

**Please note:**

**The following translation of the German language examination regulations is offered here for the convenience of our international students. Please note, however, that in the case of any conflict or doubt, the original German language version is the valid one.**

**Examination Regulations for the courses of study  
Bachelor of Science Computational Linguistics  
Master of Science Language Science and Technology**

**As of November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

Pursuant to § 59 of law number 1556 (Law Governing the University of the Saarland) (*Universitaetsgesetz* – "UG") of August 27, 2004 (Official Gazette at 1782) the Faculty of Humanities II of Saarland University has adopted the following Examination Regulations for its consecutive Bachelor's Degree Program in Computational Linguistics and its Master's Degree Program in "Language Science and Technology," approved by the Senate and the office of the president and hereby promulgated.

**I. General Provisions**

**§ 1 Ambit, Competence**

These regulations apply to the examinations in the courses of study Bachelor in Computational Linguistics and Master of Language Science and Technology at Saarland University. The organization of lectures, studies and examinations lies within the responsibility of the Faculty of Humanities II (Languages, Literature and Cultural Studies) of Saarland University.

**§ 2 Basic Precepts**

The Bachelors course of studies in Computational Linguistics and the Masters course of study "Language Science and Technology" are core area courses of study in accordance with article 5 of the framework regulations governing examinations of

Saarland University for Bachelors and Masters courses of study, dated December 2004. The courses of study are divided into modules which belong to the categories of: lectures with or without recitation sessions, courses to the structure of a foreign language, seminars, programming courses, software projects, or colloquia. On the bachelor's level, an additional prerequisite to graduation is the completion of a program of professional training as well as a final module consisting of colloquium and a bachelor's thesis. On the master's level, a master's thesis is required as final module. Each module is assigned credit points reflecting the amount of work required to complete the module, and ends with a graded examination. Each exam passed during the studies (*studienbegleitende Prüfungsleistungen*) is part of the Bachelor's respectively Master's examination. The Bachelor's course of study is comprised of modules with a scope of a minimum of 165 credit points as well as the final module of 15 credit points. The Master's course of study, consecutive to the Bachelor's course of study, includes modules adding up to a minimum of 90 credit points as well as the Master's thesis of 30 credit points. Within the different categories of courses there are specific minimum numbers of credit points to be obtained.

**§ 3 Standard Duration of Study**

- 1) For the Bachelor's course of study, the standard duration of study to the completion of the final examinations is six semesters.
- 2) For the Master's course of study, the standard duration of study to the completion of the final examinations is four semesters.
- 3) The examination regulations and the corresponding study regulations are designed so that the final examinations can be taken within the standard study period.

**§ 4 Examination Board**

- 1) To ensure that the standards here set forth are consistently met, a board is to be formed, consisting of the following members, who are to be elected by the council of the Faculty of Humanities II and appointed to a term of two years:
  1. three professors
  2. a research assistant who is a full-time member of the staff of the Department of General Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities II

3. a student, who will have restricted voting rights.

The member from the student body will have only an advisory function when decisions are to be taken which affect the evaluation of the Bachelor or Master's examination, in the case in which the member does not him/herself hold the qualification.

Each of these board members is also to have an elected alternate.

- 2) The council of the Faculty of Humanities II shall elect the chairperson of the examination board and his/her alternate from the members of the examination board, in accordance with clause 1, number 1.

- 3) The examination board constitutes a quorum if its members have been duly summoned and the majority of the voting members are present. Decisions require a majority of the votes cast by the voting members in attendance. In case of a tie, the vote of the chair is decisive.

- 4) The examination board is to ensure compliance with the provisions of these examination regulations, and is to take decisions in doubtful or exceptional cases, which shall be dealt with upon application by a candidate. The candidate in question is to be informed in writing of the board's decision/s in such cases.

- 5) The examination board is to report to the Faculty on developments concerning examinations and periods of study. It shall submit proposals for the reform of the examination and study regulations, and make public the distribution of examination grades and overall grades.

- 6) Members of the examination board are entitled to be present during examinations.

- 7) Members and alternate members of the examination board are obliged to maintain strict confidentiality regarding all examination board matters.

#### **§ 5 Examiners and Assessors**

- 1) Examiners and assessors are to be appointed by the examination board or by the chair on behalf of the board.

- 2) Examiners are to be appointed from among full professors, junior professors, university lecturers or retired professors who are qualified in the area to be examined. The examination board may also appoint honorary professors, university or private lecturers, junior professors, co-opted professors as well as professors from a different institution of higher education. In special cases, the board may appoint researchers, research assistants and part-time lecturers for the area concerned as examiners. In the case of partial or section examinations, instructor/s from the respective module are to be included among the examiners.

