

# Examination Regulations Governing the Master's Degree Programme in Quantum Engineering

27 February 2020

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**Note:** This translation is provided for information purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy between the translation and the original German version published in the Official Bulletin (*Dienstblatt der Hochschulen des Saarlandes*), the provisions of the latter shall take precedence.

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Pursuant to Section 64 of the Saarland Higher Education Institutions Act (SHSG) of 30 November 2016 (Official Gazette of Saarland I, p. 1080) most recently amended by the Act of 10 April 2019 (Official Gazette I, p. 412) and pursuant to the Framework Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at Saarland University (BMRPO) of 17 June 2015 (Official Bulletin of the Institutions of Higher Education in Saarland p. 474) and with the consent of the University Senate and the University Board, the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology at Saarland University hereby issues the following Examination Regulations Governing the Master's Degree Programme in Quantum Engineering.

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## **I General provisions**

### **Section 1 Scope**

These examination regulations govern the examinations for the Master's degree programme in Quantum Engineering at Saarland University. The organization of the curriculum, teaching and examinations in this programme is the responsibility of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology at Saarland University.

### **Section 2 General information**

(1) The Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology at Saarland University shall confer a Master of Science degree (M.Sc.) on students who successfully complete the study programme in accordance with the assessment and examination procedures set out in these examination regulations.

(2) The goal of the Master's degree programme is to impart to students the methods and techniques used in scientific research as well as a deeper understanding of the principles of the subject and a more detailed knowledge of key research results in the field of Quantum Engineering. The single-subject Master's degree programme in Quantum Engineering is a more research-oriented postgraduate degree programme.

(3) The Master's degree programme can be studied either full-time or part-time (cf. Section 7). All regulations apply equally to full-time and part-time study.

(4) Students may only participate in examinations and assessments and may only undertake the Master's thesis project if they are properly enrolled in the Master's degree programme in Quantum Engineering. In exceptional cases and where reasonable grounds exist, a student may apply to the Examination Board for exemption from this requirement. The application may be submitted irrespective of the applicant's enrolment status.

### **Section 3 Standard period of study and student workload**

(1) The standard period of study for the Master's degree programme in Quantum Engineering, including the time taken to complete the final academic assessment phase, is four semesters of full-time study or up to eight semesters of part-time study. The Master's degree programme comprises 120 credits. Of that total, 30 credits are awarded for the Master's thesis.

(2) If students complete some of their Master's degree programme in part-time study, this will be taken into account when calculating the standard period of study. The final result will be rounded up to the next whole semester.

(3) Semesters in which a student was granted leave of absence from the programme shall not be added to the standard period of study.

(4) The Examination Board shall, on request, take account of statutory periods of maternal

leave, periods of parental leave and family care obligations (particularly caring for one or more children or adolescents or supporting family members with care needs) as well as the special needs of students with disabilities.

(5) The study regulations and the associated study plan shall be structured to ensure that for a full-time student the workload is distributed evenly throughout the degree programme so that students can acquire approximately 60 ECTS credits in each year of the programme.

(6) The type and scope of the proposed student assessments shall be such that students can complete the programme of study within the standard period of study. As a rule, two dates for academic assessment or examination shall be offered for each module or course within the academic year in which the relevant module or course took place, provided that this is compatible with the type of module or course being taken. Furthermore, the Master's degree programme in Quantum Engineering shall be structured so that it offers periods in which students may study at other universities or acquire relevant external practical work experience without extending the length of time a student spends on the programme.

(7) The subject-specific study regulations may specify compulsory regular attendance at those taught courses in which regular personal participation is necessary in order to achieve the objectives of the module or course (e.g. seminars, practical skills classes).

(8) The study regulations shall state the semester by which each module or module element should be completed in order to stay within the standard period of study.

#### **Section 4 Modularization and ECTS credits**

(1) Modularization is understood to mean the pooling of subject matter on a particular topic or area of interest to create an academic unit ('module') that is taught over a specified period of time. Students taking a module are assessed or examined on the content and, on passing, are awarded ECTS credits (often referred to in Germany as 'credit points' or 'CP'). A module typically comprises several taught subunits ('module elements') whose contents have been matched to one another and that are taught in a single semester or in two consecutive semesters. Modules conclude with (one or more) academic assessments or examinations (usually an end-of-module examination, which may consist of several parts). The outcome of these assessments or examinations are the basis on which credits are awarded.

(2) The successful completion of a programme module is documented by recording the credits awarded. One ECTS credit corresponds to an average student workload of 30 hours of classroom and self-directed study.

(3) Each module and module element shall be listed in the study regulations together with the corresponding number of credit hours per week and/or the overall time requirements (expressed in hours) and the student workload (expressed in credits). Information shall also be provided about the type of assessment or examination associated with a specific module element and whether the award of academic credits for a module depends on the successful completion of assessments or examinations in one or more module elements. Details shall also be provided about how often each module element is offered.

(4) A student who completes a module or module element shall be awarded either an ungraded 'pass' or a grade determined in accordance with the grading system set out in Section 14. The study regulations shall state whether an assessment or examination is

graded.

(5) Credits can only be acquired if the student workload is equivalent to at least one ECTS credit and the module or module element concludes with a graded or ungraded assessment or examination. Modules that comprise several module elements shall be deemed to have been completed only if all of the component module elements have been completed.

(6) Assessments and examinations associated with modules or module elements serve to determine whether students have achieved the learning outcomes of the respective module or module element. The assessments and examinations that students are required to complete shall take place throughout the Master's degree programme. An assessment or examination may be divided into several parts. More detailed provisions are set out in the study regulations.

(7) As each module element is itself part of a module, it is uniquely associated with an end-of-module examination, unless it has its own specific assessment.

(8) The ECTS credits earned will be documented on the course certificate or transcript issued for the relevant modules or module elements. The credits that can be earned for an academic module composed of several module elements are calculated as the sum of the credits from the individual component module elements.

(9) An academic record shall be kept for each student that shall be updated by recording the number of ECTS credits earned by that student each semester through academic assessment and examination. Coursework credits, preliminary assessments and examination credits that were awarded elsewhere and have been deemed transferable (e.g. credits from a distance-learning or study-abroad programme) will also be included in the academic record. Course credits can also be taken into account even if they are in excess of the minimum total number of credits required for a degree programme.

