

# REGULATIONS FOR AWARDING THE MASTER'S DEGREE

With supplementary provisions

*Established by the Ministry of Education and Research on 1 December 2005 pursuant to the provisions of the University and College Act of 1 April 2005 no. 15., Section 3-2 Subsection 1 and Section 3-7 Subsection 2.*

*(Supplementary provisions in italics, approved by the UMB's Committee for Course Programmes on 07 June 2006. Last revised on 14 October 2008.)*

## **Chapter 1. Scope of the Regulations**

The regulations apply to study programmes that qualify for the master's degree at institutions subject to the University and University College Act.

### ***Supplementary Provisions for Chapter 1***

***Ad. 1*** *The supplementary provisions apply to study programmes at UMB leading to a master's degree. The master's degree is awarded by the University Board.*

*The Board approves supplementary provisions to the regulations issued by the Ministry of Education and Research.*

## **Chapter 2. Required Academic Basis**

The institution's board can decide that certain subjects, courses or course groups shall be included in the study programme required as a prerequisite for the master's degree. The board can determine ranking rules for qualified applicants and is also authorized to specify academic minimum requirements.

### ***Supplementary Provisions for Chapter 2***

***Ad. 2*** *Requirements regarding subjects, courses or course groups that shall be included in a specific study programme are described in the Regulations for Studies at UMB.*

*The academic requirements on which the master's degree is based are specified in the programme descriptions. The programme descriptions are explained in the Regulations for Studies at UMB. The determination of ranking rules for qualified applicants and the determination of specific academic minimum requirements are described in UMB's Admission Regulations.*

### **Chapter 3. Requirements for Awarding the 120-credit Master's Degree**

The master's degree is awarded on the basis of a master's degree exam of 120 credits (2 years full-time study), including independent work in accordance with Chapter 6. The degree is based on one of the following educational programmes:

- Bachelor's degree
- Cand. mag. degree
- Other degree or study programme of at least 3-year's duration
- Education approved as equivalent to the above-mentioned degrees or educational programmes, pursuant to the provisions of Section 3-4 of the University and University College Act.

Within one of the mentioned educational programmes, the following requirements must be met:

- Specialization in a subject, course or course group of at least 80 credits, or
- Integrated, professional education of at least 120 credits within the degree's subject area.

In special cases, institutions can approve other documented qualifications as either completely or partially equivalent to the educational programmes mentioned above.

#### ***Supplementary Provisions for Chapter 3***

***Ad. 3*** Requirements regarding specialization are established in the programme descriptions. Rules for the programme descriptions are specified in the Regulations for Studies at UMB.

*Study committees approve other equivalent qualifications that can be documented.*

*On awarding a master's degree, the degree's major field is shown on the diploma as:*

*Master in <title of study option>, Specialization <title of specialization>*

*Exception: For candidates with a 3-year bachelor's degree in Business Administration + a 2-year master's degree in Business Administration: Master of Science in Business Administration*

*Students who have completed one of the master's degree programmes taught in English, will be awarded the degree 'Master of Science'.*

*In order to be awarded a master's degree diploma by UMB, a student must have taken course exams amounting to a study load of at least 60 credits at UMB.*

*The master's thesis must be included in the 60 credits.*

*Courses totalling a study load of up to 30 credits, taken at a foreign university or college as part of a student exchange agreement with UMB, can be included in the required 60 credits mentioned above. The same applies for courses taken in relevant subjects at another Norwegian university or college, with which UMB has entered into a mutual cooperation agreement.*

*At least 60 of the credits included in the master's degree must not already be part of a previously obtained degree or professional training.*

*In case of multiple degrees, it is required that the new master's thesis shall be included in the 60 new credits required in addition to the previously earned degree.*

*The candidate must provide information about any diplomas issued by other universities or colleges.*

*The Committee for Course Programmes can grant exemptions from this provision.*

#### **Chapter 4. Requirements for Awarding the 300-credit Master's Degree**

The master's degree is awarded on the basis of a master's degree exam of 300 credits (5 years full-time study), including independent work in accordance with Chapter 6. The Architect programme at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design is exempted from this provision. This school's master's degree programme requires the fulfilment of 330 credits (5 ½ years).

