

**Examination Regulations**  
**for the continuing education Master's degree program**  
**Sustainable Energy and Hydrogen Infrastructures (SEHI)**  
**at the Department of Spatial Planning of TU Dortmund University**  
**dated 27 February 2026**

Based on Sections 2 (4), 62 (1) and (3) in conjunction with Sections 77 (1) and 64 (1) of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz NRW*, HG) of 16 September 2014 (GV. NRW. p.547), last amended by Article 2 of the Act of 19 December 2024 (GV. NRW. p.1222), TU Dortmund University has issued the following regulations:

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**This is a translation of the original German document for explanatory purposes only.  
For all legal purposes, solely the German version of the document shall be considered binding.**

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## I. General provisions

### Section 1

#### Scope of application of the Master's Examination Regulations

- (1) These Master's Examination Regulations apply to the private-law continuing education Master's degree program Sustainable Energy and Hydrogen Infrastructures at the Department of Spatial Planning of TU Dortmund University, which is run as part of the EUREF Campus in cooperation with Düsseldorf University of Applied Sciences (HSD) and the *Akademie der Ruhr-Universität Bochum gemeinnützige GmbH*. In accordance with Section 64 (1) of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz NRW, HG*), it regulates the structures of the Master's degree program.
- (2) The module descriptions in the module handbook outline the individual study elements, the course content, and the skills to be acquired. They are not part of these Examination Regulations. They are decided upon by the relevant Department Councils and must be reported to the Rectorate.

### Section 2

#### Objectives of the degree program

- (1) The continuing education Master's degree program is aimed at experienced graduates who wish to deepen their knowledge in the field of sustainable energy systems and hydrogen infrastructures. The qualification objectives include both the imparting of a sound theoretical understanding and the acquisition of key qualifications in order to meet the requirements of a dynamic and technology-oriented energy job market.
- (2) The continuing education Master's degree program Sustainable Energy and Hydrogen Infrastructures leads to another professionally qualifying degree. At the same time, the Master's degree program prepares students for a doctorate.
- (3) The continuing education Master's degree program Sustainable Energy and Hydrogen Infrastructures enables students to apply their fundamental knowledge of sustainable energy systems and hydrogen infrastructures in new contexts in an interdisciplinary manner and to deepen their knowledge and skills individually in areas of their own choice.
- (4) The skills and abilities acquired in the continuing education Master's degree program Sustainable Energy and Hydrogen Infrastructures qualify graduates to:
  - analyze and evaluate the natural, social, cultural, economic, and technical prerequisites of sustainable energy systems and hydrogen infrastructures in a scientifically sound manner;
  - recognize and evaluate the spatial effects of energy system transformation at all spatial levels;
  - contribute creatively to the further development of sustainable energy systems on the basis of comprehensive scientific methods and international research findings;
  - contribute analytically, methodically, and creatively to solutions for complex energy management tasks;

- integrate global challenges such as climate change and energy system transformation with their requirements at the local, regional, and European levels;
  - manage and moderate comprehensive projects and lead interdisciplinary working groups;
  - communicate the specific concerns and objectives of energy system transformation to political decision-makers and various social target groups at different planning and decision-making levels;
  - critically analyze and reflect on one's own actions against the backdrop of current national and international debates on energy system transformation.
- (5) Students should also apply their critical thinking and discussion skills to their future participation in social life. Social engagement, responsible action, and personal development are integrated into the degree program as cross-cutting themes.
- (6) The Master's examination is designed to determine whether students have acquired the necessary specialist knowledge, have a comprehensive overview of the interrelationships within their subject, and have the ability to apply advanced scientific methods and findings independently, both individually and in groups.

### Section 3 Access requirements

- (1) The prerequisite for access to the continuing education Master's degree program Sustainable Energy and Hydrogen Infrastructures is
- a) proof of a first relevant professional qualification of at least three years (six semesters) in one of the following subjects:
    - engineering sciences (process engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, urban and spatial planning),
    - natural sciences (geography with a focus on natural sciences, physics, chemistry), economics with a focus on energy economics, as well as
    - comparable specialized degree programs that have a recognizable connection to energy science, engineering, or spatial planning, or
  - b) another comparable degree in a comparable degree program lasting at least three years (six semesters) at another German or foreign university respectively institution of higher education, provided that the admissions committee has determined that there are no significant differences from the degree and degree program referred to in subsection 1 lit. a), as well as
  - c) relevant specialist knowledge, particularly in the fields of mathematics, thermodynamics, electrical engineering, and chemistry, as well as
  - d) proof of at least one year of relevant professional experience.

- (2) In addition to the requirements listed in subsection 1, applicants must demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the English language, as this is an exclusively English-language continuing education Master's degree program. If the applicant's native language is not English or if the academic Bachelor's degree was not obtained in an English-language degree program, sufficient English language skills must be proven before admission to the degree program. Language proficiency is considered proven if the applicant submits a certificate of sufficient English proficiency according to the TOEFL certificate with the following minimum scores: 94 (internet-based) or IELTS 6.5, which corresponds to competence level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The admissions committee decides on the recognition of certificates. German language skills are not a prerequisite.
- (3) The Examination Board is responsible for checking the access requirements. The criterion for determining whether or not there are significant differences within the meaning of subsection 1 lit. b) is a comparison of the content, scope, and requirements of the obtained degree and the degree program with the degree and degree program referred to in subsection 1 lit. a). Depending on this assessment, the Examination Board may grant admission without stipulations or with stipulations requiring the successful completion of missing examinations, or it may refuse admission. Stipulations may be imposed for a maximum of 30 credit points and must be successfully completed by the start of the Master's thesis at the latest.
- (4) If the academic degree was obtained abroad, the equivalence agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder (*Kultusministerkonferenz*, KMK) and the German Rectors' Conference (*Hochschulrektorenkonferenz*, HRK), agreements within the framework of university partnerships and the recommendations of the Central Office for Foreign Education (*Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen*, ZAB) must be observed when assessing the materiality of differences. In addition, if there are doubts about equivalence, the Central Office for Foreign Education may be consulted. Credits earned within the framework of ECTS are credited if the necessary requirements are met.

