

# Translation

Examination Regulations  
for the Consecutive Master's Degree Program

**“Comparative Theological Studies”**

at the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Bonn

This document is an official translation of the Examinations Regulations published in Amtl. Bek. der Universität Bonn, 55. Jg., Nr. 17, 7. April 2025.

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

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

**Comparative Theological Studies**

**of the Faculty of Catholic Theology  
at the University of Bonn**

**dated March 24, 2025**

By virtue of § 2, paragraph 4 and § 64, paragraph 1 of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz*, HG) of September 16, 2014 (Legal and Regulatory Gazette of North Rhine-Westphalia (GV NRW), p. 547), most recently amended by Article 2 of the Act to Strengthen Bochum as a University Location in the Field of Health and to Change Additional Provisions of Higher Education Law (*Gesetz zur Stärkung des Hochschulstandorts Bochum im Bereich des Gesundheitswesens und zur Änderung weiterer hochschulrechtlicher Vorschriften*) of December 19, 2024 (GV NRW, p. 1222), the University of Bonn Faculty of Catholic Theology issues the following Examination Regulations:

## Contents

Part 1 Scope.....	4
§ 1 Scope .....	4
Part 2 Program objective, degree and standard period of study.....	4
§ 2 Objective of the degree program and purpose of the examination .....	4
§ 3 Academic degree .....	4
§ 4 Standard period of study, ECTS credit point system, range of courses, program structure and language of instruction/examinations .....	4
Part 3 Admission requirements and recognition of academic achievements.....	5
§ 5 Degree program admission requirements .....	5
§ 6 Recognition of and granting credit for academic achievements.....	6
§ 7 Admission to individual courses .....	7
Part 4 Examination board and examiners .....	7
§ 8 Examination board and examination office .....	7
§ 9 Examiners and assistant examiners.....	9
Part 5 Scope, conduct, type and dates of examinations .....	10
§ 10 Scope of the master’s examination.....	10
§ 11 Admission to the master’s examination and to module examinations.....	10
§ 12 Module examinations—registration and withdrawal .....	11
§ 13 Examination modalities and compulsory attendance .....	11
§ 14 Accessibility accommodations.....	13
§ 15 Resitting examinations .....	13
§ 16 Written examinations.....	13
§ 17 Multiple-choice model.....	14
§ 18 Oral examinations.....	15
§ 19 Term papers, seminar papers and portfolios .....	16
§ 20 Digital examinations .....	17
Part 6 Master’s thesis .....	18
§ 21 Registration, topic and scope of the master’s thesis .....	18
§ 22 Submission, evaluation and repetition of the master’s thesis .....	19
Part 7 Procedural irregularities and protective regulations.....	20
§ 23 Cancellation, failure to appear, withdrawal and reprimand .....	20
§ 24 Deception and disruption of examinations .....	20
§ 25 Protective regulations .....	21
Part 8 Grading and final documentation .....	22
§ 26 Grading of examinations, grading system and pass requirements for the master’s examination ....	22
§ 27 Certificate .....	23
§ 28 Master’s diploma.....	23
§ 29 Diploma supplement .....	23
§ 30 Access to examination records.....	24
§ 31 Invalidity of the master’s examination and revocation of the master’s degree .....	24
Part 9 Entry into force .....	25
§ 32 Entry into force and publication.....	25
Annex 1: Module structure for the consecutive master’s degree program Comparative Theological Studies .....	26
Annex 2: Regulations for admission to courses.....	30

Part 1

Scope

**§ 1**

**Scope**

Students who commence their studies within the consecutive master's degree program Comparative Theological 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 Comparative Theological Studies offered by the University of Bonn Faculty of Catholic Theology is 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 taking into account any changes and requirements in the working world or in cross-disciplinary aspects, if applicable. 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.
- (4) The master's examination shall lead to conferral of a master's degree in Comparative Theological 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 non-canonical Comparative Theological Studies degree program shall be awarded a Master of Arts (MA) degree by the University of Bonn Faculty of Catholic Theology. The academic degree is not conferred under the authority of the Holy See.