- 3) Only university faculty members holding a relevant Masters degree or equivalent qualification may be appointed as assessor.

#### **§ 6 Examinations**

- 1) The final examination for the Bachelor's degree consists of several exams, the Bachelor's thesis and the colloquia of the final module. The final examination for the Master's degree consists of several exams and a final scientific thesis, the Master's thesis. Examinations take place during the study period and, in general, each of them pertains to exactly one module of a semester.

- 2) Each course includes a graded exam, which is to be held no later than the beginning of the following semester. On passing the exam(s) of the relevant module, the corresponding credit points are to be awarded.

- 3) Registration for each module is required for participation. Withdrawal is possible until at the latest two weeks before the first examination.

- 4) Examinations may consist of exams in either written or oral form, which may be held in several parts or on different dates; project work (practical training); seminar presentations and papers; or any combination of these forms. The form and duration of the exam for each module is to be announced at the beginning of the respective course. In the case of combination of exam forms, candidates are to be informed of the weighting

of the various parts. Candidates are to be notified of examination dates at least three weeks in advance.

- 5) In at least three seminars on the Bachelor level and in at least one seminar on the Master level, an oral examination in addition to a spoken or written report is to be carried out regarding the topic of the respective module/s.
- 6) Candidates are to be informed of exam results no later than one month after the date of the exam. Results are to be duly recorded in the files of the examination board office.
- 7) The duration of oral examinations is, in general, 15 to 30 minutes for each candidate. The exams are to be taken before two examiners or one examiner and an expert assessor. Minutes are to be recorded of the essential subject matter and the results of the examination. The examiner and the assessor are to consult with each other in determining the final grade. The minutes are to be signed by both examiners or by the examiner and assessor. Space permitting, students of the same course may attend an oral examination as auditors if the examination candidate gives his/her consent. This consent does not extend to the consultation and assignment of the final grade.
- 8) Written course work (supervised tests, homework, seminar papers/reports, project documentation and implementation) is to be evaluated by an expert examiner. Supervised tests are to generally last from 90 to 120 minutes and may last up to 180 minutes. The time granted for homework, seminar papers, project documentation and implementation is to be announced at the beginning of the course, but is in general not less than 12 weeks.
- 9) In the Bachelor course of study, exams may be taken in English. In the Master course of study, exams will in general be held in English. Other languages may be allowed, assuming consent of the examiners and the candidate.
- 10) If a candidate submits medical certification that he/she is unable to take all or part of an exam due to long-term health problems, the chair is to allow the candidate the opportunity to meet the examination requirements in an alternative but equivalent form.
- 11) Students are to be granted the normal statutory periods of maternity leave, periods of leave for new parents, and compassionate leave for the upbringing of minor children or for care giving of relatives certified to be in need of such.
- 12) The Bachelor examination requirements are considered to be fulfilled when:
  - a) the candidate has obtained the required minimum number of 165 graded credit points, of which at least 157 have been assigned a grade.
  - b) he/she has also obtained the respective minimum number of credits within the different course categories
  - c) the final module (Bachelor's thesis und colloquia) is assessed as passed
  - d) the candidate files for the issuance of the Bachelor's certificate.
- 13) The Master's examination requirements are considered to be fulfilled when:
  - a) the candidate has obtained the required minimum number of 90 credit points, of which at least 68 have been assigned a grade
  - b) he/she has also obtained the respective minimum number of credit points within the different course categories
  - c) the final scientific thesis (Master's thesis) has been assessed as passed
  - d) the candidate has filed for the issuance of the Master's certificate.
- 14) In cases in which a candidate has obtained more than the minimum number of credits, he/she may select a partial number of exams passed for inclusion in the Master's certificate (See clauses 12 and 13, above), provided that all prerequisites regarding minimum number of credit points continue to be met. MSc students may additionally request the conversion of an exam

passed with the grade of at least “ausreichend” into an ungraded, passed exam providing that the total of graded credit points as indicated in paragraph 13 and in §21 meets the minimum requirements. Each module can be counted in only one single category. Courses which a candidate has successfully completed more than once in different semesters can only be counted once. Modules counted toward the Master’s certificate must differ from those of the Bachelor’s certificate which is prerequisite to the Master’s course of study.

- 15) The Bachelor and/or Master’s examination is not passed in the case in which the final thesis (Bachelor or Master’s thesis) or a section examination has conclusively not been passed and cannot be substituted with an alternative elective or required module.