#### Section 4

##### Application and admission

- (1) Applicants must submit the documents required for the admission in accordance with Section 3 (1) and (2) by the deadline. The deadlines for submitting applications for admission, as well as the method and location of submission, shall be determined and announced by the Examination Board. Certificates and attestations that are not issued in German or English must be submitted in a certified German or English translation.
- (2) Admission shall be refused if the documents referred to in subsection 1 are not submitted or are not submitted by the deadline.
- (3) Admissions granted are valid only for the semester for which admission was applied for. In the case of conditions pursuant to Section 3 (3), an extended validity may be noted on the admission.

## Section 5

### Master's degree

Upon passing the Master's examination, the University of Applied Sciences Düsseldorf and TU Dortmund University jointly award the academic degree of Master of Science (M.Sc.) through the Department of Spatial Planning.

## Section 6

### Standard program duration, scope of studies, and credit point system

- (1) The standard program duration for the Master's degree program is three semesters and includes the completion of a Master's thesis.
- (2) The degree program is based on a credit point system that is compatible with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).
- (3) Each module is assigned a number of credit points (CP) according to the amount of work required. One credit point within the meaning of these Examination Regulations corresponds to one ECTS point and is awarded for work requiring a workload of approximately 25 to 30 hours. In the continuing education Master's degree program, a total of 90 CP must be earned by participating in the modules in accordance with Section 24 (2) and passing the corresponding examinations. As a rule, 30 CP must be earned per semester.
- (4) Credit points are awarded on the basis of successfully and fully completed modules.
- (5) The courses and the respective examinations are offered in English.
- (6) The degree program can only be started in the winter semester.

## Section 7

### Modules and module handbook

- (1) The degree program is divided into modules, each of which covers a maximum of two consecutive semesters. Modules are self-contained study units with a defined content and duration, usually worth at least 5 credit points.
- (2) Section 24 (2) specifies the modules, including the credit points to be acquired and examination requirements. All modules of the Master's examination according to Section 24 (2) are specified in a module handbook.
- (3) The decision on the establishment and amendment of the module handbook is made by the Department Council of the Department of Spatial Planning in consultation with the involved partners.
- (4) The module handbook contains, in particular, details of the examinations to be taken with the corresponding course content and skills to be acquired, as well as the course schedule, the module structure, and the division into module elements and their course types.
- (5) The module handbook specifies whether module elements are compulsory (P) or elective compulsory (WP). Compulsory elements must be completed by all students. If module elements are marked as compulsory elective, students can choose from at least two alternatives for each element marked as such.

- (6) The courses of the continuing education Master's degree program Sustainable Energy and Hydrogen Infrastructures are announced at the beginning of each semester in the annotated course catalog.

## Section 8

### Implementation of the degree program, fees

- (1) All examinations prescribed by these Examination Regulations, including the Master's thesis, are administered and evaluated by the Department of Spatial Planning at TU Dortmund University.
- (2) The Academy is responsible for exam preparation and for advising and supporting students in their exam preparation.
- (3) A fee is charged for the administration of the examinations. The amount of the fee is based on the agreements made with the involved partners.
- (4) Further details are set out in the cooperation agreements.

## II. General examination regulations

### Section 9

#### Admission to courses with limited number of participants

- (1) The number of participants in courses offered as part of the continuing education Master's degree program Sustainable Energy and Hydrogen Infrastructures may be limited for the reasons specified in Section 59 (2) sentence 1 HG.
- (2) The decision to limit the number of participants and to set a maximum number of participants for the respective courses is made by the Department Council of the Department of Spatial Planning and is announced in an appropriate manner.
- (3) If the number of applicants exceeds the capacity, the Dean or a teacher appointed by the Dean shall regulate access at the request of the respective teacher with the participation of the Department Commission for Teaching and Studies. Applicants shall be considered in the following order:

- a) Students who, within the framework of their chosen degree program, are required to attend the course at this point in time according to their course of study.

This applies, on the one hand, to students who are in the subject semester for which the course is intended according to the module descriptions in the module handbook and the study plan for the Master's degree program Spatial Planning; on the other hand, students who are in the last semester of their studies according to the standard program duration or in a later semester and who need the course in order to complete their studies within the standard program duration or in a timely manner.

- b) Students who, within the framework of their chosen degree program, are not required to attend the course at this point in time according to their course of study.