**§ 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 36 ECTS CP in compulsory modules, 9 ECTS CP in subject-specific 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 a recommendation on how to structure their course of studies. Students may receive an individual study schedule upon request.
- (6) 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, paragraph 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 Comparative Theological Studies is designed for applicants who have completed a university undergraduate degree in Catholic theology, Protestant theology, Islamic theology/Islamic studies, Jewish theology/Jewish studies, religious science or a related subject. A minimum of 240 ECTS CP must have been acquired in the previous university undergraduate degree program indicated in sentence 1.
- (2) No proof of German skills needs to be submitted when enrolling.
- (3) English skills at level B2 or higher according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) are a prerequisite for admission to the degree program and are to be proven by submitting a recognized language certificate (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS) or equivalent proof.
- (4) This does not affect admission restrictions due to capacity limits (*numerus clausus*).
- (5) A selection of successful applicants required due to admission restrictions is subject to the Regulations on Selection Procedures for Degree Programs with Admission Restrictions of the University of Bonn, as amended at the time of application filing.
- (6) Students who do not satisfy the enrollment conditions in paragraph 1 may already enroll if
  1. at the time they apply to the master's degree program, they show proof that they have already completed 210 ECTS CP in the degree program that will lead to the university undergraduate degree according to paragraph 1; 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. 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 Comparative Theological 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 are 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 differences 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 shall ECTS credit points be awarded to the extent stipulated in these Regulations. The 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, paragraph 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 Comparative Theological 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 (ZAB) may be consulted. Students shall be notified within four 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 study achievements are recognized, the entry "pass" shall be made in the student's certificate without assigning a grade. Should the grading systems not be comparable, the entry "pass" shall also be made in the student's certificate. Recognized academic achievements shall be identified as such in the student's certificate.

(5) If the requirements defined in paragraph 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, paragraph 12 of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz*, HG), 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 20% of the ECTS credit points to be earned pursuant to § 4, paragraph 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 of Catholic Theology, 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 HG. Criteria for admissions in these cases are stipulated in Annex 2 of these Examination Regulations.

(2) The officeholder per paragraph 1 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 Catholic Theology shall appoint a Comparative Theological Studies examination board to perform the tasks assigned in these Examination Regulations. The Dean 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 seven voting members, including

- four members from the group of university professors of the Faculty (including the chair and deputy chair);
- one member from the group of academic staff of the Faculty; and
- two members from the group of students of the Faculty.

The Faculty Council appoints the chair, deputy chair and other members separately by group. All university professors with part of their teaching load 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 master's degree program Comparative Theological Studies, 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 seven members a deputy shall be appointed to represent the member in his or her absence; these deputy members may not assume the position of chair of the examination board. The term of office of members from the group of professors and from the group of academic staff is three 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 chair or deputy chair, provided the Faculty regulations do not exclude this.

(3) The examination board is an administrative body as defined by German administrative procedure law and German administrative court procedure law. The Faculty shall create an 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 to decisions made within examination procedures. It shall report to the Faculty Council 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 § 26, paragraph 7. The examination board shall provide input for amendments to the Examination Regulations and curriculum. It may delegate clearly defined tasks to the chair, in particular the appointment of examiners and assistant examiners. The following tasks cannot be delegated:

- Decisions on objections as per sentence 2
- Reviews of decisions on deception and disruption of examinations as per § 24, paragraph 1, sentences 1 and 2
- Assessments of whether a student repeatedly or otherwise seriously attempted to cheat as per § 24, paragraph 3
- Decisions on the invalidity of the master's examination and revocation of the master's degree as per § 31 and
- Mandatory reporting 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 chair of the examination board. Summary minutes shall be taken as a record of the examination board's discussions and decisions and submitted to the office within ten days after the examination board meeting.

(6) The examination board shall have a quorum when, in addition to the chair or their deputy, at least four more members or their deputies, including at least two members from the group of professors, are present. The examination board shall pass resolutions by simple majority. In the event of a tie vote, the chair's vote or, in case of their absence, the deputy chair'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 be made available by public display or in electronic form with legally binding effect, giving due consideration to data protection requirements. 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 chair 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. When secret ballot voting is conducted in an online meeting, an online voting tool must be used. 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 chair must schedule an in-person or online meeting to adopt the resolution. For resolutions by circulation procedure, the chair shall send the members of the examination board a specific proposed resolution to be voted on by mail or email. The voting members of the examination board shall send their personally signed votes back to the chair 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 chair shall decide whether an examination board meeting takes place as an in-person or online meeting. The chair also decides whether resolution voting is conducted in person or by means of electronic communications or circulation procedure. This shall not affect paragraph 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 examination office staff involved in the examination procedure for consultation on a regular basis or for individual meetings or agenda items. These members of 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 Catholic Theology are examiners without express appointment of 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 semester. 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 HG. As minimum requirement, assistant examiners must have 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, paragraph 2, sentence 1 HG. If the number of people teaching in a module is less than the number of examiners required for an examination, then the examination board appoints 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, type 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); and
  2. the master's thesis.All examinations are to be completed within the standard period of study stipulated in § 4, paragraph 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 the assigned module examination, or all examination components associated with the module, have been graded "sufficient" or higher.
- (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 together with the registration for the first module examination. The following must be enclosed 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 paragraph 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 number 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, paragraph 1 HG is provided.

