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# AMTLICHE BEKANNTMACHUNG

Examination Regulations for the Joint Master Degree Programme Redesigning the Post-Industrial City (RePIC) at the Faculty of Geography and Geosciences of the Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), Graduate Institute of the Koç University Istanbul (Turkey), the University College Cork (Ireland), Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences of the Erasmus University Rotterdam (The Netherlands), Faculty of Social and Human Sciences of the University of Deusto (Spain), Faculty of Sciences of the Université de Liège (Belgium), Faculty of Technology of the University of Oulu (Finland), Faculty of Law and Faculty of Architecture of the University of Zagreb (Croatia)

vom 27.03.2025

**Examination Regulations for the Joint Master Degree Programme  
Redesigning the Post-Industrial City (RePIC)  
at the**

**Faculty of Geography and Geosciences of the Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), Graduate  
Institute of the Koç University Istanbul (Turkey), the University College Cork (Ireland), Erasmus  
School of Social and Behavioural Sciences of the Erasmus University Rotterdam (The  
Netherlands), Faculty of Social and Human Sciences of the University of Deusto (Spain), Faculty  
of Sciences of the Université de Liège (Belgium), Faculty of Technology of the University of Oulu  
(Finland), Faculty of Law and Faculty of Architecture of the University of Zagreb (Croatia)  
from 27. March 2025**

According to the following eight national higher education laws

- §§ 2 section 4 of the Act governing the universities of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz [University Act] – HG) dated 16.09.2014 (GV.NRW. p. 547), last amended dated 29.10.2024 (GV. NRW. p. 704)
- the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) of the Netherlands
- the Decree of the 7th November 2013 of the French Community of Belgium Defining Higher Education Landscape and academic organisation of Studies
- § 64, p. 2 of the Act on Higher Education and Scientific Activity of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette No. 119/22)
- Finnish Universities Act 24.7.2009/558 and its derivatives
- Official Bulletin of the University of Deusto, No. 73, and Official Bulletin of the University of Deusto, No. 81.
- The Regulations of the Council for Higher Education in Türkiye issue 2547 (Yükseköğretim Kanunu) published in the Official Gazette issue 17506, dated 06.11.1981, Regulations for Joint Educational Programs between Institutions of Higher Education and Accredited Foreign Institutions of Higher Education, published in the Official Gazette issue 229849, dated 20.04.2016, Regulations on Graduate Studies of the Council for Higher Education in Türkiye (Lisansüstü Eğitim ve Öğretim Yönetmeliği Hükümleri) published in the Official Gazette issue 29690, dated 20.04.2016, and the doctoral statutes of Koç University and “Regulations for Graduate Education”, Regulations of the Council for Higher Education in Türkiye on Distance/Online Education (Yükseköğretim Kurumlarında Uzaktan Öğretime İlişkin Usul ve Esaslar)
- Universities Act, 1997 and Principal Statute of University College Cork, National University of Ireland, Cork, Amending Statute 12, 7 April 2020

the Ruhr University Bochum, Koç University Istanbul, University College Cork, Erasmus University Rotterdam, University of Deusto, Université de Liège, University of Oulu, University of Zagreb have decreed the following Examination Regulations:

## **Table of contents**

### **I. General Principles**

- § 1 Area of validity and aim of the Joint Master Programme
- § 2 Academic degree
- § 3 Admission requirements
- § 4 Duration, forms of teaching, attendance obligation and credit points (ECTS)
- § 5 Structure of the Joint Master Programme
- § 6 Examinations, examination performance, types of assessments
- § 7 Registration and entry to modules and module examinations
- § 8 Assessment of examination performance and grade formation

- § 9 Passing, retaking module examinations and ensuring the progress of studies
- § 10 Compensation for disadvantages and statutory periods of protection
- § 11 Absence, withdrawal, deceit, plagiarism check, infringement of regulations
- § 12 Credit for periods of study, study performance and examination performance
- § 13 Joint Admission and Examination Committee
- § 14 Examiners, supervisors and invigilators

## **II. Master examination and Master Thesis**

- § 15 Scope of the master examination
- § 16 Admission to the master thesis module
- § 17 Master Thesis
- § 18 Acceptance and assessment of the master thesis
- § 19 Retaking of the master thesis
- § 20 Passing the master programme

## **III. Final clauses**

- § 21 Diploma, certificate, diploma supplement and attestations
- § 22 Invalidity of the master examination, withdrawal of the academic degree
- § 23 Access to the examination files
- § 24 Entry into force and publication

## I. General Principles

### § 1

#### Area of validity and aim of the Joint Master Programme

- (1) Theses Examination Regulations apply to the joint master programme “Redesigning the Post-Industrial City (RePIC)”.
- (2) The RePIC curriculum is based on a strong orientation on learning outcomes. In accordance with the 2016 UNESCO International Bureau of Education Curriculum Guidelines, RePIC supports students and offers guidance to develop competences and skills at Level 7 of the European Qualification Framework:
  - the knowledge and understanding (theoretical and methodological approaches),
  - the relevant intellectual, practical and transferable skills, and
  - the professional values (responsibility, research integrity and ethics).
- (3) The main aims of this joint programme are:
  - to introduce students to multidisciplinary views of the post-industrial city and the differentiated impact of post-industrialism on urban societies, and
  - to enable students to develop perspectives for the sustainable transformation of the post-industrial city through engaged research practices.

