

Examination Regulations

for the Master's Programs "Ecumenical Studies"
and
"Extended Ecumenical Studies"
of the Faculty of Protestant Theology
in cooperation with the Centre for Religion and Society
(ZERG),
at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn

Issued on 29 May 2013

English Translation of:

Prüfungsordnung für die Masterstudiengänge
„Ecumenical Studies“
und
„Extended Ecumenical Studies“
der Evangelisch-Theologischen Fakultät
in Kooperation mit dem Zentrum für Religion und Gesellschaft (ZERG)
der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn

vom 29. Mai 2013

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**Examination Regulations for the Master's
Programs**

„Ecumenical Studies“

and

„Extended Ecumenical Studies“

**of the Faculty of Protestant Theology
(Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät),
in cooperation with Centre for Religion
and Society (Zentrum für Religion und
Gesellschaft [ZERG]),
at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-
Universität Bonn.**

Issued on May 29, 2013.

In keeping with Section 2 paragraph 4 and Section 64 paragraph 1 of the Law governing the Institutes of Higher Education of the Federal State of Nordrhein-Westfalen – (Hochschulgesetz (HG) – in the version of the Institutes of Higher Education Freedom Law (Hochschulfreiheitsgesetz [HFG]), in effect from October 31, 2006 (GV. NRW. p. 474) lastly updated by article 1 of the Law for Changing the Higher Education Law and the Law governing the Academy of Arts from December 18, 2012 (GV. NRW. p. 672), the Faculty of Protestant Theology (Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät) of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, in cooperation with Centre for Religion and Society (Zentrum für Religion und Gesellschaft [ZERG]), issues the following examination regulations:

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§ 1 Aim of Course and Purpose of Examination

- (1) The Master's Programs "Ecumenical Studies" and "Extended Ecumenical Studies" are offered by the Faculty of Protestant Theology (Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät), in cooperation with the Centre for Religion and Society (Zentrum für Religion und Gesellschaft [ZERG]) of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn. They are consecutive, interdisciplinary, and internationally-oriented programs and possess a research-oriented profile.
- (2) The master's examination is a post-graduate degree (weiterer berufsqualifizierender Abschluss) concluding an advanced, research-driven, academic course in the Ecumenical Studies program and the Extended Ecumenical Studies program.
- (3) The students should learn to grasp complex problems and to solve them by academic methods, even if they are beyond the scope of the current state of knowledge. The interdisciplinary orientation of the programs should provide students with an overview that combines the perspectives of various academic disciplines, and equip them to independently employ academic methods and knowledge.
- (4) During the course of this master's program, the student should acquire the necessary, subject-specific, academic knowledge, competence, and methods, as well as key interdisciplinary skills, giving due consideration to the demands and developments in the professional world and in interdisciplinary dialogue to equip them to undertake further academically-based work, to critically coordinate and utilize academic knowledge and methodology in their jobs, and to operate independently and responsibly. The goals of study are concentrated above all on:
 - a) subject-specific knowledge in keeping with current research, based on a thorough knowledge of the fundamentals of the discipline;
 - b) methodological and analytical competencies whereby the students are equipped to enhance their own academic knowledge independently; in this respect, research methods and strategies are of central significance;
 - c) occupationally-relevant transferrable skills
- (5) A recommended study plan has been drawn up for the students. A customized study plan can be created on demand according to specific needs.
- (6) The language of tuition is English. In elective modules, where students may choose an alternative, the language of tuition may be a bilingual combination of German and English. The Master of Arts can be acquired without the participation in German courses, but with limited options. Specifics are listed in the module plan (Appendices 1 and 2).

§ 2 Academic Degree

If the master's examination is passed, and the sum of 300 Credit Points (Leistungspunkte [LP/CP]), including the undergraduate degree (erster berufsqualifizierender Abschluss), is obtained, the Faculty of Protestant Theology (Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät), in cooperation with the Centre for Religion and Society (Zentrum für Religion und Gesellschaft [ZERG]) at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn will award the academic degree "Master of Arts (M.A.)" in the "Ecumenical Studies" program, or the "Extended Ecumenical Studies" program.

§ 3 Admission Requirements

- (1) The Master's Programs in Ecumenical Studies and Extended Ecumenical Studies are open to applicants who fulfill the following admissions requirements:
1. Completion of an undergraduate degree (ersten berufsqualifizierenden Abschluss) in the fields of Old Catholic Theology, Protestant Theology, Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, Catholic Theology, History of Religion, Religious Education, Philosophy of Religion, Sociology of Religion, Religious Studies, or a related field.
 2. English proficiency, under the terms of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) (German: Gemeinsamer Europäischer Referenzrahmen [GeR]), with a minimum CEFR level B 2 or comparable accomplishments in one of the following language tests: TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English. Applicants are exempt who can show that they have achieved the matriculation standard for a university from an English-speaking school and/or the completion of a university degree in a program conducted at least partially in the English language. Exceptions are brought before the examination board .
 3. A basic knowledge of the challenges of ecumenical research, demonstrated by studies amounting to at least 12 Credit Points (CP) in the field of ecumenism or equivalent attainment. The examination board will rule on equivalencies.
 4. a) for the Master's program "Ecumenical Studies": a minimum of 240 Credit Points, (CP), acquired in an undergraduate program/ undergraduate programs listed in No. 1.
b) for the Master's program "Extended Ecumenical Studies": a minimum of 180 Credit Points (CP), acquired in an undergraduate program listed in No. 1.
 5. A pass in the Scholastic Assessment Test for International Students (Feststellung der Studierfähigkeit bei ausländischen Studienbewerbern) for students who are not considered as equivalent to German Citizens by or on the basis of international treaties (see Appendix no. 4).
- (2) Admissions restrictions which are based on capacity regulations (numerus clausus), remain unaffected.

§ 4 Duration of Program, Program Structure, Courses Offered

- (1) The regular duration of the Master's program in "Ecumenical Studies", including the master's thesis, amounts to two (2) semesters (60 CP). It is based on an undergraduate degree, with which a minimum of 240 CP was obtained. The regular duration of the Master's program in "Extended Ecumenical Studies", including the master's thesis, amounts to four (4) semesters (120 CP [Leistungspunkte]). It is based on an undergraduate degree, with which a minimum of 180 CP was obtained.
- (2) The program's content is selected and restricted in such a way that the master's examination can be completed within the regular program duration. The content is conveyed through modules. As a rule, the courses taught within a module are related to each other thematically, methodologically, or systematically.
- (3) As a rule each module concludes with a module exam and accounts for credit points (Leistungspunkten [LP]) which correspond to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). One ECTS credit point (ECTS-LP) is the equivalent of an estimated student workload of 25 to a maximum of 30 hours, in class and personal study.

(4) The program includes

a) In the Master's program "Ecumenical Studies" compulsory and elective modules amounting to 60 CP (Leistungspunkte [LP]). In detail:

- One compulsory and one elective module in both the winter and the summer semester (total of 36 CP),
- An internship of six weeks minimum during the semester break between the winter and the summer semester (9 CP)
- The master's thesis (15 CP)

b) In the Master's program "Extended Ecumenical Studies" modules amounting to 120 CP (Leistungspunkte [LP]). In detail:

- Nine compulsory modules (75 CP)
- An internship of nine weeks minimum (15 CP)
- The master's thesis (30 CP)

The particulars of the modules, their admissions requirements, and the number of credit points per module are set out in the module plan (in appendices 1 and 2 respectively).

(5) A student may only commence this program in the winter semester.

§ 5 Admission to Individual Classes

- (1) If a course should, in certain cases, require a restriction on the number of participants, owing to the type of course, its aims, or for specific reasons relating to research and teaching, and not all the applicants can be admitted, then, upon application by the lecturer, the dean of the faculty offering the module will regulate admission in accordance with § 59 of the Law governing the Institutes of Higher Education (Hochschulgesetz [HG]).
- (2) Courses, in which the number of participants may be restricted, are stipulated in the module plan. The dean announces the number of participants at the start of each semester. The criteria for priorities are regulated in Appendix 3 of these examination regulations.

§ 6 Examination Board and Faculty Examination Office

- (1) The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Protestant Theology forms a joint examination board for both master's programs to organize exams and execute the functions set out in these regulations. The Dean of the Faculty assures that the examination board is able to and indeed fulfills its duties. He issues the instructions necessary for this purpose.