### **§ 7 Transfer of Credits and Examination Results**

- 1) Credits and examination results from an equivalent course of study at a university or other institute of higher education falling within the scope of the German Higher Education Framework Act are to be recognized without the requirement of an equivalence examination. Equivalent examinations (Bachelor, Master, Diploma) within a course of study in Computational Linguistics are to be recognized without the requirement of an equivalence exam.
- 2) Credits and examination results from other courses of study are to be recognized, provided that equivalence has been established. This is to be determined, not by a schematic comparison, but rather by overall consideration and assessment. Concerning recognition of credits and examination results obtained outside the Federal Republic of Germany, the equivalence agreements reached by the conference of ministers of education and cultural affairs and the conference of university principals, as well as agreements between universities, are to be observed.
- 3) Clauses 1) and 2) above also apply to credits and examination results obtained through state-recognized correspondence courses.

- 4) Credit points and examination results obtained outside the scope of a bachelor or master’s course of study according to points 1-3 may be accepted up to a maximum of 50% of the credits obtained within the respective course of study (that is, Bachelor course of study 90 credit points, Master course of study 60 credit points.)
- 5) If credits and examination results are recognized, the corresponding credits and grades – inasmuch as the grading systems are comparable – are to be transferred and taken into account in calculation of the overall grade pursuant to the provisions of these examination regulations. In the case of non-comparable grading systems, credits and examination results are to be acknowledged in the form of ungraded 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 Master’s final examination certificate.
- 6) Upon fulfilment of the requirements of the above clauses 1 to 3, students are legally entitled to recognition of credits and examination results, providing that the total does not exceed the provisions set out in clause 4. The recognition of periods of study, credits and examination results obtained in the Federal Republic of Germany will be effected ex officio. It is the responsibility of the candidate to submit the documents required for recognition. If enough documentation is available on which to base a decision, advance inquiries regarding the recognition of periods of study, credits and examination results are also to be decided upon.
- 7) The recognition of periods of study, credits and examination results pursuant to the above clauses 1 to 3 is the responsibility of the examination board or the chair of the examination board on its behalf. A competent representative of the field is to be consulted before a decision regarding equivalence is reached.

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

- 1) An examination is considered to have been failed if the candidate, without a cogent reason, fails to comply with a submission date, fails to appear at

the appointed time for an examination, or withdraws from the examination after its start.

- 2) Reasons for withdrawal or non-attendance must be immediately submitted in written form to the examination board and are to be substantiated by evidence. The submission of a medical certificate may be required. Illness of a child primarily in the sole care of the candidate is to be considered equivalent to illness of the candidate him/herself as a reason for withdrawal or non-attendance. If the reasons are considered to be sufficient, the examination is to be deemed as not taken and a new appointment can be set, provided the type of assessment concerned permits this procedure.
- 3) On request, the examination board is to enable the student to claim the statutory periods of maternity/paternity leave, the periods of leave for new parents, and leave to fulfil family obligations (upbringing of a minor child or the care of relatives in need of same.)
- 4) Should a candidate attempt to influence the examination result by deception or by using unauthorized auxiliary material, the relevant examination is to be deemed as failed.
- 5) Within a period of one month, the candidate may demand review of a decision pursuant to clause (4). The candidate is to be immediately notified in writing of any negative decision pursuant to clause (4) and given reasons. The candidate is to be given the opportunity of a fair hearing.

### § 9 Assessment of Examination Performance, Certification

- 1) The grades for the performance in the individual examinations are to be stipulated by the respective examiners. Passed examinations are to be awarded one of the following grades:

1 = excellent = outstanding performance  
2 = good = above average performance  
3 = satisfactory = average performance

4 = adequate = performance which, despite deficiencies, meets the requirements  
5 = unsatisfactory

To enable finer differentiation, grades may be raised lower by 0.3 points; the grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7, and 5.3 are here excluded. An examination is deemed to be failed if the grade of 5 (“unsatisfactory”) is awarded.

- 2) The grading is to be supplemented by an ECTS grade, which is to provide information about the relative performance and is also to appear in the diploma supplement. The ECTS performance scales classify the student according to statistical aspects which allow the individual performance of a student to be ranked with respect to other students. Successful students are to receive grades from the following:

A the best 10%  
B the next 25%  
C the next 30%  
D the next 25%  
E the next 10%

This procedure is to be followed provided that the group in question is large enough to provide a reasonable base for a distribution based on percentages. In the case where groups are too small, a pragmatic solution should be found.

