

**Examination Regulations
for the courses of study
Bachelor and Master of Science / Computer Science
As of June 8th, 2006**

Preamble

Pursuant to §59 of Act No.1556 on Saarland University (University Act – UG) from August 27, 2004 (Official Gazette p. 476), the University of Saarland Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology has issued the following Examination Regulations for the consecutive courses of study Bachelor and Master of Science / Computer Science, which are hereby promulgated following approval by the University Chairmanship.

I. General Provisions

§1 Ambit, Competence

These regulations concern the examinations of the courses of studies Bachelor of Computer Science and Master of Computer Science at the University of Saarland. The organization of lectures, studies and examinations is the responsibility of the Faculty of Science and Technology I (Mathematics and Computer Science) of this university.

§2 Basic Precepts

The Bachelor and Master courses of study are core courses of study according to the University of Saarland examination regulations framework for these courses of study (BMRPO) from December 15, 2004, article 5. The course of study consists of different courses belonging to the categories lectures with and without tutorials, introductory seminars, seminars or practical trainings. A final thesis is obligatory in each course of study (Bachelor resp. Master thesis). Credits are assigned to each course, representing the course's scope, whereby one credit equals a workload of 30 hours. One year of study generally covers 60 credits. At the end of each course there is a – mostly graded – exam. Each passed exam is part of the Bachelor's examination or the Master's examination respectively. The Bachelor's course of study includes courses totaling a minimum of 168 credits, as well as the final thesis worth 12 credits; the Master's course of study, which follows the Bachelor's course of study, includes courses totaling a minimum of 90 credits, as well as the final thesis worth 30 credits. Within the different course categories there are specific regulations as to minimum credits to be earned.

§3 Standard Duration of Study

- (1) The standard duration of the Bachelor course of study is six semesters for full-time students and up to nine semesters for part-time students.
- (2) The standard duration of the Master course of study is four semesters for full-time students and up to six semesters for part-time students.
- (3) The examination regulations and the relevant study regulations are planned in such a way that examinations can be taken within the standard time of study.
- (4) A student's leave of absence for any number of semesters is not counted in the standard time of study.
- (5) Upon official request of the examination board, utilization of the Maternity Protection Act laws, parent time off and the fulfillment of family duties (care of an underage child as well as looking after family members in need of permanent care) will be taken into consideration.

§4 Examination Board

- (1) An examination board is formed to perform the tasks set forth in these regulations. The examination board consists of the following members, elected by the council of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology I, and appointed for a term of two years each:
 - three professors,
 - a research assistant who is a full-time staff member of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology I, and
 - a student.

A substitute shall be elected for each of the members.

- (2) The council of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology I shall elect the chair of the examination board according to §1 clause 1 and his/her substitute from amongst the members of the examination board.
- (3) The examination board constitutes a quorum if its members have been duly summoned and the majority of the voting members is present. Decisions shall require a majority of the votes cast by the voting members in attendance. The vote of the chair shall be decisive in the case of a tie.

- (4) The student's membership on the board is in an advisory capacity when discussing questions on a decision about the evaluation of a Bachelor's or Master's thesis, as far as the student member doesn't have the appropriate qualification.
- (5) The examination board shall ensure compliance with the provisions of the examination regulations. It shall decide in doubtful and exceptional cases, which shall be dealt with upon application by a candidate. The student concerned shall be notified of the examination board's decision in writing.
- (6) The examination board shall report to the faculty on the developments concerning examinations and periods of study. It shall submit proposals for reform of the examination and study regulations, and disclose the distribution of examination grades and overall grades.
- (7) The members of the examination board shall be entitled to attend exams in progress.
- (8) The members of the examination board, as well as the substitute members, shall be obliged to maintain strict secrecy regarding all examination board matters.
- (9) The examination board chair shall report to the board once a semester.

§5 Examiners and Assessors

- (1) Examiners and assessors shall be appointed by the examination board or by the chair on its behalf.
- (2) Examiners shall be appointed from amongst the full professors, junior professors, university lecturers, retired professors, honorary professors, freelance lecturers, and associate professors of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology I as well as professors co-opted in the faculty. The following may also be appointed as examiners in special cases: full-time teachers, research assistants, researchers, part-time lecturers for the sector concerned and professors at other faculties of Saarland University, from other universities, as well as from Max-Planck Institutes for Computer Science and Software Systems and the German Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence located on campus. In the case of partial examinations, the lecturers of the specific courses act as examiners.
- (3) Any person with a diploma / Master's degree from a German university or an equivalent institution, in a subject relevant for the examination, may be appointed as an assessor.