The examination board consists of a chairperson, a vice chairperson and five further members. It is elected by the Council of the Faculty of Protestant Theology on a proposal by the ZERG. The chairperson, the vice chairperson and three further members are elected from the professors (Hochschullehrer). One member is elected from the academic staff (akademische Mitarbeiter) and one member from the students of "Ecumenical Studies" or "Extended Ecumenical Studies". All professors and academic assistants who regularly teach at least two hours per week (Semesterwochenstunden) or work as program-coordinator for one of the master programs are eligible for election to the examination board. Only those students who are matriculated for the master's program "Ecumenical Studies" or "Extended Ecumenical Studies" are eligible for election. A deputy is elected for every member. The elected student member and his/her deputy should each represent one of the master's programs.

The term of office for professors and academic assistants lasts three years, the term of office for student members one year. Reelection is permissible.

The office of Dean and/or Vice-Dean of the Faculty (Prodekan der Fakultät) is compatible with membership on the examination board as well as with the function of the chairperson and/or vice-chairperson, as far as the regulations of the faculty do not prohibit this.

- (2) The examination board is an administrative body under the terms of administrative law (Verwaltungsverfahrenrecht and Verwaltungsprozessrecht).
- (3) The faculty sets up an examination office for the administrative support of the examination board. It is directed by the dean.
- (4) The examination board ensures that the stipulations of the examination regulations are observed and assures the correct administration of examinations. It is in particular responsible for adjudicating any objections raised concerning decisions made during examination procedures. The examination board reports to the Faculty Council (Fakultätsrat) regularly, at least once a year, regarding times and deadlines related to courses and examinations (Prüfungs- und Studienzeiten), including the time allocated to the master's theses and the range of the final grades. It puts forward motions for amendments to the examination regulations and the recommended study plan (Studienverlaufsplan). It issues guidelines and sets out formal standards for written exams (schriftliche Arbeiten). It may decide to confer some of its functions to the chairperson with the exception of dealing with objections and reporting to the Faculty Council.
- (5) The sessions of the examination board are not open to the public. Members of the examination board and their deputies are obliged to secrecy (Amtsverschwiegenheit). If they are not in civil service, they are sworn to secrecy by the chairperson of the examination board. Resolution minutes (Ergebnisprotokoll) record the rulings of the examination board, and are transmitted to the examination office within ten days after session.
- (6) The examination board has a quorum if at least three members of the committee or their substitutes are present, two of which have to be professors, in addition to the chairperson or the acting chairperson. Its decisions require a simple majority. The vote of the chairperson breaks a tie. The student member of the examination board does not take part in the assessment and recognition of achievements (Studienzeiten und Studienleistungen), and examinations (Prüfungsleistungen); neither does he/she take part in the setting of exam topics or the appointment of examiners and assessors. The members of the examination board are entitled to be present while the examinations are conducted.
- (7) Regulations, examination dates, and other notifications of the examination board which are not of a personal nature are publicized either electronically or by bulletin, with due attention to the laws governing data protection. Additional notices publicized in a different manner are permissible, but not legally binding.

§ 7 Examiners and Assessors

- (1) The examination board appoints the examiners and assessors for the individual exams and for the internship reports. Lecturers (Lehrende) at the University of Bonn and persons experienced in professional practice and training are qualified for the assessment of university exams; non-lecturers will be utilized as necessary or appropriate for conducting the examinations. Examinations may only be evaluated by persons who themselves have at least completed the MEST examination or possess a comparable qualification. Assessors must have at least completed the master's examination in question or a comparable examination.

- (2) Module exams are generally carried out by the lecturers who teach in the module. If a lecturer is prevented from carrying out the exam within the period prescribed due to illness or on some other significant grounds, the examination board will ensure that another examiner is appointed to conduct the module exam. This examiner should already have independently taught courses in the module in question.
- (3) The examiners are independent of instructions in their examination activities.
- (4) Students may put forward suggestions regarding the examiners for their master's thesis. When possible, their suggestions will be taken into consideration, but this does not constitute a legal entitlement.
- (5) The examination board will ensure that the names of the examiners be made known to students in good time, at least two weeks prior to examinations.

§ 8 Recognition of Previous Achievements

- (1) Academic achievements from a degree course at another institute of higher education under the purview of the German Constitution (Grundgesetz) are to be recognized *ex officio* for the same degree course at the University of Bonn without an equivalency assessment.
- (2) Academic achievements from other institutes of higher education, and at state run or state approved vocational academies (Berufsakademien) under the purview of the German Constitution (Grundgesetz) are to be recognized if equivalent; this also applies, upon application, to credits accrued at institutes of higher education outside the purview of German Constitution. The equivalence agreements approved by the Conference of the Ministers of Education (Kultusministerkonferenz) and the Conference of University Rectors (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz) are to be observed in matters of equivalence, as are the arrangements applicable within the framework of university partnerships. Equivalency is verified if the attainments do not differ substantially in content, scope and standards. These are evaluated from an overall perspective rather than on the basis of a one-to-one comparison. The aforementioned agreements also apply to academic achievements from further education programs/extension studies where appropriate.
- (3) Upon request, other attainments and qualifications (sonstige Kenntnisse und Qualifikationen) may be recognized for the desired program on the basis of documents provided by the applicant.
- (4) The examination board is responsible for the process of the recognition of attainments according to paragraphs 1 to 3. Representatives of the relevant subjects are to be consulted for rulings on equivalence. If there is doubt regarding the equivalence of achievements attained abroad, the Central Office for Foreign Education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen) can be consulted. The decision on which achievements are recognized and which are not must be conveyed to the student within a period of twelve weeks. If attainments cannot be recognized, the examination board has to state reasons.
- (5) If past examinations are recognized, then grades must also be recognized (in so far as the grading systems are comparable) and weighted with the appropriate credit points (LPs) in the calculation of the cumulative grade. If student attainments other than examinations (Studienleistungen) are recognized, they are to be transferred with the comment "passed," but with no grade. With non-equivalent marking systems, the comment "passed" is to be transferred. Each case of recognition is to be indicated on the transcript. Achievements in courses without credit point (LP) systems will be converted into credit points by the examination board, in so far as the examination in question conforms to the modules of these examination regulations. In this case, the standards approved by the Kultusministerkonferenz for assessing equivalents in the

context of ECTS apply. According to these standards, attainments must be recognized in all cases where the acquired competences do not differ significantly. If parts of an examination (Teilprüfungsleistungen) can be recognized, the credit points are transferred after the successful completion of the module.

- (6) For the conferment of the master's degree in 'Ecumenical Studies' or in 'Extended Ecumenical Studies' in accordance with § 2, the master's thesis and the internship report must be graded by examiners according to § 7 section 1. In addition, 18 further credit points (LPs) must have been acquired from the modules and courses of the respective Master's Program at the University of Bonn.
- (7) The fulfillment of the requirements set out in sections 1 and 2 constitutes a legal entitlement to the recognition of the attainments in question. The student is to submit the necessary documents for recognition and provide appropriate information. The examination board can require a statement from the student that the student has disclosed all attainments that are to be recognized. Recognition and the participation in further examinations can be denied as long as the petitioning student fails to cooperate in the required manner.

§ 9 Composition of Master's Examination

- (1) The master's examination shall serve as proof of a postgraduate professional (weiteren berufsqualifizierenden), research-driven, academic qualification.
- (2) The master's examination consists of:
- the course-related module examinations, which cover the respective subject matter of the modules specified in attachments 1 and 2,
 - the internship report and
 - the master's thesis
 -

All examinations should be taken within the regular duration of the program according to § 4 paragraph 1.

- (3) Examinations are taken throughout the course of the program. As a rule, a module examination is assigned to each module, although the module may consist of multiple courses. The result is included in the final certificate (Abschlusszeugnis). Module examinations can consist of a single examination (Prüfungsleistung) or of two examinations (Teilprüfungsleistungen), the weight of which is specified in the module plan. The allocation of credit points (CP) requires the successful completion of the relevant module. A module is passed if each examination is at least graded with 'sufficient' ("ausreichend" [4,0]), or if the criteria for the allocation of credit points (CP), as stated in the module plan in lieu of a module examination, are satisfied.
- (4) The examinations are principally conducted in English. The examination board will rule on exceptions. Applications for examinations to be conducted in other languages must be upon registration for the examination in question; with regard to internship reports the application must be made by the end of the internship and before writing the report.
- (5) The observation of the guidelines and formal requirements for written assignments issued by the examination board is part of the examination and is included in the grading.

