken.
- (3) The chairperson may require a medical certificate from a designated physician; costs shall be borne by the university.
- (4) Cheating or use of unauthorised aids results in failure. This includes copying, assisting others, unauthorised communication, or possession of unauthorised materials.
- (5) Disruptive behaviour may lead to exclusion from the examination; the examination board decides on the consequence.
- (6) In severe cases, students may be excluded from further examinations or exmatriculated.
- (7) Intentional cheating constitutes an administrative offence and may be fined up to €50,000.
- (8) Decisions shall be communicated in writing with reasons and information on legal remedies.

Section 15 Coursework Requirements (PVL)

- (1) Courses such as excursions, language courses, practical training or similar formats requiring attendance shall be completed with a certificate of participation (TN) and marked accordingly in the module handbook and study plan.
- (2) For these courses, timely registration in the previous semester via the university's electronic examination portal shall be required. The examination board shall determine the registration and deregistration deadlines for this purpose. Only for newly enrolled students and in exceptional cases shall late registration be possible no later than during the introductory session with the teaching staff conducting the course. This shall not affect registration for examinations pursuant to Section 11.
- (3) In the case of regular and active participation in the courses pursuant to paragraph 1 and the successful completion of the required tasks, the coursework requirement (PVL) shall be certified by entry in the university's electronic examination portal. The scope and required tasks shall be communicated during the introductory session of the course in the first or no later than the third official week of lectures. The provisions of Section 12a paragraph 1 regarding identity verification shall apply *mutatis mutandis* when conducted via electronic communication.
- (4) The permissible absence shall be based on the learning objective of the respective course and shall include absences excused by medical certificate. Depending on the content of the course, the permissible absence may amount to up to 30% of the total scheduled time. The permissible absence as well as the admissibility and form of any substitute performances shall be determined by the teaching staff at the beginning of the course; the provisions of Section 10 (7) and (8) shall apply accordingly.

Section 16 Content and Admission to the Master's Thesis

- (1) The Master's thesis shall demonstrate that the student is capable of independently working on a demanding task from their field within a specified period using scientifically and practically proven methods and placing it in an interdisciplinary context. The Master's thesis shall either constitute an independent investigation or examine a known topic from new perspectives. The Master's thesis may also be completed at an institution outside THGA. The student shall have the right to propose topics for the Master's thesis.

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(2) Admission to the Master's thesis shall be applied for in writing via the Examinations Office to the examination board. Admission to the Master's thesis shall only be granted to those who have fulfilled the requirements specified in the subject-specific examination regulations in the modules of the selected Master's degree programme. The application must include a declaration of any previous attempts. The topic of the Master's thesis and the period for completion shall be assigned by the examination board. The date of assignment shall be deemed to be the day on which the topic and the supervisors are communicated to the student. This date shall be recorded.

(3) The application for admission to the Master's thesis should propose two examiners. At least one examiner should be a professor at THGA; exceptions may be made if one examiner is authorised to examine pursuant to Section 65 HG NRW, holds a doctorate, is employed full-time at THGA, and has subject-specific expertise relevant to the thesis. The proposals shall require the written consent of the examiners on the application form.

(4) The Master's thesis may also be approved as a group project, provided that the contributions of the individual students can be clearly distinguished and assessed based on sections, page numbers or other objective criteria, and that each student meets the requirements of paragraph 1 with their contribution.

Section 17 Conduct of the Master's Thesis

(1) The module consists of the preparation of the Master's thesis and its defence in a colloquium. The Master's thesis shall be completed within a period of up to six months in full-time study or up to nine months in part-time study, in accordance with the workload and further requirements specified in the subject-specific examination regulations. A shorter completion period may be stipulated in the subject-specific regulations.

(2) The topic and task must be such that the thesis can be completed within the specified time.

(3) The topic of the Master's thesis may be returned once without giving reasons—within the first two weeks for full-time students or within the first three weeks for part-time students. In the case of repeating a failed thesis, this option shall only be available if it was not used in the first attempt.

