HOCHSCHULE LUZERN

Wirtschaft

Academic Regulations governing the Bachelor's Degree Programme in Business Administration at the Lucerne School of Business

of 1 September 2020

(These Regulations are translated from and hence based on the "Studienreglement für die Bachelor-Ausbildung in Business Administration an der Hochschule Luzern – Wirtschaft". The German text shall be authoritative.)

The Dean of the Lucerne School of Business,

pursuant to article 1 paragraph 2 and article 6 paragraph 1 letter a of the Academic Ordinance Governing Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, FH Zentralschweiz, of 13 June 2014¹

hereby enacts the following:

I. General

Art. 1 Principle

The regulations governing the bachelor's degree programme in Business Administration at the Lucerne School of Business contain the provisions required to deliver the academic ordinance governing degree programmes at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, FH Zentralschweiz.

II. Governing bodies

Art. 2 *Head of degree programme*

The head of degree programme is responsible for all aspects of the bachelor's programme. In particular, he or she

- a. decides on the admission of students to the course,
- b. decides on the delivery of individual modules,
- c. coordinates and organises the end-of-module assessments, and
- d. decides whether a student has passed a module.

¹ SRL No. 521. No further references to this statutory ordinance shall be made.

Art. 3 Subject specialists and major coordinators

The subject specialists and major coordinators are responsible for subject- and content-related coordination and development within their respective areas of specialisation and majors as well as for the harmonisation of the subjects and contents with other areas of specialisation and majors, insofar as no other responsibilities are provided for. In particular, they implement quality assurance and control measures within their respective specialist areas or majors,

- a. implement the quality assurance and control measures in their areas of specialisation or major
- b. arrange for the validation of assessed assignments and the results of assessed assignment in their respective subject or major, and
- c. support the head of the programme in developing the programme.

Art. 4 *Module coordinators*

The module coordinators are responsible for the formal planning, organisation and delivery of one or more modules, including the assessed assignments.

Art. 5 Lecturers

- The lecturers offer instruction in accordance with the didactic quality standards of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. Their responsibilities include the provision of academic support for students outside the actual course-related events.
- They are obliged to collaborate on the design and delivery of modules.
- They are responsible for designing, evaluating and grading the assessed assignments.

Art. 6 Examiners

- As a rule, assessed assignments or parts of assessed assignments are delivered, evaluated and graded by the lecturers who deliver the corresponding learning content.
- ² If assessed assignments or parts thereof are deemed to have been failed, they must be reviewed and validated by a second lecturer.
- External or internal experts are engaged for the following types of assessed assignment:
 - a. oral assessed assignments, if the share of the oral assessed assignments exceeds 25% of the module grade and
 - b. the bachelor thesis.

In both cases, the relevant lecturers decide on the grade to be awarded in consultation with the experts. In the event of disagreement, the lecturer's decision shall prevail.

- The experts furthermore monitor proper procedure for oral assessed assignments as per paragraph 3 letter a.
- For the purpose of verifying a student's performance during an oral assessed assignment, electronic audio recordings or audiovisual recordings, provided all persons present expressly agree may be made; audio recording are always made of oral assessed assignments that do not involve experts. The examining lecturer shall inform the persons present in advance. The recordings will be deleted after expiry of the time limits for appeal, but at the latest after a legally binding appeal procedure has been completed.

III. Bachelor's degree programme

Art. 7 Purpose

The bachelor's degree in Business Administration of the Lucerne School of Business is a general education programme geared to employability that is practical and scientifically based. It qualifies students to transition to corresponding vocational areas and to proceed to study at master's degree level.

Art. 8 Study tracks

- The bachelor's degree programme can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis.
- ² Part-time studies pursued alongside a relevant professional activity are called a "work-study" track.
- Students are responsible for planning their studies. Standard curricula are made available for the full-time, part-time and work-study tracks. Standard curricula are recommendations for the scheduling and timing of modules.
- The head of programme is available for advice and recommendations in the event of changes of curriculum.
- Requests to change the study track must be submitted to the programme secretariat. Approval of such requests is a matter for the head of programme. If the change is approved, any extension of the study period caused by this must be taken into account.