§ 10 Admission and Registration, Deadlines

- (1) A written application for admission to the master's examination must be submitted to the examination board before or together with the registration for the first module examination. The application must include:
- a) Evidence of the fulfillment of the general admission requirements according to § 3;
 - b) Proof of matriculation as a degree student in the relevant program at the University of Bonn, or proof of admission as a visiting student (Zweithörer) according to § 52 HG;
 - c) A statement whether the student has already failed any examination or the master's examination, either once or terminally, in the degree course in question or on a related or comparable degree course, or if he or she is simultaneously involved in any other examination procedure in one of the aforementioned degree courses;
 - d) Evidence of any module examinations or comparable attainments or examinations (Studien- und Prüfungsleistungen) at another university, and if so further specifications;
 - e) A CV covering all academic education since leaving school.
- (2) Admission to module examinations is dependent on:
- a) the fulfillment of the general admission requirements according to section 1;
 - b) the fulfillment of specific admission requirements pertaining to the module, including those related to restricted course size.
- (3) One is to register electronically or in writing to the examination board for each individual module examination. In each case, the registration can be successful only in as far as and as long as the admission requirements have been fulfilled. The examination dates as well as the registration dates are publicized by bulletin or electronically; deadlines are indicated in the same way. The dates and deadlines are exclusive (Ausschlussfristen) – i.e. applications, registrations and submissions outside of those dates and deadlines will not be accepted. Students can cancel their registration for an examination in writing or electronically without offering a statement of explanation up until one week prior to the examination date in question. The date of the receipt of the cancelation at the examination board is authoritative. For papers, the cancelation must be submitted one week before the topic is issued. For examinations or partial examinations which include reports (See § 16) and are therefore closely connected to a course, cancelation is not possible after topics or dates of the oral presentations have been assigned. Students must register for the first attempt at an exam no later than three semesters after attending the last class associated with the module. Examinees who fail to meet this deadline, lose their right to take the examination, unless there is evidence that they are not responsible for this shortcoming. Losing the right to take an examination leads to ex-matriculation (Exmatrikulation). If students fail a module examination, they are automatically registered for the date set by the examination board for the repetition of the failed examination (Wiederholungstermin); in such cases, cancelation is not possible, unless they register for an earlier examination date in due time.
- (4) When registering for the master's thesis students must produce documentation of the successful completion of the required modules; they must also name the examiner whom they would like to supervise their thesis.

- (5) If students cannot produce the documentation required according to section 1, sentence 2 in the prescribed manner, then the examination board may permit them to provide the evidence in a different way.
- (6) The examination board rules on admission.
- (7) Admission may only be denied if:
 - a) the documents are not complete in accordance with the stipulations of section 1, and/or are not submitted upon request,
 - b) the requirements listed in section 2 are not fulfilled,
 - c) the student has irrevocably failed an examination or a master's examination in the relevant program or in a related or comparable program, or
 - d) the student is involved in another examination procedure in the relevant program or in a related or comparable program.

§ 11 Execution of Course-Related Examinations

- (1) Module examinations relate to the subject matter taught in accordance with the module plan, see appendix 1 or 2.
- (2) Students are only permitted to take examinations while they are enrolled at the University of Bonn or have the status of "visiting student" (Zweithörer) according to § 52 HG.
- (3) The module examinations test both theoretical knowledge of the subjects taught during the courses of the module in question, and awareness of cross-disciplinary connections. A module examination may be divided into two parts. The module examinations usually take the form of a written exam (Klausurarbeit), an oral exam, a written paper, or an (oral and written) report (Referat). The type of exam, as well as the admission requirements, is set out in the module plan (see appendix 1 or 2). Deviations from the specifications in the module plan are possible under the terms of § 14, section 5. § 15, section 5 and § 16, section 5. In such cases the specific examination type is set by the examination board in consultation with the examiners, and is publicized by the beginning of the semester.
- (4) The module plan may require certain accomplishments as a condition for taking exams. If these are not fulfilled, no admission to the module examination will be granted. The accomplishments in question are publicized by the examination board at the request of the lecturer at the beginning of every semester, according to § 6 section 7. The module plan may determine that modules can be completed and credit points assigned without an examination on the basis of non-graded achievements (Studienleistungen).
- (5) For all written or oral module exams, two exam dates are scheduled during the semester in which the course in question is completed. Generally these are scheduled at the end of or immediately following the lecture period and just before the beginning of the next semester. The examination board publicizes examination dates in due time, either electronically or by bulletin.
- (6) The regular and active participation in the seminars (Seminare) and tutorials (Übungen) is a requirement for the admission to the module examinations, since the aim (Qualifikationsziel) of the programs' seminars and tutorials is to train the students to work with texts in a methodical manner and to develop appropriate questions, which can only be achieved by regular and active participation. The examination board may determine further courses (except lectures), in which regular participation is necessary to achieve the aim of the course, and thus make this a requirement for admission to the

exam. In the cases of sentence 1 and 2 it must be defined, what constitutes a regular and active participation. The decision must be publicized by the examination board at the beginning of the semester, according to § 6 section 7.

- (7) Written exams are to be graded by one examiner. Oral exams are always to be graded by two examiners or by one examiner in the presence of a competent assessor, if the performance in the oral examination cannot be verified by other means. Moreover, in any examination, either written or oral, which completes a degree, or in the case of a final attempt which might cause a student to irrevocably fail the entire program with no compensation, the performance must be assessed by at least two examiners. In the case of grading by more than one examiner, the final grade is derived from the arithmetic mean of the individual marks. If the examination is conducted by an examiner in the presence of an assessor, the examiner is to consult the assessor in a closed session before the grade is assigned.
- (8) If the student provides suitable evidence to the examination board that he or she is not able to apply his or her intellectual abilities in the required setting for examinations or non-graded work, due either to a disability (be it permanent or lasting longer than a semester) or to chronic illness, then the examination board will permit the student to fulfill the requirements for course work or examinations in a form appropriate to his/her special needs; if necessary, allowances may thus be made for extending the length of an examination.

§ 12 Repetition of Exams

- (1) Students who fail an exam have two further attempts. Failed attempts in the same, related, or similar programs at another institute of higher education under the purview of the German Grundgesetz will be taken into account. The examination board establishes, as necessary, which programs are to be considered equivalent. The exam must be repeated by or on the next examination date set by the examination board. The exam type at the second or third attempt may deviate from the original under the terms of § 14, section 5., §15, section 5 as well as §16, section 5, in as far as this is publicized by the beginning of the semester.
- (2) If the student does not attend a repeated attempt at an examination, it will be graded as a fail “insufficient (5.0)”.
- (3) If a student fails a compulsory module (grade “insufficient”) three times, he/she may take no further examinations in the program and is ex-matriculated.
- (4) If a student fails an elective module (Wahlpflichtmodul) in the Master’s program ‘Ecumenical Studies’ he may take another elective module to compensate, even if he has failed three attempts. Such a compensation is possible once for every set of elective modules (Wahlpflichtbereich). If a student fails both elective modules three times, he has failed the entire course and is ex-matriculated.
- (5) A module examination that is passed (graded “sufficient (4.0)” or higher) cannot be repeated.

§ 13 Student Rights, Unexcused Absence, Complaints, Withdrawals, Fraud, and Breaching of Regulations

- (1) Absence on the examination date without valid grounds, withdrawal from an exam after it has started without valid grounds, or submitting a master’s thesis after the deadline, leads to a fail: the exam will receive a grade of “insufficient” (5.0). The same applies if a written assignment is not handed in before the deadline. Students can withdraw from a

module examination up to one week prior to the exam. Notice must be given in writing to the examination board and be there by the deadline.