- (3) Should the candidate not be able to submit documented proof as per paragraph 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 when
  - a. documents submitted are incomplete as per paragraph 1 and/or not submitted as requested by a certain deadline;
  - b. the requirements specified in paragraph 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. In justified cases, registrations may be submitted in writing. Registration is only possible if, and as long as, the student satisfies the requirements in § 11, paragraph 2.
- (2) The examination board shall make the examination dates as well as registration periods available by public display or in electronic form; registration deadlines are cutoff deadlines.
- (3) Candidates may withdraw from a written or oral examination without indicating reasons until one week before the examination date. Candidates may withdraw from term papers and seminar papers until one week before assignment of the topic. Candidates may withdraw from portfolios until one week after the respective course has started. This shall not affect § 23, paragraph 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 § 21, paragraph 2.
- (5) If a module examination is failed or if candidates successfully withdraw from an examination attempt, the candidates must register themselves for the next planned examination date.

## **§ 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, paragraph 1 HG.
- (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 the larger context. Module examinations can be completed by passing graded examination components. Module examinations and module examination components can include the following:

- Written examinations
- Oral examinations
- Term papers
- Seminar papers
- Portfolios

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, paragraph 4 and § 18, paragraph 4; the examination board shall, in agreement with the examiners, determine the type of examination and, in accordance with § 8, paragraph 7, announce its decision in due time at the beginning of the semester.

(4) The module structure may stipulate that students must have completed certain assessments (coursework) prior to taking a module examination. Students who do not complete this required coursework shall not be admitted to the module examination. Upon request filed by the teacher, the examination board shall, in accordance with § 8, paragraph 7, announce the specific requirements regarding such coursework at 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 at the beginning of the semester pursuant to § 8, paragraph 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) The following applies when grading examinations:

1. Examinations submitted in writing shall be graded by a minimum of one examiner. Superseding the above, § 17, paragraph 2, sentence 2 applies regarding examinations using multiple-choice questions. Candidates shall be informed of the result of such examinations within four weeks.
2. Oral examinations are graded by one 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. In the module structure, for individual examinations submitted in writing a different number of examiners can be set in deviation from number 1. The examination grade is calculated as the average of the two scores respectively assigned by the examiners.
4. For individual oral examinations, the module structure may stipulate that instead of the examination requiring one examiner in the presence of a competent assistant examiner, the examination must be graded by two or another specific, higher number of examiners. The examination grade is calculated as the average of the two scores respectively assigned by the examiners.
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 § 26, paragraph 7 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. If the average of the scores results in the grade "insufficient," the examination will still be assigned the grade "sufficient" (4.0) if the majority of the scores from the individual examiners was at least "sufficient." If the number of examiners that scored the examination with at least "sufficient" is equal to the number of examiners who scored the examination with "insufficient," then for examinations submitted in writing another examiner is appointed. If this examiner scores the examination with at least "sufficient," then the grade for the examination is "sufficient" (4.0), otherwise the grade is "insufficient."
6. Rules for grading the master's thesis are set forth in § 22, paragraph 4.

(7) The respective examiners and the examination board may use anti-plagiarism software to check for plagiarism in examinations submitted in writing—this applies in particular to term papers and the final thesis (master’s thesis). The processing of personal data outside of the University of Bonn is permissible in connection with the use of this software. Any data which could potentially identify the individual (student name, student ID number, etc.) must be removed before uploading an examination paper into the plagiarism software. The ability to internally reference an examination grade to the respective student must be ensured using other data, e.g. an assigned examination number. The plagiarism software used must fully erase checked examination papers once the check is completed; papers may not subsequently be used as training data.