The detailed description of the overall learning objectives as well as the learning outcomes of the various modules are provided in the module handbook in its current version.
- (4) Building on the complementary strengths of the vibrant UNIC Partnership and involving a broad range of associated partners from government, industry and the public, RePIC offers unique perspectives on the post-industrial city and a potentially life-changing physical and virtual student mobility experience. RePIC fosters multidisciplinary and cross-cultural thinking to critically respond to challenges of transformational change by placing mobility, superdiversity and inclusion at the very core of its inter-university campus – and thereby transcending cultural, national and disciplinary boundaries.
- (5) RePIC students can meaningfully engage in shaping society by developing a profound understanding of the post-industrial city and its environment, mainly in European countries, and by creating research-based solutions to advance urban transformations. Based on a rigorous and forward-thinking curriculum, RePIC serves as a catalyst for innovative education putting a spotlight on engaged research and evidence-based practices such as City Labs and Design Studios. Our ambition is to build an open-minded knowledge and innovation community committed to the co-creation, co-design and co-production of transformative approaches to more sustainable and resilient urban futures.
- (6) RePIC’s mission is to develop a dynamic network of urban thinkers with the capacity to contribute to future-oriented, avantgarde thinking on the revitalisation of the post-industrial city. RePIC provides high quality academic education and professional skills for talented and committed students, who are eager to specialise in urban studies encompassing urban development, planning, policy and design perspectives, and who intend to build bridges into neighbouring disciplines, e.g., Architecture, Business and Law, Urban and Environmental Sociology, Urban and Regional Economics, (Spatial) Data Science or Psychology. Graduates will be awarded a joint master degree that will allow them to make a difference in this challenging world and transfer the community responsibility orientation of the course into society.
- (7) The teaching language of the RePIC is English. Teaching in RePIC is generally classroom-based, i.e., students have to attend lectures on site. However, individual courses can be offered online or remote.

## § 2 Academic degree

Upon successful completion of the Master degree programme Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), Koç University Istanbul, (Turkey), University College Cork (Ireland), Erasmus University Rotterdam (The Netherlands), University of Deusto (Spain), University of Liège (Belgium), University of Oulu (Finland), University of Zagreb (Croatia) award graduates jointly the academic degree of a Joint Master of Science (M.Sc.) in “Redesigning the Post-Industrial City”.

## § 3 Admission requirements

- (1) RePIC invites candidates from diverse backgrounds, preferably with a dissertation, or an equivalent degree, that gives them access to a Master degree programme and demonstrable academic experience in themes related to redesigning of post-industrial cities and design-related backgrounds, including but not limited to the following fields: Architecture, Urban Design, Urban Planning, Geography, Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Geoinformatics, Sociology, Public Administration, Business Studies, Culture, Media and Visual Arts Studies, and related fields of study. This list is not exhaustive and shall serve for orientation of applicants.
- (2) Applicants must have obtained, at a minimum, a university first cycle degree (Bachelor, EQF level 6) in a discipline of relevance to RePIC.
- (3) All applicants must follow the RePIC application procedure, according to nr. 6 and a completed application must have been received,
- (4) Applicants who are either nationals of countries deemed by RePIC Partner Institutions to be English-speaking or hold a Bachelor degree / equivalent qualification which was taught entirely in English will normally be assumed to have met RePIC language requirements. All other students must provide evidence of sufficient knowledge in the teaching languages at least on level B2 as defined in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). Students who will take the Track 2 “Inequality, Diversity and Social Justice” have to pass the standardised English language test of Koç University before starting the second semester.
- (5) All applications must be made online via the RePIC website in accordance with its instructions and before the deadlines stated on the website. Applications must include the following documents:
  - a. a copy of passport (only the main pages),
  - b. a certified copy of the Diploma (if this document is not in English, an official translation should be attached) and, if available, of the Diploma Supplement,
  - c. certified copies of the academic transcripts (if this document is not in English, an official translation should be attached),
  - d. a Curriculum Vitae in English
  - e. official proof of language abilities, where applicable,
  - f. a structured motivation letter in accordance with the instructions on the RePIC website describing their specific interest in the RePIC programme and their envisaged contributions to the programme.

Applicants who are on their last term/semester are eligible to apply. In this case that the applicant has to submit a Diploma Supplement with a Transcript of Records and in case of being selected the applicant has to submit officially certified copies of his/her Bachelor's degree certificate and the final transcript of records prior to the start of the academic year of RePIC on October 1st. If applicants fail to do so, the offer will be cancelled.

- (6) Applicants are chosen by the Admission and Examination Committee based on the following selection criteria:

- type and level of academic qualifications,
  - motivation and concern for topics taught in RePIC,
  - type and level of research experience,
  - type and level of professional experience, such as practical experience in the field of Urban Studies in governmental, inter-governmental and/or non-governmental organisations and institutions,
- (7) The determination whether the admission requirements in accordance with sections 1 to 3 have been fulfilled is made by the Joint Admission and Examination Committee.

#### § 4

#### **Duration, forms of teaching, attendance obligation and credit points (ECTS)**

- (1) The regular duration of the master programme including the completion of the master thesis is 4 semesters. An extension of 2 semesters is possible without further petition. If a student needs another extension, a substantiated application to the Academic Study Board is required to assess the circumstances. If even then the student fails in completing the program in the given time and the student therefore cannot be awarded the joint degree in RePIC, the student may then, upon application, be admitted to a local single degree master's programme according to local regulations. The programme regularly starts in the winter semester.
- (2) The master programme consists of modules (compulsory modules, elective compulsory modules and elective modules) of 90 ECTS and the master thesis module with 30 ECTS.
- (3) A module is a unit of teaching and learning that is self-contained in terms of content and time and that is successfully concluded by passing the corresponding module examination. A module should generally take no longer than one semester. Exceptions are possible. The individual modules contain acquisition of a subject-specific area content and the corresponding competencies. All modules can be found in the module handbook in the currently valid version.
- (4) The study and examination performance delivered in the individual modules is assessed in accordance with § 9.
- (5) The master programme uses the "European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System" (ECTS). The number of ECTS that can be obtained through a module results from the student workload, which results from the student's time expenditure dedicated to the study and examination performance, including the amount of time for preparation and self-study and sitting the examinations. An ECTS corresponds with the estimated time expenditure of approximately 27 hours. A semester comprises 30 CP, the master degree programme thus comprises a total of 120 CP.
- (6) The following types of teaching formats are offered within the framework of the modularised programmes:
  - Lecture
  - Lecture Series
  - Exercise
  - Seminar
  - Colloquium
  - Project Seminar
  - Internship
  - Excursion
  - Design Studios
  - City Labs
- (7) In lectures the subject matter is presented by way of example and systematically. Lectures provide an overview of the correlation of different issues.