Art. 9 *Duration and scope of learning requirements in the individual study tracks*

- As a rule, full-time enrolment means a course load of 30 ECTS credits per semester. Where part-time studies are concerned, the number of ECTS credits is usually reduced accordingly.
- The study period for full-time studies according to the standard curriculum is six semesters. The study period for part-time studies according to the standard curriculum is eight semesters.
- The total period of study may not exceed 10 semesters (full-time track) or 12 semesters (part-time track). The head of programme may grant exceptions in justified cases.

Art. 10 Leave of absence

- Students may take leave of absence. A leave of absence lasts at least one semester and may not exceed two semesters throughout the bachelor's programme. Leaves of absence must be notified to the programme secretariat at the earliest opportunity.
- ² In exceptional and duly substantiated cases, the head of programme may grant leave of more than two semesters.
- During a leave of absence, students remain enrolled but do not pay tuition fees. The time spent on the leave of absence does not count towards the period of study per article 9 paragraph 3.
- ⁴ Account must be taken of any extention of the study period caused by a leave of absence.

Art. 11 Professional activity and its recognition in the work-study track

- Students enrolled on the work-study track must present evidence that the professional activity averages at least 40 percent of a full-time workload and that it consists of a qualified commercial or business administration activity. The basis for determining the average professional activity is derived from the number of all semesters for which the student is enrolled at the Lucerne School of Business minus any student exchange or leave-of-absence semesters.
- In the work-study track, the professional activity is credited in the form of transfer modules yielding a total of 12 ECTS credits.

Art. 12 Bachelor's programme structure

- ¹ The programme consists of
 - a. a generalist compulsory area
 - b. a required elective / transfer area
 - c. a chosen specialisation, consisting of a major (main specialisation), a minor (secondary specialisation) and the bachelor thesis.
- The programme is furthermore divided into an assessment phase and a main phase. The main phase is in turn subdivided into a developmental phase and a specialisation phase.
- The assessment phase and developmental phase come under the generalist compulsory area. The specialisation phase consists of required elective / transfer modules and the specialisation. The bachelor thesis comprises a preliminary study and the bachelor thesis itself.
- ⁴ The assessment, developmental and specialisation phases are each formed of one group of modules. The exact composition of the module groups can be found in the module catalogue.
- The bachelor thesis cannot be started unless modules totalling at least 120 ECTS credits (including those in the assessment phase) have been completed. Students may begin working on their bachelor thesis despite not yet having retaken one or more of these modules.
- The thematic focus of the bachelor thesis project typically corresponds to the chosen major. Exceptions must be approved by the person coordinating the major.

Art. 13 Assessment phase

- The assessment module group comprises 39 ECTS credits.
- Passing the assessment module group is a prerequisite for continuing with the studies. Regardless of the chosen study track, the assessment modules must be passed at the first attempt within one academic year. The head of programme may grant exceptions upon request.
- So long as not all assessment modules have been completed at the first attempt, only certain modules of the main phase may be attended: these are designated accordingly in the module catalogue. The ECTS credits earned in such modules or in modules of other programmes of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts do not count towards the credits required to pass the assessment phase.

Art. 14 Main phase

- The main phase of the programme consists of two module groups: developmental (yielding 75 ECTS credits) and specialisation (yielding 66 ECTS credits).
- ² ECTS credits relating to main-phase modules earned during the assessment phase are credited.

Art. 15 *Specialisation phase*

- For the specialisation, students choose one major yielding 30 ECTS credits and one minor yielding 12 credits. In principle, any combination of permitted major and minor can be selected. However, there is no automatic entitlement to a particular combination, especially if this cannot be offered for organisational reasons.
- The major and minor must each be completed in their entirety.
- The final decision regarding the major and minor will be made at the latest one semester before the start of the specialisation phase as per the standard curriculum. The decision regarding the start of registration rests with the head of programme.

