

**Study Regulations**  
**for the Master of Arts (M.A.) Course of Study in**  
**Intellectual Encounters of the Islamicate World**  
**of the History and Cultural Studies Department**  
**of the Free University of Berlin**

**Preamble**

On the basis of Section 14 para. 1 no. 2 of the Limited Basic Regulations (Teilgrundordnung) and as a preliminary model (Erprobungsmodell) of the Free University of Berlin dated 27 October 1998 (FU Memorandum 24/1998), the Faculty Council of the History and Cultural Studies Department of the Free University of Berlin has issued the following Study Regulations for the Master of Arts (M.A.) Course of Study “Intellectual Encounters of the Islamicate World”, offered by the History and Cultural Studies Department of the Free University of Berlin, on 17 April 2013:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Office of the President has officially confirmed the present Examination Regulations on 26 August 2013.

## **Section 1 Scope of Validity**

(1) These Regulations pertain to the objectives, structure, and organisation of the Master of Arts (M.A.) Course of Study, Intellectual Encounters of the Islamicate World, offered by the History and Cultural Studies Department of the Free University of Berlin on the basis of the Examination Regulations for Master of Arts (M.A.) Courses of Study dated 17 April 2013.

(2) In accordance with Section 23 para. 3 no. 1 a) of the Berlin Higher Education Act (BerlHG), this Master of Arts (M.A.) Course of Study is instructed in the English language and is consecutive, research-oriented, and international.

## **Section 2 Qualification Objectives**

(1) The Master of Arts (M.A.) Course of Study qualifies students to apply scientific methods of work, and develops their ability to conduct independent scientific work. It gives students the skills to analyse aspects of intellectual history in the Islamic realm, as well as its ties to the Jewish and Christian religions, methodically and with theoretical discipline. Students receive an overview of current discussions by researchers from the respective range of topics.

(2) Graduates will be able to communicate and interact with experts in the same academic discipline, as well as other recipients, to exchange views about information, ideas, problems, and solutions at the scientific level, which will also enable graduates to assume considerable responsibility as part of a scientific team. Graduates will be in a position to clearly and unambiguously communicate their conclusions, as well as the information and motivations underlying them, in a contextualized and scientifically substantiated manner. They will be in a position to successfully take into account gender and diversity factors in international fields of work. They will cultivate a tolerant and open culture of communication and debate.

(3) Graduates of the Master of Arts (M.A.) Course of Study are not limited to a particular professional field. The competency and skills acquired during this course of study qualify graduates for a diversity of occupations, for which analytic, conceptual, and philological skills are especially in demand. Among these are, most importantly, scientific work at universities and other research facilities. Further areas of activity lie in educational facilities, international organisations and cultural institutions, in intercultural communication, public relations work, in ministries and government agencies, in journalism and technical libraries. Furthermore, depending on the respective admission prerequisites, the Master of Arts (M.A.) also qualifies the graduate to begin doctoral studies (Ph.D.).

## **Section 3 Curriculum**

(1) The curriculum serves to deepen specialised knowledge and experience in a scientific manner through research-oriented courses and methods of study. For this purpose, a scientifically structured curriculum imparts knowledge about the intellectual history of the Islamic world in its respective socio-historical and multi-religious contexts. The primary focus here lies on subsidiary disciplines such as the History of Ideas, Law and Legal Methodology, as well as Material Culture/Social History. In the modules taught on the History of Ideas, students work on the reading and interpretation of sources in the original language regarding the various approaches to problems in Rational Theology, Exegesis, Philosophy, Logic, and/or Islamic, Jewish and Christian Mysticism in the Arabic-speaking world. The module Law and Legal Methodology deals with the foundations, structure, methodology, and functional form of Islamic Law. The module Material Culture/Social History offers instruction in selected thematic areas such as Paleography, Codicology, Architecture, and/or Art on the one hand, or alternatively, in connection with the socio-historical causes for the emergence of specific intellectual views and intellectual traditions.

(2) In addition to the contents and objects conveyed by the standard curriculum offered by the Department, students also acquire – in particular - key extra-departmental skills through scheduled phases of studying both in attendance and online. The experience of jointly studying the intellectual roots of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, as well as their tightly interwoven development into the early modern era, promotes intercultural discourse with parity between student participants and scientists. This inherently interdisciplinary object of study, which transcends religion, bears the opportunities of a tolerant and open culture of discourse between students who act beyond the differences defined by gender or cultural origin. Students acquire the one mode of scientific argumentation which allows them to identify, structure, and present research topics either independently or in a team.