§6 Examinations

- (1) The final examination for the Bachelor's degree consists of several exams and a final (Bachelor's) thesis. The final examination for the Master's degree consists of several exams and a final scientific (Master's) thesis. The examinations take place during the time of study and each generally refer to one specific semester course.
- (2) Each course includes a – in most cases graded – exam, which shall be conducted no later than the start of the following semester. A passed exam fulfills the requirements of a course, and the student is awarded the corresponding credits.
- (3) Participants are required to register for a course. The withdrawal from a course is possible two weeks before the first exam at the latest.
- (4) Exams are in either oral or written form, which may take place in several parts on different dates; practical training (project work), seminar lectures and papers or a combination of these forms. The form and length of the examination for any course is to be announced at the beginning of the course. In the case of a combined form, the students shall also be advised as to the weight of the different parts. Students shall be given at least three weeks' advance notice of the exam dates.
- (5) Examinations for lectures can be written or oral. Oral examinations are held in introductory seminars, seminars and in software practical trainings.
- (6) No later than one month after the examination date, the students shall be notified of the examination results, which shall also be recorded in the filed with the examination board's office.
- (7) Decisions on objections raised against an examination grade shall be made by the examination board after hearing the responsible examiner.
- (8) The length of oral examinations shall generally be 15 to 30 minutes for each candidate. They shall be taken before two examiners or one examiner in the presence of an expert assessor. Minutes shall be taken of the essential subject matter and results of the examination. The examiner shall consult the assessor before determining the grade. The minutes shall be signed by both examiners, or by the examiner and the assessor. In the case of oral examinations, space permitting, students of the same course of study may be admitted as listeners, provided that the examination candidate gives his/her consent. However, student listeners shall not be admitted to the consultation between the examiners or the announcement of the results.

- (9) Written examinations (supervised tests, home assignments, seminar papers, project documentation and implementation) shall be assessed by an expert examiner. Supervised tests shall generally last between 90 and 120 minutes, but may also be up to 180 minutes. The time granted for any home assignments, seminar papers, project documentation and implementation shall be announced at the beginning of a course.
- (10) Written examinations shall be held in the language of the corresponding course. Written examinations can be given in German or English. Oral Examinations can be held, according to the preference of the student being examined, in either German or English. A Deviation from the course language is only possible when the examiner is proficient in the different language.
- (11) Should a candidate submit a medical certificate certifying that he/she is unable to take the exam in full or in part in the intended form due to lasting health problems, the examination board chair shall permit the candidate to deliver an equivalent exam in a different format.
- (12) Students shall be enabled to claim the statutory periods of maternity leave, leave for new parents and leave required in order to fulfill family obligations (care of an underage child or looking after relatives in need of constant care).
- (13) The Bachelor's examination is considered passed as soon as:
- the candidate has obtained the required minimum amount of 180 credits, at least 144 of them graded, and
 - he/she has obtained the respective minimum amount of credits within the different course categories according to §16, and
 - the final scientific (Bachelor's) thesis has been assessed as passed (see §17), and
 - the candidate files for the issue of the Bachelor's certificate.

The Master's examination is considered passed as soon as:

- the candidate has obtained the required minimum amount of 120 credits, at least 94 of them graded, and
- he/she has also obtained the respective minimum amount of credits within the different course categories according to §23, and
- the final scientific (Master's) thesis has been assessed as passed (see §24), and
- the candidate files for the issue of the Master's certificate.

In the case that a candidate has obtained more than the minimum amount of credits, he/she may select a partial quantity of the passed exams for inclusion in the certificate, and also request that an assessment graded at least D (ausreichend) be converted into an ungraded passed assessment,

provided that all requirements concerning the minimum amount of (graded) credits are still met. Each course can only be taken into account in one course category according to §16 and §22 respectively. Courses, which a candidate has successfully completed more than once in different semesters, can only be taken into account once. The courses for the Master's certificate have got to differ from those of the Bachelor's certificate which is the basis for the Master's course of study. No Bachelor courses can be included in the Master's certificate.

- (14) The Bachelor's or Master's examination is considered as failed, if the final examination (Bachelor's or Master's thesis) or part of an examination remains not passed and can not be replaced by an alternative optional or elective course.