- (8) Lecture series are dedicated to extensive topics. The lecturers are the teaching staff of a subject or – in the case of an interdisciplinary orientation – a subject area or several subjects and take turns presenting the lectures.
- (9) Exercises are intended to consolidate subject knowledge and aid the acquisition of subject-specific skills and abilities based on example topics.
- (10) Seminars are intended to provide academic consolidation and can be offered on any topics relating to the subject area. They impart academic working skills within the topical focus of the seminar. Seminars are marked by a high level of interactivity between teachers and students.
- (11) Colloquia are used for in-depth discussion of selected academic issues.
- (12) Project seminars are events organised in a particular manner with the aim of preparing the development and presentation of research results within the university and externally.
- (13) Excursions offer the opportunity to get to know central research institutions / cultural monuments in Germany and abroad / of consolidating and illustrating knowledge directly in the field or in the practical field of application. Their aims include the practice of empirical-practical ways of working and learning. They can be part of other types of sessions.
- (14) Design Studios are workshops in which students come together to design a spatial solution for a given social-spatial problem. The students work at the university and under the supervision of the lecturer. The problem statements derive from the academic materials.
- (15) City Labs are a combination of workshops, seminars and fieldwork excursions in which students develop solutions in-situ (i.e., in neighbourhoods), together with the relevant stakeholders from that area. The City Labs are supervised by the lecturers and delivered in cooperation with key urban stakeholders.
- (16) Regular attendance is expected for teaching formats with learning outcomes that cannot be achieved without active student participation. The information about these modules can be found in the module description in the module handbook.

## § 5

### Structure of the Joint Master Programme

- (1) The joint curriculum spreads over four semesters (two years, 120 ECTS). It has a modular structure and clear learning paths and is delivered in a consecutive manner:
  - In **Semester 1**, students start in a joint cohort, taking modules at RUB and participate in a compulsory field trip to Cork, Ireland, organised by UCC.
  - In **Semester 2**, students split up in four groups that follow courses at different Hosting Universities, providing training jointly with the other four Partner Institutions. Access to each track is limited to a maximum of one quarter of one cohort per track. The Tracks are:
    - Track 1: Urban Transformations and Resilience** (offered on site at University College Cork in collaboration with University of Liège)
    - Track 2: Inequality, Diversity and Social Justice** (offered on site at Koç University, Istanbul, in collaboration with Erasmus University Rotterdam)
    - Track 3: Urban Analysis: Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Cities** (offered on site at Ruhr University Bochum in collaboration with the University of Oulu),
    - Track 4: Governance of Post-Industrial Cities** (offered on site at the University of Zagreb in collaboration with University of Deusto)
  - In **Semester 3**, students will be offered two options for their further specialization in Semester 3. 50 % of the cohort will be hosted by University College Cork, 50 % by the University of Liège. Whereas the focus at UCC is on structured learning activities and engaged research placements, Liège offers in-depth studies in domains related to the transformation of the post-industrial city. Two compulsory modules will be offered for the entire cohort: City Lab II (Field Salon) and Research Methods III.

- In **Semester 4**, students write the Master Thesis. Semester 4 can be spent at any of the eight universities.
- (2) For Semesters 2 and 3, Students will be asked to state their mobility preferences (1st, 2nd, 3rd choice) already in their application and be deployed according to the available places in each track. The Consortium will do its best to accommodate the students' preferences but cannot guarantee that each student will be able to study in the second semester track in his/her preferred track. Only in exceptional cases and with consensus of the Local RePIC coordinators of the concerned Partner Universities may the student, upon his/her written request, be re-allocated to another Semester-2-track or Semester-3-location.
- (3) An individual study plan based on the RePIC curriculum and made by the student on the contents, scope and duration of studies leading to the degree is strongly recommended. The individual study plan must be approved by the Coordinator of RePIC. Study plans which deviate from the curriculum on justified grounds are to be approved by the Joint Admission and Examination Committee.
- (4) Any specific requirements for the participation in modules can be found in the module description in the Module Handbook.