#### **Section 4 Structure and Organisation**

(1) The Master of Arts (M.A.) Course of Study, which has a sum total of 60 credit points (CP), is subdivided into modules with a sum total of 40 (CP) and an M.A. thesis including a presentation of results with a sum total of 20 (CP).

- (2) The following modules must be completed:
- Module: History of Ideas A (10 CP)
  - Module: History of Ideas B (10 CP)
  - Module: Law and Legal Methodology (10 CP)
  - Module: Material Culture / Social History (10 CP)

There are various options within each module concerning the main focus of particular learning materials and the respective work groups.

(3) The module descriptions in [Attachment 1](#) provide further information about curricular contents and qualification objectives, modes of teaching and learning, temporal expenditure for work, forms of active participation, standard deadlines, and the frequency of particular study alternatives.

(4) An example of a recommended plan of study has been presented as the Plan of Study in [Attachment 2](#).

#### **Section 5 Modes of Teaching and Learning**

(1) The curriculum is offered in the form of online studies with integrated phases of on-site learning. Seminars and exercise units in the internet-based portal for teaching and learning must be completed as part of the supervised online curriculum. The distributed learning materials consist partly of texts, exercises, and tasks, and must be worked on independently by students. The units shall be supervised by lecturers. In addition to the supervised online curriculum, there are attendance-based phases of online studies which take place on a regular basis and which supplement the Course of Study as a whole. During such phases, the knowledge acquired from supervised online studies will be interrelated, deepened and analysed. Here, special emphasis is placed on the translation of curricular material into practical application.

(2) As a rule, on-site phases of the curriculum take place within the context of block courses. In the latter, the knowledge acquired from supervised online studies, together with the performance in online study units, will be tested and evaluated with a final module grade. Furthermore, individual themes from the M.A. thesis will be elaborated and analysed with the use of lectures, empirical case studies, group work, presentations, and discussions. Here as well, special emphasis is placed on the translation of curricular material into practical application.

(3) Seminars serve the purpose of imparting knowledge about delimited and well-defined subject matter, as well as facilitating the acquisition of skills required to independently research and analyse a scientific issues in order to present and critically evaluate the results. Here, the mode of instruction with the highest priority are seminar discussions based upon learning materials, technical literature and other sources, as well as group work.

(4) Practical courses serve the purpose of imparting knowledge about delimited and well-defined subject matter with a practical orientation, as well as facilitating the acquisition of practical skills and work techniques. Students learn to accomplish tasks independently in accordance with scientific criteria in order to present and critically evaluate the results. Practical courses facilitate the analysis of questions from varying perspectives. Here, the modes of instruction with the highest priority include practising work techniques, analysis through discussion, and group work.

(5) A colloquium allows the exchange of scientific thought without any predetermined form, as well as the concretisation or presentation of current research results obtained by the student during the composition of the M.A. thesis. A colloquium can also have the character of a critical forum for scientific research.

(6) Group work allows students to collaborate with others in executing independently developed research projects, and to present their results in oral and written form within the context of a colloquium at the end of the semester. It is conceivable that interactive modes of performance such as „crowd sourcing“ can be included, which are organised in a collaborative manner and involve a large number of motivated participants of varying knowledgeability, whereby modern communication technology is employed and social media are utilised. Group work serves the purpose of developing an awareness of gender and diversity issues and strengthening the readiness to participate in dialogue with other students. This has the objective of creating incentives for cooperation and establishing trust through collective effort during course work.

## **Section 6**

### **Counselling for Students and Courses of Study**

(1) During the “Introductory Week“, students receive detailed introduction to the contents, organisation, and technical aspects of the Master of Arts (M.A.) Course of Study. Individual counselling can be obtained in this context. Additionally, students are urgently advised to regularly take advantage of the tutorage which has been established at all affiliated universities. In this way, the Course of Study offers counselling and support suited to individual needs in respect to all questions regarding content, method, (course) organisation, and/or information technology.

(2) General counselling regarding courses of study is carried out by the Centre for Academic and Psychological Counselling (Zentraleinrichtung Studienberatung und Psychologische Beratung) of the Free University of Berlin.

## **Section 7**

### **Initial Date of Legal Force**

These Regulations take effect the day after their publication in the “FU-Mitteilungen“ (FU Memoranda, the official publication of the Free University of Berlin).