## **Section 5 Examination Board and Examination Office**

(1) In order to meet its obligations pursuant to Section 28(1) of the Saarland Higher Education Institutions Act (SHSG), the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology at Saarland University shall establish an Examination Board that shall manage the necessary academic assessments and examinations. The Examination Board shall receive organizational support from the Examinations Office.

(2) The Examination Board shall comprise:

1. three representatives from the group of professorial staff in the Department of Physics and the Department of Systems Engineering;
2. one representative from the group of mid-level academic staff in the Department of Physics and the Department of Systems Engineering, and
3. one representative, who shall have limited voting rights, from the group of students in the Department of Physics and the Department of Systems Engineering, whenever possible from the Quantum Engineering degree programme.

If questions regarding the grading of the final assessment phase of the Master's degree arise, the member from the group of students shall only have an advisory vote on the Examination Board unless said member is appropriately qualified.

Each member of the Examination Board shall have a deputy who represents them in their absence. The members of the Examination Board, as defined in items 1 to 3 above, and their deputies shall be elected for a term of two years by the Faculty Council after being nominated by the relevant member group. Members may be re-elected at the end of their term. If a member or deputy member of the Board withdraws before the end of their term, a replacement shall be selected for the remainder of the term. Deputy members and replacement members may be re-elected at the end of their term.

(3) The Examination Board shall appoint a Chair and Deputy Chair from the members of the Board specified in Paragraph 2, sentence 1, item 1 above.

(4) The Examination Board shall be quorate when its members have been duly notified and a majority of voting members is present. Decisions of the Board shall be made by a simple majority of the voting members in attendance. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have the casting vote.

(5) The members and deputy members of the Examination Board are obliged to maintain confidentiality in accordance with Section 17(2) of the Fundamental Principles and Rules Governing Saarland University (*Grundordnung der Universität des Saarlandes*).

(6) The Examination Board is responsible for monitoring compliance with the provisions of the examination regulations. Specifically, the Examination Board shall:

1. decide on applications to register for student assessments and examinations over the course of the degree programme and on applications to register for the final assessment phase of the Master's degree programme (Master's thesis project)
2. decide on requests for exemption from registration requirements
3. decide on whether to accept requests to undertake academic assessments/examinations or exam admission prerequisites in a form other than that normally prescribed
4. appoint the examiner (thesis examiner) and the second examiner and the supervisor for the Master's thesis
5. decide on requests to extend the completion period for the Master's thesis or to extend the time for completing written academic assessments
6. decide on requests regarding the language used for the Master's thesis and for assessments and examinations
7. after consultation with the relevant members of the group of professorial staff (cf. Section 16(1), item 1 of SHSG) decide whether to recognize previous exam admission prerequisites or previous assessments/examinations and whether previous periods of study should be taken into account when determining the standard period of study.
8. appoint, if necessary, a third thesis examiner for the Master's thesis
9. determine the grade to be awarded for the Master's thesis
10. decide on requests for statutory periods of maternity leave, periods of parental leave and family care obligations (particularly caring for one or more children or adolescents or supporting family members with care needs) and on requests relating to the special needs of students with disabilities

11. decide on requests to extend the time frame for a student's progress check
12. decide on whether exceptional circumstances apply for a student requesting academic assessment when taking leave of absence from his or her studies in accordance with Section 9(6) of the Regulations Governing Student Enrolment at Saarland University (*Immatrikulationsordnung*)
13. decide on applications for admission to the Master's degree programme
14. comment on proposals from the department to amend the module catalogue
15. decide on applications seeking approval for a third repeat assessment
16. decide on whether to annul the results of academic assessments or examinations and to terminate the assessment or examination procedure; review decisions regarding the grading of academic assessments or examinations if these have been influenced by student deception; and review decisions to exclude a student from an academic assessment or examination
17. decide on objections raised by a candidate with regard to the grading of academic assessments or examinations or the grading of exam admission prerequisites after consultation with the relevant examiner
18. decide on any subsequent amendment of academic grades and on whether to nullify a candidate's attempt to graduate from the Master's degree programme

(7) The duties set out in Subsection (6), items 1 to 14 above shall be carried out on behalf of the Examination Board by the Chair of the Board. If a decision made by the Chair is contested either by a candidate or by a member of the Examination Board, the decision shall be taken by the Examination Board. In the case of objections raised about the grading of individual assessments or examinations, the Examination Board shall base its decision on representations to be obtained from those examiners who were responsible for awarding the grade.

## **Section 6**

### **Examiners; thesis examiners; supervisors, observers**

(1) Master's thesis examiners and supervisors may be appointed from the group of professorial staff, emeritus or retired professors, honorary professors, senior academics qualified to professorial level, heads of independent junior research groups and independent professors on special contracts.

(2) After consultation with professors in the relevant subject area, the Examination Board may in special cases also appoint examiners from the group of mid-level research or teaching staff, members of the part-time external teaching staff who teach in the relevant subject area, professors from other universities, qualified staff from external affiliated institutions (as defined in Section 30(5) SHSG), and other qualified and experienced professionals working in the relevant field.

(3) Former faculty members who left the faculty no more than five years ago and who no longer work at Saarland University may, with their consent, be appointed as thesis examiners. Honorary professors, senior academics qualified to professorial level, heads of independent junior research groups, professors on special contracts who no longer have teaching duties and temporary professors who have taught for more than two semesters, may, with their consent, be appointed by the Examination Board during a period of two years after leaving the faculty.

(4) The examiners who conduct the assessments or examinations associated with specific modules or module elements are the members of academic staff who teach those modules or module elements.

(5) The observer at an oral examination, as specified in Section 11(5) below, shall be a member of the university with an academic qualification relevant to the subject matter of the examination.

(6) Academic assessments and examinations may only be evaluated by persons with at least the same qualification or an equivalent qualification to that being examined or assessed.

(7) At least one of the Master's thesis examiners shall be drawn from the Department of Physics or the Department of Systems Engineering.

## **Section 7 Studying part-time**

(1) Students and prospective students may be enrolled at the university as part-time students if they are only able to study for at least 50% and no more than 60% of their available working hours due to employment obligations, pregnancy, maternity leave, caring for one or more children or adolescents, supporting family members with care needs, or for some other important reason.