§7 Transfer of Credits and Examination Results

- (1) Credits and examination results of an equivalent course of study at a university or an institution of higher education of the same status within the scope of the German higher Education Framework Act shall be recognized without an equivalence examination. Certificates of equivalent value (Bachelor, Master, and Diploma) within the computer science course of study shall be recognized without an equivalence examination.
- (2) Credits and examination results of other courses of study shall be recognized provided that equivalence has been established. This will be determined by overall consideration and an overall assessment, rather than by schematic comparison. Concerning recognition of credits and examination results obtained outside the Federal Republic of Germany, the equivalence agreements reached by the conference of the university principals, as well as agreements between universities, shall be observed.
- (3) The above clauses 1 and 2 shall apply mutatis mutandis to credits and examination results of state-recognized distance study courses.
- (4) If credits and examination results are recognized, the corresponding credits and the grades – inasmuch as the grading systems are comparable – shall be transferred and taken into account in calculation of the overall grade pursuant of the provisions of these examination regulations. In case of non-comparable grading systems, credits and examination results shall be recognized in the form of un-graded credits or with the grade 4.0; the recognition of any credits and examination results obtained externally must be indicated in the Bachelor's or the Master's final examination certificate.
- (5) Satisfaction of the requirements in the above clauses 1 – 3, legally entitles a student to recognitions of credits and examination results. The

recognition of periods of study, credits and examination results obtained in the Federal Republic of Germany shall be effective ex officio. The candidate shall submit the necessary documents for recognition. A decision shall also be issued on advance inquiries for the recognition of periods of study, credits and examination results, provided that sufficient information is submitted for the decision.

- (6) The recognition of periods of study, credits and examination results pursuant to the above clauses 1 – 3 shall be the responsibility of the examination board or the examination board chair on its behalf. A competent representative from the department concerned shall be consulted before the decision of equivalence is reached.

§8 Non-Attendance, Withdrawal, Cheating, Breach of Regulations

- (1) An examination result is regarded as failed if the candidate, without a valid reason, fails to meet a deadline for submission, fails to appear at the appointed time for an examination, or withdraws from the examination after it has begun.
- (2) The reasons for withdrawal or non-attendance must be submitted immediately to the examination board in writing and must be substantiated by evidence. The submission of a medical certificate can be demanded. The candidate's own illness as well as the illness of a child primarily in the sole care of the candidate shall be deemed equivalent reasons for withdrawal/non-attendance. If the reasons are accepted, the examination shall be deemed not taken and a new date for the examination can be set, provided the type of assessment concerned permits this procedure.
- (3) Should a candidate attempt to influence the examination result by using unauthorized auxiliary material, the affected examination shall be deemed failed.
- (4) Within a period of one month, the candidate shall be entitled to demand review of a decision pursuant to clause 3. The candidate shall be notified immediately in writing of any negative decision and reasoning pursuant to clause 3. The candidate shall be granted a fair hearing.

§ 9 Assessment of Examination Performance, Certification

- (1) The grades for performance in the individual examinations shall be stipulated by the respective examiners in each case. Passed examinations shall be awarded one of the following grades:

1 = excellent = outstanding performance

2 = good = above average performance

3 = satisfactory = average performance

4 = fair = performance which, despite deficiencies, satisfies the requirements

5 = insufficient = not passing

To enable finer differentiation, grades may be raised or lowered by .3 credits; the grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3 are excluded. If an examination is awarded the grade 5, it shall be deemed failed.

- (2) The final Bachelor's and Master's certificates shall indicate the title, the semester and the respective examiner for the passed examinations selected for inclusion in the certificate pursuant to §6, clause 10. The total number of credits and the grade – if graded – shall also be stated. The total grade shall be the arithmetic mean weighted with the credits of the graded examination results. In this arithmetic mean only the first figure after the decimal point, without rounding up or down, shall be taken into account. The overall grade shall then be rounded as follows and indicated on the certificate:

Up to 1.5: excellent

Over 1.5 to 2.5: good

Over 2.5 to 3.5: satisfactory

Over 3.5 to 4.0: fair

- (3) The Master's certificate shall be awarded with the comment "mit Auszeichnung" = Honor's Degree" if the studies have been finished in a time below the standard duration of study and one of the following criteria is fulfilled:

- a. The overall grade is 1.3 or above
- b. The overall grade is 1.9 or above and the mean number of passed credits throughout the studies has been at least 35 per term

- (4) The Bachelor's and Master's certificates shall be issued in German and English. On the certificate, the awarding of the academic title "Bachelor of Computer Science" respectively "Master of Computer Science" to the candidate shall be certified.

- (5) Students can apply to the examination board office for a certificate that indicates all previously obtained credits; this shall be structured in the same way as the final certificate.

