

Leipzig University of Applied Sciences (HTWK Leipzig)

## Study Regulations International Master's Degree Program Structural Engineering

- StudO-SEM -

Last amended: 22 September 2020 based on §§ 13 par. 4, 36 Saxon Higher Education Act (SächsHSFG)

For improved legibility, this document uses the male gender for female and male individuals alike. When used in these regulations, words of male gender refer to the female gender as well.

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### § 1

#### Scope

(1) Based on the associated examination regulations, the present study regulations define the target qualification, the admission and enrollment requirements, the teaching structure and the contents of the International Master's Degree Program *Structural Engineering* (SEM Program) at the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the HTWK Leipzig.

(2) The individual classes and their content are specified in the **Curriculum** (refer to **Appendix**). The curriculum is not binding; however, it may be followed accordingly to ensure the Master's degree is obtained within the 4-semester standard length of study. The curriculum is specified in greater detail in the respective **Module Descriptions** (refer to **Appendix**) and the examination schedule (Prüfungsplan) provided by the examination regulations (Prüfungsordnung) for the SEM Program.

(3) The individual classes of this program can also be attended within the bounds of a study abroad program (Teilstudium).

## § 2 Target Qualification

(1) The SEM Program consecutively builds on a Civil Engineering Bachelor's degree, leading to a postgraduate degree. The Master's degree investigates individual topics of the Bachelor's degree in greater detail. While the latter is broad in scope, covering important areas in structural engineering, the Master's degree conveys expert knowledge and skills in structural engineering at an advanced level.

The curriculum has been tailored to meet the needs of graduates specializing in structural engineering such as to generate academically versed experts in this particular field of civil engineering that are able to compete on an international level.

(2) Classes are taught in English.

(3) The program is designed to qualify the students:

- to identify technical problems and tasks faced by a structural engineer, giving due consideration to the complexity of those tasks; to develop a scientific approach to new solutions and their targeted implementation.
- to co-operate with their colleagues and with other associates in building projects, to work in international teams, to help others understand and appreciate their work, and to discuss related issues with those involved.
- to hold leading and managerial positions in the building sector and industry; in doing so, developing a decisive, assertive and flexible manner of thought, based on a high level of technical and social expertise.
- to bear in mind all technical and social consequences across project boundaries, and to act environmentally aware when a decision is taken.

(4) The content of teaching at the university is state-of-the-art. It is designed to be based on the principle of unity between research and teaching.

(5) It is the target to enable the student to become independent in applying scientific methods and findings for analyzing and solving problems in structural engineering. To do so, the students acquire expert knowledge and practical application-oriented skills in this area along with cross-subject technical and social skills (key skills) that are part of the respective modules as well.

(6) Upon successful completion of the modules pursuant to the standard curriculum – involving the accumulation of 120 credits according to the **European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)** – the academic degree "Master of Science", abbreviated "M.Sc.", is awarded.

## § 3 Admission and Enrollment Requirements

(1) The admission to the program is governed by the associated higher education laws and regulations; in particular, this procedure is subject to the Saxon Higher Education Act (SächsHSG), the regulations for awarding university places within Saxony (SächsStudPIVergabeVO), the enrollment regulations (Immatrikulationsordnung) and the selection policies for the Master's Degree program (Masterauswahlordnung) of the HTWK Leipzig.

(2) As a requirement for acceptance to the SEM Program, applicants must hold a primary professional degree in the field of civil engineering obtained in Germany or abroad containing a minimum of 180 credits.

(3) The SEM Program is provided in co-operation with partner universities (for the partners, refer to **Appendix**). Applicants can enroll for the SEM Program at the HTWK Leipzig starting from the 3rd semester only. As a prerequisite for enrollment, applicants must have their competences and skills (as provided for in the standard curriculum), as well as their examination results for the 1st and 2nd semester recognized. In line with the curriculum, these competences and skills are acquired, and the examination results are achieved within the scope of the independent schemes of study provided by universities partnering with the HTWK Leipzig on the basis of dedicated cooperation agreements. The individual competencies can be transferred subject to the condition that they are equal – in nature, content of teaching, scope and minimum requirements – to the SEM Program awarded by the HTWK Leipzig (principle of equivalence). The examination committee is the body authorized to establish whether a competency or exam meets the requirements of being equivalent.

