

**Academic regulations governing
the master's degree program in Architecture
at the School of Engineering and Architecture at the
Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU)
and the School of Architecture, Construction and
Geomatics at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW)**

of September 1, 2023

(This is a translation of the Studienreglement für den gemeinsamen Master-Studiengang in Architektur der Hochschule Luzern -Technik & Architektur (HSLU -T&A) und der Hochschule für Architektur, Bau und Geomatik (HABG) der Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz vom 1. September 2023. The German version is authoritative.)

*The Dean of the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture,
based on art. 1 para. 2 and art. 6 para. 1 (a) of the academic ordinance governing degree programs offered by the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (FH Zentralschweiz) of June 13, 2014¹
and*

*the Director of the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics,
based on the framework ordinance governing bachelor's and master's degree programs offered by the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) of January 1, 2007,*

hereby enact the following:

I. General

Art. 1 Principle

¹The Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture and the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics offer a joint master's degree program in Architecture.

²These academic regulations contain the provisions required to implement the master's degree in Architecture in all areas where the legal documents of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU) or the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) do not apply.

¹ SRL Nr. 521

Art. 2 *Admission to the master's degree program*

¹ Students meeting the following entry requirements can be admitted to the master's degree in Architecture:

- a. a bachelor's degree in Architecture from a Swiss or foreign university of applied sciences, usually with good or very good grades and 180 registered ECTS credits,
- b. a bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification from a Swiss or foreign university or architectural school, usually with good or very good grades and 180 registered ECTS credits,
- c. a degree in architecture from a Swiss or foreign university, and
- d. a successful admission interview on the basis of their portfolio submitted in accordance with the guidelines for the master's degree in Architecture offered by the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture and the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics.

Art. 3 *Recognition of prior learning on admission*

¹ Modules taken and concluded successfully in other degree programs offered by the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture, the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics or other universities that are considered by the Heads of Degree Program to be equivalent are recognized. The equivalence test is based on the contents, scope and requirements of the course.

² ECTS credits earned in other degree programs offered by the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture, the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics or other universities remain valid for the period indicated in art. 11. Exceptions are approved by the Heads of Degree Program.

II. Governing bodies

Art. 4 *Dean of the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture and Director of the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics*

The Dean of the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture and the Director of the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics

- a. approve the curricula (module catalog and occupational profile) for the master's degree program,
- b. appoint the external examiners, and
- c. validate the degrees.

Art. 5 *Heads of Degree Program*

The Heads of Degree Program are the two Heads of Master's Programs in Architecture at the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture and the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics. Their decisions are recorded in minutes and must be taken unanimously. The Heads of Degree Program are responsible for the course contents and technical quality of the program and organize the system of assessed assignments. They in particular:

- a. decide on the admission of students and the recognition of prior learning as well as the recognition of language diplomas.
- b. approve the individual module descriptions and organize the system of assessed assignments, in particular the end-of-module exams,
- c. appoint the lecturers participating in the program,

- d. determine the deployment of the external examiners, and
- e. validate the assessed assignments.

Art. 6 *Module coordinators*

¹ Module coordinators are responsible for the quality of a module.

² They prepare the module descriptions and select and evaluate the assessed assignments together with the participating lecturers.

Art. 7 *Lecturers*

Lecturers teach and assess in accordance with the educational quality standards of the Lucerne School of Engineering and the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics.

Art. 8 *External examiners*

External examiners oversee the orderly assessed assignment process and are consulted during the grading process.

III. Master's degree program

Art. 9 *Form of study and period of study*

¹ The master's degree program yields 120 ECTS credits. This corresponds to a standard fulltime period of study of two years. The period of study for part-time students will be longer.

² The maximum period allowed for studies is 8 semesters. Exceeding the maximum period of studies leads to exclusion from the degree program. In exceptional and duly substantiated cases, the Head of Bachelor's and Master's Programs can grant an extension.

³ Breaks in studies do not count towards the period of study. They must not exceed three semesters.