§10 Retaking Exams

- (1) Retaking an examination for a course taken in any one semester is permissible only within the scope of the conditions prescribed for the course. A candidate can, however, take examinations for the same course in different semesters not more than three times (2 retakes). If the continuation of a candidate's studies depends on the outcome of an examination, it must be taken before two examiners. Examinations passed in the standard time of study can be repeated within one year, in which case the better result shall be counted. The standard time of study for every course must be described in the course description.
- (2) A Bachelor's or Master's thesis awarded the grade 'insufficient' (=5) can be rewritten once with a new topic. The registration for a second Bachelor and a Master Seminar respectively must be done within three months after the issuing of the first grade.

§11 Support Program

- (1) Students with excellent performance can be admitted to a support program whose aim it is to individually mentor and further the talents of gifted students during their studies and prepare them for scientific careers. This enables the students in the support program to finish their studies faster than the standard time of study. Each student in the program shall meet regularly with the professor assigned to him/her as mentor and advisor.
- (2) Admittance to the support program is generally for the second semester, the qualifications being the performance in first semester examinations. A student can also apply for admittance at a later time.
- (3) Only students who, judging from the examination results to date, can be expected to finish within the standard time of study with an average grade of 1.3 or better will be admitted to the program. Students also qualify with an average grade of 1.9 or better in intensive studies of at least 35 credits per semester.
- (4) Students of the support program can be excluded from further participation in the program if it is predictable that they will not fulfill the requirements mentioned in clause 3.

- (5) Students in the support program write a report every semester which can be read by the lecturers in the faculty.
- (6) Support program students must gain at least 4 credits by tutoring an introductory or basic lecture in computer science.
- (7) The faculty council of the Faculty of Science and Technology I elects the head of the support program who decides on which students are admitted to, and remain in, the program.

§12 Control of Progress

- (1) Full-time students are expected to fulfill the following minimum requirements in the Bachelor course of study:
 - a. At least 9 credits after 1 semester
 - b. At least 18 credits after 2 semesters
 - c. At least 60 credits after 4 semesters
 - d. At least 105 credits after 6 semesters.

Only the required credits according to §16 are taken into account.

- (2) Full-time students are expected to deliver the following minimum requirements in the Master course of study:
 - a. At least 9 credits after 1 semester
 - b. At least 30 credits after 2 semesters
 - c. At least 60 credits after 4 semesters

Only the required credits according to §22 are taken into account.

- (3) If a student does not fulfill these minimum requirements, he/she shall be notified in writing that completion of the studies is endangered. He/she shall at the same time be offered counseling on the matter.
- (4) In case a student does not meet the minimum requirements for the second time, for reasons for which he/she can personally be held accountable, he/she shall lose the right to participate in examinations. This is true if a student does not earn at least 165 credits in 9 semesters of the Bachelor course of study or 90 credits in 6 semesters of the Master course of study. Written notification of these circumstances shall be given by the examination board. Students shall be given the opportunity to make a statement before the examination board makes the final decision in the matter.

§13 Part-time Studies

- (1) Student applicants and Students can register to study part-time if they can only devote at least 50 % and up to 60 % of their work time to their studies because of a job, pregnancy, maternity leave, raising a child, care of a child or children, care of a relative, or another important reason.
- (2) Special approval for each part-time semester must be applied for at the examination board two weeks before the re-registration or registration deadline for that semester. After the approval of the examination board, the registration application or the re-registration with an amendment form must be turned in to the office of the registrars.
- (3) In the Bachelor course of study at most 8 semesters and in the Master course of study at most 6 semesters can be absolved in part-time. In exceptional cases, extensions to the length of the part-time studies can be applied for with the examination board. The semester in which the Bachelor's or Master's thesis is written, must be absolved in full-time.
- (4) The degrees (§19 and §25), as well as all required credits and exams (§16, §17, §22, §23) do not differ from the ones of the full-time Bachelor and Master courses of study.
- (5) Part-time studies do not substantiate a legal claim regarding special courses.
- (6) Should more than 60% of the credits of a full-time study be earned in a part-time semester, this semester will be counted as a full-time semester. At most 18 credits or 12 study hours per week may be earned in a part-time Bachelor or Master course of study. Individual cases may be examined upon request as to whether exceeding this limit by only a little might be compensated for; for example, within one year of study.
- (7) The fixed periods in §12 are extended for part-time students as follows:
 - a. By one semester in the case of one or two part-time semesters
 - b. By two semesters in the case of three or four part-time semesters
 - c. By three semesters in the case of five or six part-time semesters
 - d. By four semesters in the case of seven or eight part-time semesters
- (8) Part-time students must consult an advisor of the department at least every two semesters.

II. Bachelor Course of Study

§ 14 Aim of the Course of Study

Within the framework of the Bachelor course of study, the students will gain basic scientific qualifications as well as fundamental computer science knowledge and skills. The graduates of the Bachelor course of study should be able to understand computer science problems, formulations of questions and their applications, as well as be able to make mathematic models and apply scientific methods and computer science findings to these problems. The Bachelor course of study should prepare the graduates for their practical careers in the field of computer science and its applications.

