here's the **annotated English translation (plain text, inline notes)** of pages 94–98 from the Hochschule Trier document
"Examination Regulations for the Advanced Studies Master's Programme 'Gemstones and Jewellery' (WbMFA)".

Examination Regulations for the Advanced Studies Master's Programme "Gemstones and Jewellery"

at the Department of Design, Hochschule Trier
of 12 September 2020

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§ 1 Scope, Overriding and Supplementary Regulations

These subject-specific examination regulations govern the examination requirements and procedures for the advanced-studies master's programme "Gemstones and Jewellery." In addition, the General Examination Regulations of Hochschule Trier apply in their respective versions. The basis for this fee-based programme is § 35 of the Rhineland-Palatinate Higher Education Act (*Hochschulgesetz*, abbreviated *HochSchG*). The fees are set out in a separate fee regulation for this programme.

Annotation:

- *Advanced-studies master's* (in German *weiterbildender Master*) means a postgraduate, fee-paying programme designed for applicants with professional experience.
- § 35 HochSchG authorizes universities to charge tuition for such continuing-education master's degrees.

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§ 2 Purpose of the Examination

The master's examination leads to a professionally qualifying academic degree. It demonstrates whether students can understand the contexts of their field, apply scientific, artistic, and design methods independently, and solve complex design and organizational tasks creatively and responsibly. It also assesses whether students have the abilities needed for research or leadership roles.

Annotation:

- This section defines the *learning outcomes* of the programme. It combines both artistic/design and academic expectations.
- "Professionally qualifying" here means that the degree gives formal eligibility for certain advanced positions or for doctoral studies.

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§ 3 Degree Awarded

Upon passing the master's examination, the academic degree **"Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.)"** is conferred.

Annotation:

- The *M.F.A.* is an internationally recognized artistic master's degree, equivalent in level to a *Master of Arts (M.A.)* or *Master of Science (M.Sc.)*, but with a creative/artistic emphasis.

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§ 4 Admissions Examination Commission

For the field *Gemstones and Jewellery*, the Examination Board appoints an **Admissions Examination Commission**. Further details are set out in the aptitude-assessment regulations for this programme.

Annotation:

- This body organizes and evaluates the *artistic aptitude test* required for entry.
- In Germany, admission to design or fine-arts programmes typically includes such an examination of artistic potential.

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§ 5 Admission to the Programme

(1) Requirements for admission:

1. Written application.
2. University entrance qualification (*Hochschulzugangsberechtigung*) under § 65 HochSchG.
3. A completed university degree and at least one year of qualified professional experience, **or** at least three years of relevant professional practice plus proof (through an equivalence assessment) that this experience equals a first academic degree.
4. Successful artistic aptitude test.
5. Proof of sufficient English proficiency.

(2) Admission may be granted with additional conditions.
(3) The Examination Board decides whether the conditions are met.

Annotation:

- Clause 3 allows entry without a bachelor's degree if professional experience is substantial — a common feature of *weiterbildende Master* programmes.
- The *aptitude test* usually includes portfolio review and interview.
- "Additional conditions" could include taking preparatory courses.

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§ 6 Standard Period, Structure, and Scope

(1) The standard study period is **four semesters (two years)** with **120 ECTS credits**. One ECTS equals about 30 hours of student workload.
(2) Courses are modularized (organized into modules) totaling **45 SWS** (weekly contact hours). Teaching is mainly in English but may also be in another language.
(3) Details of ECTS allocation and module list appear in Annex 1.
(4) Up to **30 ECTS** may be replaced by study abroad or equivalent projects, subject to Examination Board approval.

Annotation:

- *ECTS* (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) standardizes workload; 120 ECTS ≈ two years full-time.
- *SWS* (Semesterwochenstunden) measures classroom hours per week over the semester.
- Clause 4 encourages international exchange or professional projects as valid credits.

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§ 7 Types of Examination: Portfolio Examination

In addition to general exam types, this programme defines the **portfolio examination**.
It shows the student's ability to develop design projects from research to finished result. The portfolio includes documentation of one or more module projects—typically containing research, concept development, execution, application, the final product, and an outlook on future work. A presentation may also form part of the portfolio exam.

Annotation:

- The *portfolio* functions as both process documentation and artistic reflection.
- This replaces traditional written or oral exams for design modules.
- Requirements (scope, form) are specified at the start of each course.

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§ 8 Course Work (Study Achievements)

Annex 2 lists all modules with their designations and the required coursework to complete each module.

Annotation:

- *Study achievements* (*Studienleistungen*) are continuous assessments (e.g. presentations, exercises) that may be ungraded but required for exam eligibility.

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§ 9 Final Thesis

(1) The thesis must show the student's ability to address a topic independently using scientific and artistic methods. It comprises both a **written component** and a **design/artistic project**; interdisciplinary topics are allowed.
(2) Registration is possible after earning 90 ECTS. It must occur no later than one month after

achieving 95 ECTS. If not registered in time, this counts as one failed attempt.
(3) Processing time: up to **15 weeks**, extendable once (up to **6 weeks**) on request.

Annotation:

- The *written part* is often reflective documentation (context, theory, process).
- The *artistic project* is the actual final design/jewellery work.
- Clause 2 enforces timely progress to graduation.

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§ 10 Colloquium on the Final Thesis

Students present their final thesis in a **colloquium** (oral defense). The rules follow those for oral examinations in the General Examination Regulations.

Annotation:

- The colloquium is a presentation plus discussion with examiners, typically public within the department.

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§ 11 Calculation of the Overall Grade

(1) The final grade is a weighted average of module grades (see Annex 1).
(2) Only one decimal place is kept; further digits are truncated (not rounded).
(3) Exceptional performance (average ≤ 1.3) may be marked **"with distinction."**

Annotation:

- German grades range from 1.0 (best) to 5.0 (fail).
- "With distinction" corresponds to roughly "summa cum laude" or "first-class honours."

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§ 12 Repetition of Examination Performances

A passed examination may be repeated **once** for grade improvement at the next exam date. If the grade does not improve, the first grade stands. The final thesis and its colloquium **cannot** be repeated for grade improvement.

Annotation:

- This optional retake rule is generous; many programmes disallow retakes after passing.
- Failing exams can normally be retaken twice (as per the general regulations).

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§ 13 Entry into Force

These regulations take effect the day after publication in Hochschule Trier's official bulletin and apply to students beginning from **Winter semester 2020/2021**.

Annotation:

- Publication in "publicus" makes the regulations legally binding.

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§ 14 Repeal and Transitional Provisions

The previous examination regulations are repealed. Transitional rules are issued separately.

Annotation:

- Ensures legal continuity for students already enrolled under the old version.

Signatures

Trier, 12 September 2020
Prof. Dr. Matthias Sieveke
Dean of the Department of Design, Hochschule Trier

Annex 1 (Overview)

Contains semester-by-semester list of modules, ECTS credits, and exam forms.

Annotation:

- Typically includes modules such as "Artistic Research," "Material and Technology," "Design Project," and "Theory and Reflection."

Annex 2 (Overview)

Lists all modules requiring coursework per § 8.

Annotation:

- Serves as the official reference for which modules include graded or ungraded assessments.