

**Examination Regulations for the Master's programme Linguistic Data Science at the
Faculty of Philology of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum as of 2 September 2022**

On the basis of Section 2 (4) in conjunction with Section 64 (1) of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz - HG) of 16 September 2014 (GV. NRW. P. 547 Article 2 of the Act Amending the Higher Education Act on the Arts and Amending Other Provisions in Higher Education of 25 March 2021 ([GV. NRW. P. 331](#)), the Ruhr-Universität Bochum has issued the following examination regulations:

Overview of Contents

(1)	I.	General
(2)	§ 1	Scope and aim of the programme
(3)	§ 2	Academic degree
(4)	§ 3	Admission requirements
(5)	§ 4	Duration, structure of the programme, credit points and modules
(6)	§ 5	Course forms and compulsory attendance
(7)	§ 6	Examinations, forms of examination and plagiarism check
(8)	§ 7	Additional tests
(9)	§ 8	Registration and access to modules and examination achievements
(10)	§ 9	Assessment of modules and calculation of marks
(11)	§ 10	Passing and retaking examination achievements
(12)	§ 11	Compensation for disadvantages and statutory protection periods
(13)	§ 12	Failure to complete, withdrawal, deception, breach of regulations
(14)	§ 13	Crediting and recognition of periods of study, study achievement and examinations, placement in higher subject-related semesters
(15)	§ 14	Examination board
(16)	§ 15	Examiners and assessors
(17)	II.	Master's examination and Master's thesis
(18)	§ 16	Type and scope of the Master's examination
(19)	§ 17	Admission to the Master's thesis
(20)	§ 18	Master's thesis
(21)	§ 19	Acceptance and assessment of the Master's thesis
(22)	§ 20	Repetition of the Master's thesis
(23)	§ 21	Passing the Master's examination
(24)	III.	Final provisions

- (25) § 22 _____ Certificate, Diploma Supplement and Attestations
- (26) § 23 Invalidity of the Master's examination, withdrawal of the academic degree
- (27) § 24 _____ Inspection of the examination files
- (28) § 25 _____ Entry into force and publication

Annex: Curriculum

I. General

§ 1 Scope and aim of the programme

- (29) These examination regulations apply to the Master's programme Linguistic Data Science at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum.
- (30) With the successful completion of the Master's programme, a further degree qualifying the candidate for a professional vocation is thereby acquired. The research-oriented Master's programme aims to provide students with knowledge, competencies, skills and methods in the fields of Theoretical Linguistics, Linguistic Data Science and Computational Linguistics in such a way that they are enabled to carry out scientific work according to scientific principles, to critically classify scientific findings and to act responsibly. Responsible action includes, in particular, the consideration of questions of scientific ethics with a special focus on the handling of data, large amounts of data and evaluations. The aim of the programme is also to develop an individual's personality in a way that affords them the ability to think independently and take social responsibility. The teaching-learning processes enable students to study independently at an early stage, and to pursue individual development perspectives. The curriculum of the Linguistic Data Science programme and these examination regulations provide the framework for this personal profile formation during the programme.
- (31) The teaching language is English.

§ 2 Academic degree

Upon successful completion of the Master's programme, the Faculty of Philology awards the academic degree Master of Arts (M.A.)

§ 3 Admission requirements

- (1) The prerequisite for admission to the Master's programme in Linguistic Data Science is proof of a Bachelor's degree of at least six semesters in length with 180 Credit Points (see §4.3/3) in the subjects of Linguistics, Statistics, Computer Science or Mathematics, or a comparable programme.
- (2) A further admission requirement is proof of either
- a. at least 60 credit points in Linguistics and at least 15 further credit points in Computational Linguistics, Computer Science or Mathematics/Statistics.
 - b. or at least 15 credit points in Linguistics and at least 60 further credit points in Computational Linguistics, Computer Science or Mathematics/Statistics.
- (3) A further prerequisite is proof of knowledge of the English language at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference. This is also considered proven

- a. by a certificate of the general or subject-linked higher education entrance qualification from the area of application of the Basic Law (Grundgesetz der Bundesrepublik Deutschland),
 - b. through an internationally recognised language certificate (TOEFL, IELTS), or
 - c. a degree qualification pursuant to paragraph 1 in an English-language programme.
- (4) In addition, a presentation of the candidate's previous professional/university career totalling usually no more than two pages in English must be submitted, as well as proof of participation in the self-assessment provided online for this programme.
- (5) Admission to the Master's programme in Linguistic Data Science can be granted with conditions, provided that these do not exceed 30 CP. The requirements and the time of performance are determined by the examination board.
- (6) Students who have passed or definitively failed a Master's programme in Linguistic Data Science or a comparable programme at a higher education institution cannot be admitted to the Master's programme.
- (7) The admissions officer appointed by the examination board shall determine whether the admission requirements according to paragraphs 1 to 4 have been met.
- (8) Before commencing the programme, students must take part in an obligatory Master's advisory meeting in accordance with § 8 Para. 1.