- c) Students who are admitted to the respective course as cross-registered students in accordance with Section 52 (1) HG.
  - d) Others students at TU Dortmund University, provided that they meet the requirements for participation in the course.
- (4) If a selection must be made within a group, applicants are to be considered in the following order:
- 1. Students with long-term or permanent disabilities, chronic illnesses, or care responsibilities (care and upbringing of children within the meaning of Section 25 (5) of the Federal Education and Trainings Assistance Act (*Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz*, BAföG), care of the spouse, the registered partner, or a relative in direct line or a first-degree relative by marriage, insofar as they are in need of care).
  - 2. Students for whom it is mandatory to repeat a course in the according module.
  - 3. After the remaining criteria have been exhausted, the decision is made by lot.
- (5) Applicants must themselves assert the existence of the conditions related to the criteria according to subsection 4, nos. 1 and 2, to the Dean during the application procedure and within the specified published deadlines.
- (6) The Department of Spatial Planning shall ensure, within the limits of the available resources, that the students referred to in subsection 3, no. 1, as a rule suffer no loss of time or, at most, lose one semester as a result of the limitation of the number of participants.

## Section 10

### Examinations

- (1) As a rule, all elements of a module are completed after attending the courses by means of a single examination (module examination). In particularly justified cases, several modules may be completed with a joint examination. The module is completed by means of a graded module examination or cumulatively graded partial assessments. The respective types of examination (module examination or partial assessments) are specified in Section 24 (2).
- (2) The module examinations and partial assessments are usually completed during the course of study by means of written, oral, electronic examinations or examinations in electronic communication (written examinations, term papers, other module-related examination achievements in accordance with Part III of these Examination Regulations). The respective responsible lecturers respectively teachers may, with the approval of the Examination Board, specify other suitable forms of examination in individual cases.
- (3) In modules that conclude with a module examination, the module handbook may stipulate that admission to the module examination is contingent upon the successful completion of additional work (coursework). This may include, in particular: an exposé, interim report, interim presentation, and topic- and area-specific work. This coursework can be graded or assessed as "passed" or "failed." The requirements for coursework are significantly lower in form and scope than

the requirements of the module examination for the respective module. If the form in which coursework is to be completed for a module is not defined in the module descriptions in the module handbook, it will be announced by the lecturers respectively teachers at the beginning of the course.

- (4) For module examinations, a minimum of one and a maximum of three hours should be allowed for written examinations/tests, and a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 30 minutes per student for oral examinations. For partial assessments, a maximum of one hour should be allowed for written examinations/tests and 10 to 20 minutes per student for oral examinations. In oral group examinations, the total duration may not exceed 150 minutes for module examinations and 90 minutes for partial assessments.
- (5) Examination performances in written or oral examinations that conclude the degree program and in repeat examinations for which there is no possibility of compensation in the event of final failure must be assessed by two examiners.
- (6) Written examinations within the meaning of subsection 5 shall be assessed separately by both examiners in accordance with Section 25 (1). The grade for the written examination shall be calculated as the arithmetic mean of the two individual grades. Section 25 (7) applies accordingly. The provisions of Section 22 apply to the assessment of the Master's thesis.
- (7) Written examinations/tests may be conducted in whole or in part using a multiple-choice procedure. When using this procedure in particular, care must be taken to ensure that the examination questions are based on the content and required knowledge taught in the modules or corresponding courses and enable reliable examination results. In the case of examinations that are to be assessed by two examiners, the examination questions shall be prepared jointly by both examiners. When setting examination questions, it must be specified which answers are recognized as correct.
- (8) The examiners must immediately notify the examination board of the assessment of the module examinations or partial performances. The assessment of written examinations must be communicated to the students after six weeks at the latest, but at least two weeks before a corresponding repeat examination.
- (9) Provided that a proper examination procedure is ensured, the Examination Board may, in particular to promote internationality, grant exceptions in the examination procedure with regard to the type, location, and time of the examination upon prior application and with the consent of the examiner if a justified study-promoting stay abroad is planned at the scheduled examination date and participation in the regular examination is unreasonable respectively not possible. The request should be submitted to the Chairperson of the Examination Board in good time before the start of the examination procedure, at the latest one week before the examination date, and justified in writing.
- (10) For examinations during a semester on vacation respectively on leave abroad, the requirements of Section 48 (5) HG apply.

- (11) The obligation to attend regularly may be stipulated for courses whose learning objectives cannot be achieved without the active participation of the students. The obligation to attend is decided either on the basis of a vote by the Study Advisory Council or on the basis of a two-thirds majority of the Department Council. The attendance requirement must be stated in the module description in the module handbook. The exact details of the attendance requirement will be communicated to students in an appropriate form at the latest at the beginning of the course.
- (12) Examination procedures take into account absences due to the care and upbringing of children within the meaning of Section 25 (5) of the Federal Education and Trainings Assistance Act (*Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz*, BAföG), care of the spouse, the registered partner, or a relative in direct line or a first-degree relative by marriage, insofar as they are in need of care.

### Section 11 Disadvantage compensation

- (1) If students provide a provide a medical certificate to make credible that they are unable to take an examination in whole or in part in the intended form, duration, or time limit due to a long-term or permanent disability or chronic illness, the Chairperson of the Examination Board shall determine the alternative form, duration, or time limit for the examination. This also applies to the acquisition of a participation requirement. Furthermore, deviations may be provided with regard to the use of aids or assistants as well as the number of and requirements for the repetition of examination performances. In the case of persons with a disability or chronic illness, this should apply to all examinations to be taken during the degree program, unless a change in the illness or disability is to be expected. In case of doubt, the person or office responsible for questions concerning the interests of disabled students will be involved (e.g., the Department of Disability and Studies within the Center for Higher Education of TU Dortmund University, *DoBuS/zhb*).
- (2) This compensation for disadvantages, also called academic accommodation (*Nachteilsausgleich*), is granted on a case-by-case basis on application to the Examination Board and must be submitted to the Examination Board.

