



**Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin**  
University of Applied Sciences

# OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

**NO. 20/2021**

**6 September 2021**

**Second amendment  
to the subject-specific Study and Examination Regulations (SER) for the  
postgraduate Master's degree course Social Work as a Human Rights  
Profession**

**at the "Alice-Salomon" - University of Applied Sciences for Social Work and  
Social Pedagogy Berlin (ASH Berlin) \***

pursuant to Section 2 of the Framework Study and Examination Regulations (FSER)  
[Rahmenstudien- und -prüfungsordnung (RSPO)] of ASH Berlin

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\* Resolution adopted by the Academic Senate at its meeting on 6 July 2021 and confirmed pursuant to Section 90 Berlin Higher Education Act [(Berliner Hochschulgesetz (BerlHG))] with its publication by the Rectorate.

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## **Preamble**

On the grounds of Section 31 Subsection 1 Clause 4 and Subsection 2 in conjunction with Section 61 Subsection 1 Nos. 4 and 5 of the Berlin Higher Education Act [Berliner Hochschulgesetz (BerlHG)] as amended, as well as Section 2 of the Framework Study and Examination Regulations of ASH Berlin, the Academic Senate of the "Alice-Salomon" University for Social Work and Social Pedagogy Berlin (ASH Berlin) has resolved on 6 July 2021 on the second amendment to the Study and Examination Regulations (SER) [Studien- und Prüfungsordnung (SPO)] for the postgraduate Master's degree course Social Work as a Human Rights Profession (SWHR in the following). This Master's degree course is conducted in international cooperation with the universities of applied sciences listed in the cooperation agreement at ASH Berlin.

## **Section 1 Scope of Application**

(1) These Study and Examination Regulations govern the organisation, conduct and content of the studies and examinations in the SWHR postgraduate Master's degree course at ASH Berlin.

(2) The SER are supplemented by the statutes assigned to the degree course as well as by the general statutes of ASH Berlin, in particular the Framework Study and Examination Regulations (FSER). Students at ASH Berlin are obligated to orient their studies to the applicable statutes.

## **Section 2 Academic Degree**

ASH Berlin, through the Rector, confers the academic degree of Master of Arts (MA) for the successful completion of the studies.

## **Section 3 Study Objectives and Study Contents**

(1) The general study objectives are governed by Section 4 of the Framework Study and Examination Regulations.

(2) The subject-specific objectives of these studies are the promotion of the students' professional self-concept based the "triple mandate" of social work, the development of a secure approach to science-based theories of action and appropriately well-founded methods of intervention. The central point of reference is human rights as a normative framework for social action. The ability to independently evaluate current scientific studies and to initiate and carry out project-related practical research will be developed. How these objectives are realised in individual topic areas and forms of learning and working is provided in the module descriptions (in English). The degree course takes up issues of diversity and gender in greater depth. It is preparatory for international and transnational fields of work. The language of instruction is English.

(3) The Master's programme is full time. The standard period of study is four semesters.

(4) The total scope of this programme is 120 credits.

## **Section 4 Organisation of Studies and Teaching Methods**

(1) The course structure is modular; see Appendix 1 (Curricular Schedule).

(2) The programme comprises compulsory modules (A modules), elective modules (B and C modules), a six-month practical research project (D module) and the Master's thesis (E module). The programme is conducted in block seminars combined with e-learning components and independent study.

## **Section 5 Final Module Examinations [Prüfungsleistungen]**

(1) The general provisions are governed by Section 14 of the FSER.

(2) Guest students are excluded from taking examinations. Auditors may take the module examinations if the primary degree course in which they are enrolled is a Master's programme and the selected module is eligible for recognition in that programme.

