

Subject examination regulations for the master's degree in Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies. Gender, Nature and History at the faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Kassel dated 3 December 2025

Approved by the Faculty of Social Sciences in December 2025.

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Study and examination plan

§ 1 Scope of application

The latest valid version of the specialist examination regulations for the consecutive English-language master's degree course 'Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies. Gender, Nature and History' at the faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Kassel supplements the General Regulations for Subject Examination Regulations for Bachelor's/Master's Degrees at the University of Kassel.

§ 2 Academic degrees, profile category

- (1) The faculty of Social Sciences awards the academic degree Master of Arts (M.A.) after the successful completion of the programme.
- (2) The master's degree course 'Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies. Gender, Nature and History' is a research-oriented programme.

§ 3 Regular study period, scope of the degree course

- (1) The regular study period for the master's degree amounts to four semesters, including the master's degree module.
- (2) Overall, 120 credits are awarded to any candidate who successfully passes the master's degree course. Of this figure, 30 credits are awarded for the master's degree module.

§ 4 Start of the degree course

(1) The master's degree course 'Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies. Gender, Nature and History' is starting only in the winter semester.

§ 5 Examination board

(1) The 'Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies. Gender, Nature and History' examination board makes decisions regarding all examination matters for the above mentioned programme.

(2) The examination board consists of:

- a. three professors of the Faculty of Social Sciences or Kassel Institute for Sustainability including one professor each from department of history and sociology at the University of Kassel,
- b. one further academic staff member of Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Kassel,
- c. one student of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Kassel.

§ 6 Admission requirements

(1) Candidates can be admitted to programme with

- a. a bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree in sustainability studies, social sciences, cultural studies or humanities or a first state examination for teaching history or politics and economics with a study period of at least six semesters and 180 credits or
- b. an equivalent degree in the above mentioned fields with a study period of at least six semesters and 180 credits,
- c. and adequate knowledge of the English language (C1 level CEFR).

(2) The examination board will admit the students following the above mentioned admission requirements. All decisions will be made based on the written application documents. The examination board can admit students provisionally and request further documents.

§ 7 Examination regulations

(1) The module examinations accompanying degree courses are connected with the time and subject matter of any module.

(2) The following are relevant as examination work:

- written exam/written electronic exam,
- oral exam,
- written paper,
- portfolio,
- project report,
- master's degree dissertation.

The lecturer will set and explain the type of possible examinations at the beginning of the course, within the framework of the specifications of the study and examination plan.

(3) In addition to the types of examination mentioned in para. 2, coursework can also be required as a prerequisite for acquiring the module examination. The coursework is assessed as "passed" or "failed". It may include the following types of coursework:

- portfolio,

- protocol,
- oral report,
- thesis paper,
- essay,
- presentation,
- poster,
- moderation,
- chair of a session,
- interviews,
- source critic,
- reflection paper,
- poster presentation,
- book excerpt,
- book review.

(4) For written coursework and examinations, the required number of characters, including spaces, is specified. The cover page, table of contents, tables, graphics, bibliography, appendices and acknowledgements are not included in this count.

(5) The module examinations accompanying the course can also consist of two partial examinations. The module examination has been passed if all module individual examinations have at least been awarded with “adequate” (grade 4.0).

(6) Failed module examinations can be repeated twice. The same applies to partial examinations of a respective module. It is not possible to repeat module examinations that have already been passed.

(7) Module examination must be provided in English. Module examination can be provided in a different language in agreement with the examiners.

(8) Credits for a module are awarded after successful passing of all examinations for the module.

§ 8 Examination parts for the master’s degree course

(1) The master’s degree examination consists of the following module examinations including the master’s degree module according to Section 9 with the relevant credits:

Module number	Module title	Credits
Compulsory modules		
Module 1	Critical Sustainability	12 Credits
Module 2	Postcolonial Studies	12 Credits
Module 3	Gender and Intersectionality	12 Credits
Module 4	Nature, Culture and Economies in Past and Present Societies	12 Credits
Module 5	Socio-Ecological Transformations: Conflicts, Movements and (Un-)Learning	12 Credits
Module 6	Sustainability in Practice: Methods and Projects	24 Credits
Key Competences		

Module 8	Academic Standards and Writing	6 Credits
Master degree module		
Module 7	Masters's Degree Module	30 Credits
Total		120 Credits

(2) The master's examination is passed if all required examinations in accordance with these examination regulations have been awarded with at least the grade of "adequate" or "pass".

§ 9 Master's degree module

(1) The master's degree module consists of the master's degree dissertation and master's degree oral examination. It is awarded with 30 credits. The master's degree dissertation accounts for 29 credits.

(2) The topic of the master's degree dissertation can only be assigned after passing of module 1 and 2. The examination board shall assign the topic and appoint the supervisor and examiners. The supervisor is one of the two examiners. The student has the right to make suggestions.

(3) The completion time for the master's degree dissertation is 22 weeks and starts on the day that the topic has been announced. The topic of the master's degree dissertation may only be handed back once and only within first 3 weeks. It must be provided in such a way that it can be completed within the envisaged deadline.

(4) If a candidate cannot meet the submission date for reasons, for which the candidate is not responsible for, the examination board can extend the submission deadline for a maximum of three weeks.

(5) The master's degree dissertation must be written in English. In agreement with the supervisor and after approval of the examination board it can be written in a different language.

(6) The master's degree dissertation must be submitted to the examination board by the deadline in two bound copies and in digital form on a USB stick or by email.

(7) The master's degree dissertation must be presented at a master's degree colloquium (oral examination). The first and second examiners will take part in the oral exam. The master's degree oral exam should take place at the latest 6 weeks after the master's degree dissertation has been handed in. The entire oral exam shall last max. 45 minutes. Participation in the master's degree oral exam assumes that the master's degree dissertation has been awarded at least the grade "adequate" (grade 4.0).

(8) In order to pass the master's degree module, the master's degree dissertation and master's degree oral exam must be awarded at least the grade "adequate" (grade 4.0). The grade from the oral exam shall be added to the master's degree module grade with 20%. A failed master's degree oral exam can be repeated once. This repetition must usually take place within 6 weeks.

§ 10 Composition and weighting of the final grade

(1) A module is passed and can be counted towards the master's degree if the module has been graded with at least a "adequate" (grade 4.0).

(2) The overall grade for the master's degree examination is calculated as the average of the module grades, weighted according to the credits assigned to the modules.

§ 11 Entry into force

These Examination Regulations shall enter into force after their publication in the Official Journal of the University of Kassel (Mitteilungsblatt der Universität Kassel).