

Degree Program and Examination Regulations for the Master Degree Program East European Studies  
– Institute for East European Studies, Freie Universität Berlin

Preamble

On the basis of Section 14.1.1.2 of Freie Universität Berlin's supplemental rules and regulations [*Teilgrundordnung (Erprobungsmodell)*] from October 27, 1998, published in Freie Universität's official bulletin *FU-Mitteilungen* No. 24/1998, in conjunction with Section 83.1 of the Berlin Higher Education Act (*Berliner Hochschulgesetz – BerlHG*) in the version as it was made public on July 26, 2011 (GVBl., p. 378), last amended on December 19, 2017 (GVBl., p. 695), the Institute Council of the Institute for East European Studies at Freie Universität Berlin issued the following degree program and examination regulations for the master degree program "East European Studies" at the Institute for East European Studies at Freie Universität Berlin on March 20, 2018:\*

\*The Executive Board of Freie Universität Berlin approved these regulations on April 13, 2018.

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### Section 1

#### Scope

(1) These regulations define the objectives, content, and structure of the master degree program “East European Studies” at the Institute for East European Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. These regulations apply in conjunction with Freie Universität Berlin’s framework regulations for degree programs and examinations (*Rahmenstudien- und Prüfungsordnung, RSPO*) as they outline the requirements and processes necessary to complete coursework and assessments towards completion of a master degree program.

(2) The degree program is a consecutive master degree as defined by Section 23.3.1a of BerlHG from July 26, 2011 (GVBl., p. 378), last amended on December 19, 2017 (GVBl., p. 695). It is designed with a focus on research.

### Section 2

#### Learning Objectives

(1) Graduates of the master degree program are qualified to independently analyze and interpret the developments and situations in Eastern, Central, and Southeastern Europe (hereinafter referred to collectively as “Eastern Europe”), and situate them according to their respective political, societal, economic, historical, and cultural contexts, as well as evaluate them by means of a cross-disciplinary approach. The term “Eastern Europe” is used here to refer to the geographical regions of Russia, the post-Soviet states, Central Europe, and Southeastern Europe. Graduates are also capable of dealing with regional issues and challenges from a cross-disciplinary perspective and reaching conclusions on the basis of empirical evidence. They also acquire comprehensive knowledge in their respective subject area in addition to analytical methods, and are qualified to analyze national, transregional and global processes.

(2) Graduates demonstrate knowledge of at least one East European language as well as the relevant professional and social skills with a particular focus on intercultural, diversity-oriented, and gender-specific components, which enable them to understand national, transregional, and global processes. Graduates have transferable skills, including moderation and presentation skills, critical thinking and conflict resolution skills, and problem-solving skills.

(3) The master degree program imparts graduates with the academic background and practical experience needed to undertake professional activities as experts in Eastern Europe in sectors including politics and political consulting, social policy and social work, business/economics and business consulting, diplomatic service and international organizations, non-governmental

organizations (NGOs), culture, tourism, state and municipal planning and administration, media, adult education, publishing, librarianship and archiving, and research institutions.

### Section 3

#### Curriculum Contents

(1) The degree program is designed to introduce students to cross-disciplinary and subject-specific aspects of East European studies. This interdisciplinary area of study provides students with a practical and theoretical specialist knowledge of interdisciplinary East European studies. Through modules in the area of language acquisition, students gain basic knowledge of at least one East European language as well as intermediate and/or advanced knowledge of said language. Depending on the discipline chosen pursuant to Section 7.4, each student learns about the following content within their main area of study:

1. History: Historical processes in nineteenth and twentieth century Eastern and Central Europe, history of East and Central European societies, multi-ethnicity and nation-building, history of East European Jewish culture and identity, East European concepts, working with sources based on historical methods and theories such as new cultural history, entangled history, *histoire croisée*, discourse history, gender history, and visual, oral, and digital history.

2. Culture: Cultural history of Eastern Europe; theories and methods in cultural history; analytical approaches to texts and signs; media of artistic communication (focus on literature, fine arts, film); relevance of symbolic practices from a cultural anthropology perspective; culture as technology; models of Eastern Europe seen from the outside and from within; globalization/localization; pop culture and cultural/sociological aspects (elites, mass culture, public structures).

3. Politics: Key political actors and institutions in East European states; historical and contemporary political transformative processes; theoretical approaches and perspectives in transformation research; international and global trends and their influences on Eastern Europe.

