

DIR Examination Regulations

DIR Examination Regulations of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business

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Please note: This translation is provided **for your information only**. In case of discrepancy, the German original shall prevail.

Examination Regulations of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business

Pursuant to § 25 (1) item 10a in conjunction with § 51 (2) item 25 of the Universities Act 2002 (*Universitätsgesetz* 2002), Federal Law Gazette (*Bundesgesetzblatt*, BGBl.) I no. 120/2002, last amended by the federal act promulgated in Federal Law Gazette I no. 50/2024, the following regulation is passed:

§ 1 Definitions

- (1) The curricula for programs at WU Vienna University of Economics and Business consist of the curriculum program structures and these Examination Regulations.
- (2) Within the scope of application of these Examination Regulations, the following definitions shall apply:
 1. Course examinations (*Lehrveranstaltungsprüfung*, LVP) are examinations held at the end of lecture-oriented courses to assess knowledge and skills taught in a particular course. In LVP-type courses, student performance is evaluated exclusively on the basis of a final course examination. Attendance is not required in the classes held in preparation for the course examination. Passing grades are "excellent" (1), "good" (2), "satisfactory" (3), and "sufficient" (4); the failing grade is "fail" (5).
 2. Courses with continuous assessment of student performance (*prüfungsimmanent*, PI) are courses in which attendance is mandatory and student performance is evaluated on the basis of at least three performance components. Passing grades are "excellent" (1), "good" (2), "satisfactory" (3), and "sufficient" (4); the failing grade is "fail" (5).
 3. Lectures with interactive elements (*Vorlesungsübung*, VUE) are courses with lower attendance requirements; student performance is evaluated on the basis of at least two performance components. Passing grades are "excellent" (1), "good" (2), "satisfactory" (3), and "sufficient" (4); the failing grade is "fail" (5).
 4. Research seminars (*Forschungsseminar*, FS) are coaching-type courses with an increased level of independent work required of students. The number of face-to-face contact hours in class can be reduced with approval from the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs, and required levels of student attendance can also be reduced. Student performance is evaluated on the basis of at least two performance components. Passing grades are "excellent" (1), "good" (2), "satisfactory" (3), and "sufficient" (4); the failing grade is "fail" (5).
 5. Subject examinations (*Fachprüfung*, FP) are examinations held to assess knowledge and skills acquired in at least two preparatory courses.
 - a. Subject examinations can be held in writing (written subject examination/*Fachprüfung schriftlich*, FPS) or orally (oral subject examination/*Fachprüfung mündlich*, FPM). If a subject requires both a written and an oral subject examination, the successful completion of the written subject examination is the prerequisite for admission to the oral subject examination. Passing grades on subject exams are "excellent" (1), "good" (2), "satisfactory" (3), and "sufficient" (4); the failing grade is "fail" (5).
 - b. Details of subject examinations are specified in the relevant curricula.
 6. Module examinations (*Modulprüfung*, MP) are examinations held to assess knowledge and skills acquired in several courses.

- a. Module examinations consist of preparatory courses with reduced attendance requirements and a written or oral exam. Successful participation in the preparation courses is a prerequisite for taking the module exam. Passing grades on module exams are "excellent" (1), "good" (2), "satisfactory" (3), and "sufficient" (4); the failing grade is "fail" (5).
 - b. The details of module examinations are specified in the relevant curricula.
7. Workshop-type courses (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft, AG*) are courses with required attendance in which topics are worked on cooperatively. Performance components can be required, and courses are graded on a pass/fail basis.
 8. Revision courses (*Repetitorien, RE*) are extracurricular courses intended to help students improve their grasp of materials taught in courses or included on examinations in regular degree programs. These courses have no attendance requirements and are not graded.
 9. Within the meaning of the 1952 act on the conferral of a doctoral degree under the auspices of the President of the Federal Republic of Austria (*Bundesgesetz vom 5. März 1952 über die Verleihung des Doktorates unter den Auspizien des Bundespräsidenten*), subjects are considered to be thematic units the contents and methodology of which are normally imparted through a number of thematically related courses and examinations.