### Section 12 Maternity protection

The statutory maternity protection periods as well as the corresponding provisions of the Maternity Protection Act (*Mutterschutzgesetz*, MSchG) apply, cf. Section 64 (2) no.5 and (2a) North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act (HG NRW).

### Section 13 Repeating of examinations

- (1) Module examinations and individual partial assessments may be repeated twice if they are failed or regarded as failed. If a partial assessment is failed, only this part must be repeated. For reasons of comparability and fairness, repeat examinations must be conducted in the same form as the first attempt of the examination. Passed examinations cannot be repeated. Failed coursework can be repeated as often as desired.

- (2) Upon application to the Examination Board within three months of notification of the grade for the first repeat attempt, candidates with a minimum of 120 credit points will be permitted to repeat a single examination (third attempt) which they cannot repeat in accordance with sentence 1. If no application is made within the application period, the Master's examination is deemed to have been definitively failed. The dates for the third attempt shall be set and announced by the Examination Board.
- (3) If a candidate fails a partial assessment for compulsory electives, the repeat examination may also be taken for another compulsory elective element of the module.

## Section 14

### Written examinations

- (1) For written examinations, the module handbook must specify a minimum of 90 and a maximum of 180 minutes for completion. Permitted aids will be announced by the respective lecturer respectively teacher prior to the examination during the course.
- (2) Written examinations are conducted under supervision and are not open to the public. Participants must identify themselves with a student ID card or official photo ID. To participate in written examinations, students must register electronically on the portal for the Master's degree program Sustainable Energy and Hydrogen Infrastructures set up by the *Akademie der Ruhr-Universität gGmbH*. Registration is possible up to three working days before the day of the exam and can be revoked (cancellation) up to one day before the exam.

## Section 15

### Coursework: Student research projects

- (1) Student research projects are written or graphic works. The type and scope must be announced by the responsible lecturers respectively teachers at the beginning of the semester in the annotated course catalog or 14 days before registration for the examination. If an examination is already required beforehand, registration must take place 14 days before the examination.
- (2) The student research project must be submitted in paper form and/or electronically as specified by the responsible teachers and must be graded within six weeks. The Examination Board may stipulate that student research projects are to be submitted to the Secretary's Office of the Examination Board instead of to the teacher. In the event of failure, the student must be given the opportunity to retake the exam with a new topic when the grade is announced.
- (3) The Examination Board must be informed of the assessment of a student research project, stating the module or module element and the course title, as well as the name and student ID number of the student.

## Section 16

### Oral examinations

- (1) Oral examinations are taken in front of two examiners or one examiner and one observer as a group examination with up to three students or as an individual examination. Each student is allocated 20 to 30 minutes for the examination.
- (2) Students may make suggestions for examination topics that are related to the subjects of their project and design work or a chosen area of specialization.
- (3) The main topics and results of the oral examination shall be recorded in minutes. If an oral examination is taken before one examiner, the examiner must consult the observer before determining the grade in accordance with Section 25 (1). If an oral examination is taken before two examiners, each examiner shall determine an individual grade for the oral examination performance in accordance with Section 25 (1). The grade for the oral examination performance shall be determined from the arithmetic mean of the two individual grades in accordance with 25 (7). The result of the examination shall be announced to the students immediately after the oral examination. Students who wish to take the same examination at a later examination period shall be admitted as listeners, subject to space availability, unless the student to be examined objects. This admission does not extend to the discussion and the announcement of the examination result. In the event of interference with or disruption of the examination, these persons may be excluded as listeners by the examiner.

## Section 17

### Examination Board

- (1) The Department of Spatial Planning shall form an Examination Board for the organization of examinations and the tasks assigned by these Examination Regulations. The two academic directors of the continuing education Master's degree program may participate in the meetings of the Examination Board as advisory members.
- (2) The Examination Board consists of five members: three members from the group of university teachers, one member from the group of research assistants, and one member from the group of students in the Department of Spatial Planning. The members are elected by the Department Council separately for each group for a term of two years, with the members from the student group elected for a term of one year. The Examination Board elects the Chairperson and deputy Chairperson from among its members from the group of university teachers. Representatives are elected by the Department Council for the members of the Examination Board with the exception of the Chairperson and deputy Chairperson. Re-election is permitted. The composition of the Examination Board is announced by the Dean. If the election of the Examination Board or individual members is declared invalid after they have taken office, this does not affect the legal validity of the decisions and official acts previously taken; this applies accordingly in the event of an incorrect composition of the Examination Board.