§ 15 Admission Requirements

Requirement for admission to the Bachelor course of study is: certificate of standard university entrance (A-level), a respective subject-related university entrance certificate, a certificate deemed equivalent through statutory order by the responsible government authority, or a subject-related entitlement to study pursuant to §69 of University Law (UG).

§ 16 Bachelor Studies Requirements, Examination Performance for the Bachelor's Final Examination

- (1) The Bachelor course of study consists of courses with the following compulsory and elective categories:
 - lecture series on computer science topics (compulsory)
 - basics of mathematics (compulsory)
 - basics of computer science (compulsory)
 - practical training (compulsory)
 - introductory seminars on computer science topics (elective)
 - basic lectures on computer science (elective)
 - in-depth lectures on computer science (optional)
 - seminars on computer science topics (elective)
 - Bachelor seminars (elective)
 - courses from the minor (elective)

- (2) The Bachelor's final examination includes continuous assessment, namely each passed exam during the course of study (studienbegleitende Prüfungsleistungen), as well as a final thesis (Bachelor's thesis). These continuous assessments have a total scope of at least 168 credits, of which 132 must have been graded. The following minimum number of credits must be acquired in the categories set forth under clause 1 above:
- 27 graded credits from the category of basics of mathematics
 - 54 graded credits from the category of basics of computer science
 - 2 credits from the lecture on computer science perspectives
 - 9 credits from the category of practical trainings
 - 5 graded credits from the category of introductory seminars
 - 18 graded credits from the category of basic lectures
 - 6 credits from the category of basic and in-depth lectures
 - 7 graded credits from the category of seminars
 - 9 graded credits from the category of Bachelor seminars
and
 - 18 points from minor subject course, of which at least 12 must be graded
- (3) Moreover, at least 13 credits must be acquired by:
- a) any freely chosen courses from the computer science Bachelor course of study
 - b) courses on the basics of mathematics
 - c) courses in the minor
 - d) leading a tutorial (tutor)
 - e) language courses (maximum 6 credits; living language)
 - f) any courses, which have been applied for and approved of by the examination board
- (4) Should a student acquire more than the required number of credits in one or more categories in clause 2, these credits will count towards the credit requirements in clause 3.
- (5) Leading a tutorial is worth 4 credits for accomplishments in teaching methodology. It is possible to be a tutor numerous times as long as the tutorials belong to different courses.

§ 17 Bachelor's Thesis

- (1) The Bachelor's thesis is a project thesis which is written under supervision. It is to show the candidate's ability to work on a computer science problem using scientific methods within a given time period and to document the results. The Bachelor's thesis can be written in German, English or on request, in another foreign language.

- (2) The topic for the Bachelor's thesis can be issued by full professors, junior professors, university lecturers, retired professors, honorary professors, freelance lecturers, and associate professors of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology I as well as professors co-opted in the faculty. Also, full-time research assistants and researchers holding a Ph.D. degree at the on campus institutes, German Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Max Planck Institute for Computer Science and Software Systems, can issue a Bachelor thesis topic with the approval of the examination board. The examination board can, from the beginning, give the chair permission to name such persons as authorized to issue Bachelor thesis topics.
- (3) Having passed the Bachelor seminar, a student must register his/her Bachelor's Thesis in the following semester, or otherwise, register for another Bachelor seminar. The topic for the Bachelor's thesis as well as the date of its release shall be taken on record at the examination board office. Should a student fail to meet the deadlines, the examination board will issue a topic of its choice for the thesis. The student must be given the opportunity to be heard.
- (4) The allotted time for work on the Bachelor's thesis is 3 months. It can be extended in justified exceptional cases, but not beyond 3 weeks. The chair of the examination board shall decide on an extension.
- (5) If a candidate's work on the Bachelor's thesis must be interrupted for longer than the period of one week because of illness or other reasons beyond his/her control, the deadline or due date shall be suspended accordingly. The necessary proof, e.g. a doctor's certificate, must be turned in to the examination office immediately. An official request for consideration of maternity leave, parent time off, or family obligations (especially care of an underage child or a relative in need of constant care), can be made to the examination board.
- (6) The Bachelor's thesis topic can be returned by the candidate only once and only within the first 3 weeks of his/her allotted working time.
- (7) The Bachelor's thesis shall be handed in within the stipulated period in 4 copies at the examination board office; the date of submission shall be taken on record. If the thesis is not submitted on time, it will be deemed "insufficient". When handing in the thesis, the candidate must give written testimony that he/she has written the thesis himself/herself and has not used sources and aids other than those listed.

