



# Translation

Examination Regulations  
for the Consecutive Master's Degree Program

**“Biblical Studies”**

at the Faculty Protestant Theology  
in cooperation with the Center for Religion and Society (ZERG)  
of the University of Bonn

This document is an official translation of the Examinations  
Regulations published in Amtl. Bek. der Universität Bonn,  
53. Jg., Nr. 28, 26. Juni 2023.

Please note that only the original German version is legally  
binding.

**Examination Regulations  
for the Consecutive Master's Degree Program**

**Biblical Studies**

**of the Faculty of Protestant Theology  
in cooperation with the Center for Religion and Society (ZERG)  
of the University of Bonn**

**dated June 15, 2023**

By virtue of § 2, para. 4 and § 64 para. 1 of the NRW Higher Education Act (*Gesetz über die Hochschulen des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Hochschulgesetz, HG*) of September 16, 2014 (Legal and Regulatory Gazette of North Rhine-Westphalia, p. 547) as last amended by Art. 1 of the Act Concerning Membership of the University Clinics in the State Employers' Association (*Gesetz betreffend die Mitgliedschaft der Universitätskliniken im Arbeitgeberverband des Landes*) of June 30, 2022 (Legal and Regulatory Gazette of North Rhine-Westphalia, p. 780b), the Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Bonn has issued the following examination regulations:

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Part 1

Scope

**§ 1**

**Scope**

Students who commence their studies within the consecutive master's degree program Biblical Studies at the University of Bonn after entry into force of these Examination Regulations are subject to these Examination Regulations.

Part 2

Program objective, degree and standard period of study

**§ 2**

**Objective of the degree program and purpose of the examination**

(1) The consecutive master's degree program Biblical Studies offered by the Faculty of Protestant Theology in cooperation with the Center for Religion and Society (ZERG) of the University of Bonn is interdisciplinary, international and research-oriented.

(2) Students in this master's degree program are to acquire the necessary scientific knowledge, skills and methods as well as relevant key qualifications for an occupation in the field, enabling them to conduct sound research, to critically assess and practically apply research findings and methods as well as to act responsibly. This includes giving due regard to changes and requirements in the working world and, if applicable, in cross-disciplinary references. The program objectives mainly focus on

- building expert knowledge regarding current research by expanding the students' basic knowledge;
- building methodical and analytical competences, enabling students to expand their research findings on their own authority, with a strong emphasis on research methods and strategies.

(3) Students are to learn how to approach complex problems and work on their solution beyond the existing scope of knowledge, using research methods. The interdisciplinary nature of the master's degree program is to enable students to capture cross-disciplinary correlations as well as autonomously apply research methods and findings.

(4) The master's examination shall lead to conferral of a master's degree in Biblical Studies, qualifying the holder for positions demanding extensive skills in this field.

**§ 3**

**Academic degree**

Candidates who successfully complete the master's examination for the Biblical Studies degree program shall be awarded a Master of Arts (MA) degree by the Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Bonn.

**§ 4**

**Standard period of study, ECTS credit point system, range of courses, program structure and language of instruction/examinations**

(1) The standard period of study, including the master's thesis, is two semesters (60 ECTS CP) when pursuing the degree program full-time.

(2) The contents of the degree program are selected and limited in a manner that the master's examination can be completed within the standard period of study. They are organized in modules that, as a rule, consist of courses with a thematic, methodical or systematic connection.

- (3) As a rule, each module is completed by passing a module examination, awarding credit points (CP) in accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). One ECTS credit point is equivalent to a calculated student workload in contact hours and self-learning of 30 hours.
- (4) The degree program includes 15 ECTS CP in compulsory modules, 24 ECTS CP in subject-specific elective modules, 6 ECTS CP in cross-disciplinary elective modules and 15 ECTS CP for the master's thesis. Details on modules, admission to courses and the amount of ECTS credit points per module are set forth in the module structure (Annex 1).
- (5) Students receive a curriculum as recommendation on how to structure their course of studies. Students may receive an individual study schedule upon request.
- (6) As a rule, the language of instruction and examinations is English. The examination board may make exceptions for individual elective modules and shall announce them in due time before the beginning of the semester pursuant to § 8, para. 7.
- (7) The degree program starts in the winter semester of each year.

### Part 3

#### Admission requirements and recognition of academic achievements

### § 5

#### **Degree program admission requirements**

- (1) The consecutive master's degree program Biblical Studies is open to applications from graduates from a university undergraduate degree program in which 240 ECTS CP were acquired, including at least 80 ECTS CP in old Catholic theology, Protestant theology, Catholic theology (in each case also as a subject in a teaching degree program), religious studies or a related field.
- (2) The university degree in paragraph 1 must have been completed with a grade of at least 3.0.
- (3) The university degree in para. 1 must provide proof of the following qualifications:
  - Work on central source texts of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament in their original languages in one seminar course for each and
  - Proof of the corresponding language skills (completed language courses in Biblical Hebrew and New Testament Greek)
- (4) English skills at level B2 or higher according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) are a prerequisite and are to be proved by submitting a recognized language certificate (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS) or equivalent proof.
- (5) Foreign students who are not given equivalent status to Germans by or based on international treaties and do not have German university entrance qualifications must provide proof that they have passed the aptitude test for university studies (in accordance with Annex 3).
- (6) This does not affect admission restrictions due to capacity limits (numerus clausus).
- (7) Students who do not satisfy the enrollment conditions in paras. 1 to 3 may already enroll if:
  1. At the time they apply for the master's degree program, they have already acquired 180 ECTS CP in the university undergraduate degree program specified in paragraph 1 and have received an average grade of no worse than 2.7 for the examinations completed up to that point in time based on an interim certificate, and

2. At the time they enroll, they provide proof they have registered for all the examinations required to complete the university undergraduate degree program specified in paragraph 1. Proof that all the enrollment conditions have been satisfied must be submitted when applying for admission to the master's examination procedure in accordance with § 11, para. 1. If it is not submitted to the examination board within six months after the date of enrollment, enrollment will be revoked with effect for the future.

## § 6

### **Recognition of and granting credit for academic achievements**

- (1) Academic achievements in degree programs at other public or officially recognized universities, at public or officially recognized vocational academies, in degree programs at foreign public or officially recognized universities, or in another degree program at the University of Bonn will be recognized if the acquired skills are deemed equivalent to those that would have been acquired at the University of Bonn; an equivalency assessment is not performed. The examination board assigns credit points for these achievements to the corresponding modules defined in the curriculum. Enrollment may be denied to applicants who failed the final attempt at an examination that cannot be compensated for in a degree program with substantial similarities in content with the consecutive master's degree program Biblical Studies.
- (2) The question of recognition shall be reviewed with special regard to the significance of differences. In order to determine whether significant differences do or do not exist, the topic, scope and requirements of the academic achievement to be recognized is compared to the same aspects of the academic achievement that the former is to replace. This shall not be done by schematic comparison but rather in the form of an overall review and evaluation. A difference in the amount of awarded ECTS credit points alone does not constitute significant difference. The aforementioned regulations apply analogously to academic achievements in degree programs designed for continued education. Academic achievements are recognized to their full extent if significant difference cannot be determined. If the reviewers, in accordance with the principles described above, find that a certain academic achievement can only be recognized in part, credit points shall partially be assigned to the respective module. The respective module shall only be considered passed when all missing coursework and/or examinations are completed; only then, ECTS credit points shall be awarded to the extent stipulated in these Regulations. Scope and nature of coursework and/or examinations to be completed are at the discretion of the examination board. Equivalence agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Rectors' Conference as well as agreements under university partnerships shall be observed.
- (3) In accordance with § 8, para. 4, sentence 2, the examination board has authority over the processes that underlie recognition of or granting credit for academic achievements. The examination board decides which degree programs are related to or show substantial similarities in content with the master's degree program Biblical Studies. Representatives of the relevant departments shall be consulted when reviewing the significance of differences. In case of doubts regarding whether academic achievements completed abroad should be recognized, the Central Office for Foreign Education may be consulted. Students shall be notified within twelve weeks of whether an academic achievement is recognized, including information on legal remedies available. In case an achievement is not or only partially recognized, the examination board shall provide the reasons for its decision, thus bearing the burden of proof. If the examination board denies recognition, students may apply for an internal audit of the decision to be conducted by the Rectorate.
- (4) If examinations are recognized, the same grades—provided grading systems are comparable—shall be added to the student's transcript of records and, weighted with the ECTS credit points of the module to which credit points are assigned, considered when calculating the overall grade. If coursework is recognized, the entry "pass" shall be made in the student's transcript, not assigning a grade. Should the grading systems not be comparable, the entry "pass" shall also be made in the student's transcript. Recognized academic achievements shall be identified as such in the student's certificate.

(5) If the requirements defined in para. 1 are met, students are legally entitled to have their academic achievements recognized. The student must provide all information on the academic achievement in question deemed necessary for recognition. Each semester, the examination board defines a deadline in that semester by which applications for recognition must be submitted. Applications submitted after that deadline cannot be processed until the subsequent semester.

(6) Applicants who, due to their performance in a placement test as per § 49, para. 12 of the NRW Higher Education Act, have earned the right to enter the degree program in a higher program-related semester will be granted credit for the knowledge and skills demonstrated in the placement test, with credit points being assigned to examinations that form part of the master's examination. The examination board is bound to the results of the placement test stated in the certificate.

(7) Upon request, up to 25% of the ECTS credit points to be earned pursuant to § 4 para. 1 can be granted toward this degree program for knowledge and qualifications acquired in a manner other than academic studies if the knowledge and qualifications are equivalent in terms of content and level to the academic achievements they are to replace.