(2) If the volume of academic work undertaken by a part-time student in one semester exceeds 60% of the academic credit associated with full-time study (18 ECTS credits), that semester shall be treated as if the student were studying full-time. The volume of academic work shall be calculated on the basis of the assessments completed and examinations taken by the student in that semester, irrespective of whether or not a pass or fail grade was attained. If the volume of work completed by a student only marginally exceeds the limit for part-time study, the student may apply to offset the excess volume against a reduced workload in, for example, the latter part of the same academic year. Any such case will be considered on its individual merits. More detailed provisions are set out in the Regulations Governing Student Enrolment at Saarland University.

(3) Students should normally study full-time in the semester in which the Master's thesis is written unless they were studying part-time in the previous semester. Exceptions may be granted where reasonable grounds exist. If the thesis is to be completed in part-time study, the usual thesis completion period shall still apply. If reasonable grounds exist and a request is submitted, the Examination Board may agree to extend the thesis completion period in accordance with the provisions of Section 20. Any extension granted shall not alter the number of credits awarded.

(4) Part-time study does not create any legal entitlement to the provision of special programme content or a modified curriculum.

(5) No liability shall be accepted and no responsibility borne for any effects that part-time study may have on areas for which the faculties are not responsible, or that it may have on courses offered by external institutions. Students are obliged to contact the appropriate bodies in good time to ensure that they are familiar with information relevant in this regard.

(6) A student that remains as a part-time student may be required to attend a study counselling interview every two semesters with the counselling or advisory service responsible for the relevant programme and/or subject.

## **Section 8 Progress checks**

(1) A student studying full-time for the Master's degree programme with a standard period of study of four semesters shall fulfil the following minimum academic progress requirements:  
after one semester, a total of at least 9 credits; after 2 semesters, a total of at least 30 credits;  
after 4 semesters, a total of at least 60 credits  
after 6 semesters, a total of at least 90 credits.

(2) If a student does not achieve the expected minimum academic progress by the end of a semester, they shall be notified in writing that they are at risk of failing to meet the academic requirements for the programme. The student shall be offered a study counselling interview.

(3) If in two consecutive semesters a student fails to achieve the minimum academic progress requirement expected of students at the end of the respective semesters, the student shall lose the right to be examined in the academic programme for which he or she is enrolled. If this situation arises, the Examination Board shall notify the student in writing and shall include information on the candidate's right of appeal. Before any final decision is made by the Examination Board, the student shall be granted the opportunity to make representations about this matter to the Board.

(4) In exceptional cases and where reasonable grounds exist, the Examination Board may agree to a reasonable extension of the time frames set out in Paragraph 1.

## **Section 9 Core skills**

(1) Core skills in accordance with Section 11(1) and voluntary work and/or civic engagement activities in accordance with Section 11(2) and official committee work or mentoring activities in accordance with Section 11(3) of the Framework Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at Saarland University (BMRPO) may be recognized upon request by students. Voluntary work and/or civic engagement activities and official committee work or mentoring activities may be recognized with up to 3 ECTS credits each, based on the assumption that 1.5 credits are earned when the student carries out one hour of such work during each week of a semester. The stipulations in the above-mentioned paragraphs of the BMRPO apply regarding the supporting documents to be submitted for recognition.

(2) Students who have acquired core skills through other work or activities at Saarland University or at another German or foreign university may apply to have this work recognized. In cases in which the core skills were acquired elsewhere than at Saarland University, Section 17(4) shall apply accordingly.

(3) More detailed provisions are set out in the study regulations or are specified by the Examination Board.

## **Section 10**

### **Admission to the Master's programme**

(1) Applicants to the Master's programme must have successfully completed a first (undergraduate) degree from a university. Students seeking admission to the Master's programme shall:

1. have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent university qualification whose main curricular focus was on quantum engineering or a subject closely related to quantum engineering from a German university, a recognized foreign university or a recognized distance-learning institution, and
2. demonstrate adequate language proficiency (as a rule, at least level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages or equivalent) for academic study in English, and
3. particular academic aptitude (cf. Section 77(6) SHSG).

(2) The criteria used to assess particular academic aptitude are:

1. sufficient merit in the applicant's previous academic track record, as demonstrated by an overall grade in the Bachelor's degree (see Paragraph 1 above) of at least 'good' (German grading scale: 2.5 or better), and the scientific content of the applicant's first degree.
2. Applicants should demonstrate a level of knowledge and competence that corresponds to that acquired in the Bachelor's degree programme in quantum engineering taught at Saarland University. Specifically, this requires applicants to show that they have the necessary level of expertise in the following areas:
  - I. in the fields of mechanics, optics, atomic physics, solid-state physics and quantum mechanics, students should have acquired, at a minimum, 36 credits from lecture courses and exercise and problem-solving classes in experimental physics and theoretical physics,
  - II. in the fields of electrical engineering, measurement, instrumentation and sensor technology, students should have acquired, at a minimum, 12 credits from lecture courses and exercise and problem-solving classes,
  - III. in the fields of electrodynamics or electromagnetic theory, students should have acquired, at a minimum, 8 credits from lecture courses and exercise and problem-solving classes,
  - IV. in the fields of electronics and circuit technology, students should have acquired, at a minimum, 10 credits from lecture courses and exercise and problem-solving classes,
  - V. not less than 20 credits earned in fundamental areas of mathematics, and
  - VI. at least 12 credits should have been earned in physics and engineering laboratory courses.
3. The Examination Board may decide to introduce an additional obligatory criterion requiring applicants to submit satisfactory academic references that demonstrate the aptitude of the applicant in terms of the degree programme requirements.

The criteria listed above and, if applicable, any satisfactory academic references pursuant to item 3 will be used to assess the aptitude of the applicant in terms of the academic profile and requirements of the Master's degree programme in Quantum Engineering.

(3) If only one of the academic aptitude criteria set out in Paragraph 2, sentence 1 or 2 above

has been met, the Examination Board may substitute the criterion that has not been met by an aptitude test and/or by additional requirements as specified in Paragraph 4 below taking into consideration any satisfactory academic references pursuant to Paragraph 2, sentence 3, if applicable. The Examination Board shall designate a professor from the Department of Physics or the Department of Systems Engineering to conduct the aptitude test. If the aptitude test reveals that the applicant does not yet have the required level of competence, the applicant may be admitted to the programme subject to conditions (see Paragraph 4). If more than one of the academic aptitude criteria set out in Paragraph 2 have not been met, the applicant shall not be admitted to the programme.

