Brandenburgische
Technische Universität
Cottbus - Senftenberg

This document is a translation of the official programme-specific regulations for "World Heritage Studies" in German language. As this text is only a translation, it is not legally binding. To review the regulations for legal purposes, kindly review the German version of the regulations.

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C o n t e n t s

Page

Revised version of the subject-specific examination and study regulations for the Master's programme in World Heritage Studies (M.A.) from 17 April 2026 2

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Revised version of the subject-specific examination and study regulations for the Master's programme in World Heritage Studies (M.A.) of 17. April 2026

Based on § 5 (1) sentence 2, § 10 (5) sentence 2 in conjunction with § 20 (2) sentence 1, § 23 (2) sentence 1, § 70 (2) no. 8 and § 81 (2) sentence 1 no. 1 of the Brandenburg Higher Education Act “Brandenburgisches Hochschulgesetz” (BbgHG) dated 9 April 2024 (GVBl. I/24, [No. 12]), amended by Article 2 of the Act of 21 June 2024 (GVBl. I/24, [No. 30], p. 32) and § 16 (2) No. 1 and § 29 (4) Sentence 1 No. 1 of the Basic Regulations for the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus–Senftenberg (GO BTU) of 8 January 2016 (AMbl. 01/2016), last amended by the Fourth Amendment Regulation of 23 January 2025 (AMbl. 08/2025) and § 1 of the General Examination and Study Regulations for Master's Degree Programmes at the BTU Cottbus–Senftenberg (RahmenO-MA) of 12 September 2016 (AMbl. 14/2016), last amended by the Fifth Amendment Regulation (AMbl. 30/2024 of 29 August 2024), the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus–Senftenberg (BTU) adopts the following statutes:

Contents

§ 1 Scope of Validity 2
§ 2 Content profile of the Study Programme, Goals of the Programme 2
§ 3 Graduation and Degree 3
§ 4 Specific Admission and Enrolment Requirements 3
§ 5 Scope of the Programme, Regular Duration of the Standard Programme ... 3
§ 6 Structure and Form of the Programme . 3
§ 7 Special Regulations on Examination Organisation 4
§ 8 Master's Thesis 4
§ 9 Further Supplementary Regulations 4
§ 10 Entry into Force, Expiry, Abrogation, Transitional Provisions 4
Annex 1.1: Overview of Module Areas and Modules, Status, and ECTS for the Study Mode pursuant to § 2 (1) No. 1 6
Annex 1.2: Standard Study Plan for the Study Mode pursuant to § 2 (1) No. 1 7
Annex 1.3: Compulsory Elective Modules for the Study Mode pursuant to § 2 (1) No. 1 .. 8
Annex 2: Module Areas, Standard Study Plan and Compulsory Elective Modules for the Study Mode pursuant to § 2 (1) No. 2 11
Annex 3: Information on the voluntary internship pursuant to § 6 (6) 11

§ 1 Scope of Validity

(1) [1]These statutes regulate the subject-specific features of the Master's programme in World Heritage Studies, hereinafter referred to as "WHS". [2]It supplement the General Examination and Study Regulations for Master degree programmes at the BTU (RahmenO-MA) in their respective current version.

§ 2 Content profile of the Study Programme, Goals of the Programme

(1) [1]WHS is a Master's programme with a variety of optional on-campus and online teaching formats. [2]The programme offers two forms of study:

1. On-campus study with flexible teaching formats in person or online (Annexes 1.1 to 1.3),
2. Distance learning (Annex 2).

(2) A change between study formats 1 and 2 is only possible during the registration period for each semester through the MyBTU-Portal.

(3) [1]The international Master's programme WHS was developed in accordance with the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted in 1972. [2]The protection and preservation of the world cultural and natural heritage, as well as its sustainable use, have become a concern for all nations through the UNESCO conventions. [3]WHS aims to transfer this global political and cultural concern of the international community to the awareness and operational level of local, regional or national communities and to link it to university research. [4]Overcoming the challenges and conflicts arising from the internationalisation and technologisation of cultures and societies requires strategies that are developed in a transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary environment. [5]WHS therefore aims to teach students transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary methods and concepts that enable them

to see themselves as active members of the global community and to act as such. [6]Networks exist with the management of national and international World Heritage sites, with national and international partner universities and organisations, in particular UNESCO and its advisory organisations ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN.