#### **§ 14**

##### **Accessibility accommodations**

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, paragraph 4. Accessibility accommodations are approved 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 aids or support people. 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.

#### **§ 15**

##### **Resitting examinations**

(1) Examinations that have been failed may only be repeated twice. Resits shall be conducted in accordance with § 12, paragraph 5. Rules for repetition of the master’s thesis are defined in § 22, paragraph 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 is failed, including a final attempt at the examination, the student may choose another elective module not chosen before to compensate. Such compensation is only possible once. 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) For modules with examinations that are taken during the semester or that are part of a course, the examination cannot be repeated in the same semester. The module examination in such modules can only be repeated by retaking the entire module or corresponding course. Respective examinations and coursework to be repeated are designated as such in the applicable module structure.

#### **§ 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 understanding a problem from the module’s subject area 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 can be carried out as proctored handwritten or computer-aided examinations in which all participants are physically present in the University of Bonn's rooms at the same time. Computer-aided written examinations (written e-examinations) include in particular open question or cloze tasks that are completed using a computer.

(3) Each written examination lasts 180 minutes. § 13, paragraph 6 applies accordingly. The examination board shall announce the specific examination date at the beginning of the semester.

(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 module's subject area; this shall be announced in due time at the beginning of the semester pursuant to § 8, paragraph 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 created jointly by two examiners. 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. Multiple-choice examinations may be structured as a single-select or multiple-select examination. In single-select examinations, only one of the multiple possible answers is correct. The question is correctly answered if solely the correct answer is marked. 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. The examination is graded based on the total number of correct answers. In multiple-select examinations, the candidate must check all answers that are correct (or incorrect). The total number of correct answers for each question is noted and the examination is graded based on the total number of correct answers marked.

(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 according to paragraph 4, the grade shall be

1.0	very good,	if 90 to 100%
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%

of points above the necessary minimum score have been reached.

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

(6) Deviating from paragraph 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 paragraph 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 paragraphs 2 to 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) Paragraphs 1 to 2, paragraph 3, sentences 1 to 4 and paragraphs 4 to 7 do not apply if a written examination does not include many multiple-choice questions. This is the case if the multiple-choice questions do not represent more than 15% of the grade for the examination.

(9) 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) The minimum time per candidate and module examination is 20 minutes, the maximum time is 30 minutes. When candidates are examined in a group, each candidate within that group shall be examined for the same amount of time.

(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 subject area. This shall be announced in due time at the beginning of the semester pursuant to § 8, paragraph 7.

### **§ 19**

#### **Term papers, seminar papers and portfolios**

(1) For term papers, candidates are to demonstrate that they are able to perform independent research on a limited topic in one of the subject areas 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 be a minimum of 36,000 and a maximum of 44,000 characters in length, including spaces and annotations. Candidates shall have a minimum of one week and a maximum of twelve weeks to prepare a term paper after receiving the topic. As a rule, a term paper is prepared during the semester in which the associated course is offered. The term paper topic must be assigned in timely fashion so that the latest deadline in a winter semester is March 31 and in a summer semester September 30, whichever is the semester of examination registration. The examiner determines whether a term paper is to be submitted in written and/or in digital form allowing electronic cross-checking.

(2) Seminar papers are oral presentations that last a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 30 minutes and are given on the basis of a written document prepared from original research literature and personal research. In seminar papers, candidates demonstrate their ability to comprehensibly present research results and explain them in a discussion. The written document must be a maximum ten DIN A4 pages in length. Candidates shall have six weeks to prepare a seminar paper after receiving the topic. Seminar papers must, as a rule, be given 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).

(3) Portfolios are collections of material with comments by the candidate and/or documentation related to internships, subject-related practical projects, tutoring and mentoring activities. 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).

(4) The examination board may, in individual cases, extend the preparation time specified for an examination that is prepared in the form of a portfolio or term paper

a. in the event of inability to participate in an examination due to acute illness, by the length of the acute illness; or

b. for good reasons by a duration determined individually by the examination board

only once; in the case of letter 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 letter 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 doctor 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 decides whether to extend a deadline based on the certificate presented. § 14 remains unaffected.

(5) Otherwise, the provisions for grading oral and written examinations stipulated in § 13, paragraph 6 apply accordingly.