(4) The Master's thesis shall be written in German or English. It must be submitted on time in three printed copies and one digital copy via the Examinations Office to the chairperson of the examination board. In addition, a summary (abstract) in German and English must be prepared and included in the thesis as well as submitted separately in digital and printed form. Further details may be regulated in the "Guidelines for the Preparation of Final Theses".

(5) In exceptional cases, the chairperson of the examination board may, upon written application submitted before the deadline and stating reasons, extend the processing time by up to four weeks (full-time) or six weeks (part-time). One examiner must be consulted. The possibility of suspension for important reasons remains unaffected. Section 10 (7) shall apply accordingly.

(6) Upon submission of the Master's thesis, students must declare in writing, under oath, that they have independently prepared the work—and, in the case of group work, their respective part—and have not used any sources or aids other than those indicated. The submission date shall be recorded. If submitted by post, the date of dispatch shall be decisive. If the thesis is not submitted on time, it shall be graded "fail" (n.b./5.0).

(7) The Master's thesis shall be defended in a colloquium lasting between 30 and 45 minutes. This should take place no later than two months after submission. It serves to determine whether the student is able to present and justify the results and assess their practical relevance. Admission to the colloquium shall be communicated by email no later than one week in advance. The colloquium shall

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be conducted by all examiners involved. The provisions of Section 12 (7) and (8) shall apply accordingly.

Section 18 Assessment of the Master's Thesis including Colloquium

(1) The Master's thesis shall be provisionally assessed by both examiners. This preliminary assessment shall concern only admission to the colloquium and must be justified in writing. In the event of differing assessments, a third examiner shall decide on admission. The final assessment shall be made jointly after the colloquium. A separate evaluation of thesis and colloquium is not permitted.

(2) The final grade shall be determined after the colloquium. If the examiners differ, the grade shall be the arithmetic mean. If the result exceeds 4.0, the thesis is deemed not passed. All assessments must be justified in writing.

(3) The thesis is deemed not passed if the student is not admitted to the colloquium, receives a failing grade, or withdraws without valid reason. It may be repeated once.

Section 19 Result of the Master's Examination

(1) The Master's examination is passed when all required modules have been successfully completed. At least 120 credit points must be obtained. Deviations may be regulated in the subject-specific regulations.

(2) The Master's examination is definitively failed if a required examination is definitively failed. A written decision shall be issued. Upon request, a certificate of completed and missing achievements shall be issued.

(3) Students leaving without a degree shall receive a record of their achievements upon request.

Section 20 Determination of the Overall Grade, Master's Certificate, Master's Degree Certificate and Diploma Supplement

(1) The overall grade of the Master's examination shall be determined from the arithmetic mean of the individual grades of the module examinations prescribed by these examination regulations, including the Master's thesis, weighted by the credit points. Only the first decimal place after the decimal point shall be shown on the certificate and used for determining the overall assessment. Grades from additional modules shall not be taken into account.

(2) An ECTS grading table shall be attached to the certificate in accordance with the current version of the ECTS Users' Guide, showing the statistical distribution of overall grades in percentage form. The calculation shall be based on all final grades of graduates of a degree programme awarded within the 36 months preceding the reference date. If the minimum group size of 25 graduates within 36 months is not reached, no ECTS grading table shall be prepared.

(3) If the Master's examination has been passed in accordance with Section 19 (1), a certificate shall be issued without delay. The certificate shall contain all prescribed module examinations with the grades achieved, the topic and grade of the Master's thesis, the grade of the colloquium, and the overall grade of the Master's examination. In addition to the degree programme, any chosen specialisation, field of study or elective area shall be indicated. Additional modules pursuant to Section 10 (6) shall also be included with their grades; these grades shall not be included in the overall grade.

