

Erasmus School of  
History, Culture and  
Communication

# Examination Board ESHCC

Rules and Guidelines 2021-2022

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## **PARAGRAPH 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 1.1 – Scope of the regulations**

These regulations are applicable to the curriculum and examinations of the Bachelor and (Research) Master degree programs of the Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication (ESHCC).

### **Article 1.2 – Definitions**

Unless otherwise stated, the definitions given in the Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER) of the degree programs of ESHCC are also applicable to the Rules and Guidelines.

### **Article 1.3 – Tasks Examination Board**

1. The tasks of the Examination Board (EB) are stated in articles 7.11, 7.12, 7.12b and 7.12c of the WHW;
2. In addition, the Examination Board has an advisory role with respect to establishing and changing the TER and;
3. The Examination Board is mandated by the Dean to issue the binding study advice to students at the end of their first year of enrolment in the ESHCC bachelor programs.

### **Article 1.4 – Ongoing affairs of the Examination Board**

1. For all ESHCC Bachelor and Master degree programs, the Dean has established a joint Examination Board. The board consists of at least seven members whereby each of the three departments (History; Arts and Culture Studies; and Media and Communication) is represented by two members. One of these six members is the chair. Besides the six faculty members, a seventh, external member is appointed. The Examination Board is supported by a secretary and a secretariat.
2. The chair and the secretary are responsible for the ongoing affairs of the Examination Board.
3. The Examination Board meets at least four times per academic year and decides by majority vote. The meetings are attended and advised by the secretary and - if desired - the student advisors.
4. The Examination Board's by-laws govern its internal affairs, among other things the division of tasks and how the EB meetings are organized.

### **Article 1.5 – Appointment examiners**

1. The Examination Board appoints examiners for administering examinations and determining their results. The Examination Board may appoint external examiners. The Examination Board shall ascertain that the examiners meet the stated professional requirements. The examiners will receive a letter from the Examination Board stating their appointment to the position of examiner for a specified examination or examinations and the relevant periods for the appointment.
2. Examiners are impartial and professional when carrying out their duties.
3. The professionalism of an examiner means the candidate possesses professional expertise and testing expertise.
4. The Examination Board is authorized to adopt binding regulations and assessment standards for examinations and interim examinations. These can be found in the Teaching and Examination Regulations and ESHCC Assessment Protocol.
5. The examiners provide the Examination Board with the information requested.
6. The Examination Board is authorized to rescind an appointment if there is significant cause to do so.

### **Article 1.6 – Quality assurance of assessment**

The framework within which the Examination Board assures the quality of assessments consists of:

1. The assessment plans established by the programs.
2. The assessment policy established by the programme management.
3. The assessment protocol established by the Examination Board.

### **Article 1.7 – The standards**

The Examination Board's decision-making process is guided by the following standards:

1. The preservation of quality and selection requirements of each examination, exam subject or exam;
2. Efficiency requirements, also expressed in an endeavor to:
  - a. keep loss of time to a minimum for students who make quick progress in their studies during the preparation for an examination, exam subject or exam;
  - b. Induce students to discontinue their studies as soon as possible, if passing an examination, exam subject or exam has become unlikely;
3. Protection of students against themselves if they want to take on a too heavy workload;
4. Mildness towards students that are delayed in their studies due to circumstances beyond their control.

### **Article 1.8 – Hardship clause**

In highly exceptional individual circumstances where application of one or more provisions from these rules and guidelines and/or the Teaching and Examination Regulations would result in evidently unreasonable and/or unfair situations, the Examination Board can - on the basis of a written and reasoned request from the person concerned - deviate from said provision(s) concerned.

### **Article 1.9 – Appeal**

One can appeal to the Examinations Appeal Board (Article 7.61 WHW) of the institution where the student is enrolled against decisions of the Examination Board.

## **PARAGRAPH 2 – EXEMPTIONS**

### **Article 2.1 – Exemption of courses**

1. Taking account of the conditions laid down in the Teaching and Examination Regulations, the Examination Board may grant a student exemption for a course as meant in paragraph 7.3 of the law.
2. To this end, the student must submit a request in OSIRIS Student at least eight weeks before the start of the course term concerned.
3. The Examination Board will hear the examiner of the course concerned before deciding on the request.
4. A decision not to grant the exemption will be substantiated with reasons by the Examination Board.
5. During the Bachelor-1 phase of studies, no exemptions are granted.
6. In the master's degree programs, with the exception of the research master's degree program, no exemptions will be granted. However, the Examination Board – after consultation with the program coordinator – can authorize to replace a course in the master program with another course on master level.
7. At the establishment of the result of the exam, an exemption for a study unit will be disregarded; the exemption is indicated as Exemption on the grade list.

