

**OFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF**

**Prüfungsordnung für den Masterstudiengang  
„Peace and Security Studies (M.A.)“  
der Universität Hamburg**

**vom 31. Januar 2024**

**(Amtliche Bekanntmachung Nr. 41 vom 12. Juni 2024)**

**THIS TRANSLATION IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY –  
ONLY THE GERMAN VERSION SHALL BE LEGALLY  
VALID AND ENFORCEABLE!**

**Examination Regulations for the Master of Arts in  
Peace and Security Studies (MA)  
at the University of Hamburg**

**dated 31 January 2024**

On 11 June 2024, and in accordance with Section 108 subsection 1 of the Hamburg higher education act (Hamburgisches Hochschulgesetz, HmbHG), as amended on 18 July 2001 (HmbGVBl. p. 171) as amended on 11 July 2023 (HmbGVBl. p. 250, 254), the Executive University Board of the University of Hamburg ratified the Examination Regulations for the Master of Arts in Peace and Security Studies adopted by the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences on 31 January 2024 pursuant to Section 91 subsection 2 no.1 HmbHG, taking into consideration the General Examination Regulations for Academic Examinations at Universität Hamburg dated 25 January 2018, 22 February 2018, and 8 November 2018.

## **Section 1**

### **Applicability and academic degree**

- (1) These Examination Regulations apply to the Master of Arts in Peace and Security Studies degree program offered in cooperation with the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH) (hereinafter “Degree Program”). The regulations also apply *mutatis mutandis* for students in the second semester of the European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA) at the University of Hamburg and the IFSH.
  
- (2) The Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences at the University of Hamburg confers the academic degree Master of Arts to students graduating from the Degree Program in accordance with Section 17 et seq. of these regulations. The University of Hamburg confers the academic degree European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation to students who in accordance with subsection 1 sentence 2 graduate from the EMA pursuant to the applicable regulations.

## **Section 2**

### **Degree Program objectives**

The general objectives of university teaching are defined in Section 2 subsection 1 of the General Examination Regulations for Academic Examinations at Universität Hamburg dated 25 January 2018, 22 February 2018, and 8 November 2018. The Master of Arts in Peace and Security Studies is a consecutive degree program that combines research-focused studies with a strong practical orientation. It follows an interdisciplinary design and provides knowledge and skills from the interface between social sciences, law, humanities, ethics, and natural sciences. The goal of the Degree Program is to provide fundamental knowledge of the topics, theories, and methods employed in peace and security policy research and the principles of its practical applications. The Degree Program focuses on questions about identifying peace and security policy issues, potential means of managing these issues, and instruments for working through these challenges, as well as their normative evaluations from a peace research perspective.

Students of the Degree Program can assimilate new knowledge and skills and undertake independent research and applied projects. In so doing, graduates should be able to make academically sound decisions, taking social and ethical findings into particular consideration. Students should be able to use the knowledge they have gained and their problem-solving skills also in complex and unfamiliar situations.

In addition to imparting well-considered, problem-oriented knowledge of the subject and academic skills required in peace and security research, the Degree Program also includes practical work in the field and the development of interdisciplinary skills. This qualifies students for demanding professional positions in academia as well as in the

field of peace and security policy, such as with national and international government authorities and organizations, administrations, associations, and companies.

### **Section 3**

#### **Regular period of study**

- (1) For students who have completed a 3-year undergraduate degree (180 ECTS credits), the regular period of study is 2 years.
- (2) Students who have completed a 4-year undergraduate degree (240 ECTS credits) may commence a one-year program, subject to consent from the program director. The program director may approve the one-year program for students holding tertiary degrees which together add up to a regular period of study of at least 4 years.
- (3) During the introductory phase, students must meet with a subject advisor from their chosen major. Subject advising is generally provided by instructors teaching in the Degree Program or its coordinator.
- (4) Students who have exceeded the regular period of study pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) must meet with a subject advisor from the teaching staff of the Degree Program within 2 semesters after the end of the regular period of study if they have not completed all required examinations. Students who do not meet with a subject advisor after exceeding the regular period of study will be expelled pursuant to Section 42 subsection 2 no. 7 HmbHG.

### **Section 4**

#### **Implementation of the degree program**

The Degree Program is conducted by faculties of the University of Hamburg in cooperation with the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH) at the University of Hamburg and in alliance with a range of cooperation partners.

