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**Examination Regulations for the Master's degree program Cognitive Science
of the Faculty of Psychology at Ruhr University Bochum**

16 December 2025

On the basis of Sections 2(4) and 64 of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz – HG) of 16 September 2014 (GV.NRW p. 547), last amended by the Act of 19 December 2024 (GV. NRW p. 1222), Ruhr University Bochum has enacted the following Examination Regulations:

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I. General provisions

§ 1 Objective of the program and purpose of the examination

- (1) The Cognitive Science program imparts to students the subject-specific knowledge, methodological skills, and communicative competencies required for professional activity as a cognitive scientist. Cognitive scientists work in basic research or in industries where interdisciplinary competences are in demand, e.g., management consulting, human resources departments, science management, etc.
- (2) The Master's examination in the Master's degree program "Cognitive Science" leads to a second degree professional qualification. The Master's examination is intended to determine whether candidates have acquired sound scientific knowledge in the field of cognitive science and the ability to apply advanced cognitive-science methods independently. Students are to be enabled to critically appraise and contextualize scientific findings, as well as to think and act in a responsible, interdisciplinary manner. The Master's program enables students to systematically analyze complex cognitive science research questions, to conduct new studies using the methodological repertoire of the various participating disciplines, and consequently develop new theoretical proposals. This interdisciplinary competence is the distinctive feature of the program. The Master's examination consists of the cumulative assessment of all examination performances achieved in the Master's degree program in the assigned modules and, where applicable, individual courses. Teaching is conducted entirely in English. Only individual elective courses are offered in German. Across the entire program, a maximum of 15 credit points (CP) may be earned through additional German-language courses.

§ 2 Admission to the program

- (1) Applicants to the Master's degree program "Cognitive Science" may be admitted if they hold a degree from a Bachelor's program of at least six semesters comprising 180 credit points (CP) within the EU, or from an equivalent Bachelor's program outside the EU. If the Bachelor's program comprises only one subject (so-called single-subject program), that subject must belong to the list of relevant subjects below. If the Bachelor's program consists of two (or more) subjects, one of the relevant subjects named below must have been completed with at least 60 CP; in a second subject from the list, an additional minimum of 15 CP must be demonstrated. The relevant subjects are Cognitive Science, Psychology, Neuroscience, Computer Science, Linguistics, and Mathematics. Philosophy counts as a relevant subject if at least 15 CP were earned in analytical philosophy of mind and science or in formal epistemology during the course of study. Biology counts as a relevant subject if at least 20 CP in neurobiology or bioinformatics are documented. Subjects not included in the list are deemed relevant if they have a clear relationship to cognitive science (e.g., neurobiology or neuroinformatics) or if they contain courses totaling 60 CP that have a clear substantive relation to cognitive science. The equivalence of such applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

- (2) Proof of English language proficiency at level B2+ of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is mandatory. Accepted proofs are: UNiCert® II certificate (grade 2.0 or better); IELTS 6.5 (at least 6.0 in all subcategories), TOEFL iBT 85 (at least 18 in all subcategories), or FCE (First Certificate in English) (grade A or B, or C/B2). Language certificates must not be older than 2 years at the time of application. Other language certificates may be accepted if proven equivalent. This proof of language proficiency is waived only under the conditions stated in paragraphs 3 and 4.
- (3) Native speakers may be exempted from the language certificate requirement. This applies in particular to citizens of the following countries: Australia, Canada (with the exception of Quebec), New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and the USA. Other cases must be demonstrated individually.
- (4) If, after the Abitur ("high-school degree"), a course of study of at least three years taught exclusively in English has been successfully completed, and the degree was obtained no more than two years ago, the language certificate requirement may be waived.
- (5) Applicants cannot be admitted to the Master's degree program "Cognitive Science" if they have passed or definitively failed a Master's program, a Diploma or Diploma preliminary examination in the subject "Cognitive Science," or a related or comparable program at a higher education institution.
- (6) The Examination Committee determines whether the admission requirements for the Master's degree program "Cognitive Science" are fulfilled.

§ 3 Academic degrees

- (1) Upon successful completion of the Master's program, the Faculty of Psychology awards the academic degree "Master of Science" (M.Sc.).