- (2) Valid grounds for withdrawal or absence must be submitted in writing to the examination board and must be credible. In the case of illness, the examination board is entitled to request a doctor's note which provides sufficient detail to allow the board to establish a student's incapacity to be examined. In individual cases the examination board may require documentation from a public health official or an independent doctor appointed by the examination board. If the examination board acknowledges the grounds for withdrawal or absence offered by the student, then the board will not take the attempted examination into consideration. Flaws in an examination must be reported immediately by the examinee to the examiner or supervisor. The complaint must be recorded and brought before the examination board. Sentence 4 applies accordingly.
- (3) Attempts of deception or the use of unlawful resources to influence exam results lead to a fail. Any malpractice determined by the examiner or supervisor is placed on record, and conveyed to the examination board. If a student disrupts the orderly course of an examination, the examiner or supervisor may, after an admonition, debar that student from continuing the assignment. He/she will fail the exam and receive the grade "insufficient" (5.0). The grounds for this debarment are to be put on record.
- (4) Within a period of two weeks, students may request that decisions under the terms of section 3 sentence 1 and 2 be reviewed by the examination board.
- (5) Upon application by the student, maternity leave (Mutterschutzfristen) will be taken into account according to maternity protection legislation (Mutterschutzgesetz [MuSchG]). The required documentation must be submitted with the application. Any times and deadlines specified in these examination regulations may be extended by the duration of the maternity leave.
- (6) Likewise, upon application parental leave will be granted and taken into account according to legislation on parental supplements and parental leave (Gesetz zum Elterngeld und zur Elternzeit [BEEG]). The required documentation must be submitted with the application. Written notice stating dates and duration must be submitted to the examination office at least four weeks in advance, if students intend to take parental leave. The examination board must verify whether the student fulfills the legal conditions stipulated by the BEEG for an employee's claim to parental leave; the examination board will inform the student without delay of the results of their review, and, if appropriate, of any revision to the examination deadlines. The deadline for a master's thesis cannot be suspended by parental leave. The student will be released from the assigned task without the attempt being taken into consideration. Subsequent to parental leave, the student will receive a new topic for his or her master's thesis.
- (7) Upon application, consideration will be given to periods in which a student's work is interrupted due to the need to care for his/her spouse, registered partner, immediate relative, or in-laws (a spouse's nuclear family). The examination board must verify whether the conditions of sentence 1 are met. The application is to be submitted without delay as soon as the aforementioned conditions occur. Valid documentation is to be attached to the application. The examination office will inform the student without delay of the results of their review, and, if appropriate, of any revision to the examination deadlines. The deadline for a master's thesis cannot be suspended by these periods, after the topic is issued. The student will be released from the assigned task without the attempt being taken into consideration. Subsequent to care leave the student will receive a new topic for his or her master's thesis.
- (8) In the case of multiple or particularly grave attempts at fraud, the student can be exmatriculated. The examination board will rule on this matter.

- (9) Whoever willfully disobeys a ruling pertaining to fraud in an examination commits an administrative offense. This offense can be penalized with a fine of up to 50,000 Euro. The Chancellor of the University of Bonn carries out the prosecution and penalty of the administrative offenses described in sentence 1.

§ 14 Written Exams

- (1) In written exams students should demonstrate that in a limited time and with limited resources they are able to identify a problem from within the subject matter of the module, utilizing the methods typical to this field, and to find ways to solve it. The examiner will notify the students in advance which resources they are permitted to use.
- (2) Written exams are conducted under supervision and may be hand-written or computer-based. Computer-based written examinations consist of either free-text assignments or a cloze.
- (3) Each written exam lasts between 90 and 180 minutes and will be graded by an appointed examiner. Moreover, if a written exam completes a degree or denotes a final attempt, which might cause a student to ultimately fail the course with no compensation, it must be graded by at least two examiners and the ultimate grade is derived from the arithmetic mean of the individual marks. The precise date of written exams will be announced by the examination board at the beginning of the semester.
- (4) Upon application, a student will be granted access to his or her graded exam papers; the application must be submitted no later than three months after the publication of the exam results. The time period in which the students may inspect their work will be announced in advance by the examination board. The terms of § 29 of the administrative legislation (Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz) of the state of Nordrhein-Westfalen (VwVfG NRW) are not affected by this regulation.
- (5) The examination board can, with the consent of the examiner, arrange for an oral exam to replace a scheduled written exam; this oral exam covers the whole subject matter of the module. This will be publicized by the beginning of the semester by bulletin or in electronic form under the terms of § 6, par. 7.

§ 15 Oral Exams

- (1) In an oral exam the student should demonstrate that he or she possesses a broad knowledge of the field being examined, recognizes the contexts of that field, and is capable of identifying and classifying specific issues in this field and pointing out potential solutions.
- (2) Oral exams are taken as individual or group exams, either before multiple examiners (collegial examination) or by one examiner in the presence of a competent assessor. Variations are possible as long as the exam can be recorded. Moreover, if an oral exam completes a degree or denotes a final attempt, which might cause a student to ultimately fail the course with no compensation, it must be graded by at least two examiners and the ultimate grade is derived from the arithmetic mean of the individual marks. If the examination takes place before multiple examiners, the student will be examined only by one examiner per field. If the examination is conducted by an examiner and a competent assessor, the examiner is to consult the assessor in a closed session before the grade is concluded. The examination time amounts to at least 15 and at most 45 minutes per student per module exam. In group examinations, it should be ensured that the same amount of time is allotted to each of the students in the group.

- (3) A transcript is to be made of the content and outcome of each exam. The outcome is announced to the student following the exam.
- (4) As long as space allows and examinees have no objection students may sit in on oral exams if they intend to take the same exams at a later date. The decision falls to the examiner, or, in the case in which there is an examinations commission, the decision falls to the chairperson. The permission does not extend to the consultation about the grade after the examination and the notification of the student about the grade earned. Auditors are not allowed to take notes during the examination.
- (5) The examination board can, with the consent of the examiner, arrange for a written examination to replace a scheduled oral examination; this written examination will cover the entire subject matter of the module. This will be publicized by the beginning of the semester by bulletin or in electronic form.

§ 16 Seminar Papers, Reports and Internship Report

- (1) In seminar papers students should demonstrate that they are able to work independently on a specific topic taken from the subject matter of the module, utilizing the methods typical to the respective field, and to present their work in writing according to defined academic standards. Every seminar paper consists of at least 4.000 und at most 6.000 words and is graded by an examiner appointed under the terms of § 7, section 1. The period of time allotted for the completion of the paper amounts to eight weeks. In the case of well-justified requests, the examination board may, in agreement with the examiner(s), grant an extension of up to three weeks.
- (2) Reports (Referate) are oral presentations of at least 10 and at most 45 minutes, prepared and handed in in writing. The oral presentation is part of the compulsory, non-graded course work and the written text of the report (4.000 to 6.000 words) normally functions as an examination. The grading is based solely on the written text. Reports are to be based upon academic literature and primary sources (wissenschaftliche Originalliteratur) and the student's own research; reports document a student's capacity to present academic results clearly and to elucidate these in discussion. The topics for reports are set for all students at least two weeks before the first presentation; for the deadline for handing in the written text is three weeks after the last session of the course. In exceptional cases the examination board may grant an extension upon application.
- (3) For the internship, success or failure is documented individually by means of a written account of the internship. By means of this written text, the students demonstrate that they are able to reflect upon and analyze practical challenges and tasks with the help of academic instruments. The account of the internship report must comprise at least 1.600 and at most 2.400 words. The internship report should be written within two weeks after the end of the internship and be submitted to the examination board together with the internship certificate (Praktikumsbescheinigung). In exceptional cases the examination board may grant an extension upon application.
- (4) When submitting written assignments described in sections 1 to 3, the student is to confirm in writing that the text was written independently, that none other than the specified sources and aids were used, and that any and all citations are denoted as such. The examination board can require an identical version of the written assignment suitable for electronic comparison in a format specified by the examination board.
- (5) The examination board can, with the consent of the examiner, arrange for a seminar paper in the place of a scheduled report and for a report in the place of a scheduled paper. This will be publicized by the beginning of the semester by bulletin or in electronic form.

- (6) In addition, the regulations for grading written and oral assignments from § 11, section 7 apply.

§ 17 Master's Thesis

- (1) The master's thesis is a written assignment which should show that, within a given time, the student is able to independently utilize academic methodology and engage with a problem selected from the range of topics addressed in the respective program, to draw conclusions, and to articulate them in an appropriate manner. Upon registering for the master's thesis, the student is given the opportunity to make proposals regarding the field from which the topic of the master's thesis is to be selected; nonetheless, the examination board is not bound by these proposals.
- (2) The topic of the master's thesis can be set by any examiner appointed under the terms of § 7 par. 1. Whoever has set the topic also generally supervises the thesis. Should the master's thesis be set and supervised by a professor (Hochschullehrer) who does not meet the criteria listed in § 7 par. 1 but who is active in research and teaching at another university or institution, the permission of the examination board is required. Such permission may be granted only if adequate supervision by an examiner who meets the criteria listed in § 7 par. 1 can also be assured.
- (3) Upon application by the student, the examination office will ensure that the student receives the topic for his or her master's thesis on time.
- (4) The topic of the master's thesis can only be issued to a student when
 - a) He or she has accumulated at least 18 credit points (LPs) in the master's program "ecumenical studies" or
 - b) He or she has accumulated at least 60 credit points (LPs) in the master's program "extended ecumenical studies".

The module plan can prescribe further conditions, e.g. the completion of particular modules. The topic of the master's thesis must be conveyed by the examination board. The topic of the thesis and the date of issue are to be recorded.