## § 6

### Examinations, examination performance, types of assessments

- (1) Examination performance consists of graded or ungraded module examinations set alongside the relevant lectures in accordance with the study plan attached to these Examination Regulations as appendix I, as well as the graded written master thesis. It should be possible to complete these within the regular length of the joint master programme. In order to follow education and to sit an examination, the students must be registered for the programme.
- (2) Examination performance can be provided in the form of a written examination, an oral examination, a contribution to a seminar, a presentation, an essay, a project, a practical examination or a colloquium lecture. Where there are alternative options, the final form of the examination performance and the resources permitted are announced at the start of the semester during which the module takes place. Upon special request of the teacher, the Joint Admission and Examination Committee may allow other, alternative examination formats.
- (3) In a **written examination**, evidence should be provided if tasks from the area covered by the teaching sessions can be handled appropriately and that suitable solutions can be found during a limited time and with limited resources. Examinations can be taken in electronic form and by electronic communication. The duration of a written examination is dependent on the subject-specific content under consideration of the CP intended for the module. It is determined by the examiner and amounts to between one and four hours. The duration of the assessment process may not exceed six weeks.
- (4) In an **oral examination**, the candidate should provide evidence that he or she has sufficient knowledge in the examined field, recognise correlations and is able to integrate specific questions into these correlations. Oral examinations are generally conducted by at least two examiners or one examiner in the presence of a knowledgeable invigilator. Oral examinations are taken as group examinations or individual examinations. The oral examination should take from 15 up to a maximum of 45 minutes per candidate. They may be carried out by using electronic communications instruments. The fundamental aspects and results of the examination are to be recorded in a protocol. Prior to setting the grade the examiners discuss the grade. The invigilator must be consulted prior to setting the grade. The candidate is to be told the examination grade immediately after the examination and contextual reasoning must be provided. Depending on space constraints, students who wish to take the same examination during a later examination period may be admitted as



audience providing the candidate does not object. Admission as audience does not include admission to the consultation and the announcement of the examination result.

- (5) **Seminar contributions** are contributions made on a prescribed framework topic by a participant in the form of a lecture and, where applicable, an exemplifying graphical presentation before the group of seminar participants in addition to, where applicable, a supplementary written piece of work, which are then assessed by the seminar leader. The scope is dependent on the subject-specific content under consideration of the CP intended for the module. The examination attainment has been achieved when the student has held their own lecture and participated in the previously stipulated number of appointments for the discussion of the seminar contributions. The examination attainment has not been achieved if the student has failed to present the lecture and, where applicable, has failed to submit the supplementary written piece of work by the due date and has failed to participate in the previously stipulated number of appointments and has not used the opportunity to catch up on the missed appointments or has not used this opportunity successfully.
- (6) A **presentation** is a lecture taking at least 15 minutes and a maximum of 45 minutes on the basis of a written piece of work. Here the students should show that he or she is able to elaborate academically on a topic under consideration of the correlations of the subject and can present the results orally.
- (8) Within the framework of a written **essay**, a task from the subject area covered by the module's teaching sessions under inclusion of the pertinent literature and, where applicable, further suitable resources is handled appropriately, and suitable solutions are indicated. The resources are announced together with the task. The scope is dependent on the subject-specific content under consideration of the CP intended for the module.
- (9) A **project** presents the independent handling of a set topic. The leader of the teaching session is also able to allow group performances if the individual assessment of the contribution of each group member is possible. The performance to be provided is to be defined by the leader of the teaching session at the start of the teaching session and is to be assessed individually at the end of the teaching session.
- (10) A **practical examination** generally consists of a series of practical exercises, experiments, or programming tasks with written reports.
- (11) **Colloquium lectures** are performances where the students present the content and the most important results of a specialist academic piece of work (e.g., their thesis) to an expert audience.

## § 7

### Registration and entry to modules and module examinations

- (1) Participation in a module including the module examination is restricted to individuals enrolled in the joint master degree programme "Redesigning the Post-Industrial City" and who have neither lost the examination entitlement in a master degree programme "Redesigning the Post-Industrial City" nor have lost it in a master degree programme recognised to be equivalent nor have passed the examination. When the student studies in a certain RePIC University, he or she has to follow the local policies and procedures for the registration and entry to modules and module examination of this university. These are listed in the Module Handbook in the current version.
- (2) Deferral from a module examination can be made prior to the start of the examination date without providing reasons except withdrawal due to acute personal circumstances. This period is usually 10 days. It may vary depending on local rules. The student has to be informed about the period for deferral at the start of the module.

## § 8 Assessment of modules and grading

(1) For the overall grading RePIC uses the following grading scheme:

1 = very good	An outstanding performance
2 = good	A performance that is considerably above average requirements
3 = satisfactory	A performance that corresponds with average requirements
4 = sufficient	A performance that despite some shortcomings satisfies requirements
5 = not sufficient	A performance that due to considerable shortcomings fails to meet requirements

Intermediate values can be created by increasing or decreasing the individual grades by 0.3 to allow differentiation. The grades 0.7; 4.3; 4.7 and 5.3 are in this case precluded. Ungraded examinations receive the grade “passed”, or, where applicable, “failed”. An examination has been passed if it was assessed with a grade of 4.0 or better, in the case of ungraded examination performance if it was graded with “passed”.

(2) The grades for the individual module examinations are set by the respective examiners. Grading of modules follows initially the local grading systems. For the transcript, the grades are converted according to the following conversion table for grades in the RePIC joint Master programme table:

ECTS Mark	Appreciation	Germany	Türkiye	Ireland	The Netherlands	Belgium (French-speaking part)	Finland	Croatia	Spain
A	Excellent	[1.0-1.3]	A / 4	70-100%	9,5-10	[18-20]	5	5	9,0-10
B	Very good	[1.3-2.0]	B+ / 3,3	60-69%	8,5-9,4	[16-18]	4	4	8,0-8,9
C	Good	[2.0-2.7]	B- / 2,7	50-59%	7,5-8,4	[14-16]	3	3	7,0-7,9
D	Satisfactory	[2.7-3.3]	C+ / 2,3	45-49%	6,5-7,4	[12-14]	2	2	6,0-6,9
E	Sufficient	[3.3-4.0]	C/2	40-44%	5,5-6,4	[10-12]	1	2	5,0-5,9
F	Fail	5.0	C-, D + F / 0	0-39%	1,0-5,4	[0-10]	0	1	0-4,9

Definitions:

- A EXCELLENT - Outstanding performance with none or only minor errors
- B VERY GOOD - Above the average standard but with some errors
- C GOOD - Generally sound work with a number of notable errors
- D SATISFACTORY - Fair but with significant shortcomings
- E SUFFICIENT - Performance meets the minimum criteria
- F FAIL - Considerable further work is required

(3) If the examination is to be assessed by several examiners, the grade is calculated on the basis of the arithmetic mean of the individual grades of the examiners assessments. If the grades deviate by at least 2.0 or if one of the assessments is “insufficient”, the other

however "sufficient" or better, the Joint Admission and Examination Committee will appoint another examiner to assess the examination performance.