§ 4 Standard period of study, structure of studies, scope of studies, modules, compulsory attendance

- (1) The standard period of study for the Master's program, including the Master's thesis, is four semesters.
- (2) The Master's program "Cognitive Science" comprises 120 credit points (CP) and consists of compulsory modules totaling 18 or 24 CP, restricted elective modules totaling 66 or 72 CP, and the Master's thesis totaling 30 CP. The difference of 6 CP arises from the option to replace a basic methods course ("Basic Method") from the compulsory area with an additional restricted elective module if relevant prior experience is present.
- (3) The basic elements of the program and of performance assessment are modules, which consist of one or more courses. A module is successfully completed once all CP required for the module have been earned and a module final examination has been successfully passed. All modules are listed in the attached study plan and in the module handbook in the concurrent version. Possible forms of examination are defined in § 5.

- (4) Another component of the Master's program "Cognitive Science" is the Master's thesis.
- (5) The Master's program "Cognitive Science" also includes a professional practical activity. Owing to the interdisciplinary nature of the program, the type of this activity may vary considerably depending on the subject area and is described in the module handbook. The scope of the professional practical activity totals at least 90 hours.
- (6) The module handbook in the concurrent version specifies the modules, the courses assigned to them, the number of teaching hours, weighting factors, and credit points.
- (7) A requirement of regular attendance may be stipulated for courses whose learning objectives cannot be achieved without the active participation of students. Courses with a high proportion of discursive elements and practical exercises are therefore generally subject to compulsory attendance. The attendance requirement is indicated in the module description in the module handbook in the concurrent version.
- (8) The specific rules governing compulsory attendance are established for each course. Falling short of the stipulated threshold is permissible only in justified exceptional cases under a hardship provision and only if catch-up or compensation for the missed content takes place, for example in the form of additional work. The form of additional work is determined by the instructor responsible for the course. If catch-up or compensation is not possible, the entire course must be repeated.

§ 5 Examinations, forms of examination, compensation for disadvantages and statutory protection periods

- (1) All examinations are completed alongside the program. All modules and the examinations associated with them must be coordinated so that they can be completed within the standard period of study set out in § 4(1). An examination should be completed within the semester in which the relevant course takes place. The form and content of the examination should be appropriate to the importance of the subject area being examined for achieving the program objective. The course instructors determine the type of examination for their courses. Students must be enrolled in order to take an examination.
- (2) Examinations may be completed in the form of a written examination, an oral examination, a seminar contribution, or a written report. Upon request, the Examination Committee may approve additional, alternative examination formats. The forms and modalities of all module final examinations, as well as any bonus point regulations and the conditions of any study achievements to be completed, are indicated for each course and communicated by the examiner at the beginning of the course. In the case of alternative options, the final form of the examination performance and the permitted aids are announced at the beginning of the semester in which it takes place. Examinations may be taken in electronic form and via electronic communication.

a) a written examination:

A written examination is a test in which proof is to be provided, within a limited time and with limited aids, that tasks from the area of the course to which the examination relates can be handled properly and that corresponding knowledge is present. Written examinations may also be taken in electronic form and via electronic communication. The duration of a written examination is a maximum of three hours. Each written examination is assessed by an examiner in accordance with § 6. An examination may also contain answers in multiple-choice format. Multiple-choice examinations are examinations with predefined answer options and one or several correct options. The assessment criteria for multiple choice (multiple selection) must be stated on the examination paper.

b) a seminar contribution:

Seminar contributions are study achievements which, on a specified overarching topic, are provided by a participant or a participant group in the form of a presentation, the organization and conduct of a seminar session, or an explained graphical presentation (poster) before the seminar participants, and are assessed by the seminar coordinator as the examiner. The assessment of a candidate's seminar contribution must be transparently documented on the basis of a protocol prepared by the seminar coordinator. A seminar contribution does not exceed 90 minutes.

c) a written report:

A written report should present the key facts, relationships, and interpretations relating to the subjects of a course, but in essence go beyond the issues presented in the course. The assessment of written reports should be documented in a comprehensible manner in footnotes and marginal notes in the report manuscript or in a protocol. The submission deadline for written reports is set by the course instructor. After the set deadline, a report may no longer be accepted. A written report should not exceed 10 pages.

d) an oral examination:

In oral examinations, the candidate should demonstrate that they have sufficient knowledge in the examination subject, recognize connections, and are able to handle specialized questions within those connections. Oral examinations may be individual or group examinations and should last no more than 30 minutes. They may be taken via electronic communication. They are held before an examiner and a knowledgeable observer. Before determining the assessment in accordance with § 6(1), the examiner must hear the observer's input. The essential subjects and results of the examination must be recorded in a protocol. The result of the examination is to be communicated to the candidate immediately after the oral examination. Students who wish to take the same examination at a later examination date will be permitted to observe the

earlier examinations, subject to spatial capacity, unless the candidate objects. This permission does not extend to the deliberation and announcement of the examination result.

