

**Course-specific Course and Examination Regulations for the consecutive  
Master of Science degree course in Health Sciences  
at Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW  
Hamburg)**

Issued on 18 February 2021

*This is an English translation of the original German text of these Regulations. It is provided for informational purposes only and has no force independent of the original German text. The original German version as issued on the above date shall be authoritative and definitive in all cases of dispute.*

*In the interests of non-discriminatory use of language, this English translation uses alternating feminine and masculine pronouns*

On 18 February 2021, acting pursuant to Section 108 subsection 1 sentence 3 of the Hamburg Higher Education Act (HmbHG) issued on 18 July 2001 (HmbGVBl., p. 171), last amended 18 December 2020 (HmbGVBl. p. 704), the Executive Board of HAW Hamburg confirmed the following [German] text of the *Studiengangsspezifische Prüfungs- und Studienordnung für den konsekutiven Masterstudiengang Health Sciences an der Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften Hamburg (Hamburg University of Applied Sciences)*, proposed by the Departmental Council of the Department of Health Sciences on 10 December 2020 in accordance with Section 16 subsection 4 no. 2 and Section 14 subsection 3 no. 2 of the Basic Regulations (*Grundordnung*) of HAW Hamburg and adopted by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Life Sciences on 28 January 2021 in accordance with Section 91 subsection 2 no. 1 HmbHG.

### **Preamble**

The Master of Science degree course in Health Sciences is a consecutive degree course focusing on public health research and teaching qualitative and quantitative research methods alongside their practical contextualisation in a range of areas within the discipline of health sciences. The course is aimed at holders of suitable first degrees who wish to attain additional research-related knowledge and skills in the complex field of health sciences. During the degree course, students

- engage with the determinant conditions of health and of recovery from ill-health
- learn to apply theories and research methods from the field of health sciences
- tackle a diverse range of research tasks and projects with the purpose of supporting and improving population health.

Career destinations for students of this Master's degree course include roles in health and healthcare research, evaluation, public administration, quality management and occupational health management within various institutions in the health sector. This consecutive Master's degree course explores issues and determinants of health from a global, intertwined and interdisciplinary perspective. The language of instruction is English, providing students with optimum training for future roles in public health research environments in Germany and beyond. At the heart of the degree course's objective of producing graduates with the capacity to positively influence population health is the incorporation of academic research findings, practical skills and experience in data-focused research into the pursuit of pathways to sustaining and boosting the health, wellbeing and life expectancy of human populations in a rapidly

changing world.

### **1. General provisions; extent of application**

(1) These Course-specific Course and Examination Regulations govern the conduction and completion of the Master of Science degree course in Health Sciences at HAW Hamburg. They are supplemented by the General Course and Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's degree courses in engineering, the sciences and health sciences, and computer science/information technology (*Allgemeine Prüfungs- und Studienordnung für Bachelor- und Masterstudiengänge der Ingenieur-, Natur- und Gesundheitswissenschaften sowie der Informatik an der Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften Hamburg (APSO-INGI)*), of which the currently valid German-language version shall be authoritative.

(2) Students may, upon approved request, study this degree course to an individualised part-time schedule, as provided for in the *Ordnung zur Regelung des individuellen Teilzeitstudiums (ORiT) an der Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften Hamburg* (Regulations on Individualised Part-Time Degree Study at HAW Hamburg).

### **2. Academic degree awarded upon completion**

(1) HAW Hamburg shall award the academic degree of Master of Science (M. Sc.) upon successful completion of the degree course.

(2) The degree shall be awarded to candidates demonstrating successful attainment of a minimum total of 300 ECTS credit points (CP), comprising a prior degree course and the content of the Master of Science degree course in Health Sciences.

### **3. Standard duration and structure of course, course curriculum**

(1) The Master's degree course in Health Sciences is a consecutive Master's degree course.

(2) The standard duration of the course is four semesters of study. Completion of the Master of Science degree requires the attainment of 120 CP. One CP corresponds to a workload of 30 hours. The curriculum has a modular structure. The usual definition of a module is a discrete course unit which is made up of one or more related classes taken alongside one another as far as possible and designed to lead towards an overarching outcome in terms of the acquisition of knowledge and skills. The currently valid edition of the Module Handbook for the degree course, published in the area of the HAW Hamburg website for regulations (*Ordnungen in Studium und Lehre*), shall set out the structure and content of the various modules and the learning objectives underlying them. The course schedule in the Appendix to these Regulations provides an overview of the structure of modules in the course. Attainment of the CP pertaining to each module shall be contingent upon the successful completion of the examinations and/or assessments (*Prüfungsleistungen*) required for each class.

(3) The curriculum for the course consists of a total of nine required modules, including the Master thesis and Research Project, and five required elective modules, of which students must choose three in total. In each of the first and second semesters (first part of course), students shall take five modules, each worth 6 CP. In their first semester, students shall take four required modules and one required elective module, chosen from the two offered. In their second semester, they shall take three required modules and two required elective modules, chosen from the three offered. In their third semester, students shall complete a 22-week Research Project, worth 30 CP and conducted with academic support. In their fourth and final semester, students

complete their Master thesis, whose successful completion and submission is worth 30 CP (second part of the course).