§ 4 Duration, structure of the programme, credit points and modules

- (1) The general standard period of study, including the completion of the Master's thesis, is four semesters. The programme can be commenced in the winter semester.
- (2) The programme consists of compulsory modules and elective modules amounting to 100 CP, as well as the Master's thesis amounting to 20 CP.
- (3) CPs correspond to the credits of the "European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System" (ECTS).
- (4) The number of CPs to be acquired through a module results from the student workload, which is the amount of time students spend on the course and examinations, including preparation and follow-up work (self-study) and taking the examinations. One CP corresponds to the estimated workload of 30 hours. The semesters comprise 25, 35, 30 and 30 CP, the Master's programme, therefore, comprises a total of 120 CP.
- (5) Credit points are awarded on the basis of successfully and completely completed modules at the end of a module.
- (6) A module is a teaching and learning unit that is self-contained in terms of content and time and is successfully completed by passing the associated examination achievement (sometimes also known as "module achievement"). All modules can be found in the attached study plan and the module handbook in the current version.
- (7) Modules usually conclude with a single graded examination achievement. The Supplementary Module is completed by cumulative, ungraded study achievements. The respective type of examination (examination achievement or study achievement) can be found in the module handbook.
- (8) The study achievement and examinations completed in the individual modules are assessed in accordance with § 9.
- (9) The Supplementary Module consists of courses that can be chosen by the student. If a student is admitted to the programme with conditions, these can be fulfilled by courses that are also recognised in the Supplementary Module.

- (10) Selected courses can only be used to fulfil the requirements (see § 3 Para. 5) if the course has been accepted in advance by the academic advisor.

§ 5 Course forms and compulsory attendance

- (1) The following types of courses are offered, in particular, as part of the modularised course offering:
- Base courses
 - Exercises
 - Seminars
 - Project seminars
 - Colloquia
- In addition, further course types can be offered in the Supplementary Module (see Module Handbook).
- (2) In **base courses**, the fundamentals of a subject are presented in an exemplary and systematic form. They provide an overview of problem contexts, models and methods.
- (3) **Exercises** serve to deepen subject knowledge and acquire subject-specific skills and abilities using exemplary topics and tasks. They are characterised by a large proportion of the students' own work (alone or in groups) on tasks relating to the focused skills and abilities.
- (4) **Seminars** serve to deepen scientific knowledge and can be offered on any topic in the subject area. They teach scientific work within the thematic focus area of the seminar. They are characterised by a high level of interactivity between teachers and students.
- (5) **Project seminars** (especially **research projects**) are courses with a special organisational form whose aim is to learn how to develop and present research results within and outside the university.
- (6) **Colloquia** are used for the in-depth discussion of selected scientific questions and research projects by students on the basis of presentations by the students or the scientific staff and professors at the LDSL.
- (7) The obligation to attend regularly may be required in courses where the learning objective cannot be achieved without the active participation of the students. The compulsory attendance is shown in the module description in the module handbook in the current version.

§ 6 Examinations, forms of examination and plagiarism check

- (1) Examinations consist of graded or ungraded examination achievements during the programme according to the study plan, which is attached as an Annex to the examination regulations, as well as the graded written Master's thesis. It should be possible to complete these within the standard period of study. Students must be registered to take an examination.
- (2) Examinations taken in the Supplementary Module may be ungraded.
- (3) Examinations may take the form of written examinations, solving of exercises, presentations, seminar papers, term papers, project papers, portfolios, poster or project presentations and practical examinations, or a combination of these forms of examination. Upon application, the examination board may allow other, alternative examination formats. The final form of the examination in the case of alternative options and the permitted means are announced at the beginning of the semester in which the module takes place.
- (4) The type, form and scope of the examination achievements and study achievements, as well as permitted means, are specified in the module descriptions of the module handbook or are announced by the examiner no later than two weeks after the start of the course.