- (3) The Examination Board ensures that the provisions of the Examination Regulations are complied with and takes the measures necessary for the proper conduct of the examinations. In particular, it is responsible for deciding on appeals against decisions made in the examination procedure and for coordinating cross-program questions and issues. In addition, the joint Examination Board shall report regularly, at least once a year, to the Department Councils on the development of examinations and study periods. It shall make suggestions for the reform of the Examination Regulations and the module handbook. The Examination Board may delegate the following tasks to the Chairperson: recognition issues, complaints, appointment of examiners, and the handling of urgent decisions. The Examination Board reserves the right to decide on appeals and to fulfill its reporting obligations to the Department Council.
- (4) The Examination Board has a quorum if, in addition to the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson, at least one member from the group of university teachers and one other voting member are present. The Examination Board decides by simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson has the casting vote. Abstentions are permitted; they are not counted when determining the majority of votes. Resolutions may be passed by written ballot. The student members do not participate in educational and scientific decisions. These include, in particular, the assessment and recognition of achievements, the setting of examination tasks, and the appointment of examiners and observers.
- (5) The members of the Examination Board have the right to attend the examinations.
- (6) The meetings of the Examination Board are not open to the public. The members of the Examination Board, including their representatives, the examiners, and the observers are bound to official secrecy. Unless they are in public service, they are to be informed by the Chairperson of the Examination Board about the requirement of confidentiality.
- (7) The Examination Board is supported in its administrative tasks by the Secretary's Office of the Examination Board.

## Section 18

### Examiners and observers

- (1) The Examination Board appoints the examiners and observers in accordance with the legal requirements. It may delegate the appointment to the Chairperson of the Examination Board. Lecturers respectively teachers at the university and other persons authorized to conduct examinations within the meaning of Section 65 (1) HG may be appointed as examiners or observers. Anyone who has acquired at least the qualification to be determined by the examination or a comparable qualification may be appointed as an observer.
- (2) Examiners are independent in their examination activities.

## Section 19

### Viewing of examination records

- (1) After the announcement of exam results and other written or graphic examination performances, students must be granted access to the examination documents within four weeks. Copies or other faithful reproductions may be made during the viewing. The use of copies and other reproductions of the exam is only permitted for personal use for the purpose of reviewing the exam. In particular, publication, duplication, distribution, and any kind of exploitation, as well as disclosure to third parties, are not permitted. Violations will result in significant legal consequences. The time and place of viewing shall be determined by the examiners and announced in an appropriate form.
- (2) Upon request, students are granted access to the other written examination papers and the related assessments by the examiners.
- (3) Upon request, students are granted access to the examination records of the oral examinations by the Examination Board.
- (4) If inspection is not granted informally in agreement with the examiner, a request for inspection may be submitted to the Chairperson of the Examination Board within three months of the announcement of the examination results. The Chairperson of the Examination Board determines the place and time of inspection.

## Section 20

### Recognition of examination achievements, placement in advanced program semesters

The currently valid Recognition Regulations for all Bachelor's and Master's degree programs at TU Dortmund University (*Anerkennungsordnung der TU Dortmund*) apply to the recognition of examination achievements and placement in advanced program semesters.

## Section 21

### Absence, withdrawal, deception and violation of regulations

- (1) An examination is graded as "insufficient (5.0)" or "failed" if the student does not appear at an examination date without good reason or if he or she withdraws from the examination after it has begun without good reason. The same applies if an examination is not completed within the specified time limit.
- (2) The reasons given for withdrawal or absence must be reported to the Examination Board in writing without delay and must be substantiated. In the event of illness of the student or a child for whom the student is primarily responsible, a medical certificate in German must be submitted. In the event of illness of the student, the medical certificate must prove that the student is unable to take the examination. In the event of subsequent withdrawal from an examination that has already been taken, the medical certificate must show that the impairment of performance during the examination was not apparent to the student for health reasons and that there was no reasonable cause to doubt the student's ability to perform. If the Examination Board does not recognize the reasons for the withdrawal or absence, the student will be notified in writing.

- (3) If an examination performance is influenced by deception (e.g., use of unauthorized aids, copying text passages without citing them as quotations, copying or having someone else copy for you, or providing other assistance to others attempting to deceive, etc.), this examination will be graded as "insufficient (5.0)" or "failed." This also applies to attempts at deception. If an attempt at deception or deception within the meaning of sentence 1 is detected by the supervisor during an examination, the supervisor shall record the attempt at deception or deception. The decision as to whether an attempt at deception or an act of deception has taken place and whether the examination is therefore graded as "insufficient" (5.0) or "failed" is made by the respective examiner. Students who disrupt the proper conduct of the examination may be excluded from continuing the examination by the examiner or supervisor after a warning. In this case, the examination in question shall be graded as "insufficient (5.0)" or "failed." The respective reasons for the decisions shall be recorded. In serious cases of deception or disruption, the Examination Board may exclude the students concerned from taking further examinations.
- (4) The Examination Board requires students to submit a written declaration (declaration of independence or *affidavit*) for all examinations except those that are purely oral, stating that they have written the work independently and have not used any sources or aids other than those specified, and that they have indicated any direct and indirect quotations. Section 22 (9) remains unaffected.
- (5) The student may request that decisions made in accordance with subsection 3 be reviewed by the Examination Board within a period of 14 days. Adverse decisions must be communicated to the student in writing without delay, stating the reasons and providing information on the right of appeal. The student must be given the opportunity to be heard before the decision is made.

### III. Module examinations

#### Section 22

##### Master's thesis

- (1) The Master's thesis should demonstrate that the student is able to work independently on a problem using scientific methods within a specified period of time. It is supervised by two teachers/lecturers (supervisors) who assign the topic of the Master's thesis and register it with the Examination Board. Students may make suggestions for the topic. The date of submission is recorded by the Examination Board.
- (2) The Master's thesis may be assigned and supervised by all faculty members of the Department of Spatial Planning in accordance with Section 18 (1), provided that they obtained their Master's degree at least two years ago.

