

English translation – not legally binding

Pursuant to Section 20(2), first sentence, Section 23(2), first sentence, and Section 24(1), second sentence, in conjunction with Section 81(2), first sentence, No. 1, of the Brandenburg Higher Education Act (BbgHG) of 9 April 2024 (GVBl. I/24 No. 12), as last amended by Article 2 of the Act on the Introduction of a State University Medical Centre in the State of Brandenburg of 21 June 2024 (GVBl. I-2024, No. 30), in conjunction with Section 1(1) of the Ordinance on the Structure of Examination Regulations to Ensure the Equivalence of Courses of Study, Examinations and Qualifications (Higher Education Examinations Ordinance – HSPV) of 4 March 2015 (GVBl. II/15, No. 12), as last amended by Article 2 of the Ordinance of 22 August 2025 (GVBl. II/25, [No. 65], p. 8) in conjunction with Section 13(5)(1) of the Basic Statutes of the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) of 4 September 2019 (Official Notices of the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) No. 02/2020), as last amended by the Second Statute amending the Basic Regulations of the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) of 17 July 2024 (Official Notices of the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) No. 04/2024) in conjunction with Section 1(2) of the General Study and Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes (ASPO) dated 13 July 2022 (Official Notices of the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) No. 04/2022), as last amended by the First Statute amending the General Study and Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes (ASPO) in the revised version of 13 July 2022, dated 17 July 2024, the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) hereby issues the following programme-specific regulations : ¹

Study and Examination Regulations for the degree programme Digital Studies – Technology, Media, Society (Master of Arts)

of 14 January 2026

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§ 1 Scope (re § 1 ASPO)

The provisions of the General Study and Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes (ASPO) at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) dated 13 July 2022, as last amended by the First Statute Amending the General Study and Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes (ASPO) dated 17 July 2024, are supplemented or clarified as follows for the degree programme in Digital Studies – Technology, Media, Society leading to the degree of 'Master of Arts' at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), in accordance with § 1(2) ASPO, are supplemented or clarified as follows.

§ 2 Aims of the programme (re § 1(2), sentence 2, no. 1 ASPO)

(1) ¹The programme is designed to enable students to analyse, critique and responsibly shape the interrelationships between (media) technologies, societal crises and transformations. ²Particular focus is placed on digital (media) technologies and the associated societal and cultural processes of transformation. ³To this end, the programme imparts empirically and theoretically sound, methodological and transferable skills for researching, problematising and proactively addressing current and future crises and challenges facing digitalised societies.

(2) ¹The aim of the degree programme is to enable students to think critically, cooperate across disciplinary boundaries and conduct problem-oriented research. ²Students acquire knowledge and methods, particularly from the social sciences, cultural studies and media studies, but also from law and economics, which enable them to understand, contextualise and influence the complex interrelationships and interactions between digital technologies and media, culture and politics.

(3) ¹Upon completion of the programme, students should possess specialist, procedural and methodological knowledge for the analysis and research-based

¹The President granted his approval on .

shaping of societal transformations, with a focus on contemporary digital media and technologies. ²The programme imparts this knowledge on three levels:

1. current digital practices, actors and infrastructures, as well as their (ongoing) development and regulation in times of multiple crises, are analysed;
2. discourses, negotiations, aesthetics, controversies and critiques are examined and discussed in relation to old and new forms of political communication,
3. broader issues and theories concerning changes in the public sphere and the media, energy, climate and mobility, as well as everyday culture, are dealt with in depth.

§ 3

Degree awarded

(re § 1(2), sentence 2, no. 2 and § 2(2) ASPO)

(1) Upon successful completion of the Master's programme, the academic degree 'Master of Arts' (M.A.) is awarded.

(2) For degrees that form part of double degree agreements, successful completion of the Master's programme results in the award of the academic degree referred to in paragraph 1, as well as the academic degree of the partner university, organisation or association specified in the double degree agreement.

§ 4

Commencement of Studies

(re § 1(2), sentence 2, no. 4 and § 5(2), sentence 2 of the ASPO)

(1) Students commence their studies in the winter semester of any year.

(2) The study plan, which is attached to these Study and Examination Regulations as Annex 1, provides guidance on a possible course of study.

§ 5

Regular study time and structure of the programme

(in relation to § 1(2), second sentence, no. 5; § 4(2); § 5(1), sentences 2 to 4, and § 7 ASPO)

(1) ¹The standard duration of study is four academic semesters. ²The programme comprises 120 ECTS credits. ³This is a consecutive, interdisciplinary and research-oriented Master's programme.

