Faculty of Science

Program Regulation
of the Faculty of Science (MNF)
of the University of Zurich
(Bachelor and Master Programs)

Issued by the Faculty Assembly on March 8, 2018

This Program Regulation enters into force on 1 August 2015 and replaces the previous Program Regulation.

English is not an official language of the Canton of Zurich. This translation is provided by the University of Zurich for information purposes only and has no legal force.

Part A General

1 General Provisions

§ 1 Legal Background

The general legal principles for Bachelor's and Master's degree programs at the Faculty of Science (MNF) of the University of Zurich (UZH) are set down in the "Framework ordinance governing study in the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs offered by the University of Zurich's Faculty of Science" of 29 June 2015, in the following: "Framework Ordinance governing Study at MNF" or "MNF Framework Ordinance" (Rahmenverordnung der MNF RVO).

§ 2 Structure of Program Regulation

Part A of this Program Regulation contains general information, applicable to all Faculty of Science subjects, on Bachelor's and Master's degree programs. Parts B and C describe the structure of the program for each subject and the arrangements for examinations and assessments. In addition to the major and minor programs described in Parts B and C, minor programs in other subjects are also offered at the Faculty of Science; these are described in Part D.

§ 3 Modules and Assessments/Language of Instruction

The terms "module," "compulsory module," "core elective module," and "elective module" are defined in the MNF Framework Ordinance. All modules detailed in this Program Regulation count as modules offered by the Faculty of Science.
For each module, a specified number of ECTS credits and, as a rule, a grade will be granted on the basis of an assessment. Parts B to D of the Program Regulation specify the modules for which written

exams set by the Faculty of Science take place, and the calendar week in which these exams are held. Module exams are always graded. Other assessments may be marked "Pass" or "Fail."

The instructors responsible for the respective modules determine the language of instruction as either German or English; if possible the needs of the students into account when making this decision. Information on the language of instruction is published in the course catalogue, which may contain a note to the effect that the language of instruction will only be determined at the beginning of the module.

§ 4 Scheduling Major and Minor Subjects

The schedules for the Faculty of Science's major and minor study programs are coordinated in such a way that the first year of regular study takes the form of a single major study program. From the second year of regular study, students may complete a minor study program worth a total of 30 or 60 ECTS credits. It is possible to complete two minor study programs of 30 ECTS credits each.

This information does not necessarily apply to students completing a minor study program at another faculty; students are responsible for coordinating their own schedules.

§ 5 Attending Additional Modules

In a given semester, students may attend more modules in a study program than prescribed in the Program Regulation.

§ 6 Registration for Module Exams/Cancellation

Students who enroll in a module with a module exam are automatically registered for the module exam. Up to the cancellation deadline, students may cancel enrollment for the module and registration for the exam themselves. The cancellation deadline is specified in the course catalogue. Invitations to written module exams are not sent.

The provisions of §23 of the MNF Framework Ordinance apply in cases where students are unable to attend a module exam, fail to complete the exam, or fail to take the exam without a valid excuse.

Registration for, and cancellation (up to ten days before the date of the examination) of, the Master's examination is done directly with the module coordinator.

The date for the Master's exam is set in direct consultation with the person responsible for defining the exam content and conducting the exam. No time restriction applies to this exam date. It is therefore not subject to the usual time restrictions on exam periods.

§ 7 Exam Periods

CW = calendar week
Fall semester first-time exams are held in CW 51 and CW 2 to 6.
Spring semester first-time exams are held in CW 22 to 28.
Repeat exams are not linked to a specific exam period. As a rule, they take place in calendar weeks 35 to 37.
The calendar weeks for individual module exams are set down in the overview of modules for the relevant subjects. The precise dates of module exams, including information on time and location, are coordinated by the Office of Student Affairs and published in the course catalogue.
Dates for oral module exams are set by the person responsible for the module. Students will be notified in writing of the dates of oral module exams by three weeks before the date of the exam at the latest.