- (3) Generally, attendance of the course precedes the relevant examination.
- (4) A study achievement is an additional assignment, generally to be provided alongside the semester, which in form and content is clearly below the requirements of a module examination or partial examination. It may, on the one hand, be required by those responsible for the module as a prerequisite for completing the module. In this case, the module handbook must indicate the qualitative and quantitative scope in which study achievements are to be provided as a prerequisite for completing the module. On the other hand, a study achievement may also be a graded assignment for which bonus points can be awarded to be credited toward the module final examination. In this case, the module handbook must indicate the scope in which bonus points can be earned through a study achievement. Insofar as the form in which a study achievement is to be provided for a module is not defined in the module descriptions of the module handbook, it will be announced by the instructor at the beginning of the course.
- (5) Dates for written examinations are set and published by the Examination Committee. The dates for completing all other examinations are set and announced accordingly by the course instructors.
- (6) Registrations for written examinations must be made via the campus management system no later than two weeks before the examination date. There may be faculty-specific regulations; these are set out in the module handbook in its concurrent version.
- (7) Deregistrations from written examinations may be made via the campus management system unconditionally, up to one week before the examination date. There may be faculty-specific regulations; these are set out in the module handbook in its concurrent version.
- (8) A repeat date for the written examination should be scheduled no later than the end of the following semester.
- (9) Group examinations in practicums and seminars may be approved by the course instructor only if the individual contribution of each group member is evident.
- (10) The candidate may inspect the graded written examination or the written report. The time, place, and deadlines for inspection are to be announced by the instructors. See § 22.
- (11) Statutory maternity protection regulations and periods, parental leave periods, and absences due to the care and upbringing of children within the meaning of § 25(5) of the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG), as well as the care of the spouse, the registered civil partner, or a relative in the direct line or a first-degree in-law, are to be considered. The Examination Committee must be notified in writing of the use of these provisions in reasonable time.
- (12) If the candidate is unable to complete the examination in the prescribed duration due to pregnancy, an appropriate accommodation, in particular by granting breaks, may be approved upon written request, insofar as equal opportunities in the examination procedure are not impaired as a result. Proof must be provided in the form of a medical certificate stating that the examination cannot be completed within the prescribed duration.

- (13) If a candidate proves by means of a medical certificate that, due to a long-lasting or permanent physical or psychological disability, they are not in a position to complete an examination in whole or in part in the prescribed form, the chair of the Examination Committee shall, upon the candidate's request, permit an equivalent examination to be completed in another form (compensating for disadvantages). The corresponding applies to study achievements and pre-examination requirements.

§ 6 Assessment of examination performances and grades

- (1) The grades for the individual examination are determined by the respective examiners. The following grades are to be used:
- 1 = very good = an excellent grade;
 - 2 = good = a grade considerably above average requirements;
 - 3 = satisfactory = a grade fulfilling the average requirements;
 - 4 = sufficient = a grade fulfilling the basic requirements, though having its shortcomings;
 - 5 = fail = a grade not fulfilling the basic requirements due to considerable shortcomings.

For differentiated assessment of examination performances, intermediate values may be formed by lowering or raising the individual grades by 0.3. The values 0.7, 4.3, 4.7, and 5.3 are excluded.

- (2) An examination is passed if the grade is at least "sufficient" (4.0).
- (3) Multiple-choice tasks within an examination are assessed on the basis of percentage points and converted into grades. The examination is passed if at least 50% of the possible score (absolute pass mark) or a lower score set by the examiner (relative pass mark) is achieved. A non-integer pass mark is rounded down. The awarding of negative points is not permitted. The overall assessment of an examination is, where applicable, determined as the weighted arithmetic mean of the grade for a multiple-choice part and a part with open questions. For converting percentage points into grades, the following scale is applied:

- "very good" (1.0) at least 95%,
- "very good" (1.3) at least 90% but less than 95%,
- "good" (1.7) at least 85% but less than 90%,
- "good" (2.0) at least 80% but less than 85%,
- "good" (2.3) at least 75% but less than 80%,
- "satisfactory" (2.7) at least 70% but less than 75%,
- "satisfactory" (3.0) at least 65% but less than 70%,
- "satisfactory" (3.3) at least 60% but less than 65%,
- "sufficient" (3.7) at least 55% but less than 60%,