### **Section 5**

#### **Admissions and examinations board**

- (1) An admissions and examinations board will be established to administer admission to the Degree Program and organize examinations in accordance with these regulations.
- (2) The board may determine which cases can be decided by the circulation of resolutions.

- (3) The admissions and examinations board reports regularly to the joint committee and provides suggestions to further advance and develop the Degree Program and the Examination Regulations.
- (4) The admissions and examinations board is comprised of 5 members, of which the majority are members of the University teaching staff:
  - a) three members from the University teaching staff or university members with a *Habilitation*
  - b) one member of the academic staff working in the Degree Program, including lecturers who have not completed a *Habilitation*
  - c) one member of the student body from the Degree Program.
  - d) In addition, the degree program coordinator may attend meetings in an advisory role.

Each member of the committee must appoint a deputy.

- (5) Admissions and examination board members and their deputies must be nominated by the joint committee and appointed by the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences. Members and their deputies serve for 2 years, and the student member is appointed for one year. The admissions and examinations board elects the chairperson and vice-chairperson from the group of University teachers and lecturers sitting on the admissions and examinations board.
- (6) Members of the admissions and examinations board have the right to attend examinations. This right, however, does not extend to decisions about grades or to the disclosure of grades.
- (7) Meetings of the admissions and examinations board are not open to the public. Board members and their deputies are subject to the duty of confidentiality incumbent upon their office. If a board member is not a public employee, then the chairperson must obligate that member to confidentiality.
- (8) Quorum for the admissions and examinations board is achieved when at least 2 other members are present in addition to the chairperson and vice-chairperson. In case of a tied vote, the chair has the deciding vote.
- (9) The admissions and examinations board must warrant that coursework and examinations can be completed within the time period set forth in these regulations. Furthermore, the admissions and examinations board must ensure that module examination dates are set and publicized well in advance.

- (10) Onerous decisions made by the admissions and examinations board must be provided to students without undue delay, stating the reasons and legal basis therefor in writing. Administrative notices for decisions must contain information about the legal rights and remedies available to the persons affected.
- (11) The admissions and examinations board may publicize rules, dates, and other decisions made pursuant to these regulations by posting a physical notice or notice on the internet. This includes, in particular, the publication of registration and examination dates as well as examination results. These have binding effect and must be in accordance with data protection and privacy regulations.

**Section 6**  
**Recognition of study and internship periods,**  
**completed coursework, and examinations**

- (1) Periods of study, completed coursework, examinations, and internships or vocational studies integrated into the degree program completed at a university, equivalent higher education institution, state-accredited distance-learning program, other education institution (especially in programs at state or state-accredited vocational academies) and universities of applied sciences may be recognized upon application by the student provided there is no material difference between the skills and knowledge learned and the skills and knowledge required at the admitting higher education institution. Conditional recognition may also be granted.
- (2) For the recognition of periods of study, coursework, and examinations completed outside Germany, equivalence agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs and the German Rectors' Conference as well as arrangements between the University of Hamburg and other higher education institutions participating in the Degree Program within the scope of university partnerships or cooperation agreements must be observed.
- (3) Equivalent skills and knowledge acquired by means other than university study required to successfully complete a degree program are recognized up to one-half of the total credit value required to fulfill coursework and examination requirements.
- (4) If examinations are accepted for credit, then grades will be adopted and taken into account for the final grade provided that the grading systems are comparable. If the grading systems are not comparable, then successful examinations will be recorded as a "pass."

- (5) Student applications for accreditation are decided by the chair of the examinations board in accordance with subsections 1–4. The requisite supporting documents must be enclosed with the application for credit. Applications for recognition of previous examination performance will not be granted once the student is required to take an examination as part of a corresponding module. This is the case, for example, once a student makes a binding registration for an examination and/or has attempted at least once to pass an examination. A binding registration for an examination arises when the general registration and cancellation periods have ended. The examinations board will not recognize previous performance if it can demonstrate that there are significant differences between the skills and knowledge acquired and those required by the higher education institution in accordance with subsection 1 or the skills and knowledge acquired by means other than university study in accordance with subsection 3 are not equivalent. Examinations that have been passed or have been conclusively failed may not be changed through accreditation.