(4) If the aptitude criteria of Paragraph 3 are only deemed to have been met subject to fulfilment of additional conditions, the applicant may be provisionally admitted to the relevant Master's degree programme on the proviso that, within a year, the student acquires the missing curricular content in a supplementary study programme. The procedure to be followed in such cases shall be determined in consultation with a departmental representative who is authorized to conduct examinations; the proposed procedure shall be recorded in writing. If the missing curricular content referred to in Paragraph 3 represents more than 30 credits, the applicant shall not be admitted to the programme.

(5) Applicants who do not yet have their Bachelor's degree examination certificate may apply for provisional admission to the Master's programme provided that by the start of the Master's programme they have successfully completed all of the examination and assessment requirements for the Bachelor's programme. In such cases, the Bachelor's degree certificate shall be submitted no later than three months after the beginning of the first semester.

(6) An applicant shall not be admitted to the Master's programme if the formal requirements have not been met.

(7) All admissions to the Master's programme shall be decided by the Examination Board. In case of doubt, the relevant departmental representatives shall be consulted.

(8) The Examination Board shall inform the applicant in writing about whether the application has been rejected or accepted. If relevant, the applicant shall be notified of any conditions pertaining to provisional admission arrangements as defined in Paragraph 4.

## **II Assessment methods**

### **Section 11**

#### **Student assessments; academic assessments and examinations**

(1) Student assessments are oral and/or written examinations (including those in electronic form), some of which may be spread across a number of dates. Written academic assessments include written examinations, written assignments and reports from practical skills classes. Oral academic assessments include individual or group testing and oral presentations. The type and duration of a student assessment in a specific module or module element shall be announced at the beginning of that module or module element. If a combination of academic assessments is used, students shall be notified of the weighting of the respective parts.

(2) The purpose of such student assessments is to demonstrate whether students have met the learning objectives for a particular module, whether they have an understanding of the

key aspects of the relevant subject matter and methodologies, and whether they are able to apply the knowledge and skills acquired. Student assessments cover exam admission prerequisites as well as academic assessments and examinations.

(3) Each module includes an end-of-module assessment or examination that shall be held (for the first time) no later than the beginning of the following semester. Students who successfully complete the academic assessment or examination associated with a module shall be deemed to have met the learning objectives of that module or module element and shall be awarded the corresponding number of ECTS credits. Students shall be notified of academic assessments or examinations at least three weeks in advance.

(4) Written examinations shall be invigilated by an examiner or by an authorized person for whom the examiner is responsible. As a rule, written examinations shall last at least 60 minutes and not more than 180 minutes. Written examinations shall be graded within four weeks.

(5) Oral examinations shall be conducted by two examiners or by one examiner and an observer who is familiar with the subject matter of the examination. Individual or group oral examinations typically last 30 minutes per candidate. Candidates should be examined for at least 15 minutes but not more than 60 minutes. The examiner shall consult with the observer before deciding on whether the candidate has passed and what grade is to be awarded. The main topics addressed in an oral examination and the examiner's grade evaluation(s) shall be recorded in writing and the report signed by the examiner and the observer. The grade awarded shall be communicated to the candidate immediately after the oral examination.

(6) Exam admission prerequisites comprise one or more ungraded knowledge tests that are taken by students during the semester in which the module is taught. Students who successfully complete the exam admission prerequisites have demonstrated that they have achieved the minimum learning outcomes required in preparation for the end-of-module assessment or examination. An exam admission prerequisite may be in the form of a written test (e.g. solving exercises or problems or compiling lab reports) or may be conducted orally. Exam admission prerequisites are the responsibility of an examiner, but may be administered by a person delegated by the examiner. The results of the exam admission prerequisites shall be documented.

(7) If failing to pass an examination or assessment at the final attempt ('final retake') would lead to the student irrevocably failing the module, the examination or assessment shall be conducted by two examiners. In such cases, the candidate may submit a request to the Examination Board for an examiner to be replaced by another examiner in the same subject area.

(8) Student assessments in seminars and project seminars may be conducted as oral assessments (e.g. student presentations) and/or written assessments (e.g. written assignments). The assessments shall be graded by an examiner, who is usually the seminar instructor. The amount of time that students have to complete a seminar assignment will be announced at the beginning of the seminar. A written assignment shall be graded within six weeks. If a candidate is prevented from working on a written assessment pursuant to Section 13(10) of the Framework Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at Saarland University (BMRPO), the rules stipulated there shall apply.

(9) Before students conduct a laboratory experiment, they will typically be given an initial oral test by the lab demonstrator to assess their level of knowledge. Students shall keep an

experimental log that records their experimental results in a clear and understandable manner. The experimental data is subsequently analysed in terms of the theoretical principles underpinning the experiment. The relevant lab demonstrator shall check the written experimental logs and associated analyses and shall discuss the content with the student to assess their understanding of the material. Students who have completed the experiment successfully and are adjudged to have met the learning objectives will be issued with a certificate of satisfactory completion (*Testat*).

(10) The Examination Board shall, on request, take account of statutory periods of maternal leave, periods of parental leave and family care obligations (particularly caring for one or more children or adolescents or supporting family members with care needs) as well as the special needs of students with disabilities. If student assessments have to be completed before specific deadlines, these deadlines will, on request, be extended by the statutory period of maternal leave. This shall not affect any academic accommodation granted to a student in accordance with Section 13.

(11) The language of examination and the language used for the Master's thesis shall be English or German. The Examination Board may, in certain individual cases, allow another language to be used if specifically requested by the candidate and agreed with the examiner or thesis examiner.

## **Section 12**

### **Participation in student assessments**

(1) The application to be admitted for academic examination occurs concurrently with the application to enrol at Saarland University.