## **§ 7**

### **Admission to individual courses**

(1) If admission to a course, due to its nature, purpose or to other reasons, needs to be limited and the number of applications exceeds the defined capacity, the lecturer may file a request with the dean of the faculty, or the officeholder in the faculty specified in the applicable examination regulations, to which the respective module is assigned to manage admissions to that course, giving due regard to § 59 of the NRW Higher Education Act. Criteria for admissions in these cases are stipulated in Annex 2 of these Examination Regulations.

(2) The dean shall define the maximum number of participants in courses with limited capacity. The examination board shall announce capacities before the beginning of a semester.

## Part 4

### Examination board and examiners

## **§ 8**

### **Examination board and examination office**

(1) The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Protestant Theology shall, in consultation with the other faculties and institutions involved in the teaching, appoint a Biblical Studies examination board for the Biblical Studies master's degree program that is to manage the tasks outlined in these Examination Regulations. The dean of the Faculty of Protestant Theology shall ensure that the examination board is able to duly fulfill its tasks and does reliably do so. The dean shall give appropriate instructions for this purpose.

(2) The examination board shall consist of five voting members, including

- three members from the group of professors (including the chairperson and deputy chairperson);
- one member from the group of academic staff; and
- one member from the group of students

The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Protestant Theology shall, in consultation with ZERG, appoint the chairperson, deputy chairperson and other members separately by group from the members of the Faculty of Protestant Theology (including coopted members). All professors with a teaching load of at least two course units per week in the degree program are eligible to become members of the examination board. From the group of academic staff, those who are teaching or previously taught in the degree program, or are involved in its management, are eligible to become members. From the group of students, those enrolled in

the degree program are eligible to become members. For each of the five members a deputy shall be appointed to represent the member in his or her absence; these deputy members may not assume the position of chairperson of the examination board. The term of office of members from the group of professors and from the group of academic staff is two years. The term of office of members from the group of students is one year. Members may be re-appointed. The dean and vice dean of the faculty can also be members of the examination board, or its chairperson or deputy chairperson, provided the faculty regulations do not exclude this.

(3) The examination board is an administrative body as defined by German administrative procedure law and the German law governing procedure in contentious administrative matters. The Faculty of Protestant Theology shall create a Protestant Theology Examination Office for administrative support of the examination board.

(4) The examination board shall ensure compliance with the provisions of the Examination Regulations and make certain that the examination procedure is conducted in accordance with regulations. The examination board shall be responsible in particular for recognizing academic achievements as well as handling objections against decisions made within examination procedures. It shall report to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Protestant Theology on a regular, at least annual basis on the development of examination and study periods, including the time taken to complete master's theses and the distribution of overall grades. Once a semester, the examination board shall inform the Student Registry on which students, according to final ruling by the examination board, have failed their final attempt at passing the master's examination in accordance with § 25, para. 8. The examination board shall provide input for amendments to the Examination Regulations and curriculum. It may delegate clearly defined tasks to the chairperson. It shall not delegate

- decisions on objections as per sentence 2;
- reviews of decisions on deception and disruption of examinations as per § 23, para. 1, sentences 1 and 2;
- assessments of whether a student repeatedly or otherwise seriously attempted to cheat as per § 23, para. 3;
- decisions on the invalidity of the master's examination and revocation of the master's degree as per § 30; and
- reporting duties to the Faculty Council as per sentence 3

(5) Examination board meetings are not open to the public. All members of the examination board as well as their deputies shall be bound to confidentiality. Members who are not civil servants shall be bound to confidentiality by the chairperson of the examination board. Summary minutes shall be taken as a record of the examination board's discussions and decisions and submitted to the Protestant Theology Examination Office within twenty days after the examination board meeting.

(6) The examination board shall have a quorum when, in addition to the chairperson or their deputy, at least two more members or their deputies, including at least one member from the group of professors, are present. Resolutions shall be passed by simple majority. In the event of a tie vote, the chairperson's vote or, in case of his or her absence, the deputy chairperson's vote shall be the deciding vote. Members of the examination board shall have the right to be present during examinations.

(7) Directives, dates set and other communications of the examination board with public relevance shall, giving due consideration to data protection requirements, be made available by public display or in electronic form with legally binding effect. Other additional publications are permissible but not legally binding.

(8) The examination board may hold its meetings in person, entirely by means of electronic communications as online video conferences (online meetings), or partially by means of electronic communications. The examination board chairperson may approve a request by a member to participate via videoconferencing technology if the meeting room meets the technical prerequisites for individual members to participate digitally in the meeting proceedings and resolution voting. The video conferencing technology



that is used for online meetings and meetings held partially by means of electronic communications must be provided by University IT and approved by the University of Bonn, without exception.

(9) Examination board resolutions may be adopted by means of electronic communications. If resolutions are adopted in an online or in-person meeting using video conferencing technology, voting is conducted by show of hands or using an online voting tool approved by the University of Bonn. Secret votes may only be held using an online voting tool in online meetings. An online voting tool may also be used in meetings that are held entirely or partially in person. The examination board may also adopt resolutions by means of a circulation procedure if none of the members objects. With regard to quorum, the rules for adopting resolutions by means of electronic communications or circulation procedure are the same as those applicable to in-person meetings. In the case of resolutions by circulation procedure, a deadline must be set for responses. If the number of responses received from members by the deadline is less than the number of members required for a quorum, the resolution shall be deemed not to have been passed. If a member objects to the adoption of a resolution by circulation procedure before the deadline that was set for responses, the examination board chairperson must schedule an in-person or online meeting to adopt the resolution. For resolutions by circulation procedure, the chairperson shall send the members of the examination board a specific proposed resolution to be voted on by mail or email. The voting members shall send their personally signed votes back to the chairperson of the examination board by mail or fax or as a scanned copy by email. The voting results for resolutions conducted in the forms specified in sentences 1 and 5 shall be included in the minutes. Sentence 11 does not apply to resolutions conducted by circulation procedure using an online voting tool provided by University IT and approved by the University of Bonn. In this case, a voting deadline must nevertheless be set and instructions on how to vote using the online voting tool shall be provided when the proposed resolution is sent.

(10) The examination board chairperson shall decide whether an examination board meeting takes place as an in-person or online meeting. The chairperson also decides whether resolution voting is conducted in person or by means of electronic communications or circulation procedure. This shall not affect para. 9, sentences 5 and 9. An examination board meeting must take place in person if requested by one third of the members.

(11) The examination board may include staff from the Protestant Theology Examination Office who are involved in the examination procedure for consultation on a regular basis or for individual meetings or agenda items. These staff shall have a right to speak but no right to vote.

## **§ 9**

### **Examiners and assistant examiners**

(1) The professors and assistant professors of the Faculty of Protestant Theology and the members of ZERG who have teaching responsibilities in the degree program in the current academic year, or had teaching responsibilities in one of the two previous academic years, are examiners without express appointment by the examination board. This also applies to members with postdoctoral qualification (*Habilitation*) in the faculty, contract lecturers, honorary professors, academic staff and lecturers with special responsibilities, provided the person concerned has teaching responsibilities during the respective academic year. All those holding a position named in sentences 1 and 2 can also act as assistant examiner. The examination board has the right to appoint additional examiners and assistant examiners in accordance with § 65 of the NRW Higher Education Act. Assistant examiners must have at least passed the master's examination or an equivalent examination.

(2) Module examinations are usually held by the responsible teaching staff for that module. This also applies to any second examiners within the meaning of § 65, para. 2, sentence 1 HG. If the number of teaching staff for a module is less than the number of examiners required for an examination, the examination board shall specify the additional examiners. If a teacher, due to illness or other important cause, is not able to hold module examinations in due time, the examination board shall be responsible for the appointment of another examiner for these module examinations.

- (3) Examiners shall be independent of instructions in their conduct of examinations.
- (4) Candidates may propose examiners for their master's thesis. A candidate's proposal should be followed whenever possible; however, it does not substantiate a claim.
- (5) The examination board shall ensure that the candidate is informed of the names of the examiners in due time, as a rule at least two weeks before the date of the respective examination.

#### Part 5

#### Scope, conduct, form and dates of examinations

#### **§ 10**

#### **Scope of the master's examination**

- (1) The master's examination is intended as proof of qualification for positions demanding extensive skills in the respective field as well as in-depth and research-oriented scientific qualification.
- (2) The master's examination consists of
  1. Module examinations completed during the course of studies and reflecting the contents of the modules specified in the module structure (Annex 1)
  2. Proof that the requirements in the module structure for acquiring ECTS credit points instead of a module examination are satisfied
  3. The master's thesis.All examinations are to be completed within the standard period of study stipulated in § 4, para. 1.
- (3) Examinations are completed during the course of studies. As a rule, one module examination is assigned to each module, even when a module consists of more than one course. The grade of the module examination will be indicated on the degree certificate. Students must successfully complete a module in order to be awarded the assigned ECTS credit points. A module is considered successfully completed once
  - a. the assigned module examination or all of the assigned examination components of the module have been graded "sufficient" or higher, or
  - b. proof has been provided that the requirements in the module structure for acquiring ECTS credit points instead of a module examination are satisfied
- (4) If a module consists of more than one course, with associated module examination components, the ECTS credit points will be awarded after the last module examination component has been passed.
- (5) Examinations are generally held in the language of instruction. Upon request by the student and after consultation with the examiner, examinations or parts of examinations can also be taken in another language related to the degree program. However, no right to take parts of the examination in this language exists.

