

Subject-specific

Study and Examination Regulations (StPO)

for the master's program

**Intercultural Conflict Management -
Social Action in Global Contexts**

of the "Alice-Salomon"-University for Social Work and Social
Education Berlin (ASH Berlin)

in accordance with § 2 of the Framework Study- and -Examination Regulations (RSPO) of ASH Berlin

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Subject-specific Study and Examination Regulations (StPO) for the master's program Intercultural Conflict Management - Social Action in Global Contexts

Preamble

On the basis of § 31 Par.1 sentence 3, and Par. 2 in connection with § 61 Par. 1 Nr. 4 and 5 of the Law of Higher Education in the State of Berlin (Berliner Hochschulgesetz - BerlHG), in its version as published on 26. July 2011 (GVBl. S. 378), as well as § 2 of the framework study- and examination-regulations of ASH Berlin, on XX.XX.XXX the Academic Senat of the "Alice-Salomon"-University for Social Work and Social Education Berlin (ASH Berlin) has issued the following Study- and Examination-Regulations (StPO) for the Master's program Intercultural Conflict Management - Social Action in Global Contexts (hereafter ICM)

§ 1 Scope of application

(1) The present Study- and Examination-Regulations (StPO) cover the organization, implementation, and contents of the studies and examinations in the Master's program ICM at the ASH Berlin.

(2) These StPO are complemented through the module-handbook (in English), as well as through the general statutes of the ASH Berlin, particularly the Framework Study- and Examination-Regulations (RSPO). The students at ASH Berlin are required to conduct their studies in accordance with the statutes in force.

(3) All of the official, status- or function-related, and job designations appearing in this statute are equally applicable to women and men, and are here formulated in the feminine.

§ 2 Academic degree

After a successful completion of the study, the ASH Berlin (through its rector) issues the academic degree of Master of Arts.

§ 3 Study goals and contents

(1) The general study-goals are covered in § 4 of the framework regulations on studies and examination (RSPO)

(2) Subject-specific study-goals:

The program capacitates students for managing real-world social conflicts in transnational and intercultural contexts, so that students can carry out their work in a wide labour field, including NGOs, governments and international organizations.

The program brings forward four interrelated objectives: professionalization, transdisciplinarity, transnationality, and living laboratory.

First, the program undertakes the professionalization of the students for their fieldwork. In this context, professionalization represents the capacity to canalize theoretical knowledge into practical knowledge aimed at social action. In other words, the program capacitates students so that they can break down social conflicts and bring about constructive solution proposals for them.

Second, the program advances an out-and-out transdisciplinary approach which breaks out from formalist academicism. Thus, the transdisciplinarity of the program not only presupposes the interplay of manifold scientific perspectives within its structure, contents and academic stuff, but it also brings about the interdisciplinary composition of its students, whose diverging academic and professional backgrounds maximize the dialogue among different forms of knowledge.

Third, the program undertakes transnationality in its widest sense. Accordingly, students who carry over different nationalities, languages and sociocultural backgrounds come across a transnational environment throughout the program and bring about themselves transnational entanglements.

Fourth, the program advances the Living Laboratory (livlab) approach. Livlab represents a specific form of autoethnographic research, which revolves around the intersection of different intellectual traditions with an emphasis on non-western perspectives.

(3) The standard study period is 4 semesters.

(4) The completion of the total scope of the studies will award the students 120 Credits.

§ 4 Organization of studies and teaching-methods

(1) The study-program is built in a modular fashion, see Annex 1 (Sample study-plan).

(2) The studies are organized according to following basic principles and teaching-modes:

Lectures, presentations, group discussions, exercises, participatory analysis, excursions, guided self-learning, independent learning, team teaching, e-learning, role play, livlab; principally based on “problem-oriented learning”.

§ 5 Practical study-semester and practice-phases and mobility

A practical study-semester is not foreseen. The program of applied-studies is oriented towards applicability in social realities. This orientation comes into focus through methodological and action-guiding research aspects. The practice-phases are an essential component of the first 3 semesters. The field trips/ practice-phases are thus integrated into the relevant teaching-units.