(2) A student may only take part in an academic assessment or examination if they have formally registered via Saarland University's Campus Management System within the relevant registration period. In some cases, they may need to demonstrate that they have met the registration requirements for the relevant modules or module elements. In exceptional cases, the Examinations Office may, if requested, register a student for a specific academic examination or assessment. A student may register for or withdraw from an assessment or examination associated with a module or module element up to one week before the assessment/examination. The decision to admit a candidate to a particular academic assessment or examination shall be made by the Examination Board.

(3) Before registering for assessments or examinations, students shall demonstrate that they have successfully completed the exam admission prerequisites specified in the study regulations.

(4) An application to register for assessments or examinations of the Master's degree programme may only be rejected if:

1. the requirements set out in Paragraphs 2 and 3 have not been met or
2. the candidate has lost the right of assessment or examination for the relevant module or for the programme as a whole.

(5) If a candidate who is registered for an academic assessment or examination withdraws from the assessment or examination without reasonable grounds, the student shall be deemed to have failed the assessment or examination.

(6) If a candidate fails to attend an examination on the set date without good cause, the candidate shall be awarded a fail grade. The same applies if a written assessment is not completed within the stipulated period.

(7) If there are credible reasons why a candidate withdrew from or failed to attend an assessment or examination, these reasons shall be submitted in writing and without unreasonable delay to the Examination Board. If the candidate was ill, the candidate is required to present a medical certificate issued by a physician. In certain individual cases, the Chair of the Examination Board may have good reason to demand a comprehensive medical opinion or a medical certificate issued by a public medical officer. This situation may arise if the same candidate has repeatedly presented a medical certificate issued by a physician, if the medical findings are unclear, or in order to counter possible abuses. If a candidate withdraws from or fails to attend an academic assessment or examination because a child cared for by the candidate was ill, the child's illness shall be treated as if the candidate was ill. The candidate shall demonstrate that it was necessary for him or her to care for the ill child by providing a medical certificate issued by a physician in accordance with Article 45 of Book V of the German Social Welfare Code (SGB V). If the reasons given for the withdrawal or non-attendance are accepted, the assessment or examination shall be deemed not to have been attempted, and a new date for assessment or examination may be scheduled if this is compatible with the particular type of assessment or examination proposed.

### **Section 13**

#### **Academic accommodations**

(1) If a candidate submits a medical certificate issued by a physician that states that due to a prolonged or chronic health impairment he or she is not in a position to undertake, either in part or in full, coursework assessments, exam admission prerequisites or academic assessments or examinations in their prescribed form, the Examination Board may, upon written request, approve appropriate academic accommodations. Appropriate academic accommodations include such measures as adapting the conditions under which an assessment or examination is to be conducted (e.g. permitting the use of suitable aids), extending the period in which an assessment or examination is to be completed, or some other modification of the assessment process or its format, i.e. demonstrating the same level of academic knowledge or competence in some other form. Changing the form or format in which an assessment or examination is conducted shall only be considered when an appropriate level of academic accommodation cannot be provided by adapting the assessment or examination conditions or by extending the completion period. In no case shall academic accommodation result in any modification of the content of the assessment or examination.

(2) If there is a continuing need to accommodate a student's health impairment, the student shall renew his or her application for academic accommodation as per Paragraph 1 above every two semesters.

(3) The medical certificate issued by a physician, as required in Paragraph 1 above, shall at a minimum contain: information on the physical or mental disability arising from the prolonged or chronic impairment; how, from a medical perspective, this impacts the student's ability to study or undergo academic assessment; the date of the medical examination on the basis of which the certificate was issued; and a medical estimate of the duration of the prolonged impairment or a statement that the impairment is chronic. The Chair of the Examination Board may dispense with the need for a medical certificate if it is readily apparent that the student is suffering from a chronic health condition.

### **Section 14**

#### **Grading of student assessments and grading system**

(1) If a student assessment or examination is to be graded, the following grading system shall be used:

- 1 = 'Very good' – outstanding performance
- 2 = 'Good' – student performance significantly better than average
- 3 = 'Satisfactory' – student performance meets average requirements
- 4 = 'Sufficient' – student performance that despite its shortcomings still meets the minimum requirements
- 5 = 'Fail' – Failure to meet the minimum requirements due to significant shortcomings in student performance.

(2) To provide a more differentiated scale with which to grade individual assessments or examinations, intermediate grades may be awarded by raising or lowering the grade by 0.3 accordingly; the grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3 are excluded from the scale.

(3) The grade is supplemented by an ECTS grading that provides a means of assessing a

student's achievements in relative terms and that is also included in the diploma supplement. The ECTS grading scale uses a statistical scheme to classify the performance of an individual student relative to the performance of other students. Students who have passed the minimum requirements are classified as follows:

- A = the top 10%
- B = the next 25%
- C = the next 30%
- D = the next 25%
- E = the next 10%.

This approach shall be used if the size of the reference cohort is large enough to enable reliable statements to be made about percentage distributions (the reference cohort should not contain fewer than 50 students). Pragmatic solutions will need to be found if the reference cohorts are too small.

(4) If the overall assessment of a module is based on several separate graded assessments or examinations, the final grade for the module shall be calculated as follows: Each grade from an assessment or examination is multiplied with the credits awarded for that module element and the results added together. The value so obtained is then divided by the sum of the credits associated with the component module elements. The result shall be rounded down to one decimal place. (Note: in the German grading system, the lower the numerical value, the better the grade.)

(5) A student is deemed to have completed an assessment or examination successfully if he or she is awarded a 'pass' or, when numerical grading is applied, achieves at least the grade 'sufficient'. If an end-of-module assessment/examination comprises a number of assessments or examinations from component module elements, the module is deemed to have been completed successfully if the candidate has passed all of the required module elements assessments/examinations as detailed in the study regulations.

(6) If the individual examiners have awarded different grades for the Master's thesis, the overall grade shall be calculated as the arithmetic mean of the proposed grades. The mean value shall be rounded down to one decimal place.

(7) The final overall grade is calculated by (i) multiplying the grade attained for each end-of-module assessment/examination with the number of credits associated with the respective module and (ii) multiplying the grade attained for the Master's thesis with the number of credits associated with the thesis project and then adding the result. The value so obtained is then divided by the sum of the credits associated with the respective modules and the Master's thesis. The result shall be rounded down to one decimal place. (Note: in the German grading system, the lower the numerical value, the better the grade.)