- (5) A **written examination** serves to show that tasks from the area of the module's courses can be worked on appropriately in a limited time and with limited means and that suitable solutions can be found. Examinations may be taken in electronic form and by electronic communication. The duration of an examination is determined by the examiner, taking into account subject content aspects and the CP planned for the module, and is between 60 and a maximum of 120 minutes. The examiners will announce any approved means at least four weeks before the examination. The duration of the evaluation procedure should not exceed eight weeks. The assessment should be available in good time before the re-sit date. Sufficient time must be allowed between the announcement of the examination results of the first examination date and the taking of the examinations on the second examination date. Data protection regulations must be observed. In the context of examinations, multiple choice tasks may also be set. Multiple choice is a format used in examinations where there is a choice of several pre-formulated answers to a question. The assessment criteria for *multiple choice* must be announced on the examination sheet and 14 days before the examination. Examinations must not consist exclusively of multiple choice tasks.
- (6) In an **oral examination**, the candidate must show that he or she has sufficient knowledge in the examination area, recognises contexts and is able to classify special questions in these contexts. Oral examinations are generally taken by at least two examiners or one examiner in the presence of an expert assessor. Oral examinations are taken as group examinations or as individual examinations. The oral examination shall last 15 to a maximum of 45 minutes per candidate. Examinations may take place online. The essential items and results of the examination shall be recorded in a set of examination minutes. Before the mark is set, the examiners discuss the mark. The assessor must be heard before the mark is determined. The candidate shall be informed of the mark of the examination immediately after the examination and the reasons for the mark shall be given. Students who wish to take the same examination in a later examination period may be admitted as listeners in accordance with the space available, provided the candidate does not object. The admission does not extend to the deliberation and announcement of the examination result.
- (7) **Seminar contributions** are performances on a given topic by a participant in the form of a presentation and, if applicable, an explained graphic presentation in front of the participants of the seminar, as well as, if applicable, a supplementary written paper and are evaluated by the seminar director. The length is determined by the subject of the paper, taking into account the CP provided for the module. The examination is completed when the student has given his or her own presentation and participated in the previously determined number of meetings for the discussion of the seminar papers. The examination is not passed if the student has not given the presentation or, if applicable, has not submitted the supplementary written work in due time, or has not attended the previously determined number of individual appointments, or has not or not successfully used the opportunity to make up the missed individual appointments.
- (8) Within the framework of a written **term paper**, a task from the area of the module's courses is worked on appropriately using the relevant literature and, if necessary, other suitable means and suitable solutions are found. The means will be announced together with the assignment. The scope is determined according to subject content aspects, taking into account the CP provided for the module.
- (9) A **project work assignment** represents the independent processing of a set topic. In this context, group performances can also be admitted by the instructor an individual assessment of the share of each group member is possible. The result to be achieved is to be defined by the course director at the beginning of the course and individually assessed at the end of the course.
- (10) **Colloquium presentations** are performances in which students present the contents and the most important results of a subject-related work (e.g. their final thesis) to their peers. A grade for the presentation usually also requires participation in the discussion of other students' presentations.

- (11) The requirements for a study achievement are lower than those for an examination achievement with regards to form and content. These can be, in particular: presentations, term papers, practical exercises, written or oral performance reviews, lectures or protocols. A study achievement can be graded or assessed as “passed” or “failed”. A prerequisite for participation in the examination achievement may be the successful completion of all the study achievement required in this module. Insofar as the form in which a piece of study achievement is to be completed for a module is not defined in the module descriptions of the module handbook, it will be announced by the lecturer at the beginning of each course.
- (12) In the case of elective courses taught in German, examinations may be conducted in English in individual cases by mutual agreement with the student and the examiners.
- (13) The software-supported review of written examinations, including Bachelor’s and Master’s theses, is regularly carried out if there is a suspicion of plagiarism. For this purpose, Master’s theses pursuant to § 19 Para. 1 are to be submitted in examinable electronic form. Other written examination papers (essays, term papers, etc.) must also be submitted in examinable electronic form at the request of the examiner.
- (14) The software-based examination is carried out by the examiner. Plagiarism is detected by the examination board. Students are only informed about the software-supported examination of written work in the case of suspected plagiarism, if plagiarism is detected.
- (15) A plagiarism check of written study achievements (essays, term papers, etc.) is carried out according to Paras. 10-11.

§ 7 Additional tests

- (1) The student may take examinations in modules other than those prescribed. No additional credit points can be acquired with these examinations.
- (2) The additional examinations are not included in the determination of the overall mark. The assessment of the examination achievements is included in the Transcript of Records at the request of the student.