- (3) In addition to a supervisor in accordance with subsection 2, Master's theses may be supervised by scientists with a doctorate or postdoctoral lecture qualification (in German: *Habilitation*) from other departments, universities, or research institutes who meet the requirements of Section 65 (1) HG and are appointed as supervisors with the approval of the Examination Board.
- (4) Students may propose supervisors for their Master's thesis. These proposals shall be taken into consideration as far as possible. However, the proposals do not constitute a legal claim. If students are unable to name a supervisor, the Chairperson of the Examination Board shall ensure that the student is assigned a topic for their Master's thesis and a supervisor.
- (5) The Master's thesis must always be written independently as an individual piece of work. However, this does not preclude the topic of the Master's thesis from being worked on within a working group of two people. In this case, it must be ensured that the individual's contribution to be assessed as an examination performance is clearly distinguishable and assessable according to objective criteria and meets the requirements of subsection 1. The number of pages specified in subsection 8 must appropriately exceed the requirements for an individual piece of work.
- (6) The processing time for the Master's thesis is four months. It is worked on alongside the course of study. In individual cases, the Examination Board may, in agreement with the supervisor, extend the processing period once by up to one month. An application for an extension must be submitted to the Examination Board at least fourteen days before the end of the processing period. In the event of illness, the deadline for submission shall be extended by the duration of the illness, which must be verified by a medical certificate. If the duration of the illness exceeds half of the working period, the Examination Board may, in consultation with the supervisor, assign the candidate a new topic without counting it as an examination attempt.
- (7) The topic of the Master's thesis can only be returned once and only within the first 14 days; the Master's thesis is then considered not to have been started.
- (8) The length of the Master's thesis should not exceed 175,000 characters (without spaces). The Master's thesis must be written in English.
- (9) When submitting the Master's thesis, the student must declare on oath that they have written the thesis independently and have not used any sources or aids other than those specified, and that they have indicated any direct and indirect quotations (declaration of independence or *affidavit*). Unpublished contributions must also be included in the list of sources. A standard form provided by the Department of Spatial Planning must be used for this *affidavit* and must be signed and included as an integral part of the Master's thesis when it is submitted, respectively uploaded as a file together with the thesis in accordance with the digital submission procedure described in subsection 10.
- (10) The legal provisions of the Department of Spatial Planning apply to the submission of the Master's thesis in the continuing education program. In accordance with sentence 1, the Master's thesis must be uploaded in a specified file format that is suitable for plagiarism detection by a software product. The Master's thesis is submitted via a portal provided by the *Akademie der Ruhr-Universität gGmbH*. Plagiarism checks are carried out by the Examination Board of the Department of Spatial Planning. If the uploading of individual theses or parts of theses is not suitable for technical reasons and/or if there is a contractual agreement with third

parties that excludes the publication of theses or parts of theses, the previous analog procedure for submitting theses in accordance with subsection 2 shall apply by decision of the Examination Board.

- (11) In the analog procedure, the Master's thesis must be submitted to the Examination Board in duplicate in print form and additionally in an electronic version (electronic text form) that can be used for a software product for plagiarism detection; the date of submission must be recorded. In the case of postal delivery, the date of the postmark applies. If the Master's thesis is not submitted by the deadline, it shall be graded as "insufficient (5.0)".
- (12) The Master's thesis is reviewed and graded by the supervisors. The grade must be submitted to the Examination Board immediately. The grade for the Master's thesis is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the individual grades and rounded to one decimal place without previously rounding, provided that the difference is no more than 2.0. If the difference is more than 2.0 or if only one examiner grades the Master's thesis with at least "sufficient (4.0)," the Examination Board appoints a third examiner to evaluate the Master's thesis. In this case, the grade for the Master's thesis is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the two better grades; sentence 6 applies. However, the Master's thesis can only be graded "sufficient (4.0)" or better if at least two grades are "sufficient (4.0)" or better.
- (13) The grade for the Master's thesis must be communicated to the student by the Examination Board no later than six weeks after submission.
- (14) The Master's thesis can only be retaken once and only as a whole.

#### IV. Completion of studies

##### Section 23

##### Admission to Master's examination

- (1) Upon enrollment in the continuing education Master's degree program Sustainable Energy and Hydrogen Infrastructures at TU Dortmund University, a student is deemed to be admitted to the examinations of the continuing education Master's degree program Sustainable Energy and Hydrogen Infrastructures, unless enrollment or admission is to be refused in accordance with subsection 2.
- (2) Enrollment or admission shall be refused if
  - a) The student has definitively failed an examination required under these Examination Regulations in the continuing education Master's degree program Sustainable Energy and Hydrogen Infrastructures at TU Dortmund University or in another degree program that is substantially similar in content to this degree program, or
  - b) the candidate has not yet received a final and legally binding decision on the final failure of an examination taken in one of the aforementioned degree programs due to a subsequent appeal/objection against the examination decision, or
  - c) The candidate's adaptation studies (*Angleichstudium*) require examinations that the candidate has already definitively failed in the *Diplom* or Bachelor's degree program Spatial Planning at TU Dortmund University.