4. Sociology: Analysis and interpretation of post-socialist development processes; social change and civil society; application of theories and concepts of economic and political sociology; comparison of European societies within and outside of the EU; methods of empirical social research.

5. Economics: Comparative economic systems; the “plan” and the “market” as coordination mechanisms; institutions and economic output; culture, religion, and economics; political economy of reforms; transition economies; privatization and restructuring: theory and applications; soft budget constraints; comparative financial systems; capitalism in democracies and dictatorships; institutions and economic growth; economic comparisons of Russia and China; centralization, bureaucracy, and public goods; modeling political processes; public choice theory; energy markets: pricing policy and regulation of depletable and renewable resources; environmental economics; methods in economic history; economic history of Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

(2) Gender and diversity-related issues, as well as the findings in gender and diversity research, will be given particular attention in all disciplines of the master degree program.

### Section 4

#### General Academic Advising and Departmental Advising

(1) The Center for Academic Advising and Psychological Counseling at Freie Universität Berlin provides general academic advising services for students.

(2) Professors who teach courses offered in the master degree program provide departmental advising during their regular office hours. A student assistant is also available to offer additional support. Furthermore, students are advised to discuss their individual curriculum with their program coordinator.

## Section 5

### Examination Committee

The examination committee is appointed by the Institute for East European Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. The committee is responsible for organizing examinations and other tasks stipulated by the RSPO.

## Section 6

### Standard Time to Degree

The standard time to degree is four semesters.

## Section 7

### Structure and Components; Distribution of Credit Points

(1) Students need to earn 120 credit points in order to complete the master degree program, of which 95 credit points to be accrued by completing course modules and 25 credit points by completing the master thesis. The course modules to be completed within the degree program are as follows:

1. Introductory modules for a total of 25 credit points
2. Interdisciplinary area for a total of 15 credit points
3. Main area of study in the discipline for a total of 25 credit points
4. Language acquisition for a total of 15 credit points
5. Internship for a total of 10 credit points
6. Modules on academic writing and research for a total of 5 credit points.

Please refer to Section 8 for information regarding requirements for the double degree program with the University of Tartu and the double degree program with HSE Moscow.

(2) The following introductory modules, which must total 25 credits points, are to be completed:

- Required module: Concepts and Contexts in East European Studies (10 credit points)

and one of the two following modules:

- Module: Varieties of Disciplinary Foundations A (15 credit points) or
- Module: Varieties of Disciplinary Foundations B (15 credit points).

(3) The following modules relating to interdisciplinary subjects, which must total 15 credits points, are to be completed:

- Module: Interdisciplinary Project Work (10 credits) and
- Module: Interdisciplinary Specialization (5 credit points)

(4) The objective of the main area of study, for a total of 25 credit points, is that the student develops and deepens their subject-specific knowledge of the disciplines studied within Varieties of Disciplinary Foundations A or Varieties of Disciplinary Foundations A and their application to the region of Eastern Europe.

From the following disciplines, one discipline along with its corresponding module and specialization module are to be selected and completed:

1. History: The following modules in the discipline of history must be completed:

- Module: Multiple Modernities in Eastern Europe (15 credit points); specialization module: Perspectives on the History of East and East-Central Europe (10 credit points)

2. Culture: The following modules in the discipline of culture must be completed:

- Module: Symbolic and Media-Based Forms of Cultural Practices (15 credit points) and
- Specialization module: The Arts in a Cultural Context (10 credit points)

3. Politics: The following modules in the discipline of politics must be completed:

- Module: Institutional Change against a Backdrop of National and International Contextual Factors (15 credit points) and
- Specialization module: Subject-Specific Specialization in Selected Political Areas (10 credit points)

4. Sociology: The following modules in the discipline of sociology must be completed:

- Module: Comparative Approaches to Social Change (15 credit points) and
- Specialization module: Specific Sociologies and Methods (10 credit points).