§ 2 Examination dates

- (1) Examination dates shall mean periods of time during which students shall have the possibility to take exams.
- (2) Examination dates shall be scheduled in a manner which allows students to complete their studies within the time frame specified in the curricula. In any event, examination dates shall be scheduled and announced at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of each semester. Examinations may also be held during university holidays and breaks.
- (3) Subject to the frequency of examinations, the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs shall be entitled to permit direct, one-on-one scheduling of examination dates between students and examiners.
- (4) One alternative date must be offered for each performance component in a course upon which successful completion of the course depends. A student is eligible to repeat the component on this alternative date if either of the following applies:
 1. The student missed the performance component for important reasons within the meaning of § 3 (7)
 2. The student received a failing grade on the respective performance component in a lecture with interactive elements (VUE) and achieved at least 10% of the maximum achievable points for this component

§ 3 Registration for examinations

- (1) Students shall be entitled to register for examinations during a registration period of at least one week. The registration shall be accepted if the student furnishes proof that they meet the registration requirements specified in the curriculum.
- (2) Students shall be entitled to make the following requests when registering:
 1. Choice of examiner
 2. Examination by a method other than the method of examination specified in the program structure
- (3) Requests made by students with regard to the examiner shall be taken into account, if possible. In the case of a second repeat examination, requests for a specific examiner from the WU faculty shall be complied with in any case. The request for approval of an alternative examination method shall be complied with if the student furnishes proof of a disability which makes the student unable to take the examination in the method prescribed, and if the contents and requirements of the examination are not impaired by the alternative method.
- (4) If a request for an alternative examination method or a request for an examination by a panel of examiners in the third or subsequent repeat examination is not complied with, the representative for study regulations and academic legislation shall issue an official notification (*Bescheid*) denying the request if the student files a written application, stating reasons, for the issuance of an official notification. The regulations for examinations by a panel of examiners shall not apply to courses. Translator's note: PI, VUE, FS, and AG course types
- (5) Students shall be informed of the allocation of examiners or subject coordinators and of the examination dates no later than three weeks before the examination is held. It is possible to appoint a substitute in the event that an examiner is incapacitated or otherwise unable to hold the exam.
- (6) Students shall be entitled to electronically cancel their registration for course examinations during the entire registration period. If students do not cancel their registration within said period, they shall be banned from registering for and taking the examination concerned for a period of ten weeks of the date of the examination which was not taken in spite of the registration. This ban shall not count towards the number of times the student is permitted to attempt the examination.
- (7) On important grounds, the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs shall lift the ban. The important grounds making the student unable to attend the examination (e.g. accident or illness, confirmed by a medical certificate) shall be evidenced in writing and submitted before commencement of the next registration period.
- (8) In the case of subject and module exams, students shall be entitled to cancel their registration in writing by notifying the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs no later than one week before the date of the examination.

- (9) If a student fails to attend the first class meeting of a course, the course instructor is entitled to cancel the student's registration for the course. Course instructors may subsequently add other students to the course at their discretion.

§ 4 Examination panels

- (1) The Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs shall appoint examination panels for examinations by a panel pursuant to § 32 of the By-Laws of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business in conjunction with § 77 (3) of the Universities Act 2002.
- (2) A panel shall consist of at least three WU faculty members from the subject in which the examination is to be taken or a related subject. At least one member of the panel must have a *venia docendi* (habilitation) in the subject in which the examination is to be taken, the remaining members must have at least completed a diploma program or a master's degree. The Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs shall appoint one member of the panel as the chairperson.
- (3) The examination panel shall deliberate and vote on the result of an examination by the panel in a non-public meeting. Resolutions by the panel shall be passed by a majority of votes; the chairperson shall have the same voting right as the other members of the panel but shall vote last.
- (4) If the examination panel does not reach an agreement on the grade to be awarded in the examination, the grades suggested by the members shall be added up, the result of the addition divided by the number of members, and the result rounded to a whole number. If the value is higher than .5, the result must be rounded up.
- (5) The Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs shall chair the panel of examiners in the last permissible repeat examination of the last examination of the degree program. Any request by the student to include an examiner teaching at another Austrian university shall be complied with, subject to feasibility.

