

**Law Faculty of the Georg-August University**

Further to the resolution of the Faculty council of the Legal Faculty dated 4 June 2008 and 2 July 2008, and a statement by the Senate dated 13 August 2008, the Presidential Board of the Georg-August University Göttingen on 20 August 2008 approved the revised version of the Examination and Course Regulation for Students who have Completed a Foreign Degree Course in Law (Article 44 Para. 1 Clause 2 of the NHG [Lower Saxony Education Act] in the version of the announcement dated 26 February 2007 (Nds. GVBl. [Lower Saxony Law and Ordinance Gazette] p. 69), last amended by a statute dated 13 September 2007 (Nds. GVBl. [Lower Saxony Law and Ordinance Gazette] p. 444), Art. 41 Para. 2 Sentence 2 and Art. 37 Para. 1 Sentence 3 No. 5 b) of the NHG [Lower Saxony Education Act])). It has been published in the Official Announcements of the Georg-August University Göttingen No. 24, dated 15 September 2008 (pages 1921-1926):

Examination and Course Regulation for the Postgraduate Course for Students Who Have Completed a Foreign Degree Course in Law

Article 1 Purpose of the Examination; Higher Education Institution Degree

1. The Masters examination marks the completion of the postgraduate programme with a professional qualification. It should help determine whether the candidate has mastered the basic principles of German law, has properly covered an area of law in greater depth and is capable of working in the legal profession.
2. Where the examination is passed, the Law Faculty of Georg-August University Göttingen awards the degree of "Magister legum" or "Magistra legum" (LL.M.), whichever is applicable. The University draws up a record of the same, with the date of the certificate, which is signed by the dean.
3. Responsible for carrying out the supervisory and examination tasks under this Regulation are the members of the education institution's teaching staff as well as the private lecturers at the Law Faculty.

Article 2 Duration and Organisation of the Postgraduate Programme

(1) The postgraduate programme lasts two semesters, including the examination (standard period of study).

1. The duration of the programme's compulsory classes occupies 24 semester week hours.
2. The student selects elective classes that take up at least 24 semester week hours. These are to be divided equally over two semesters and the basic principles of two fields of law (civil law, public law, criminal law, foundation subjects), of which at least 6 SWS must be in each of the two fields of law.

Article 3 Examination Schedule

1. At the beginning of the postgraduate programme, the student should draw up an examination schedule which includes the elective classes selected by him or her under Article 2 Para. 3, as well as the legal field from which the topic of the Master's thesis is taken, and which specifies the legal area that the oral examination should cover.
2. The examination schedule should be fixed by the students in agreement with a member of the teaching staff under Article 1 Para. 3 (study supervisor). At the request of a student, the dean's office shall appoint a study supervisor. The examination schedule and any potential amendment require the approval of the dean's office.

Article 4 Admission to Studies and Examinations

Studies and examinations may only be undertaken by those who have enrolled (students), visiting ("guest") students and, where a corresponding cooperation agreement exists, by students from other higher education institutions. Students must be enrolled at the University at the time they apply for admission to the studies or examination and throughout the whole examination period. Studies and examinations may not be passed by students who have lost the entitlement to an examination in this or another programme deemed equivalent by the University.

Article 5 Admission to the Master's Examination

(1) The following are required for admission:

1. Proof of studies that comply with the regulations in accordance with the approved examination schedule,
2. Proof of two performance credits graded at least "satisfactory" (a "D" grade) from a beginner's class in Civil Law (Foundation Course Ib, Foundation Course II, Foundation Course III, Property Law), Public Law (Constitutional Law I, Constitutional Law II, Constitutional Law III, Administrative Law), Criminal Law (Criminal Law Ib, Criminal Law II, Law of Criminal Proceedings) or a class in one of the foundation subjects (e.g. History of Roman Law, History of German Law, Constitutional History of the Modern Era, Legal Philosophy, General Constitutional Law, Comparative Law). The credits must have to be allocated to different fields of law within the meaning of Article 2 Para. 3,
3. Two further credits from an area of law of the student's own choice.

At least one of the credits to be completed under Nos. 2 and 3 must be a written paper to be prepared at home (a homework or seminar paper). Credits must be achieved under the same conditions as apply to domestic students. In case of written papers, the dean's office may extend the writing time allocated by up to 50%.

1. Within the framework of exchange programmes and higher education institution partnerships, performance credits under Paragraph 1 may be recognised as performance credits of equal value.
2. The dean's office shall decide on admission. Admission is denied if the requirements of Para. 1 are not met. The decision shall be notified to the student in writing.

Article 6 Type and Scope of the Examination

The Master's examination consists of a Master's thesis and the oral examination.

Article 7 Master's Thesis

1. The Master's thesis is a demonstration by the student of his or her ability for more in-depth academic work in the area of the law through the treatment of a topic to be chosen from the legal field represented by a member of the teaching staff under Article 1 Para. 3. The type and terms of reference for the Master's thesis must be such as to enable the student to demonstrate that he or she has acquired the necessary knowledge and skills (Article 1 Para. 1 Sentence 2).
2. The topic field of the Master's thesis is set by a member of the teaching staff in accordance with Article 1 Para. 3 (Master's thesis supervisor) in consultation with the student. Upon request, the dean's office shall arrange a supervisor for the Master's thesis.
3. The topic of the Master's thesis shall be issued by the supervisor within a month after the student gains admission to the examination. The supervisor of the Master's thesis shall let the dean's office know the date the topic was issued.
4. The Master's thesis is to be written in German.
5. The student has to submit a written statement that he or she completed the Master's thesis on his/her own and without third-party assistance, and that he/she used no sources or aids other than those disclosed.
6. Two copies of the Master's thesis must be handed in at the dean's office within three months of issue of the topic. In isolated cases, the dean's office may extend the deadline where the request is substantiated and the grounds are substantive. Substantive grounds normally exist in case of illness, which must be notified immediately and verified by means of a medical report. The extension may not exceed three months. Where the thesis is not handed in within the deadline for reasons that are the student's responsibility, it counts as a "fail"; where there are substantive grounds, a new topic is issued if the maximum extension period has expired.