#### **§ 11**

#### **Admission to the master's examination and to module examinations**

- (1) The student must apply for admission to the master's examination. This application shall be submitted to the examination board in writing before the deadline set by the examination board and prior to registration for the first module examination. The following must be included with the application:
  1. Proof of meeting the general admission requirements stipulated in § 5;
  2. A certificate of enrollment as proof of enrollment as a student in this degree program at the University of Bonn;
  3. A statement whether the student has failed a final attempt at an examination or the final attempt at the master's examination in this degree program or, at the time of registration for a module

examination, is involved in another examination that, if failed, would give cause for denial of enrollment. The same applies to examination procedures of degree programs with substantial similarities in content.

- (2) The examination board may only admit students to module examinations who
  1. can provide proof of meeting the admission requirements as per para. 1;
  2. meet all requirements that may be stipulated in the module structure (see Annex 1) for the respective module and module examination.

The proof specified in point 1 is not required for admission to module examinations if proof of enrollment as a student in another degree program at the University of Bonn is provided and that degree program imports the respective module in accordance with its examination regulations, or proof of admission as a cross-registered student in accordance with § 52, para. 1 of the NRW Higher Education Act is provided.

- (3) Should the candidate not be able to submit documented proof as per para. 1 sentence 3 in the required form, the examination board may allow the candidate to provide proof in another form.

- (4) Admission to the master's examination procedure or, respectively, module examinations is at the discretion of the examination board.

- (5) The examination board may only deny admission to the procedure where
  - a. documents submitted are incomplete as per para. 1 and/or not submitted as requested by a certain deadline;
  - b. the requirements specified in para. 2 are not met;
  - c. the student has failed a final attempt at an examination that cannot be compensated for or failed the final attempt at the master's examination in this degree program or in a degree program with substantial similarities in content; or
  - d. the student is registered for an examination procedure at another university in the chosen degree program or a degree program with substantial similarities in content as per § 6, paragraph 1, if failing the examination procedure would mean failing the final attempt at the master's examination.

## **§ 12**

### **Module examinations—registration and withdrawal**

- (1) For each module examination, students shall electronically register with the examination board by the prescribed deadline. Where justified, registrations may be submitted in writing. Registration is only possible if, and as long as, the student satisfies the requirements in § 11, para. 2.

- (2) The examination board shall make the examination dates as well as registration periods available by public display or in electronic form; registration periods are cutoff periods.

- (3) Candidates may withdraw from a written or oral examination in writing or electronically without indicating reasons until one week before the examination date. This shall not affect para. 5. Candidates may withdraw from the examinations indicated in § 19, para. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 until one week before assignment of the topic. The date of receipt by the examination board determines whether the deadline has been met. For the examinations indicated in § 19, para. 3 and 6 that spread over a whole semester and are assigned to a specific course, candidates may not withdraw without giving reasons once topics or places have been assigned. This shall not affect § 22, para. 3. The withdrawal can be submitted in electronic form or in writing. The date of receipt by the examination board determines whether the deadline has been met.

- (4) Rules for registration for the master's thesis are defined separately in § 20, para. 2.

- (5) If students register for a module examination and fail or successfully withdraw from the examination, the registration shall automatically be considered as registration for the first regular examination date in the second following semester. Withdrawal without giving reasons is not possible unless the student registers

himself or herself in due time for an earlier examination date or chooses another elective module in accordance with § 15, para. 3.

### **§ 13**

#### **Examination modalities and compulsory attendance**

(1) Module examinations cover the contents and qualification targets of the modules specified in the module structure (Annex 1).

(2) Candidates in module examinations must be students enrolled in this degree program at the University of Bonn or, respectively, in a degree program at the University of Bonn of which modules are imported in accordance with the Examination Regulations, or admitted as cross-registered students as defined by § 52, para. 1 of the NRW Higher Education Act.

(3) In the module examinations, students are to demonstrate the knowledge and competences acquired in the respective module as well as their ability to understand cross-disciplinary correlations. Module examinations can be completed by passing graded examination components. Module examinations and module examination components can be

- Written examinations
- Oral examinations
- Term papers
- Portfolios
- Presentations
- Poster presentations
- Book reviews
- Seminar papers, and
- Essays

The type of examination and, if applicable, division into module examination components is stipulated in the module structure. Deviating from the specifications stipulated in the module structure is possible in accordance with § 16, para. 4 and § 18, para. 4; the examination board shall, in conjunction with the examiners, determine the type of examination and, in accordance with § 8, para. 7, announce its decision in due time before the beginning of the registration period.

(4) The module structure may stipulate that students must have completed certain assessments (coursework) prior to taking a module examination. Where required coursework has not been completed, students shall not be admitted to the module examination. Upon request filed by the lecturer, the examination board shall, in accordance with § 8, para. 7, announce the specific requirements regarding such coursework before the beginning of the semester.

(5) Two examination dates shall be set for all written and oral module examinations. As a rule, the first examination date shall be set at the end of the lecture period in which the module or assigned course is completed. The second examination date shall be set in a manner that the degree program can be properly continued and completed within the standard period of study. The examination board shall appropriately announce all examination dates as well as the lengths of individual examinations in due time before the beginning of the semester pursuant to § 8, para. 7. Candidates who only take the examination at one of the two examination dates and do not pass the examination are not entitled to another examination date during the current semester.

(6) For courses in which achieving the qualification target requires active participation by students, the module structure may stipulate mandatory regular participation (compulsory attendance) as prerequisite to being admitted to the examination. In the case of colloquia, absence of up to 30% is permissible (including absence due to illness). For students verifiably responsible for caring for and raising children within the meaning of § 25, para. 5 of the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG), or for caring for spouses, registered

partners, direct relatives, second-degree indirect relatives or first-degree in-laws, § 14, para. 1, sentence 5 shall apply accordingly.

- (7) The following applies when grading examinations:
1. Examinations submitted in writing shall be graded by a minimum of one examiner. Candidates shall be informed of the result of such examinations within four weeks.
  2. Oral examinations shall always be graded by a single examiner in the presence of a competent assistant examiner. A record shall be kept of the essential topics and results of each examination. Candidates shall be informed of their grade immediately following the oral examination.
  3. The number of examiners specified for individual written examinations in the module structure may differ from the number indicated in number 1 above. The grade for the examination shall be the average of the grades of the individual examiners; § 25, para. 2 shall not be affected.
  4. For individual oral examinations, the module structure can specify that the examination be conducted by two or a specified greater number of examiners instead of a single examiner in the presence of a competent assistant examiner. The grade for the examination shall be the average of the grades of the individual examiners; § 25, para. 2 shall not be affected.
  5. Notwithstanding numbers 1 and 2 above, resit examinations that, if failed, would mean failing the final attempt at the master's examination in accordance with § 25, para. 8, are to be graded by two examiners; specifications of the number of examiners in accordance with numbers 3 and 4 shall remain unaffected. In these cases, the grade for the examination shall be the average of the grades of the individual examiners. This shall not affect § 25, para. 2.
  6. Rules for grading the master's thesis are set forth in § 21, para. 3 to 5.

(8) The examination board can permit module examinations to be taken in electronic form. It can also permit oral examinations to be taken by means of electronic communications (online oral examinations). The examination board shall announce examination dates, the type of module examination and the web conference service/online tool to be used in electronic form no later than two weeks before the examination date concerned. Examinations taken in electronic form or by means of electronic communications may only be conducted using web conference services/online tools that are approved or provided by the Rectorate. Personal data may be processed for these examinations to the extent required to conduct the examination in accordance with regulations. The data protection provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation and NRW Data Protection Act must be observed. As a rule, online oral examinations are conducted as web conferences via the Internet without the examination participants being present on the University's premises. If there are suspicions or concrete indications of attempted cheating, the examiner can require proof by means of a slow 360 degree camera pan before and during the examination that there are no impermissible auxiliary means or other people in the room with the candidate. Examiners and candidates are prohibited from saving and/or retaining the video data. Automated evaluation of examination image or sound data is prohibited. To verify the identity of candidates, the examiner visually compares their faces and photo ID. Data not absolutely required in order to establish identity may be rendered unreadable. Candidates are required to activate the camera and microphone on the device they are using. The use of virtual backgrounds is prohibited. Candidates must position the camera so that their face, upper body and hands are visible to the examiner at all times. The grades for online oral examinations are not communicated via the web conference service used. In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (*Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz*), the grade is announced via the examination management system. At the express request of the candidate, which must be recorded, the web conference tool may also be used to communicate the grade for an oral examination. Candidates must not suffer detriments due to technical problems affecting online examinations they are taking for which they are not themselves responsible. In case of minor technical problems, an examination may be suspended to be continued at a later point, if possible. In case of a significant disruption, the examination is canceled to be repeated at the next possible examination date. Technical problems must be reported immediately and documented, even if only poor image or sound quality is concerned.

#### **§ 14**

##### **Accessibility accommodations and deadline extension**

(1) Students who are unable to take an examination in the designated manner due to a disability or chronic illness, or due to maternity law provisions, can submit a request for accessibility accommodations to the examination board together with suitable proof; the same shall apply to the completion of coursework as specified in § 13, para. 4. Accessibility accommodations shall be granted on a case-by-case basis. They can, in particular, provide for differences with respect to how the examination is taken, the length of the examination and the use of auxiliary means or support persons. For students with disabilities or chronic illnesses, the entitlement to accessibility accommodations shall extend to all of the examinations to be taken during the degree program, provided no change is expected in the illness or disability; sentence 2 remains unaffected. In the case of compulsory attendance courses and compulsory lab courses, internships and study periods abroad that cannot be completed due to the impairment, even with the support of the university, alternative forms of assessment that can provide equivalent competence and qualifications shall be permitted.