(2) The programme consists of 6 modules:

- Foundation module 'Technology, Media, Society' (Module A),

- Competence modules 'Digital Matters' (Module B) and 'Researching Technology, Media, Society' (Module C),
- Compulsory elective module 'Electives I' (Module E1),
- Compulsory elective module 'Electives II' (Module E2),
- Specialisation module (Module S).

(3) In the foundation module 'Technology, Media, Society' (Module A), 18 ECTS credits must be earned, of which 9 ECTS credits each are allocated to the sub-modules 'Introduction' and 'Methods'.

(4) ¹Competence Module B – 'Digital Matters' – consists of the sub-modules 'Digital Infrastructures, Technopolitics and Transformations', 'Digital Practices, Theories, Critique' and 'Digital Platforms and Political Communication'. ²A total of two sub-modules, amounting to 18 ECTS in total, must be completed, with 6 to 12 ECTS credits awarded for each sub-module completed. ³The remaining ECTS credits are allocated to the second sub-module completed.

(5) ¹In Competence Module C – 'Researching Technology, Media, Society' (Module C), 18 ECTS credits must be earned. ²Of these, 12 ECTS credits are allocated to a research course and the remaining 6 ECTS credits to two colloquia (3 ECTS credits each) or one colloquium (3 ECTS credits) and one skills seminar (3 ECTS credits), in which specific academic skills are acquired.

(6) ¹In the compulsory-elective module 'Electives I' (Module E1), students may take so-called 'tracks' totalling 24 ECTS credits to pursue individual specialisation.

²Students may choose two of the following tracks:

- **Business and Economics Track**, comprising courses from the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics that are normally open to students on other degree programmes *or*
- **Social and Cultural Studies Track**, comprising courses from one of the options within the 'Interdisciplinary Electives' compulsory-elective option in the compulsory-elective modules of the Master's programmes at the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences *or*
- **Law Track**, comprising courses from the Faculty of Law that are normally open to students on other degree programmes *or*
- **MoDE Track**, comprising courses from modules A1, A3, A4, A5, B2, B3 and B4 of the interdisciplinary study programme 'Digital Entrepreneurship' (MoDE) *or*
- Track from Module B – **Digital Matters**, comprising freely selectable courses from Module B, which must not be identical to courses already completed in Module B or Module S *or*

- **Certificate Track** comprising a certificate programme offered by the EUV.

³As a rule, a track comprises 12 ECTS credits, meaning that two different tracks must be completed in order to finish Module E1. ⁴If students choose the Certificate Track and more than 12 ECTS credits are awarded for the relevant EUV certificate programme, the second track may be taken to a correspondingly lesser extent in order to reach a total of 24 ECTS credits.

(7) ¹In the compulsory-elective module 'Electives II' (Module E2), 12 ECTS credits must be earned. These may optionally be obtained through:

- two marked foreign language examinations in accordance with Section 6(8), each worth 6 ECTS credits *or*
- a full-time internship/work placement lasting at least 8 weeks, undertaken alongside studies *or*
- a combination of a language course in accordance with Section 6(8) (6 ECTS credits) and a 4–7-week (full-time) internship/work placement.

²The requirements for internships and their recognition are set out in Annex 4 to these Study and Examination Regulations. ³The Examination Board decides about the recognition of internships.

(8) ¹In the specialisation module (Module S), a course of 9 ECTS credits must be completed in accordance with Section 6(4), sentence 3c, in a course from Module B 'Digital Matters'. ²The course selected in Module S must not be identical to any courses selected in Module B or Module E1 which the student has already attended.

(9) ¹The ENS offers students the opportunity to obtain a double degree with selected partner universities, organisations or associations abroad. ²In this case, students usually complete at least one semester (30 ECTS credits) at a partner university, organisation or association abroad. ³Students must apply for a place on a programme under a double degree agreement to the department at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) responsible for organising and administering study abroad programmes. ⁴The coursework and examinations to be completed under the respective double degree agreement, amounting to a maximum of 60 ECTS credits, are listed in the non-binding study plan in Annex 1 to these Study and Examination Regulations and documented in the respective double degree agreements, which are made known to students via notice boards or appropriate electronic systems. ⁵Whether the modules to be completed are compulsory or compulsory-elective is set out in the module catalogue (Annex 2). ⁶The Examination Board shall decide on the recognition of these academic achievements and examination results completed under a double degree agreement, in accordance with the provisions set out in the relevant double degree agreement with the respective foreign partner university, organisation or association,

provided that such provisions have been included in the agreement. ⁷Annexes 1 and 3 to these Regulations must also be observed.

