Master Examination Regulations (M.F.A.) – Hochschule Trier

(Gemstones and Jewellery, Department of Design – Adopted September 2020)

Legal Introduction

Pursuant to Section 7 (2) No. 2 and Section 86 (2) No. 3 of the Higher Education Act of Rhineland-Palatinate (HochSchG)… the Faculty Council of the Department of Design adopted the following Master Examination Regulations on September 4, 2020; approved by the President on September 8, 2020.

→ ***Annotation:*** *This is a standard legal preamble giving the university's authority to issue examination rules under state law. Every official regulation in Germany must cite the relevant legal sections to ensure validity.*

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§ 1 – Scope and Superior Regulations

These regulations define the subject-specific requirements and examination procedures for the M.F.A. Gemstones and Jewellery. The **General Examination Regulations (Allg. PO)** of Hochschule Trier apply additionally in their current version.

→ ***Annotation:*** *Each degree has its own subject-specific rules that supplement the university-wide general regulations. This section tells students which document has priority if rules overlap.*

§ 2 – Purpose of the Examination

The Master's examination leads to a professionally qualifying academic degree. It verifies that students can independently apply and further develop artistic, design, and scientific methods; take on complex creative and organizational tasks; and demonstrate leadership, innovation, and research-level competence.

→ ***Annotation:*** *This defines what "qualification" means—graduates must show both creative mastery* ***and*** *analytical capacity, aligning with EU "second-cycle" (Master's) learning outcomes.*

§ 3 – Academic Degree

Graduates are awarded the academic degree **Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.)**.

→ ***Annotation:*** *This confirms the international degree title used for art/design Master's programs rather than "M.A." or "M.Sc.".*

§ 4 – Admissions Committee

The Examination Board appoints an **Admissions Committee** for the Gemstones and Jewellery program. Details are laid out in the separate **eligibility regulations** ("Feststellung der besonderen Eignung").

→ ***Annotation:*** *Admission to creative Master's programs in Germany typically involves an aptitude test assessing artistic potential; this committee runs that process.*

§ 5 – Admission to Studies

(1) Prerequisites:

1. Written application
2. Completed university degree
3. Passing the admissions examination under § 66 HochSchG.
   Further details appear in the eligibility regulations.

→ ***Annotation:*** *Candidates need a first degree (often a B.A. in Design/Art) and must pass a* ***portfolio-based entrance exam*** *judged by faculty. § 66 HochSchG legally defines this aptitude testing.*

§ 6 – Standard Period of Study, Structure, and Credits

(1) The standard study period is **four semesters**.
(2) The program comprises **120 ECTS credits**.
(3) Distribution: 30 CP per semester.

→ ***Annotation:*** *Matches the Bologna Process framework—each semester ≈ 30 ECTS (about 750–900 hours). The four-semester, 120-credit format is typical for German Master's programs.*

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§ 7 – Portfolio Examination

(1) The portfolio examination assesses the student's ability to independently develop, document, and present artistic-design concepts.
(2) Components:
– Collection of works from the study period
– Written reflection on development process
– Presentation of works
(3) Assessment is carried out by the Examination Board.

→ ***Annotation:*** *The "Portfolio Exam" is a major evaluation format replacing traditional written tests—students compile and analyze their creative output. Reflection demonstrates critical thinking about one's own practice.*

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§ 8 – Study Achievements

(1) Study achievements (*Leistungsnachweise*) are graded components earned during coursework and required for admission to the final thesis.
(2) They include participation in seminars/workshops, completion of projects, and presentations.
(3) Each is assessed by the respective instructor.

→ ***Annotation:*** *Continuous assessment—progress is tracked through studio work and seminars. These credits confirm engagement before students may register the final thesis.*

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§ 9 – Final Thesis

(1) An independent academic and artistic or design project demonstrating ability to address a topic within Gemstones and Jewellery.
(2) Topic assigned by the Examination Board.
(3) Completion period: **six months**.
(4) Graded by **two examiners**.

→ ***Annotation:*** *The thesis is both creative (e.g., a jewelry collection) and theoretical (documentation or research). Dual examiners ensure fairness—usually one internal, one external expert.*

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§ 10 – Colloquium

(1) An oral defense in which the student presents and justifies the final thesis.
(2) Assessed by the same examiners.

→ ***Annotation:*** *Similar to a "viva voce"; this tests the student's ability to articulate concept, methodology, and critical reasoning.*

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§ 11 – Calculation of the Overall Grade

(1) The final grade is a weighted average of:
– Portfolio Exam 30 %
– Study Achievements 20 %
– Final Thesis 40 %
– Colloquium 10 %

→ ***Annotation:*** *Emphasizes the **final thesis** (40 %) and creative output (portfolio + thesis = 70 %). Continuous work still influences the result via study achievements.*

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§ 12 – Repeating Examinations

(1) An examination graded "insufficient" may be repeated **once**.
(2) Repetition must occur within **one year**.

→ ***Annotation:*** *Only one retake allowed—failing twice may lead to program termination. The one-year limit prevents indefinite delays.*

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§ 13 – Entry into Force

These regulations enter into force the day after publication in *publicus*, the official bulletin of Hochschule Trier.

→ ***Annotation:*** *Legal enactment clause—ensures transparent communication to all stakeholders.*

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§ 14 – Repeal and Transitional Provisions

(1) Earlier M.F.A. regulations are repealed.
(2) Students already enrolled may choose to finish under the old or transfer to the new regulations.

→ ***Annotation:*** *Protects current students from mid-program rule changes; standard "grandfather clause."*

🧭 Summary of Key Takeaways

- **Degree:** Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.)
- **Duration:** 4 semesters / 120 ECTS
- **Core assessment:** Portfolio + Thesis + Colloquium
- **Admission:** Prior art/design degree + aptitude exam
- **AI note:** (not in 2020 version—added only in 2024 amendment)
- **Repetition:** One retry limit
- **Focus:** Integrates artistic creation, research, and reflective documentation.