- “sufficient” (4.0) at least 50% but less than 55%,
 - “fail” (5.0) less than 50%.
- (4) The assessment results of written examinations, seminar contributions, and written reports should be communicated to the candidate no later than six weeks after the examination, in compliance with data protection regulations, via Ruhr University Bochum’s system for recording study and examination performances, and notified to the Examinations Office.
- (5) Examinations that have been successfully completed cannot be repeated.
- (6) In calculating the overall grade of the Master’s degree program, the assessments of all modules, including the assessment of the Master’s thesis, are multiplied by the respective credit points, added together, and divided by the sum of the respective credit points. In the case of decimal values, only the first digit after the decimal point is taken into account; all further digits are truncated without rounding.
- (7) The overall grade of a passed Master’s examination is:
- up to 1.5 very good
 - over 1.5 up to 2.5 good
 - over 2.5 up to 3.5 satisfactory
 - over 3.5 up to 4.0 sufficient
 - over 4.0 fail

§ 7 Credit points

- (1) For documenting study performance, each course or examination performance is weighted in an accumulating credit point system (credit points, CP) according to the ECTS (European Course Credit Transfer System) standard based on the anticipated workload. An average workload of 1,800 working hours per academic year is assumed and converted into 60 credit points (30 credit points per semester). One credit point thus corresponds to an estimated workload of approximately 30 hours.
- (2) When a module has been successfully completed by a candidate, the candidate is awarded exactly the credit points assigned to that module. Points for parts of modules are not awarded. The sum of the credit points achieved serves as an indicator of the scope of the study program successfully completed. The credit points are shown on the transcript alongside the grades.

§ 8 Examination Committee

- (1) For the organization of examinations and the tasks assigned by these Examination Regulations, the Faculty of Psychology forms an Examination Committee. The Examination Committee consists of the chair, the deputy chair, and five further voting members. The chair, the deputy chair, and two further members are elected from the group of professors; one member is elected from the group of academic staff; and two members are elected from the group of

students. Deputies are elected for the members of the Examination Committee. The term of office of the members from the group of professors and from the group of academic staff is three years; the term of office of the student members is one year. Re-election is permitted.

- (2) The Examination Committee is the authority for the purposes of administrative procedural law and administrative court procedure law.
- (3) The Examination Committee ensures compliance with the provisions of the Examination Regulations and guarantees the proper conduct of examinations. In particular, it is responsible for decisions on appeals against decisions taken in examination procedures and for compliance with deadlines. In addition, the Examination Committee shall report to the Faculty regularly, at least once a year, on the development of examinations and study periods. This report is to be published in an appropriate form. It provides suggestions for reforming the Examination Regulations and the study plan and discloses the distribution of grades and overall grades. The Examination Committee may delegate the performance of its tasks for all standard cases to the chair. This does not apply to decisions on appeals and the report to the Faculty.
- (4) The Examination Committee has a quorum if, in addition to the chair or the deputy chair, two further voting professors or their deputies and at least two further voting members or their deputies are present. It decides by simple majority. In the event of a tie, the chair's vote decides. The student members of the Examination Committee do not participate in the recognition of periods of study and examination performances, in the setting of examination tasks, or in the appointment of examiners and observers.
- (5) The members of the Examination Committee have the right to attend the conduct of examinations.
- (6) The meetings of the Examination Committee are not open to the public. The members of the Examination Committee and the deputies are subject to official confidentiality. If they are not civil servants, they must be obliged to maintain confidentiality by the chair of the Examination Committee. Minutes of the results of the meetings of the Examination Committee are to be prepared.
- (7) In carrying out its tasks, the Examination Committee may avail itself of the administrative assistance of the Examinations Office.

§ 9 Examiners and observers

- (1) The Examination Committee appoints the examiners and observers. It may delegate the appointments to the chair. University teachers and academic staff may be appointed as examiners. In addition, instructors with special duties and adjunct lecturers, as well as persons experienced in professional practice and training, may be appointed as examiners. Only persons who have obtained a Master's degree or a Diploma may be appointed as observers for examinations in the Master's degree program.
- (2) Examiners are independent in their examination activities.

- (3) In examinations for which multiple examiners are possible, and for the Master's thesis, the candidate may propose the examiner(s). Such proposals should be taken into account where possible. However, the proposals do not establish a claim.
- (4) The chair of the Examination Committee ensures that the names of the examiners are communicated to the candidates in reasonable time, at least two weeks before the date of the respective examination. Publication by posting is sufficient. The principles of data protection are to be observed.
- (5) § 8(6) sentences 2 and 3 apply accordingly to the examiners, observers, and persons involved in examinations.