## **Section 7**

### **Special conditions of admission**

- (1) Admission to the Degree Program requires:
- a) a university qualification amounting to 180 ECTS credits from a German or foreign higher education institution (2-year standard period of study) or a university qualification amounting to 240 ECTS credits from a German or foreign higher education institution, or various university qualifications which together amount to at least 240 ECTS credits (one-year standard period of study with the consent of the program director).
  - b) proof of practical or vocational experience in the subject area of the Degree Program from relevant professional experience, internships, or volunteer activities.
  - c) requisite proficiency of the German and the English language required for the program and examinations. Applicants for degree programs taught in German who did not complete their higher education entrance eligibility at a German institution must provide proof of German-language proficiency in accordance with Section 3 of the bylaws of the University of Hamburg for admission (University admission bylaws, UniZS) as amended.
- (2) Sufficient proficiency of the English language must be demonstrated through one of the following tests to the level indicated:
- a) revised TOEFL paper delivered test: at least 22 points per skill (reading, listening, writing)

- b) internet-based TOEFL test (test date scores): 92 points with at least 22 points per skill (listening, writing, speaking, reading)
- c) International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test—Academic: Overall Band Score at least 6.5 (Good Competent User) with at least 6.0 per skill
- d) Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE)
- e) Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)
- f) Cambridge Higher Business English Certificate (BEC)

Proficiency may also be proven with the following documents:

- g) a higher education entrance eligibility completed in an English language institution or in a city with English as the official language
- h) a higher education degree from an English-speaking degree program or
- i) five years of English instruction at a German school

- (3) The admissions and examinations board determines whether an application satisfies special conditions of admission.

### **Section 8 Admission application**

The admission application must be submitted to the admissions and examinations board by the deadline.

Applicants must include the following with their applications:

- a) tabular CV
- b) university or university of applied sciences academic transcripts
- c) proof of the German- and of English-language proficiency (see Section 7 subsection 1 letter c and subsection 2) required for the program and examinations
- d) proof of professional experience, internships, or volunteer activities relevant to the Degree Program subject areas
- e) letter of motivation outlining the applicant's particular aptitude or motivation for the Degree Program

Admission applications that have not been properly prepared or received before the deadline with all requisite supporting documents in accordance with Section 8 will not be considered. The application period applies as announced.

**Section 9**  
**Selection procedure**

- (1) A selection procedure will be conducted if the number of applications that satisfy the admission requirements to Section 7 exceeds the number of places available.
- (2) In the first step, the chair of the admissions and examinations board ranks the applications by degree of aptitude and motivation, based on the following equally-weighted criteria:
  - a) Results of prior university qualification(s)
  - b) Professional experience, internships, and/or volunteer activities
  - c) Individual aptitude or motivation for the degree program based on the letter of motivation and curriculum vitae
- (3) Selection procedure rankings are represented as grades in accordance with Section 19 subsections 1 and 2.
- (4) The admissions and examinations board admits a number of applicants commensurate with the number of places available based on the rankings. University places not accepted by higher ranked applicants will be offered to lower ranked applicants in the order provided by the ranking list. Applicants may submit an application for reconsideration if an admission application is denied.

**Section 10**

**Program and examination organization, modules, and ECTS credits**

- (1) The Master of Arts in Peace and Security Studies comprises 120 ECTS credits for students with a three-year first higher education degree (180 ECTS credits). The accelerated one-year program comprises the modules intended for the first and fourth semester of the 2-year program (60 ECTS credits).  
Studies are organized into the following required modules: foundation modules, practical module, specialization module, required elective area, and final module.

The modules for the 4-semester program (pursuant to Section 3 subsection 1) are divided as follows:

- a) Basic modules (32 ECTS credits)  
Basic module 1:  
Basics and Methods of Peace and Security Research (18 ECTS credits)  
1 lecture Basics (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits)  
1 lecture Methods (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits)  
1 research seminar (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits)



Basic module 2:

Normative Issues in Peace and Security Research (14 ECTS credits)

1 core seminar (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits)

1 follow-up seminar (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits)

1 practical course as a block course (1 credit hour per week / 2 ECTS credits)

b) Practice module (20 ECTS credits)

internship (10 ECTS credits) and practical report (2 ECTS credits)

1 field trip (2 credit hours per week / 4 ECTS credits)

1 practical course as a block course (1 credit hour per week / 2 ECTS credits)

1 practical seminar course as a block course (1 credit hour per week / 2 ECTS credits)

c) Specialization subject Security Studies (22 ECTS credits)

3 seminars (each 2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits)

2 practical courses as a block course (each 1 credit hours per week / 2 ECTS credits)

d) Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Peace and Security (16 ECTS credits)

The required elective area may be made up of lectures from all degree programs taught at the University of Hamburg, where these have been selected for the courses taught in the required elective area. Grades earned in the required elective area are not included in the overall grade.