(2) When determining the deadline for automatic registration for a resit examination in accordance with § 12, para. 5, the examination board shall, upon application and provision of respective proof, consider additional time for:

- a. Caring for and raising underage children as per § 25, para. 5 of the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG)—for three semesters per child
- b. Acting as elected representative in a university body, the student body, the student body's student councils or the Studierendenwerk—for a maximum of four semesters
- c. Acting as gender equality officer—for a maximum of four semesters
- d. Effects of a disability or severe illness prolonging the period of study
- e. Caring for spouses, registered partners, direct relatives, second-degree indirect relatives or first-degree in-laws—for a maximum of three semesters

#### **§ 15**

##### **Resitting examinations**

(1) Examinations that have been failed may only be repeated twice. Resits shall be conducted in accordance with § 12, para. 5. Rules for repetition of the master's thesis are defined in § 21, para. 7.

(2) Students who fail the same compulsory module three times lose their right to examination and are deregistered from the degree program by the Student Registry once the examination board's decision that the final attempt at the master's examination has been failed has come into force.

(3) If an elective module has been failed, or the final attempt at an elective module has been failed, the candidate can choose another, previously unchosen elective module as compensation. Such compensation is only possible once in each elective area. Students who use the compensation option without success shall lose their right to examination and are deregistered from the degree program by the Student Registry once the examination board's decision that the final attempt at the master's examination has been failed has come into force.

(4) Module examinations graded "sufficient" or higher cannot be repeated.

(5) Should a student fail to attend a compulsory resit examination without valid excuse, that examination will be graded "insufficient."

## **§ 16**

### **Written examinations**

- (1) In written examinations, students are to demonstrate that, within a specific period of time and with limited auxiliary means, they are capable of handling a problem from the content of the module and solving this problem using methods commonly used in that field. The examiners shall announce in a timely manner which auxiliary means may be used during a written examination.
- (2) Written examinations may be handwritten or computer-aided examinations, both conducted under supervision. Computer-aided written examinations are in particular free text or clozes that are completed using a computer.
- (3) Written examinations shall last a minimum of 60 minutes and a maximum of 240 minutes. § 13, para. 7 applies accordingly. The examination board shall announce the specific examination date before the beginning of the registration period.
- (4) The examination board may, in conjunction with the examiner, decide that instead of a written examination, an oral examination shall be held that covers the content of the module; this shall be announced in due time before the beginning of the registration period pursuant to § 8, para. 7.

## **§ 17**

### **Multiple-choice model**

- (1) Written examinations as per § 16 with a minimum of 50 registered candidates may be conducted entirely or in part using the multiple-choice model.
- (2) The examination questions shall be adapted to the specific knowledge covered in the respective module and facilitate reliable results. The examination questions shall be developed jointly by at least two examiners; the exact number of examiners shall be specified in the module structure in accordance with § 13, para. 7. The examiners must have the same or an equivalent qualification as the one to be determined through that examination. When designing the examination questions, the examiners shall define how many and which answers will be considered correct. The number of answers to be ticked shall be indicated on the task sheet. Questions with only one correct answer shall be considered solved correctly if the correct answer is the only one ticked. If the candidate does not tick the correct answer, ticks a wrong answer or ticks more than the one correct answer, the question shall be graded with 0 points. If there is more than one correct answer, the question shall be graded in proportion to the number of correct answers ticked. If the candidate does not tick any answer or ticks too many answers, the question shall be graded with 0 points.
- (3) Before determining the result of an examination, its questions shall be checked for errors with regard to the module's requirements. Erroneous examination questions shall not be considered when determining the result of an examination. The reduced number of examination questions shall be taken into account when grading the examination. A candidate's grade shall not suffer under a reduced number of examination questions. Deducting points in individual examination questions or the examination as a whole shall not be permitted when grading a written examination. Offsetting wrong answers with correct answers shall also be prohibited.
- (4) Examinations using the multiple-choice model shall be considered passed when the candidate reaches a minimum of 50% of the total score or a score that does not fall below the average score reached by all candidates in this examination by more than 22%.

(5) Results in a multiple-choice examination shall be graded as follows: If the candidate reaches the minimum score necessary to pass the examination as per para. 4, the grade shall be

1.0	very good,	if 90 to 100%	} of points above the necessary minimum score have been reached.
1.3	very good,	if 80 to < 90%	
1.7	good,	if 70 to < 80%	
2.0	good,	if 60 to < 70%	
2.3	good,	if 50 to < 60%	
2.7	satisfactory,	if 40 to < 50%	
3.0	satisfactory,	if 30 to < 40%	
3.3	satisfactory,	if 20 to < 30%	
3.7	sufficient,	if 10 to < 20%	
4.0	sufficient,	if 0 to < 10%	

Candidates who do not reach the minimum score necessary to pass the examination shall receive the grade "insufficient."

(6) Deviating from para. 1, written examinations that are resits may partly or entirely be conducted using the multiple-choice model on the second examination date, even when not reaching the minimum number of registered candidates, provided that

- the written examination held on the second examination date is equal in level of expertise, difficulty and maximum score to the written examination on the first examination date, and
- the written examinations for the first and second examination dates are developed by the same examiner simultaneously, and
- the decision on which written examination is assigned to which examination date is made by drawing lots.

The written examination held on the second examination date shall be graded using the same grading scale as the one used for the written examination held on the first examination date; the pass score defined for the written examination held on the first examination in accordance with para. 4 shall also apply to the written examination held on the second examination date. Examiners shall confirm in the record that the conditions as per sentence 1 are met.

(7) Should the examination include both multiple-choice questions and other questions, the part using the multiple-choice model shall be graded in accordance with paras. 2–6. All other questions will be graded following the applicable provisions. The overall grade is calculated from the results of both parts, with results from each part being weighted in relation to the total achievable score. If one part of an examination is failed, this part shall be graded "insufficient" (5.0) and taken into account as such when calculating the overall grade.

(8) Otherwise, § 16 shall apply accordingly.

## § 18 Oral examinations

(1) In oral examinations, candidates are to demonstrate sound knowledge in the subject of examination, identify correlations and analyze specific questions arising from these as well as provide possible solutions.

(2) Oral examinations shall be conducted by a single examiner in the presence of a competent assistant examiner, with candidates being examined individually. This shall not affect the provisions set forth in § 13, para. 7. Each oral module examination shall last a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 45 minutes per candidate.

(3) Students who wish to take the same oral examination at a later date may be admitted to sit in on the examination, provided that spatial circumstances allow for it and no candidate objects to their presence. The decision shall be made by the examiners. Students sitting in on an examination shall attend neither the discussion nor the announcement of results. They shall also be prohibited from taking notes during the examination.



(4) The examination board may, in conjunction with the examiner, decide that, instead of an oral examination, a written examination shall be held that covers the module's content. This shall be announced in due time before the beginning of the registration period pursuant to § 8, para. 7.

### **§ 19**

#### **Term papers, portfolios, presentations, poster presentations, book reports, seminar papers, essays**

(1) For term papers, candidates are to demonstrate that they are able to perform independent research on a limited topic from the content of the module using methods commonly used in that field and to present this in writing in a manner that satisfies scientific requirements. Each term paper shall contain a minimum of 4,000 and a maximum of 6,000 words, including annotations. Candidates shall have a minimum of six weeks and a maximum of three months to prepare a term paper after receiving the topic. Upon valid request and in conjunction with the examiner, the examination board may grant an extension of up to half of the original preparation time. This shall not affect para. 9.

(2) Portfolios are collections of material with comments by the candidate and/or documentation related to courses and/or guided independent study. The examiner shall specify the structure of the portfolio. As a rule, in addition to a collection of documents, the portfolio also includes an introduction and reflection. The scope of a portfolio can vary; all of the elements specified in the structure must be included. Portfolios must, as a rule, be submitted by the end of the semester in which the respective course is offered (by March 31 for courses in the winter semester and by September 30 for courses in the summer semester).

(3) Presentations are oral presentations that last a minimum of 20 minutes and a maximum of 45 minutes. Candidates demonstrate their ability to comprehensibly present and discuss their own documented research results obtained using scientific methods. Candidates shall have six weeks to prepare a presentation after receiving the topic. Presentations must be held by the end of the semester in which the respective course is offered (by March 31 for courses in the winter semester and by September 30 for courses in the summer semester).

(4) In poster presentations, candidates demonstrate their ability to comprehensibly present and discuss their own documented research results obtained using scientific methods. To this end, they present the results they obtained on a poster that was prepared in a structured manner using graphic design tools and are then available for questions, explanations and discussion. Candidates shall have six weeks to prepare a poster presentation after receiving the topic. The posters are presented on a date that is set by the examiner concerned and announced by the examination board pursuant to § 8, para. 7 in the semester in which the course takes place.

(5) Book reviews are written works concerned with original scientific literature that addresses the subject area of the module. The literature to be reviewed must be determined in consultation with the examiner. The candidates demonstrate their ability to prepare a comprehensible review of scientific literature and to explain its layout and the structure of its arguments. Book reviews shall contain a minimum of 500 and a maximum of 2,000 words, including annotations. Candidates shall have six weeks of preparation time after the literature concerned has been determined. Book reviews must be submitted no later than the final session of the course.

(6) Seminar papers are oral presentations that last a minimum of 20 minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes. They are based on a written paper prepared using original scientific texts and individual research. In seminar papers, candidates demonstrate their ability to comprehensibly present research results and explain them in a discussion. The written paper shall contain a minimum of 4,000 and a maximum of 6,000 words, including annotations. Candidates shall have a minimum of three weeks to prepare the oral presentation after receiving the topic. The deadline for submitting the written paper shall be three weeks from the last session of the course. The seminar paper will be graded based on the assessment of the written paper.