§ 8 Registration and access to modules and examination achievements

- (1) Before the start of the first semester, a Master’s consultation session with the academic advisor is compulsory. During this, courses for the Supplementary Module can be specified, in particular, also in order to fulfil requirements according to § 3 Para. 5. Students are invited to this consultation session with the academic advisor after they have been accepted for the program. The consultation, which can be done in person or online, has to take place before enrollment. In the case of late enrolment, the consultation session with the academic advisor should take place as early as possible.
- (2) Anyone who is enrolled in the Linguistic Data Science programme and has not lost the examination entitlement in the Linguistic Data Science programme or a programme recognised as equivalent or has passed the examination may be admitted to participate in a module including the examination achievement.
- (3) Students must register to take a examination achievement. Registrations are made in the system for recording study and examination achievements of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum at the latest two weeks before the examination.
- (4) In modules in which a study achievement is a prerequisite for participation in the examination, registration for the examination must take place no later than three semesters after passing the study achievement. If a student fails to register by this time and does not prove that he or she is not responsible for the failure, the examination entitlement expires. If the module has not been definitively failed due to failure to register, the module and the associated study achievement can be repeated. The deadline pursuant to sentence 1 shall be extended

- a. for the care and upbringing of minor children within the meaning of § 25 Para. 5 of the Federal Training Assistance Act by three semesters per child,
 - b. for participation as an elected representative in bodies of the university, the student body, the student representative bodies of the student body or the student unions for a total of up to a maximum of four semesters,
 - c. for the office of Equal Opportunities Officer by up to a maximum of four semesters,
 - d. by the time of the effects of a disability or a serious illness that extend the period of study, and
 - e. by up to three semesters for the time during which students assume responsibility for close relatives with care and support needs.
- (5) As a rule, colloquium 2 in the module Research Project 2 requires the successful participation in colloquium 1. In individual cases, participation in colloquium 1 and colloquium 2 in the same semester is possible in consultation with the supervisors of both research projects in the research project modules.
- (6) A withdrawal from a examination achievement can be made at the latest 1 week before the start of the examination date without giving reasons.

§ 9 Assessment of modules and calculation of marks

- (1) The marks for the individual examination achievements are set by the respective examiners. The following marks are to be used for the assessment:
- | | | |
|-----|--------------|---|
| 1 = | very good | an outstanding performance; |
| 2 = | good | a performance that is significantly above the average requirements; |
| 3 = | satisfactory | a performance that meets average requirements; |
| 4 = | sufficient | a performance that still meets the requirements despite its shortcomings; |
| 5 = | insufficient | a performance that no longer meets the requirements due to significant defects. |

By decreasing or increasing the individual marks by 0.3, intermediate values can be formed for differentiated assessment. The marks 0.7; 4.3; 4.7 and 5.3 are excluded. Achievements that are not graded receive the rating “passed” or “failed”. An examination is passed if it has been assessed with a mark of 4.0 or better, in the case of an ungraded examination achievement with “passed”.

- (2) If an examination is to be assessed by several examiners, the mark is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the individual examination assessments. If the assessments differ by at least 2.0 or if one assessment is “not sufficient” but the other is “sufficient” or better, the examination board shall appoint a third examiner to assess the examination.

§ 10 Passing and retaking examination achievements

- (1) A module is passed when all achievements of the relevant module have been passed. Examination achievements that have not been passed or are deemed to have been failed may be repeated twice.
- (2) An examination is definitively failed if all three examination attempts have been assessed as “insufficient” or “failed”, or the candidate can no longer be admitted to an examination. Relegation shall then take place.
- (3) Repeat examinations in written or oral examinations for which there is no provision for compensation in the event of a definite failure shall be assessed by at least two examiners. Oral

re-examinations shall be taken by two examiners or by one examiner in the presence of an expert assessor.

§ 11 Compensation for disadvantages and statutory protection periods

- (1) The statutory maternity protection regulations and periods, the periods of parental leave and the periods of absence due to the care and upbringing of children within the meaning of Section 25 (5) of the Federal Training Assistance Act (Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz), as well as due to the care of the spouse, the registered partner or a relative in the direct line or first degree of affinity shall be taken into account.
- (2) If the student can credibly prove by means of a medical certificate that he or she is unable to complete an examination or study achievement in whole or in part in the intended form, duration or time limit due to a long-term or permanent physical or mental disability or chronic illness, the chairperson of the examination board shall determine the other form, duration or time limit in which the examination is to be completed. This also applies to the acquisition of a participation requirement. Furthermore, deviations may be provided for with regard to the use of auxiliary means or persons.