(8) At least 50% of the modules (measured in terms of ECTS credits) should be graded.

(9) After completing an assessment or examination, the student shall, on request, be granted the opportunity to inspect his or her written work, the examiners' reports and

examination records. Inspection applications shall be submitted to the Examination Board no later than one month after the results of the assessment or examination have been announced. The date and time of the inspection appointment shall be determined by the Examination Board.

## Section 15

### Repeating assessments and examinations and/or the Master's thesis

(1) An assessment or examination that was awarded a fail grade may be repeated twice (cf. the provisions in Paragraph 5 below governing the *Freiversuch* option – an examination, which, if failed, is treated as if it had not been taken). The second repeat attempt may be conducted as an oral examination. If a candidate does not achieve a passing grade in either of the two repeat assessments or examinations, the candidate shall lose the right of examination for that module. If the assessment or examination relates to an elective module or mandatory elective module, it may be substituted by an assessment or examination in another elective or mandatory elective module, provided that this latter module is classified as an alternative in the study regulations and that academic credit has not already been awarded for similar content.

(2) In exceptional cases and where reasonable grounds exist, the Examination Board may consent to a third repeat assessment or examination if requested by the candidate. If a request for a third repeat assessment or examination is approved, it shall be held at the next possible examination date after the Examination Board has issued its consent, while taking due account of applicable time limits as set out in Section 12(2).

(3) If a candidate is awarded a fail grade for the Master's thesis project, the candidate may have one further attempt at passing the Master's thesis requirement (cf. the provisions in Paragraph 5 below governing the *Freiversuch* option). If a fail grade is awarded, the candidate shall receive a new Master's thesis topic no later than four weeks after the fail grade was announced. A third attempt at passing the Master's thesis requirement is not permitted; failed attempts at other universities will be taken into account.

(4) The Examination Board may extend the deadline in Paragraph 3 if so requested by the candidate before the deadline expires, provided that the candidate can demonstrate that the extension is necessary for reasons beyond the candidate's control (e.g. an illness or health issue, as verified by a medical certificate issued by a physician). If a candidate withdraws from or fails to complete an assessment or examination in the allotted time frame because a child cared for by the candidate was ill, the child's illness shall be treated as if the candidate was ill. The candidate shall demonstrate that it was necessary for him or her to care for the ill child by providing a medical certificate issued by a physician in accordance with Article 45 of Book V of the German Social Welfare Code (SGB V). The Examination Board shall, on receipt of an appropriate request, take account of statutory periods of maternal leave, periods of parental leave and family care obligations (particularly caring for one or more children under the age of 18 or supporting family members with care needs), as well as the special needs of students with disabilities. The Examination Board will therefore extend the thesis completion period in Paragraph 3 by the statutory period of maternal leave if so requested by the candidate and a further reasonable extension of the completion period (see Section 20) may be granted on request, provided that the candidate can demonstrate physical or mental impairment arising from pregnancy, or from caring for children or from supporting family members with care needs. This shall not affect any academic accommodation granted to a student in accordance with Section 13.

(5) If a student fails to pass the Master's thesis requirement at the first attempt within the standard period of study, the attempt will be treated as if it had not been made.

(6) Completed assessments or examinations (excluding the Master's thesis) may be retaken within a period of one year with a view to achieving a better grade. The student will be

awarded the higher of the two grades. In all other cases, assessments or examinations that have been awarded a passing grade cannot be retaken for the purpose of achieving a better grade.

## **Section 16**

### **Nullification of assessments or examinations**

(1) If a candidate attempts to register for an assessment or examination by deception, the Examination Board may decide to nullify the results of previous assessments or examinations and may stop the examination process.

(2) If a candidate attempts to influence the result of an assessment or examination by deception or by the use of unauthorized aids, the candidate shall receive a fail grade for that assessment or examination. Examiners shall report cases of plagiarism to the Examination Board. If plagiarism has been established, the relevant module element shall be repeated. The Examination Board shall notify the student in writing of its decision. A fail grade shall also be awarded to any candidate whose behaviour prevents the orderly conduct of an examination and who is excluded from the examination after receiving prior warning from the examiner or from a person authorized by the examiner in accordance with Section 6(5). The candidate may ask the Examination Board to reappraise any such decision made pursuant to sentences 1 and 2 above within one month of the decision date. If the Examination Board upholds the decision, the candidate shall receive a fail grade for that assessment or examination. If the Examination Board does not uphold the decision with respect to disorderly conduct, the relevant academic assessment or examination shall be deemed not to have occurred.

(3) If a candidate is found to have cheated in an assessment or examination and if this fact only becomes apparent after the examination certificate has been issued, the Examination Board may retroactively amend the grade awarded for the assessment or examination in which the graduate was found to have cheated and may assign a fail grade either for the entire assessment or examination, or for some part thereof.

(4) In very serious cases of deception (particularly when substantial plagiarism is involved) or in recurring cases, the Examination Board may, after consultation with the student, decide to revoke the student's right of examination.

(5) If the registration requirements for an assessment or examination were not met but there was no intentional misrepresentation on the part of the candidate and if this fact only becomes apparent after the assessment or examination, this defect shall be deemed to have been remedied by the fact that the candidate successfully completed the assessment or examination. In such cases, the candidate is also bound to accept the result of the assessment or examination if the candidate was awarded a fail grade. If a candidate intentionally gained wrongful registration for an assessment or examination, the Examination Board shall decide on any sanctions.

(6) Before the Examination Board makes any decision pursuant to Paragraphs 1 to 4 or to the final sentence of Paragraph 5 above, the candidate shall have one month in which to make representations about this matter. The candidate shall be notified in writing about any decisions made pursuant to Paragraphs 1 to 4 or to the final sentence of Paragraph 5 above. The letter of notification shall include the reasons for the decision and information on the candidate's right of appeal. These decisions are subject to a period of limitation of five years from the date on which the examination certificate was signed.

(7) An incorrect certificate of graduation or an incorrect examination certificate issued in relation to the final assessment phase of the Master's degree programme shall be revoked and, if applicable, amended and reissued.