## **Attachment 1: Descriptions of Modules**

### **Detailed Information:**

For each module of the Master of Arts (M.A.) Course of Study, the following module descriptions name

- the official designation of the module,
- contents and qualification objectives of the module,
- modes of teaching and learning for the module,
- the work expenditure for students which is recommended for the successful completion of the module,
- forms of active participation,
- the standard length of study for the module,
- the frequency of course offers,
- the practical applicability of the module.

Information regarding time expenditure for course work assigns considerable significance to

- active participation within the context of the on-site period of study,
- time expenditure for the completion of less significant tasks within the context of the on-site period of study,
- time spent on independent preparation and later consolidation of course material,
- work on study units during phases of distance learning,
- immediate preparation time for examinations and time for the examinations themselves.

Information regarding time expenditure for online course work and independent study (preparation and later consolidation of course material, preparation for examinations, among other things) is an orientational guideline and is intended to provide students with assistance in scheduling their work expenditure relative to the modules involved.

Details regarding work expenditure correspond to the total sum of credit points (CP) assigned to a given module as a general unit of work expenditure for all students, which is thus in general terms a prerequisite for successfully completing the module.

Along with regular participation in the courses offered by the Department as well as the successful completion of examination requirements for a module, active participation is a prerequisite for the acquisition of credit points (CP) assigned to the respective module.

Attachment 1 to the Examination Regulations for the Master of Arts (M.A.) Course of Study provides further information about the number of credit points (CP) and examination requirements for the modules in this Course of Study.

<b>Module:</b> History of Ideas A			
<b>University/Department/Institute:</b> Free University of Berlin/Department: History, Culture/ Institute of Islamic Studies			
<b>Module Supervisors:</b> Lecturers of the Modules			
<b>Admission Requirements:</b> none			
<p><b>Qualification Objectives:</b> (“Introductory Week“) Students are in a position to work with an internet-based, interactive teaching and learning platform in an independent and creative manner, and to network amongst themselves. They acquire skills of mutual intercultural discourse, gender and diversity competencies, as well as soft skills aimed at discursive and communicative capabilities.</p> <p>(Seminar/Practical Course) Students expand their abilities through scientific work in paradigmatic disciplines from the History of Ideas such as, for example, Rational Theology, Exegesis, Philosophy, Logic, and Mysticism. In particular, this implies the reading and interpretation of original texts from the Intellectual History of the Islamic world. This may also include the study of philological editions and handwritten texts. Students acquire the necessary terminology from the corresponding fields as well as competence in the analysis and critical evaluation of concepts and arguments in relation to their intellectual origins and roots; furthermore, students acquaint themselves with the influences which are evident in such concepts and arguments, including their relation to oppositional intellectual developments, as well as the critique which has resulted as a response. In addition to this, students expand their ability to work with secondary literature as well as the oral and written presentation of scientific analyses and results. Participants practise the application of philological and hermeneutical methods of text analysis.</p>			
<p><b>Contents:</b> The “Introductory Week” gives all participants the opportunity to get to know one another in a neutral context. As regards content, the most important focus lies in the presentation of study contents and structures on the one hand, as well as the technical framework of a multi-media teaching and learning environment with a central orientation to eHumanities on the other. Joint events within (e.g., a workshop lasting several days on Arabic palaeography and codicology with “hands-on” sessions which involve close collaboration between students) as well as outside of the immediate academic context serve to relieve tension through common experience and facilitate highly supervised encounters at the professional level. The seminar and practical course impart advanced knowledge about the intellectual history of the Islamic world. Utilising selected examples from different epochs and regions, the seminar will give students the opportunity to apply their analytical skills to research topics from the field of Islamic intellectual history. This encompasses aspects of Islamic theology, mysticism, philosophy, as well as conceptions of social order with particular reference to interreligious communicative processes. The practical course deepens the resultant knowledge through the study of primary sources in the Arabic language.</p>			
<b>Modes of Teaching and Learning</b>	<b>On-Site Courses</b> (Semester Hours per Week = SHW)	<b>Forms of Active Participation</b>	<b>Work Expenditure</b> (Hours)
Inaugural Event (Block/On-Site)	1	Discussion on the basis of course materials	
Seminar (online)	2	Seminar discussions on the basis of course materials, sources and technical literature and/or assigned oral projects; regular preparation of required literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On-Site Attendance 15</li> <li>- Time for Preparation and Later Consolidation of Course Work 15</li> <li>- On-Site Attendance for Seminars 30</li> <li>- Time for Preparation and Later Consolidation of Seminar Work 60</li> </ul>
Practical course (online)	2	Joint reading of primary sources in the Arabic language; presentation of sources to be prepared; regular preparation of selected text excerpts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On-Site Attendance for Exercises 30</li> <li>- Time for Preparation and Later Consolidation of Exercises 60</li> <li>Preparation for Examination and Examination 90</li> </ul>
<b>Language of Instruction</b>		English (possibly Arabic)	
<b>Duty of Regular Attendance</b>		yes	
<b>Total Work Expenditure</b>		300 hours	10 CP
<b>Duration of Module</b>		one semester	
<b>Frequency of Course Options</b>		Winter Semester	
<b>Applicability</b>		Master of Arts (M.A.) Course of Study: Intellectual Encounters of the Islamicate World	