- 3) The final certificate for Bachelor’s studies and Master’s studies is to indicate the title and semester for the passed examinations selected for inclusion in the certificate pursuant to §6, clauses 12 and 13. The total number of credits and the respective grade is also to be listed. Additionally, the total number of credit points and the overall grade is to appear. The overall grade is to be the arithmetic mean calculated from the grades of examination results, weighted with respect to the number of credit points awarded. In reaching this arithmetic mean, only the first figure after the decimal point rounded neither up nor down, is to be taken into account. The overall grade is then to 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: adequate

- 4) The Master's certificate will additionally include the comment "with distinction" if the overall grade is 1.2 or above.
- 5) The Bachelor's and Master's certificates are to be issued in both German and English. The candidate is to be herewith awarded the academic title of "Bachelor of Science" (B.Sc.) for the Bachelors course of studies in Computational Linguistics respectively the title of "Master of Science" for the Masters course of study in Language Science and Technology, the respective academic titles to be explicitly listed in the certificate, as well as any specialisation. The specialisations to be noted are: Computational Linguistics, Computational Psycholinguistics, Language Technology, Phonetics and Speech Technology.
- 6) Upon application to the examination board office, students can also obtain a certificate listing all previously obtained credits. This certificate will be structured in the same way as the final certificate.

### § 10 Retaking Examinations

- 1) Retaking an examination for a course taken in any one semester is permissible only within the scope of the conditions prescribed for the module. A candidate may take examinations for the same module not more than three times. If the continuation of a candidate's studies depends on the outcome of a particular exam, two examiners are to conduct the exam. Examinations which have been passed within the standard time slot may be repeated within one year; the better result will be counted. The module description is to determine the standard time slot pertaining to each module or module element.
- 2) A thesis (Bachelor's thesis or Master's thesis) which has been awarded the grade "unsatisfactory" can be rewritten once with a new topic. If a Bachelor's or a Master's thesis is written within the standard duration of

study and is initially failed, this first attempt will be considered as not having taken place.

### § 11 Progress Evaluation

- 1) Accompanying the course of studies, students have access to competent academic advice. Teaching staff is to especially attend to progress made in the first year of studies and is to inform students regarding their progress and, if necessary, provide appropriate academic advice.
- 2) Students studying for the Bachelor's degree on a full-time basis are expected to meet the following minimum requirements:
  - a) After 1 semester at least 9 credit points
  - b) After 2 semesters at least 18 credit points
  - c) After 4 semesters at least 60 credit points
  - d) After 6 semesters at least 105 credit points

Only credit points which come from the specific areas and in the specific numbers listed in § 15 can be accepted.

- 3) Students studying for the Master's degree on a full-time basis are expected to meet the following minimum requirements:
  - a) After 1 semester at least 9 credit points
  - b) After 2 semesters at least 30 credit points
  - c) After 4 semesters at least 60 credit points
  - d) Only minimum numbers as listed in § 21 can be accepted.
- 4) In the case in which a student does not meet the minimum requirements, he or she is to be notified in written form that the goal of the course of studies is endangered. The student is also to be offered an opportunity for academic counselling.
- 5) In the case in which a student, at the end of a semester, fails for two consecutive semesters to meet the minimum requirements due to

reasons to be given by the student, or fails to complete a minimum of 165 credit points following the ninth semester of study on the Bachelor's level, or fails to complete a minimum of 90 credit points after 6 semesters of study on the Master's level, the student in question forfeits the right to sit for examinations. The examination committee is to inform the student of this in written form. Before the committee reaches a final decision, the student is to be given an opportunity to give a response or statement.

- 6) In justified cases, the examination committee may choose to make an exception to the deadlines listed in clauses 2 and 3 and extend the deadline for up to one semester.

## **§ 12 Part Time Study**

- 1) Students and applications may register for part time study if they are unable to spend more than 50% or at the most 60% of their working time on the course of studies due to professional obligations, pregnancy, birth of a child within the previous 3 months (Mutterschutz), upbringing and care of a minor child or children, the care of relatives, or other important reason.
- 2) Applications for departmental permission for part time semesters must be submitted to the examination committee at least two weeks before the end of the registration or re-registration period, respectively. After permission is granted by the examination committee, an application is to be submitted to the student office (Studierendensekretariat) for matriculation or re-registration on part time basis.
- 3) The semester in which the Bachelor's or Master's thesis is to be written is to be completed on a full time basis.
- 4) The degrees granted and the type and scope of the study requirements are the same as set out for full time study on the Bachelor's or Master's level.

- 5) Part time study provides no legal basis for the provision of special courses or course offers or teaching support.
- 6) If more than 60% of a standard full time semester load is completed within one semester, this semester is to be considered as a full time semester. In exceptional cases, an application may be considered in which a small exceedance may be balanced out, for example, within a year of study.
- 7) The deadlines listed in § 11 are to be extended for part time study as follows:
  - a) One or two part time semesters, extend by one semester
  - b) Three or four part time semesters, extend by two semesters
  - c) Five or six part time semesters, extend by three semesters
  - d) More than six part time semesters, extend by four semesters
- 8) Students studying on a part time basis are to participate in departmental academic counselling once every two semesters.