§ 10 Crediting and recognition of periods of study, study achievements and examination performances

- (1) Examination performances completed in degree programs at other public or state-recognized higher education institutions, at public or state-recognized vocational academies, in degree programs at foreign public or state-recognized higher education institutions, or in another degree program at the same university, are recognized upon application, provided that, with respect to the competences acquired, there is no substantial difference from the performances to be replaced; an equivalent examination does not take place. Recognition within the meaning of sentence 1 serves the continuation of studies and the taking of examinations.
- (2) Substantial differences exist in particular where the competences acquired do not meet the requirements of the Master's program Cognitive Science. No schematic comparison is to be made; instead, an overall consideration and overall assessment is to be carried out. For the recognition or crediting of periods of study, study achievements, and examinations completed outside the scope of the Basic Law, the equivalence agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK), as well as arrangements within the framework of university partnerships, are to be observed. Insofar as agreements and treaties of the Federal Republic of Germany with other countries on equivalences in higher education (equivalence agreements) grant students from foreign countries advantages differing from paragraph 1, the provisions of the equivalence agreements take precedence. Otherwise, in cases of doubt, the International Office and the Central Office for Foreign Education may be consulted.
- (3) Upon application, other knowledge and qualifications acquired outside higher education can be credited up to a maximum of 50% of the credit points envisaged for this degree program, if such knowledge and qualifications are equivalent in content and level to the examinations they are to replace.
- (4) The Examination Committee is responsible for crediting or recognition under paragraphs 1 and 3. Before determining whether substantial differences exist, a subject representative is generally to be heard. The student must submit the documents required for crediting or recognition. After submission of the complete documents, a decision, which must include information on legal remedies, will be issued within six weeks. If the recognition sought on the basis of an application within the meaning of paragraph 1 is denied, the applicant may,

without prejudice to procedural or procedural-law deadlines, request a review of the decision by the Rectorate.

- (5) If study achievements and examination performances are recognized, or knowledge and qualifications acquired outside higher education are credited, the grades—where the grading systems are comparable—are to be adopted and included in the calculation of the overall grade. Where grading systems are not comparable, the grade “passed” is recorded. This recognition or crediting is indicated on the transcript. (6) Performances once credited or recognized and entered in the examination system are deemed, pursuant to § 6(5), successfully completed examinations and cannot be altered retroactively.

§ 11 Repetition of examinations and lapse of the right to take examinations

- (1) Failed examinations may be repeated. A maximum of three examination attempts are permitted (two repeat attempts). If an examination is failed even after three examination attempts (two repetitions), the degree program is failed. Failed or deemed failed module final examinations may be repeated twice. A module final examination is definitively failed if all three examination attempts were graded as “fail” or “failed” or if the candidate can no longer be admitted to an examination. Exmatriculation follows. In justified cases, the Examination Committee may, upon application, grant a third repetition.
- (2) If by the third semester fewer than half of the prescribed credit points have been passed, or if an examination performance is failed twice in a row, the student may be invited by the chair of the Examination Committee, the Examinations Office, or the program advisor to a mandatory counseling interview.
- (3) This deadline pursuant to paragraph 2 is extended
1. by three semesters per child for the care and upbringing of minor children within the meaning of § 25(5) of the Federal Training Assistance Act,
 2. by a total of up to a maximum of four semesters for participation as an elected representative in bodies of the university, the student body, the student councils, or the student services,
 3. by up to a maximum of four semesters for holding the office of Equal Opportunities Officer,
 4. by the period of study-prolonging effects of a disability or a serious illness, and
 5. by up to three semesters for periods during which students assume responsibility for close relatives in need of care and support.
- (4) Repeat examinations in written or oral examinations for which, in the event of definitive failure, no compensation option is provided must be assessed by at least two examiners. Oral repeat examinations must be conducted by two examiners or by one examiner in the presence of a knowledgeable observer.