<b>Module:</b> History of Ideas B			
<b>University/Department/Institute:</b> Free University of Berlin/Department: History, Culture/ Institute of Islamic Studies			
<b>Module Supervisors:</b> Lecturers of the Modules			
<b>Admission Requirements:</b> none			
<b>Qualification Objectives:</b> Students expand their abilities through scientific work in paradigmatic disciplines from the History of Ideas such as, for example, Rational Theology, Exegesis, Philosophy, Logic, and Mysticism. In particular, this implies the reading and interpretation of original texts from the Intellectual History of the Islamic world. This may also include the study of philological editions and handwritten texts. Students acquire the necessary terminology from the corresponding fields as well as competence in the analysis and critical evaluation of concepts and arguments in relation to their intellectual origins and roots; furthermore, students acquaint themselves with the influences which are evident in such concepts and arguments, including their relation to oppositional intellectual developments, as well as the critique which has resulted as a response. In addition to this, students expand their ability to work with secondary literature as well as the oral and written presentation of scientific analyses and results. Participants practise the application of philological and hermeneutical methods of text analysis.			
<b>Contents:</b> The module imparts advanced knowledge about the intellectual history of the Islamic world. Utilising selected examples from different epochs and regions, the seminar will give students the opportunity to apply their analytical skills to research topics from the field of Islamic intellectual history. This encompasses aspects of Islamic theology, mysticism, philosophy, as well as conceptions of social order with particular reference to interreligious communicative processes. The exercise deepens the resultant knowledge through the study of primary sources in the Arabic language.			
<b>Modes of Teaching and Learning</b>	<b>On-Site Courses</b> (Semester Hours per Week = SHW)	<b>Forms of Active Participation</b>	<b>Work Expenditure</b> (Hours)
Seminar (online)	2	Seminar discussions on the basis of course materials, sources and technical literature and/or assigned oral projects; regular preparation of required literature	- On-Site Time for Seminar 30 - Time for Preparation and Later Consolidation of Seminar Work 75
Practical Course (online)	2	Joint reading of primary sources in the Arabic language; regular preparation of selected text excerpts	- On-Site Time Group Work 30 - Time for Preparation and Later Consolidation of Group Work 75  Preparation for Examination and Examination 90
<b>Language of Instruction</b>		English (possibly Arabic)	
<b>Duty of Regular Attendance</b>		yes	
<b>Total Work Expenditure</b>		300 hours	10 CP
<b>Duration of Module</b>		one semester	
<b>Frequency of Course Options</b>		Summer Semester	
<b>Applicability</b>		Master of Arts (M.A.) Course of Study: Intellectual Encounters of the Islamicate World	