(7) Essays are candidates' own written works that concern a topic from the module and demonstrate the candidate's ability to present scientific content comprehensibly. Essays are prepared independently and present a limited topic from the course chosen in consultation with the examiner in a manner that satisfies scientific requirements. Essays shall contain a minimum of 4,000 and a maximum of 6,000 words, including annotations. Candidates shall have six weeks of preparation time after receiving the topic. Essays must, as a rule, be submitted during the course of the semester in which the respective course is offered (by March 31 for courses in the winter semester and by September 30 for courses in the summer semester).

(8) Candidates shall declare in writing when submitting written papers prepared without supervision that the paper is their own work, that they used only those sources and resources cited in the paper, that their use is documented in the annotations and that they have marked citations as such.

(9) The examination board may, in individual cases, extend the preparation time specified for an examination that is prepared in written form in accordance with paragraph 1, 2, 5 or 7 as follows:

- a. In the event of an inability to participate in an examination due to acute illness, by the length of the acute illness
- b. In the event of good cause, by a period of time determined by the examination board on a case-by-case basis

Only one extension is possible; in the case of point b above, the examiner must be consulted before the length of the extension is determined. The candidate must apply to the examination board for the deadline extension no later than three days before the deadline and submit appropriate proof without delay; if this deadline cannot be met due to the reasons indicated in point a or b above, the examination board shall decide whether the application has been submitted in due time. In cases of illness, candidates shall present a medical certificate proving their inability to participate in the examination. The examination board may, in individual cases, require the submission of a certificate from a medical examiner designated by the University if there are sufficient factual indications that the candidate would in fact have been able to participate in the examination or, respectively, submit their assignment on time or if the examination board deems other proof than that defined by sentence 3 appropriate in that case. The examination board shall decide whether a deadline should be extended based on the certificate submitted. § 14 remains unaffected.

(10) Otherwise, the provisions for grading oral and written examinations stipulated in § 13, para. 7 apply accordingly.

Part 6  
Master's thesis

**§ 20**

**Registration, topic and scope of the master's thesis**

(1) The master's thesis is an examination in the form of a written assignment in which candidates are to demonstrate their ability to conduct research on, develop a solution for and appropriately present a problem from the field of the master's degree program Biblical Studies within a specified period of time, on their own authority and using scientific methods.

(2) Students must register their master's thesis with the examination board. The examination board shall announce the deadline by which a master's thesis must be registered for the candidate to complete the master's degree program within the standard period of study.

(3) When registering their master's thesis, students must indicate their choice of examiner for the master's thesis.

- (4) The topic for the master's thesis may be assigned by any examiner specified in § 9, para. 1, sentence 1; if the topic is to be set by another examiner specified in § 9, para. 1, sentence 2 or 4, the consent of the examination board shall be required. As a rule, the examiner who assigned the topic acts as supervisor of the master's thesis.
- (5) The topic for the master's thesis shall only be issued when the student has acquired a minimum of 18 ECTS CP and has met all of the requirements stipulated in the module structure. The examination board shall issue the topic for the master's thesis. A record shall be kept of the topic and the date of issue. Prior to registration of the master's thesis, students shall be given the opportunity to submit proposals for the research area from which the topic of their master's thesis shall be taken; they shall not, however, have the right to a topic from a specific area. Upon request by the student, the examination board shall ensure that students receive a topic for their master's thesis in due time as per para. 9.
- (6) Candidates may reject a master's thesis topic only once and only within the first two months after its issue. Rejecting a topic does not count as a failed attempt. The new topic issued to the candidate must be substantially different from the initial topic.
- (7) The master's thesis cannot be approved in the form of a group thesis.
- (8) The master's thesis shall be a minimum of 15,000 and a maximum of 24,000 words in length, including annotations.
- (9) Passing the master's thesis awards 15 ECTS CP, corresponding to 450 hours in student workload. It must be completed within a maximum of four months. The examination board shall determine the deadline by which the master's thesis must be submitted and notify the student of that deadline. Topic, task and scope of the master's thesis shall be limited in a way that candidates may complete it under reasonable requirements within the specified period. Upon valid request and in conjunction with the supervisor, the examination board may grant an extension by a maximum of six weeks. As a rule, the topic of the master's thesis is issued at the beginning of the second semester.

## **§ 21**

### **Submission, evaluation and repetition of the master's thesis**

- (1) Candidates shall submit their master's thesis in triplicate in writing to the examination board along with a digital format suitable for electronic evaluation for plagiarism satisfying the examination board's requirements; a record shall be made of the time and date of submission. Candidates may not withdraw an already submitted master's thesis. Master's theses that are not submitted by the stated deadline shall be graded "insufficient."
- (2) Candidates shall declare in writing when submitting their master's thesis that the thesis is their own work, that they used only those sources and resources cited in the thesis, that their use is documented in the annotations and that they have marked citations as such. In particular, a master's thesis is considered not to be the candidate's own work if the content or structure and organization of the discussion of the thesis topic are specified by third parties.
- (3) Master's theses shall be evaluated and graded by two examiners. One of the examiners shall be the person who assigned the topic of the master's thesis; the second examiner shall be appointed by the examination board from among the group of examiners as defined by § 9, para. 1. It must be ensured that at least one of the examiners is a member of the group of professors (*Hochschullehrerinnen und Hochschullehrer*) at the University of Bonn. The candidate shall be entitled to propose examiners but shall not have a right to be assigned a specific examiner.
- (4) The examiners shall each grade the master's thesis separately and provide the reasons for the grade they assigned in writing in accordance with § 25, para. 1. If the difference between the grades is less than

2.0, the grade for the master's thesis shall be calculated as the average of the individual grades. If the difference is 2.0 or more, or one of the individual grades is "insufficient," the examination board shall appoint a third examiner to grade the master's thesis. In this case, the grade shall be the average of the two best individual grades. Grades shall be averaged in accordance with § 25, para. 3. A master's thesis may, however, only be awarded the grade "sufficient" or higher when at least two of the individual grades were "sufficient" or higher.

(5) Examiners shall submit their reviews of the master's thesis within eight weeks after the submission deadline.

(6) Candidates who receive a grade of "sufficient" or higher for their master's thesis are awarded 15 ECTS CP.

(7) Master's theses graded "insufficient" may be repeated once. The topic of the second master's thesis may be chosen from the same area as the topic of the first master's thesis but must be substantially different in nature. The candidate may reject the proposed topic for their master's thesis within the period specified in § 20, para. 6 only if they did not make use of this option with their first master's thesis. Should the second thesis also be graded "insufficient," the candidate shall have failed their final attempt at the master's examination, losing their right to examination and being deregistered from the degree program by the Student Registry once the examination board's decision has come into force.

#### Part 7

#### Procedural irregularities and protective regulations

#### § 22

#### **Cancellation, failure to appear, withdrawal and reprimand**

(1) Candidates may, without giving reasons, electronically (in the examination management system) cancel their registration for module examinations with the examination board before the deadlines indicated in § 12, para. 3; if this is not possible, cancellation can also be submitted in writing. The date of receipt by the examination board determines whether the deadline has been met.

(2) If a candidate withdraws from an examination after the cancellation deadline without good cause, the examination is graded "insufficient." The same applies when a candidate fails to appear for an examination or to submit an assignment within the specified period of time (failure to appear).

(3) Candidates who have registered for an examination but have good cause to withdraw from that examination, especially due to illness, may do so regardless of the cancellation deadline. The examination board shall be notified of such withdrawals immediately and in writing. Candidates shall immediately provide a written statement credibly substantiating the grounds for their withdrawal or failure to appear. In cases of illness, candidates shall present a medical certificate proving their inability to participate in the examination. Candidates who withdraw from an examination due to illness after the start of the examination and assignment of the respective task must consult a medical examiner that same day of the examination to obtain a certificate proving their inability to continue the examination. The examination board may, in individual cases, require the submission of a certificate from a medical examiner designated by the University if there are sufficient factual indications that the candidate would in fact have been able to participate in the examination or, respectively, submit their assignment on time or if the examination board deems other proof than that defined by sentence 4 appropriate in that case. As a rule, it is not possible to withdraw from an examination after the start of the examination, especially when the candidate has already seen, or otherwise obtained knowledge of, the examination result. If the examination board accepts a medical certificate allowing for withdrawal due to illness or other good cause given by the candidate, the examination attempt shall be deemed void.

(4) Candidates shall immediately reprimand any deficiencies related to an examination with the respective examiner or proctor. The reprimand shall be entered into the record and asserted in front of the examination board. If the examination board accepts the reprimand, the examination attempt shall be deemed void.

### **§ 23**

#### **Deception and disruption of examinations**

(1) Candidates who try to influence the outcome of an examination through deception or the use of inadmissible auxiliary means shall receive the grade "insufficient"; the respective examiner or proctor shall identify deception or use of inadmissible auxiliary means, include it in the record and notify the examination board. The respective examiner or proctor may bar any candidate from continuing an examination who, despite a warning, disrupts the orderly conduct of the examination; in such cases, the examination shall be graded "insufficient." A record shall be made of the reasons for barring the candidate from the examination.

(2) Candidates may, within a period of two weeks, request that decisions taken pursuant to para. 1, sentences 1 and 2 be reviewed by the examination board.

(3) The examination board shall determine whether the candidate's attempt at deception was repeated or otherwise grave. In such cases, the examination board can, after hearing the candidate, decide whether the candidate loses his or her right to examination in this degree program. The student will be deregistered by the Student Registry once the examination board's decision on the loss of the right to examination has come into force.

(4) Violation of the provisions in these Examination Regulations regarding deception in examinations is an administrative offense. This administrative offense may be subject to a fine of up to EUR 50,000. As competent administrative authority, the Provost of the University of Bonn shall pursue and fine administrative offenses pursuant to sentence 1.