- (8) To check whether the Bachelor's thesis really is the student's own work, a 30-minute colloquium shall be held. One of these examiners must be the issuer of the thesis topic.
- (9) The candidate must further submit a copy of the thesis in electronic form (in a standard data format). He/she must give the university authorization to publish the thesis (eventually to be transferred in another standard data format) in networks and/or data bases. The candidate must affirm the congruence of the contents of the printed data and the electronic version of the thesis. Upon valid request, the examination board can excuse a student from the requirement to submit an electronic version.
- (10) The degree is only regarded as accomplished after an electronic copy of the thesis has been handed in according to clause 9.
- (11) The thesis shall be examined by two persons according to clause 2 and shall be awarded a grade according to §9, clauses 1 and 2. In special cases, professors from other universities can be appointed as examiners. One of the two examiners shall be the person who issued the topic according clause 2 above; the second examiner shall be appointed by the examination board chair. One examiner must be a professor, university lecturer, retired professor, honorary professor, associate professor, freelance lecturer, or associate professor of the Computer Science Department of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology I. The report shall be concluded within 6 weeks.
- (12) Should there be a difference of more than 2.0 between the grades given by the two examiners, but both are grades of at least "fair", a third examiner from the Computer Science Department of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology I shall be appointed.
- (13) If one examiner grades the thesis as "insufficient" and the other gives it an at least "fair" grade, an additional examiner from the Computer Science Department of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology I shall be appointed. Such an additional grading report shall only be requested once. If this grade is also "insufficient", the thesis shall receive the final grade of "insufficient".
- (14) A thesis deemed "insufficient" can be rewritten once with the issuing of a new topic.
- (15) The weighting of the thesis for the Bachelor examination final grade is 12 credits. The arithmetic mean is taken from the reports of the two examiners if both are at least "fair" (4.0) and the difference between the two is not more than 2.0. In cases described in clauses 11 and 12, where 3

reports are available, the final grade is taken from the arithmetic mean of all three, as long as all grade reports are at least “fair”; otherwise, the final grade is taken from the arithmetic mean of the two positive results.

§ 18 Registration for the Bachelor’s Examination

- (1) The application for admission to the Bachelor’s examination takes place with the registration for the first course in which an examination will be taken. The Bachelor’s examination should be concluded with the ending of the courses after the sixth semester.
- (2) An examination file for the examination candidate shall be opened by the examination board office, in which the results of all examinations shall be recorded.

§19 Bachelor’s Certificate and Academic Degree

- (1) A certificate with the particulars set forth in §9 clause 2 shall be issued with respect to the passed Bachelor final examination within four weeks. The certificate shall be signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology and by the Examination Board Chair. The certificate shall carry the date of the last examination performance as well as the date of signature. The certificate lists the successfully completed courses and so equally serves as a transcript of records.
- (2) The Bachelor’s Certificate / Degree shall be issued in German and English. The certificate shall state that the candidate has been awarded the degree “Bachelor of Science” (B.Sc.)
- (3) If the candidate should fail the final Bachelor’s examination, the examination board chair shall issue written notification, including advice on applicable legal remedies.

§ 20 Diploma Supplement

The graduate will be issued a diploma supplement along with the Bachelor’s certificate; it serves as additional proof and supplies information about the aims, structure and content of the course of study.

III. Master Course of Study

§21 Aim of the Course of Study

It is the aim of this research oriented Master's course of study, which supplements and consolidates the previously absolved Bachelor course of study, to prepare students for a national and international career in demanding fields of research and development.

§22 Admission Requirements

- (1) Admission to the Master's program requires:
 - a. a Bachelor's degree in computer science or the certificate of any other equivalent examination from a German university.
 - b. a Bachelor's degree in computer science from a foreign university or an examination certificate equivalent to the German one.
 - c. proof of sufficient language skills to follow the course of study.
 - d. a special aptitude for the course of study according to §69.5, University Law.
- (2) Evidence of this aptitude is:
 - a. The academic achievements up to the date of application.
 - b. The special interest in studies documented in the form of a dossiers or expert's report.
 - c. Relevant practical and international experience.
 - d. English skills on an advanced level.

These criteria will be used to compare a student applicant's aptitude with the profile and requirements of the chosen Master course of study.

- (3) Applicants, who are not yet in possession of a degree, may apply for preliminary admission to the Master course of study. In this case, one can then begin to study but must hand in the Bachelor's degree within a three-month deadline.
- (4) The examination board decides on admission to a Master course of study.