- (5) The master's thesis is to be written by one student and not in a team. The textual portion of the master's thesis
 - a) must be at least 10.000 und at most 12.000 words in length in the master's program "Ecumenical Studies" or
 - b) must be at least 20.000 und at most 24.000 words in length in the master's program "Extended Ecumenical Studies".
- (6) The period of time allotted for the completion of the thesis
 - a) amounts to a maximum of four (4) months in the master's program "Ecumenical Studies";
 - b) amounts to a maximum of eight (8) month in the master's program "Extended Ecumenical Studies".

The topic, scope, and extent of the master's thesis are to be defined in such a manner that the master's thesis can reasonably be completed within the allotted time. In the case of well-justified requests, the examination board may, in agreement with the supervisor, grant an extension of up to six weeks.

The master's thesis is normally assigned

- a) at the beginning of the summer semester in the master's program "Ecumenical Studies";
- b) at the beginning of the winter semester in the master's program "Extended Ecumenical Studies".

The student may only request a new topic once, and only within a period of four weeks after the first topic is issued. Under these circumstances the first attempt will not count as a fail.

- (7) When submitting the master's thesis, the student is to confirm in writing that the thesis was written independently, that none other than the specified sources and aids were used, and that any and all citations have been denoted as such. If a third party has provided the content, structure or thread of argumentation for the thesis, it is not considered as independent work. The examination board can require a statement under oath to this effect, as well as a digital version of the thesis in a format determined by the examination board.

§ 18 Acceptance, Grading, and Repetition of the Master's Thesis

- (1) Three copies of the master's thesis are to be submitted to the examination board by the deadline. The date of submission is to be recorded. The student may not withdraw a master's thesis which has already been submitted. If the master's thesis is not submitted by the deadline, the student has failed the thesis (grade "insufficient (5.0)" ("nicht ausreichend (5,0)").
- (2) The master's thesis is to be evaluated by two examiners appointed according to § 7 par. 1. One of the examiners will be the person who set the topic of the master's thesis; the examination board determines the second examiner out of the pool of examiners who have been approved according to § 7 par. 1. In this they must ensure that at least one of the examiners is a professor at the University of Bonn. The student may make suggestions, but he or she does not have the right to determine a particular examiner.
- (3) The examiners grade the thesis according to § 19 par. 1 and substantiate their grade in writing. The final grade of the master's thesis is derived from the arithmetic mean of the individual marks, as long as the difference between the marks is less than 2.0. If the difference is 2.0 or more, the examination board will assign a third examiner to evaluate the master's thesis. In this case, the grade will be derived from the arithmetic mean of the two more favorable individual marks. The mean is to be derived in a manner corresponding to § 19 section 6. The student only passes his thesis (with a grade of at least "sufficient (4.0)" ("ausreichend (4,0)")) if at least two of the individual marks are "sufficient (4.0)" ("ausreichend (4,0)") or better.
- (4) The student is to be informed of the assessment of the master's thesis by six weeks after it was submitted.
- (5) For a passed master's thesis (graded "sufficient (4.0)" ("ausreichend (4,0)")) or better), the student is accredited with
 - a) 15 CP (LP) in the master's program "Ecumenical Studies", or
 - b) 30 CP (LP) in the master's program "Extended Ecumenical Studies".
- (6) Students can repeat a failed thesis (grade "insufficient" ("nicht bestanden")) once. Failed attempts in the same field at another institution of higher education under the purview of the German Grundgesetz will be taken into consideration. The topic of the second master's thesis need not necessarily be chosen from the same field as the first thesis.

Students can only request a new topic on repeat attempts, as described in § 17 par. 6 sentence 5, if they did not make use of this option on their first attempt. If they fail a second attempt (grade “insufficient”/“nicht ausreichend”), then they have failed their master’s degree with no chance of repetition and are ex-matriculated.

§ 19 Evaluation of Achievements, Calculation of Grades, and Completion of Master’s Degree

(1) The grades for the individual exams are assigned by the individual examiners. If more than one examiner grades an exam, then the grade is derived from the arithmetic mean of the individual grades. The following grades are to be used for assessment:

1	very good (sehr gut)	an outstanding performance
2	good (gut)	a well above-average performance
3	satisfactory (befriedigend)	an average performance
4	sufficient (ausreichend)	a performance which satisfies the requirements of the assignment, in spite of shortcomings
5	insufficient (nicht ausreichend)	a performance which does not satisfy the requirements of the assignment because of considerable shortcomings

Individual grades may be raised or lowered by 0.3 in order to provide a more specific assessment of a student’s performance on an assignment; the grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7, and 5.3 are not permissible.

(2) A module examination is passed if the module grade is at least “sufficient”/“ausreichend (4,0)”. If a module has more than one examination, then the grade for the module is calculated from the weighted mean of the grades of the individual examinations, with the ratio determined in the module plan. § 9 par. 3 sentence 4 remains unaffected. The grades to be accounted for in the transcript run as follows:

an average of up to 1.5 (inclusive)	= very good (sehr gut)
an average between 1.6 and 2.5 (inclusive)	= good (gut)
an average between 2.6 and 3.5 (inclusive)	= satisfactory (befriedigend)
an average between 3.6 and 4.0 (inclusive)	= sufficient (ausreichend)
an average of 4.1 or more	= insufficient (nicht ausreichend)

- (3) The student is to be informed of the grades for written examinations within four weeks, and for his or her master's thesis within six weeks of the submission date. The publication of these grades by a bulletin or electronically by the system for examination administration, in accordance with data protection laws, is sufficient. This should occur before the end of the program (Regelstudienzeit).
- (4) The master's degree is passed if all module examinations required under the terms of § 4 par. 4 a) or b) as well as the master's thesis are passed with a grade of at least "sufficient" ("ausreichend (4.0)"), the internship is completed and
- a) 60 CP (LP) have been acquired in the master's program "Ecumenical Studies" or
 - b) 120 CP (LP) in the master's program "Extended Ecumenical Studies".
- (5) The overall grade of the master's degree is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the individual module grades, weighted relative to each module's credit points (CPs/LPs). Par. 2, sentence 4 applies accordingly. In contrast to module grades, the overall grade will be marked "excellent" if the average grade of all module exams is not lower than 1.3 and the master's thesis is graded with "very good 1.0"/"sehr gut 1,0". Modules which have been assessed as "passed" without a grade are not accounted for in the calculation of the overall grade.
- (6) In the calculation of module grades and the overall grade, only one place after the decimal point is taken into consideration. All further decimal places are deleted without rounding.
- (7) The overall grade is correlated with the corresponding level of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) in order to facilitate international equivalency.
- (8) The master's degree is failed and may not be repeated if:
- the student has failed a compulsory module exam three times, or
 - all possibilities of a compensation in the master's program "Ecumenical Studies" under the terms of § 12, section 4, have been utilized without success, or
 - the student fails a second attempt at the master's thesis (grade "insufficient"/"nicht ausreichend").

§ 20 Master's Certificate

- (1) A temporary certificate showing the results of the completed master's degree is to be issued to the student immediately when all grades have been submitted by the examiners. Afterwards a certificate (Zeugnis) in German is issued, to which an English translation is to be attached. The certificate contains:
- The program's name and the achieved degree,
 - all the modules for which credit points were allocated,
 - the semester in which specific credit points were allocated,
 - the grades obtained from the individual examinations,
 - the average grades of the individual modules,
 - the topic and the grade of the master's thesis,

- the date of the last examination,
 - the overall grade of the master’s degree, including the corresponding ECTS-level.
- (2) The certificate should comply with the current requirements for international comparability (ECTS).
 - (3) The certificate bears the date of issue. It bears the seal of the examination board, and is signed by the Dean and the chairperson of the examination board.
 - (4) If a student fails the degree with no chance to repeat it, the examination board issues a written notice with instructions regarding the student’s rights to appeal.
 - (5) If a student leaves the university without completing the degree, upon application he or she will be given a transcript (Leistungszeugnis) which details all the course work and examinations he or she successfully completed. In this transcript only successfully completed portions of the degree are listed. In addition, upon application by the student, a transcript can be issued which also lists examinations which were not passed or not taken.
 - (6) Upon application by the student, a supplement to the certificate can be issued, stating the distribution of grades and the rankings in the course year in question.

§ 21 Diploma Supplement

The master’s certificate will be supplemented with a “Diploma Supplement.” In standardized English-language form the Diploma Supplement gives supplemental information about the degree content and duration, the academic and vocational qualifications achieved with the degree, and about the university bestowing the degree.