(4) [1]Upon successful completion of the Master's programme, graduates will have acquired broad, selectively deepened and methodologically reflective knowledge of the sustainable protection and development, management and use of global and local cultural and natural heritage. [2]They will be able to recognise economic, social and cultural policy processes in an international context in relation to the cultural and natural heritage of a nation, ethnic group or other groupings, understand them theoretically and communicate them to future generations through conservation strategies. [3]They are able to familiarise themselves with specific issues relating to cultural and natural diversity in order to identify and manage specific cultural and natural features in a participatory manner. [4]They are able to develop concepts for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage sites and place them in a supra-regional or international context.

(5) [1]The aim of this Master's programme is to train leaders with specialist knowledge and interdisciplinary skills and abilities. [2]They are able to link the processes of global scientific and technological development with processes of global, but also local and regional cultural development and biodiversity. [3]In this respect, internationality and particularity, transdisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity, as well as specialist know-how are essential values of WHS.

(6) During their studies, graduates also acquire key qualifications, such as the ability to:

- working independently and in a research-oriented manner, both individually and in interdisciplinary teams,
- independently and in collaboration with others, to design, lead and coordinate research and communication projects in the field of WHS,
- to communicate individually and collaboratively developed research results convincingly to both a specialist audience and an interested public in appropriate publication, exhibition or visualisation formats, and
- apply and combine the theories and methods of the disciplines involved and further develop them in combination for the specific context of world cultural and natural heritage.

§ 3 Graduation and Degree

Upon successful completion of the WHS Master's programme, the academic degree "Master of Arts" (M.A.) will be awarded.

§ 4 Specific Admission and Enrolment Requirements

(1) Admission to the programme requires proof of a first professionally qualifying degree with a standard period of study of at least six semesters in a cultural studies programme or a programme relevant to the curriculum of the Master's programme in WHS (e.g. humanities and social sciences, architecture, archaeology, monument preservation, art history, environmental science, cultural management, tourism).

(2) [1]Admission is granted if the bachelor's degree obtained demonstrates sufficient basic knowledge in the cultural, socio-economic, ecological or political fields related to the preservation and promotion of world heritage. [2]The Examination Board is responsible for assessing the subject-specific requirements.

(3) For admission to the programme, all applicants must provide evidence of sufficient language skills in accordance with § 3 (3) of the BTU's enrolment regulations, as amended.

§ 5 Scope of the Programme, Regular Duration of the Standard Programme

(1) [1]The Master's programme comprises 120 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) with a standard period of study of four semesters. [2]One ECTS corresponds to 30 hours of work.

(2) The programme begins in the winter semester.

(3) Individual part-time study is possible in accordance with § 6 RahmenO-MA.

§ 6 Structure and Form of the Programme

(1) The language of instruction and examination is English.

(2) [1]The programme comprises:

- Compulsory modules worth 30 ECTS,

- elective modules worth 36 ECTS,
- two study projects worth 12 ECTS each,
- the Master's thesis including colloquium worth 30 ECTS.

[2]Annexes 1.1 to 1.3 regulate the structure and sequence of studies for students enrolled in the 'on-campus' programme in accordance with § 2 (1) No. 1. 3 Annex 2 regulates the structure and sequence of studies for students enrolled in the 'distance learning' programme in accordance with § 2 (1) No. 2.

(3) [1]The compulsory elective courses for the specialisations listed in Annex 1.3

- UNESCO Heritage Governance
- Heritage Studies and
- Heritage Conservation and Management

are offered alternately in person or online. [2]Provided that students have successfully completed at least 24 ECTS from one of the above specialisations and at least one study project from the same specialisation, as well as a Master's thesis on a related topic, the corresponding specialisation will be indicated on their degree certificate upon completion of their studies.

(4) It is not permitted to enrol in modules with the same name but different formats (in-person or online) (see Annexes 1.1 and 1.3).

(5) [1]The elective modules listed in Annex 1.3 may be redefined or adjusted each semester by the Examination Board in consultation with the programme director if necessary. [2]In any case, it must be ensured that the programme can be completed within the standard period of study. [3]The adjustment of the elective modules must be notified to the Department of Academic Affairs by the Examination Board one month before the start of the semester.