§ 8 Form and language of Exams

For all participants in an exam in the same examination period, basically identical conditions regarding form and content apply.
Exceptions are possible for mobility students.
Oral examinations can be conducted in German or English.
Written exams of modules conducted in German may also be conducted in English, this means they may be offered as a translation. In this case, both versions must be made available to all participants of the exam.
Each participant may only process one version of the exam. A mixture is not permitted.
The decision as to whether or not to offer an English version lies with the lecturer in charge of the module. There is no claim to an English version of an exam.

§ 9 Length of Exams

Written module exams last between 60 and 180 minutes. Oral module exams last between 20 and 60 minutes.

§ 10 Second Repetition of Compulsory Modules for BSc Programs ("Joker")

A second repetition of a compulsory module for the Bachelor's program as per §24 & §25 of the MNF Framework Ordinance is possible one time, subject to the following conditions:
The option of a second repetition (joker) is granted only if the student continues study in the program in question without interruption. Students are informed in writing and must announce their intention to repeat the module for a second time by the specified deadline. If they fail to respond, or fail to respond by the deadline, §23.4 of the MNF Framework Ordinance applies. If the second failed attempt took place on a first-time exam date, the third attempt at the exam must be made on the corresponding repeat exam date. If the second failed attempt took place on the repeat exam date, the module in question must be taken again the next semester it is offered. Students must agree with the instructors responsible for modules whether they have to repeat practical courses or traineeships.

§ 11 Crediting/recognition of academic achievements at another university, another UZH faculty or another MNF study program

The provisions of the RVO of the MNF (§ 14 - 16) apply to the crediting/recognition of achievements made before a change of university, faculty or study program. An application for crediting or recognition of such achievements must be submitted in writing to the Office The Vice Dean of Studies at the latest before the end of the first semester since entry into the newly commenced study program, whereby all completed and failed academic achievements must be declared before entry into the newly commenced study program.

§ 12 Transferring Previously Acquired Credits to a Master's program

Credits for modules acquired before enrollment in the Master's degree program may be transferred to another Master's program if these modules are a component of the Master's program in question and if they have not yet been credited to another degree. Candidates may transfer a maximum of 30 ECTS credits from their Bachelor's program to the Master's program. The Vice Dean of Studies may grant exceptions in the case of a duly substantiated request. The request for a module to be credited to a Master's program must be submitted with the petition for a Bachelor's degree. Work on the Master's thesis may only be started after enrollment in the Master's program.

§ 13 Admission to Study in a Master's Program

A "BSc UZH in…" awarded by the Faculty of Science in a specific subject, and all recognized BSc degrees from other universities specified in the MNF Framework Ordinance, entitle the holder to admission to the consecutive Master's degree program in the subject in question. The Vice Dean of Studies decides on admission on the basis of a BSc in another subject or from a university not named in the MNF Framework Ordinance.

§ 14 Supervision of Bachelor's and Master's Theses

Responsible for supervising and assessing the Bachelor's and Master's thesis is a member of the professorial staff, an adjunct professor, or a Privatdozent.

§ 15 Fast-Track Programs

Students with very good results in their Bachelor's degree program who wish to embark on an academic career may participate in a fast-track program. Fast-track programs are specialized Master's degree programs. Every specialized Master's degree program may also be completed as a fast-track program. Special terms apply for application and admission. The details are set down in the subject-specific sections of the Program Regulation. Participants in fast-track programs earn a Master's degree. However, they have the option to also already start working on a PhD thesis and attend courses at their subject's graduate school during their Master's program. The Master's thesis is credited as the start of the PhD project. Students who discontinue the fast-track program may apply to the Office of Student Affairs to have their academic achievement recognized and to transfer to a consecutive Master's program in the relevant subject.