5. Economics: The following modules in the discipline of economics must be completed:

- Module: Comparative Economic Systems (15 credit points) and
- Specialization module: Methods in Economic History and Resource Economics (10 credit points)

(5) The area of language acquisition courses, for a total of 15 credit points, is for students to acquire region-specific linguistic knowledge of at least one East European language. Modules for a total of 15 credit points must be completed, irrespective of any previously acquired knowledge the student may have. Students must complete modules for a total of at least 10 credit points in a language for the purposes of advancing their language skills. Students with sufficient prior knowledge of an East European language may complete modules in another East European language, or in another language related to their studies after prior consultation with the examination committee, for the purposes of building upon their language skills. Students may take modules offered by the Language Center at Freie Universität Berlin. Students may submit more advanced language acquisition modules or those in other East European languages to the examination committee for accreditation. Students are

encouraged to build on their language skills by studying abroad in an East European country and by attending intensive language courses in between semesters, in particular those held at higher education institutions in East European countries. Documents that serve as proof of the student's language skills must indicate the number of credit points accrued and scope of studies undertaken.

(6) With regard to professional internships, the "internship" module, for a total of 10 credit points, must be completed. Students are to choose institutions offering internships in the fields of activity stated under Section 2.3. Students are encouraged to undertake an internship in an East European country; however, they may also complete internships in Germany or countries outside of Eastern Europe, provided said internships are related to an aspect of Eastern Europe. It is possible to divide the internship into two phases at two different institutions. The internship coordinator within the Institute Council is available to answer any questions related to the internship.

(7) With regard to the area on academic writing and research, the "academic writing and research" module, for a total of 5 credit points, must be completed. The objective of this module is for students to systematize their existing knowledge of the requirements and standards involved in academic work and to refine this knowledge with a view to writing their master thesis.

(8) The module descriptions in Appendix 1 provide information on the prerequisites, the contents and learning objectives, the modes of instruction, the workload, the different types of active participation, the various assessments that students must complete during the program, participation requirements in the different modes of instruction, the standard duration, and how often courses are offered. Please refer to the degree program and examination regulations for general professional skills courses for bachelor's degree programs at Freie Universität Berlin for further information on modules in the area of language acquisition.

(9) Appendix 2 is a standard curriculum recommended for completing the master degree program.

#### Section 8 Double Degree Program with the University of Tartu

(1) Students within the master degree program have the option of completing a double degree program organized by the Institute for East European Studies at Freie Universität Berlin together with the Institute of Government and Politics at the University of Tartu (hereinafter referred to as the University of Tartu) that begins at the start of each winter semester. A joint selection committee made up of members from both universities shall decide on which applicants will be admitted to the double degree program. Applications for the double degree program may be submitted during the first semester of the master degree program. The application deadline will be announced in good time on the master degree program's homepage. Students must submit a curriculum vitae and motivation letter written in English demonstrating their interest in applying for the double degree program.

(2) The double degree program consists of 120 credit points, of which 90 credit points are to be obtained from the modules to be completed within the double degree program and 30 credit points from the master thesis. The double degree program consists of an initial study phase (first and second subject semester) at Freie Universität Berlin for a total of 60 credit points and an exchange phase during the third semester at the University of Tartu for a total of 30 credit points.

(3) The double degree program with the University of Tartu is structured as follows:

1. Introductory modules for a total of 25 credits points
2. Interdisciplinary area for a total of 15 credit points

3. Main area of study for a total of 40 credit points (including study abroad at the University of Tartu for a total of 30 credit points)

4. Language acquisition courses for a total of 10 credit points

5. A master thesis, including an oral examination (“Verteidigung”), for a total of 30 credit points

(4) The following introductory modules, which must total 25 credits points, are to be completed:

– Required module: Concepts and Contexts of Eastern European Studies (10 credit points)

and one of the two following modules:

– Module: Varieties of Disciplinary Foundations A (15 credit points) or

– Module: Varieties of Disciplinary Foundations B (15 credit points).

(5) The following modules relating to the interdisciplinary area, which must total 15 credit points, are to be completed:

– Module: Interdisciplinary Project Work (10 credit points) and

– Module: Interdisciplinary Specialization (5 credit points)

(6) The objective of the main area of study, for a total of 40 credit points, is for the student to expand upon and deepen their subject-specific knowledge in the area of politics and its application to the region of Eastern Europe. Students must select from and complete the following modules in the discipline of politics:

– Institutional Change against a Backdrop of National and International Contextual Factors A (10 credit points), and

– Study abroad at the University of Tartu (modules for a total of 30 credit points, including 18 credit points for coursework graded on a scale and 12 credit points for pass/fail coursework)

The University of Tartu offers elective modules within this program that can be freely chosen and used to acquire language skills, for example. The structuring of the specific modules is subject to the regulations and resolutions of the University of Tartu.