For example: 2 seminars (each 2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits) and 2 practical courses (each 1 credit hour per week / 2 ECTS credits).

Or: 1 seminar (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits) and 5 practical courses (each 1 credit hour per week / 2 ECTS credits)

The selection of electives may result in slight difference in the number of credit hours per week to be completed. The first option comprises 6 credit hours per week, the second option 7 credit hours per week.

e) Final Module (30 ECTS credits)

Master's thesis (30 ECTS credits)

The modules for the two-semester program (Section 3 subsection 2) are divided as follows:

a) Basic modules (14 ECTS)

Basic module 1:

1 lecture Basics (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits)

Basic module 2:

Normative Issues in Peace and Security Research (8 ECTS)

1 core seminar (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits)

1 practical course as a block course (1 credit hour per week / 2 ECTS credits)

b) Practice module (7 ECTS credits)

Internship (5 ECTS credits) and practical report (2 ECTS credits)

c) Specialization subject Security Studies (10 ECTS credits)

1 seminar (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits)

2 practical courses as a block course (each 1 credit hour per week / 2 ECTS credits)

d) Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Peace and Security (6 ECTS credits)

The required elective area may be made up of lectures from all degree programs taught at the University of Hamburg, where these have been selected for the courses taught in the required elective area. Grades earned in the required elective area are not included in the overall grade.

For example: 1 seminar (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits)

Or: 3 practical courses (each 1 credit hours per week and 2 ECTS credits)

The selection of electives may result in slight difference in the number of credit hours per week to be completed. The first option comprises 2 credit hours per week, the second option 3 credit hours per week.

e) Final Module (23 ECTS credits)

Master's thesis (23 ECTS credits)

(2) Modules are thematic self-contained educational units that are generally comprised of several courses with related content. Modules are designed to convey a portion of the overall information established for the Degree Program. One ECTS credit corresponds to a workload (attendance, independent study, and examination preparation) of 30 hours.

(3) The degree program may be completed on a part-time basis. Students may apply to Services for Students to study part-time. The decision about whether to grant an application to enroll as a part-time student is made in accordance with the legal specifications set forth in the valid enrollment regulations of the University of Hamburg. Part-time students must create an individualized study plan together with a subject advisor upon consultation with the chairperson of the admissions

and examinations board. Part-time study does not result in an extension of the completion period for the master's thesis.

(4) Generally, the degree program must be commenced immediately upon admission.

Curriculum for the Master of Arts in Peace and Security Studies pursuant to Section 3 subsection 1 (4-semester program)

Key:

Semester	Basic modules (14 ECTS)		Practice module (7 ECTS credits)	Profile modules (10 ECTS credits)	Required elective area (6 ECTS credits)
	Module 1: Basics and Methods in Peace and Security Research  (first semester) 2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits	Module 2: Normative Issues in Peace and Security Research  (first semester) 3 credit hours per week / 8 ECTS credits	Module 3: Practice-Oriented Learning  (second semester) 7 ECTS credits	Module 4: Security Studies  (first semester) 4 credit hours per week / 10 ECTS credits	Required elective area Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Peace and Security  #  (first semester) 2–3 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits
1	<b>1 lecture Basics</b> (6 ECTS credits) ●	<b>1 core seminar (6 ECTS credits) ●</b>  <u>1 practical course as a block course (2 ECTS credits) ●</u>		1 seminar (6 ECTS credits) ●  2 practical courses as a block course (4 ECTS credits) ●	For example: 1 seminar (6 ECTS credits) or 3 practical courses as block course (each 2 credit hours per week)
2			Internship: (5 ECTS credits) ●  Internship report (2 ECTS credits) ●		
<b>6. Final module (23 ECTS credits)</b> Master's thesis (second semester) ●					

Key:

- = graded module exam; ● = ungraded completed coursework; marked in dark gray:
- assigned time in the timetable = cannot be postponed
- underlined: only offered in the winter semester