## **PARAGRAPH 3 – RULES CONCERNING THE ROUTINE DURING EXAMS**

### **Article 3.1 – Provisions on order during examinations**

Provisions on the order during the examinations as [stipulated by the Erasmus University Student Administration office](#) apply.

## PARAGRAPH 4 - FRAUD

### Article 4.1 – Fraud

1. Fraud is understood to mean: Any acts or omissions of a student aimed at rendering it impossible, either wholly or in part, for the examiner or the Examination Board to make a proper assessment of the student's knowledge, understanding and skills or of the knowledge, understanding and skills of fellow students.
2. The following are in any case considered as fraud:
  - a. to appropriate the questions or assignments of an exam before the date or time on which the exam is scheduled;
  - b. to pose as someone else during the exam or to have themselves represented by someone else at the exam;
  - c. to consult or have within reach books, workbooks, notes or other sources of information of which the use is not explicitly permitted during the exam;
  - d. to consult information and/or communication technology of which the use is not explicitly permitted during the exam;
  - e. to use a mobile telephone during the exam. Mobile telephones should be switched off and out of reach during the whole exam. A mobile telephone should therefore not be carried in case of a visit to the toilet during the exam;
  - f. to consult with the exams of other students during the exam or to exchange information in any way whatsoever either inside or outside of the exam room. Providing others the opportunity to commit fraud will also be rebuked as fraud;
  - g. to amend already handed in exams during the inspection afterwards;
  - h. to commit (self)plagiarism, in this context also understood to mean to copy from someone else's work an extract larger than a couple of words literally or translated for the purpose of a paper, thesis or any other form of text being part of the teaching without indicating this by means of quotation marks or another univocal typographic means, and without including bibliographically traceable and correct acknowledgements;
3. For online proctored exams or take-home exams, the following activities are also considered fraud:
  - a. use of someone else's ID or student card;
  - b. use or attempted use of unpermitted sources and resources, such as internet, mobile phone.
  - c. the student is not in sight of the webcam and/or has switched off the microphone, while taking the exam, insofar this takes place outside the (possible) authorized breaks.
  - d. (attempted) technical modifications that undermine the proctor system;
  - e. reaching out – through any means – to fellow students during the exam;
  - f. handing in the exam after the stipulated deadline.
4. Depending on the gravity of the committed fraud, including repeated fraud, the Examination Board can impose sanctions on the student, including in any case the following:
  - a. reprimand;
  - b. nullification of the assignment, paper or thesis concerned;
  - c. nullification of the exam concerned;
  - d. exclusion from the exam concerned for a period of one year at most;
  - e. exclusion from one or more exam rounds;
  - f. exclusion from handing in the thesis for a period of one year at most
  - g. a combination of the above measures;
  - h. proposal to the Executive Board to definitively end the registration for the program concerned.
5. If fraud or plagiarism is detected in a group assignment, all members of the group will be held accountable. Every member of the group is required to show evidence that proves their innocence.
6. Before the Examination Board decides upon a case of fraud, it will investigate the state of affairs.
7. The Examination Board is authorized to declare test results invalid in case irregularities prove to have occurred during an exam that make it impossible to consider the exam results as a valid and reliable indicator of students' skills.

## **PARAGRAPH 5 – ADMINISTRATING EXAMS AND EXAMINATIONS**

### **Article 5.1 – Administrating exams and examinations**

1. The examiner acts in administrating an exam in accordance with the regulations concerning the administration of exams, stipulated in the Teaching and Examination Regulations and the ESHCC's Assessment Protocol.
2. The Examination Board verifies whether all requirements of the examination have been complied with.

### **Article 5.2 – The questions and assignments**

1. The questions and assignments do not go beyond the previously indicated sources from which the course matter is derived. These sources are for the main part revealed before the start of the teaching preparing for the exam. The exact definitive scope of the course matter is made known a month before the exam is given at the latest.
2. The questions and assignments of the exam are spread as evenly as possible over the course matter.
3. The exam represents the learning objectives of the program as regards content and form.
4. The questions and assignments of exams are clear and unambiguous, and are stated in such manner or contain such directions that the student can know how elaborate and detailed his/her answers must be.
5. When preparing an exam, the examiner will ensure that the answers to the questions and assignments will not be directly traced from previous exams.
6. The examiner will always ask for peer review by one of the colleagues on the questions and assignments of the exam. A considerable time before the administration of a written exam, the examiner announces in what form the exam takes place.