§ 22 Master’s Diploma (Masterurkunde)

With the master’s certificate, the student will receive a bilingual master’s diploma in English and German bearing the same date as the certificate. This diploma affirms the bestowal of the academic degree described in § 2. The diploma is signed by the dean of the Faculty of Protestant Theology and the ZERG spokesperson, and bears the seal of the Faculty of Protestant Theology.

§ 23 Access to Examination Documents

- (1) Upon written application within six months of the date of the certificate, the examination board is to grant the student access to his or her examination documents. § 29 of the Administrative Procedure Law of the Federal State of Nordrhein-Westfalen (Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetzes für das Land Nordrhein-Westfalen) (VwVfG. NRW) remains unaffected by this.
- (2) The examination board determines when and where access to the documents will be given.

§ 24 Invalidity of and Withdrawal of the Master’s Degree

- (1) If an act of fraud on behalf of a student and in relation to an examination is discovered only after the certificate has been issued, then the grade of the examination of which the results were influenced by fraud may be retrospectively altered by the examination board

and changed entirely or partially to a grade of “fail.” The examination board will also correct the overall grade accordingly.

- (2) If, after the certificate has been issued, it becomes clear that the admission requirements for an examination were not fulfilled, but no intention of fraud on behalf of the student can be assumed, then this shortcoming is to be nullified by merit of the fact that the examination was passed. If the student intentionally obtained admission to the examination unlawfully, then the examination board, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Law of the Federal State of Nordrhein-Westfalen (Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetzes für das Land Nordrhein-Westfalen), will make a ruling on the legal consequences.
- (3) The student in question must be permitted to make a statement prior to a ruling.
- (4) The invalid certificate is to be confiscated, and, if necessary, a new certificate issued. If one or more of the examination grades are emended to a “fail”/“nicht bestanden” as a result of fraud, the incorrect certificate and the master’s diploma (Masterurkunde) as well as all records documenting the final degree are also to be confiscated. A decision according to par. 1 and par. 2, sentence 2 may not be made after a time lapse of five years from the date of the certificate.
- (5) If the grade of the master’s degree is emended to a “fail”, then the master’s degree is to be withdrawn, and the master’s certificate, the master’s diploma as well as all records documenting the final degree are to be confiscated.

§ 25 Interim Regulations

- (1) Students who are enrolled in the Master’s program “Ecumenical Studies,” and have not yet completed their degree when these regulations take effect, may choose for the new examination regulations (No. 22, June 2013) to be applied. Their request must be submitted in writing and may not be repealed. Examinations (Prüfungsleistungen) taken under the former regulations will be recognized according to § 8. Details will be made available by the examination board according to § 6 par. 7.
- (2) These examination regulations apply to all students, who enroll in the Master’s program “Ecumenical Studies”, or “Extended Ecumenical Studies” after these examination regulations have come into effect. Students who have been admitted in the Master’s program “Ecumenical Studies” for the winter semester 2013/2014 study under the examination regulations which applied at the time of their admission. They may choose for the new examination regulations to be applied, if they fulfill the requirements of § 3. Their request must be submitted in writing and may not be repealed.
- (3) Examinations may still be taken under the terms of the examination regulations for the Master’s program “Ecumenical Studies,” issued on October 9, 2007 (*Amtliche Bekanntmachungen der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms- Universität Bonn, 37. Jg., No. 36 vom 11. Oktober 2007*), and last amended on October 18, 2010 (*Amtliche Bekanntmachungen der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms- Universität Bonn, 40. Jg., No. 21 vom 21. Oktober 2010*), until March 31, 2015. The examination board may extend this deadline in well-justified, exceptional cases by up to six months. The functions assigned to the examination office (Prüfungsamt) and the examination committee (Prüfungsbeirat) under the terms of the examination guidelines for the Master’s programme “Ecumenical Studies”, issued on October 9, 2007 (*Amtliche Bekanntmachungen der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, 37. Jg., No. 36 vom 11. Oktober 2007*), last amended by the second statute for changing the examination regulations for the Master’s programme “Ecumenical Studies,” issued on October 18, 2010, (*Amtliche*

Bekanntmachungen der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, 40. Jg., No. 21 vom 21. Oktober 2010), will be assumed by the examination board and examination office as established by § 6 of these examinations regulation.

- (4) The examination regulations for the Masters programme “Ecumenical Studies”, issued on October 9th, 2007 (*Amtliche Bekanntmachungen der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, 37. Jg., No. 36 from October 11, 2007*), last amended on October 18, 2010, (*Amtliche Bekanntmachungen der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, 40. Jg., No. 21 vom 21. Oktober 2010*), will expire after September 30, 2015.

§ 26 Enforcement and Publication

These examination regulations take effect one day after publication in the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn Official Notices Gazette (Amtlichen Bekanntmachungen der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn – Verkündungsblatt).

U. Rütterswörden

Dean

Faculty of Protestant Theology
of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn
University Professor Dr. Udo Rütterswörden

Set out according to the resolution of the Faculty Council on April 24, 2013, and the ratification of that resolution by the Rector's Office on May 14, 2013.

Bonn, May 29, 2013

J. Fohrmann

Rector

of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn
University Professor Dr. Jürgen Fohrmann

Appendix 1: Module Plan for the Master's program in „Ecumenical Studies“

Course types: L= Lecture (Vorlesung), S = Seminar (Seminar), E = Exercise Course (Wiss. Übung), T = Tutorial (Tutorium), I = Internship (Praktikum), GS = Guided Private Studies (Angeleitetes Selbststudium)

* The examination board may, according to §11 section 6, for certain courses (but not for lectures) set the regular and active participation as a requirement for the admission to module examinations. This requirement must then be fulfilled in addition to any further program requirements stated in the column below.

Winter Semester: Compulsory Module

Module-No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
BHA	<p>Biblical and Historical Aspects of Ecumenical Studies</p> <p>L: Biblical and - Church-Historical Aspects of Ecumenical Studies. An Overview, 60h</p> <p>E/S: Biblical and Church-Historical Aspects of Ecumenical Studies. Detailed Reading, 150h</p> <p>GS, 60h</p>	1 Sem. / 1. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: (Referat): oral presentation of the report	<p>Historical-critical interpretation of key biblical and church-historical texts</p> <p>Knowledge of selected aspects of research in the Old and New Testaments with special relevance for ecumenism</p> <p>Overview on paradigmatic and decisive developments in church history</p>	Written and Oral Exam (Klausur und Mündliche Prüfung (Ratio 1:1))	9

Winter Semester: Elective Module 1
(One Module is to be chosen; Module versions A and B are offered in alternate years)

Module- No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
ESS-A	<p>Educational, Sociological and Systematic Aspects of Ecumenical Studies</p> <p>L: Theology and Church Today from the Perspective of the Sociology of Religion, 60h</p> <p>E/S: Religion and Faith in the Context of Public Institutions in Different Societies 150h</p> <p>GS, 60h</p>	1 Sem./ 1. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: oral presentation of the report	<p>Acquiring an understanding of the interaction of religion, church, and society by means of paradigmatic examples Ability to perceive theology and church from the perspective of various academic disciplines.</p>	Oral Examination and Report (Referat) (Ratio 1:1)	9

Module- No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
ESS-B	<p>Educational, Sociological and Systematic Aspects of Ecumenical Studies</p> <p>L: Theology and Church Today from the Perspective of Systematic Theology, 60h</p> <p>E/S: Religion and Faith in the Context of Public Institutions in Different Societies, 150h</p> <p>GS, 60h</p>	1 Sem./ 1. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: oral presentation of the report	Acquiring an understanding of the interaction of religion, church, and society by means of paradigmatic examples Awareness of the way in which theology is perceived by various other academic disciplines.	Oral Examination and Report (Ratio 1:1)	9

Module-No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
LBC-A	Looking Beyond Christianity L: Philosophy of Religion A, 60h E/S: Interreligious Dialogue, Religious Interaction (Ritual and Sacred Rooms), 150h GS, 60h	1 Sem./ 1. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: oral presentation of the report	A survey of the major positions, questions and methods in the philosophy of religion with a specific focus on the western tradition. Knowledge about the challenges and possibilities of interreligious dialogue as well as the dimensions of religious interaction	Oral Examination and Report (Ratio 1:1)	9
LBC-B	Looking Beyond Christianity L: Philosophy of Religion B, 60h E/S: Interreligious Dialogue; Religious Interaction (Ritual and Sacred Times) 150h GS, 60h	1 Sem./ 1. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: oral presentation of the report	A survey of major positions, questions and methods in the philosophy of religion with a specific focus on intercultural dialogue. Knowledge of the challenges and possibilities of interreligious dialogue as well as the dimensions of interreligious interaction	Oral Examination and Report (Ratio 1:1)	9

The examination board informs about the language of the courses as well as the version offered (A or B) for the elective modules at least in the beginning of every semester under the terms of § 6, section 7.