§ 16 Issuance of Diplomas

An application for the issuance of a diploma (Bachelor's or Master's degree) may be submitted at any time. The details are set down in subject-specific fact sheets – Application for the Issuance of the Bachelor's Degree (Anmeldung für die Erteilung des Bachelorgrades) and Application for the Issuance of the Master's Degree and Submission of Master's Thesis (Anmeldung für die Erteilung des Mastergrades und Abgabe der Masterarbeit) – and on the subject-specific websites. The fact sheets are available via the administration services in the relevant subjects.

Provided all the conditions are met the Studies Commission will confer the corresponding title in the name of the faculty. The validation of degrees takes place every month on the first Monday which is a working day and is carried out electronically.

Excellent Master's theses that meet all conditions set down in the Faculty of Science guidelines may be proposed for distinction. The decision on whether to grant a distinction rests with the Faculty Assembly based on recommendations of the Award Committee of the Faculty.

§ 17 Exceeding the Maximum Period of Study

Students who are at risk of exceeding the maximum period of study must contact the student advisor for the subject in question. The student then has the option of submitting an extension request at the Office of Student Affairs. The request, which must include a reason and a plan of study, is subject to approval by the Vice Dean of Studies. If the request is not approved or if no request is submitted, the student will be banned from the degree program in question.

§ 18 Teaching Diploma for Upper Secondary Education

As a rule, graduates from the Faculty of Science Master's programs in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and geography meet the subject matter requirements for a Teaching Diploma for Upper Secondary Education in the relevant subject; and, as a rule, graduates from the Master's programs in chemistry and business studies and biochemistry with chemical track meet the subject matter requirements for a Teaching Diploma for Upper Secondary Education to teach chemistry. To meet the subject matter requirements for a Teaching Diploma for Upper Secondary Education to teach a second subject, a Bachelor's minor program requiring 60 ECTS credits may be combined with a consecutive Master's minor program requiring 30 ECTS credits in the relevant subject. The detailed terms for qualifications to teach as a first or second teaching subject are set down in the corresponding Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences regulations.

§ 19 Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in the tables in Parts B, C, and D of this Program Regulation: (German version):

General

ECTS	= European Credit Transfer System
HS	= Herbstsemester (Fall Semester)
FS	= Frühlingssemester (Spring Semester)
Sem.	= Semester
Vl. Zeiten	= Vorlesungszeiten (lecture period)
BSc120	= Bachelor's program for 120 ECTS Credits

BSc150   = Bachelor's program for 150 ECTS Credits
BSc180   = Bachelor's program for 180 ECTS Credits
Le Na   = Leistungsnachweis (official assessment)
KW Ep   = Kalenderwoche Erstprüfung (calendar week of first exam)
KW Rp   = Kalenderwoche Repetitionsprüfung (calendar week of repeat exam)
MA   = Masterarbeit (Master's thesis)
BA   = Bachelorarbeit (Bachelor's thesis)

Types of Courses

VL   = Vorlesung (lecture)
UE   = Übung (practical course)
VU   = Vorlesung mit integrierter Übung (lecture with integrated practical course)
PR   = Praktikum (practical training)
BL   = Blockkurs (block course)
TU   = Tutorat (tutorial)
PS   = Proseminar (proseminar)
SE   = Seminar (seminar)
E   = Exkursion/Feldkurs (field trip)
KO   = Kolloquium (colloquium)

Types of Modules

PF   = Pflichtmodul (compulsory module)
WP   = Wahlpflichtmodul (core elective module)
WM   = Wahlmodul (elective module)

Official Assessments

MP   = Modulprüfung in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit (module exam in the lecture-free period)
MT   = Mid-term- / Zwischenprüfung (midterm examination)
ET   = End-term- / Schlussprüfung (end of term examination)
UE   = Lösen von Übungsaufgaben als Leistungsnachweis (exercises as an official assessment)
SA   = Schriftliche Arbeit (paper)
SV   = Seminarvortrag (presentation in a seminar)
TU   = Tutorielle Tätigkeit als Leistungsnachweis (giving tutorial as an official assessment)
PP   = Poster/Präsentation (poster/presentation)