



GAZETTE

Official newsletter of the Corporation and Foundation

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— Subject-Specific Annex 12 Individual Research Master's to the General Assessment Regulations for the Master's programs of the Graduate School of Leuphana University

Subject-Specific Annex 12 Individual Research Master to the General Assessment Regulations for Master's Programs at the Graduate School of Leuphana University of Lüneburg

On 19 November 2025, the Senate of Leuphana University of Lüneburg amended Section 41 (1) sentence 2 NHG Subject-Specific Annex 12 Individual Research Master to the General Assessment Regulations for Master's programs at the Graduate School of Leuphana University of Lüneburg dated 17 September 2008 (Leuphana Gazette No. 15/08 of 6 October 2008), last amended on 19 April 2023 (Leuphana Gazette No. 49/23 of 16 June 2023) was adopted. The Executive Board approved the Subject-Specific Annex in accordance with para. 37 (1) sentence 3 No. 5b) NHG on 3 December 2025.

The provisions of the General Assessment Regulations for the Master's programs of the Graduate School of Leuphana University of Lüneburg are supplemented as follows:

Regarding Section 2: Aim of the programme, purpose of the assessment

Subject-specific competencies

Graduates of the Master's programme

- have in-depth knowledge of scientific theories, concepts and methods in their individually chosen field of research.
- work independently on complex research questions, are proficient in the use of relevant data and methods, and develop appropriate research designs.
- critically reflect on scientific approaches, position their work in larger social and scientific discourses, and actively contribute to the further development of knowledge.
- are familiar with methods and concepts of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, apply these confidently in national and international contexts, and are able to develop joint research questions and innovative solutions with experts from different disciplines and practitioners.

Personal skills

Graduates of the Master's programme are able to

- independently develop and work on a research topic.
- participate responsibly in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research teams and constructively contribute current scientific findings from their field of expertise.
- systematically analyse complex research questions, develop cooperative and interdisciplinary solutions, and provide scientific support for their implementation, applying their in-depth knowledge in the respective subject area.
- deal with problems in the team in a forward-looking manner and leading and taking responsibility for group processes against a backdrop of heterogeneity.
- argue, critically reflect on and jointly develop complex scientific and socially relevant problems in dialogue with colleagues, mentors and practitioners.

Regarding § 3 para. 5 Details on the structure of the subject-specific area

Module overview Individual Research Master

| | | | | | |
|----|--|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 4. | Master's thesis (30 CP) (MA-IRM-10) | | | | |
| 3. | Research Forum III 5 CP (MA-IRM-7) | Research Project and Methods III 10 CP (MA-IRM-8) | Elective Module V 5 CP | Elective Module VI 5 CP | Doctoral Studies III Discussing Research Perspectives 5 CP (MA-IRM-9) |
| 2 | Research Forum II 5 CP (MA-IRM-4) | Research Project and Methods II 10 CP (MA-IRM-5) | Elective Module III 5 CP | Elective Module IV 5 CP | Doctoral Studies II Practising Research for Science and Society 5 CP (MA-IRM-6) |
| 1. | Research Forum I 5 CP (MA-IRM-1) | Research Project and Methods I 10 CP (MA-IRM-2) | Elective Module I 5 CP | Elective Module II 5 CP | Doctoral Studies I Engaging with Research Ethics 5 CP (MA-IRM-3) |

| | |
|--|---|
| | Integration area "Research Forum" and doctoral studies "Doctoral Studies" |
| | Core area "Research Project and Methods" and Master's thesis |
| | Specialisation area "Elective Modules I to VI" |

The elective modules I to VI of the first, second and third semesters, totalling 30 CP, must be completed from the current range of modules offered by all other Master's programmes at the Graduate School of Leuphana University Lüneburg.

At the beginning of each semester, students work with their mentors to create an individual study plan that is tailored to their respective research topic. In order to ensure the quality of each study plan in terms of feasibility, coherence and compatibility with future careers and further studies, students participate in counselling sessions. Participation in at least four counselling sessions over the course of the programme is essential for successful completion of the Individual Research Master's programme.

Section 5 Determination of the academic degree

Master of Science

Regarding § 6 para. 10 teaching and examination language

The Individual Research Master is an internationally oriented programme and is offered in English. The teaching and examination language in the core and integration areas is exclusively English.

Regarding § 7 (1) assessment

The examination achievements for the modules

- Doctoral Studies I – Engaging with Research Ethics (5 CP) (MA-IRM-3),
- Doctoral Studies II – Practising Research for Science and Society (5 CP) (MA-IRM-6) and
- Doctoral Studies III – Discussing Research Perspectives (5 CP) (MA-IRM-9)

are graded as "passed" or "failed".

Regarding § 8 Master's thesis

The processing time for the Master's thesis (30 CP) (MA-IRM-10) is twenty-four weeks. In addition to the Master's thesis, an oral examination is conducted in accordance with § 7 para. 4. The grade for the oral examination accounts for one-fifth of the overall grade for the Master's thesis.