## **II. Bachelors Course of Studies**

The Bachelor's course of study is a German language course of study. As such, the regulations are also in German. Please see the German language version of these regulations.

## **III. Masters Course of Studies**

### **§ 19 Aim of the Course of Studies**

The goal of the international, consecutive Master's course of studies "Language Science and Technology" is to complement and deepen the previous Bachelor course of study and to prepare the students for a research or development career in the field of Computational Linguistics.

## § 20 Admission Requirements

- 1) Prerequisite to admission to the Master's course of study is:
  1. the possession of a Bachelor's degree granted by a German institute of higher education in Computational Linguistics or related field, or equivalent qualification, or
  2. the possession of an equivalent degree from a foreign institute of higher education in Computational Linguistics or related field, or equivalent qualification, and
  3. proof of adequate language knowledge for the course of study and
  4. special aptitude (§ 69, clause 5 Official Gazette) pursuant to clause 2.
- 2) Criteria for the establishment of special aptitude are:
  1. the accomplishments of the previous academic career,
  2. the documentation of special study interests in the form of a dossier and qualified professional opinions and
  3. proficiency in the English language.

Using the criteria named here, the aptitude of each applicant will be evaluated in relation to the profile and requirements of the chosen MSc course of study.

- 3) Applicants who are not yet in possession of a Bachelor's degree may request a provisional admission to the course of studies. In case of admission, they may participate in the program, with the provision that the Bachelor's certificate is to be submitted within three months at the latest.
- 4) The examination committee decides in each case whether the requirements for admission have been met.

## § 21 Master's Studies Requirements, Examination Results for the Master's Final Examination

- 1) The Master's course of study "Language Science and Technology" is comprised of core courses and specialization courses in the following areas:
  - Computational Linguistics
  - Linguistics
  - Language Technology
  - Computational Psycholinguistics
  - Speech Science and Speech Technology
- 2) The final examination for the Master's degree consists of ongoing assessment based on course work and course examinations as well as the Master's thesis. The ongoing assessment has a scope of 90 credits points, of which 68 must receive a grade. A minimum of 24 graded credit points must come from core courses as well as 7 graded credit points from a seminar and 12 ungraded credit points from the Master Seminar. The core course "Foundations of Language Science and Technology" is required for all students.
- 3) All students are required to complete at least 8 credit points in courses from Computer Science or Cognitive Psychology. A maximum of 15 credit points can be recognized from these subjects. Upon application, credit points from courses offered by other departments may be recognized as fulfilling the obligations for credits to be achieved in Computer Science or Cognitive Psychology.
- 4) Any credit points used toward the completion of the course of Bachelors studies may not be additionally taken into account for the Master's examination. In general, no credit points earned at the level of the Bachelor's studies are to be counted in the Master's course of study.
- 5) Any of the following specializations may be selected as part of the Master's course of study, which can also be completed without specialization:

- Computational Linguistics
- Computational Psycholinguistics
- Language Technology
- Phonetics and Speech Technology

6) For each specialization, the following required areas have been determined:

- For the specialization “Computational Linguistics”: Computational Linguistics (first required area) and Linguistics
- For the specialization “Computational Psycholinguistics”: Computational Psycholinguistics (first required area), Linguistics and Computational Linguistics
- For the specialization “Language Technology”: Language Technology (first required area) and Computational Linguistics
- For the specialization “Phonetics and Speech Technology”: Speech Science and Speech Technology (first required area) and Linguistics.

For the Master’s course of study with specialization, the following number of credit points are to be obtained in the various required areas:

- 12 graded credit points from core courses in the first required area
- 12 graded credit points from core courses in the second required area, or, in the case of the specialization “Computational Psycholinguistics”, in the additional required areas
- minimum of 9 graded credit points from specialization courses of the required areas, and
- minimum of 9 credit points which do not come from the required areas

The minimum number of graded credit points from core courses in an obligatory area is increased to 15 if the core course “Foundations of Language Science and Technology” is one of the selected courses.

- 7) Core courses in the second resp. third required area can, upon request, be substituted by core courses from another area.
- 8) Credit points for the Master’s course of study can also be earned while the student is registered in the Bachelor’s course of study.