(3) The following final module examinations are accepted:

- Written examination (Klausur), see Section 15 Subsection 1 FSER
- Essay, see Section 15 Subsection 2 FSER
- Portfolio, see Section 15 Subsection 2 FSER
- Project report, see Section 15 Subsection 2 FSER
- Oral examination, see Section 16 Subsection 1 FSER
- Presentation of a paper, see Section 16 Subsection 2 FSER
- Presentation, see Section 16 Subsection 3 FSER

Each module concludes with a final examination. The module descriptions (see Appendix 2) define the form of final examination which the student can select from among those in the respective module. Written final examinations can also be submitted in digital form in accordance with Section 15 Subsection 2 FSER. (see Appendix 1, Curricular Schedule)

## **Section 6 Master's Thesis**

(1) Students should demonstrate in their Master's thesis that they are able to formulate a research question in one of the topic areas developed during the programme, to substantiate it and to develop it scientifically under the guidance of their initial reviewer. At the same time, they are to make the reference to the discipline and profession of social work as a human rights profession apparent.

(2) Requirements for admission to the Master's thesis programme are at least 60 credits as well as the successful completion of the "Critical Social Science Research" module.

(3) The time allotted to prepare the Master's thesis comprises 25 weeks, 30 weeks for empirical theses; reference is made to the extension options pursuant to Section 17 Subsection 5 FSER. The Master's thesis is supervised and assessed by an examiner (initial reviewer); a further assessment is made by a second examiner (second reviewer).

At least one reviewer must be a full-time professor or visiting professor at ASH Berlin or, in accordance with the cooperation agreements, a professor at one of the cooperating universities or have taken on the role of a module coordinator in the degree course. Otherwise, the regulations of the FSER apply.

### **Section 7 Awarding credit for competences acquired outside the university**

(1) Students can apply to the Examination Board for recognition of coursework and final module examinations taken at a university as well as for awarding credit for competences acquired outside the university, which were acquired, for example, in the context of further education or professional activity and if they are equivalent in content and level to the learning objectives of individual modules of the Master's degree course. Recognition of or awarding credit for a thesis that has already been completed elsewhere as a Master's thesis is excluded. Reference is made to Section 12 FSER.

### **Section 8 Overall Grade and Completion of the Programme**

(1) The module grades and the grade for the Master's thesis comprise the overall grade. The overall grade for the final degree is the result from the weighted arithmetic mean of all module grades, taking account of the credits assigned to the respective module, whereby the module grade for the Master's thesis is counted twice in calculating the overall grade. The Master's programme has been successfully completed when the student has successfully completed all modules of the study programme and has earned the credits required for the programme.

(2) The overall assessment of "very good with honours" is conferred instead of the overall assessment of "very good" if the overall grade is better than or equal to 1.2. In addition to the overall grade, the statistical distribution of the overall grades awarded over the previous four semesters for this degree course is shown in the certificate documents in the form of a grading table.

<i>Overall grade</i>	<i>Overall assessment</i>	<i>Total number within the reference group</i>	<i>Grading percentage</i>
1.0 - 1.2	<i>very good with honours</i>		
1.3 - 1.5	<i>very good</i>		
1.6 - 2.5	<i>good</i>		
2.6 - 3.5	<i>satisfactory</i>		
3.6 - 4.0	<i>adequate</i>		
<i>above 4.0</i>	<i>failed</i>		
	<i>Total:</i>		<i>100%</i>

## **Section 9 Certificate Documents**

(1) After successful completion of the programme, the Rector of ASH Berlin confers the academic degree of "Master of Arts" MA. The graduate receives a certificate and a diploma indicating the degree course completed and the degree earned.

(2) The certificate contains information on the topic of the Master's thesis and how it was assessed as well as the assessment of the other module examinations. Moreover, the overall grade as well as the total scope of the study programme in terms of credits must be noted on the certificate; the regulations according to Section 27 FSER apply. The diploma documents are issued in both German and English.

## **Section 10 Entry into Effect**

These regulations come into effect on the day after they are published in the official bulletin of ASH Berlin.

Prof. Dr. Bettina Völter  
Rector