Art. 16 Language of instruction

- ¹ The course is offered both in German and English. Certain parts of the programme, namely the communication (German, English) areas and the specialisation phase, can differ in terms of language.
- Students decide before embarking on the programme whether to study in German (Business Administration (BA) profile) or English (International Business Administration (IBA) profile).
- A switch of language models is possible once at the end of the first year of study. Switches must be applied for via the programme secretariat. Approval is a matter for the head of programme. If the switch is approved, account must be taken of any extention of the study period.
- If the language model is switched, entire subject areas must continue to be completed in one language of instruction. Article 40 para. 3 continues to apply to switches to the IBA profile; modules that have already been passed may have to be repeated in English. Only as many credits need to be repeated as necessary to meet the criteria of Article 40 para. 3. Such repetitions are cumulative, i.e. there is no right to further attempts at repetition if a module that was not passed at the first attempt is not passed, nor is it possible to repeat a module that has already been repeated once.
- Students enrolled on the BA profile may earn any number of ECTS credits in the IBA profile. Exceptions to this are the communication area as per paragraph 1 above and the major. Students enrolled on the IBA profile must complete whole areas of specialisation or whole minors. By contrast, it is possible to take individual modules in English in the required elective area.
- Students enrolled on the IBA profile may earn no more than 30 ECTS credits in the BA profile. Exceptions to this are the communication area as per paragraph 1 above, the major and the bachelor thesis. Students enrolled on the BA profile must complete whole areas of specialisation or whole minors. By contrast, it is possible to take individual modules in German in the required elective area.
- The proportion of successfully completed modules outside the student's own language profile is shown in the degree documents.

The condition for attending modules within and outside the selected language profile is a proven level in the relevant language of at least C1 in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Students whose mother tongue is not the same as the language of instruction in certain modules must be in possession of an appropriate certificate. The decision regarding the recognition of such certificates rests with the head of programme.

Art. 17 Recognition of prior learning at other Schools of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts

A maximum of six ECTS credits acquired in modules at other Schools of the University can be credited on request towards the required elective modules of the main phase. This rule does not apply to students pursuing a work-study track.

Art. 18 Crediting of prior learning at other institutions

- Students may request that successfully assessed and passed coursework completed at recognised Swiss or non-Swiss universities be credited, provided it is deemed equivalent. Evaluation of such equivalence is a matter for the head of programme.
- ² Coursework culminating in a diploma awarded by a professional college in a relevant area of study can, on admittance to the programme, be credited with up to 90 ECTS credits against modules of the assessment and main phases of the programme.
- Assessed assignments taken and passed during an exchange semester at a partner university will be recognised and credited provided that
 - a. a "learning agreement" approved by the head of programme was concluded before the student started the exchange semester, and
 - b. a transcript of records issued by the partner university documents the coursework completed by the student during the exchange semester.
- Institutional transfer contracts and cooperation agreements may regulate other crediting of academic achievements.
- In the case of academic achievements performed elsewhere, the grades obtained in the credited modules are adopted, rounded to the nearest grading step. If this is not possible, modules or module components covered by recognised and credited learning performed elsewhere are graded as "passed" and are not included in the calculation of credit grade points as per article 25 paragraphs 1, 4 and 7. In this case, the calculation of the credit grade points as per article 24 paragraph 2 and 3 is based on the number of ECTS credits of the modules not or only partially covered by the recognition/crediting. The maximum admissible number of negative credit grade points is calculated pro rata, rounded to the nearest 0.5 points.
- If the crediting of coursework as per paragraphs 1 and 2 comes to at least 39 ECTS credits, the restriction of module attendance described in article 13 paragraph 3 does not apply.
- To complete the bachelor's programme at the Lucerne School of Business, at least 60 ECTS credits must have been acquired in the main phase of the programme at the School.

IV. Modules

Art. 19 Modules

- ¹ Each module typically yields three ECTS credits or a multiple thereof.
- A module consists of one or more courses.
- Modules may be offered in German or English and, in exceptional cases and in the communication area, in another language.