§ 12 Absence, withdrawal, fraud, breach of regulations

- (1) An examination is considered failed if the candidate misses an examination date without compelling reasons or withdraws from the examination after it has begun without compelling reasons. The same applies if a written examination performance is not completed within the specified examination duration.
- (2) The Examination Committee must be notified of reasons asserted for withdrawal or absence, without delay, in writing and substantiated. If non-participation in an examination is justified by illness, this must be documented with a medical certificate. In the case of illness, the candidate must submit to the Examination Committee a medical certificate of incapacity to take the examination no later than seven calendar days after the missed examination date. In justified cases of doubt, the submission of a medical certificate from a trusted physician of RUB may be required. The illness of a child who is predominantly cared for alone is equivalent to the illness of the candidate. If the Examination Committee recognizes the reasons for the absence, the examination in question is not counted toward the maximum number of repeat examinations.
- (3) In the event of exmatriculation, examinations registered prior to exmatriculation must be taken, provided that the registration has not been revoked in accordance with paragraph 1 or a justified and recognized withdrawal or recognized absence by the Examination Committee has occurred; otherwise, the examinations are considered failed (grade 5.0).
- (4) In written examinations – with the exception of proctored written examinations – the candidate must affirm that the examination performance was produced without impermissible external assistance.
- (5) If the candidate attempts to influence the result of their examination or study achievement by fraud, the examination in question is considered graded as “fail” (5.0); the actual determination is made by the respective examiner in the case of oral examinations, and by the proctor in the case of written examinations, and recorded in the files. The assessment is made by the Examination Committee. In the case of multiple or otherwise serious attempts at fraud, the candidate may, after prior hearing, be excluded from further examination performances and exmatriculated.
- (6) A candidate who disrupts the proper conduct of the examination may generally, after a warning, be excluded from continuing the examination by the respective examiner or by the proctor. In this case, the examination in question is considered graded as “fail” (5.0). The reasons for the exclusion must be recorded in the files.
- (7) Software-supported checking of written examination performances, including Master’s theses, is carried out regularly in case of plagiarism. For this purpose, Master’s theses must be submitted in an electronic form suitable for checking in accordance with § 16(1). Other written examination papers (essays, term papers, etc.) must also be submitted in an electronic form suitable for checking upon request of the examiner.
- (8) The software-supported check is carried out by the examiner. The finding of plagiarism is made by the Examination Committee. Students are informed about the software-supported check of the written work in the event of suspected plagiarism only if plagiarism is established.

- (9) A plagiarism check of written study achievements (essays, term papers, etc.) is carried out in accordance with paragraphs 6–7.
- (10) Adverse decisions must be communicated to the candidate without delay in writing, stating reasons and including information on legal remedies.

II. Master's examination

§ 13 Nature and scope of the Master's examination

- (1) The Master's examination comprises
 - 1. the module examinations in accordance with Appendix 1
 - 2. the Master's thesis in accordance with § 15
 - 3. a professional practical activity included in the "Research Module" amounting to at least 90 hours in accordance with § 4(5).

§ 14 Admission to the Master's thesis

- (1) The following may be admitted to the Master's thesis:
 - 1. anyone who is enrolled at Ruhr University Bochum for the Master's degree program "Cognitive Science" or is admitted as a secondary auditor eligible to take examinations,
 - 2. anyone who has registered for the Master's thesis,
 - 3. anyone who is not engaged in a similar examination procedure at another higher education institution and has not definitively failed a similar examination at another higher education institution,
 - 4. anyone who has earned at least 50 credit points in modules of the Master's program in accordance with the study plan in the appendix.
- (2) The application for admission is to be submitted in writing with the required evidence to the chair of the Examination Committee.
- (3) Admission must be denied if one of the requirements stated in paragraph 1 is not met or if the documents or information are incomplete.

§ 15 Master's thesis

- (1) The Master's thesis in the Master's program "Cognitive Science" is a written examination and concludes the scientific training. It should demonstrate that the candidate is able to independently address a cognitive science question using scientific methods within a specified period.
- (2) The candidate has the right to propose the topic and supervision for the Master's thesis. Only examiners appointed for this purpose by the Examination Committee may set a topic and assume responsibility for supervising a Master's thesis. After consulting the candidate, the person setting the topic notifies the chair of the Examination Committee of the intended topic. The topic is issued via the chair of the Examination Committee. The time of issuance of the Master's thesis topic is to be recorded in the files.
- (3) Upon request, the chair of the Examination Committee ensures that the candidate receives a topic for a Master's thesis in reasonable time.
- (4) The completion time for the Master's thesis is six months. The topic, task, and scope of the Master's thesis must be limited such that the deadline for preparing the Master's thesis can be met. The Master's thesis has a workload of 30 CP. The topic may be rejected only once and only within the first month of the thesis period. In the event of a repetition of the Master's thesis, the rejection of the topic is permissible only if the candidate did not make use of this option on the first thesis attempt. In individual cases, the Examination Committee may, upon a substantiated application by the candidate, exceptionally extend the processing time by a grace period generally of up to six weeks. In the event of illness, the submission deadline may be extended by a maximum of six weeks. For this, a medical certificate must be submitted. The medical certificate of incapacity for examination must be submitted to the Examinations Office within 7 calendar days. The extension corresponds to the period of illness. If the duration of illness exceeds six weeks, the candidate will be assigned a new topic.
- (5) The Master's thesis is to be written in English.