§ 12 Failure to complete, withdrawal, cheating, breach of regulations

- (1) An examination shall be deemed to have been assessed as “insufficient” (5.0) or “not passed” if the candidate fails to appear at an examination date without valid reasons, or if he or she withdraws from the examination after it has begun without valid reasons. The same applies if a written examination is not completed within the specified processing time.
- (2) The reasons asserted for the withdrawal or the failure to attend must be notified to the examination board in writing without delay and must be made credible. In case of illness of the candidate, a medical certificate and, in case of doubt, a certificate from a medical officer of the RUB is required. The illness of a child who is predominantly to be cared for by the candidate alone shall be deemed equivalent to the illness of the candidate. If the examination board recognises the reasons for the failure to complete, the examination in question will not count towards the maximum number of resits.
- (3) In the event of ex-matriculation, examinations registered prior to ex-matriculation must be taken, unless the registration has been revoked in accordance with paragraph 2 or there is a justified withdrawal or recognised failure recognised by the examination board; otherwise, the examinations are deemed to have been “failed” (mark 5.0).
- (4) In the case of written examinations – with the exception of examinations under supervision – the candidate must certify in text form that he or she has performed the examination without unauthorised outside assistance.
- (5) If the candidate attempts to influence the result of an examination or study achievement by cheating or using unauthorised means, the examination or study achievement in question is deemed to have been assessed as “insufficient” (5.0) or failed. The determination is made by the respective examiner or by the person responsible for supervision and is recorded in the records. The assessment is carried out by the examination board. In the case of multiple or other serious attempts at cheating, the candidate may be excluded from taking further examinations and ex-matriculated after a prior hearing. The imposition of a fine of up to € 50,000 is possible.
- (6) A candidate who disrupts the orderly conduct of the examination may be excluded from continuing the examination by the respective examiner or the invigilator, as a rule after a warning. In this case, the examination achievement in question is deemed to have been assessed as “insufficient” (5.0) or failed. The reasons for the exclusion shall be recorded in the candidate’s file.

- (7) The candidate shall be informed immediately in writing of any adverse decisions, the reasons for them and information on legal remedies.

§ 13 Crediting and recognition of periods of study, study achievement and examinations, placement in higher subject-related semesters

- (1) Examination results obtained in the Master's programme in Linguistic Data Science or in other programmes at other state or state-recognised higher education institutions, at state or state-recognised universities of cooperative education, in programmes at foreign state or state-recognised higher education institutions or in another programme at the same higher education institution, shall be recognised upon application, provided that there is no significant difference between the acquired competencies and the achievements that are being replaced; an examination of equivalence shall not take place. Recognition within the meaning of sentence 1 serves the purpose of continuing studies and taking examinations.
- (2) Significant differences exist, in particular, if the competencies acquired do not meet the requirements of the Master's programme Linguistic Data Science. This is not judged by a schematic comparison, but an overall consideration and assessment. For the recognition or crediting of periods of study, study achievement and examinations completed outside the area of application of the Basic Law, the equivalence agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the "Länder" (Federal States) in the Federal Republic of Germany and agreements within the framework of the higher education partnership shall be observed. Insofar as agreements and conventions of the Federal Republic of Germany with other states on equivalences in higher education (equivalence agreements) favour students of foreign states in derogation of Para. 1, the provisions of the equivalence agreements shall take precedence. In case of doubt, the International Office and the Central Office for Foreign Education can be consulted.
- (3) On application, other knowledge and qualifications acquired outside of higher education may be recognised to the extent of a maximum of 50 % of the credit points required for this programme, if this knowledge and these qualifications are equivalent in content and level to the examination achievements which it is intended to replace.
- (4) The examination board is responsible for credits or recognition according to Paras. 1 and 2. As a rule, a subject representative must be heard before determining whether there are significant differences. The student must submit the documents required for the credit. After submission of the complete documents, a decision, which must be accompanied by information on legal remedies, is usually issued within 6 weeks. If the recognition sought on the basis of an application within the meaning of Para. 1 is refused, the applicant may apply for a review of the decision by the rectorate, without prejudice to procedural deadlines.
- (5) If study and examination achievements are credited, the marks – insofar as the grading systems are comparable – are to be adopted and included in the calculation of the overall marks. In the case of incomparable grading systems, the remark "passed" is included. This credit will be marked on the transcript and in the Diploma Supplement.
- (6) If the requirements of Paras. 1 and 2 are met, there is a legal entitlement to credit or recognition.