Art. 20 *Module level and type descriptors*

- Modules are allocated to a specific level descriptor within the bachelor's programme. The entry requirements determine the allocation of the module to a level descriptor. The level designations are as follows:
 - a. Basic (B),
 - b. Intermediate (I),
 - c. Advanced (A) and
 - d. Specialised (S).
- The type of module is allocated to one of three categories (type descriptors):
 - a. Core area module of a study programme (C module),
 - b. Support module of the core area (R module),
 - c. Elective or add-on module (M module).

Art. 21 Contact study and self-study

- Modules and courses consist of contact study and self-study. Self-study may be composed of supervised self-study and unsupervised self-study.
- The module descriptions contain details of the amount of contact study and self-study per module and/or course.

V. Assessed assignments and award of ECTS credits

Art. 22 *Grading of assessed assignments*

- Achievements in the assessed assignments of modules are shown as numerical grades.
- The numerical assessment at a module level is expressed in the following whole grade points and half-grade points in between:
 - 6 = very good 5 = good
 - 4 = sufficient 3 = insufficient (fail) 2 = weak (fail) 1 = very weak (fail)

- A grade of 4 is equivalent to 60% of the maximum possible performance.
- The numerical assessment for the assessed assignments of courses within a module is expressed using the grade points outlined in paragraph 2 and the tenths of a grade point in between.
- A bachelor thesis project preliminary study or thesis rated as insufficient can be rectified once provided the grade is not below 3.0. The rectification must take place in the following semester. The grade of the revision is calculated from the average of the original performance (rounded) and the revision (also rounded). The maximum grade awarded is 4.0 for a rectified thesis.
- In the case of group work, all the group members receive the same grade. Exceptions are possible if it can be shown that the individual contributions of the individual group members to the achievement differ to a very large degree or if peer evaluation or similar was used.
- All the achievements recorded during the entire programme are summarised in an overall assessment rounded to the nearest half-grade point. As a rule, only module grades awarded by the Lucerne School of Business are considered when calculating the overall final grade.

Art. 23 Module assessment

- The module grade corresponds to the grade awarded to the module's assessed assignment.
- In modules consisting of several courses, the assessed assignment consists of the individual course grades. The weighting of the course grades corresponds to the distribution of ECTS credits across the individual courses. If a course grade in turn consists of several partial grades, the module coordinator determines their weighting in consultation with the subject specialist or the person coordinating the major.
- Assessed assignments in modules comprising just one course can also consist of partial grades. In these cases, the module coordinator determines the weighting in consultation with the subject specialist or the person coordinating the major.

Art. 24 Award of ECTS credits

- ¹ The module grade forms the basis for the calculation of the credit grade points and the negative credit grade points of a module.
- ² Credit grade points are determined by multiplying the module grade by the number of ECTS credits allocated to the module.
- Negative credit grade points reflect the difference between a fail grade and the grade 4.0, multiplied by the number of ECTS credits allocated to the module.
- ⁴ The ECTS credits for a module are awarded when the module group as a whole is passed.
- Regardless of the module grade, a module is considered passed if the module group to which the module belongs is passed as a whole.

Art. 25 Passing the module groups

- The assessment phase module group is passed when, within the module group,
 - a. at least 156 credit grade points have been awarded,
 - b. no more than six negative credit grade points have been awarded, and
 - c. no module has been awarded a grade of less than 3.0.
- Anyone failing to meet one or more of the criteria mentioned in paragraph 1 at the first attempt fails the assessment phase and must retake the assessed assignments within one year. The following applies to continuing the course:
 - a. Provided the number of negative credit grade points does not exceed 12, the main phase of the bachelor's programme can be conditionally continued during the retake process.
 - b. If the number of negative credit grade points exceeds 12, the main phase of the bachelor's programme cannot be continued during the retake process. The restrictions set out in article 13 paragraph 3 apply.
- ³ If one or more of the criteria mentioned in paragraph 1 are not met, including in the retake, then the assessment phase is definitively failed and the student is excluded from further participation in the bachelor's programme.
- ⁴ The Developmental module group is passed when, within the module group,
 - a. at least 300 credit grade points have been awarded,
 - b. no more than 12 negative credit note points have been awarded, and
 - c. no module has been awarded a grade of less than 3.0.
- Anyone failing to meet one or more of the criteria mentioned in paragraph 4 at the first attempt fails the developmental phase and must retake the assessed assignments within one year.
- ⁶ If one or more of the criteria mentioned in paragraph 4 are not met, including in the retake, then the developmental phase is definitively failed and the student is excluded from further participation in the bachelor's programme.
- The Specialisation module group is passed when, within the module group,
 - a. at least 264 credit grade points have been awarded,
 - b. no more than 12 negative credit note points have been awarded,
 - c. no module has been awarded a grade of less than 3.0, and
 - d. the bachelor's thesis project has been awarded a pass (4.0 or better).
- Students failing to meet one or more of the criteria set out in paragraph 7 at the first attempt do not pass the Specialisation phase and must earn the missing credits within one year by repeating assessed assignments.
- ⁹ If one or more of the criteria mentioned in paragraph 7 are not met, including in the retake, then the developmental main phase is definitively failed and the student is excluded from further participation in the bachelor's programme.