Module table Individual Research Master 1st semester

| <i>Module</i> | <i>Content</i> | <i>Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)</i> | <i>Module requirements</i> | <i>CP</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|--|--|--|---|-----------|----------------------------|
| Compulsory modules | | | | | |
| Research Forum I (MA-IRM-1) | <i>Under the supervision of the lecturers, students exchange ideas on research approaches and topics. In particular, current research work from the working groups of the participating mentors or the cohort itself is presented on a weekly basis. Critical and interdisciplinary reflection is at the centre of the course. In the process, the students learn and try out subject-specific presentation techniques such as flash talks, posters, and long talks.</i> | <i>1 seminar (2 CH)</i> | <i>1 combined assessment</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>normally in English</i> |
| Research Project and Methods I (MA-IRM-2) | <i>Students learn about research methods and approaches from different disciplines (e.g., ethnographic, qualitative, quantitative research) in a lecture series. In addition, students elaborate on the topics presented in the lectures and the research plan in personal meetings with the mentor.</i> | <i>1 lecture (2 CH) and 1 project (2 CH)</i> | <i>1 unsupervised written assignment or 1 combined assessment</i> | <i>10</i> | <i>normally in English</i> |
| Doctoral Studies I - Engaging with Research Ethics (MA-IRM-3) | <i>The module serves as an introduction to doctoral studies at Leuphana, the connection to the Graduate School and schools, as well as sensitisation for and preparation for ethically correct and responsible research activities in accordance with the rules of good scientific practice. The aim of the module is to familiarise doctoral candidates with the relevant players as well as support, qualification and funding opportunities at Leuphana, to internalise ethical considerations as early as the planning phase of the doctoral project and to develop concrete strategies for good scientific practice.</i> | <i>1 lecture (2 CH) or 1 seminar (2 CH)</i> | <i>1 unsupervised written assignment</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>normally in English</i> |

Module table Individual Research Master 2nd semester

| <i>Module</i> | <i>Content</i> | <i>Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)</i> | <i>Module requirements</i> | <i>CP</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---|---|--|---|-----------|----------------------------|
| Compulsory modules | | | | | |
| Research Forum II (MA-IRM-4) | <i>Under the supervision of their mentors, students exchange ideas on research approaches and topics. The focus of the weekly updates shifts to the research ideas of the cohort itself and is critically reflected together with peers, for example in flash talks. In addition, research work from the working groups of the participating mentors is presented. Critical and interdisciplinary reflection is at the centre of the course. The process of writing down reflections is tested and discussed.</i> | <i>1 Project (2 CH)</i> | <i>1 combined assessment</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>normally in English</i> |
| Research Project and Methods II (MA-IRM-5) | <i>Students develop a research proposal for a research project in personal meetings with their mentor. In accompanying workshop-style sessions, the lecturers provide feedback and input on the topic of "science as a profession." The project provides the cohort with a safe third place to work on their projects on campus and exchange ideas with programme directors and lecturers. Here, the scientific documentation of a project is discussed and examined in particular.</i> | <i>1 Project (2 CH) and 1 seminar (2 CH)</i> | <i>1 unsupervised written assignment or 1 combined assessment</i> | <i>10</i> | <i>normally in English</i> |
| Doctoral Studies II – Practising Research for Science and Society (MA-IRM-6) | <i>In this module, students acquire the knowledge and skills to confidently navigate key aspects of the academic world and transfer (e.g. publication practices, acquisition of third-party funding, communication of research activities).</i> | <i>1 lecture (2 CH)</i> | <i>1 unsupervised written assignment or 1 combined assessment</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>normally in English</i> |

Module table Individual Research Master 3rd semester

| <i>Module</i> | <i>Content</i> | <i>Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)</i> | <i>Module requirements</i> | <i>CP</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---|--|--|---|-----------|----------------------------|
| Compulsory modules | | | | | |
| Research Forum III (MA-IRM-7) | <i>Under the supervision of their mentors, students exchange ideas on research approaches and topics. The focus is now entirely on the research proposals and progress of the cohort. The weekly updates deal intensively with the individual topics and are reflected upon in an interdisciplinary manner. Science communication is also practised.</i> | <i>1 Project (2 CH)</i> | <i>1 combined assessment</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>normally in English</i> |
| Research Project and Methods III (MA-IRM-8) | <i>Students finalise their research proposals in personal meetings with their mentors and gain initial experience in conducting research. In accompanying sessions (the project) in workshop format, the lecturers provide feedback and input on the topic of "career paths in science" several times during the semester.</i> | <i>1 Project (2 CH) and 1 Seminar (2 CH)</i> | <i>1 unsupervised written assignment or 1 combined assessment</i> | <i>10</i> | <i>normally in English</i> |
| Doctoral Studies III – Discussing Research Perspectives (MA-IRM-9) | <i>In this module, students acquire knowledge of the scientific examination of a current (disciplinary or interdisciplinary) topic, a research direction or questions of scientific theory.</i> | <i>1 seminar (2 CH)</i> | <i>1 unsupervised written assignment or 1 combined assessment</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>normally in English</i> |

Module table Individual Research Master 4th semester

| <i>Module</i> | <i>Content</i> | <i>Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)</i> | <i>Module requirements</i> | <i>CP</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|-----------|----------------------------|
| Master's thesis (MA-IRM-10) | <i>Writing a Master's thesis</i> | <i>none</i> | <i>1 Master's thesis 1 oral examination in accordance with § 8 para. 8 FER</i> | <i>30</i> | <i>normally in English</i> |

Entry into force

This subject-specific schedule shall enter into force after publication in the Official Newsletter of Leuphana University Lüneburg for the winter semester 2026/27.