Summer Semester: Compulsory Module

Module- No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
ESR	<p><i>Ecclesia Semper Reformanda</i> – The Christian Confessions Past and Present</p> <p>L: The Christian Confessions, 60h</p> <p>E/S: Main Features of the Development of Church(es) and Key Texts from Protestant and Catholic Theology and History, 150h</p> <p>GS, 60h</p>	1 Sem. / 2. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: oral presentation of the report	<p>Basic knowledge of the processes according to which the Christian churches and confessions originated and have developed</p> <p>Knowledge of key texts of Protestant and Catholic theology</p>	Written and Oral Examination (Ratio 1:1)	9

Summer Semester: Elective Module 2 (One Module must be chosen)

Module-No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
ETP	<p>Ecumenism in Theory and Practice</p> <p>L: Chances and Limitations of Ecumenism in Germany, 60h</p> <p>E/S: Foundations of the Ecumenical Dialogue, 150h</p> <p>GS, 60h</p>	1 Sem. / 2. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: oral presentation of the report	Knowledge of the foundations, prospects, and limits of ecumenical dialogue	Oral Examination and Report (Ratio 1:1)	9
CSS	<p>Church, State, and Society</p> <p>L/S: Law of Church and State – Theology and Politics – Theology and Culture, 60h</p> <p>E/S: Ecumenism from the Perspective of Political and Social Sciences, 150h</p> <p>GS, 60h</p>	1 Sem. / 2. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: oral presentation of the report	Insight into legal, political and sociological aspects of integration of the church in society	Oral Examination and Report (Ratio 1:1)	9

The examination board informs about the language of the courses at least in the beginning of every semester under the terms of § 6, section 7.

Internship

Module-No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work* / Criteria for the assignment of credit points in modules without examinations	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
INT	Internship (abroad) Full-time internship, 210h (I)	At least 6 weeks/ 2. semester	Participation in the compulsory and elective modules of the winter semester	The credit points are assigned if an internship of at least 210 hours of working time is completed and the related internship report (workload 60h) is submitted in due time and is graded with "passed".	Consolidation and practical application of the knowledge gathered during the program.	No examination	9

Master thesis

Module-No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
THESIS	Master thesis, 450h	Four (4) months / 2. semester	At least 18 CP from the compulsory and elective modules of the winter semester	None	Proof of the ability to independently solve a confined problem selected from the area of the MEST program within an adequate time frame, utilizing academic methodology, and to articulate this solution in an appropriate manner.	Master thesis	15

Appendix 2: Module plan for the master's program in „Extended Ecumenical Studies“

Course types: L= Lecture (Vorlesung), S = Seminar (Seminar), E = Exercise Course (Wiss. Übung), T = Tutorial (Tutorium), I = Internship (Praktikum), GS = Guided Private Studies (Angeleitetes Selbststudium)

* The examination board may, according to §11 section 6, for certain courses (but not for lectures) set the regular and active participation as a requirement for the admission to module examinations. This requirement must then be fulfilled in addition to any further program requirements stated in the column below.

Winter Semester: Compulsory Module

Module-No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
BHA	<p>Biblical and Historical Aspects of Ecumenical Studies</p> <p>L: Biblical and Church-Historical Aspects of Ecumenical Studies. An Overview, 60h</p> <p>E/S: Biblical and Church-Historical Aspects of Ecumenical Studies. Detailed Reading, 150h</p> <p>GS, 60h</p>	1 Sem. / 1. Sem.	None	In the case of reports (Referat): oral presentation of the report	<p>Historical-critical interpretation of key biblical and church-historical texts</p> <p>Knowledge of selected aspects of research in the Old and New Testaments with special relevance for ecumenism</p> <p>Overview on paradigmatic and decisive developments in church history</p>	Written and Oral Exam (Klausur und Mündliche Prüfung (Ratio 1:1))	9

Module- No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
ESS-A	<p>Educational, Sociological and Systematic Aspects of Ecumenical Studies</p> <p>L: Theology and Church Today from the Perspective of the Sociology of Religion, 60h</p> <p>E/S: Religion and Faith in the Context of Public Institutions in Different Societies 150h</p> <p>GS, 60h</p>	1 Sem./ 1. or 3. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: oral presentation of the report	Acquiring an understanding of the interaction of religion, church, and society by means of paradigmatic examples Ability to perceive theology and church from the perspective of various academic disciplines.	Oral Examination and Report (Referat) (Ratio 1:1)	9

Module- No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
ESS-B	<p>Educational, Sociological and Systematic Aspects of Ecumenical Studies</p> <p>L: Theology and Church Today from the Perspective of Systematic Theology, 60h</p> <p>E/S: Religion and Faith in the Context of Public Institutions in Different Societies, 150h</p> <p>GS, 60h</p>	1 Sem./ 1. or 3. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: oral presentation of the report	Acquiring an understanding of the interaction of religion, church, and society by means of paradigmatic examples Awareness of the way in which theology is perceived by various other academic disciplines.	Oral Examination and Report (Ratio 1:1)	9

Module- No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
LBC-A	Looking Beyond Christianity L: Philosophy of Religion A, 60h E/S: Interreligious Dialogue, Religious Interaction (Ritual and Sacred Rooms), 150h GS, 60h	1 Sem./ 1. or 3. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: oral presentation of the report	A survey of the major positions, questions and methods in the philosophy of religion with a specific focus on the western tradition. Knowledge about the challenges and possibilities of interreligious dialogue as well as the dimensions of religious interaction	Oral Examination and Report (Ratio 1:1)	9
LBC-B	Looking Beyond Christianity L: Philosophy of Religion B, 60h E/S: Interreligious Dialogue; Religious Interaction (Ritual and Sacred Times) 150h GS, 60h	1 Sem./ 1. or 3. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: oral presentation of the report	A survey of major positions, questions and methods in the philosophy of religion with a specific focus on intercultural dialogue. Knowledge of the challenges and possibilities of interreligious dialogue as well as the dimensions of interreligious interaction	Oral Examination and Report (Ratio 1:1)	9
AW	Academic Writing E: Academic Writing, 90h	1 Sem./3. Sem.	None	The credit points are assigned for work samples written for the exercise course	- Intensification of the competences of writing a final academic paper; familiarity with the standards of academic writing and citing	No examination	3

The examination board informs about the language of the courses as well as the version offered (A or B) for modules ESS and LBC at least in the beginning of every semester under the terms of § 6, section 7.

Summer semester: Compulsory modules

Module-No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
ESR	<p><i>Ecclesia Semper Reformanda</i> – The Christian Confessions Past and Present</p> <p>L: The Christian Confessions, 60h</p> <p>E/S: Main Features of the Development of Church(es) and Key Texts from Protestant and Catholic Theology and History, 150h</p> <p>GS, 60h</p>	1 Sem. / 2. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: oral presentation of the report	<p>Basic knowledge of the processes according to which the Christian churches and confessions originated and have developed</p> <p>Knowledge of key texts of Protestant and Catholic theology</p>	Written and Oral Examination (Ratio 1:1)	9

Module-No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
ETP	<p>Ecumenism in Theory and Practice</p> <p>L: Chances and Limitations of Ecumenism in Germany, 60h</p> <p>E/S: Foundations of the Ecumenical Dialogue, 150h</p> <p>GS, 60h</p>	1 Sem. / 2. or 4. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: oral presentation of the report	Knowledge of the foundations, prospects, and limits of ecumenical dialogue	Oral Examination and Report (Ratio 1:1)	9
CSS	<p>Church, State, and Society</p> <p>L/S: Law of Church and State – Theology and Politics – Theology and Culture, 60h</p> <p>E/S: Ecumenism from the Perspective of Political and Social Sciences, 150h</p> <p>GS, 60h</p>	1 Sem. / 2. or 4. Sem.	None	In the case of reports: oral presentation of the report	Insight into legal, political and sociological aspects of integration of the church in society	Oral Examination and Report (Ratio 1:1)	9

The examination board informs about the language of the courses at least in the beginning of every semester according § 6, section 7.