## Section 24

### Master's examination

- (1) The Master's examination consists of examinations taken during the course of study in accordance with Section 10, in which a total of 70 credit points must be earned in compulsory modules. A further 20 credit points must be earned in the compulsory elective area, with 5 credit points each.
- (2) The examinations accompanying the course of study must be taken in the following compulsory modules:

Module number and module title	Type	CP	Examination		
1 Energy Systems	P	5	MP	no ZV	graded
2 Renewable Energy Technologies	P	5	MP	no ZV	graded
3 Hydrogen Technologies	P	5	MP	no ZV	graded
4 Planning of Energy Infrastructures	P	5	MP	no ZV	graded
5 Smart Grids & Energy Storage and Sector Coupling	P	5	MP	no ZV	graded
6 Spatial Planning	P	5	2 TL	no ZV	graded
7 Sustainability and Circular Economy	P	5	MP	no ZV	graded
8 Strategic Technology and Innovation Management	P	5	2 TL	no ZV	graded
9 Practical Project	WP	10	MP	no ZV	graded
10 Master's thesis	P	20	MP	no ZV	graded

P = compulsory, WP = compulsory elective, MP = module examination, TL = partial assessment;  
ZV = access requirement, CP = credit points

The modules offered for the compulsory elective area and the corresponding examination requirements for each compulsory elective module can be found in the module handbook.

- (3) The Master's examination is passed when all 90 credit points from the examinations taken during the course of study have been acquired.
- (4) The Master's examination is definitively failed if the student is no longer able to earn the required minimum number of credit points in one or more of the modules or if one of the modules mentioned in subsection 2 has been definitively failed.
- (5) If the Master's examination has been definitively failed or if an examination is considered definitively failed, the Chairperson of the Examination Board shall issue the student with a written notification to this effect. The notification must include instructions on how to appeal. Upon request, the student will be issued a certificate of the successfully passed examinations. The certificate will include a note stating that it is not valid for presentation at another university.

## Section 25

### Assessment of course-related examination performances, acquisition of credit points, calculation of grades

- (1) The grades for the examination performances shall be determined by the respective examiners. The following grades shall be used for the assessment:

very good (1)	=	an outstanding performance,
good (2)	=	a performance that significantly exceeds average requirements,
satisfactory (3)	=	a performance that meets average requirements
sufficient (4)	=	a performance that still meets requirements despite its shortcomings,
insufficient (5)	=	a performance that no longer meets the requirements due to significant deficiencies.

To further differentiate between the examinations taken during the course of study, the grades are reduced or increased by 0.3; the grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7, and 5.3 are excluded.

- (2) In consultation with the Examination Board, examination performances that are not included in the overall grade may be graded either according to the grading scale in subsection 1 or according to the following simplified scale:

passed	=	a performance that at least meets the requirements,
failed	=	a performance that no longer meets the requirements due to significant deficiencies.

- (3) The number of credit points assigned to the respective module is earned if the module examination or all partial assessments have been graded with at least "sufficient (4.0)" or "passed."
- (4) A written examination/written test that was conducted exclusively using the multiple-choice format is considered passed if
- a) 60% of the total available points have been achieved or
  - b) the number of points achieved is no more than 22% below the average exam performance of the candidates who took the exam.
- (5) If the candidate has achieved the minimum score in accordance with subsection 4 and thus passed the examination, the grade is as follows:
- 1 = "very good" if they have achieved at least 75%,
  - 2 = "good" if they have achieved at least 50% but less than 75%,
  - 3 = "satisfactory" if they have achieved at least 25% but less than 50%
  - 4 = "sufficient" if they have scored none or less than 25%
- of the points required to exceed the minimum score.

- (6) If a written examination/written test is only partially conducted using a multiple-choice format, the multiple-choice questions are graded in accordance with subsections 4 and 5. The remaining questions are graded using the usual method. The examination grade is determined from both assessments, taking into account the respective proportions of the total points to be achieved. Subsection 7 applies accordingly.
- (7) If the module is completed by a module examination, its grade is also the module grade. In the case of partial performance, the module grade is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the unrounded grades of the partial assessments completed within the framework of the respective module, which are included in the module grade with the weighting of the credit points assigned to them. When calculating the module grades, only the first decimal place after the comma is taken into account; all further decimal places are deleted without rounding. The module grades are expressed in words as follows:
- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| for an average value of up to 1.5            | = very good    |
| for an average value above 1.5 and up to 2.5 | = good         |
| for an average value above 2.5 to 3.5        | = satisfactory |
| for an average value above 3.5 to 4.0        | = sufficient   |
| for an average value above 4.0               | = insufficient |
- (8) In addition to the module grade in words, the average value is also given.
- (9) The final cumulative grade for the Master's examination is calculated from the arithmetic mean value of the individual module grades for all graded modules in accordance with Section 25 (2), which are weighted according to the number of credit points assigned to them. When calculating the final grade, only the first decimal place after the comma is taken into account; all other decimal places are deleted without rounding.
- (10) The final grade is reported in the form of a grade according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). In addition, ECTS grades can be issued for all graded examinations. This requires a corresponding decision by the Examination Board.

The ECTS grades are issued as follows:

- A = usually the best 10% of successful students;
- B = usually the next approx. 25% of successful students;
- C = usually the next approx. 30% of successful students;
- D = usually the next approx. 25% of successful students;
- E = usually the next approx. 10% of successful students.

As an alternative to ECTS grades, the grade distribution can be issued in form of an ECTS classification table.