## **PARAGRAPH 6 – THE EVALUATION AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PASSING EXAMINATIONS**

### **Article 6.1 – Evaluation**

1. The evaluation of written exams takes place, where reasonably possible, in accordance with model answers and standards.
2. The manner of assessment is transparent to such a degree that students can verify how the results of their exams were established.
3. The evaluation process is transparent to such a degree that it enables the student to review their individual evaluation and how the result was determined.
4. In cases where more than one examiner administered the examination and the examination result was determined by various examiners, the examiners must ensure the evaluation is conducted using the same standards.

### **Article 6.2 - Determining examination results**

1. Determining the result of an examination consisting of a number of interim examinations shall take place in accordance with the following:
  - a. The result of each of the interim examinations is recorded as a number with a single decimal point on a scale of 0.0 to 10.0.
  - b. Each of the interim examinations has been assigned a specific weight. The adopted weights are stated in the course guide.
  - c. Determination of the examination result occurs through a weighted averaging of the results of the interim examinations while also taking into account any supplementary program-specific provisions. For rounding off the weighted average to a number with a single decimal, the second decimal is rounded up or down. A 5 or higher will be rounded up and a 4 or lower will be rounded down (for example a 5.44 is a 5.4 and 5.45 is rounded to 5.5).
  - d. If an examination consists of a number of interim examinations, a student admitted to sit for an examination is admitted to sit for all relevant interim examinations. If a student has participated in at least one interim examination, but has not participated in all interim examinations, the result will be determined as follows: the weighted average of the results

- of interim examinations will be calculated using a result of 0.0 for interim examinations where the student did not participate.
- e. If the student did not participate in any interim examinations of an examination, no result will be determined for the examination in question.
  2. An examination result of 5.5 or higher is considered a 'passing grade'. This means the student has successfully passed the examination.
  3. Some curriculum components, e.g. internship or bachelor/master thesis class are concluded with the term 'Pass', if in accordance with the requirements of the course.
  4. If a student is not permitted to sit for an examination, any result determined for the examination in question is considered invalid.
  5. If a written examination takes place without an invigilator, for example for an assignment or a thesis, then the examiner is required to review the work for plagiarism. If fraud is suspected, the examiner is required to investigate the matter further. In the case of a suspicion of plagiarism, the examiner shall report to the Examination Board conform to the Flowchart Plagiarism.

### **Article 6.3 – Bachelor thesis assessment and grading**

1. The bachelor theses of the departments of History and Arts and Culture Studies are assessed by the thesis supervisor and a second reader who is approved by the Examination Board. Both must function as examiner in the supervisor's program.
2. The bachelor theses of IBCoM are assessed by the thesis supervisor and a 'second reader panel' (SRP). This panel consists of staff members of the Department of Media and Communication and is chaired by the thesis coordinator. Supervisor and panel member must function as examiner in the supervisor's program. Each panel member will be appointed as second reader of approximately 10 theses.
3. The bachelor thesis supervisor and the second reader or panel member formulate their judgment independently of one another. Both complete a separate assessment form.
4. Within the departments of History and Arts and Culture Studies, the final thesis grade is determined in consultation between the thesis supervisor and the second reader.
5. For IBCoM, the final thesis grade is determined by the second reader panel after consultation took place between the thesis supervisor and second reader.
6. After adoption of the grade the supervisor fills in a new final assessment form, based on the previous two forms.
7. Only the final assessment form is sent to the student as feedback.
8. All three assessment forms are filed for future reference.

### **Article 6.4 – Master thesis assessment and grading**

1. The master theses of the master Global History and International Relations and the specialization programmes in the MA Arts & Culture and the research master theses of Media Studies are assessed by the thesis supervisor and a second reader who is approved by the Examination Board. Both must function as examiner in the supervisor's program.
2. The master theses of Media Studies are assessed by the thesis supervisor and a 'second reader panel' (SRP). This panel consists of staff of the Department of Media and Communication and is chaired by the thesis coordinator. Supervisor and panel member must function as examiner in the supervisor's program. Each panel member will be appointed as second reader of approximately 10 theses.
3. The master theses in the Erasmus Mundus programme GLOCAL are assessed by a supervisor from the ESHCC History department, a second reader from the Universitat de Barcelona and a third reader from the University of Glasgow.
4. The master thesis supervisor and the second reader, panel member (MA Media Studies) and third reader (GLOCAL) formulate their judgment independently of one another and they each complete a separate assessment form.
5. Within the departments of History and Arts and Culture Studies, the final thesis grade is determined in consultation between the thesis supervisor and the second reader.
6. For Media Studies, the final thesis grade is determined by the second reader panel after consultation took place between the thesis supervisor and second reader.
7. After adoption of the grade the supervisor fills in a new final assessment form, based on the previous two forms.