§ 14 Examination board

- (1) For the organisation of examinations and the tasks assigned by these examination regulations, the Faculty of Philology shall form an examination board. The examination board consists of the chairperson, his/her deputy and three other members with voting rights. The chairperson, the deputy chairperson and one other member are elected from the group of professors, one member is elected from the group of academic staff and one member is elected from the group of students. Representatives may be elected for the members of the examination board. The term of office of

the members from the group of professors and from the group of scientific employees is three years, the term of office of the student members is one year. Re-election shall be permitted.

- (2) The examination board is an authority in the sense of administrative procedure and administrative process law.
- (3) The examination board shall ensure that the provisions of the examination regulations are complied with and shall ensure that the examinations are conducted properly. In particular, it is responsible for deciding on appeals against decisions taken in examination procedures and for ensuring that deadlines are met. In addition, the examination board shall report regularly, at least once a year, to the faculty on the development of examinations and study times. This report shall be published in an appropriate form. It provides suggestions for reforming the examination regulations and the study plan and discloses the distribution of marks and overall marks. The examination board may delegate the performance of its duties to the chairperson for all regular cases. This does not apply to decisions on appeals and the report to the faculty.
- (4) The examination board shall constitute a quorum if, in addition to the chairperson or his/her deputy, another voting professor or his/her deputy and at least one other voting member or his/her deputy are present. Any decision shall be made by simple majority. In the event of a tie, the chairperson shall have the casting vote. The student members of the examination board do not participate in the crediting of study and examination achievements, the setting of examination tasks and the appointment of examiners and assessors.
- (5) The members of the examination board have the right to attend the taking of the examinations.
- (6) The meetings of the examination board are not public. The members of the examination board and the representatives are subject to official secrecy requirements. If they are not in public service, they shall be sworn to secrecy by the chairperson of the examination board. Minutes shall be taken of the deliberations of the examination board.
- (7) The examination board may avail itself of the administrative assistance of the Examination Office in the performance of its duties.

§ 15 Examiners and assessors

- (1) The examination board appoints the examiners from among the persons authorised to examine, as well as the assessors. Only persons who have acquired at least the qualification corresponding to the respective examination subject may be appointed as examiners and assessors.
- (2) The examiners are independent in their examination activities.
- (3) The candidate may propose the examiner for the Master's thesis. The candidate's suggestions shall be taken into consideration as far as possible. However, the proposals do not establish any entitlement.
- (4) The chairperson of the examination board shall ensure that the names of the examiners are announced to the candidates in good time, at least two weeks before the date of the respective examination. Notice by posting is sufficient. The principles of data protection must be observed.
- (5) § 14, Para. 6, Sentences 2 and 3 shall apply accordingly to the examiners and assessors.

II. Master's examination and Master's thesis

§ 16 Type and scope of the Master's examination

The Master's examination consists of

- successfully completed modules according to the study plan in the Annex and
- the Master's thesis.

§ 17 Admission to the Master's thesis

- (1) A person who can be admitted to the Master's thesis
 - a. is enrolled in the Master's programme Linguistic Data Science at the RUB, or are admitted as a visiting student,
 - b. has registered for the Master's thesis,
 - c. is not in a similar examination procedure at another higher education institution, and has not definitively passed or failed a similar examination,
 - d. has already acquired 60 CP in modules according to the study plan in the Annex.
- (2) The application for admission must be submitted in writing to the chairperson of the examination board with the required evidence in accordance with Para. 1.
- (3) If the requirements in Paras. 1 and 2 are not fulfilled, no admission to the Master's thesis shall be granted.

§ 18 Master's thesis

- (1) The Master's thesis is a written examination paper. It should show that the candidate is able to work independently on a challenging problem using scientific methods within a given period of time. 20 CP are acquired by passing the Master's thesis.
- (2) As a rule, the Master's thesis should not exceed 60 pages (without cover sheet, indexes, Annexes and declaration of independent work).
- (3) The Master's thesis can be assigned and supervised by professors of the Linguistic Data Science Lab who are authorised to conduct examinations (members or associated members). The examination board decides on exceptions.
- (4) The student has the right to propose the topic and the supervision of the Master's thesis. The right to propose topics does not constitute a legal claim.
- (5) The Master's thesis topic is issued by the chairperson of the examination board. The date of issue shall be recorded. At the same time, a second examiner shall be appointed. A Master's thesis topic communicated by the examination board may not be changed in individual words or in the arrangement of words either by the student or by the supervisor of the thesis.
- (6) The time between the assignment of the topic and the submission of the thesis is four months after the assignment of the topic. The task and scope of the Master's thesis shall be limited in such a way that the deadline for completion of the Master's thesis can be met.
- (7) The topic can only be returned once and only within the first four weeks of the writing period. In the case of a repetition of the Master's thesis, the return of the topic is only permitted if the candidate did not make use of this option at the first attempt. In individual cases, the examination board may, upon justified application by the candidate, exceptionally extend the writing period by a grace period of usually up to eight weeks. In case of illness, the deadline for submission may be extended. This requires the submission of a medical certificate, in cases of doubt a certificate from a medical officer of the RUB. The extension corresponds to the sick leave period. If the duration of illness exceeds six weeks, the candidate will be given a new topic.
- (8) The Master's thesis must be written in English.