### **§ 24**

#### **Protective regulations**

(1) Regulations on maternity leave stipulated in the Maternity Protection Act (MuSchG) as amended shall be respected; students shall provide all necessary proof. All time frames stipulated in these Examination Regulations shall be suspended by maternity leave; time frames for periods of assessment shall not include periods of maternity leave. The examination board shall notify the student of newly determined examination deadlines once all necessary proof has been submitted.

(2) Allowances shall likewise be made on application for parental leave under the Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (BEEG) as amended. Candidates shall notify the examination board in writing of the period(s) during which they wish to take parental leave, enclosing necessary substantiating documentation, at least four weeks prior to the date on which they wish to enter parental leave. The examination board shall determine whether the statutory requirements have been met which would lead to an employee being entitled to parental leave under the BEEG and shall inform the candidate immediately of its findings and, if applicable, any new examination deadlines. Time frames for the completion of assignments may not be interrupted by a period of parental leave. The assignment topics shall be deemed not issued. The candidate shall receive a new topic at the end of their parental leave. This does not affect § 22, para. 3, sentence 1.

(3) Allowances shall likewise be made on application for leave taken for the care of spouses, registered partners, direct relatives, second-degree indirect relatives or first-degree in-laws who are in need of care. The examination board shall review whether the requirements defined by sentence 1 are met. The application is to be submitted as soon as these requirements are met. Relevant documentation shall be attached to the application. The examination board shall immediately notify the candidate of the result and, if applicable, of the new examination deadlines. Time frames for the completion of assignments may not be

extended based on such leave taken. The assignment topics shall be deemed not issued. The candidate shall receive a new topic at the end of their leave. This does not affect § 22, para. 3, sentence 1.

Part 8  
Grading and final documentation

**§ 25**

**Grading of examinations, grading system and pass requirements for the master's examination**

(1) The grade for each examination shall be determined by the respective examiners. The following grading system shall be used:

1	very good	Excellent achievement
2	good	Achievement well above average requirements
3	satisfactory	Achievement corresponding to average requirements
4	sufficient	Achievement that still meets necessary requirements despite deficiencies
5	insufficient	Achievement that does not satisfy requirements due to substantial deficiencies

In order to produce a graduated grading scale and provide a more nuanced evaluation, individual grades may be raised or lowered by values of 0.3; grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3 shall not be admissible. An examination is passed if it is graded "sufficient" or higher; otherwise it is failed.

(2) If more than one examiner is involved in the examination, the grade for the examination shall be the average of the individual grades. In the case of a written examination, if the grades of the examiners involved differ by more than two whole grades, the chairperson of the examination board shall appoint another examiner. If he or she assigns a grade of "sufficient" (4.0) or better for the examination, the grade for the examination shall be the average of the two best individual grades; otherwise the grade shall be the average of all the individual grades. The deadline for notification of the grade is extended by four weeks if another examiner is used.

(3) Only the first decimal place after the decimal shall be used when calculating the grades for individual modules or for overall performance; all further decimal places shall be dropped without rounding off.

(4) A module examination shall be deemed passed when the module is graded at least "sufficient." If a module grade includes more than one examination component, it shall be calculated using the individual examination weights indicated in the module structure. This does not affect § 10, para. 3, sentence 4.

The grading scale for modules is:

With an average grade up to and including 1.5	= very good
With an average grade from 1.6 up to and including 2.5	= good
With an average grade from 2.6 up to and including 3.5	= satisfactory
With an average grade from 3.6 up to and including 4.0	= sufficient
With an average of 4.1 or higher	= insufficient

(5) Candidates shall be informed of the grades earned in written examinations within four weeks of the particular examination, and the grade awarded for their master's thesis within eight weeks at the latest following the submission deadline. In accordance with the applicable data protection regulations, results shall be made available in electronic form via the examination management system; as a rule, results are to be made available before the standard period of study ends.

(6) Candidates shall have passed the master's examination when they have passed all necessary modules as per § 4, para. 4 as well as the master's thesis and have thus been awarded a total of 60 ECTS CP.

(7) The calculation of the overall grade shall include all graded modules. Each grade from individual modules shall be weighted by multiplying it with the number of ECTS credit points assigned to the respective module. The sum of these weighted module grades is then divided by the total number of ECTS credit points (weighted average). Para. 4, sentence 4 applies accordingly. Deviating from this, the overall grade shall be “excellent” if the overall grade is no lower than 1.3 and the master’s thesis has been graded “very good” (1.0). Modules marked “passed” due to lack of comparability between grading systems shall not be included when calculating the overall grade.

- (8) The final attempt at the master’s examination shall be deemed failed when
- The candidate has failed three times to pass a module examination in a compulsory module as defined by § 10, para. 3, sentence 4, letter a or, respectively, § 15, para. 2
  - The compensation options for electives have been used without success as specified in § 15, para. 3, or
  - The master’s thesis has been graded “insufficient” in the second attempt

## **§ 26 Certificate**

(1) The candidate shall be notified of the results of their successful master’s examination in a provisional certificate as soon as all grades have been submitted. A certificate shall thereafter be issued in German and English (bilingual). The certificate shall include the following information:

- All modules for which ECTS credit points were earned
- The semester in which ECTS credit points were earned
- The grades received for the individual examinations
- The topic and grade of the master’s thesis
- The date of the last examination and
- The overall grade of the master’s examination

On application by the candidate, results from additional examinations as per § 31 may also be included in the certificate; these shall not be included when calculating the overall grade.

(2) The certificate shall state the date of issue. The certificate shall be stamped with the seal of the examination board and signed by the chairperson of the examination board.

(3) Candidates who have failed their final attempt at the master’s examination shall be issued a written notification thereof by the examination board, including information on legal remedies available.

(4) Candidates who leave the university without a degree shall, after deregistration and on application, be issued a transcript including a list of all completed coursework and examinations. This transcript shall be limited to those parts of the student’s course of study which were successfully completed. In addition, a notification may be issued on application that indicates which examinations the student did not pass or still needs to complete in order to pass the master’s examination.

## **§ 27 Master’s diploma**

Along with the certificate of the master’s examination, candidates shall receive a bilingual master’s diploma issued the same day in English and German stating that the candidate has been awarded the academic degree as per § 3. Master’s diplomas shall be signed by the dean of the Faculty of Protestant Theology and stamped with the seal of the faculty.

**§ 28**  
**Diploma supplement**

The master's diploma shall be augmented by a diploma supplement. The diploma supplement is a standard document in English and German that shall include the following information:

- Essential contents of the program underlying the degree
- The course of studies
- The competences acquired with the degree
- Information on the accreditation of the degree program and
- Information on the university awarding the degree

The diploma supplement shall give a relative classification of the overall grade of the master's examination on the ECTS grading scale.

**§ 29**  
**Access to examination records**

(1) Candidates shall, on application, be granted access to their examinations, the examiners' written reviews as well as records of oral examinations; applications must be submitted within three months after notification of the examination result. This does not affect § 29 of the Administrative Procedure Act (*Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz*).

(2) Candidates shall, on written application within three months after the examination board has issued the certificate as per § 26, be granted access to their examination records. This does not affect § 29 of the Administrative Procedure Act (*Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz*).

(3) The examination board shall determine when and where the examination records may be accessed and notify the candidate hereof in due time. The examination board shall determine the details concerning the possibility of preparing copies or other true reproductions, and shall announce them pursuant to § 8, para. 7. Copies and other reproductions of examination records or parts thereof are only intended for candidates to pursue their own rights arising under the legal examination relationship and are therefore only to be used by the candidates, or made available to persons engaged by the candidates to safeguard their legal interests. Any other duplication or distribution of copies or other reproductions is not permitted.

**§ 30**  
**Invalidity of the master's examination and revocation of the master's degree**

(1) Should it become known after the certificate has been issued that the candidate used deception in an examination or their master's thesis, the examination board may correspondingly correct the grades for those examinations or the thesis in which the candidate used deception as well as the overall grade and declare the entire master's examination or parts thereof failed.

(2) Should it become known after the certificate has been issued that the candidate had not met the requirements for admission to the master's examination, and should this have happened without any fraudulent intent on the part of the candidate, this defect shall be remedied by the candidate's successful completion of the examination. Should the candidate have wrongfully secured admission with intent, the examination board shall decide on the legal consequences in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

(3) Candidates shall be heard before the examination board makes a decision.

(4) The incorrect certificate shall be withdrawn and, where applicable, a new certificate shall be issued. If one or more examinations are declared failed due to deception, the incorrect certificate also makes the master's diploma and all other graduation documentation void. Decisions pursuant to para. 1 and para. 2, sentence 2 may be taken only for a period of five years after the issue of the certificate.



(5) Should the master's examination be deemed altogether failed, the master's degree shall be revoked and the master's certificate, master's diploma as well as all other graduation documentation shall be withdrawn.

### **§ 31**

#### **Additional examinations**

Students may, until the end of the semester in which they complete the master examination as per § 10, para. 2, extend their standard scope of studies on application by up to 18 ECTS CP in additional modules. These may be modules from this master's degree program as well as other modules for which credit would otherwise not be granted, provided that they are offered at the University of Bonn and are eligible as additional modules for this master's degree program. Credit can only be granted for modules that are completed within one and a half times the standard period of study. The results of additional examinations shall be included in the certificate in accordance with § 26 on application by the candidate, however it shall not be included when calculating the overall grade.

Part 9  
Entry into force

**§ 32**  
**Entry into force and publication**

These Examination Regulations shall enter into force on the day after their publication among the Official Announcements of the University of Bonn.

C. Richter

The Dean  
of the Faculty of Protestant Theology  
of the University of Bonn  
University Professor Dr. Cornelia Richter

Executed pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Protestant Theology on April 12, 2023 and the resolution passed by the Rectorate on May 30, 2023.