## **§ 9**

### **Passing, retaking module examinations and ensuring the study progress**

- (1) A module has been passed when the related module examination has been passed. Failed module examinations or those that are deemed to have been failed can be retaken at least once per academic year. The retaken examination should be undertaken at the latest within the framework of the examination dates of the following semester. Before register for the retake of an exam the student should contact the Local RePIC Coordinator.
- (2) Within this master programme, students must demonstrate a minimum level of performance, which is monitored by the joint examination office. Students must achieve an amount of
  - 45 ECTS after the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester and
  - 90 ECTS after the 4<sup>th</sup> semester.
- (3) If a student has not achieved the minimum performance expected at the end of a control semester, he/she shall be informed in writing (by e-mail) that the study progress is at risk. At the same time, the student will be offered a counselling interview.
- (4) If a student has not achieved the minimum performance expected at the end of the control semester for the second time, he or she loses the examination entitlement. The student will be informed of this by written notice from the Joint Admission and Examination Committee, which must include instructions on how to appeal.
- (5) In justified cases, the Joint Admission and Examination Committee may reasonably extend the deadlines stated in § 2. Suitable evidence must be enclosed with the request. This shall apply in particular for the care and upbringing of minor children, for the period of time during which the effects of a disability or serious illness extend the duration of studies, by up to three semesters for the time during which students assume responsibility for close relatives with care and support needs.

## **§ 10**

### **Compensation for disadvantages and statutory periods of protection**

- (1) The statutory maternity leave periods, the parental leave periods and the absences due to the care and upbringing of children as well as due to caring for a spouse, a registered partner or a direct relative or first degree relative by marriage are to be observed according to the local rules and procedures of the partners.
- (2) In the case of disadvantages, the candidate has to provide evidence by a medical certificate in which, in general terms is stated that he or she is unable to take an examination in full or in part in the intended manner as a result of a long-term or permanent disability or chronic illness, the Joint Admission and Examination Committee must permit the candidate to provide equivalent examination performances in a different manner. The local coordinators, local study advisers or local units for the support of students with permanent illnesses or disadvantages may advise the joint Admission and Examination Committee.

## **§ 11**

### **Absence, withdrawal, deceit, plagiarism check, infringement of regulations**

- (1) An examination performance is considered to be assessed to be "insufficient" (5.0) or "fail" if the candidate is absent on an examination date without good reason or if he or she withdraws from the examination after the start of the examination without good reason.

The same applies if a written examination performance is not provided within the allotted working time.

- (2) Due to the local rules, the local examination board or equivalent must be notified immediately and in writing of the reasons given for the withdrawal or the absence and these must be substantiated. In the case of illness of the candidate, submission of a medical certificate will be demanded. The illness of a child largely cared for solely by the candidate is equivalent to illness of the candidate themselves. If this local committee accepts the reasons for the absence, the examination in question will not be counted as a failed exam.
- (3) In the case of written examinations – excluding invigilated examinations – the candidate must affirm that the examination performance was achieved by him or her without unauthorised outside assistance.
- (4) If the candidate attempts to influence the result of an examination or study performance through deceit or use of unauthorised resources or tools including AI-tools, the examination is to be assessed as “insufficient” (5.0). The notification is made by the respective examiner and has to be confirmed at minimum by the local examination committee or equivalent. In the case of the Master's thesis, the Joint Admission and Examination Committee is responsible to deal with it. In the case of multiple or other serious attempts at cheating, the Joint Admission and Examination Committee is allowed to exclude the candidate from taking further examinations and to decide about the exmatriculation of the candidate after a prior hearing. In principle, German law is applied in determining disciplinary actions following deceit or use of unauthorised sources, to ensure that all RePIC students are treated the same.
- (5) A candidate who disturbs the orderly process of the examination can be excluded from continuing the examination, usually after a warning, by the respective examiner or invigilator. In this case the examination is assessed as “insufficient” (5.0). The reasons for the exclusion are to be kept on file.
- (6) The software-assisted check of written examinations, including the master theses, shall be carried out as a rule if plagiarism is suspected. For this purpose, Master theses are to be submitted in examinable electronic format in accordance with § 18 subsection 1. Other written examinations (essays, term papers, etc.) shall also be submitted in examinable electronic format at the request of the examiner.
- (7) The software-assisted check is carried out by the examiner. Plagiarism is notified by the local examination board or equivalent. The student shall only be informed about the software-assisted examination of the written work if plagiarism is suspected.
- (8) A plagiarism check of written coursework (essays, term papers, etc.) is carried out in accordance with subsections 6-7.
- (9) The candidate is to be informed immediately and in writing of negative decisions, which are to be substantiated and information on legal remedies is to be included.
- (10) Plagiarism is considered to be, if students deliberately adopt another person's phrases, thoughts or scientific results for their own benefit without marking this in an appropriate manner in the context of an examination, coursework or thesis.
- (11) If a student of RePIC is excluded from studying at one of the Partner Universities, the student is automatically completely excluded from studying in RePIC.