## **§ 20**

### **Digital examinations**

(1) Written and oral module examinations may be conducted in digital form ("online examination" in accordance with § 64, paragraph 2, sentence 2 HG).

(2) If a module examination per paragraph 1 is to be conducted in digital form, the examiner notifies students thereof at the start of the lecture period. If such notification is not possible in a given case, notification must be given no later than one week ahead of the examination date. The examiner notifies students no later than one week in advance of the digital examination regarding organizational matters pertinent to the examination and of technical requirements regarding the communication equipment to be used. Digital examinations may only be conducted using video conferencing services/online tools which have been approved or provided by the Rectorate.

(3) Digital written examinations are to be completed in a set time period using electronic communication technology under video monitoring without the participants being physically present in the room of the University of Bonn at the same time. During a digital written examination, students are required to activate the camera and microphone functions of the communication devices used for the examination (video monitoring). The use of virtual backgrounds is prohibited. Candidates must position the camera so that their face, upper body and hands are visible to the exam proctors at all times. Furthermore, video monitoring must be set up in such manner as to avoid impinging on the personal sphere of privacy of exam takers more than necessary for legitimate supervision purposes. Automated evaluation of image or sound data gathered during video monitoring does not take place. Recording the examination or otherwise saving image or sound data is prohibited.

(4) Oral digital examinations are conducted in the form of a video conference. During a digital oral examination, candidates are required to activate the camera and microphone functions of 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 examiner and candidate are prohibited from recording the examination or otherwise saving image or sound data.

(5) The candidate's identity is verified (authentication) by presenting a valid official photo ID upon demand. The storage/saving of data processed for authentication purposes other than as technically necessary on a temporary basis is prohibited. Temporarily saved/cached personal data must be promptly erased.

(6) If in a digital written examination the transmission or processing of an examination question/task, the transmission of the examination element itself or video monitoring are not technically functioning at the time of the examination, the examination is to be terminated at the stage in question and the examination is not graded.

(7) If video or sound transmission is temporarily disrupted during an oral examination held in digital form, the examination is to be continued when the disruption is resolved. If technical errors remain unresolved so that the oral examination cannot be properly continued, the examination is terminated to be repeated at a later date.

(8) The candidate must report immediately any technical malfunctions occurring during a digital examination for mandatory documentation by the proctor/invigator or examiner. If a digitally held

examination is terminated due to technical problems, this is not recorded as an examination attempt by the students. The above does not apply to a candidate if it is proven that they were responsible for the disruption.

(9) Personal data required for conducting a digital examination may be processed by the examiners, the examination board and the providers of the video conferencing services/online tools utilized as necessary for conducting such. If the purpose of processing no longer applies, collected data are to be erased unless their continued storage is allowed under applicable retention regulations.

(10) The Data Protection Act for the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Datenschutzgesetz Nordrhein-Westfalen*, DSG NRW) and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR) as amended remain unaffected. Individuals whose personal data is processed have rights of information, rectification, erasure, restriction of processing, data transfer, objection and complaint in accordance with Articles 15 to 18, 20 to 23 and Article 77 EU GDPR. With the exception of the right to lodge complaints, these rights can be exercised by notifying the examination board. The responsible supervisory authority for complaints is the North Rhine-Westphalia State Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (*Landesbeauftragte für Datenschutz und Informationsfreiheit Nordrhein-Westfalen*, LDI NRW); the contact details can be found on the LDI website. The contact details of the University of Bonn's data protection officer are on the University of Bonn's website.

## Part 6 Master's thesis

### § 21

#### **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 Comparative Theological 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 announces the deadline for registration of master's theses required in order 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, paragraph 1, sentence 1; if the topic is to be set by another examiner specified in § 9, paragraph 1, sentence 2 or 4, the consent of the examination board shall be required. As a rule, the examiner who assigned the topic serves as supervisor for the master's thesis.

(5) The topic for the master's thesis shall only be issued when the student meets all 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 paragraph 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.

- (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 90,000 and a maximum of 150,000 characters in length (not including spaces).
- (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 three 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 agreement 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.