(4) The language of instruction and assessment is principally English.

(5) The Faculty shall issue a course guide (*Vorlesungsverzeichnis*), approved by the Faculty Council, containing details of the content and scope of each module and of the semester in which it is to be taken.

#### **4. Research Project**

(1) The purpose of the Research Project is to enable students to attain practical experience and skills in the exploration of and successful engagement with current research topics in the health sciences.

(2) Students must have completed all modules pertaining to the first part of the course before they can proceed to the Research Project.

(3) Students shall complete their Research Project in the Public Health Research Group, the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management Research and Transfer Centre (FTZ NK), the Medicine, Health and Technology Research and Transfer Centre (FTZ *Medizin, Gesundheit und Technik*) and the Competence Center for Health (CCG). Students may request the approval of the Chair of the Examinations Committee for another suitable research project or external research internship or placement to count as their Research Project.

(4) The Research Project shall take place for a duration of 22 weeks. Students shall attend an accompanying seminar at which they will have the opportunity to discuss and reflect critically on their work.

(5) Students shall complete their Research Project by giving an assessed oral presentation. The assessors shall be the member of HAW academic staff supervising the student's project and a further member of the Department, whom the student shall propose and the Examinations Committee shall appoint. 30 CP are awarded for successful completion of the Research Project.

(6) Any publication arising from the Research Project shall include a reference to the institutional origin of the work, using the following form of words: 'Department Gesundheitswissenschaften, Fakultät Life Sciences, Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften Hamburg' (or, if English is more appropriate, 'Department of Health Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences').

#### **5. Master thesis**

(1) Students may not progress to their Master thesis until they have successfully completed i) all *Prüfungsleistungen* pertaining to the first part of the course and ii) their Research Project. Exceptions shall be at the discretion and upon the approval of the Examinations Committee.

(2) Students shall write their Master thesis in English. Students who wish to write in a language other than English shall apply to the Examinations Committee for permission to do so.

(4) Students shall have a period of six months in which to produce and submit their Master thesis.

(5) Students shall be awarded 30 CP on successful completion of their Master thesis.

#### **7. Master's degree examination**

(1) The purpose of the Master of Science examination is to establish whether the student concerned has attained competency in the theoretical knowledge and methods required for the academically high-level tasks she will complete in her future professional career, is able to link and contextualise issues on an interdisciplinary basis, and can work independently to apply and advance academic and scientific knowledge

and methods.

(2) The Master of Science examination shall consist of the examinations and assessments (*Prüfungsleistungen*) whose completion is required during the first part of the course (see Section 3 subsection 3 above), the student's Research Project (see Section 4 above) and the student's Master thesis (see Section 5 above).

(3) 40 per cent of the student's overall final grade shall be calculated from the module grades awarded for the modules completed in the first part of the course, weighted in accordance with the CP attached to each module. The grade awarded for the student's Research Project (see Section 4 above) shall count for 20 per cent of the overall final grade, and the grade awarded for the Master thesis (see Section 5 above) shall count for the remaining 40 per cent.

(4) The student's Certificate of Examinations and degree certificate shall be issued in English and German.

## 8. Forms of assessment

(1) If the appropriate regulations permit the use of various forms of assessment for a *Prüfungsleistung*, the member of academic staff responsible for delivering the class/module shall determine, by the date of commencement of the class at the latest, the form of assessment that will be used, and announce it to the students. This decision may not be revised at a later date.

(2) Alongside the forms of assessment given in Section 14 of APSO-INGI, assessment may take place in the form of a portfolio examination, which is a formal, graded assessment consisting of up to three different components, each of which shall be assessed in a different form; one example might be a written examination, coursework/exercises to be completed during the semester, and an oral examination. The member of academic staff responsible for examining the module/class shall select the components of the portfolio examination from the list of forms of assessment given in Section 14 APSO-INGI, with the addition of coursework/exercises to be completed during the semester. The overall workload associated with the portfolio examination, and its level of difficulty, shall not exceed those associated with other forms of assessment. The member of academic staff responsible for delivering the class/module shall determine the weighting of each component for the calculation of an overall grade for the portfolio examination. If the course schedule gives 'portfolio examination' as an assessment option for a course, class or module, the member of academic staff responsible for delivering it shall determine, at the beginning of the course or class, whether this method is to be used for the following examination and, if so, which types of assessment shall be used for the components and how they shall be weighted.

(4) If an instance of *force majeure*, particularly an epidemic or pandemic, prevents the completion or assessment of *Studienleistungen* or *Prüfungsleistungen* in the form specified in the Course-specific Course and Examination Regulations, the member of academic staff responsible for delivering the class or course may select alternative forms of assessment from those permitted in accordance with Section 14 subsection 3 of APSO-INGI and these Regulations, provided the form of assessment selected is suitable for assessing the extent to which the student has met the objectives of the course or class.