<b>Module:</b> Law and Legal Methodology			
<b>University/Department/Institute:</b> Free University of Berlin/Department: History, Culture/ Institute of Islamic Studies			
<b>Module Supervisors:</b> Lecturers of the Modules			
<b>Admission Requirements:</b> none			
<b>Qualification Objectives:</b> Students learn to comprehend selected problems of Islamic law, as well as the legal methodology of societies influenced by Islam, with the structure and functionality of Islamic law as a backdrop; they learn to understand the significance of classic legal categories essential to historical and contemporary discourse. Students are able to read and analyse Arabic sources dealing with questions of law or religious law. In addition to this, they expand their skills in the research and critical evaluation of secondary literature concerned with legal topics, and also acquire further knowledge through independent research and the use of primary and secondary literature in the Arabic language.			
<b>Contents:</b> The module imparts advanced knowledge about different aspects of the subject area: legal theory and legal methodology as well as legal practice. Here, special focus is placed upon interconfessional communicative processes between Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The practical course serves to consolidate the material taught in the seminar on the basis of original sources. Group work serves as a forum for the refinement of independent performance in respect to scientific analysis and research. The two-week colloquium at the end of the initial semester is the opportunity to present the results of the project carried out as group work (crowd sourcing), as well as the opportunity to present and discuss subject matter from the individual M.A. theses.			
<b>Modes of Teaching and Learning</b>	<b>On-Site Courses</b> (Semester Hours per Week = SHW)	<b>Forms of Active Participation</b>	<b>Work Expenditure</b> (Hours)
Seminar (online)	2	Seminar discussions on the basis of course materials, sources and technical literature and/or assigned oral projects; regular preparation of required literature	- On-Site Time for Seminar 30 - Time for Preparation and Later Consolidation of Seminar Work 45
Group Work (online)	2	Composition of an independent and joint academic work with a group	On-Site Attendance Group Work 30 - Time for Preparation and Later Consolidation of Group Work 45
Colloquium (Block; On-site)	2	Discussion of first scientific assignments	- On-Site Attendance Colloquium 30 - Time for Preparation and Later Consolidation of Colloquium Work 30  Preparation for Examination and Examination 90
<b>Language of Instruction</b>		English (possibly Arabic)	
<b>Duty of Regular Attendance</b>		yes	
<b>Total Work Expenditure</b>		300 hours	10 CP
<b>Duration of Module</b>		one semester	
<b>Frequency of Course Options</b>		Winter Semester	
<b>Applicability</b>		Master of Arts (M.A.) Course of Study: Intellectual Encounters of the Islamicate World	



<b>Module:</b> Material Culture / Social History			
<b>University/Department/Institute:</b> Free University of Berlin/Department: History, Culture/ Institute of Islamic Studies			
<b>Module Supervisors:</b> Lecturers of the Modules			
<b>Admission Requirements:</b> none			
<b>Qualification Objectives:</b> Students practise working with and analysing material sources such as handwritten texts, artefacts, art, and archaeology. They acquire the skills to critically evaluate these material sources in their historical context. Students will be able to consolidate their knowledge of independent research and the application of primary and secondary sources in the Arabic language. (Colloquium) Students learn to defend their own research results in response to a scientific and critical audience consisting of other students and lecturers.			
<b>Contents:</b> The module imparts advanced knowledge about disciplines in the subject area of material culture such as palaeography, codicology, and/or architecture and art, as well as intellectual movements between Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The exercises serve to consolidate the material taught in the seminar. Group work serves as a forum to allow students to further develop their abilities of independent scientific analysis and research.			
<b>Modes of Teaching and Learning</b>	<b>On-Site Courses</b> (Semester Hours per Week = SHW)	<b>Forms of Active Participation</b>	<b>Work Expenditure</b> (Hours)
Seminar (online)	2	Seminar discussions on the basis of course materials, sources and technical literature and/or assigned oral projects; regular preparation of required literature	- On-Site Attendance for Seminar 30 - Time for Preparation and Later Consolidation of Seminar Work 45
Group Work (online)	2	Composition of an independent piece of academic work performed within a group	- On-Site Attendance for Group Work 30 - Time for Preparation and Later Consolidation of Group Work 45
Colloquium (Block; On-site)	2	Discussion of M.A. thesis topics	- On-Site Attendance Colloquium 30 - Time for Preparation and Later Consolidation of Colloquium Work 30 Preparation for Examination and Examination 90
<b>Language of Instruction</b>		English (possibly Arabic)	
<b>Duty of Regular Attendance</b>		yes	
<b>Total Work Expenditure</b>		300 hours	10 CP
<b>Duration of Module</b>		one semester	
<b>Frequency of Course Options</b>		Summer Semester	
<b>Applicability</b>		Master of Arts (M.A.) Course of Study: Intellectual Encounters of the Islamicate World	

**Attachment 2: Plan of Study (example)**

Semester	Module 40 CP		M.A. Thesis with Presentation of Results
First Semester in Main Course of Study	Module: History of Ideas A* 10 CP On-site Attendance at Inaugural Event (one week prior to beginning of lectures) and On-Site Attendance at End of Semester (Examination Phase)	Module: Law and Legal Methodology* 10 CP and On-site Attendance at End of Semester (Examination Phase)	M.A. Thesis with Presentation of Results 20 CP
Second Semester in Main Course of Study	Module: History of Ideas B* 10 CP On-site Attendance at End of Semester (Examination Phase)	Module: Material Culture / Social History* 10 CP and On-site Attendance at End of Semester (Examination Phase)	

\*The modules may also be interchanged on a semester-to-semester basis. Students will be informed about any alterations in time and in suitable form.