Internship

Module- No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work* / Criteria for the assignment of credit points in modules without examinations	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
INT-E	Internship (abroad) Full-time internship, 360h (I)	At least 9 weeks/ 2. semester	Modules of the first semester	The credit points are assigned if an internship of at least 360 hours of working time is completed and the related internship report (workload 90h) is submitted in due time and is graded with "passed".	Consolidation and practical application of the knowledge gathered during the program.	No examination	15

Master thesis

Module- No./ Abbr.	Module and Course types in module	Duration and scheduled semester	Participation Requirements	Compulsory Course Work	Exam Topics (Content) and Educational Objectives	Exam Type	CP (LP)
THESIS-E	Master thesis, 900h	Eight (8) months / 3.-4. semester	At least 60 CP	None	Proof of the ability to independently solve a confined problem selected from the area of the MEST program within an adequate time frame, utilizing academic methodology, and to articulate this solution in an appropriate manner.	Master thesis	30

Appendix 3: Guidelines for Course Admission

If a course should, in certain cases, require a restriction on the number of participants, whether owing to the type of course, its goal, or for specific reasons relating to research and teaching, and the number of applicants should exceed the places, admission will be regulated as follows:

Applicants are to be considered in the following order:

- Group 1:
Students who are registered as regular students at Bonn University, for whom the course is compulsory, and who are in at least the semester required by their course plan to attend this course if they
 - a) were admitted to the program too late to register for the course in their first semester, or
 - b) were at least once previously not admitted to the course in a random allocation of places.
- Group 2:
Students who are registered as regular students at Bonn University and who are in at least the semester required by their course plan to attend this course, and who do not fall into group 1.
- Group 3:
All other students who are registered as regular students at Bonn University and are eligible to attend the course, according to their course plan;
- Group 4:
All other students.

All other admission requirements remain unaffected. Within the individual groups – with the exception of group 4 – those students will be given higher priority who have acquired the most credit points (Leistungspunkte) for either of the Ecumenical Studies Master's programs or for another program at Bonn University which imports modules from the Master's programs presented in these examination regulations.

After applying these criteria, a random selection will be applied to remaining applicants.

Appendix 4: Scholastic Assessment Test

Procedure to assert the academic competence (Studierfähigkeit) of foreign applicants to this program who are not considered as equivalent to German Citizens by or on the basis of international treaties, as referred to in § 3 par. 1 No. 5 of this examination regulations.

I. General Principles

- (1) Admission into the Master's program "Ecumenical Studies", or "Extended Ecumenical Studies" is dependent on the fulfillment of the admission requirements as laid out in § 3 section 1 of the Master's examination regulations. Foreign applicants who are not considered as being on par with German citizens through or on the basis of the law of nations, under the terms of § 3 section 1 No. 5 of these examination regulations must prove their academic competence (Studierfähigkeit) for the program "Ecumenical Studies" or "Extended Ecumenical Studies" in a special examination.
- (2) The demonstration of one's academic competence will be assessed through a special examination process in accordance with these examination regulations.
- (3) The objective of this examination process is to assess whether an applicant is adequately qualified for higher education so that he/she may be expected to successfully complete the aspired program.
- (4) The paragraphs 6 (The Examination Board and the Faculty Examination Office), 7 (Examiners and Assessors), 8 (Recognition of Previously Satisfied Program Requirements and Examinations), 23 (Access to the Examination Documents) and 24 (Invalidity of the Master's Degree, Denial of the Rank of Master) of the examination regulations apply appropriately.

II. Entitlement to application, application procedure/ admission to examination

- (1) The Scholastic Assessment Test (Verfahren zur Feststellung der Studierfähigkeit) can be taken by foreign students who meet the requirements set out by paragraph 3 section 1 of the Master's examination regulations, or will presumably be meeting these requirements later under the terms of article II, par. 5, sentence 2 of this appendix.
- (2) The application for the assessment procedure must be requested through use of the appropriate application forms provided by the examination board. The annual application deadline for the winter semester is July 1. To meet the application deadline the date of arrival of the application documents at the University of Bonn will be relevant. The deadlines for applications and the corresponding letters of notification according to article VI are set in coordination with matriculation deadlines for programs starting in the winter semester.
- (3) The application form must be supplemented by photocopies of the following:
 - a. proof of formal qualification as laid out under paragraph 3 section 1 No. 1-4 of the Master's examination regulations.
 - b. the application form for enrolment in this program,
 - c. a Curriculum Vitae (CV) with details of higher education. The applicant's qualifications as such and in relation to the subjects and topics of the aspired Master's program "Ecumenical Studies" or "Extended Ecumenical Studies" should be clearly discernible.
 - d. a sample of written work in German or English (selected parts of seminar papers, Bachelor's theses etc. are permitted) of no more than 10 pages in length, which

provide adequate grounds for the evaluation of an applicant's qualification under the terms of article IV section 1. In addition, with reference to the sample of written work §16 section 4 of the Master's examination regulations applies.

- (4) The application will be reviewed and decided upon by the chairperson of the examination board established under the terms of § 6 of the Master's examination regulations.
- (5) Should the application be incomplete, admission will be denied. If the documentation required by §3 section 1 No. 1 and/or No. 4 of the Master's examination regulations is not available at the time of application, a preliminary document issued by the university in question, together with a transcript of records that lists all completed modules and their grades will suffice. The formal documentation is then to be submitted by the applicant later as soon as it becomes available, but at the latest at the time of matriculation.

III. Examination procedure of the Scholastic Assessment Test for international students

- (1) The examination board established under the terms of §6 of the Master's examination regulations is responsible for organizing and executing the Scholastic Assessment Test. The examination board confers and concludes in closed session. It forms a committee to carry out the procedure which consists of a chairperson and three more lecturers, who regularly hold courses in "Ecumenical Studies" or "Extended Ecumenical Studies". Decisions will be made with a simple majority. The vote of the chairperson breaks a tie.
- (2) The examination board appoints the examiners for the examination procedure. § 7 of the examination regulations applies appropriately.

IV. Examination Procedure of the Scholastic Assessment Test

- (1) Based on the application documents, it will be assessed which level of education (Ausbildungsniveau) was reached in the previous academic program required by paragraph 3, section 1, No. 1. Particular attention will be given to whether the applicant can prove the required proficiency and competence for successful studies in the Master's program "Ecumenical Studies" or "Extended Ecumenical Studies" in the following areas:
 - Fundamentals of academic writing
 - The ability to adequately present and reflect academic problems and theories
 - The ability to theoretically describe and interpret present and historical phenomenons of Christian culture, on the basis of the applicant's previous studies

The standard which is applied in the evaluation of the above mentioned proficiency and competence corresponds to

- a) the level reached by the end of the 7th semester in the degree course *Magister Theologiae* at Bonn University for the program "Ecumenical Studies"
- b) the level reached by the end of the 5th semester of the BA course in Protestant Theology and Hermeneutics as a major (Kernfach) at Bonn University for the program "Extended Ecumenical Studies"

The committee appointed by the examination board decides whether the Scholastic Assessment Test must be taken to assess the applicant's qualification in regard to the above mentioned criteria, and eventually assigns one of the examiners appointed under the terms of article III, section 2.

- (2) Applicants who completed their studies according to paragraph 3, section 1, No. 1 of the examination regulations at another institute of higher education under the purview of the German Grundgesetz or at an institute of higher education in another EU member-state, have already proven their academic competence and are exempt from the examination.
- (3) The Scholastic Assessment Test will be carried out on the basis of the written documents listed in article II, par. 3.

V. The evaluation of the Scholastic Assessment Test Results

- (1) The documents submitted are assessed according to the criteria listed in article II, section 3. A points system is used to rate achievements according to each criterion. For each criterion a maximum of 30 points can be given, amounting to a sum of 90 altogether. The examination will be passed by anyone who scores at least 10 points in every criterion and a total of at least 45 points.
- (2) If an applicant tries to influence the final result by an attempt of fraud, a total of „0“ (zero) points is assigned.

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

- (1) The examination board will inform the applicant about the result of the examination in writing. If an applicant fails, a notice of rejection is to be supplied with instructions regarding the student's rights to appeal (Rechtsbehelfsbelehrung). It should include reasons for the decision of rejection.
- (2) Students who fail may retake the Scholastic Assessment Test the following year at the earliest; this requires a new application. Further repetitions are possible, but only after a period of at least three years following each attempt.

VII. Students who change their location of studies

For students, who have already been enrolled in a program of Ecumenical studies or an equivalent program at another institute of higher education, the examination board will evaluate the individual qualification including any Scholastic Assessment Test taken. If the program and the test are considered to be equivalent by the examination board, the applicant may be exempt from taking the Scholastic Assessment Test at the University of Bonn.