

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Study Regulation for the Continuing Education Master's Program International Relations Online at Freie Universität Berlin (FU-Mitteilungen 65/2012, July 23, 2012)

Preamble

Based on § 14, paragraph 1, number 2 of the Partial Basic Regulations (Experimental Model) of Freie Universität Berlin from October 27, 1998, the following study regulations for the Continuing Education Master's Program International Relations Online were issued on May 31, 2012 by the Joint Commission on Continuing Education Masters' Programs of East European Studies and International Relations Online at Freie Universität Berlin:

Table of Contents

- § 1 Area of Application
- § 2 Qualification Goals
- § 3 Content of the Study Program
- § 4 Structure and Organization
- § 5 Forms of Teaching and Learning
- § 6 Date of Validity and Transitional Arrangements

Annex 1: Description of Modules

Annex 2: Exemplary Study Schedule for the Master's program as a full-time program

Annex 3: Exemplary Study Schedule for the Master's program as a part-time program

§ 1 Area of Application

This regulation concerns the goals, content, and structure of the continuing education Master's Program International Relations Online at Freie Universität Berlin based on the examination regulations for the Master's program from July 23, 2012.

§ 2 Qualification Goals

(1) The students, guided by theory, are able to analyze and interpret topics and developments in the field of International Relations (IR). They can reflect critically on and view from an interdisciplinary perspective the political, societal, cultural, and institutional contexts of the discipline and their implications. The students know the relevant classic strands of IR theory and have an overview of the theoretical approaches that can be called upon from related disciplines. Within the framework of scientific research design, they can empirically test and develop theoretical assumptions. To this end they draw from different empirical data and evaluate it according to the standards of scientific work.

(2) The students have command of the superior competencies of teamwork and moderation skills, critical thinking and conflict resolution as well as analytical and practical problem solving skills. Within the framework of a blended learning study, the students acquire abilities and knowledge in the areas of organization and coordination and time management. They also learn to work in virtual learning environments in a structured and independent way. The students get in contact with regional and international networks and circles of experts in international relations and participate in building such networks. The students are competent in working through intercultural and gender-specific problems.

(3) Through the thematic diversity and practical orientation of the Master's Program the students gain initial relevant professional experiences in diverse areas and become qualified for higher positions in an international context. The program provides a scientific foundation for internationally directed activities in the following areas: politics and political consulting, economics and economic consulting, federal foreign service and international organizations, non-government organizations, culture and media as well as research and teaching in academic institutions.

§ 3 Content of the Study Program

(1) The continuing education Master's Program International Relations Online is an interdisciplinary program of international relations, in which students deal with current problem situations of international politics through the application of theory and methods. The Master's Program is organized in three program sections: theoretic foundations, a disciplinary section and a practical application section. In theoretical foundations the students learn

specifically about the developmental history of the field, the classic approaches used in the field, as well as interdisciplinary theories. Within the framework of interdisciplinary theories, the students apply to current problems selected concepts and approaches from related study fields such as cultural studies, communication, network theory, and political administration. They also learn to work scientifically and methodically in the development of research designs and the application of correct forms of citation. The disciplinary section deals with various issues of international relations. The students are able to analyze and critically assess interdependent problem situations and constellations. In the section on practical application, the students learn methods of leading negotiations and of working on multilateral and policy-relevant problem solving. In all sections of the Master's program, gender-relevant academic questions receive special consideration.

(2) Besides subject related knowledge, students acquire key cross-disciplinary qualifications. In the online and in the in-house phases of the program, the students learn moderation and critical faculties as well as analytical skills. The students gain competence in the ability to deal with conflict and problem solving through the modules referring to practical application and the practical application section. The students gain command of an efficient way of working and optimal time management. They learn to deal competently with the Internet and, in particular, with virtual learning environments.

(3) The program relates continuously to practical application, conveying insights and preparation for the profession. The students learn broad, interdisciplinary qualifications as well as practically oriented knowledge and capabilities in the discipline of international relations and its application. Through interaction with each other and with decision makers from politics and economics, the students build up a professional network. Through a solid theoretical-methodological training, they prepare for the alternative of pursuing scientific work and research.