§ 5 Conduct of examinations

- (1) Examinations shall serve to give students the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired. Content and scope of the subjects taught in the respective courses are to be taken into account.
- (2) Once a student has accepted receipt of the examination questions, the examination shall count as an examination attempt.
- (3) The details of the examination report required to issue certificates shall be forwarded to the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs without delay.
- (4) The student shall be informed of the result of an oral examination immediately after the examination. If the student has failed the examination, reasons for the failure shall be stated.

- (5) If a student leaves the examination room without consulting the examination staff or fails to hand in their examination papers, the examination shall not be graded and shall be marked as null and void. In this case, the examination shall count as an examination attempt. § 79 (1) of the Universities Act 2002 (*Universitätsgesetz*) applies analogously.
- (6) The Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs shall be entitled to specify details regarding the administration of examinations in a directive. In the event of examinations held in an electronic format on WU premises where students have to complete the exam on their own personal electronic devices, the examiner is entitled to mandate appropriate technical and organizational measures to ensure that the students complete their exams independently.
- (7) If the curriculum provides for a choice between examinations, the student's choice shall be deemed final at the time of the fifth examination attempt. If the student receives a failing grade on this attempt, he or she will be unenrolled from all degree programs that require the examination in question.
- (8) If a student uses unauthorized aids in exams or when completing performance components of courses, or if a student attempts to cheat, the exam or the entire course shall not be graded, marked with an appropriate note, and be counted as a lost examination attempt. All participating students shall be excluded from re-registering for and attempting to take all exams and/or courses in the subject concerned for a period of four months.
- (9) Within two weeks after the exam or course has been marked with a note pursuant to item 8 above, the student may file a request for the cheating attempt to be confirmed, the number of remaining examination attempts to be recalculated, and the four-month exclusion to be put in effect.

§ 6 Written online exams

- (1) It is not permitted to make visual, audio, and screen recordings of online exams. For a course examination (LVP), subject examination (FP), module examination (MP), and for course performance components that are decisive for a passing grade, the examiner may decide to use real-time electronic exam supervision and video, audio, and screen recording of the written online exam to ensure that students complete their exams independently within the meaning of § 76a (2) of the Universities Act 2002, in addition to the other examination regulations that apply.
- (2) Automated analyses of these recordings are not permitted. Only the personnel entrusted with exam supervision and the support and system administration staff have access to the recordings. The recordings must be deleted when the grades are announced.
- (3) If the exam supervision staff suspects that there has been an instance of cheating, the staff of the office responsible for study regulations shall also be granted access to the exam recordings for the purpose of investigating the facts of the case. By derogation from item 2 above, in cases where students are suspected of cheating, the recordings shall only be deleted once the proceedings for investigating the suspected instance of cheating have been concluded.

- (4) Upon request, the student shall be granted access to the exam recordings, provided that they have not yet been deleted pursuant to item 2 above.
- (5) The Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs is entitled to issue a directive containing more detailed provisions on the conduct of online examinations, in particular with regard to establishing the identity of the students, procedures for dealing with technical problems, and the rules regarding access to the exam recordings.

§ 7 Assessment of master's theses and dissertations

- (1) Apart from grading a master's thesis, the thesis supervisor shall write an appraisal of the thesis and submit it to the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs together with the grade. § 33 (4) of the By-Laws shall also apply to such appraisals.
- (2) Apart from grading a dissertation, both examiners shall write an appraisal of the thesis and submit it to the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs together with the grade. § 34 (2) to (4) of the By-Laws shall also apply to such appraisals.
- (3) For each dissertation, an abstract shall be written in German and English and incorporated into the thesis. If the text of the thesis is neither in German nor in English, the abstract shall be written in the language of the thesis and in German. After the thesis has been assessed, the student shall submit the abstract in electronic form to the WU University Library.

§ 8 Bachelor's thesis

- (1) Members of the academic staff shall be entitled to supervise and assess bachelor's theses if they have completed at least a doctoral/PhD program. Other staff who have completed a doctoral/PhD program, in particular adjunct professors, professors emeriti/ae, and retired full professors shall be entitled to supervise and assess bachelor's theses subject to the approval of the head of the academic unit dealing with the subject in which the bachelor's thesis is written. Students are entitled to select their supervisors, as far as possible.
- (2) The Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs is entitled to ask a person or persons with a *venia docendi* (habilitation) or equivalent academic qualification from a recognized university in Austria or abroad, or from an equivalent post-secondary educational institution in Austria or abroad, to supervise and assess bachelor's theses.
- (3) If a bachelor's thesis receives a failing grade (5), the student shall choose a new topic in consultation with the academic director of the respective bachelor's degree program.