§ 6

Forms of teaching and examination, authorisation to conduct examinations and organisation of examinations

(relating to § 4, § 7, § 11, § 13, §§ 14 to 16, § 18, sentence 2, and § 23(7) ASPO)

(1) The following forms of teaching are provided within the degree programme:

- seminars,
- colloquia,
- accompanying mentoring,
- project and practical seminars,
- lectures,
- practical sessions,
- study groups,
- work placements,
- language courses,
- group and individual projects,
- workshops,
- field trips.

(2) ¹The prerequisite for the successful completion of examinations or assessments in the teaching formats listed in paragraph 1, sentence 1, is an individually identifiable performance graded at least 'sufficient'. ²Exempt from this are ungraded academic achievements.

(3) ¹In accordance with Section 4(2) of the ASPO, the learning outcomes and the forms of teaching and assessment, including the evidence of achievement to be provided, are set out in the module catalogue (Annex 2). ²If a module consists of several graded components, the overall mark is calculated in proportion to the ECTS credits to be awarded for the individual components.

(4) Specifically, the number of ECTS credits awarded for a course is determined in accordance with the following criteria:

a) 3 ECTS credits for:

- presentation(s) or lecture(s) with a total duration of approximately 20 minutes, or
- essay(s) or research report(s) with a total length of approximately 2,500 words, or
- an oral examination with a total duration of approximately 20 minutes, or
- a portfolio or a combination of oral and written examination components of comparable overall scope to § 6(4), sentence 1a, indent 1 and § 6(4), sentence 1a, indent 2.

b) 6 ECTS credits for:

- a term paper of approximately 5,000 words or

- essay(s) or research report(s) totalling approximately 5,000 words or
- written examination(s) with a total duration of 60 to 90 minutes or
- an oral examination with a total duration of approximately 40 minutes or
- presentation(s) or lecture(s) with a total duration of approximately 40 minutes, or
- two examination components in accordance with Section 6(4), sentence 1a.

c) 9 ECTS credits for:

- a term paper of approximately 7,500 words or
- several essays or research report(s) totalling approximately 7,500 words, or
- written examination(s) with a total duration of approximately 120 minutes or
- an oral examination with a total duration of approximately 60 minutes, or
- presentation(s) or lecture(s) with a total duration of approximately 60 minutes, or
- three examination components in accordance with Section 6(4), sentence 1a, or one examination component each in accordance with Section 6(4), sentence 1a, and Section 6(4), sentence 2b.

d) 12 ECTS credits for:

- two examination components in accordance with Section 6(4), sentence 2b, or one examination component each in accordance with Section 6(4), sentence 1a, and Section 6(4), sentence 3c.

(5) For all courses and examinations from the module catalogues of other degree programmes within the Faculty of Law, Faculty of Business Administration and Economics and Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences, the respective examination formats and regulations of the Faculty applies.

(6) A maximum of 12 ECTS credits can be earned in a single course.

(7) ¹The assessment requirements for the individual modules are generally set out in the module description in Annex 2. ²This is published on the website of the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), preferably on the viaCampus portal.

(8) ¹Evidence of achievement for foreign languages must, as a rule, be obtained after enrolment on the degree programme; Section 25 of the Brandenburg Higher Education Act remains unaffected. ²The requirements for language examinations are governed by the examination regulations for part-time foreign language training at the Language Centre of the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), as amended from time to time. ³Students may also obtain language certificates outside the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder). ⁴In the compulsory-elective module Electives II (Module E2), a maximum of two language courses, each worth 6 ECTS credits, may be credited towards the acquisition of foreign language skills. ⁵For this pur-

pose, a language examination in a modern foreign language (other than English, in accordance with the entry requirements for this degree programme) at the level of UNICert Basis or A2, UNICert I or B1, UNICert II or B2, or UNICert III or C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is accepted. ⁶The Examination Board decides on the recognition of other types of language certificates.

(9) ¹Only persons holding at least a Master's degree, a Diploma degree or an equivalent higher education qualification are eligible to sit examinations. ²In all other respects, the requirements of Section 22(5) of the BbgHG, in conjunction with Section 11(1), sentences 1 and 2, of the ASPO, shall apply. ³The Examination Board may appoint as an assessor for oral examinations held during the course of study in accordance with Section 15(2) of the ASPO any person who meets the requirements set out in Section 11(3) of the ASPO. ⁴The Examination Board may, by resolution, delegate this authority to its Chair and their Deputy.