## § 22 Master’s Thesis

1) The Master’s thesis is a scientific thesis which is written under supervision. It is meant to show the candidate’s ability to work on a problem within the field of Language Science and Technology and to present the results within a given range of time and in a comprehensible fashion. The Master’s thesis may be written in German, English or, on approval, in another language. The Master’s thesis can take the form of a publication accepted by a certified scientific conference or scientific journal.

2) The topic for the Master’s thesis may be issued by any professor, university lecturer, junior professor, retired professor, honorary professor, associate professor or special professor in the Department of General Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities II, or by professors co-opted in the faculty.

3) The topic of the thesis and the date of its assignment are to be placed on record with the office of the examination board.

4) The Master’s thesis is to be completed within six months. In exceptional cases, an extension may be granted which is not to be longer than an additional three months. The chair of the examination committee is to decide on requests for extension of this deadline.

5) The candidate may change his or her topic only once, and only within the first five weeks of the original six month period granted. A new topic is to be determined within a time period of four weeks from the cancellation of the original topic.

6) If the work period of six months is interrupted for longer than one week by illness or other reasons over which the candidate has no control, this time will not count toward the six month deadline. Appropriate proof, for example, written documentation from the attending physician, is to be submitted by the candidate to

the examination board. Upon application to the examination board, the legal period of “Mutterschutz” (exemption of new mothers from work and other obligations), parenting time, and fulfilment of familial obligations such as providing care for a minor child or caring for a relative, can also be taken into account.

7) The Master’s thesis is to be submitted within the stipulated periods in four copies to the office of the examination board. The date of submission is to be placed on record. If the thesis is submitted after the deadline set, it will be graded as “unsatisfactory”. When submitting the thesis, the candidate is to certify in writing that he or she has used no sources or aids other than those specifically listed in the document.

8) The Master’s thesis is to be evaluated by two examiners and assigned a grade as set out in §9, clauses 1 and 3. The thesis advisor, who is also the person who has assigned the topic as in clause 2, is normally one of the evaluators. One of the examiners must be a professor of the department of General Linguistics of the Faculty of Humanities II. The second examiner is to be appointed by the chairperson of the examination committee, as set out in §5, clause 2. The reports are to be concluded within 2 months.

9) Should there be a difference of more than 1.0 between the grades given by the two examiners, but both are at least “adequate”, an additional professor of General Linguistics of the Faculty of Humanities II is to be appointed as examiner.

10) If one examiner has graded the thesis “unsatisfactory” but the other examiner has graded it at least “adequate”, another professor of the department of General Linguistics of the Faculty of Humanities II is to be appointed as examiner. Such an extra evaluation may be requested only once. If this additional evaluation also produces a grade of “unsatisfactory”, the thesis is to be deemed “unsatisfactory.”

11) A thesis deemed “unsatisfactory” can be rewritten once, if a new topic is issued.

12) The weighting of the thesis for the final grade of the Master’s examination is 30 credits. The grade for the thesis is to be calculated as the arithmetical mean of the grades given by the two examiners, given that both have awarded a grade of at least “satisfactory” and the difference between the two is not more than 1.0. In

cases as described in clauses 9 and 10, above, in which three reports are available, the final grade is to be calculated as the arithmetical mean of the three grades if all three grades are at least “satisfactory”, otherwise the grade is to be calculated as the arithmetical mean of the two positive grades.

13) A colloquium of 30 minutes length is to be presented on the Master’s thesis, in the course of which the autonomy of the research presented is to be investigated. One of the examiners is to be the person who has originally assigned the topic of the thesis.

### **§ 23 Registration for the Master’s Examination**

1) The application for admission to the Master’s examination takes place with the registration for 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.

2) If not yet done for the Bachelor’s examination, the examination board office is to create an examination file for each candidate, in which the results of all examinations are to be recorded.

### **§ 24 Master’s Certificate and Academic Degree**

1) A certificate with the particulars set forth in §9 clause 3 shall be issued with respect to the passed examination within four weeks. The certificate is to be signed by the dean of the Faculty of Humanities II and by the chairperson of the examination board. The certificate is to carry the date of the last examination performance as well as the date of signature.

2) The Master’s certificate/degree is to be issued in German and in English. The certificate is to state that the candidate has been awarded the academic degree of “Master of Science” (M.Sc) for the course of study “Language Science and Technology” with the specialization, if applicable, of Computational Linguistics, Computational Psycholinguistics, Language Technology or Phonetics and Speech Technology.

- 3) A diploma supplement is to be issued along with the Master's certificate. The supplement supplies information regarding the objectives, structure and content of the course of study.
- 4) If the candidate fails the final examination, the chairperson of the examination board is to issue written notification of same, including an indication of the candidate's right of legal appeal.
- 5) Upon candidate request, a certificate can be issued indicating the date of completion of the examination procedure.