Art. 26 Retaking assessed assignments

- If a module group is not passed, the modules of the group that were awarded a fail can be retaken once.
- The student need retake only as many assessed assignments as necessary to meet the criteria for passing the module group. It is for the student to decide how many and which assessed assignments to retake.
- Retakes must be completed within one year, calculated from the point at which all the modules of the module group in question were completed the first time round. There can be no later enrolment for additional module retakes.
- Retakes are also permissible during the main phase, i.e. they can be taken before it is known whether the module group as a whole has been passed or not.
- Retakes are subject to the conditions that apply to the module versions in force at the time of the retake.
- Retakes do not require the student to re-attend the relevant module. By the same token, there is no entitlement to attend the module.
- If a module in the compulsory elective area has to be retaken, a different compulsory elective module can be selected for the retake. In this case, the newly selected module cannot be retaken if it is not passed.
- Either way, the grade of the retake replaces the grade of the first attempt. This also applies in the event of unjustified omissions and dishonest conduct involving the retake.

Art. 27 Criteria for performance evaluation

The requirements for assessed assignments, assessment criteria and grades are based on the learning objectives defined in the module descriptions.

Art. 28 *Time of the assessed assignments*

Assessed assignments must be completed in the same semester in which the module is attended. The head of programme may grant exceptions to this rule upon reasoned request.

Art. 29 Admission to assessed assignments

The decision regarding imposing a maximum attendance target of 80 percent as a condition of admission to one or more of a module's assessed assignments and to review these rests with the module coordinators. The attendance obligation must be justifiable in the sense that it is relevant for the acquisition of skills and knowledge.

Art. 30 Resources

Students will normally be informed about any resources permitted to be used for assessed assignments at the beginning of the semester or no later than six weeks prior to the date on which such an assignment or part thereof takes place or begins.

Art. 31 Duty of information

If in doubt, students are required to make every effort to obtain the relevant information on the objectives, contents and forms of assessed assignments.

Art. 32 Transcript of records

Each semester, students receive a transcript of records that relates to the assessed assignment completed in that semester. The transcript of records lists the modules completed with the corresponding grades awarded.

Art. 33 Absence or withdrawal

- ¹ Candidates prevented from attending an assessed assignment by compelling reason must inform the head of programme immediately and submit a written application to withdraw.
- In the event that such a situation arises immediately prior to or during assessed assignment, the candidate must notify the head of programme or lecturer concerned immediately, if possible in writing. The application to withdraw or written notification must be submitted to the head of programme together with any relevant evidence.
- 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.
- If medical grounds are quoted, a medical certificate must be produced. Where doubt exists, the Lucerne School of Business may engage an independent medical examiner.
- The decision regarding the approval of a withdrawal from or curtailment of an assessed assignment rests with the head of programme. If, on the basis of partial performances achieved before the withdrawal/curtailment, it is established that the assessed assignment has not been passed, the assessed assignment will be awarded the grade of 1.0.
- ⁶ Candidates failing to complete an assessed assignment or discontinuing one that has already begun without approval or compelling reason will be deemed to have failed the assignment concerned and will be awarded the grade of 1.0.
- The head of programme can determine substitute assessed assignment and dates for missed assignments for which approval was given. The modalities rest with the head of programme.
- If no substitute assessed assignments are taken, missed assessed assignments for which approval exists can be retaken at the earliest during the next examination period.