(7) Language classes for a total of 10 credit points are designed for students to acquire and build on their region-specific knowledge of an East European language. Irrespective of the student’s prior knowledge, language modules for a total of 10 credit points must be completed. Students with sufficient prior knowledge of an East European language may complete modules in another East European language, or in another language related to their studies, after prior consultation with the examination committee, for the purposes of building upon their language skills. Students may take modules offered by the Language Center at Freie Universität Berlin. Students may submit more advanced language acquisition modules or those in other East European languages to the examination committee for accreditation. Students are encouraged to build on their language skills by studying abroad in an East European country and by attending intensive language courses in between semesters, in particular those held at higher education institutions in East European countries. Documents that serve as proof of the student’s language skills must indicate the number of credit points earned and scope of studies undertaken.

(8) The assessments to be completed within the individual modules during the degree program, the admission requirements for the individual modules, information on the obligation to regularly participate in the assigned types of learning, and the respective credit points allocated to the modules

can be found in Appendix 1. The regulations of the University of Tartu shall apply to the course of study to be completed during the study abroad phase.

(9) The master thesis may be completed at either Freie Universität Berlin or the University of Tartu and is supervised by instructors from both universities. If the master thesis is completed at Freie Universität Berlin, then Section 11 shall apply to the written component of the master thesis. If the master thesis is completed at the University of Tartu, then the regulations of the University of Tartu shall apply. An oral examination (“Verteidigung”) must be conducted as part of the master thesis in order to complete the degree, irrespective of at which of the two universities the written component was completed. The deadlines for the registration and oral examination of the master thesis at the University of Tartu are to be observed, even if the master thesis is completed at Freie Universität Berlin. The cumulative grade for the master thesis is calculated as nine tenths for the written thesis and one tenth for the oral examination.

(11) Appendix 2.2 is a standard curriculum for completing the double degree program with the University of Tartu.

## Section 9

### Double Degree Program with the Higher School of Economics (HSE) in Moscow

(1) Students within the master degree program have the option of completing the double degree program organized by the Institute for East European Studies at Freie Universität Berlin together with the Faculty of Social Science at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow (hereinafter referred to as HSE Moscow) that begins at the start of each winter semester. A joint selection committee made up of members from both universities shall decide on which applicants will be admitted to the double degree program. Applications for the double degree program are to be submitted during the semester break at the end of the first semester of the master degree program. The application deadline will be announced on the master degree program’s homepage. Students must submit a curriculum vitae and motivation letter written in English demonstrating their interest in applying for the double degree program.

(2) The double degree program consists of 120 credit points, of which 90 credit points are to be obtained from the modules within the double degree program and 30 credit points from the master thesis. The double degree program consists of an initial study phase (first and second subject semester) at Freie Universität Berlin for a total of 60 credit points and an exchange phase during the third semester at HSE Moscow for a total of 30 credit points, whereby 10 credit points are allocated to an internship that may also be completed outside of Russia.

(3) The double degree program with HSE Moscow is structured as follows:

1. Introductory modules for a total of 25 credits points
2. Interdisciplinary area for a total of 15 credit points
3. Main area of study for a total of 25 credit points (including 15 credit points at HSE Moscow)
4. Language acquisition courses for a total of 15 credit points (including 5 credit points at HSE Moscow)
5. Internship for a total of 10 credit points at HSE Moscow
6. A master thesis, including oral examination, for a total of 30 credit points

(4) The following introductory modules are to be completed:

- Compulsory module: Concepts and Contexts of Eastern European Studies (10 credit points)

and one of the two following modules:

- Module: Varieties of Disciplinary Foundations A (15 credit points) or
- Module: Varieties of Disciplinary Foundations B (15 credit points).

(5) The following modules relating to the interdisciplinary area, which must total 15 credit points, are to be completed:

- Module: Interdisciplinary project work (10 credits) and
- Module: Interdisciplinary specialization (5 credit points)

(6) The objective of the main area of study for a total of 25 credit points is for the student to expand upon and deepen their subject-specific knowledge in the area of sociology and its application to the region of Eastern Europe. Students must select from and complete the following modules in the discipline of sociology:

- Module: Comparative Approaches to Social Change A (10 credit points) and
- Study abroad at HSE Moscow (modules for a total of 15 credit points)