## § 12

### **Recognition, transferring, exemption of academic credits, examinations and prior learning**

- (I) Examination results obtained in a master programme at other state or state-recognised universities shall be recognised and transferred upon request, provided that there is no significant difference between the acquired competences and the content that are being replaced; an examination of equivalence shall not take place. Recognition within the

meaning of sentence 1 shall serve the purpose of continuing studies and taking examinations.

- (2) Fundamental differences exist in particular if the competences achieved do not correspond with the requirements of the master degree programme “Redesigning the Post-Industrial City”. The comparison should not be schematic but should instead consist of an overall review and assessment. If any doubts remain, responsible offices of the eight Partner Universities as well as the Central Offices for Foreign Education can be consulted.
- (3) On special application qualifications acquired outside a university degree programme or course may be recognised to the extent of a maximum of 50 % of the credit points provided for RePIC if the achieved competences are equivalent in level and contents, to those intended to replace. The Joint Admission and Examination Committee decides on these matters.
- (4) The Joint Admission and Examination Committee is responsible for the recognition in accordance with subsections 1 and 2. Prior to determining whether considerable differences exist, a subject representative should generally be heard. The student must submit the documentation required for the recognition. On submission of the complete documentation, a notice will be issued together with information on legal remedies, generally within 6 weeks. If the recognition demanded on the basis of an application within the meaning of subsection 1 is refused, the applicant may apply for a review of the decision by the Rectorate of the Ruhr University Bochum as the Coordinating University, without prejudice to the time limits under procedural law.
- (5) Where study and examination performances are recognized, the grades – if the grading systems are comparable – are to be accepted and included in the calculation of the overall grade. In the case of incomparable grading systems, the qualifier “pass” will be included. This credit will be marked in the certificate and diploma supplement.
- (6) Where the prerequisites of subsections 1 and 3 have been met, a legal entitlement to recognition exists.

### § 13

#### **Joint Admission and Examination Committee (AEC)**

- (1) The eight Partner Universities establish a Joint Admission and Examination Committee (AEC) to organise examinations, admission to the programme and to handle duties allocated as a result of these Examination Regulations. The AEC consists of the Chair, the Deputy Chair and a further six members entitled to vote from all eight partners. For the EUR, membership is filled by two staff members who exercise voting rights depending on the topic at hand (admission or examination), in line with the Dutch Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek. As a rule, the Chair, the Deputy Chair and three further members as a minimum are elected from the group of professors, at least one member should be elected from the group of research associates. Eight deputies are elected for the members of the AEC; thus, each partner is represented by one full and one deputy member. The term of mandate is three years. Re-election is permitted.
- (2) The AEC is a statutory body in the sense of the German Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz and the Verwaltungsprozessrecht of the location of the coordinating university and has to be in line with the national laws of the participating universities. In the case of appeals of the students the German law is applicable, as laid down in the Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz and the Verwaltungsprozessrecht.
- (3) The AEC functions as a coordinating, monitoring and review institution. It is responsible for assessment standards, study, and assessment regulations, and has the authority to issue the thesis topics and to control supervision quality, fraud, and plagiarism cases, exmatriculation, as well as other matters related to the aforementioned but is bound by the Partnership Agreement, these RePIC Examination Regulations, and the rules and

regulations in force at the Partner Universities. In questions or cases concerning only one partner university, the local examination committee or the equivalent, must be consulted and decisions may generally not deviate from the vote the local examination committee or equivalent. These local examination committee ensures that the stipulations of these Examination Regulations are complied with and that the examinations are executed in an orderly fashion. In all other issues, the AEC ensures as well that decisions are not taken against national legislations.

- (4) The AEC must report to the Academic Study Board of RePIC and to the Deans of the respective Faculties of all eight Partners regularly, at least annually, on the development of the examinations and the study periods. This report is to be published in a suitable format. It provides suggestions for reform of these Examination Regulations and the study plan and details the distribution of the grades and the overall grades.
- (5) The AEC can mandate the handling of its obligations for all regular cases to the chair. This does not apply to decisions on appeals and the report to the Academic Study Board.
- (6) The AEC is quorate if, in addition to the Chair or his or her Deputy, at least two further professors entitled to vote or their deputies and at least two other further members entitled to vote, or their deputies are present. It acts by simple majority. In the case of a tie, the chair's vote shall be decisive.
- (7) The members of the AEC have the right to attend the examinations taking place.
- (8) The meetings of AEC are not public. The members of the AEC and the deputies must abide by official secrecy. Unless they are in public service they are to be sworn to secrecy by the head of the AEC. Minutes shall be taken of the meetings of the AEC.
- (9) The AEC may use the administrative assistance of the examinations office when exercising its responsibilities.

#### **§ 14**

##### **Examiners, supervisors and invigilators**

- (1) As a rule examination can be carried out by all persons who teaches in RePIC. The AEC nominates the examiners circle of persons entitled to act as examiners, as well as the invigilators.
- (2) The examiners are independent in their function as examiners.
- (3) The Chair of the AEC ensures that the names of the examiners for exams related to modules are made known to the candidates in time, at least two weeks before the date of the respective examination. An announcement through posting on an official noticeboard is sufficient. Here, the fundamentals of data protection are to be followed.
- (4) For the examiners and invigilators § 13 subsection 6 sentences 2 and 3 apply accordingly.

## **II. Master examination and master thesis**

#### **§ 15**

##### **Scope of the master examination**

The master examination consists of:

- successfully completed modules of 90 ECTS in accordance with study plan in the annex
- and the master thesis module with 30 ECTS.