§ 4 Structure and Organization

(1) The Master's program is organized in a modularized study phase that comprises 100 credit points (cp) and a Master's thesis and defense comprising 20 credit points. Enrollment for the program can either be full-time or half-time.

(2) The following three §s of study must be completed:

Study section 1: Theoretical Foundations, comprising 28 credit points (cp). The following modules must be completed in this study §:

- Introduction and Tools Module (10 cp)
- Classic International Relations Theories (10 cp)
- Approaches to Global Politics (8 cp)

Study section 2: Disciplinary area comprising 64 credit points (cp). Eight of the following ten modules in this study § must be chosen and completed:

- Globalization Challenges Module (8 cp)
- International Law Module (8 cp)
- Global Risks Module (8 cp)
- International Trade and Finance Module (8 cp)
- European Politics Module (8 cp)
- Mega Cities – New Sites of Governance Module (8 cp)
- New or Old: The Role of Information Technology in Global Politics Module (8 cp)
- Migration, Citizenship and Identity Module (8 cp)
- Managing International Conflict Module (8 cp)
- Intercultural and Global Politics Module (8 cp)

Study section 3: Practical Application Area, comprising 8 credit points (cp) including the International Negotiation and Simulation Module (8 cp)

(3) The module descriptions (Annex 1) provide information about each module concerning the content and qualification goals, learning and teaching forms, the work load, forms of active participation, the customary duration, and the frequency of offerings.

(4) The exemplary Course of Study Plans (Annex 2 and 3) provide information about the recommended course of the study program.

§ 5 Forms of Teaching and Learning

(1) The forms of teaching and learning follow the blended learning format. The program is predominantly offered as an online instruction and is supplemented by in-house phases. During the online phases, the module contents are taught through a virtual learning platform. The in-

house phases take place once per semester and consist of seminars. Each module consists of both an online and an in-house session.

(2) The students work through the module contents predominantly independently and are accompanied and supported by lecturers, online and offline, in their work towards the learning goal. The online modules provide the methodological and theoretical foundations for a particular subject. The theoretical discussion is depicted by graphic material, audio files, and case studies. Each module consists of three parts, which are subdivided into several learning units. The learning units are composed of the following components: information concerning the work load and the learning goals, central questions, the content area, a summary of core issues, mandatory supplemental literature, and a task area. Except for the mandatory literature and the task area, all components of the learning units are available, in addition to online, as audio versions. Besides the independent study of the contents, interactive forms of work such as discussions and group work are also used. Thus the online phase promotes the critical faculties and analytical skills of the students in the subject area and the cross-disciplinary capacity to independently organize and structure one's work.

(3) The in-house phases supplements the online phase. Defined topics from the module are discussed and analyzed in depth. The primary forms of work are seminar talks and group work that are conducted based on teaching material and preparatory readings. Beyond that, the students give presentations and conduct simulation games on selected conflict topics. The in-house phases primarily serve in the teaching and application of subject-specific knowledge and the promotion of moderation skills, problem-solving strategies and intercultural competence. The students network with one another, with their lecturers, and with decision makers from politics and economics.

(4) The Master's program is conducted in English.

§ 6 Date of Validity and Transitional Arrangements

(1) These regulations go into effect a day after their publication in the official journal of Freie Universität Berlin (FU-Mitteilungen).

(2) At the same time, the study regulations for the continuing study program International Relations Online, issued on April 13, 2010 in FU-Mitteilungen 21/2010, p. 378 and modified on December 8, 2011 (FU-Mitteilungen 1/2012, p.2) will be no longer in force.

(3) These regulations apply to students who enroll or re-enroll in the Master's program at Freie Universität Berlin after the regulations have gone into effect. Students who enrolled in the Master's program before the effective date of the regulations continue their studies based on the regulations according to paragraph 2 insofar as they do not apply to the respective examination board for the continuation of their studies based on the new regulations. In case of such an application, the examination board, following the principles of maintaining confidence and equal treatment, decides on the extent of credit points to be credited from the already begun or completed modules, according to the regulations in force at the time of their effectiveness – and possible additional work. The transition is not reversible.

(4) The possibility of completing the study program based on the older regulations is guaranteed until the end of the 2014 summer semester.