## § 22

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

- (1) Candidates shall submit their master's thesis in triplicate to the examination board in both print and a digital format suitable for electronic evaluation; 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 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. The examination board can require the candidate to provide an affidavit to this effect.
- (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, paragraph 1. It must be ensured that at least one of the examiners is a member of the group of university professors (*Hochschullehrer\*innen*) 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 § 26, paragraph 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. When the difference is 2.0 or more or one of the grades is "insufficient", the examination board shall appoint a third examiner for review of the master's thesis. In this case the overall thesis grade is calculated as the average of the two best individual grades given. Grades shall be averaged in accordance with § 26, paragraph 2. 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) The candidate is to be informed of the grade for the master's thesis within eight weeks of 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 § 21, paragraph 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 the 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

#### § 23

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

(1) Candidates may, without giving reasons, cancel their registration electronically in the examination management system for module examinations with the examination board before the deadlines indicated in § 12, paragraph 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 resulting in an inability to participate in the examination, 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 doctor 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 doctor 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.

#### § 24

#### **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 in accordance with paragraph 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 serious. After hearing the candidate, in such cases the examination board can decide whether the candidate loses their 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) Violating 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 the competent administrative authority, the Provost of the University of Bonn shall pursue and fine administrative offenses pursuant to sentence 1.

## **§ 25**

### **Protective regulations**

(1) Regulations on maternity leave stipulated in the Maternity Protection Act (*Mutterschutzgesetz, 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 (*Gesetz zum Elterngeld und zur Elternzeit, 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 § 23, paragraph 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 examinations may not be extended based on such leave taken. The examination topics shall be deemed not issued. The candidate shall receive a new topic at the end of their leave. This does not affect § 23, paragraph 3, sentence 1.

Part 8  
Grading and final documentation

**§ 26**  
**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. If the examination is conducted by more than one examiner, the grade shall be calculated using the average of the individual grades. This shall not affect § 13, paragraph 6. 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) 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.

(3) 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, paragraph 3, sentence 4. The grading scale for modules is as follows:

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

(4) 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. 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.

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

(6) 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). Paragraph 3, sentence 4 applies accordingly. By way of derogation, the overall grade is "excellent" if the calculated overall grade is no worse than 1.1 and the master's thesis was 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.

- (7) The master's examination shall be deemed failed at the final attempt when
- the candidate has failed to pass a module examination in a compulsory module three times as defined by § 10, paragraph 3, sentence 4, or § 15, paragraph 2;
  - the elective compensation options per § 15, paragraph 3 have been exhausted; or
  - the master's thesis has been graded "insufficient" in the second attempt.

## **§ 27**

### **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. 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
  - The overall grade for the master's examination
- (2) The certificate shall include the date it was issued and a note that the academic degree was not issued under the authority of the Holy See. The certificate shall be stamped with the seal of the examination board and signed by the Dean and the chair of the examination board.
- (3) Candidates who have failed a final attempt at the master's examination receive official written notice of this from the examination board in a letter outlining the legal remedies available.
- (4) Students who leave the University without acquiring a degree can, after deregistering, receive by request a transcript stating all completed coursework and examinations. This transcript only states the successfully completed courses and degree program elements. 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.

## **§ 28**

### **Master's diploma**

Along with the certificate for the master's examination, candidates shall receive a 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 Catholic Theology at the University of Bonn and by the chair of the examination board as well as stamped with the seal of the Faculty. The diploma shall include a note that the academic degree was not issued under the authority of the Holy See.

## **§ 29**

### **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
- 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. The diploma supplement shall include a note that the academic degree was not issued under the authority of the Holy See.

### **§ 30**

#### **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, VwVfG*).
- (2) Candidates shall, on written application within three months after the examination board has issued the certificate as per § 27, be granted access to their examination records. This does not affect § 29 VwVfG.
- (3) The examination board shall determine when and where the examination records may be accessed and notify the candidate of this in due time. The examination board shall determine the details concerning the possibility of preparing copies or other true reproductions, and shall announce them in accordance with § 8, paragraph 7. Copies and other reproductions of examination records or parts of the records 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 individuals engaged by the candidates to safeguard their legal interests. Any other duplication or distribution of copies or other reproductions is not permitted.

### **§ 31**

#### **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, the examination board may correspondingly correct the grades for those examinations in which the candidate used deception as well as the overall grade and declare the examination or parts of the examination failed.
- (2) Should it become known after the certificate has been issued that the candidate had not met the requirements for admission to an 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 VwVfG.
- (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 in accordance with paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, sentence 2 may be made only for a period of five years after the certificate has been issued.
- (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.