(6) [1]Students are recommended to complete an internship as an extracurricular component of their studies, if possible before the start of their studies. [2]The aim of the internship is to provide students with knowledge relevant to their future professional activities. [3]Information on voluntary internships can be found in Annex 3.

(7) The modules are defined in the semester- and module handbook of the Master's programme in WHS (programme website).

§ 7 Special Regulations on Examination Organisation

There are no supplementary regulations.

§ 8 Master's Thesis

(1) [1]The Master's thesis is worth 30 ECTS. [2]It consists of a written or creative part and a colloquium. [3]The time allowed for the written or creative part is 16 weeks from the date of registration.

(2) [1]The Master's thesis can only be started after at least 78 ECTS have been obtained and all compulsory modules have been successfully completed at the time of registration. [2]The topic of the thesis is determined by the examiner in consultation with the student.

(3) [1]The Master's thesis is an examination component of outstanding importance for demonstrating the acquisition of competences in the Master's programme in WHS. [2]It constitutes an independent and mandatory component of the successful completion of the degree programme, shall correspond in all essential respects, in terms of its content and scope, to the requirements arising from the examination-relevant course content, and serves to demonstrate that the student is able to independently work on a task related to the degree programme within a specified period of time, applying academic and degree programme-specific methods.

§ 9 Further Supplementary Regulations

There are no further supplementary regulations.

§ 10 Entry into Force, Expiry, Abrogation, Transitional Provisions

(1) These statutes shall enter into force in the winter semester 2026/27.

(2) These Regulations shall apply to all students enrolled in the Master's programme in World Heritage Studies as of the winter semester 2026/27.

(3) [1]Students who are enrolled in the WHS Master's programme in accordance with the study and examination regulations of 30 July 2021 (AMbl. 12/2021) at the time of entry into force of these regulations may switch to these regulations upon request. [2]All examination and study achievements shall be recognised.

(4) The examination and study regulations for the Master's programme in WHS dated 30 July 2021 (AMbl. 12/2021) shall cease to be valid after the last enrolment at the end of the standard period of study plus four semesters.

(5) The present examination and study regulations dated 17 April 2026 (AMbl. 10/2026) shall expire after the last enrolment at the end of the standard period of study plus four semesters.

(5) In a discontinued degree programme, no students will be admitted or enrolled for the first or higher semesters from the date of discontinuation.

Issued on the basis of the resolutions of the Faculty Council of Faculty 6 – Architecture, Civil Engineering and Urban Planning of 8 November 2023 and 8 October 2025, the opinion of the Senate of 25 September 2025, and the approval of the President of the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus–Senftenberg of 6 March 2026.

Cottbus, on 17. April 2026

Prof. Dr. Gesine Grande
President

Annex 1.1: Overview of Module Areas and Modules, Status, and ECTS for the Study Mode pursuant to § 2 (1) No. 1

Module no.	Module areas and modules*	Status	Examination	ECTS	
	Compulsory modules				
14303 or 14390	Heritage Theories and Methods or Heritage Theories and Methods (Online)	M	Exam	6	
14391 or 14392	UNESCO Heritage Governance or UNESCO Heritage Governance (online)	M	Exam	6	
14481 or 14394	Heritage Studies or Heritage Studies (Online)	M	Exam	6	**30**
14395 or 14396	Heritage Conservation and Management or Heritage Conservation and Management (Online)	M	Exam	6	
14397 or 14398	Research Methodology and Thesis Preparation or Research Methodology and Thesis Preparation (Online)	M	Exam	6	
	Study Projects				
37410 or 12813	Study Project 1 or Study Project 1 (Online)	CE	Exam	12	
37411 or 12816	Study Project 2 or Study Project 2 (Online)	CE	Exam	12	
14399 or 14400	Study Project UNESCO Heritage Governance or Study Project UNESCO Heritage Governance (Online)	CE	Exam	12	**24**
14401 or 14402	Study Project Heritage Studies or Study Project Heritage Studies (Online)	CE	Exam	12	
14403 or 14404	Study Project Heritage Conservation and Management or Study Project Heritage Conservation and Management (Online)	CE	Exam	12	
	Elective modules				
	Elective modules according to Annex 1.3**	CE	Exam		**36**
	Master's thesis				
37409 or 12817	Master's thesis or Master's Thesis (Online)	M	Exam	30	**30**
				Total	**120**

M = Mandatory Module, CE = Compulsory Elective Module, Exam. = Examination
* It is not permitted to enrol in modules with the same name or content (cf. § 6 (4)).
** Elective modules can be freely selected from the catalogue in Annex 1.3 according to individual interests.