(10) ¹Examinations held during the course of study are generally conducted by the lecturers who teach the module within the framework of which the examination takes place. ²In the case of the first and second retake of an examination, the Examination Board appoints a second examiner. ³The Examination Board may, by resolution, delegate the authority to appoint an examiner to its chair or deputy chair.

§ 7

Recognition of periods of study, academic achievements and examination results, as well as the crediting of knowledge and skills acquired outside higher education (re § 12 ASPO)

(1) The recognition of periods of study, academic achievements and examination results, as well as the crediting of knowledge and skills acquired outside higher education, is governed by Section 12 of the ASPO.

(2) ¹The applicant must provide the necessary information regarding the achievement to be recognised. Recognition and crediting are determined by examining the documents provided by the applicant. ²If the Examinations Board refuses to recognise achievements in accordance with Section 12(1), first sentence, of the ASPO, a recognition examination shall be conducted upon the student's written application to the Examinations Board, provided that the student can demonstrate credibly that they have acquired the relevant knowledge and skills by other means. ³The recognition examination shall be conducted by a university lecturer at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) who is authorised to conduct examinations and who is appointed by the Examination Board. ⁴The person or persons who previously refused to recognise a course credit shall be

excluded from the decision on whether to hold a recognition examination in the same matter. ⁵The format of this recognition examination shall be determined by the Examination Board in consultation with the academic staff member, in accordance with § 23(5), first sentence, and (6), first sentence, of the ASPO, considering the learning outcomes to be achieved for the module to be recognised and the selection of examination formats regulated in these Study and Examination Regulations.

(3) ¹If a recognition examination is passed with a mark of at least 'sufficient', the achievement shall be recognised. ²In the event of failure, the decision not to recognise the achievement, taken by the Examination Board in accordance with Section 12(6), first sentence of the ASPO, shall be communicated to the student concerned, together with the reasons for the decision.

(4) Examination results achieved as part of double degree programmes at the partner university, organisation or association shall be recognised upon application by the student.

§ 8

Compulsory academic advising

(in relation to § 1(2), second sentence, no. 7; § 3(3) sentence 2 and § 6(1) and (6) ASPO)

(1) ¹If a student has not acquired the 120 ECTS credits required for the successful completion of their degree programme, including the final examination, by the end of the eighth academic semester and provided evidence of this to the Examinations Office, the student is obliged, in accordance with Section 22(2), second sentence, in conjunction with Section 21(3) of the BbgHG, to attend an academic advisory session in accordance with Section 6 of the ASPO. ²This shall not apply if the student is not responsible for exceeding the deadline.

(2) ¹Academic advising within the meaning of paragraph 1, first sentence, is provided by a university lecturer appointed by the Examination Board. ²Students are invited in writing to attend academic advising after the start of the ninth semester. ³The advising takes the form of a face-to-face meeting; in exceptional cases, it may also be conducted in writing. ⁴To prepare for this advising meeting, the chair of the relevant Examination Board may request assistance from the academic advisers. ⁵The aim of this academic advising is to draw up a written study plan in accordance with Section 6(3) and (4) of the ASPO. ⁶When setting out obligations, due consideration shall be given to the student's personal circumstances. ⁷The agreement must be concluded by the end of the lecture period of the ninth academic semester at the latest. ⁸A model study plan agreement is included in Annex 3 of these Study and Examination Regulations.

(3) ¹In the event of non-compliance with the study plan agreement for a valid reason, proof of the valid reason must be submitted in writing to the Examinations Board immediately upon its becoming known. ²If illness is cited

as a valid reason, this must be substantiated by a medical certificate. ³The Examination Board may request a medical certificate from a public health officer to supplement the medical certificate. ⁴A request for other valid reasons to be taken into account must be made in writing and supported by appropriate evidence. ⁵The reasons submitted shall be examined by the Examination Board. ⁶If the Examination Board recognises a valid reason, the Chair of the Examination Board may be authorised to conclude a new study plan agreement with the student concerned without delay. ⁷If no valid reasons are provided, the provisions of § 6(7), first sentence, of the ASPO shall apply.

§ 9

Master's Thesis

(relating to § 1(2), second sentence, no. 6; § 17(3), (5), (7) sentence 4, paragraph 16, § 18 sentences 5 and 6 ASPO)

(1) ¹The prerequisite for admission to the Master's thesis is evidence of having completed at least 75 per cent of the ECTS credits for the coursework and examinations undertaken during the course of study in accordance with § 5. ²This must include modules A, B, C, E1 and E2.

(2) The time allowed for the written part of the Master's thesis is 18 weeks from the date of registration.