§22 Master's Study Requirements, Examination Performance for the Master's Final Examination

- (1) The Master's course of study shall include courses in the following elective categories:
 - Basic lectures with tutorials in computer science
 - In-depth lectures with and without tutorials in computer science
 - Seminars on computer science subjects
 - Master seminars
- (2) The final examination for the Master's degree consists of continuous assessment as well as the Master's thesis. The continuous assessments have a total scope of 90 credits, at least 64 of which must have been given a grade. Performances which have already been taken into account for the Bachelor's examination shall not be considered for the Master's examination. The following numbers of credits must be acquired in the categories set forth under clause 1 above:
 - 27 graded credits in the category of basic lectures in the computer science field
 - 27 credits in the categories of basic lectures, in-depth lectures, or seminars in computer science, of which at least 18 must have grades.
 - 7 graded credits in the category of seminars in computer science
 - 12 graded credits in the category of Master seminars
- (3) Moreover, at least 17 credits must be acquired by:
 - Master practical trainings or other freely chosen courses in computer science
 - Leading a tutorial (tutor)
 - Taking language courses (max. 6 credits, living language)
 - Freely chosen courses, which have been applied for and approved by the examination board.
- (4) Should a student acquire more than the required number of credits in a course category (clause 2), these credits will count towards the credit requirements in clause 3.

- (5) Leading a tutorial is worth 4 credits for accomplishments in teaching methodology. It is possible to be a tutor numerous times as long as the tutorials belong to different courses.
- (6) Credits for the Master's course of study can also be acquired while a student is registered for the Bachelor's course. The rules of admission to the Master's program are not affected by this.

§24 Master's Thesis

- (1) The Master's thesis is a scientific thesis which is written under supervision. It is to show the candidate's ability to work on a computer science problem using scientific methods within a given time period and to present the results in an understandable manner. The Master's thesis can be written in German, English or on request, in another foreign language. The Master's thesis can be a publication accepted by a certified scientific conference or a certified scientific journal.
- (2) The topic for the Master's thesis can be issued by full professors, junior professors, university lecturers, retired professors, honorary professors, freelance lecturers, and associate professors of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology I as well as professors co-opted in the faculty. Also, full-time research assistants and researchers holding a Ph.D. degree at the on campus institutes, German Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Max Planck Institute for Computer Science and Software Systems, as well as professors from other faculties of Saarland University, can issue a Master thesis topic with the approval of the examination board. The examination board can, from the beginning, give the chair permission to name such persons as authorized to issue Master thesis topics.
- (3) Having passed the Master seminar, a student must register his/her Master Thesis in the following semester, or otherwise, register for another Master seminar. The topic for the Master's thesis as well as the date of its release shall be taken on record at the examination board office. Should a student fail to meet the deadlines, the examination board will issue a topic of its choice for the thesis. The student must be given the opportunity to be heard.
- (4) The allotted time for work on the Master's thesis is 6 months. It can be extended in justified exceptional cases, but not beyond 6 weeks. The chair of the examination board shall decide on an extension.
- (5) If a candidate's work on the Bachelor's or Master's thesis must be interrupted for longer than the period of one week because of illness or other reasons beyond his/her control, the deadline or due date shall be suspended accordingly. The necessary proof, e.g. a doctor's certificate,

must be turned in to the examination office immediately. An official request for consideration of maternity leave, parent time off, or family obligations (especially care of an underage child or a relative in need of constant care), can be made to the examination board.

- (6) The Master's thesis topic can be returned by the candidate only once and only within the first 5 weeks of his/her allotted working time.
- (7) The Master's thesis shall be handed in within the stipulated period in 4 copies at the examination board office; the date of submission shall be taken on record. If the thesis is not submitted on time, it will be deemed "insufficient". When handing in the thesis, the candidate must give written testimony that he/she has written the thesis himself/herself and has not used sources and aids other than those listed.
- (8) To check whether the Master's thesis really is the student's own work, a 30-minute colloquium shall be held. One of these examiners must be the issuer of the thesis topic.
- (9) The candidate must submit a copy of the thesis in electronic form (in a standard data format). He/she must give the university authorization to publish the thesis (eventually to be transferred in another standard data format) in networks and/or data bases. The candidate must affirm the congruence of the contents of the printed data and the electronic version of the thesis. Upon valid request, the examination board can excuse a student from the requirement to submit an electronic version.
- (10) The degree is only regarded as accomplished after an electronic copy of the thesis has been submitted to the examination board office according to clause 9.
- (11) The thesis shall be examined by two persons according to clause 2 and shall be awarded a grade according to §9, clauses 1 and 2. In special cases, professors from other universities can be appointed as examiners. One of the two examiners shall be the person who issued the topic according clause 2 above; the second examiner shall be appointed by the examination board chair. One examiner must be a professor, university lecturer, retired professor, honorary professor, associate professor, freelance lecturer, or associate professor of the Computer Science Department of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology I. The report shall be concluded within 2 months.
- (12) Should there be a difference of more than 2.0 between the grades given by the two examiners, but both are grades of at least "fair", a third examiner from the Computer Science Department of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology I shall be appointed.