(4) In case the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, applicants are selected as provided by the general statutory acceptance provisions.

(5) Subject to the assessment proposals made by the Central Office for Foreign Education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen, ZAB) of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (Ständige Konferenz der Kultusminister der Länder in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, KMK), students need to prove they hold an equal degree and have a sufficient command of English. The latter is deemed to exist when the TOEFL test has been passed (minimum scores: 550 points for the paper-based test, 213 points for the computer-based test respectively 79 points for the internet-based test), or any equivalent qualification has been provided.

## § 4

### Structure and Content of the Program

(1) Generally, the course of studies begins in the winter term.

(2) First, students need to complete the 1st and 2nd semester at any of the universities partnering for this scheme of study. The partner universities list (refer to **Appendix**) can be amended by decision of the board of the faculty (Fakultätsrat). Only with the 1st and 2nd semesters completed, students can enroll at the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the HTWK Leipzig for the 3rd and 4th semester.

(3) The content of teaching is subdivided into modules (modular structure). The concept of module refers to a self-contained set of classes that are oriented towards a specific content or method, and offered within a specified time frame. Each module is concluded by a module examination (Modulprüfung) which – in line with the examination schedule – may be comprised of one or several examinations. Upon successful completion, each module is awarded with credits depending on the time needed for:

- a) attendance to the classes;
- b) preparation for classes and revision of class material;
- c) private study commitment;
- d) preparation for, and successful passing of the examinations;

(workload, German "Arbeitslast "). Those credits are granted in line with the **European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)**. One credit equals a workload of 30 clock hours (60 minutes each) for an average student.

(4) Common class types are lecture (Vorlesung), training (Übung), seminar (Seminar) and practical training (Praktikum).

(5) For a successful completion of the study program, 120 credits must be acquired. In line with the curriculum, students must accumulate 99 credits in compulsory modules (Pflichtmodule) plus 21 credits in optional modules (Wahlpflichtmodule). Within the specialized foreign language training, 9 credits must be acquired.

(6) There are two types of modules:

- a) compulsory modules (Pflichtmodule) which are mandatory for all students; and
- b) optional modules (Wahlpflichtmodule) which students need, depending on their specific orientation, to select from within the modules available in a course of studies.

The respective module descriptions specify the individual modules in more detail.

(7) At the sole discretion of the board of the faculty, the content of, and admission to optional modules can be subjected to restrictions for organizational reasons. Also, the board of the faculty may, at their discretion, cancel optional modules when less than ten students have enrolled in that module. The student is not entitled to attend, or be offered attendance to, a particular optional module.

(8) The board of the faculty may decide to modify the number or content of optional modules available if the current level of scientific knowledge or the focus of research or teaching have changed.

## § 5 Course Guidance

(1) For general affairs, course guidance is provided by the department for study affairs (Dezernat Studienangelegenheiten) of the HTWK Leipzig. In particular, the purpose of the course guidance center is to discuss issues such as study options, enrollment, exmatriculation, leave of absence and general issues relating to the course of studies.

(2) For subject-related or organizational issues associated with a specific course of studies, guidance is provided by the respective faculty. This guidance covers in particular the content of specific modules, and the curriculum. Depending on capacities available, tutorials are conducted.

(3) For legal issues relating to examinations, and in particular regarding objections to negative decisions taken by the HTWK Leipzig, a legal adviser is available to provide students with information and advice.

(4) Failure to attend at least one examination before – however no later than during – the exam period of the third semester subjects the student to a compulsory consultation as described above in par. 2 sentence 1.

## § 6 Final Provisions

- (1) The study regulations for the SEM Program were adopted by the board of the Faculty of Civil Engineering on 20.05.2020 and become effective on the day of their approval by the rectorate<sup>1</sup>. The study regulations is valid for all students who take up their studies from winter term 2020/2021 on.
- (2) The study regulations for the SEM Program were originally written and passed in German. This copy is a sworn translation of the same into English. It is merely for reference purposes. The original German version only is legally binding.
- (3) The study regulations for the SEM Program are published on the Internet portal of the HTWK Leipzig at <https://htwk-leipzig.de>.

Dated at Leipzig this 22nd day of September 2020

Prof. Dr. rer. pol. Mark Mietzner  
Rector

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<sup>1</sup>approved on 22.09.2020

### **Appendix**

Curriculum  
Module Descriptions  
Partner Universities