## **Section 17**

### **Recognition of previous periods of study and of credits from earlier assessments and examinations**

(1) Previous periods of study and credits earned for earlier assessments and examinations ('prior learning') in degree programmes at universities in Germany, at recognized foreign universities or at a recognized distance-learning institution will be accepted provided that there are no significant differences in academic content when compared with the modules for which transfer credits are being accepted. The term 'no significant differences' is understood to mean that, when measured in terms of learning outcomes, the previous periods of study and the results of examination/assessments satisfy the requirements specified for the Master's degree programme in Quantum Engineering at Saarland University. Credits from academic assessments and examinations that were used to obtain the preceding Bachelor's degree cannot also be used to meet the requirements of the Master's degree programme in Quantum Engineering. Equivalent academic assessments or examinations will be recognized (including any assessments or examinations that received a fail grade).

(2) When recognizing prior learning at foreign universities, the equivalency agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (*Kultusministerkonferenz, KMK*) and the German Rectors' Conference (*Hochschulrektorenkonferenz, HRK*) shall be taken into account, as shall any agreements existing between Saarland University and its partner universities.

(3) Paragraphs 1 and 2 apply analogously to prior learning in state-accredited distance learning programmes.

(4) If a student demonstrates proof of having acquired an equivalent level of competency and skill in a non-university environment, they shall earn up to half of the corresponding academic credits allotted for such knowledge and skills in the Master's degree programme in Quantum Engineering.

(5) The candidate is responsible for providing the documentation required for the recognition process. Students have the right to have prior learning recognized if the requirements set out in Paragraphs 1 to 4 have been met.

(6) If earlier academic assessments or examinations are recognized but ECTS credits were not awarded for that work, the equivalent number of credits shall be calculated and entered into the academic record for that student. The grades awarded for graded academic assessments or examinations shall be transferred and shall be included in the calculation of the overall grade in accordance with the provisions of the study regulations and of cooperation agreements with partner universities. If the grading systems are not comparable or if earlier academic assessments or examinations are ungraded, these will be transferred as ungraded credits. If the maximum number of ungraded modules has already been reached, the academic assessment or examination will be transferred with the grade 4.0, whereby Section 14(8) shall apply analogously. The recognition of credits earned from external assessments or examinations shall be indicated in the student's transcript of records.

## **Section 18**

### **Industrial placement/internship**

(1) The industrial placement/internship is an 8-week work placement in industry in the field of quantum engineering. Students completing the industrial placement/internship will earn 9 ungraded credits which can be counted towards the general mandatory elective modules block pursuant to Section 6 of the study regulations.

(2) The Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology shall appoint an authorized person to administer the industrial placement/internship stage of the programme.

(3) The student shall propose a topic and the content of the industrial placement/internship. The examiner must approve the proposal pursuant to Section 6.

(4) The industrial placement/internship shall be assessed

1. formally by the person authorized by the Natural Science and Technology Faculty to administer the industrial placement/internship stage of the programme,
2. in a colloquium with an examiner for academic quality assurance purposes.

(5) Detailed regulations, including regarding the recognition of practical phases, e.g. as part of military service or alternative civilian service, are set out in the Guidelines for Industrial Placements/Internships issued by the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology.

## **III Master's thesis**

### **Section 19**

#### **Registering for the Master's thesis phase**

(1) Students may register for the Master's thesis phase provided that they have satisfied all of the requirements of the Master's degree programme in Quantum Engineering. To demonstrate that these requirements have been met, students shall submit proof that they have:

1. properly enrolled in the Master's degree programme in Quantum Engineering
2. successfully completed the Lab Project
3. earned at least 80 ECTS credits from academic assessments or examinations as defined in the study regulations.

(2) Applications to register for the Master's thesis phase shall be submitted to the Examination Office.

(3) In exceptional cases and where reasonable grounds exist, the Examination Board may admit a candidate to the Master's thesis phase if the requirements set out in Paragraph 1 above have not been met.

## **Section 20**

### **Subject of the Master's thesis**

(1) The Master's thesis is a piece of supervised academic work that is carried out independently. The thesis should demonstrate that the candidate is capable of addressing a subject-related problem within a specified time frame through application of relevant scientific methods and techniques and is able to present the results appropriately.

(2) The Examination Board shall appoint a primary thesis examiner, a secondary thesis examiner and the thesis supervisor. If a thesis supervisor is not appointed, the primary thesis examiner shall act as supervisor.

(3) The candidate shall be notified of the topic of the Master's thesis within a period of four weeks after the candidate has registered for the Master's thesis phase. The candidate shall have the opportunity to submit proposals regarding the topic of the Master's thesis. However, the candidate is not obliged to do so.

(4) The date on which the topic of the thesis was announced (i.e. the start of the thesis completion period) and the thesis topic shall be documented.

(5) Within four weeks of receiving notification of the thesis topic, the candidate may, after consultation with the Examination Board and on one occasion only, decline the topic of the thesis. In this case, the candidate will not be deemed to have failed the thesis project. A new topic for the Master's thesis shall be issued within a period of four weeks after declining the first topic. A candidate may decline the proposed thesis topic in accordance with Section 15(3) but only if this option was not used the first time the candidate attempted the Master's thesis.

## **Section 21**

### **Duration and deadlines**

(1) The student workload for the entire Master's thesis project, including the Master's research colloquium, is 30 ECTS credits, which corresponds to a completion period of six months. The thesis topic and the problems to be addressed shall be such that the thesis can be completed within the allotted time.

(2) In exceptional cases and where reasonable grounds exist, a candidate may apply to the Examination Board for an extension to the completion period. An extension of six weeks is generally regarded as reasonable. Any extension granted shall not alter the number of credits awarded.

(3) If a candidate is prevented from working on the Master's thesis for a period of more than one week because of illness or some other cause beyond the candidate's control, the thesis submission deadline shall be extended accordingly. The candidate shall provide supporting documentation to the Examinations Office without unreasonable delay, e.g. in the event of illness, the candidate shall submit a medical certificate issued by a physician. If a candidate withdraws from or fails to complete an assessment or examination in the allotted time frame because a child cared for by the candidate was ill, the child's illness shall be treated as if the

candidate was ill. The candidate shall demonstrate that it was necessary for them to care for the ill child by providing a medical certificate issued by a physician in accordance with Article 45 of Book V of the German Social Welfare Code (SGB V). If the period in which the candidate is prevented from undertaking the Master's thesis exceeds six months, the Master's thesis shall be deemed as 'not attempted'. In such cases, the candidate shall be allocated a new topic for the Master's thesis once the reasons preventing the candidate from working on the thesis cease to apply.