#### **§ 16**

##### **Admission to the Master Thesis Module**

- (1) Admission to the master thesis module is limited to candidates who

- are enrolled for this joint master degree programme “Redesigning the Post-Industrial City”,
  - have registered for the master thesis module,
  - are not currently in similar examination proceedings at another university and have not ultimately passed or failed a similar examination and
  - have successfully completed the modules of semesters 1 and 2.
- (2) The request for admission to the master thesis module is to be submitted in writing to the Chair of the joint Admission and Examination Committee together with the evidence required in accordance with subsection 1 at the end of semester 2.
- (3) If the prerequisites in subsections 1 and 2 are not fulfilled, admission to the master thesis module is prohibited.

## § 17 Master Thesis Module

- (1) Students can choose among three formats of their master thesis: a traditional dissertation, a research manuscript aiming at publication with an internationally recognised academic journal, or a practical project accompanied by documentation and written analysis. The master thesis should show that the candidate is able to work on a demanding problem within a set period independently using scientific methods.
- (2) The master thesis can be issued and supervised by any person of who is entitled to act as examiner in the master degree programme “Redesigning the Post-Industrial City”. Supervision by an examiner not belonging to one of the RePIC Partners is permitted; this requires the agreement of the AEC.
- (3) The student has the right to suggest a topic for the master thesis and a supervisor of the master thesis. The right to suggest a subject does not give rise to a legal entitlement.
- (4) The master thesis topic and the names of the supervisors are issued by the Chair of the AEC. The time of issue shall be notified. The completion time for the master thesis is six months after the topic was issued. The task and scope of the master thesis are to be limited so that the deadline for completing the master thesis can be complied with. A topic of a master thesis approved by the AEC and communicated to the students by the joint examination office may not be changed in individual words or in the arrangement of words either by the students or by the supervisor of the thesis.
- (5) Upon request, the Chair of the AEC ensures that the candidate receives a topic for the master thesis in good time.
- (6) Deferral of the master thesis topic is only possibly once within the first 4 weeks of the completion time. If the master thesis is retaken, the topic can only be rejected if the candidate did not exercise this option on the first attempt. In individual cases and on duly justified request by the candidate, the AEC may exceptionally grant an extension period of up to 6 weeks. In the case of sickness, the period until handing in can be extended by a maximum of 8 weeks. This requires submission of a medical certificate, where in doubt a certificate by the public health officer. The extension period corresponds with the sickness duration. If the sickness duration exceeds 8 weeks, the candidate will be set a new topic.
- (7) The master thesis has to be written in English.
- (8) The oral examination accompanying the master thesis consists of a 30–45-minute defence in which the candidate answers critical questions on their master thesis.

## § 18 Acceptance and assessment of the master thesis

- (1) The master thesis is to be submitted to the joint examination’s office at Ruhr University Bochum as the Coordinating University in a verifiable electronic format (pdf or pdfA) in the

portal for the online submission for master thesis. The submission date is to be kept on file. On submission of the master thesis the candidate must confirm in text form that he or she has written the master thesis independently and used no tools or resources other than those specified and has identified all quotes. If the master thesis is not submitted within the time period stipulated it is considered to be graded as “insufficient” (5.0).

- (2) The master thesis is to be assessed by jury of a minimum of three examiners independently of each other. One of the examiners should be the responsible for setting the topic of the master thesis and the supervision. Every examiner gives a grade. The overall grade of the master thesis is based on the arithmetic mean of the individual grades. If the grades deviate by at least 2.0 or if one of the grade is “insufficient”, the other however “sufficient” or better, the AEC will appoint a fourth person from the persons entitled to act as examiners in RePIC. In this case, the final grade of the master thesis is the arithmetic mean of the four individual grades of the examiners. However, the grade of the master thesis can only be “sufficient” or better if at least two of the proposed grades are “sufficient” or better.
- (3) The duration of the assessment process may not exceed 4 weeks.

### **§ 19**

#### **Retaking of the master thesis**

- (1) The master thesis may be retaken once, meaning that there are two opportunities in total, to pass the master thesis for the entire duration of the studies.
- (2) As a rule, the retake of the master thesis must be declared at the latest in the semester following the failed attempt of the first thesis. If the candidate misses this time limit, the candidate loses the right to write the master thesis, unless the candidate is not responsible for the failure.
- (3) The master thesis has been conclusively failed if the thesis is again graded as “insufficient” (5.0) in the retake attempt or is considered to have been graded as “insufficient”.

### **§ 20**

#### **Passing the master examination**

- (1) The master examination is successfully passed, if the candidate has successfully completed all required modules according to the study plan in the annex including the master’s thesis module and has obtained 120 ECTS.
- (2) On passing the master examination the joint master degree programme RePIC has been completed.
- (3) The overall grade for RePIC is calculated on the basis of the arithmetic mean weighted by CP of all graded module examinations including the master thesis.
- (4) The master examination has been conclusively failed if modules have been failed conclusively or if the thesis is assessed as “insufficient” (5.0) on the final attempt or is considered to have been assessed as “insufficient”. A notice will be issued on the failed master examination, which is to be accompanied by information on legal remedies.

## **III. Final clauses**

### **§ 21**

#### **Diploma, certificate, diploma supplement and attestations**

- (1) For the successfully completed master examination, the graduate receives a multilingual diploma in the languages of all partners. The diploma will include the overall grade as well as the topic and the grade of the thesis. The diploma shall have the date of the day on which



the last examination was taken. In the case of the thesis this is the date of submission. The diploma is to be signed and sealed by the Chair of the AEC, the Dean or the Rector of each Partner University depending on local rules and the student.

- (2) With the diploma, the graduate also receives a diploma supplement including a transcript of records in English. The diploma supplement provides information on the individual academic profile of the completed joint master degree programme. The diploma supplement also provides an ECTS grade for the final grade.
- (3) Students leaving the university without a degree will receive a document on the total study and examination performance achieved (transcript of records).