Art. 34 Inspection of examination papers

If it is considered didactically meaningful or necessary, subject specialists and major coordinators may grant a right of inspection with regard to particular partial assessed assignments within their area of responsibility in addition to and irrespective of the module grade.

VI. Offer and delivery of modules

Art. 35 Periodicity of modules

Modules are typically delivered once a year, provided that the conditions laid out in article 36 for the delivery have been met.

Art. 36 Delivery of modules

- Modules are delivered if sufficient registrations have been received and if this is compatible within the framework of delivering an orderly course of study.
- Decisions regarding the delivery of modules rest with the head of programme.
- Students affected by the non-delivery of a module will be informed accordingly. They may register for other modules offered in that academic year up to the deadline set by the head of programme. Late registrations will be taken into account as far as possible within the framework of delivering an orderly course of study.

Art. 37 Module registration

- Attendance of a module is predicated on meeting the requirements described in the module description. Failure to do so can lead to exclusion from the module and its assessed assignments.
- There is no entitlement to a place on a particular module or particular delivery of a module.

Art. 38 Withdrawal from a module

- Withdrawals are possible until the date set by the head of programme. A reason must be stated. The decision regarding the admissibility of the reason rests with the head of programme.
- Withdrawals for reasons deemed admissible will be considered provided that the orderly course of study is not impaired by this.
- In the event of a withdrawal declared admissible, subsequent enrolment for other modules is possible up to the date set by the head of programme.

Art. 39 Deadlines and time limits

- Deadlines and time limits in connection with the overall programme or parts thereof (including registering for and withdrawing from modules and assessed assignments) must be observed. Anyone unable to meet a deadline or time limit for compelling reasons (e.g. illness) must inform the person responsible for the deadline or time limit prior to the deadline or expiry of the time limit.
- Should deadlines or time limits be missed for no valid reason, the corresponding registrations or withdrawals are deemed as having not taken place or the relevant assessed assignment as having not been attended (i.e. failed).

VII. Degree

Art. 40 Bachelor's degree

- The bachelor's degree is awarded when all three module groups have been passed.
- Students enrolled on the BA profile receive the title "Bachelor of Science Hochschule Luzern/FHZ in Business Administration". If at least 30 ECTS credits are earned outside the field of communication in English, the title is "Bachelor of Science Hochschule Luzern/FHZ in Business Administration (Bilingual Track)".
- Students enrolled on the IBA profile receive the title "Bachelor of Science Hochschule Luzern/FHZ in International Business Administration" if a minimum of 150 ECTS credits including the communication area are earned in English. Students completing less than 150 ECTS credits in English are automatically awarded a title according to paragraph 2.
- ⁴ ECTS credits acquired on a voluntary basis and in addition to the 180 ECTS credits required for the degree are not considered for the award of the title.

VIII. Final provisions

Art. 41 Right of appeal

Appeals are subject to the provisions of the Academic Ordinance Governing Degree Programmes at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, FH Zentralschweiz.

Art. 42 Applicability

- These academic regulations apply to all students starting their degree programmes from the 2020 autumn semester onwards.
- Students who started their studies in the newly designed Bachelor's programme based on the law applicable as of 1 September 2018, but who have not completed their studies and have not been definitively excluded, will generally continue their studies in accordance with the present academic regulations. Exceptions to this rule are the recognition of professional activity in the work-study track and the recognition of learning achievements in other Schools of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. These continue to be governed by the previous provisions of Article 11 paragraphs 2 and 3 and Article 17 of the academic regulations of 1 September 2019.

Art. 43 Entry into force

These academic regulations shall enter into force on 1 September 2020 subject to approval by the Governing Council².

Lucerne, 26th August 2020

Lucerne School of Business

Prof Dr Christine Böckelmann Dean

 $^{^{2}}$ Approved by the Governing Council of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts on 18 June 2020