Final Board Exam Guidelines

Eligibility to sit final board exam

The following criteria must have been fulfilled in order to gain permission to sit the final board exam:

- positive overall results in all examinable components of the Master's degree course;
- an approved Master's thesis.

Students will be informed of their eligibility to sit the final board exam in and appropriate and timely fashion.

Registration and key dates – see document OVERVIEW DATES

Final board exam: senate

- The final board exam (viva voce) is an oral exam which is held before an expert senate, which is public.
- The language of the examination is English for the presentation and defence components. For the main and supplementary subjects, either English or German may be chosen, depending on the preferred language of communication of the candidate and the examiners
- The examining senate for the final board exam will be selected by the head of institute.
- The examining senate will consist of a minimum of three members, including a chairperson. Should the senate consist of an even number, the chairperson holds the deciding vote.
- The head of institute will select a chairperson for the examining senate.

Final board exam: composition

The final board exam comprises the following components:

- Thesis presentation (length: 15 minutes)
- Thesis defence (length: 15 minutes)
- Main subject (length: 15 minutes)
- Supplementary subject (length: 15 minutes)

Final board exam: evaluation

The final board exam will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Pass: the candidate has demonstrated sufficient knowledge to pass the exam;

Merit: the candidate has demonstrated themselves to be significantly above the expected academic performance required to pass the exam; (grade >1.5 and ≤ 2.0)

Distinction: the candidate has shown outstanding academic performance (grade ≤ 1.5).

NB: Should the candidate fail any single component of the exam (be evaluated with the grade of *insufficient*), then the final board exam must be repeated in its entirety.