

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN DESIGN DEGREE PROGRAM

MASTER THESIS - COMPLETION OF THE 2ND SEMESTER

Guidelines for students and examiners

PRELIMINARY REMARK

This regulation describes the requirements of the Master's program for the successful completion of the second semester. It forms the general basis for further requirements of the specializations. These specialization-specific requirements are communicated directly to the students by the respective head of MA.

With the completion of the second semester, all students demonstrate that their individual master's thesis has reached the maturity and depth to be successfully completed in the third semester in terms of knowledge production and dept. To be admitted to the third semester, students must have earned at least 60 ECTS credits by the end of the second semester.

Requirements for a successful completion of the second semester are the attendance of at least 80% of the minor courses and the fulfilment of the required delivery results in the corresponding courses. In addition, further deliverables must be submitted at the end of the semester (see list below). Evaluation of all required exam parts or admission to the third semester will be communicated by the corresponding MA head after the end-of-semester colloquia.

LIST OF REQUIREMENTS

For successful completion of the 2nd semester, the following deliverables must be submitted in addition to sufficient attendance of the minor and major courses:

1. submission of the detailed outline and current status of the theory thesis, which allows a reasonable estimate of a successful completion of the thesis in the diploma semester.
2. submission of an abstract in German AND English of 750 characters each (incl. spaces; +/- 10% tolerance) as well as a meaningful picture (300dpi)
3. individual project plan for the 3rd semester (time schedule and work packages)
4. presentation of the current state of the project in an exhibition within the end-of-semester colloquium of the specialization.
5. insight into the analog and/or digital research and design workbook (concrete requirements are individually regulated according to the specialization) .

The current status of the written thesis, the two abstracts including a meaningful picture as well as the project plan are to be deposited on the MDE file server at the latest by the date of the final semester presentation in January:

For Interaction Design

filer.zhdk.ch > MDE_VIA > MAXX_Thesis_Projects > LastName_FirstName

DETAILS OF THE DELIVERABLES

The deliverables at the end of the second semester consist of a total of five items, which are defined in detail as follows.

1. Current status of the written thesis.

Delivery of the current state of the theory thesis that allows for a meaningful assessment of successful completion of the thesis in the graduation semester. This includes:

- Cover sheet with the thesis title, author, mentors, specialization, profile A/B/C.
- Detailed table of contents with comprehensible outline and components of the thesis
- Comprehensive bibliography
- Substantial part of the main text: writing of at least 2/3 of all chapters or 2/3 of the required total number of characters (total number of characters = 75'000 to 150'000)
- Clear, defined thesis statement respectively from the thesis derived research question and/or hypotheses that is aligned with the project content and objective.
- Description of the objectives and contribution of the research work: interest and relevance for the target group and the design discipline (What is new? Where is the innovation? Who is working on the the same topic?)
- Explanation of the approach to the research and the choice of methods
- Description of the research conducted and interpretation of the findings
- Formulation of resulting design questions for further project work

2. Abstracts in German AND English (incl. picture)

Compact short description of the master project on max. one A4 page in German and English supplemented by a representative and meaningful project image.

- Abstract in German (750 characters incl. spaces; tolerance +/- 10%)
- Abstract in English (750 characters incl. spaces; tolerance +/- 10%)
- Meaningful image (300dpi)

3. Individual project plan for the 3rd semester

In a separate document, briefly describe the work planned for the third semester and submit an accompanying schedule (approx. 2-3 A4 pages)

- Short and concise project disposition for the 3rd semester (i.e. activities and work packages)
- Time schedule (i.e. temporal structuring of these activities)

4. Presentation

All students present the current status of their work by means of an exhibition on the occasion of the end-of-semester colloquium in the respective specialization.

- Formulation and explanation of the project status including main thesis and research question.
- Reflection on the previous research and development process as well as the methodological procedure
- Findings and conclusions so far
- In preparation for the diploma exhibition, the students present the current results within an exhibition. This exhibition should show sketches, models, prototypes, explanatory models, illustrations, etc.
- Assessment of the design and social relevance taking into account the chosen profile A/B/C
- Presentation of the interplay of the theory thesis with the design work
- Critical self-assessment "where do I stand now" - "where will I be at the end of the master's degree programme".
- Outlook and project planning until graduation

5. Insight into the research and design workbook (individually regulated according to the specialization)

Documentation and systematic presentation of the individual development process in analog and/or digital form.

- Structured overview of the process to this date; chronological order of the investigations carried out, experiments, drafts etc.
- Compilation as an analog workbook and/or access to an adequate digital online format (e.g. blog)