Bonn, June 15, 2023

M. Hoch

The Rector  
of the University of Bonn  
Professor Dr. Dr. h. c. Michael Hoch

**Annex 1: Module structure for the consecutive master’s degree program Biblical Studies**

**Module structure key:**

- Abbreviations of course types: GS = guided independent study, C = colloquium, S = seminar/exercise in seminar form, T = tutorial, L = lecture.
- Marked with asterisk (\*): courses that require compulsory attendance as a prerequisite for participation in the module examination in accordance with § 13, para. 6. In these cases, compulsory attendance is an additional requirement to the other coursework listed.
- The “Course Type” column shows the type of a course within the module. Modules can include guided independent study for some courses. The contents of the guided independent study are then part of the contents of the courses and, as such, are also part of the subject matter of the examination.
- The “Duration/Program-Related Semester” column shows the duration (D) of the module (in semesters) and assigns it to a specific program-related semester (PRS).
- The “Coursework” column shows requirements that must be met for admission to certain examinations pursuant to § 13, para. 4 or, respectively, to acquire ECTS credit points in modules without an examination.
- In the “Type of Examination” column, examinations that are assessed by two examiners in accordance with § 13, para. 7, no. 3 and 4 are marked with “<sup>2E</sup>.”

Further details on individual modules, especially regarding the courses offered within or required for completion of a module, are described in the module guide, which the examination board will make available before the beginning of the semester pursuant to § 8, para. 7.

**Compulsory modules (15 ECTS CP)**

Module Number/ Identifier	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Program-Related Semester	Subject (Content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Coursework	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
RPP	Research Project Planning	T	None	D: 1 sem. PRS: 2 <sup>nd</sup> sem.	Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Academic research: sources and methods;</li> <li>▪ Time management and project planning techniques.</li> </ul> Qualification objectives: Students are able to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ develop their own research questions for academic papers and present them in the form of a research proposal;</li> <li>▪ organize a research project which they can then successfully execute in accordance with specifications.</li> </ul>	Portfolio	None	6

Module Number/ Identifier	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Program-Related Semester	Subject (Content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Coursework	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
PRP	Research Project Presentation	C*	None	D: 1 sem. PRS: 2 <sup>nd</sup> sem.	Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Research project presentation techniques;</li> <li>▪ Forms of constructive criticism and responses to it.</li> </ul> Qualification objectives: Students are able to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ orally present the results of a research project;</li> <li>▪ summarize the results of a research project in a paper and develop further research questions.</li> </ul>	Portfolio and presentation	Oral examination <sup>2E</sup>	9

**Master's thesis (15 ECTS CP)**

Module Number/ Identifier	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Program-Related Semester	Subject (Content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Coursework	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
THEBS	Master's Thesis	-	Greek, Hebrew (in accordance with § 5, para. 3) and at least 18 ECTS CP	D: 1 sem. PRS: 2 <sup>nd</sup> sem.	Content: Selected topics of biblical exegesis within the fields of Old or New Testament study offered by the Faculty of Protestant Theology. Qualification objectives: Students are able to independently define, research and adequately resolve a specific problem relevant to the field of biblical studies within a reasonable period of time, utilizing academic/scientific methods.	None	Master's thesis <sup>2E</sup>	15

**Subject-specific elective modules (one LTH module and one LTN module must be chosen, with one of the modules being the a variant and the other the b variant, for a total of 24 ECTS CP)**

Module Number/ Identifier	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Program-Related Semester	Subject (Content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Coursework	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
LTHa	Literature and Topics of the Hebrew Bible (a)	S	Greek, Hebrew (in accordance with § 5, para. 3)	D: 1 sem. PRS: 1 <sup>st</sup> sem.	<p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A diachronic literary-historical perspective on the scriptures of the Hebrew Bible;</li> <li>▪ Fundamental questions and methods of Old Testament exegesis;</li> <li>▪ Key aspects and contexts of historical developments in ancient Israel/Judea;</li> <li>▪ Central themes, focuses and theological approaches in/of the Hebrew Bible scriptures within the respective literary, historical and cultural contexts;</li> <li>▪ Interrelationships between themes, focuses and theological approaches.</li> </ul> <p>Qualification objectives: Students are able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ independently apply methods of analysis and interpretation to Old Testament sources;</li> <li>▪ develop a historical interpretation of key biblical texts;</li> <li>▪ identify central themes and approaches in/of the scriptures of the Hebrew Bible and contextualize these both within the literature and culture of the respective epoch and in relation to the history of Israel.</li> </ul>	Assigned coursework	Term paper	12

Module Number/ Identifier	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Program-Related Semester	Subject (Content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Coursework	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
LTHb	Literature and Topics of the Hebrew Bible (b)	S	Greek, Hebrew (in accordance with § 5, para. 3)	D: 1 sem. PRS: 1 <sup>st</sup> sem.	<p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A diachronic literary-historical perspective on the scriptures of the Hebrew Bible;</li> <li>▪ Fundamental questions and methods of Old Testament exegesis;</li> <li>▪ Key aspects and contexts of historical developments in ancient Israel/Judea;</li> <li>▪ Central themes, focuses and theological approaches in/of the Hebrew Bible scriptures within the respective literary, historical and cultural contexts;</li> <li>▪ Interrelationships between themes, focuses and theological approaches.</li> </ul> <p>Qualification objectives: Students are able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ independently apply methods of analysis and interpretation to Old Testament sources;</li> <li>▪ develop a historical interpretation of key biblical texts;</li> <li>▪ identify central themes and approaches in/of the scriptures of the Hebrew Bible and contextualize these both within the literature and culture of the respective epoch and in relation to the history of Israel.</li> </ul>	Assigned coursework	Portfolio	12

Module Number/ Identifier	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Program-Related Semester	Subject (Content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Coursework	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
LTNa	Literature and Topics of the New Testament (a)	S	Greek, Hebrew (in accordance with § 5, para. 3)	D: 1 sem. PRS: 1 <sup>st</sup> sem.	<p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A diachronic literary-historical perspective on the scriptures of New Testament;</li> <li>▪ Fundamental questions and methods of New Testament exegesis;</li> <li>▪ Key aspects and contexts of historical developments in the nascent period of Christianity;</li> <li>▪ Central themes, focuses and theological approaches in/of New Testament scriptures within the respective literary, historical and cultural contexts;</li> <li>▪ Interrelationships between themes, focuses and theological approaches.</li> </ul> <p>Qualification objectives: Students are able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ independently apply methods of analysis and interpretation to New Testament sources;</li> <li>▪ develop a historical interpretation of key biblical texts;</li> <li>▪ identify central themes and approaches in/of the New Testament scriptures and contextualize these within the literature and culture of the respective epoch and historically within the nascent period of Christianity.</li> </ul>	Assigned coursework	Term paper	12

Module Number/ Identifier	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Program-Related Semester	Subject (Content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Coursework	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
LTNb	Literature and Topics of the New Testament (b)	S	Greek, Hebrew (in accordance with § 5, para. 3)	D: 1 sem. PRS: 1 <sup>st</sup> sem.	<p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A diachronic literary-historical perspective on the scriptures of New Testament;</li> <li>▪ Fundamental questions and methods of New Testament exegesis;</li> <li>▪ Key aspects and contexts of historical developments in the nascent period of Christianity;</li> <li>▪ Central themes, focuses and theological approaches in/of New Testament scriptures within the respective literary, historical and cultural contexts;</li> <li>▪ Interrelationships between themes, focuses and theological approaches.</li> </ul> <p>Qualification objectives: Students are able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ independently apply methods of analysis and interpretation to New Testament sources;</li> <li>▪ develop a historical interpretation of key biblical texts;</li> <li>▪ identify central themes and approaches in/of the New Testament scriptures and contextualize these within the literature and culture of the respective epoch and historically within the nascent period of Christianity.</li> </ul>	Assigned coursework	Portfolio	12



**Cross-disciplinary elective modules (one module worth 6 ECTS CP must be chosen)**

Module Number/ Identifier	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Program-Related Semester	Subject (Content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Coursework	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
EBL	Extra-Biblical Literature	S	Greek, Hebrew (in accordance with § 5, para. 3)	D: 1 sem. PRS: 1 <sup>st</sup> sem.	<p>Content: Selected texts from one or more of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ancient Near Eastern literatures;</li> <li>▪ Greek and Roman literature;</li> <li>▪ Jewish literature of the Second Temple period;</li> <li>▪ Early Christian literature.</li> </ul> <p>Qualification objectives: Students are able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ understand ancient extra-biblical literature in context and elucidate such content, including in relation to biblical traditions;</li> <li>▪ outline key research issues and positions in the field of ancient studies;</li> <li>▪ recognize and utilize academic editions and source research tools.</li> </ul>	None	Portfolio	6
HBC	Hermeneutics of the Bible in Comparative Perspective	S	None	D: 1 sem. PRS: 1 <sup>st</sup> sem.	<p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fundamental issues and themes in biblical hermeneutics;</li> <li>▪ The primary dimensions of biblical interpretation;</li> <li>▪ Possibilities and limits of reflection on these interpretation processes.</li> </ul> <p>Qualification objectives: Students are able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ discuss and independently assess possibilities and limits of biblical hermeneutics;</li> <li>▪ develop their own substantiated approaches to the interpretation of biblical texts based on an awareness of the history of biblical hermeneutics and the reflection thereupon.</li> </ul>	None	Portfolio	6