The program is associated with a sister master program, accordingly entitled “Acción Social en Contextos Globales” (Social Action in Global Contexts), which is carried out by the Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca, located in Mexico. Both master programs are identically structured in order to stave off incompatibilities and maximize synergies between them. In this context, the Intercultural Conflict Management master program advances the transnational mobility of in-coming and out-going students and lecturers between Berlin and Oaxaca. Thus, students can capitalize on the mobility opportunities in two occasions. First, they can carry out an initial approach to their research fields during the second or third semesters. Second, they can undertake the fieldwork for their master theses during the fourth semester.

§ 6 Provisions regarding examination and foreseen examination methods

(1) Guest-students do not take part of module-examinations. They can only take part if the main program in which they are enrolled is a master’s program, and the credits awarded for the chosen module are recognized in the former.

(2) Following evaluation instances are planned:

- Written exam, cf. § 15 Par. 1 RSPO
- Essay cf. § 15 Par. 2 RSPO
- Portfolio cf. § 15 Par. 2 RSPO
- Report of practice, cf. § 15 Par. 3 RSPO
- Oral exam, cf. § 16 Par 1 RSPO
- Seminar talk cf. § 16 Par. 2 RSPO
- Presentation, cf. § 16 Par. 3 RSPO

The module descriptions (see Module-handbook) set the eligible forms of examination for choice in the respective module. Written exams in the sense of § 15 Par. 2 RSPO can also be delivered online.

§ 7 Master Thesis

(1) In the master thesis, the students are expected to demonstrate their capacity to design, justify and develop a research question – both scientifically and practice-oriented – in a field of inquiry explored during the study period, with the aid of a supervisor. The application-oriented approach should be rendered visible especially in the methodology.

(2) As a precondition to be admitted into the master thesis phase, following milestones must have been achieved:

At least 90 Credits, i.e. compliance with all module- and examination requirements.

(3) The timeframe for the elaboration of the master thesis is 25 weeks, for empirical theses, 30 weeks. Upon written request on part of the students, including justifying evidence of the reasons for delay, these deadlines can be exceptionally prolonged to a maximum of 8 additional weeks. This is also applicable in the case of a hindrance in the sense of § 21 Par. 2 and 3 of RSPO, or for reasons detailed in § 13 Par. 3 RSPO. The main supervisor is required to teach at the ICM. Otherwise, the regulations of RSPO are applicable.

(4) The completed master thesis will be awarded 30 ECTS, cf. Annex 1 (Model study plan).

§ 8 Recognition of non-academically acquired competences

(1) Students of ASH Berlin can apply to the examinations board for the validation of competences acquired in non-academic training, for example in the framework of professional training or work experience, which match the content and level of the learning goals of individual modules of the master's program.

§ 9 Procedure for the determination of the final grade

(1) Both the grades obtained in the modules and the grade of the master thesis determine the final grade. The overall grade of graduation results from the arithmetic weighted average of all graded partial examinations, whereby the grading of the master thesis is multiplied by two when calculating the final grade. The weights of individual modules are detailed in Annex 2 (module handbook). The master is successfully completed when all modules of the program have been successfully completed and the total credits required have been achieved.

(2) The rating “very good with distinction” is used instead of the rating “very good” when the final grade is better or equal to 1,2. In addition to the overall grade, the statistical distribution of the grades awarded in the previous four semesters for this program are shown in the certificate documents in the form of a classification table.

<i>Overall grade</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Total score within the reference group</i>	<i>Grading percentage</i>
1,0 – 1,2	<i>Very good with distinction</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>sufficient</i>		
<i>über 4,0</i>	<i>failed</i>		
	<i>Total:</i>		100 %

§ 10 Design of the certificates

The transcript of records contains information regarding the topic of the master thesis and its grading, as well as the gradings of each of the module-examinations. In addition, the certificate should display the overall or final grade, as well as the total amount of credits awarded.

§ 11 Enactment

This regulation shall enter into force on the day following the publication in the Official Gazette of the ASH Berlin.

Prof. Dr. Uwe Böttig
Rector