## § 22

### **Invalidity of the master examination, withdrawal of the academic degree**

- (1) If the candidate practised deceit during an examination and if this fact only came to light after the certificate was issued, the AEC may retroactively correspondingly correct the grades for those examinations in which the candidate practised deceit and declare the examination as failed in whole or in part.
- (2) If the prerequisites for admission to an examination were not fulfilled and the candidate has not been intentionally deceitful regarding this fact and if this fact only becomes known after the diplomas have been handed out, this defect is corrected by passing the examination. If the candidate intentionally wrongfully obtained the admission, the AEC would decide the legal consequences under consideration of the Administrative Procedure Act of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the location of the coordinating university, and the local rules of the partners.
- (3) Prior to a decision the affected individual must be given the opportunity to comment as well as local examination committees or equivalents according to § 13 subsection 3.
- (4) The incorrect examination diploma is to be withdrawn and, where applicable, a new one is to be issued. A decision in accordance with subsection 1 and subsection 2 sentence 2 is only possible within five years from the date of the award of the degree. The period between the initiation and termination of legal proceedings to examine the withdrawal of the degree conferral shall not be included in the five-year period according to sentence 2.
- (5) If the examination has been overall declared as failed, the academic degree is to be revoked by the faculty and the certificate is to be withdrawn.

## § 23

### **Access to the examination files**

- (1) The candidate is to be given the opportunity to view the examination documentation for up to one year following completion of the overall examination process. This does not affect deadlines within the framework of appeal proceedings.
- (2) The application is to be made to the Chair of the Joint Admission and Examination Committee. The Chair agrees the time and place of the viewing with the candidate.

## § 24

### **Entry into force and publication**

These Examination Regulations come into force the day after their publication in the official bulletin of the Ruhr University Bochum and apply to all students who have registered for the first time for the joint master degree programme “Redesigning of the Post-Industrial City” from the winter semester 2023/2024 onwards. In case of changes in these Examination Regulations, a new version will be published prior to the winter semester of 2024/2025.

Issued on the basis of the resolution of the Council the Faculty of Geography and Geosciences of the Ruhr University Bochum, dated 10.11.2024., of the Graduate Institute Board of the Koç University Istanbul, dated 23.12.2024, of the University College Cork, dated 23.10.2023, of the Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences of the Erasmus University Rotterdam, dated 25.09.2023, of the University of Deusto, dated 28.06.2023, of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Sciences of the Université de Liège, dated 28.06.2024, of the Faculty of Technology of the University of Oulu, dated 31.08.2023, and of the Rectorate of the University of Zagreb, dated 13.05.2024.

Bochum, 27.03.2025

The Rector  
of the Ruhr University Bochum  
University Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Martin Paul

**Annex 1: Study Plan/List of Modules**

<b>RePIC Module Identifier</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>Responsible Partner</b>
<b>SEMESTER 1</b>	<b>30 CP ECTS</b>		
<b>1-1</b>	City Lab I	10	UCC
<b>1-2</b>	Research Methods I	5	RUB
<b>1-3</b>	RePIC Core Theory: The Post-Industrial City – Society, Space and Environment	10	RUB
<b>1-4</b>	RePIC Urban Sustainability Transformations Research Forum	5	RUB
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>	<b>30 CP ECTS</b>		
<b>Track 1</b>	<b>Urban Transformations and Resilience</b>		
<b>2-1-1</b>	Conceptualising Society, Space and the City	10	UCC
<b>2-1-2</b>	Research Design Studio: Salvaging and Transformations of the Post-Industrial City	15	UCC
<b>2-1-3</b>	Research Methods II	5	UCC
<b>Track 2</b>	<b>Inequality, Diversity and Social Justice</b>		
<b>2-2-1</b>	The City in Visual Culture	6	KU/EUR
<b>2-2-2</b>	The Production of Social (In)Justice in the (Post-Industrial) City	6	KU/EUR
<b>2-2-3</b>	Social Design Studio: Justice and Diversity	6	KU/EUR
<b>2-2-4</b>	Design for Health and Wellbeing	6	KU/EUR
<b>2-2-5</b>	Research Methods II	6	KU/EUR
<b>Track 3</b>	<b>Urban Analysis: Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Cities</b>		
<b>2-3-1</b>	Integrative Urban Development	5	UOulu
<b>2-3-2</b>	Environmental Urban Planning	7	RUB
<b>2-3-3</b>	Urban Remote Sensing and Smart Data: Modelling the Post-Industrial City	7	RUB
<b>2-3-4</b>	Urban Climatology	6	RUB
<b>2-3-5</b>	Research Methods II	5	UOulu
<b>Track 4</b>	<b>Governance of Post-Industrial Cities</b>		
<b>2-4-1</b>	Sustainable Urban Development Governance	10	UniZG/UDeusto
<b>2-4-2</b>	Governance of Post-Industrial Cities	15	UniZG
<b>2-4-3</b>	Research Methods II	5	UDeusto
<b>SEMESTER 3</b>	<b>30 CP ECTS</b>		
<b>3-1</b>	City Lab II (Field Salon)	10	UCC
<b>3-2</b>	Research Methods III: Seminar in Advanced Research Methods	5	EUR
<b>UCC Track</b>			
<b>3-3</b>	Structured Learning and Engaged Research Placement	15	UCC
<b>ULiège Track</b>			
<b>3-4</b>	Structured Learning	15	ULiège
<b>SEMESTER 4</b>	<b>30 CP ECTS</b>		
<b>4-1</b>	Master Thesis	30	All
<b>Extracurricular</b>			
<b>AE-1</b>	Language Courses	--	All