#### **IV Final Regulations**

##### **§ 25 Invalidity of an Examination**

- 1) If candidate cheating in an examination becomes known after the issuance of the certificate, the examination board is entitled to subsequently declare that the examination as a whole or parts of the examination was failed.
- 2) If the candidate did not meet the requirements for admission to the course of studies without having knowingly provided misleading information, and this circumstance becomes known only after the issuance of the certificate, this error is to be considered as having been remedied by the fact that the examination has been passed. If the candidate knowingly and wrongfully obtained admission to the course of studies, the examination board is to decide the matter pursuant to the Saarland Administrative Proceedings Act.
- 3) The candidate is to be given the opportunity to make a statement before a decision is reached.
- 4) The invalid examination certificate is to be retracted and, if appropriate, amended. A decision pursuant to clause 1 and 2 is ruled out after a period of five years has elapsed from the date of the issuance of the examination certificate.

##### **§ 26 Access to the Examination Files, Legal Remedies**

- 1) Within a period of one year following completion of the examination procedure, the candidate may, upon application, be permitted to inspect

his/her examination files. The chairperson of the examination board is to determine the time and place for such an inspection. On application, the candidate is to be informed of the results of individual parts of the Bachelor's respectively the Master's examination prior to the completion of the examination procedure.

- 2) On application by the person concerned, procedural decisions taken by an examiner or by the chairperson of the examination board are to be reviewed by the examination board.

##### **§ 27 Effective Date and Provisional Regulations**

- 1) These regulations for the courses of study Bachelor Computational Linguistics and Master in "Language Science and Technology" come into effect on the day following their publication in the Official Gazette of Saarland Universities.
- 2) Students already registered in the Bachelor Computational Linguistics/Master "Language Science and Technology" course of study when these regulations come into effect may continue to study under the auspices of the old examination regulations within the standard course of study time plus a transitional period of two years for Bachelors or one year for Masters, but at least until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.
- 3) Upon application, the examination board is to determine equivalent substitutes for examination performances carried out in accordance to the examination regulations for Bachelor and Master from July 13, 2006.

Saarbrücken, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008

University President  
Professor Volker Linneweber

**Please note:**

**The following translation of the German language study regulations is offered here for the convenience of our international students. Please note, however, that in the case of any conflict or doubt, the original German language version is the valid one.**

**Study Regulations for the Courses of Study  
Bachelor “Computational Linguistics”  
Master “Language Science and Technology”**

**As of November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Preamble**

Pursuant to §54 of Act No. 1556 on Saarland University (University Act – “Universitätsgesetz”) of August 27<sup>th</sup> 2004 (Official Gazette, page 1782), last changed via Law Number 1600 on amendment of the Saarland Higher Education Tuition Law and other laws from July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006 (Official Gazette, pp. 1226 and 1782), the Faculty of Humanities II of Saarland University has issued the following Study Regulations for the course of study Bachelor Computational Linguistics and the consecutive course of study Master “Language Science and Technology”, which are hereby promulgated following approval by the Senate:

**I. General Provisions**

**§ 1 Basic Precepts**

- 1) These study regulations specify the contents and structure of the Bachelors course of study in Computational Linguistics and the Masters course of study “Language Science and Technology” on the basis of the Examination Regulations set down for these courses of study.
- 2) The courses of study are divided into modules which belong to the categories of: lectures with or without recitation sessions, courses to the structure of a foreign language, seminars, programming courses, software projects, or colloquia. On the bachelor’s level, an additional prerequisite to graduation is the completion of a program of professional training as well as a final module consisting of colloquium and a bachelor’s thesis. On the

master’s level, a master’s thesis is required as final module. Each module is assigned credit points reflecting the amount of work required to complete the module, and ends with a graded examination. Each exam passed during the studies (studienbegleitende Prüfungsleistungen) is part of the Bachelor’s respectively Master’s examination. The Bachelor’s course of study is comprised of modules with a scope of a minimum of 165 credit points as well as the final module of 15 credit points. The Master’s course of study, consecutive to the Bachelor’s course of study, includes modules adding up to a minimum of 90 credit points as well as the Master’s thesis of 30 credit points. Within the different categories of courses there are specific minimum numbers of credit points to be obtained.

**II. Bachelor Course of Study**

The Bachelor course of study is a German language course of study. As such, the regulations are also in German. Please see the German language version of these regulations.