§ 19 Acceptance and assessment of the Master's thesis

- (1) The Master's thesis must be submitted to the Examinations Office in due time in single copy, and in examinable electronic form. The date of submission shall be recorded. When handing in the Master's thesis, the candidate must certify in writing that he or she has written his or her thesis

independently, and has not used any sources or means other than those indicated and has marked citations. If the Master's thesis is not handed in on time, it is deemed to have been assessed as "insufficient" (5.0).

- (2) The Master's thesis is to be assessed independently by two examiners. One of the examiners shall be the person responsible for the topic and supervision of the Master's thesis. The second person authorised to examine is appointed by the chairperson of the examination board. Each examiner awards one mark. The overall assessment of the Master's thesis is formed from the arithmetic mean of the individual assessments. If there is a difference of at least 2.0, or if one mark is "not sufficient" but the other is "sufficient" or better, the examination board shall appoint a third examining person from among the persons authorised to examine, whereby the mark of the Master's thesis shall be formed from the arithmetic mean of the three marks. However, the Master's thesis can only be assessed as "sufficient" or better if at least two marks are "sufficient" or better, and the average is 4.0 or better. Otherwise, the Master's thesis is assessed as "not sufficient". The evaluation of the first and second authorised examiners should be available after six weeks. The candidate shall be notified of the assessment of the Master's thesis no later than three months after submission.

§ 20 Repetition of the Master's thesis

- (1) The Master's thesis can be repeated once.
- (2) The Master's thesis is deemed to be definitively failed if the thesis was assessed with "not sufficient" (5.0) upon the second attempt, or is deemed to have been assessed with "not sufficient" (5.0).
- (3) The chairperson of the examination board shall notify the candidate in writing of a failed Master's thesis, which shall also provide information on whether and within what period the failed Master's thesis can be repeated. This notification must be accompanied by information on legal remedies.

§ 21 Passing the Master's examination

- (1) The Master's examination is passed if all required modules have been successfully completed and the Master's thesis is at least "sufficient" (4.0) and 120 CP have been achieved.
- (2) The Master's programme is completed when the Master's examination is passed.
- (3) The overall mark of the Master's examination is calculated as the weighted average of all graded examination achievements, including the Master's thesis, according to the calculation rules in the Annex.
- (4) Instead of the overall mark of "very good", the mark "with distinction" is awarded if the Master's thesis is assessed with 1.0 and the overall mark is not worse than 1.3.
- (5) The Master's examination is definitively failed if modules are definitively failed or if the Master's thesis was assessed with "not sufficient" (5.0) or is deemed to have been assessed with "not sufficient" (5.0) in the second attempt. A decision is issued on the failed Master's examination, which must be accompanied by information on legal remedies.

III. Final provisions

§ 22 Certificate, Diploma Supplement and Attestations

- (1) The graduate shall receive a certificate in German and a copy in English immediately after passing the Master's examination, at the latest within 4 weeks. The overall mark, the topic and the mark of the final thesis are included in the transcript. The certificate shall bear the date of the day on

which the last examination achievement was achieved. In the case of the thesis, this is the date of submission. The certificate shall be signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Philology.

- (2) At the same time as the Master's examination certificate, the graduate receives the Master's certificate in German and a copy in English with the date of the certificate. This certifies the award of the Master's degree. The Master's certificate is signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Philology and bears the seal of the Faculty of Philology.
- (3) Together with the certificate, the graduate will also receive a Diploma Supplement written in German and English, including a Transcript of Records. The Diploma Supplement provides information on the individual subject profile of the completed programme. The Diploma Supplement also shows an ECTS mark for the final mark.
- (4) Students who leave the university without a degree will receive a document on the total study and examination achievements (Transcript of Records) upon application.
- (5) At the candidate's request, additional achievements that have not been included in the module and overall mark are shown on the Transcript of Records.