Annex 1.2: Standard Study Plan for the Study Mode pursuant to § 2 (1) No. 1

Module areas and modules*	ECTS per semester				Total ECTS
	1	2	3	4	
Compulsory modules					
Heritage Theories and Methods or Heritage Theories and Methods (online)	6				**30**
UNESCO Heritage Governance or UNESCO Heritage Governance (Online)	6				
Heritage Studies or Heritage Studies (Online)	6				
Heritage Conservation and Management or Heritage Conservation and Management (Online)	6				
Research Methodology and Thesis Preparation or Research Methodology and Thesis Preparation (Online)			6		
Study Projects					
Selection of study projects from Annex 1.1		12	12		**24**
Compulsory Elective Modules					
Selection of compulsory elective modules from Annex 1.3**	6	18	12		**36**
Master's thesis					
Master's thesis or Master's Thesis (Online)				30	**30**
Total	**30**	**30**	**30**	**30**	**120**

***** It is not permitted to enrol in modules with the same name or content (see § 6 (4)).
** The elective modules comprising 36 ECTS can be freely selected from the elective catalogue in Annex 1.3 according to individual interests.

Annex 1.3: Compulsory Elective Modules for the Study Mode pursuant to § 2 (1) No. 1

Module no.	Specialisations and modules	Status	Assessment	ECTS
	UNESCO Heritage Governance			
14427 or 14428	International Heritage Legislation or International Heritage Legislation (online)	CE	Exam	6
14429 or 14430	UNESCO World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage or UNESCO World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage (online)	CE	Exam	6
37404 or 14482	Culture and Globalisation or Culture and Globalisation (Online)	CE	Exam	6
14432 or 14433	Heritage Policy and Governance or Heritage Policy and Governance (Online)	CE	Exam	6
14434 or 14435	Management in Cultural and International Institutions or Management in Cultural and International Institutions (Online)	CE	Exam	6
14436 or 14437	International Relations and Cultural Diplomacy or International Relations and Cultural Diplomacy (Online)	CE	Exam	6
14438 or 14439	Community Involvement and Rights to Heritage or Community Involvement and Rights to Heritage (online)	CE	Exam	6
37101 or 14483	Intercultural Competence or Intercultural Competence (Online)	CE	Exam	6
	Heritage Studies			
14229 or 14444	Critical Studies in Art History and Art Theory or Critical Studies in Art History and Art Theory (Online)	CE	Exam	6
13656 or 14484	What Material Culture? Transformative Processes in Technology and Art or What Material Culture? Transformative Processes in Technology and Art (Online)	CE	Exam	6
14447 or 14448	Discourses on Culture, Heritage and Diversity or Discourses on Culture, Heritage and Diversity (Online)	CE	Exam	6
13655 or 14485	Un/Disciplining Knowledge: Technology, Science, and Society in Transformation or Un/Disciplining Knowledge: Technology, Science, and Society in Transformation (Online)	CE	Exam	6
37106 or 14486	Social Change and Continuity or Social Change and Continuity (Online)	CE	Exam	6
13657 or 14487	How to talk about Nature? or How to talk about Nature? (Online)	CE	Exam	6
14452 or 14453	Heritage Interpretation and Communication or Heritage Interpretation and Communication (Online)	CE	Exam	6
13904 or 14845	Heritage and Transformation in Regional and Urban Studies or	CE	Exam	6

