UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Study and Examination Regulations

for the Master's Program

Innovation Design (M.A.)

120 Credit Points Degree Version

01.02.2026 | Version 1.0.0

English translations are provided for informational purposes only. In the case of discrepancies between the German and English versions of the text, the German version is binding.

Study and Examination Regulations for the Master's Program in Innovation Design (M.A.) with a scope of 120 credit points

Version 1.0.0 | Valid from February 1, 2026

Adopted by the Academic Senate of CODE University of Applied Sciences on October 31, 2025.

Approved by the Senate Department for Higher Education and Research, Health and Long-Term Care of the State of Berlin on December 16, 2025.

Table of contents

§ 1 Scope

(1) These Study and Examination Regulations, in conjunction with the General Study and Examination Regulations (GSER) of CODE University of Applied Sciences, govern the qualification objectives, content, and structure of the non-consecutive 120-credit-point master program in Innovation Design (M.A.). The admission requirements are stipulated in the General Admission and Regulations.

§ 2 Effective date

(1) Following approval by the supervisory Senate Administration of the State of Berlin, these regulations shall take effect, with the start of the Spring Semester 2026 on 1 February 2026.

§ 3 Qualification objectives

(1) The non-consecutive degree program Innovation Design enables students to develop a transformative mindset and become practitioners, leaders, and changemakers. The studio-based teaching model promotes a practical approach that emphasizes action and experimentation. The program equips students with the skills, mindset, and connections they need to make a tangible impact on the world through design.

(2) The program modules emphasize human-centered design principles, skills, and methods to develop design solutions that address real-world problems. Through practical projects and experiences, students learn to empathize with users, identify their needs, and develop pragmatic solutions that resonate with them. Students explore the power of design to make a positive impact on the world and engage with complex problems in social, environmental, economic, and sustainability areas. Students learn to improve the user experience of innovative digital designs and products and promote the transformative potential of design to actively help shape our society.

(3) In the master's program, theoretical, methodological, and scientific foundations stand as equal qualification objectives alongside practical application knowledge and key competencies, as well as the goal of enabling students for civic engagement. The modules from the Science, Technology & Society (STS) field contribute particularly to this end.

(4) Students acquire the following knowledge and skills through completion of the master's program Innovation Design (M.A.) comprising 120 credit points:

- Understanding of visual and tactile spatial qualities of designs and materials in the field of digital products
- Application of graphic and visual design, human factors, as well as ergonomic and spatial design techniques to exploratory prototype designs

- Application of practical experience from real design projects
- Application of internationally recognized human-centered design processes and methods
- Conducting value/risk assessments in relation to emerging technologies, particularly those that bring new challenges in the public and social sphere
- Basic leadership skills required to advance innovative projects in group settings
- Understanding and application of Digital Product Development methods
- Team leadership, innovation, and cultural skills to promote impactful design solutions
- Application of rapid prototyping techniques, presentation, design documentation, and communication
- Academic research methods
- Individual professional specializations from two elective modules (15 credit points each)

§ 4 Academic degree

(1) The academic degree “Master of Arts” is awarded upon successful completion of the master examination within the master program in Innovation Design (M.A.).

§ 5 Scope, full-time and part-time study

(1) The master’s program Innovation Design (M.A.) comprising 120 credit points requires a first professionally qualifying university degree as well as additional subsequent qualified professional practical experience of generally not less than one year.

(2) The non-consecutive 120-credit-point master’s program permits studies on either a full-time or a part-time basis. For full-time studies, the acquisition of 30 credit points per semester is scheduled; for part-time studies, 15 credit points per semester are scheduled.

(3) The degree program is offered entirely in English.

§ 6 Standard period of study and credit points

(1) The standard period of study for the master’s degree program 120-credit-point Innovation Design (M.A.) is four semesters. A semester is six months; two semesters constitute an academic year.

(2) Credit points measure successfully completed assessments and indicate the student workload involved. The student workload for one credit point in the non-consecutive master’s degree program Innovation Design (M.A.) is 25 hours.