- (13) If one examiner grades the thesis as “insufficient” and the other gives it an at least “fair” grade, an additional examiner from the Computer Science Department of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology I shall be appointed. Such an additional grading report shall only be requested once. If this grade is also “insufficient”, the thesis shall receive the final grade of “insufficient”.
- (14) A thesis deemed “insufficient” can be rewritten once with the issuing of a new topic.
- (15) The weighting of the thesis for the final grade is 30 credits. The arithmetic mean is taken from the reports of the two examiners if both are at least “fair” and the difference between the two is not more than 1.0. In cases described in clauses 11 and 12, where 3 reports are available, the final grade is taken from the arithmetic mean of all three, as long as all grade reports are at least “fair”; otherwise, the final grade is taken from the arithmetic mean of the two positive results.

§25 Registration for the Master’s Examination

- (4) The application for admission to the Master’s examination takes place with the registration for the examination in the first course in which the candidate wishes to deliver an examination performance. This registration should normally take place in the first semester.
- (5) If not yet done for the Bachelor’s examination, an examination file for the examination candidate shall be opened by the examination board office, in which the results of all examinations shall be recorded.

§26 Master’s Certificate and Academic Degree

- (1) A certificate with the particulars set forth in §9 clause 2 shall be issued with respect to the passed final examination within four weeks. The certificate shall be signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology and by the Examination Board Chair. The certificate shall carry the date of the last examination performance as well as the date of signature. The certificate lists the successfully absolved courses and so equally serves as a transcript of records.
- (2) The Master’s Certificate / Degree shall be issued in German and English. The certificate shall state that the candidate has been awarded the degree “Master of Science” (M.Sc.)

- (6) If the candidate should fail the final Master's examination, the examination board chair shall issue written notification, including advice on applicable legal remedies.
- (7) On request by the candidate, a certificate shall be issued stating when the examination procedure was completed.

§27 Diploma Supplement

The graduate will be issued a diploma supplement along with the Master's certificate; it serves as additional proof and supplies information about the aims, structure and content of the course of study.

IV. Final Regulations

§28 Invalidity of an Examination

- (1) Should it become known after the Master's Certificate has been awarded that the graduate cheated in an examination, the examination board shall be subsequently entitled to declare the examination – in part or overall – as failed.
- (2) Should it become known after the Master's Certificate has been awarded that a graduate had not satisfied the requirements for the admission to an examination, although he/she had not purposely provided misleading information, this deficiency can be considered as remedied by the passing of the examination. Should it however become known that the graduate had deliberately and wrongfully obtained admission to the examination, the examination board shall decide on the matter, pursuant to the Saarland Administrative Proceedings Act.
- (3) The candidate shall be given the opportunity to make a statement before a decision is reached.
- (4) The incorrect examination certificate shall be withdrawn and rectified appropriately. The period of limitation for a decision according to clauses 1 and 2 is five years, starting from the date of the Master's Certificate.

§29 Inspection of the Examination Files, Legal Remedies

- (1) On application, the candidate shall be permitted to inspect those examination files that refer to him/her within a period of one year from completion of the examination procedure. The examination board chair shall determine the place and time for such an inspection. On application, the candidate shall be informed of the results of individual parts of the Bachelor's examination respectively Master's examination prior to completion of the examination procedure.
- (2) Upon application of the concerned candidate, procedural decisions by an examiner or the examination chair shall be reviewed by the examination board.

§30 Entry into Effect and Provisional Regulations

- (1) These regulations shall enter into effect on the day after the date of publish in the official Bulletin of Saarland Universities.
- (2) Students who had already been registered for the Bachelor / Master course of study in computer science when these regulations entered into effect can continue to study and complete their Bachelor's / Master's examinations according to the old examination regulations within the standard time of study plus a transitional period of two years, but at least until December 31st 2009.
- (3) For Bachelor / Master examination performances according to examination regulations from February 19th 2004, the examination board shall, upon application, determine equivalent substitutes according to the Bachelor / Master examination regulations.

Saarbrücken, _____, __th 2006

President of the University
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Margret Wintermantel