

## **Programme modifications: Border Studies, M.A.**

### **Amendment of the Joint Study Regulations, the study regulations and the module handbook**

The Joint Study Regulations (JStR) are the inter-university study regulations of the Master Border Studies, which is offered by Saarland University (UdS) with its partner universities Université de Luxembourg, Université de Lorraine and the Rhineland-Palatinate Technical University Kaiserslautern-Landau. By amending the JStR and the joint module handbook, the Steering Board of the programme aims to improve the teaching experience and administration of the cross-border interdisciplinary programme five years apart from its introduction. Feedback from students also led to changes. Minor changes are planned in the form and scope of examinations and clearer designation of course content with regard to the titles of the courses.

In addition, minor adjustments are necessary due to changes in the course offering, personnel changes and changing the titulation of the responsible departments at the universities.

The changes to the JStR and the module handbook have to be implemented in the study regulations at the UdS as well.

### **Aim of the changes**

The revision of course designations, module leaders and other designations serves as update and adaption to changes in the disciplines involved.

The planned changes of the examination regulations will better align the individual examinations with the study format and the contents to be examined. In addition, it will be ensured that the workload in the first semester and in individual modules corresponds to the planned credit points and is better distributed within the study schedule. For students with an educational background aside from Germany, the law exam in the third semester is one of the biggest hurdles for a successful completion of the degree programme. Since this does not correspond to the importance of the examined content with regard to the programme goals, this is corrected by integrating the content into the module examination. Dropping out of the degree programme due to a workload perceived as very high in the first semester and exceeding the standard period of study by failing the law exam in the first attempt can thus be avoided.

The application procedures of the first five years of the programme have shown that the application documents do not always reflect the actual language skills and motivation of the applicants. In the future, interviews will facilitate the identification of applicants. On the other

hand, the interviews can be used to get to know each other personally and to answer questions individually. This increases the likelihood that admitted applicants will accept a place.

The planned changes thus improve the attractiveness of the degree programme and its studyability.