#### ***Supplementary Provisions for Chapter 4***

***Ad. 4*** *On awarding a master's degree, the degree's major field is shown on the diploma as:*

*Master in <title of study option>, Specialization <title of specialization>*

*Exception:*

*a) For master's programmes in technology: Master of Technology – <title of study option>*

*b) For masterprogramme in Teacher Education in Natural Sciences: Master of Science Education; major [fordypning] with minor [emnegruppe(r)]*

*Students who have completed one of the master's degree programmes taught in English, will be awarded the degree 'Master of Science'.*

*In order to be awarded a master's degree diploma by UMB, a student must have taken course exams amounting to a study load of at least 60 credits at UMB.*

*The master's thesis must be included in the 60 credits.*

*Courses totalling a study load of up to 30 credits, taken at a foreign university or college as part of a student exchange agreement with UMB, can be included in the required 60 credits mentioned above. The same applies for courses taken in relevant subjects at another Norwegian university or college, with which UMB has entered into a mutual cooperation agreement.*

*At least 60 of the credits included in the master's degree must not already be part of a previously obtained degree or professional training.*

*In case of multiple degrees, it is required that the new master's thesis shall be included in the 60 new credits required in addition to the previously earned degree.*

*The candidate must provide information about any diplomas issued by other universities or colleges.*

*The Committee for Course Programmes can grant exemptions from this provision.*

## **Chapter 5. Requirements for Awarding the 90 or 120-credit Experience-based Master's Degree**

The master's degree is awarded on the basis of a master's degree exam of 90 or 120 credits, including independent work in accordance with Chapter 6 and the completion of one of the following educational programmes:

- Bachelor's degree
- Cand. mag. degree
- Other degree or study programme of at least 3-year's duration
- Education approved as equivalent to the above-mentioned degrees or educational programmes, pursuant to the provisions of Section 3-4 of the University and University College Act.

In addition, a minimum of 2 years relevant work experience is required. The institution decides on the criteria for relevant work experience, and can require more than two years experience for specific study programmes.

In special cases, the institutions can approve other documented qualifications as completely or partially equivalent to the educational programmes mentioned above.

### ***Supplementary Provisions for Chapter 5***

***Ad. 5*** *The curricula of the various study programmes shall define what is to be considered as relevant work experience, and if longer periods of work experience are required (more than 3 years).*

### **Chapter 6. Independent Work Requirements**

A master's degree according to Chapters 3 and 5 shall include independent work equivalent to a work load of at least 30 credits.

A master's degree according to Chapter 4 shall include independent work equivalent to a work load of at least 20 credits.

The scope of the independent work shall not exceed 60 credits.

The independent work shall show understanding, reasoning and maturity.

The institution determines specific rules for the independent work, including its scope, assessment form, and if it is to be performed individually or as a group of students.

### ***Supplementary Provisions for Chapter 6***

***Ad. 6*** *The study committees submit proposals to the Committee for Course Programmes regarding the scope and assessment form of the independent work for each individual study option or specialization. The study committees also submit proposals on whether the individual work is to be performed individually or in groups.*

### **Chapter 7. Exemptions**

Master's degree programmes established by royal decree before 01 July 2002 pursuant to the provisions of the University and University College Act of 12 May

1995 no. 22 or the Act of 11 July 1986 no. 53 on private higher education, with a nominal length of study of 1 – 1 ½ years, can be continued.

The Ministry can in specific cases approve new master's degree programmes of this type upon application.

### **Chapter 8. Coming into Force**

These regulations come into force immediately. At the same time, the Regulations of 02 July 2002 no. 738 on requirements for the master's degree are repealed.