(7) The objective of language acquisition courses for a total of 15 credit points is for students to acquire region-specific linguistic knowledge of at least one East European language. Irrespective of the student's prior knowledge, language modules for a total of 15 credit points must be completed. Students must complete modules for a total of at least 10 credit points in a language for the purposes of advancing their language skills and 5 credit points in language acquisition at HSE Moscow. Students with sufficient prior knowledge of an East European language may complete modules in another East European language, or in another language related to their studies after prior consultation with the examination committee, for the purposes of building upon their language skills. Students may take modules offered by the Language Center at Freie Universität Berlin. Students may submit more advanced language acquisition modules or those in other East European languages to the examination committee for accreditation. Students are encouraged to build on their language skills by studying abroad in an East European country and by attending intensive languages between semesters, in particular those held at higher education institutions in East European countries. Documents that serve as proof of the student's language skills must indicate the number of credit points earned and scope of studies undertaken.

(8) With regard to professional internships, the module "Internship" for a total of 10 credit points must be completed. Students are to choose institutions offering internships in the fields of activity stated under Section 2.3. Students will be given the option of conducting their professional internship while attending HSE Moscow, but may also complete their internship in Germany or abroad, provided that it is related to an aspect of Eastern Europe. It is possible to divide the internship into two phases at two different institutions. The internship coordinator within the Institute Council is available to answer any questions related to the internship.

(9) The assessments to be completed within the individual modules during the degree program, the admission requirements for the individual modules, information on the obligation to regularly participate in the assigned types of learning, and the respective credit points allocated to the modules can be found in Appendix 1. The regulations of HSE Moscow shall apply to the courses of study to be completed during the study abroad phase.

(10) The master thesis may be completed at either Freie Universität Berlin or HSE Moscow and is supervised by instructors from both universities. If the master thesis is completed at Freie Universität Berlin, then Section 11 shall apply to the written component of the master thesis. If the master thesis is completed at HSE Moscow, then the regulations of HSE shall apply. An oral examination (“Verteidigung”) must be conducted as part of the master thesis in order to complete the degree, irrespective of at which of the two universities the written component was completed. The deadlines for the registration and oral examination of the master thesis at HSE Moscow are to be observed, even if the master thesis was written at Freie Universität Berlin. The cumulative grade for the master thesis, factoring in the written and oral components of the master thesis, shall be determined by the examination committee responsible for the oral examination at HSE Moscow pursuant to the regulations in place at HSE Moscow.

(11) Appendix 2.3 is a standard curriculum recommended for completing the double degree program with HSE Moscow.

## Section 10

### Modes of Instruction

(1) The courses offered through the program at Freie Universität Berlin include the following modes of instruction:

1. Lecture (V): Lectures impart to students an overview of the subject area as a whole and its methodical and/or theoretical foundations, as well as knowledge regarding a specific topic and related research questions where applicable. They thus serve to provide a wider context for the subject area and an outline of its theoretical foundations. The main mode of instruction is a presentation prepared by the instructor.

2. Project Seminar (PS): The project seminar is an integral component of interdisciplinary studies. Students are expected to work within interdisciplinary project groups to develop projects related to the issues they are learning about. In doing so, they apply and link the specialist knowledge and methods they have gained through studying different disciplines. University instructors supervise the project groups. The main mode of instruction and learning involves the instructor imparting professional and/or research skills, as well as how to apply these skills to a number of case studies.

3. Seminar (S): The objective of seminars is to convey knowledge on a clearly defined subject area and teach students the skills they need to independently research an issue, present the results, and discuss the subject using critical thinking. The main modes of instruction and learning are seminar discussions conducted with the aid of learning materials, preparatory reading of specialist literature and sources, assignments, and group work.

4. Specialization Seminar (VS): Specialization seminars provide students with a chance to engage intensively with a defined area of study and to gain practice doing academic work of their own. The main modes of instruction and learning are seminar discussions conducted with the aid of learning materials, preparatory reading of specialist literature and sources, written and/or oral assignments, and group work.

5. Practice Session (Ü): The objective of practice sessions is to impart applicable knowledge on a clearly defined subject area and the skills needed to work independently on a task, present the results, and discuss the subject using critical thinking. The main modes of instruction and learning are based

on the practical implementation of methods, practical knowledge, and language skills. The instructor leads and supervises students in the various activities.

6. External Internship (P): The objective of external internships is for students to independently work through issues and develop potential solutions by focusing on selected subjects and using suitable methods, thereby allowing them to acquire practical and analytical skills. Students gain experience in applying specialist knowledge and methods, and may test out their own suitability for specific professional fields.