§ 16 Acceptance and assessment of the Master's thesis

- (1) The Master's thesis must be uploaded on time in pdf or pdfA format via the Examinations Office portal for the electronic submission of Bachelor's or Master's theses. The submission time is recorded in the files. When submitting the Bachelor's or Master's thesis, the candidate must affirm in text that they wrote their thesis independently, used no sources or aids other than those indicated, and marked quotations. If the Bachelor's or Master's thesis is not uploaded to the submission portal on time, it is considered graded as "fail" (5.0). If due to technical disruptions, the final thesis cannot be submitted on time, the deadline may be extended.
- (2) The Master's thesis is to be assessed by two examiners. One of the examiners should be the person who set the topic. § 9(2) applies accordingly. Each individual assessment is to be given as a grade (§ 6(1)) and justified in writing. If the individual assessments differ by more than

two whole grades, a third reviewer is appointed. The overall assessment of the Master's thesis is formed from the arithmetic mean of the individual assessments.

- (3) The Master's thesis is passed if the overall assessment is at least 4.0 ("sufficient"). In determining the overall grade of the degree program, the overall assessment of the Master's thesis is weighted proportionally to its share of credit points.
- (4) The assessment procedure may exceed two months only in justified exceptional cases.
- (5) If the overall assessment of the Master's thesis is less than 4.0 ("sufficient"), it may be repeated once. A second repetition is excluded. In the event of failure, the chair of the Examination Committee issues a written notice to the candidate, which also states whether and, if applicable, to what extent and within what period the failed Master's thesis may be repeated, in compliance with § 64(3a) HG. The notice of a failed Master's thesis must include information on legal remedies.

§ 17 Additional examinations

- (1) Within the scope of the Master's examination, examinations other than the prescribed ones may be completed (additional examinations).
- (2) Additional examinations are listed in the Transcript of Records.
- (3) The assessments of the additional examinations are not taken into account when determining the overall grade.

§ 18 Passing the Master's examination

- (1) The Master's examination is passed if
 1. all achievements of the Master's degree program designated as required in the appendix have been successfully completed (at least sufficient),
 2. the assessment of the Master's thesis has resulted in at least 4.0 ("sufficient"), and
 3. proof of the professional practical activity has been provided (§ 13(1) no. 3).
- (2) The overall grade of the Master's examination is calculated in accordance with § 6(6) and (7).
- (3) The Master's examination is definitively failed if modules are definitively failed or if the Master's thesis in the second attempt was graded "fail" (5.0) or is deemed graded as "fail." A notice is issued regarding the failed Master's examination, which must include information on legal remedies.

III. Final provisions

§ 19 Transcript

- (1) A transcript in German, as well as a version in English, is issued no later than four weeks after announcement of the result of the last required examination performance. The transcript bears the date of the day on which the last examination performance was completed. In the case of the Master's thesis, this is the day of its submission. The transcript includes:
 1. the topic of the Master's thesis and its assessment.
 2. the overall grade of the Master's examination with the final grade, as well as the credit points achieved.
 3. the transcript is to be signed by the chair of the Examination Committee and provided with the seal of the Faculty of Psychology.
- (2) Together with the transcript, the graduate is also issued a Diploma Supplement in German and English, including a Transcript of Records. The Diploma Supplement provides information on the individual subject profile of the completed degree program.
- (3) If the candidate has not yet passed the Master's examination and does not wish to continue studies at Ruhr University Bochum, upon request and upon presentation of the relevant evidence, a written certificate will be issued. It contains the examination performances completed together with the credit points acquired.

§ 20 Master's diploma

- (1) Together with the transcript of the Master's examination, the graduate receives the Master's diploma in English and, upon request, a copy in German, bearing the date of the transcript. It certifies the award of the Master's degree pursuant to § 3(1).
- (2) The Master's diploma is signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Psychology and provided with the seal of the Faculty of Psychology.