§ 23 Invalidity of the Master's examination, withdrawal of the academic degree

- (1) If the candidate has cheated in an examination, and this fact only becomes known after the certificate has been issued, the examination board may subsequently correct the marks for those examination achievements in the performance of which the candidate cheated and declare the examination failed in whole or in part.
- (2) If the requirements for admission to an examination were not fulfilled without the candidate intending to deceive, and if this fact only becomes known after the certificate has been issued, this defect shall be remedied by passing the examination. If the candidate has intentionally obtained admission unlawfully, the examination board shall decide on the legal consequences, taking into account the Administrative Procedure Act for the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.
- (3) Before a decision is taken, the person concerned shall be given the opportunity to state his or her case.
- (4) The incorrect examination certificate shall be withdrawn and, if necessary, a new one issued. A decision in accordance with Para. 1 and Para. 2 Sentence 2 is only permissible within five years of the date on which the degree was conferred. The period between the initiation and termination of administrative procedures to examine the withdrawal of the degree conferral shall not be included in the five-year period under Sentence 2.
- (5) If the examination as a whole has been declared failed, the academic degree shall be withdrawn by the faculty and the certificate confiscated.

§ 24 Inspection of the examination files

- (1) The candidate shall be granted access to the examination documents on request for up to one year after the conclusion of the examination procedure. Time limits within the framework of an opposition procedure remain unaffected by this.
- (2) The application must be submitted to the chairperson of the examination board. The chairperson shall determine the place and time of the inspection in agreement with the person being examined.

§ 25 Entry into force and publication

These examination regulations come into force on the day after their publication in the Official Announcements of the RUB and apply to all students who are enrolled in the programme at the time of their coming into force.

Issued on the basis of the resolution of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philology of

Bochum, 2 September 2022

The Rector
of the Ruhr University Bochum

University Professor Dr Dr h.c. Martin Paul

Annex A: Examination and study plan

Abbreviation	Module	Exam	Recommended semester for the module
BM CL	Base Module Computational Linguistics	Written examination	1-2
BM LDS	Base Module Linguistic Data Science	Written examination	1-2
CM 1	Core Module 1	Examination in a seminar (seminar paper, written examination or term paper)	2-3
CM 2	Core Module 2	Examination in a seminar (seminar paper, written examination or term paper)	3
RM 1	Research Module 1	Colloquium presentation	2-3
RM 2	Research Module 2	Colloquium presentation	3-4
MA	Master's thesis	Master's thesis	4
SM	Supplementary Module	Various courses from the UA Ruhr teaching programme	1-2

	Semester	Semester	Semester	Semester
CP	25 CP	35 CP	30 CP	30 CP
1	Computational Linguistics 10 CP		Core Module 2 9 CP	Master's thesis 20 CP
2				
3				
4	Introduction to CL (with Python)	Computational Linguistics and AI	Advanced Course	
5	Linguistic Data Science 10 CP		Advanced Course	
6				
7				
8	Introduction to Linguistic Models (with R)	Linguistic Data Science	Advanced Course	
9	Supplementary Module 20 CP		Core Module 1 9 CP	
10				
11				
12				
13	Advanced Course	Advanced Course		
14	Advanced Course	Advanced Course		
15	Supplementary Module 20 CP		Research Module 2 21 CP	
16				
17				
18				
19	Research Module 1 21 CP		Research Project 2	
20				
21				
22				
23	Preparatory Seminar Project Management	Research Project 2		
24	Research Project 1	Project Closing Seminar		
25	Research Project 1	Project Closing Seminar		
26	Research Project 1	Project Closing Seminar		
27	Research Project 1	Project Closing Seminar		
28	Research Project 1	Project Closing Seminar		
29	Research Project 1	Project Closing Seminar		

30
31

Colloquium 1	
--------------	--

Annex B: Calculation of the overall mark

Module	CP	Graded final examination	Factor
Base Module Linguistic Data Science	10	Written examination	5 %
Base Module Computational Linguistics	10	Written examination	5 %
Core Module 1	9	Written examination, term paper or seminar paper	12.5 %
Core Module 2	9	Written examination, term paper or seminar paper	12.5 %
Research Module 1	21	Lecture in colloquium 1	17.5 %
Research Module 2	21	Lecture in colloquium 2	17.5 %
Master's thesis	20	Master's thesis	30 %