7. Colloquium (K): Colloquia facilitate the academic exchange of ideas in an informal setting and the development of larger research projects with a view to writing the master thesis.

8. Teaching through Research (LFP): The objective of “Teaching through Research” courses is for students to integrate their theoretical knowledge and methodological expertise so that they can gain experience in research and thus the ability to plan more extensive research projects.

(2) The modes of instruction as outlined in 10.1 above can be implemented through blended learning formats. Blended learning combines on-site education with digital, internet-based media (e-learning). In this context, certain educational activities can be offered through Freie Universität Berlin’s central e-learning applications. Students can work on these activities individually or in groups. They can complete them on their own or with the guidance of an instructor. Blended learning can be used both as part of the active learning phase (discussing educational materials, sharing solutions to assignments, vigorous communication between instructors and students) and for follow-up activities (evaluating students’ progress, applying and transferring knowledge).

## Section 11

### Master Thesis

(1) The master thesis should demonstrate that the student is capable of independently working on an issue from the discipline in which they have studied at an advanced academic level and is able to appropriately convey in writing, contextualize, and document the results of their research.

(2) Students will be admitted to work on their master thesis after submitting a request to do so, provided that at the time of the request:

1. They are enrolled in the master degree program at Freie Universität Berlin

and

2. They have completed modules for a total of at least 60 credit points within the master degree program.

(3) The admission request for the master thesis must be accompanied by proper documentation of the prerequisites listed under Section 11.2 above, as well as confirmation from an instructor who is an authorized examiner that they are willing and able to act as supervisor for the master thesis. Authorized examiners from the discipline in which the student is specializing are responsible for supervising and assessing the master thesis. The relevant examination committee is responsible for approving requests. If the request does not include confirmation from an instructor as described above, the examination committee will appoint the supervisor.

(4) The examination committee assigns the topic of the master thesis in coordination with the thesis supervisor. The topic and assignment must be designed in such a way as to ensure the work can be

completed before the deadline. The assigning of the topic and compliance with the submission deadline must be documented and kept on file.

(5) The master thesis should be approximately 21,000 words in length. Students have 23 weeks to work on their master thesis. The master thesis must be written in German or English. If a student is hindered from working on their master thesis for more than three months due to mitigating circumstances, the examination committee will decide whether the student must start the master thesis process again. If the examination committee demands that the master thesis be submitted again, the previous steps in the master thesis process do not count as an official examination attempt.

(6) The work period for the master thesis begins with the date that the topic is assigned by the examination committee. The topic can be declined once within two weeks of being assigned, in which case it will be deemed not issued. When the student submits their master thesis, they must include a written statement confirming that they alone are responsible for the content of the thesis and that they only used the sources and resources listed in the thesis. Students must submit three bound copies of their master thesis as well as an electronic copy in Portable Document Format (PDF). The PDF file must be machine readable as text (i.e., scanned photocopies of documents converted into a PDF file are not permissible). Furthermore, the content may not be subject to any rights restrictions.

(7) Two authorized examiners shall be appointed by the examination committee to grade the master thesis. They have four weeks' time to submit their written evaluations. One of the examiners must be the student's master thesis supervisor.

Upon request, the examination committee will make decisions regarding exceptions.

(8) The grade for the master thesis is calculated as the arithmetical mean of the grades awarded by the two examiners. The master thesis is deemed to be passed if a grade of at least "sufficient" (4.0) is awarded.

(9) A student's work on a master thesis elsewhere can be recognized by Freie Universität Berlin. The recognition request should be submitted to the examination committee. In order for the master thesis to be recognized, the examination conditions and the assignment of the submitted work must not differ substantially in terms of quality, level, learning outcomes, scope, or profile when compared to the examination conditions and the assignment of a master thesis completed in this master program.

## Section 12

### Retaking Examinations and Assessments

(1) If a student does not pass their master thesis, they can attempt the assessment a second time. All other exams and assessments in the program can be retaken twice.

(2) Exams and assessments that receive a grade of "sufficient" (4.0) or above cannot be retaken as these count as passed.

## Section 13

### Study Abroad

(1) Students are recommended to undertake a period of study abroad. Students should take courses that can be accredited within the master degree program while studying abroad.

(2) A learning agreement between the student, the head of the examination committee responsible for the master degree program, and the responsible point of contact at the host university must be drawn up prior to the study abroad period. The learning agreement should cover the length of the study abroad period, the coursework to be completed while studying abroad, which must equate to the courses of the master degree program in terms of credit points, and the credit points allocated to each course. Courses completed in accordance with this agreement will be recognized.