§ 9 Grading subjects

- (1) Examinations consisting of several subjects or parts shall be assessed as passed only if each subject or part has been assessed as passed.
- (2) If a subject consists of several partial examinations, the subject shall be assessed as follows:
 1. The grade of each partial examination being part of the subject shall be multiplied by the number of ECTS credits of the respective course
 2. The values calculated in accordance with item 1 shall be added up
 3. The result of the addition shall be divided by the total number of ECTS credits of the courses
 4. If required, the result of the division shall be rounded to a whole-number grade; a result in which the decimal is higher than .5 shall be rounded to the next higher whole number

§ 10 Grading courses

- (1) Before the start of each semester, course instructors shall indicate in the course syllabi the prerequisites for each course, the types of performance components required, and how these performance components are weighted in the calculation of the final grade (in percent), and the assessment criteria, including any authorized aids. The level of attendance specified in the syllabus shall be required for the successful completion of the respective course, but it shall not count as a performance component.
- (2) In lectures with interactive elements and research seminars, a passing grade can depend on one individual performance component.
- (3) If a student fails to complete a performance component, subject to the provisions in § 2 (4), this performance component shall be taken into account and given zero points. If a student completes and is graded on a performance component but does not fulfill the attendance requirement specified in the syllabus, he or she shall receive a failing grade (5).
- (4) Students who receive a failing grade shall have to repeat the entire course. Any completed performance components shall not be carried over to the next semester. In case a student does not complete any of the required performance components, their registration for the course may be canceled and the course shall not be graded.
- (5) Each individual performance component of a course shall be graded immediately, at the latest within four weeks. The final grades for the entire course shall be awarded within four weeks of the last class unit or completion of the last performance component.

§ 11 Effective date

- (1) These regulations shall enter into effect at the beginning of the semester following their promulgation in the WU Bulletin (*Mitteilungsblatt*).
- (2) Amendments to these regulations pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated March 16, 2006, approved by the Senate on March 22, 2006, shall enter into effect on the day following their announcement in the WU Bulletin.
- (3) Amendments to these regulations pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated June 20, 2006, approved by the Senate on June 21, 2006, shall enter into effect on the day following their announcement in the WU Bulletin.
- (4) Amendments to these regulations pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated June 21, 2007, approved by the Senate on June 27, 2007, shall enter into effect on the day following their announcement in the WU Bulletin.
- (5) Amendments to these regulations pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated April 17, 2008, approved by the Senate on April 23, 2008, shall enter into effect on the day following their announcement in the WU Bulletin.
- (6) Amendments to these regulations pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated November 20, 2012, approved by the Senate on December 12, 2012, shall enter into effect on October 1, 2013.
- (7) Amendments to these regulations pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated June 10, 2014, approved by the Senate on June 25, 2014, shall enter into effect on October 1, 2014.
- (8) Amendments to these regulations pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated November 18, 2014, approved by the Senate on December 3, 2014, shall enter into effect on October 1, 2015.
- (9) Amendments to these regulations pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated May 31, 2016, approved by the Senate on June 15, 2016, shall enter into effect on October 1, 2016.
- (10) Amendments to these regulations pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated December 5, 2017, approved by the Senate on December 13, 2017, shall enter into effect on October 1, 2018.
- (11) Amendments to these regulations as published in WU Bulletin no. 41, dated June 25, 2020, shall enter into force on October 1, 2020.
- (12) Amendments to these regulations as published in WU Bulletin no. 19, dated January 27, 2021, shall enter into force on October 1, 2021.
- (13) Amendments to these regulations as published in WU Bulletin no. 44, dated June 30, 2022, shall enter into force on October 1, 2022.
- (14) Amendments to these regulations as published in WU Bulletin no. 40, dated June 26, 2024, shall enter into force on October 1, 2024.

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Contact for content-related questions and practical implementation	Gnadlinger, Lukas / Study Regulations & Credit Transfer

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