⁴ Any break in studies must be reported in writing to the Bachelor's and Master's Secretariat. The deadlines set for this must be adhered to. Students who are late in notifying a break in studies are liable for the fees for the following semester irrespective of whether they have enrolled for any modules.

⁵ An extension of the period of study longer than one semester on leave due to the break in studies must be accepted.

Art. 10 *Early termination of the degree program*

¹ Students must inform the Bachelor's and Master's Secretariat if they wish to terminate the degree program early.

² Notification of withdrawal from the degree program must be given in writing. The deadlines set for this must be adhered to. Students who are late in notifying an early termination of the degree program are liable for the study fees for the following semester.

Art. 11 *Structure of study program*

¹ The master's degree program in Architecture has a modular structure and is concluded with a master's thesis.

² As a rule, at least two semesters and the master's thesis must be completed either at the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture or the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics, and one semester at the partner university of applied sciences and arts. In exceptional cases the Heads of Degree Program can allow the student to attend this semester at a foreign university. To ensure that learning acquired at a foreign university during the semester abroad is recognized, students must contact the Heads of Degree Program before departing for the semester abroad to clarify the issue of equivalence.

³ A maximum of 30 ECTS credits can be earned per semester.

⁴ ECTS credits are valid for six years from the date of issue. The Heads of Degree Program can approve substantiated written requests to extend the validity of acquired ECTS credits.

Art. 12 *Modules*

¹ Modules are time-limited teaching and learning units covering specific topics or focal areas in which precisely defined skills are taught.

² A module is a grading unit that must generally be concluded within one semester.

³ The following module types are possible:

- core modules: focus lectures, thesis book
- project modules: project work, in-depth study, thesis project (master's thesis)
- related modules: keynote lectures, study trip
- minor modules: basic lectures, Summer School Ticino.

⁴ Core modules and project modules are compulsory modules that must be passed without exception in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.

Art. 13 *Module description*

¹ Every module has a module description that provides information, inter alia, on the entry requirements, the module level, the teaching methods and form of the assessed assignment.

² The module description lists the attestations (proof of the work which students need to do during the course of the module) that are needed for admission to the assessed assignment.

Art. 14 *Language requirements*

Students whose native language is not the predominant language of instruction must provide proof of proficiency in the language of instruction, typically in the form of a language diploma commensurate with the skills level required for the program. The Heads of Degree Program decide on the recognition of language diplomas.

Art. 15 *Assessed assignments and grading of assessed assignments*

¹ Assessed assignments provide evidence of the skills gained during the degree program. To receive the credits for a module according to the module description, the student must pass the end-of-module exam with a grade of "sufficient" (grade E) or better.

² Students who fail to complete an assessed assignment for compelling reasons must notify the Bachelor's and Master's Secretariat in writing before the start of the exam.

³ In the event that such a situation arises during the assessed assignment, the candidate must notify the head of program and the module coordinator immediately of his or her withdrawal from the assignment in writing.

⁴ The assertion of reasons applicable to an assessed assignment already completed is excluded in the event the candidate was aware of them before or during the assessed assignment.

⁵ If medical grounds are quoted, a medical certificate must be submitted with the Bachelor's and Master's Secretariat. Where doubt exists, the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture or the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics may engage an independent medical examiner.

⁶ Every module is concluded with an end-of-module exam.

⁷ End-of-module exams can in particular take the following forms:

- a. written and/or oral tests,
- b. written assignments and reports, and
- c. lectures and presentations.

⁸ End-of-module exams are assessed by the lecturers who participate in the module. If a module is taught by a single lecturer, an external examiner must take part in the grading process as defined in art. 8.

⁹ Failed assessed assignments are assessed with grade F only.

¹⁰ Students whose end-of-module exams have been deemed insufficient and earned an F grade can ask the head of the degree program for access to their examination documentation and a meeting.

¹¹ Students are marked and assessed in accordance with the absolute ECTS grades for all modules:

A	outstanding
B	very good
C	good
D	satisfactory
E	sufficient
F	fail

¹² The grading of assessed assignments for a module can comprise several tests. The module catalog determines the manner in which these exercises are credited.

