

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS 1ST SEMESTER

Guidelines for students and examiners in the Master of Arts in Design program

Preliminary remark

These regulations describe the cross-specialization requirements of the Master's program with regard to the successful completion of the first semester. These requirements form the general basis for the further regulations of the individual specializations, which students receive directly from their respective head of specialization.

Semester Objective

The first semester in the Master of Arts in Design lays the theoretical and practical foundations for the Master's program. The first semester serves to clarify and research individual topics and to develop a detailed project disposition. At the conclusion of the first semester, students are required to convincingly and comprehensively present the individual project topic, the extended project context, the relevance of the chosen topic, the research question and the proceeding.

Requirements Overview

The following requirements must be met for successful completion of the first semester (see pages 2 and 3 for more details):

1. Submission of the **short disposition** (project description, picture) by mid-semester.
2. Choice of profile (A, B or C) by the middle of the semester
3. Submission of the **comprehensive project disposition** by the end of the semester (among others an abstract in German and English, project description, time schedule)
4. Project presentation on the occasion of the end-of-semester colloquium in the respective specialization

Submission

The submission of the required deliverables must be uploaded on the file server of the Masters of Arts in Design. The corresponding directories on the MDE file server are:

For Interaction Design

Directory for the submission of the short disposition and the end semester project disposition

filer.zhdk.ch > MDE_VIA > MAXX_Thesis_Projects > LastName_FirstName

1. Details of the SHORT DISPOSITION.

Students are required to submit a short disposition of their project by mid-semester. The deadline date will be communicated by the head of specialization at the start of the semester.

Contents of the short disposition

The short disposition is to be submitted as a PDF document, saved under "LastNameFirstName_ShortDisposition20XX" on the MDE file server by the deadline. The required contents of the short disposition are:

- General information: Name, specialization, mentors, profile (A, B, or C).
- Project or working title
- Summary of the project proposal of +/- 2000 characters including spaces. This brief description includes the following points, among others:
 - Initial position and problem statement
 - Thematic positioning and relevance
 - Research thesis, questions and interest o Procedure and choice of methods
 - Expected results
- Meaningful image including caption (300dpi)
- Small bibliography (min. 3 references)
- Time schedule with planned work and milestones by the end of the 1st semester.
- Additional content in the appendix (if available)

In addition to the direct embedding in the short disposition, the selected project image is to be stored separately again in as high of a resolution as possible, saved under "LastName_FirstName_Short_disposition20XX_Image" in the same directory on the file server.

Review of the short disposition

The short disposition has to be uploaded to the file server on time. The submission will be reviewed directly by the individual specializations. Students will receive feedback on the content directly from their mentors upon request.

2. details about the PROFILE CHOICE

Students choose one of the three profiles by the middle of the semester. The deadline will be communicated by the head of specialization at the start of the semester. Theory and methods are taught in the profile seminars. The choice of the profile has to be discussed with the head of the specialization or the mentors and is done via a separate form.

- Profile A: APPLIED-ENTREPRENEURIAL
- Profile B: CRITICAL-SPECULATIVE
- Profile C: MEDIATIVE-REFLEXIVE

Further details on the respective learning content of the three profile seminars can be found in the course directory. The enrollment of the students in the chosen profile seminar will be done in due time by the secretary's office of the Master's program. The dates of the profile seminars can also be found in the course directory and, after successful enrollment, also directly via the corresponding course on the intranet.

3. Details of the PROJECT DISPOSITION

Students are required to submit a comprehensive project disposition at the end of the first semester and to present the contents in the final semester colloquium of the respective specialization. Successful evaluation of this submission and presentation is the basis for successful advancement to the second semester.

Contents of the project disposition

The project disposition has to be handed in at least one week before the final semester colloquium as a PDF document (total length approx. 8 pages) on the MDE file server, saved under "NameFirstName_ProjectDisposition20XX". Contents of the project disposition are:

1. Title page

- General information: Name, specialization, mentor, profile (A, B, or C).
- Project title and subtitle

2. Abstracts in German AND English

- Title and abstract in German (750 characters including spaces; tolerance +/- 10%)
- Title and abstract in English (750 characters including spaces; tolerance +/- 10%)
- Meaningful image* including caption (300dpi)

* The image must also be stored as a separate file under "NameFirstName_ProjectDispo20XX_Image" in the same directory on the MDE file server.

3. Written description of the current project status including further project steps

On 2-4 pages, the previous work and the further project progress are to be described and, if necessary, supplemented with illustrative pictures. This description includes among others:

- Initial position and topic area
- General project goal
- Contextualization of the work
- Overview of research and inquiry literature (bibliography)
- Formulation of the research interest: own theses and research questions derived from them
- Intended use of methods (in research and/or inquiry)
- Formulation of the design goals and the design procedure
- Presentation of the connection of the design goals/work with the inquiry/research work
- Detailed research and time schedule for mid-semester as well as second semester (activities, dates, goals)

4. Details of the PROJECT PRESENTATION at the END SEMESTER COLLOQUIUM

Requirements listed below are supplemented by specific requirements of the specializations.

Presentation and submission Project disposition.

The current project state (as described in the project disposition) is to be presented orally on the occasion of the end of semester colloquium of the respective specialization. In addition, an insight into the research and design journal is to be provided (individually regulated according to the specialization). The exact dates of the final presentation as well as the submission of the project disposition will be communicated directly by the heads of the specialization.

Examination and evaluation

The examination of the submissions is carried out by the head of the specialization, lecturers and mentors of the specialization. Meeting the requirements is ensured by the individual specializations. The specializations examine the work in a form of their own choice (individual presentation, colloquium, etc.), put together a jury for this purpose and communicate the grade to the examined students before the end of the semester.