Module Number/ Identifier	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Program-Related Semester	Subject (Content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Coursework	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
ABT	Artefacts and Biblical Traditions	L/S, GS	None	D: 1 sem. PRS: 1 <sup>st</sup> sem.	<p>Content: The significance of material legacies in understanding biblical traditions.</p> <p>Qualification objectives: Students are able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ discuss the significance of artefacts from the (primarily late) period of antiquity for the historical interpretation or “history of effect” of biblical texts;</li> <li>▪ discuss key issues and methods relevant to the analysis of material legacies;</li> <li>▪ grasp the course material within the broader context of Judaism and Christianity in the period of Antiquity.</li> </ul>	None	Portfolio	6
BHC	The Bible in the History and Culture of Christianity	S, if necessary GS	Greek (in accordance with § 5, para. 3)	D: 1 sem. PRS: 1 <sup>st</sup> sem.	<p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fundamental research issues and methods relating to the historical reception and ‘history of effect’ of biblical texts;</li> <li>▪ Key aspects and factors regarding historical reception and the “history of effect” of biblical texts in a cultural history context.</li> </ul> <p>Qualification objectives: Students are able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ outline and discuss approaches and ways of understanding historical reception and observing “history of effect”;</li> <li>▪ analyze and interpret significant issues regarding the historical reception and the “history of effect” of biblical texts.</li> </ul>	None	Portfolio	6

Module Number/ Identifier	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Program-Related Semester	Subject (Content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Coursework	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
BGW	The Bible in a Globalized World	S	None	D: 1 sem. PRS: 1 <sup>st</sup> sem.	<p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reception and interpretation of biblical texts and traditions in various regional and global contexts;</li> <li>▪ Case studies of the reception of biblical texts within communities worldwide.</li> </ul> <p>Qualification objectives: Students are able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ understand exegetical cultures in relation to each other and;</li> <li>▪ hermeneutically reflect upon these.</li> </ul>	None	Portfolio	6

The examination board may approve further elective modules and shall announce them before the beginning of the semester pursuant to § 8, para. 7.

## **Annex 2: Regulations for admission to courses**

If admission to a course, due to its nature, purpose or to other reasons, needs to be limited and the number of registrations exceeds the defined capacities, it is handled as follows:

Students shall be admitted in the following order:

- **Group 1:**  
Students who are enrolled at the University of Bonn, for whom, according to the module structure, participation in this course is mandatory and who are in the same or a higher study semester as/than the one specified for participation in the study schedule, provided they
  - a. were kept from registering for the course due to a delay in the first semester; or
  - b. were not selected in a random selection procedure at least once in the past;
- **Group 2:**  
Students who are enrolled at the University of Bonn and who are in the same or a higher study semester as/than the one specified for participation in the study schedule, and who do not belong to Group 1;
- **Group 3:**  
All other students enrolled at the University of Bonn who are eligible for participation in this course pursuant to the module structure;
- **Group 4:**  
All other students.

This does not affect further admission requirements. Within the groups—except Group 4—students who have collected the largest number of ECTS credit points for this degree program or for another degree program at the University of Bonn that imports modules from this degree program shall have priority. Remaining places are allocated by drawing lots.

### **Annex 3: Aptitude test for university studies**

Procedure in accordance with § 5, para. 5 of these Examination Regulations for the aptitude test for foreign applicants to a degree program who are not given equivalent status to Germans by or based on international treaties

#### **I. General principles**

(1) The admission requirements in § 5, para. 1 to 5 of these Examination Regulations must be satisfied for admission to the Biblical Studies consecutive master's degree program. Under § 5, para. 5 of these Examination Regulations, foreign applicants who are not given equivalent status to Germans by or based on international treaties and do not have German university entrance qualifications must pass a special aptitude test for the Biblical Studies degree program.

(2) This annex sets down the provisions governing the aptitude test for university studies specified in para. 1.

(3) The objective of the procedure is to determine whether applicants have the aptitude necessary to be expected to successfully graduate from the desired degree program.

(4) §§ 6 (Recognition of and granting credit for academic achievements), 8 (Examination board and examination office), 9 (Examiners and assistant examiners), 29 (Access to examination records) and 30 (Invalidity of the master's examination and revocation of the master's degree) of these Examination Regulations shall apply accordingly.

#### **II. Eligibility and application procedure/admission to the examination procedure**

(1) Foreign applicants who satisfy the other admission requirements in § 5 of these Examination Regulations or are expected to satisfy them in accordance with para. 5, sentence 2, can participate in the examination procedure for the aptitude test for university studies specified in Part I, para. 3.

(2) Applications for admission to the examination procedure must be submitted electronically in German or English using the application forms provided by the examination board. Admission takes place each winter semester. The application deadline is July 1. The time of electronic receipt by the University of Bonn determines whether the application deadline has been met. The application deadline and issuing of the notices in Part VI shall be coordinated with the enrollment deadline for programs starting in the winter semester.

(3) The following documents shall be included in German or English in electronic form with the application:

1. Proof of formal qualification in accordance with § 5, para. 1 to 5 of these Examination Regulations; instead of proof in accordance with § 5, para. 1 to 3, a provisional certificate may be submitted in accordance with para. 5, sentence 2;
2. A completed admission application form;
3. A curriculum vitae with a detailed description of prior education that should, in particular, clearly show the connections in terms of subjects/content to the topics and content of the desired Biblical Studies master's degree program;
4. A sample paper in English or German (excerpts from term papers, bachelor's theses, etc. are also permitted, max. length 10 pages of text, incl. footnotes) that allows an assessment based on the criteria indicated in Part IV, para. 1. § 19, para. 8 of these Examination Regulations also applies to the sample paper.

(4) The chairperson of the examination board established in accordance with § 8 of these Examination Regulations shall make the decision on the application for admission to the examination procedure.

(5) Admission shall be rejected if the application is incomplete. If the documents specified in para. 3, no. 1 are not yet available at the time the application is submitted, a corresponding certificate from the university concerned and list of the modules completed and their grades shall be sufficient for the application. The applicant must submit formal proof immediately upon receipt, at the latest at the time of enrollment. This does not affect § 5, para. 7 of these Examination Regulations.

### III. Performing the examination procedure

The examination board formed in accordance with § 8 of these Examination Regulations is responsible for organizing and carrying out the examination procedure. The examination board shall hold discussions and make decisions in closed meetings. It shall appoint a committee of examiners as defined in § 9, para. 1 of these Examination Regulations consisting of a chairperson and three other lecturers who regularly teach courses in the Biblical Studies degree program to carry out the procedure. Decisions shall be made by simple majority. In the event of a tie vote, the chairperson's vote shall be the deciding vote.

### IV. Examination procedure

(1) The application documents will be checked to determine the level of education that has been achieved in the academic discipline required under § 5, para. 1 of these Examination Regulations. Particular attention will be given to whether the applicant has the knowledge and skills in the following areas that are required for successfully completing the Biblical Studies consecutive master's degree program:

- Fundamentals of academic work
- The ability to adequately present and reflect on academic problems and theories
- The ability to use the methods of academic exegesis to analyze and interpret an original-language biblical text

The standard for assessing the above-mentioned knowledge and skills is the level reached in the Protestant Theology degree program upon completion of the Church degree or *Magister Theologiae* degree at the University of Bonn at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> program-related semester. The committee appointed by the examination board decides whether the aptitude test for university studies must be taken in order to assess the qualifications of the applicant based on the criteria above.

(2) Applicants who completed their studies in accordance with § 5, para. 1 of these Examination Regulations at another institution of higher education within the scope of the German Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*) or at an institution of higher education in a member state of the European Union or a state that has ratified the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon Recognition Convention) have already proven their aptitude for university studies and are exempt from the test. § 5, para. 1 to 3 of the Examination Regulations remain unaffected.

(3) If the documents submitted in accordance with Part II, para. 3 show that the applicant has reached the level of education specified in paragraph 1, this proves their aptitude for university studies and they are exempt from taking a separate aptitude test for university studies.

(4) If the documents submitted in accordance with Part II, para. 3 do not show that the applicant has reached the level of education specified in paragraph 1, they must provide proof of their aptitude for university studies by taking a special test. To this end, the person to be tested is asked to submit a written paper (term paper) electronically in English or German by the specified deadline. The examination board shall specify the topic and length of the written paper (term paper) for the application semester concerned. § 19, para. 8 of these Examination Regulations applies accordingly.

(5) § 14, para. 1 of these Examination Regulations applies accordingly.

## **V. Assessment of the submitted documents and written paper**

(1) For the assessment specified in Part IV, para. 3, the documents submitted in accordance with Part II, para. 3 are examined for indications that the criteria specified in Part IV, para. 1 are satisfied. A separate point score is assigned to each criterion to indicate the degree to which it is satisfied. The highest possible scores are 30 points for each criterion and a total of 90 points. The criteria are considered satisfied overall if each criterion receives a score of at least 10 points and a total score of at least 45 points is achieved.

(2) For the assessment specified in Part IV, para. 4, the written paper (term paper) is assigned a point score. The highest possible score is 100 points. The assessment is considered passed if a score of at least 50 points is achieved.

(3) Two examiners assign separate point scores for the written paper (term paper). The overall score for the paper shall be the average of the individual scores assigned by the two examiners.

## **VI. Notification of the results and repetition of the examination procedure**

(1) The examination board shall notify the applicant in writing of the results of the assessment in accordance with Part V, para. 1 and 2. If the notice indicates a negative decision, it must include information on legal remedies. The reasons for the negative decision must be included.

(2) Applicants who do not pass the examination procedure may repeat the aptitude test for university studies in the following year at the earliest; a new application is required. Further repetitions are possible, but only after a period of at least three years.

## **VII. Students who change the location of their studies**

For students who change the location of their studies and were previously enrolled in a biblical studies master's degree program or a comparable degree program at another institution of higher education, the examination board shall assess their individual qualifications, including an examination procedure if one was performed. If the examination board decides that the degree program and examination procedure are equivalent, the applicant will be exempt from participating in the examination procedure at the University of Bonn.