(3) Students are advised to undertake a study abroad period during the third semester of the master degree program.

(4) The Institute for East European Studies supports students in planning and preparing for study abroad.

## Section 14

### Degree Completion

(1) In order to graduate, students must complete the coursework and assessments outlined under Sections 7 and 11 within the master degree program. The courses of study stated under Sections 8 and 11 must be completed in order to earn a university degree within the double degree program with the University of Tartu. The courses of study stated under Sections 9 and 11 must be completed in order to earn a university degree within the double degree program with HSE Moscow.

(2) A student is not eligible for graduation if they have definitively failed to complete assigned coursework or an examination or are involved in a pending examination procedure at a university in the same degree program or in a module that is identical or comparable to one of the modules to be completed in the master degree program here and that will be taken into account when determining their overall grade.

(3) The application request for the award of a degree must be accompanied by documentation showing the student has completed the requirements mentioned in Section 14.1 above as well as confirmation that the applicant is not subject to any of the eligibility restrictions mentioned in Section 14.2. The relevant examination committee is responsible for approving the application.

(4) Upon successful completion of the master degree program the university degree Master of Arts (M.A.) is awarded. Students receive a certificate and a diploma (Annexes 3 and 4), as well as a Diploma Supplement (English and German version). In addition, a certificate supplement with details of the individual modules and their components (transcript) will be issued. Additional English versions of the transcript and degree certificate may be issued upon request.

(5) The grades for assessments completed at the partner universities within the double degree programs pursuant to Sections 8 and 9 will be communicated by the partner institution to the examination committee at Freie Universität Berlin. The following conversion table applies:

University of Tartu	HSE Moscow	Freie Universität Berlin
A	10–9	1.0
–	8	1.3
B	7	1.7
C	6	2.3

D	5	3.0
E	4	3.7
F	1–3	5.0 (fail)

(6) The final grade is a calculation of the cumulative grades from the modules completed at Freie Universität Berlin for a total of 60 credit points, the modules completed at the University of Tartu or HSE Moscow for a total of 30 credit points, and the master thesis for a total of 30 credit points.

(7) Having the passed their assessments completed within the double degree program with the University of Tartu, pursuant to Section 8, the student will receive:

- A transcript and degree certificate from the University of Tartu
- A transcript and degree certificate from Freie Universität Berlin (Appendices 5 and 6)
- A diploma supplement in English.

In addition, a degree certificate supplement with details of the individual modules and their components (transcript) will be issued by each of the two partner universities. Additional English versions of the transcript and degree certificate may be issued upon request.

(8) Having the passed their assessments completed within the double degree program with HSE Moscow, pursuant to Section 9, the student receives:

- A transcript and degree certificate from HSE Moscow
- A transcript and degree certificate from Freie Universität Berlin (Appendices 7 and 8)
- A diploma supplement in English.

In addition, a degree certificate supplement with details of the individual modules and their components (transcript) is issued by each of the two partner universities. Additional English versions of the transcript and degree certificate may be issued upon request.

## Section 15

### Entry into Force and Interim Regulations

(1) These regulations enter into force on the day following their publication in *FU-Mitteilungen* (the official bulletin of Freie Universität Berlin).

(2) The degree program and examination regulations for the master degree program from May 18, 2015 (*FU-Mitteilungen* No. 26/2015, p. 1000), therefore lapse once the amended statutes come into force.

(3) The regulations apply to students who are enrolled in the master degree program at Freie Universität Berlin after their entry into force. Students who have been enrolled in the master degree program at Freie Universität Berlin before this date shall perform and complete their studies on the basis of the study and examination regulation stated in Section 15.2 above, provided that they do not submit a request to the examination committee to continue and complete their degree program pursuant to the currently valid regulations. Should this request be granted, the examination committee shall decide on the extent to which modules already started or completed at the point in time at which the request was submitted shall be recognized and to what extent they can be accredited under the

requirements of the currently valid regulations, whereby the requirements of the right to confidentiality and equal treatment shall be taken into account. Once the request for continuation under the newest regulations has been approved, it is final and the student may not then apply to transfer their studies back to the previous regulations.

(4) Students are entitled to complete their degree on the basis of the degree program and examination regulations pursuant to Section 15.2 above up until the end of the 2020 summer semester.