Module no.	Specialisations and modules	Status	Assessment	ECTS
	Heritage and Transformation in Regional and Urban Studies (Online)			
	Heritage Conservation and Management			
11464 or 14454	Heritage Conservation or Heritage Conservation (Online)	CE	Exam	6
14432 or 14433	Heritage Policy and Governance or Heritage Policy and Governance (Online)	CE	Exam	6
11462 or 13578	Conservation of Ruins and Archaeological Sites or Conservation of Ruins and Archaeological Sites (Online)	CE	Exam	6
14455 or 14456	Documentation and "~~Bauforschung~~" or Documentation and "Bauforschung" (online)	CE	Exam	6
14457 or 14458	Heritage Economics or Heritage Economics (online)	CE	Exam	6
25419 or 13394	Heritage Management and Management Plans or Heritage Management and Management Plans (Online)	CE	Exam	6
11453 or 12822	Heritage Impact Assessment or Heritage Impact Assessment (Online)	CE	Exam	6
14438 or 14439	Community Involvement and Rights to Heritage or Community Involvement and Rights to Heritage (online)	CE	Exam	6
	Supplementary compulsory modules			
13739	Anthropos in the Anthropocene	CE	Exam	6
11378	Archaeology	CE	Exam	6
22504	Architecture, City, Space	CE	Exam	6
12983	Climate Change and Migration	CE	Exam	6
11620	Diagnosis of Historic Structures	CE	Exam	6
41102	Ecology	CE	Exam	6
11693	Ecological-Economic Modelling for Biodiversity Conservation	CE	Exam	6
41217	General and Applied Ecology	CE	Exam	6
11377	History of Architecture	CE	Exam	6
11975	Human Resource Management	CE	Exam	6
14129	Landscape Architecture and Public Space Design	CE	Exam	6
41422	Measuring Sustainability	CE	Exam	6
12166	Planning in an International Context	CE	Exam	6
13705	Sociology of Sustainable Development	CE	Exam	6
13659	Sustainability and Digitalisation	CE	Exam	6

Module no.	Specialisations and modules	Status	Assessment	ECTS
11459	Principles of Tourism and Visitor Management	CE	Exam	6
13812	Urban Management	CE	Exam	6

CE = Compulsory Elective module, Exam = Examination

Annex 2: Module Areas, Standard Study Plan and Compulsory Elective Modules for the Study Mode pursuant to § 2 (1) No. 2

The provisions pursuant to § 6 (2) with references to Annexes 1.1 to 1.3 apply mutatis mutandis, whereby, in accordance with the explanations in Annex 1.1, only the online modules may be taken; these are identified in Annexes 1.1 and 1.3 by the addition of "(online)" to the module name.

Annex 3: Information on the voluntary internship pursuant to § 6 (6)

1. Goal of the internship

The internship provides an insight into the skills required by a Master of Arts in World Heritage Studies to pursue their career and offers an insight into the day-to-day work of managers, knowledge brokers and practitioners in national and international organisations involved in world heritage.

2. Duration and Nature of Internship

(1) The internship must comprise an activity lasting at least twelve weeks in total.

(2) The internship can be completed in sections of at least four weeks.

(3) The internship shall consist of activities in the broad area of the protection and use of world heritage sites.

(4) The internship can be performed at German or foreign, public or private organisations.

3. Completion of the internship

(1) Students are responsible for finding their own internship placement.

(2) The intern must conclude an agreement with the organisation providing the internship which sets out all the rights and obligations of both the intern and the internship organisation as well as the nature and duration of the internship.

4. Proof of the Internship

(1) The intern must have a certificate issued by the internship organisation that clearly documents and certifies the duration of the internship and the nature of the work.

(2) Absences (illness, leave of absence, holiday etc.) during the internship shall not be credited against the duration of the internship.

(3) The intern must present an informal internship report that contains a chronological overview of the work performed, including participation in professional events, calculated by days or weeks (max. 5 DIN A4 pages), and a description or presentation of the focuses of the work of the internship.

(4) This internship report must be confirmed by the internship organisation.

5. Recognition of the internship

(1) The voluntary internship can be included as a special performance in the final document of the Master's programme in World Heritage Studies if it complies with these guidelines and is recognised.

(2) The internship is recognised by the Examination Board of the Master's programme in World Heritage Studies upon application by the intern.

(3) The originals of the internship certificates and the student internship report must be submitted to the Examination Board for recognition.

(4) In case of doubt, the Examination Board shall decide on recognition.