**III. Master Course of Study**

**§ 4 Modules**

- 1) The Master course of study is comprised of modules totalling 90 credits, as well as a scientific thesis, the Master’s thesis, which is weighted with 30 credits. The courses on offer for the Master’s course of study are to cover at least the following modules (numbers noted in brackets refer to hours of instruction per week (SWS), “L” refers to a lecture, “T” to tutorial or recitation session.)
  1. Core Courses (Stammvorlesungen) from the areas of:
    - Computational Linguistics
      - a) Lecture Foundations of Language Science and Technology
      - b) Lecture Computational Linguistics
    - Linguistics
      - c) Lecture Syntactic Theory
      - d) Lecture Semantic Theory

- e) Lecture Phonological Theory
- Language Technology
  - f) Lecture Language Technology I
  - g) Lecture Language Technology II
- Computational Psycholinguistics
  - h) Lecture Computational Psycholinguistics
  - i) Lecture Experimental Methods
- Speech Science and Speech Technology
  - j) Lecture Speech Science
  - k) Lecture Speech Technology

The lecture Foundations of Language Science and Technology is weighted with 9 credit points (4 L and 2 T), all other core courses have a scope of 6 credit points (2 L, 2 T).

2. In the category of specialization courses (Vertiefungsveranstaltungen) in the areas of Computational Linguistics, Linguistics, Language Technology, Computational Psycholinguistics und Speech Science and Speech Technology:

- i. Seminars covering 7 or 4 credits,
- ii. Project seminars covering 5 credits,
- iii. Master-Seminar covering 12 credits,
- iv. Lectures typically covering 6 or 3 credits.

3. Core courses and further courses in the subjects Computer Science and Cognitive Psychology.

2) Participation in core courses covering at least 24 credits is obligatory for all students, as well as participation in a seminar covering 7 credits, in a Masters Seminar covering 12 credits and a colloquium covering 3 credits, in which the results of the Master's thesis are to be presented and discussed. The core course "Foundations of Language Science and Technology is required for all students.

- 3) All students must achieve at least 8 credit points in courses offered by Computer Science or Cognitive Psychology. Upon application, up to 15 credits may be recognized from these areas. Students will be advised, together with the respective department, about appropriate courses.
- 4) Four specializations are offered for the Master's course of study, as follows:
  - Computational Linguistics
  - Computational Psycholinguistics
  - Language Technology
  - Phonetics and Speech Technology
- 5) The Master's course of study may be completed with one of these specializations or without specialization. For each specialization, participation in core courses of the following required areas covering 24 credits is required, (respectively 27, if the lecture "Foundations of Language Science and Technology" is one of the courses selected.) 12 credits (or 15, resp.) of which are to come from the first required area:
  1. For the specialization "Computational Linguistics": first required area Computational Linguistics, second required area Linguistics (excepting "Phonological Theory")
  2. For the specialization "Computational Psycholinguistics": first required area Computational Psycholinguistics, additional required areas Linguistics and Computational Linguistics
  3. For the specialization "Language Technology": first required area Language Technology, second required area Computational Linguistics
  4. For the specialization "Phonetics and Speech Technology": first required area Speech Science and Speech Technology, second required area Linguistics.

Additionally, for each specialization at least 9 credits are to be earned in specialization courses from the respective required areas as well as at least 9 credits earned in courses not belonging to the respective required area.

6) The course offer in the various categories can be augmented for one or more semesters by additional courses, which are to be approved by the examination board. These courses, their corresponding weight in credits,

and their affiliation to one or more course categories and areas, are to be announced before the beginning of the respective semester.

#### **§ 5 Plan of Study**

- 1) Based on these study regulations, the Faculty of Humanities II issues a plan of study containing further information about the form and extent of the modules, as well as recommendations concerning the advisable organization of the studies. This plan is to be published in an appropriate form. The current range of modules available in the various categories is to be announced in the course timetable for each semester.
- 2) Appendix B contains sample study plans for the Master's course of study.

#### **V. Final and Interim Provisions**

##### **§ 6 Interim Regulations**

- 4) Students already registered in the Bachelor Computational Linguistics/Master "Language Science and Technology" course of study when these regulations come into effect may continue to study under the auspices of the old examination regulations within the standard course of study time plus a transitional period of two years for Bachelors or one year for Masters, but at least until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

##### **§ 7 Effective Date**

These Study Regulations for the courses of study Bachelor Computational Linguistics and Master in "Language Science and Technology" come into effect on the day following their publication in the Official Gazette of Saarland Universities.

Saarbrücken, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
University President  
Professor Volker Linneweber

**Appendix B**  
**Sample Study Plan MSc Language Science and Technology**

The original German-language study regulations contain sample study schedules, an English translation of which can be found here:

<http://www.coli.uni-saarland.de/msc/specializations.html>