Article 8 Evaluation of the Master's Thesis and its Repetition

(1) The dean's office appoints two examiners for the Master's thesis from the circle of teaching staff  
pursuant to Article 1 Para. 3, one of whom should, in principle, be the supervisor of the Master's thesis. The following grades shall be used in evaluating the Master's thesis:

1. = very good = outstanding
2. = good = significantly above the average requirements
3. = satisfactory = meets the average requirements in all respects
4. = adequate = despite its faults it meets the minimum requirements
5. = fail = as a result of significant faults it does not meet the requirements.

Each of the examiners writes an opinion with a grade in accordance with Sentence 2.

(2) Where the evaluations are inconsistent and the examiners are unable to agree on a single evaluation, the dean's office shall appoint a further examiner who carries out the evaluation. The latter may choose the evaluation of one of the two other examiners, or a grade in between the evaluations of the two examiners, further to Para. 1 Sentence 2. If the other examiner does not wish to keep to these assessment parameters, then the grade for the Master's thesis shall be derived from the average of the individual grades of the three examiners.

The grades are as follows:   
an average of up to 1.5 is very good,

an average over 1.5 and up to 2.5 is good,

an average over 2.5 and up to 3.5 is satisfactory,

an average over 3.5 and up to 4.0 is adequate,

an average above 4.0 means a fail.

(3) Where the Master's thesis is graded as or deemed to be a "fail", it may be repeated once. Within a reasonable period, normally after three to six months have elapsed, the student receives a new topic to write on. Article 7 shall apply accordingly.

Article 9 Oral Examination

1. The oral examination has to be taken before an examination commission once the Master's thesis has been graded at least "adequate". The commission is made up of the supervisor and a further member of the teaching staff under Article 1 Para. 3, who is selected by the dean's office.
2. The oral examination covers the area of law from which the topic of the Master's thesis was taken, as well as a further legal field under Article 2 Para. 3 of the student's own choice. In each legal field, the examination normally lasts half an hour.
3. Students from the Law Faculty who are shortly to sit this examination, as well as other members of the University of Göttingen who claim their own reasonable interest, may be present at the examination. Being present does not extend to giving advice or disclosing the result of the examination. At the candidate's request, spectators may be excluded from attending.

Article 10 Evaluation of the Oral Examination and its Repetition

Article 8 Para. 1 Sentence 2 shall apply as appropriate to the evaluation of the oral examination. The oral examination is passed if it is graded by both of the examiners as at least "adequate". Where the members of the examination commission do not agree on the same grade, the grade for the oral examination shall be calculated from the average of the individual grades fixed by the examiners; Article 8 Para. 2 Sentence 4 and Para. 3 Sentence 1 and 2 apply as appropriate.

Article 11 Omissions, Withdrawal and Deception

1. An examination is deemed a "fail" if the student fails to attend the examination appointment without valid reasons or if he or she withdraws from the examination without valid reasons once it has begun.
2. The reasons claimed for the withdrawal or absence must be immediately advised to the dean's office and substantiated. Otherwise the relevant examination will be graded as a "fail". In the case of illness on the part of the student, the dean's office may require presentation of an official medical report. Where the grounds are recognised, a new date is fixed for the examination. The examination results already available shall be taken account of in this case.

(3) If the student attempts to influence the result of the examination by means of false statements under Article 2 Para. 1, Article 5 or Article 7 Para. 6, or by other means of deception, the examination may be declared a "fail" either wholly or in part. In the case of a serious attempted deception, the examination can be declared failed with no opportunity to re-sit. The decision on the matter is made by the dean's office.

Article 12 Overall Result of the Master's Examination

1. The examination is passed if the Master's thesis and oral examination are each graded at least "adequate".
2. A report is immediately issued in regard to the examination passed. The report shows the overall grade, which is made up from the grades for the Master's thesis and the oral examination. If this produces a value that falls between two levels of grade, the grade of the written paper shall be decisive. The report should be dated the day on which the last examination was sat. The report should be signed by the dean.
3. The Master's examination is ultimately failed if the Master's thesis or the oral examination is assessed as or deemed to be a "fail" and there is no longer an opportunity to re-sit the examination.
4. All the examiners involved in the Master's examination may, in case of outstanding results, unanimously decide to award the student the rating "with honours". The rating is to be marked on the report and in the record of the award of the university degree.

Article 13 Access to Records

1. Following completion of the examination process, the student may have access to the examination records. The request shall be made to the dean's office within three months of the examination reports being distributed. This shall specify the time and place access is proposed.
2. Upon request, the student may be told of interim results before the conclusion of the examination.

Article 14 Entry into Effect

(1) This Regulation shall take effect the day after it is published in the Official Announcements of the Georg-August University Göttingen. Simultaneously, the Master's Examination Regulation for the Postgraduate Programme for Students who have completed a Foreign Degree Course in Law dated 22 January 1990 (Lower Saxony Ministerial Gazette 1990, p. 163), last amended on 24 July 2003 (Official Announcements 2003, p. 123), shall cease to have effect.

(2) For students who have commenced and continued their studies without interruption before this Examination Regulation takes effect, the Master's Examination Regulations shall continue in force in the version that applied until now. A candidate may request to be examined in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation instead.