§ 21 Invalidity of the Master's examination, revocation of academic degrees

- (1) If the candidate cheated in an examination and this fact becomes known only after the transcript has been handed over, the Examination Committee may subsequently correct the assessments and grades for those examination performances in which the cheating occurred accordingly and declare the examination wholly or partially failed.
- (2) If the requirements for admission to an examination were not met, without the candidate intending to defraud, and this fact becomes known only after the transcript has been handed over, this error is remedied by passing the examination. If the candidate intentionally obtained

admission unlawfully, the Examination Committee shall decide on the legal consequences in compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

- (3) Before a decision is made, the person concerned must be given an opportunity to comment.
- (4) The incorrect examination transcript is to be withdrawn and, where appropriate, a new one issued. A decision under paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 sentence 2 is permissible only within five years from the time of the award of the degree. The period between the initiation and conclusion of an administrative procedure for reviewing the revocation of the award of the degree is not counted toward the five-year period under sentence 2.
- (5) If the examination has been declared failed in its entirety, the Master's degree is to be revoked by the Faculty of Psychology and the Master's degree withdrawn. The revocation is decided by the Examination Committee.

§ 22 Access to examination records

- (1) After completion of each examination performance, the candidate will, upon application up to one year after announcement of the examination results, be granted access to their respective examination documents, to the related reports of the examiners, and to the examination protocols. In the case of electronically supported examinations, printouts of the electronic data are to be provided by the examiner where applicable.
- (2) The application is to be submitted to the chair of the Examination Committee. The chair of the Examination Committee determines, in agreement with the examinee, the place and time of the inspection. The place and time of inspection are arranged by the examiners. § 32 of the Administrative Procedure Act for the State of North Rhine-Westphalia on reinstatement applies accordingly.

§ 23 Entry into force, transitional provisions and publication

- (1) These statutes enter into force with effect from the day after their publication and are published in the official announcements of Ruhr University Bochum. They apply to all students who are enrolled in the Master's degree program "Cognitive Science" at Ruhr University Bochum from the winter semester 2025/2026 onward.
- (2) For students who commenced studies at Ruhr University Bochum in the four-semester Master's degree program "Cognitive Science" before the winter semester 2025/2026, the Master's Examination Regulations of 14 October 2013 (Official Announcements [AB] No. 1001), 23 September 2015 (AB No. 1087), and 20 March 2019 (AB No. 1295) continue to apply until the end of the summer semester 2028. The Master's thesis in accordance with the Master's Examination Regulations of 14 October 2013, 23 September 2015, and 20 March 2019 must be completed in the four-semester Master's degree program "Cognitive Science" by 30 September 2028.

- (3) For students who enrolled in the Cognitive Science degree program before the winter semester 2025/26, these Examination Regulations apply upon request. A request to apply them is irreversible.
- (4) From the winter semester 2028/2029, examinations can only be taken under these Examination Regulations.

Executed on the basis of the resolution of the Faculty of Psychology of 30 October 2024.

Bochum, 16 December 2025

The Rector
of Ruhr University Bochum

University Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Martin Paul

Appendix. Visualized study progression plan M.Sc. Cognitive Science

	1.Semester	2.Semester	3.Semester	4.Semester	CP
Introduction (12 CP)					12
Introduction to Cognitive Science (6 CP)	L+S, 3+3 CP				
Soft Skills Module (6 CP)	S+S, 3+3 CP				
Basic Methods (12 / 18 CP)*					12 / 18*
Introduction to Philosophical Method (6 CP)	L+S, 3+3 CP				
Introduction to Programming (6 CP)	L+P, 3+3 CP				
Introduction to Statistics (6 CP)	L+S, 3+3 CP				
Core (27 CP)					27
Core Module ML (9 CP)		L+S+S, 3+3+3 CP			
Core Module BB (9 CP)		L+S+S, 3+3+3 CP			
Core Module CA (9 CP)		L+S+S, 3+3+3 CP			
Focus (18 CP)**					18**
Focus Module ML (9 CP)			L+S+S, 3+3+3 CP		
Focus Module BB (9 CP)			L+S+S, 3+3+3 CP		
Focus Module CA (9 CP)			L+S+S, 3+3+3 CP		
Research (39 CP)					39
Research Module (9 CP)			S+P, 9 CP		
Master thesis (30 CP)				Thesis	
Subtotal	24-30 CP	27 CP	27 CP	30 CP	
Free Choice: (6 / 12 CP)* semester 1-3					6 / 12*
Choice I (6 CP)		3 CP	3 CP		
Choice II (6 CP)	0-6 CP				
Sum					120 CP

L: lecture; S: seminar; P: practical course; ML: Mind & Language; BB: Brain & Behavior; CA: Computation and Artificial Intelligence.

* Students must take two or three Basic Methods modules depending on their academic background. When taking two method modules, one additional module (6 CP) must be taken in Free Choice. For achieving exactly 30 CP each semester, students can take one 3 CP course in the second semester and one 3 CP course in the third semester.

** Students must select two of the three Focus Modules (9 CP) for a total of 18 CP.