§ 7 Modules

(1) The semesters are structured by modules. The following modules are part of the 120-credit-point master's degree program Innovation Design (M.A.):

Module	Title	M	ME	E	CP
MID_01	AI Technologies and Applications [2]			X	15
MID_02	Agile Engineering Management			X	15
MID_03.1	Software Development Basics			X	5
MID_03.2	Software Engineering Technologies			X	10
MID_04	Strategic Technology Management			X	15
MID_05	Entrepreneurial Leadership			X	15
MID_06	Digital Marketing & Business Models			X	15
MID_07	Creating Future Vision and Form [1]		X		15
MID_08	Leading with Design [1]		X		15
MID_09	Designing with People	X			15
MID_10	Digital Product Development	X			15
MID_11.1	Science Technology Society: Research and Writing Skills	X			5
MID_11.2	Science Technology Society: Knowledge and Thinking	X			10
MID_12	Master Thesis	X			15

M: Mandatory module | ME: Mandatory elective module | E: Elective module | CP: Credit points

[1] Students must complete at least one of the two compulsory elective modules. The other compulsory elective module remains available for selection as an elective module.

[2] Successful completion of MTM_03.1 is a prerequisite for the examination for MTM_01.

§ 8 Specializations

(1) Students may choose a specialization in order to specialize. The following specializations are offered:

Specialization	Required modules
Artificial Intelligence	MID_07 as well as either MID_01 or MID_04
Entrepreneurship	MID_08 as well as either MID_02 or MID_05
Technology	MID_03.1 + MID_03.2 as well as either MID_02 or MID_01
Business Administration	MID_02, MID_06 as well as either MID_04 or MID_05

§ 9 Master thesis

(1) The master thesis comprises 15 credit points and consists of a written part and a colloquium.

(2) The written part of the master thesis addresses a research topic from the field of the master degree program.

(3) The colloquium is conducted as an oral examination. In addition to the presentation and discussion of the master thesis, its explicit purpose is also to ascertain whether the candidate has independently acquired, can reproduce, and understands the content and competencies presented therein.

(4) Upon application by the student, the Board of Examiners assigns a topic for the master thesis.

(5) The master thesis is supervised by a faculty member from the relevant subject area. The assessment of the master thesis is carried out by the supervisor (first examiner) and another examiner (second examiner).

(6) The examiners each independently prepare an evaluation on the master thesis. Following the colloquium, the examiners each assign a grade on the basis of the evaluations and the performance in the colloquium. The overall grade is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the assessments by the first and second examiner.

(7) If the master thesis was graded as “insufficient” by one of the two examiners, or if the grades awarded differ from each other by at least two (2.0) grading steps (for example, grades 1.0 and 3.0 or grades 1.7 and 4.0, see § 14 RSPO/General Study and Examination Regulations), a further review and assessment by a third examiner shall be carried out. The final grade is calculated as the arithmetic mean of all three assessments. If the arithmetic mean is greater than 4.0, the thesis is graded as “insufficient” (5.0).

§ 10 Calculation of the overall grade

(1) The overall grade is calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the individual grades of all graded modules. The weighting of the individual grades of the modules is carried out as follows: With the exception of the “Master Thesis” module, the grades of all graded modules are included, weighted by their number of ECTS credit points. The “Master Thesis” module is weighted with double its ECTS credit points. The Examination Office shall provide students with a corresponding formula for the calculation of the overall grade.

(2) After calculating the weighted arithmetic mean of the individual grades of all modules pursuant to paragraph 1, only the first decimal place after the decimal point is considered for determining the overall grade; all subsequent places are truncated without rounding. For example, an average of 1.79 therefore results in an overall grade of 1.7.

§ 11 Recognition of prior learning

(1) Upon recognition of an assessment, the number of credit points earned shall be determined. Assessments shall be credited with the credit points awarded for them pursuant to these program-specific regulations, and the grade. If the recognized assessment is graded and the grade originates from a scale that can be mapped onto the grading scale used in these regulations (§ 14 RSPO), this grade shall be adopted. Grades from other scales shall be converted (the “modified Bavarian formula” / “modifizierte Bayerische Formel” shall be applied for this purpose). However, a conversion is not always possible. The specific methods for conversion shall be determined by the Board of Examiners.

Attachments

(1) Recommended study plan for the 120-credit master program Innovation Design (M.A.)

(2) Module handbook for the master program Innovation Design (M.A.)