8. Only the final assessment form is sent to the student as feedback.
9. All three assessment forms are filed for future reference.

#### **Article 6.5 - Thesis assessment: third reader and arbitrator**

1. In order to safeguard quality standards and consistency of assessment, a third reader is appointed (by thesis coordinator or SRP) when the suggested grade for a thesis is 8.5 or higher;
2. The third reader assesses the thesis and states whether he or she agrees with the proposed grade, followed by a short argumentation of this assessment.
3. The third reader fills out a separate assessment form.
4. If the third reader agrees with the proposed grade, the agreement of the third reader is indicated on the final assessment form.
5. If a third assessor does not agree with the suggested grade, the final grade shall be calculated as the mean score of all three assessors. This is also indicated on the final assessment form.
6. An arbitrator is assigned by the thesis coordinator or SRP if there is disagreement between the supervisor and second reader about the passability of the thesis, or when the suggested grades diverge by one grade point or more.
7. The arbitrator will give a binding advice on the final grade.
8. The arbitrator is limited to the bandwidth that is defined by the two proposed grades from supervisor and second reader. The final grade should never be higher than the highest proposed grade and never lower than the lowest proposed grade. The arbitrator can still work independently, that is without knowing the grades already proposed, but if the grade falls outside of the given bandwidth, it must be changed to the closest grade already proposed by supervisor or second reader.
9. The arbitrator will fill out a separate assessment form.
10. A final assessment form will be constructed of the three assessments considered. This final form will be sent to the student as feedback.
11. All relevant assessment forms are filed for future reference, by either the department itself or the Education Office.

### **PARAGRAPH 7 – THE EXAMINATION**

#### **Article 7.1 – Establishing the result of the examination**

1. The Examination Board determines whether a student will be awarded a degree.
2. After the completion of all components of the examination, the Examination Administration of the ESHCC on behalf of the Examination Board determines the result of the examination in accordance with the Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER) of the program as well as the Rules and Guidelines of the Examination Board.

#### **Article 7.2 – The judicium (degree classification)**

1. The judicium or degree classification of a degree examination is determined by the chair of the Examination Board as the average of grades for all courses in the degree program concerned, weighted according to the number of credits per course, provided that exemptions granted do not exceed sixty percent of the total number of credits.
2. The weighted average grade for a degree program is based on the results for all courses for which a final grade is established and the grade for the thesis. All results are weighted according to their assigned credits.
3. Courses and course elements which are assessed on a pass/fail basis do not count towards the weighted average.
4. The judicium, rounded to the first decimal place, is mentioned on the degree certificate's supplement.
5. If the judicium obtained by the student is 8.25 or higher, this classification will also be indicated on the degree certificate by the words 'Cum Laude'.

#### **Article 7.3 – The certificate, the grade list and the supplement**

1. The Examination Board awards a certificate as proof that the exam has been passed. The certificate is signed by or on behalf of the chair of the Examination Board.

2. The grade list pertaining to the certificate only states the exam subjects covered by the exam with the final results achieved and the accompanying credits. The grade list is signed by, or on behalf of the chair of the Examination Board.
3. The Examination Board encloses a supplement to the certificate in accordance with the European standard format.
4. On behalf of the Examination Board, the ESHCC Examination Administration hands out the certificate, the accompanying grade list and the supplement, unless the student has announced to be present at the plenary graduation ceremony.
5. Students can, in accordance with the determined regulations, request the Examination Board to postpone the award of the certificate.

#### **Article 7.4 – Graduation ceremony**

1. Each Bachelor program organizes one plenary graduation ceremony per year (usually in September/October). The program management is responsible for the ceremony.
2. Each Master program organizes one plenary graduation ceremony per year (usually in September/October). The program management is responsible for the ceremony.

### **PARAGRAPH 8 – FINAL AND IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 8.1 – Amendments to these rules and guidelines**

1. Amendments to this regulation are laid down by the Examination Board by separate decision.
2. No amendments take place that apply to the current academic year, unless these do not reasonably conflict with the interests of students or examinees.
3. Amendments cannot have a detrimental impact on any decision when this negatively affects students, which has been granted under this scheme by the Examination Board in relation to a student.

#### **Article 8.2 – Entry into force**

These rules and guidelines enter into force on 1 September 2021 and expire on 31 August 2022.