## 9. Effective date; expiration of preceding Regulations

(1) These Regulations shall become effective on the date of their publication in the HAW Hamburg official gazette (*Hochschulanzeiger*) and shall apply from winter semester 2021/2022 for all newly enrolled students.

(2) The Course-Specific Course and Examination Regulations for the Master of Science degree course in Health Sciences at HAW Hamburg issued on 29 November 2012 (*Hochschulanzeiger* no. 81/2012, p. 80) shall expire at the conclusion of winter semester 2024/2025, at which point the Regulations specified in subsection (1) above shall come into effect for all students on the Master of Science degree course in Health Sciences. It shall not be permissible for a student to change from studying under the Regulations specified in subsection (2) to studying under those specified in subsection (1), or vice versa, before the conclusion of winter semester 2024/2025.

Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften Hamburg  
Hamburg, 18 February 2021

## Appendix: Course schedule

Key to abbreviations

CP	=	Credit points	PL	=	<i>Prüfungsleistung</i> (graded)
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CS	=	Case study	Por	=	Portfolio
Gr	=	Group/class size	PA	=	Type of examination/assessment ( <i>Prüfungsart</i> )
WP	=	Written paper	PF	=	Form of examination/assessment ( <i>Prüfungsform</i> )
WE	=	Written examination	Pres	=	Presentation
LVA	=	Type of class/course ( <i>Lehrveranstaltungsart</i> )	S	=	Seminar
OE	=	Oral examination	Sem	=	Semester
MT	=	Master thesis	SC	=	Seminar-style class
Pj	=	Project	SWS	=	<i>Semesterwochenstunden</i>

In each case, the standard form of examination/assessment (PF) for this module is given. Alongside this, in parentheses, are any further forms of assessment which may be used, provided the specific design of the class or course calls for the use of this form of assessment and the member of academic staff in charge of delivering the module announces the intended use of this form of assessment in the first session in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 subsection 1 above.

### Required modules

First part of course (42 CP of a total of 60 CP)									
No.	Module	Sem	CP	Subject/course/LV	Gr	LVA	SWS	PA	PF
1	Concepts and Dimensions of Health Sciences and Public Health and Basic Statistics and Basic Epidemiology	1	6	Concepts and Dimensions of Health Sciences and Public Health	25	SC	2	PL	Por
				Basic Statistics and Basic Epidemiology	25	SC	2		
2	Research Methods	1	6	Advanced Qualitative Research Methods	25	SC	2	PL	Por
				Advanced Quantitative Research Methods	25	SC	2		
3	Ethics and Epistemology	1	6	Ethics	25	SC	2	PL	Por
				Epistemology	25	SC	2		
4	Digitalisation and Communication in Health Sciences	1	6	Digitalization in Health Sciences	25	SC	2	PL	CS (Por, WP)
				Communication in Health Sciences	25	SC	2		
5	Research and Project Management	2	6	Research Design	25	SC	2	PL	Pj (Por)
				Project Management	25	SC	2		
6	Advanced Biostatistics	2	6	Advanced Biostatistics I	25	SC	2	PL	WE (OE, Pres)
				Advanced Biostatistics II	25	SC	2		
7	Health Policy and Health Economics Research	2	6	Health Policy Research	25	SC	2	PL	Por
				Health Economics Research	25	SC	2		

Second part of course (60 CP total)									
No	Module	Sem	CP	Subject/course/LV	Gr	LVA	SWS	PA	PF
8	Research Project	3	30	Research Project	-	-	-	PL	Pres
				Academic discussion of students' research	15	S	1		
9	Master thesis	4	30	-	1	-	-	PL	MT

### Required elective modules

Students must choose a total of three required elective modules from an available selection of five. They shall complete one required elective module in their first semester and two in their second semester.

First part of course (18 CP of a total of 60 CP)									
No.	Module	Sem	CP	Subject/Course/LV	Gr	LVA	SWS	PA	PF
10	Diversity in Health and Family and Community Health Research	1	6	Diversity in Health - Gender, Ethnicity, Class and Age	15	S	2	PL	WP (Por, Pres)
				Family and Community Health Research	15	S	2		
11	Non Communicable Disease Epidemiology and Research Interests	1	6	Non Communicable Disease Epidemiology	15	S	2	PL	WE (Pres, OE,WP)
				Research Interests	15	S	2		
12	Occupational and Environmental Health Research	2	6	Occupational Health Research	15	S	2	PL	CS (Por)
				Environmental Health Research	15	S	2		
13	Health Promotion and Health Behaviour Research	2	6	Health Promotion Research	15	S	2	PL	WP (Por, Pres)
				Health Behaviour Research	15	S	2		
14	Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Pandemic Control	2	6	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	15	S	2	PL	WE (Por, Pres, WP)
				Pandemic Control	15	S	2		