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(4) The Master's certificate shall be signed by the chairperson of the examination board or their deputy. It shall bear the official seal of THGA and the date of the day on which the last examination performance was completed.

(5) At the same time as the certificate, the Master's degree certificate shall be issued bearing the same date. It shall certify the academic degree and indicate the degree programme. The certificate shall be signed by the competent head of the academic department and bear the seal of THGA. In English-language degree programmes, the certificate and associated documents shall generally be issued in English; in German-language degree programmes, an English version shall be issued upon application.

(6) At the same time as the certificate, a Diploma Supplement shall be issued in German and English and signed by the chairperson of the examination board. The Diploma Supplement provides information on the essential study contents, the course of study, the competences acquired, and the awarding institution. Students must inform the Examinations Office in due time of any special achievements or activities undertaken during their studies, such as participation in academic bodies, student self-administration, internships abroad or semesters abroad.

Section 21 Inspection of Examination Documents

(1) Upon written application, the candidate shall be granted access to examination documents after completion of the respective examination. The application must be submitted to the examiners within one month after announcement of the result. Inspection shall take place on the premises of THGA; the examiners shall determine the time, which shall be set promptly after the application.

(2) Copies or faithful reproductions may be made during inspection. It is at the discretion of the examiner whether a copy or reproduction is permitted. Such copies or reproductions are for private use only and may not be published or passed on to third parties; the student must sign a corresponding declaration.

Section 22 Invalidity of Examinations

(1) If a candidate has cheated in an examination and this fact becomes known only after the certificate or the document pursuant to Section 19 (2) sentence 3 has been issued, the examination board may subsequently correct the grades and declare the Master's examination wholly or partially failed.

(2) If the requirements for admission to an examination were not fulfilled without any deception and this fact becomes known only after the certificate or the document pursuant to Section 19 (2) sentence 3 has been issued, this deficiency shall be remedied by passing the examination. If admission was obtained intentionally without entitlement, the examination board shall decide on the legal consequences in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act for the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

(3) Before a decision is taken, the person concerned shall be given the opportunity to comment.

(4) An incorrect certificate or document pursuant to Section 19 (2) sentence 3 shall be withdrawn. If necessary, a corrected certificate or document shall be issued.

(5) A decision pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be excluded after a period of five years from the issuance of the certificate or the document pursuant to Section 19 (2) sentence 3.

(6) If the examination as a whole has been declared failed, the academic degree shall be revoked and the certificate withdrawn.

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Section 23 Appeals Procedure

Objections to decisions in examination matters shall be admissible. They must be submitted in writing or recorded in writing within one month after notification of the decision to the examination board. If the objection is not remedied, a written decision shall be issued stating the reasons and including information on legal remedies.

Section 24 Entry into Force and Transitional Provisions

(1) These examination regulations shall enter into force on 1 September 2026. From that date, they shall apply to all students enrolled in a Bachelor's degree programme at THGA.

(2) These examination regulations are subject to the final decision of the Accreditation Council regarding the re-accreditation of the degree programme. If re-accreditation is subject to conditions, these shall form part of these examination regulations insofar as they concern examination provisions. The basis for the implementation of the degree programmes shall be the positive evaluations by the accreditation agency and the approval of the competent ministry for the start of the programme.

(3) At the same time, the previous University Examination Regulations for Master's degree programmes dated 14 July 2020, as amended on 18 June 2025, shall cease to apply.

(4) For students who commenced their studies before the entry into force of these regulations, the transitional provisions set out in the respective subject-specific examination regulations shall apply.

(5) Students of the degree programme "Electrical and Information Engineering" who commenced their studies before the entry into force of these regulations shall, by way of derogation from Section 2 (2), complete their Master's programme with the academic degree "Master of Engineering" (M.Eng.).

Issued on the basis of the resolution of the Senate of 10 March 2026.

Bochum, 12 March 2026

Prof. Susanne Lengyel
President
Georg Agricola University of Applied Sciences

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