Art. 16 *Date of grading*

¹ The grading of assessed assignments usually takes place during the ensuing study-free period.

² The module descriptions determine:

- a. the date of the grading of assessed assignments, and
- b. the nature of the assignment.

³ At the end of every semester, students receive a statement of assessed assignments that lists all completed modules with their ECTS credits and grades. This statement of assessed assignments is issued as a decision that may be appealed with instructions regarding the right of appeal (including deadlines).

IV. Conditions for obtaining the master's degree

Art. 17 *Master's degree*

¹ The master's degree program in Architecture offered by the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture and the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics is concluded successfully when the student has:

- a. successfully concluded all core modules required by these regulations,
- b. submitted the master's thesis to the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture or the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics and received an E grade or better, and
- c. earned the 120 ECTS credits required under these regulations, of which at least 90 ECTS credits (including the master's thesis) were earned at the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture and/or the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics.

² The student is awarded the Master of Arts in Architecture when the degree program has been successfully concluded.

³ Students receive the following documents together with their master's degree scroll:

- a. a degree transcript supplement in German and English that provides information on the profile of the degree program, the ECTS grading system that was applied and the university, and
- b. a transcript of records listing the modules taken by the student, the ECTS credits earned, the topic of the master's thesis, and the topics of any other deliverable of a considerable size (including ECTS grades).

Art. 18 *Master's thesis*

¹ The master's thesis focuses on a topic selected by the student or a topic selected from a prescribed list of topics that must be discussed with and approved in advance by the Heads of Degree Program and the competent lecturers. The procedure for preparing the master's thesis is described in the relevant module description.

² The master's thesis can also be written in groups of two, but the two students must each give their easily recognizable individual input to the thesis.

³ The students select their thesis supervisor from the pool of lecturers at the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture and the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics. The Heads of Degree Program then appoint an external examiner.

⁴ The master's thesis can be written away from the relevant School, in which case the provisions of para. 1 apply.

⁵ The master's thesis is assessed and graded by the competent lecturers and external examiners in accordance with the prescribed assessment criteria.

V. Final provisions

Art. 19 *Extraordinary termination of the degree program*

¹ If a core module is finally failed for the second time, the student cannot continue the master's degree in Architecture with the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture or the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics.

² If a related or minor module is finally failed, another module of the same module type must be concluded successfully if the student wishes to continue the master's degree in Architecture with the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture or the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics.

³ Together with the notice of removal from the register of students, the student receives a transcript of records listing all assessed assignments for all attended modules but making it clear that the master's degree program in Architecture has not been passed.

Art. 20 *Right of appeal*

Appeals can be lodged against decisions taken under these academic regulations in accordance with the law applying to the contracting partner which originally admitted the student to the degree program (place of initial registration for study).

Art. 21 *Repeal of previous rules and orders*

The regulations for the joint master's degree program in Architecture at the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture and the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics of September 4, 2013 are repealed.

Art. 22 *Transitional provisions*

¹ Students who started the degree program under the regulations for the joint master's degree in Architecture offered by the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture and the FHNW School of Architecture, Construction and Geomatics of September 4, 2013 will complete their degree program in accordance with the provisions of these academic regulations.

² Students who started their master's degree program before September 1, 2021 shall have the maximum permissible period of studies extended by a maximum of one semester.

Art. 23 *Entry into force*

Subject to the approval of the Governing Council of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts² and the President of the Board of Directors of the FHNW³, these regulations enter into force on September 1, 2023.

Muttenz, December 14, 2023

Lucerne, September 6, 2023

**FHNW School of Architecture,
Construction and Geomatics**

**Lucerne School of
Engineering and Architecture**

Gerhard Schrotter
Director

Viktor Sigrist
Dean

² Adopted by the Governing Council of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts on August 31, 2023.

³ Adopted by the President of the Board of Directors of the FHNW on December 13, 2023.