- (11) The ECTS grades or reference group for the ECTS grading table are generally determined by comparing the cohorts from the last six semesters. If this group is smaller than 50 people, the reference group from the last 10 semesters must be determined. The current semester should generally not be taken into account when determining the reference group. As long as no statistical data are available for calculating a relative assessment, no ECTS grades are issued. For reasons of legal certainty, the Examination Board may decide not to issue ECTS grades. The same applies to the determination of the ECTS grading table. When composing the reference group, a distinction must be made according to degree and degree program. In addition, in objectively justified cases, a different composition of the reference group can be used.

**This is a translation of the original German document for explanatory purposes only. For all legal purposes, solely the German version of the document shall be considered binding.**

This requires a corresponding decision by the Examination Board.

## Section 26

### Additional qualifications

- (1) Until the completion of the final examination of the degree program, students may take examinations in up to two additional modules with partial credits in elective compulsory elements of the Master's degree program, in subjects from other degree programs offered by the Department of Spatial Planning, or in subjects from other degree programs that are part of cooperation agreements with the Department of Spatial Planning (additional subjects or *Zusatzfächer*).
- (2) The results of the examinations in these additional subjects are not taken into account when determining the final cumulative grade; they are included in the transcript of records at the request of the students.

## Section 27

### Master's degree certificate, transcript, documents for a change of university

- (1) Students receive a Master's degree certificate in German and an English translation with the date of the certificate. This certifies the award of the academic Master's degree in accordance with Section 5.
- (2) The Master's degree certificate is signed by the Deans of the Department of Spatial Planning at TU Dortmund University and the Faculty of Mechanical and Process Engineering at the University of Applied Sciences Düsseldorf (HSD) and the Chairperson of the Examination Board and bears the seals of both department and faculty.
- (3) The student generally receives a certificate confirming that they have passed the Master's examination no later than six weeks after the last examination has been assessed. The date on which the last examination was taken is noted on the certificate. The certificate must include the final cumulative grade for the Master's examination, including the ECTS grade in accordance with Section 25 (8), the topic and the grade for the Master's thesis. The certificate is signed by the Chairperson of the Examination Board and bears the seals of the Department of Spatial Planning at TU Dortmund University and the Faculty of Mechanical and Process Engineering at the University of Applied Sciences Düsseldorf.
- (4) The certificate is accompanied by an overview of all taken examinations (transcript of records) and a Diploma Supplement. This Diploma Supplement particularly describes the essential course content underlying the degree, the study plan, the skills acquired with the degree, and the awarding university respectively university of applied sciences. In addition, voluntary internships completed during the course of study that have been approved by the Examination Board upon request and that are related to the content and subject matter of the chosen degree program may also be included. The Diploma Supplement is issued in German and English.
- (5) If an ECTS classification table is created for the degree program in accordance with Section 20 (10), this is made available to students separately.
- (6) At the request of the student, even before the Master's examination an overview of the already achieved courses (*Notenbescheinigung*) is issued, which contains a list of the successfully completed modules with the credits and examination results and grades acquired in accordance with Section 25 (1).

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## Section 28

### Invalidity of examination results and withdrawal of the Master's degree

- (1) If the candidate has deceived respectively cheated in an examination and this fact only becomes known after the certificate has been issued, the Examination Board may subsequently correct the grades for those examination performances in which the candidate deceived and declare the examination wholly or partially failed.
- (2) If the requirements for admission to an examination were not met without the candidate intending to deceive, and this fact only becomes known after the certificate has been issued, this deficiency shall be remedied by passing the examination. If the candidate has intentionally obtained admission under false pretenses, the Examination Board shall decide on the legal consequences under consideration of in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act NRW (*Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz für das Land Nordrhein-Westfalen, VwVfG NRW*).
- (3) Before a decision is made in accordance with subsections 1 and 2, the concerned person shall be given the opportunity to comment orally or in writing.
- (4) The incorrect certificate shall be withdrawn and, if necessary, a new one shall be issued. A decision pursuant to subsection 1 or subsection 2, sentence 2, shall be excluded after a period of five years following the issuance of the certificate.
- (5) The Master's degree shall be revoked and the certificate shall be withdrawn if it subsequently transpires that it was obtained by deception or if essential requirements for its award were mistakenly considered to have been met. The Department Council of the Department of Spatial Planning shall decide on the revocation.

## V. Final provisions

### Section 29

#### Entry into force and publication, transitional provisions

- (1) These Examination Regulations are published in the Official Communications of TU Dortmund University and come into force effect on 1 October 2025.
- (2) They apply to all students who are enrolled in the Master's degree program Sustainable Energy and Hydrogen Infrastructures at TU Dortmund University since the Winter semester 2025/26.

Issued on the basis of the resolutions of the Department Council of the Department of Spatial Planning on 18 February 2026, and the Rectorate of TU Dortmund University on 27 August 2025.

**Note**

Attention is drawn to the fact that, pursuant to Section 12 (5) of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz*, HG NRW), a violation of procedural or formal requirements of the university's regulatory or other autonomous law can no longer be asserted after the expiry of one year from the date of this announcement, unless

1. the regulations have not been duly published,
2. the Rectorate has previously objected to the decision of the committee adopting the regulations,
3. the formal or procedural fault has been notified to the university in advance and the violated legal provision and the fact giving rise to the fault have been indicated, or
4. the legal consequence of the exclusion of the right to complain was not pointed out when the regulations were publicly announced.

Dortmund, 27 February 2026

The President  
of TU Dortmund University

Professor Dr. Manfred Bayer