(4) The Examination Board shall, on request, take into account statutory periods of maternal leave, periods of parental leave and family care obligations (particularly caring for one or more children or adolescents under the age of 18 or supporting family members with care needs) as well as the special needs of students with disabilities. In such cases, the completion period for the Master's thesis shall be extended by the statutory period of maternal leave if so requested by the candidate and a further reasonable extension of the completion period (see Paragraph 2 above) may be granted on request, provided that the candidate can demonstrate physical or mental impairment arising from pregnancy, or from caring for children or from supporting family members with care needs or in order to meet the special needs of students with disabilities. This shall not affect any academic accommodation granted to a student in accordance with Section 13.

(5) If a student does not meet the thesis completion deadline, a fail grade shall be awarded for the Master's thesis. Repeat attempts shall be subject to the requirements set out in Sections 15(1) and 15(3), which apply analogously.

## **Section 22**

### **Procedural elements, presentation and layout of the thesis**

(1) Candidates shall submit three printed copies and one electronic copy (PDF on a file storage medium) of the Master's thesis to the Examinations Office. The thesis shall be paginated and shall be produced using a common word-processing system or program. The copies to be submitted shall be printed and either stapled or bound. The candidate shall ensure that all copies submitted are legible. The candidate shall give written assurance that the electronic version is identical in content to the printed version of the Master's thesis.

(2) When submitting a Master's thesis, each candidate shall include a signed declaration of original authorship stating that the thesis is their own original work and that no source materials or aids other than those indicated were used. Any parts of the thesis that draw on the wording or substance of other works shall be clearly marked as borrowings and the sources shall be acknowledged correctly. The candidate shall also state whether drawings, sketches, diagrams and photographic and graphic images are the candidate's own work, or were produced in accordance with the candidate's instructions, or are the work of others.

(3) The date of submission of the printed copies of the Master's thesis shall be documented.

(4) The Master's thesis phase concludes with a research colloquium lasting typically 30 minutes. One of the colloquium examiners shall be the primary thesis examiner. The colloquium shall be held no later than six weeks after the candidate submits the printed version of the Master's thesis. The date of examination shall be recorded as the date on which the printed version of the Master's thesis was submitted.

(5) The Master's thesis shall be assessed by the examiner who provided the thesis topic and

by the secondary thesis examiner appointed by the Examination Board. Both examiners shall hand in their written reports no later than three months after the printed version of the Master's thesis was submitted for examination; each report shall propose a thesis grade in accordance with the specifications in Sections 11(1) and 11(2). However, if the proposed grades differ by more than 1.0 or if only one of the thesis examiners awards a fail grade, the Examination Board shall appoint a third thesis examiner to assess the Master's thesis. Once the report from the third examiner has been received, the Examination Board shall, contrary to the provisions of Section 14(6), decide on the grade to be awarded for the Master's thesis based on the three reports received.

(6) The candidate shall be notified about the result of the thesis examination including the grade awarded.

#### **IV Degree qualification**

##### **Section 23 Successfully completing the Master's programme and overall grade**

(1) A candidate is deemed to have successfully completed the final assessment phase of the Master's degree programme if they have

1. successfully completed all of the assessments and examinations stipulated in the study regulations
2. earned the required number of 90 ECTS credits (excluding those awarded for the Master's thesis) from the required mandatory modules, mandatory elective modules and elective modules as specified in the study regulations
3. has successfully completed the Master's thesis project.

(2) A candidate shall be deemed to have failed to graduate from the Master's degree programme if they have failed one or more of the required assessments or examinations or have failed the Master's thesis project, including all permissible retake attempts ('irrevocable fail'). A candidate who has failed the final assessment phase of the Master's degree programme will be notified in writing by the Chair of the Examination Board; the letter of notification shall include information on the candidate's right of appeal.

(3) The final overall grade awarded for the Master's degree qualification is calculated in accordance with the provisions of Sections 14(7) and 14(8).

(4) If a candidate who has completed all the stipulated programme requirements has acquired more than the necessary minimum number of credits, they may, in accordance with study regulations, be permitted to select a subset of the assessments or examinations for inclusion in the calculation of the final overall grade.

(5) The final overall grade that appears on the Master's examination certificate and on the formal graduation certificate shall be classified as follows:

up to 1.5:	Very good
$1.5 < X \leq 2.5$ :	Good
$2.5 < X \leq 3.5$ :	Satisfactory
$3.5 < X \leq 4.0$ :	Sufficient.

If a candidate is awarded a final overall grade of 1.2 or better and has not exceeded the standard period of study by more than 1 semester, the addendum 'with distinction' will appear on the Master's examination certificate and on the certificate of graduation.

## **Section 24**

### **Degree qualification and documentation**

(1) Graduates will receive a Master's examination certificate in German and, if requested, in English within two months of successfully completing the final assessment phase of the Master's degree programme. The examination certificate contains the overall grade classification, with the calculated overall numerical grade in parentheses, and contains the subject of the Master's thesis and the grade awarded for the thesis.

(2) The examination certificate will be signed by the Chair of the Examination Board. The certificate also bears the date of the final assessment or examination and the date on which it was signed.

(3) The certificate of graduation shall be issued to graduates within two months of successfully completing the Master's degree programme. The certificate of graduation shall be signed by the Chair of the Examination Board and by the Dean of the Faculty and shall bear the faculty's seal. The certificate shall bear the date of the final assessment or examination and the date on which it was signed.

(4) The Master's certificate of graduation is issued in English and may be issued in German on request. The certificate of graduation confers upon the holder the academic degree 'Master of Science' (M.Sc.).

(5) When graduates are awarded their examination certificates, they will also receive a diploma supplement and a transcript of their academic records.

## **V Final provisions**

### **Section 25**

#### **Commencement**

These regulations shall come into force on the day after they are announced in the Official Bulletin of the Institutions of Higher Education in Saarland (*Dienstblatt der Hochschulen des Saarlandes*).

Saarbrücken, 5 April 2022

President of Saarland University  
(Univ.-Prof. Dr. Manfred Schmitt)