(3) ¹ The Master's thesis shall comprise approximately 25,000 words and shall be written in English or German. ² Any deviations must be applied for from the first examiner in individually justified cases on academic grounds and brought to the attention of the Examination Board.

(4) Only those who meet the requirements for examiners in accordance with ASPO § 17(3) may be appointed as examiners.

(5) For degrees that form part of double degree agreements or equivalent arrangements, provisions deviating from paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 may be agreed within the framework of a double degree agreement between the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) and the partner university, organisation or association.

(6) ¹In the event of a student's illness, the time allowed for the completion of the Master's thesis may be extended by the relevant examination board upon the student's application. ²The application must be accompanied by a medical certificate setting out the physical or psychological effects caused by the illness and the expected duration of the illness. ³The duration of the extension granted must be based on this. ⁴In the event of an illness where the examination board has already extended the completion period by more than half of the standard completion period, the Master's thesis may be returned at the student's request. Sentence 2 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

(7) ¹If the Master's thesis is awarded the mark 'unsatisfactory' (5.0), the student may, in accordance with § 17(16) of the ASPO, submit a new Master's thesis on a different topic on one occasion. ²The second Master's thesis topic must be registered no later than six months after notification of the failure.

(8) The results of the assessment must be communicated to the candidate no later than one week before the oral Master's examination.

(9) For degrees that form part of double degree agreements, the double degree agreements, the module catalogue and the module description specify whether the Master's thesis is to be written at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) or at the partner university.

(10) For degree programmes which form part of double degree agreements, the Master's thesis may, notwithstanding § 17(7), sentences 1 and 2 of the ASPO, be substantially identical in content to a Master's thesis previously submitted by the student, either earlier or at the same time, at this or a partner university within the framework of the double degree agreement, the successful completion of which is or was a prerequisite for the award of an academic degree.

§ 10 Oral Master's Examination (re § 18 ASPO)

(1) ¹The requirements for admission to the oral Master's examination are proof of a Master's thesis graded at least 4.0 and the successful completion of all coursework and examinations required under § 5. ²The topic of the Master's examination corresponds to the topic of the written Master's thesis. ³The examination lasts approximately 30 minutes. ⁴The examination is deemed to have been passed if both examiners award a mark of at least 'satisfactory' (4.0). ⁵The main points and results of the examination must be recorded in a protocol. ⁶The result of the examination must be communicated to the candidate immediately after the examination. ⁷The oral Master's examination is taken in front of two examiners. ⁸The examiners are appointed by the Examination Board; the Examination Board may, by resolution, delegate this authority to its chair and deputy chair. ⁹The examiners shall preferably be the first and second supervisors of the Master's thesis in accordance with Section 9(4).

(2) ¹If the oral Master's examination is marked 'unsatisfactory' (5.0), it may be retaken once in accordance with Section 25(3) of the ASPO. ²The retake of the oral examination must be taken no later than three months after the results of the first attempt have been announced. ³If the retake is also not graded as at least 'sufficient' (4.0), the Master's programme is finally failed.

(3) For degrees that form part of double degree agreements or equivalent arrangements, the double degree agreements, the module catalogue and the module description shall specify whether the oral Master's examination is to be held at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) or at the partner university, organisation or association.

§ 11 Assessment of Examinations and Calculation of the Overall Mark (re § 23(1) sentence 3(a), (2), § 26(1), sentences 1 and 4 ASPO)

(1) Examinations shall be marked in accordance with the grades set out in § 23(1), third sentence, (a) of the ASPO.

(2) For the purpose of a differentiated assessment of examination performance in accordance with paragraph 1, intermediate marks shall be established in accordance with Section 23(2) of the ASPO.

(3) For law modules, the assessment of examinations may also be carried out in accordance with the grades set out in Section 23(1), third sentence, (b) of the ASPO.

(4) ¹When calculating the mark for coursework/modules undertaken during the course of study, the weighting of the individual marks is based on the respective number of ECTS credits (weighted arithmetic mean in accordance with Section 26(1), first sentence, of the ASPO). ²The overall mark is composed of the individual module marks as a percentage and is calculated in accordance with the following table:

Module	Proportion of the overall mark in %
A – Technology, Media, Society	75%
B – Digital Matters	
C – Researching Technology, Media, Society	
E1 – Electives I	
S – Specialisation	
Master's thesis	20%
Oral Master's examination	5%
Total	100%

Section 12

Entry into force

These Study and Examination Regulations for the Digital Studies – Technology, Media, Society (Master of Arts) degree programme shall come into force on the day following their publication in the Official Gazette of the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) and shall apply to all students who enrol in this degree programme after the date of entry into force.