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. Blumenthal

by proxy  
The Vice Dean for Studies and Examination Affairs  
of the Faculty of Catholic Theology  
at the University of Bonn  
University Professor Dr. Christian Blumenthal

Executed pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Protestant Theology on January 15, 2025 and the resolution passed by the Rectorate on February 18, 2025.

Bonn, March 24, 2025

M. Hoch

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

## **Annex 1: Module structure for the consecutive master's degree program Comparative Theological Studies**

### **Module structure key:**

- Abbreviations of course types: S = seminar, E = scientific exercise, L = lecture.
- The Course Type column shows the type of a course within the module.
- The Duration/Program-Related Semester column shows the duration (D) of the module (in semesters) and assigns it to a program-related semester (PRS).
- The Coursework column shows requirements that must be met for admission to certain examinations pursuant to § 13, paragraph 4 or, respectively, to acquire credit points in modules without an examination. Coursework that is required for admission to certain examinations and must be repeated in case that examination is failed is marked with the letter "r" (r̄).
- In the Type of Examination column, examinations as defined by § 15, paragraph 5 that cannot be repeated within one semester but must rather be repeated along with the entire module or, respectively, the corresponding course are marked with the letter "r" (r̄). Examinations that are assessed by two examiners in accordance with § 13, paragraph 6, nos. 3 and 4 are marked with "2E."

Further details on individual modules, including particularly the courses offered within or required for completion of a module, are outlined in the Module Guide, which the examination board makes available before the start of the semester in line with § 8, paragraph 7.

**Compulsory Modules (36 ECTS CP)**

Module Number/ Abbreviation	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Program-Related Semester	Subject (Content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Coursework	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
MCT 1	Comparative Theology	L/S, S	None	D: 1 PRS: 1 <sup>st</sup>	Methodological and hermeneutic principles of comparative theology with examples.	Active participation, for example: seminar paper or report or essay or assignments	Term paper	12
MCT 2	Law and Religion	L, S	None	D: 2 PRS: 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Basic knowledge of religious law and the relationship between law and religion with more in-depth studies of certain points.	Active participation, for example: seminar paper or report or essay or assignments	Written examination	12
MCT 3	Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations	L/S, S, S/E	None	D: 2 PRS: 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Examination of the special relationships among Judaism, Christianity and Islam.	Active participation, for example: seminar paper or report or essay or assignments	Portfolio	12

**Elective Modules (9 ECTS CP; one module must be chosen)**

Module Number/ Abbreviation	Module Name	Course Type	Admission Requirements	Duration/ Program-Related Semester	Subject (Content) of Examination and Qualification Objective	Coursework	Type of Examination	ECTS CP
MCT 4a	Biblical, Qur'anic and Historical Foundations	E, S	Knowledge of at least one older language (Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Syriac or Arabic; proof can be shown with <i>Latinum</i> , <i>Graecum</i> or <i>Hebraicum</i> or similar proof of language skills for Latin, Greek or Hebrew from the Faculty of Catholic Theology for the <i>Magister Theologiae</i> , or successful completion of the Syriac II course from the Faculty of Catholic Theology or the Basic Module: Arabic II in the bachelor's degree program Asian Studies)	D: 1 PRS: 1 <sup>st</sup>	Readings and interpretations of key Biblical, Qur'anic and patristic texts.	Active participation, for example: seminar paper or report or essay or assignments	Oral examination	9
MCT 4b	Ecumenism in Theory and Practice	E/S, S	None	D: 2 PRS: 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Key ecumenical questions and reflection on ecumenical aspects of how theology deals with heterogeneity.	Active participation, for example: Seminar paper or report or essay or assignments	Oral examination	9

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

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

<b>Module Number/ Abbreviation</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Course Type</b>	<b>Admission Requirements</b>	<b>Duration/ Program-Related Semester</b>	<b>Subject (Content) of Examination and Qualification Objective</b>	<b>Coursework</b>	<b>Type of Examination</b>	<b>ECTS CP</b>
MCT 5	Master's Thesis		At least one completed compulsory module	D: 1 PRS: 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Students can structure a research question in comparative theology according to its factual aspects and answer the question in the form of an academic paper.	None	Master's thesis	15

## **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 curriculum, 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 curriculum, 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 curriculum, 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 curriculum
  
- **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.