



**Examination and Study Regulations
for the Master's programme
African Studies: Critical Perspectives on
Society, Politics, Culture
at the University of Bayreuth
dated 25 February 2026**

Pursuant to Art. 9 sentence 1 in conjunction with Art. 80 para 1 sentence 1 and Art. 84 para 2 sentence 1 of the Bavarian Higher Education Innovation Act (BayHIG), the University of Bayreuth hereby issues the following regulations:

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§ 1

General Examination and Study Regulations

¹The Master's programme in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture is governed by the General Examination and Study Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's programmes at the University of Bayreuth (APSO). ²Supplementary and deviating provisions for the Master's programme in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture are set out in these regulations.

§ 2

Aims and Structure of the Programme

(1) ¹The Master's programme in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture equips students with the following skills:

- comprehensive methodological, academic and professionally relevant knowledge in the field of African Studies,
- the ability to critically analyse social, political, cultural and societal challenges, dynamics and processes of change, and to discuss them in the light of theories from the humanities and social sciences,
- the ability to carry out advanced independent academic work.

²The Master's programme in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture is conducted in English, including all examinations. ³Upon successful completion of the Master's examination, the University, through the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, awards the academic degree of Master of Arts (abbreviated: M.A.).

(2) ¹The Master's programme may be undertaken as a full-time or part-time course of study. ² The programme may be commenced in the winter semester.

§ 3

Admission to the programme

(1) The entry requirements for the Master's programme are:

1. a university degree with a minimum grade of 'good' (2.5) in the Bachelor's programme in Interdisciplinary African Studies at the University of Bayreuth or at a domestic or foreign university in a programme focused on cultural, social, societal or historical studies, and

2. proof of English language proficiency at least at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for applicants who did not obtain their university entrance qualification in English, and
 3. proof of German language proficiency at least at level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for applicants who did not obtain their university entrance qualification in the German language. Applicants who do not meet the requirements set out in sentence 1 will be enrolled on condition that they submit proof of the required language proficiency by the end of the second semester at the latest and
 4. the submission of a one- to two-page cover letter in English explaining the reasons for choosing the Master's programme in African Studies. This should outline the specific skills on the basis of which the student considers themselves particularly suited to the intended programme. Examples of such skills may include previous areas of study, relevant regional experience, work placements, professional experience or similar, as well as a demonstrated interest in the methodological and theoretical approaches of the social and cultural science disciplines involved.
- (2) ¹The qualifications must not differ significantly from those specified in paragraph 1(1) in terms of the skills acquired. ²If there are significant differences that can be compensated for, applicants may be admitted on condition that, in addition to the requirements to be fulfilled in the Master's programme, they also successfully complete coursework and examinations worth a maximum of 15 credit points from the Bachelor's programme by the end of the second semester at the latest; otherwise, the entry requirements for the programme are deemed not to have been met. ³In this regard the provisions of the Examination and Study Regulations for the Bachelor's programme in Interdisciplinary African Studies at the University of Bayreuth, in their currently applicable version, shall apply. ⁴Art. 86 of the Bayreuth Higher Education Act (BayHIG) shall apply to the determination of the eligibility for recognition of domestic and foreign qualifications. ⁵These decisions shall be taken by the Examination Board.
- (3) ¹If the certificate of the relevant first degree is not yet available, a confirmation stating the individual marks for all examinations and coursework completed up to the application deadline must be submitted. ²These achievements must comprise a total of at least 150 credit points and, following the calculation of the overall mark, correspond to at least a 'good' (2.5). ³Applicants who meet the requirements set out in sentence 2 shall be enrolled on condition that they submit the certificate of the relevant first degree with a grade of at least 'good' (2.5) by the end of the second semester.

§ 4

Additions and deviations

- (1) Deviations or additions to § 2 para 1 APSO:
 1. Notwithstanding sentence 4, one of the members may be elected from among the faculty's research staff (Art. 71 BayHIG) and the remaining members shall be drawn from among the professors (Art. 57(1) BayHIG). The Examination Board shall be elected for a term of four years.
 2. In addition to sentence 5, the chair of the Examination Board must be a member of the body of professors.
- (2) Notwithstanding § 5 para 3 APSO, applications for the recognition of prior learning must be submitted to the Examination Board as soon as possible after enrolment, but no later than before the announcement of the examination result of the final possible resit for the respective module.
- (3) ¹In addition to § 6 APSO, it is possible to sit further examinations in Module Area G beyond the required scope; Paragraph 4 and § 14 para 1 APSO must be observed. ²There is no obligation to retake further examination components that have been failed. ³The additional examination results shall be recorded on the transcript, unless the student requests otherwise.
- (4) ¹Notwithstanding § 14 para 1 sentence 1 of the APSO, the overall mark for the Master's examination is calculated as the average of the module marks relevant to the final mark, as specified in the Annex, and the mark for the Master's thesis, weighted by the credit points of the respective module or in accordance with the specification in the Annex.
- (5) Deviations from or additions to § 31 APSO:
 1. Paragraph 3:
 - a) Notwithstanding sentence 1, the workload for the Master's thesis is 660 hours.
 - b) Notwithstanding sentence 3, upon application by the student, the chair of the examination board may, after consulting the first examiner, extend the submission deadline by a maximum of four weeks for full-time students or a maximum of eight weeks for part-time students, provided that the student is not responsible for the delay.
 2. In addition to paragraph 4 sentence 1, the Master's thesis may, where academically necessary, be submitted in French.
 3. In addition to paragraph 7, in special cases the Examination Board may consult a further examiner, in particular where the different assessments differ by more than one grade.

§ 5

Entry into force

- (1) ¹These Regulations shall enter into force on 26 February 2026. ²They shall apply to students commencing this degree programme from the 2026/2027 winter semester onwards. ³The remaining students shall organise their studies in accordance with the previous examination and study regulations for the Master's programme in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture at the University of Bayreuth of 15 March 2023 (AB UBT 2023/016), as amended by the Regulations of 5 June 2025 (AB UBT 2025/017) ; Upon written application to the Examinations Office, students who have already enrolled in this degree programme from the 2025/26 winter semester onwards may structure their studies in accordance with these regulations.
- (2) Upon the entry into force of these Regulations, the Examination and Study Regulations for the Master's programme in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture at the University of Bayreuth dated 15 March 2023 (AB UBT 2023/016), as amended by the Regulations of 5 June 2025 (AB UBT 2025/017), shall cease to apply, subject to the provision in paragraph 1, sentence 3.

Appendix: Modules, credits and examinations

The Master's programme in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture is structured in modules and comprises the following module areas:

A Interdisciplinary African Studies

B Navigating the disciplines

C/D/E Focal Areas

- C Focal Area: Social and Cultural Anthropology

- D Focal Area: Politics and Sociology

- E Focal Area: African Religion

From the three focus disciplines C to E, one focus discipline worth 20 credits must be selected.

G Elective classes

L Languages

P Study Project

M Master's Thesis and Colloquium

A change of major subject is permitted once, provided it is requested in writing by the student to the Examinations Office no later than the start of the third semester in the full-time programme or the fifth semester in the part-time programme. ²A second change is not permitted. ³If, at the time of the change, examinations have already been taken and failed in the previous major discipline, these examinations do not need to be retaken after the change of major discipline. ⁴A change of major discipline cannot lead to an extension of the deadlines set in the Study and Examination Regulations.

If modules from areas C to E are selected in module area G, a course other than one already completed must be chosen there. Double crediting is not permitted.

Modules that have already been taken in the underlying Bachelor's programme cannot be recognised or taken in the Master's programme.

Abbreviations:

	Vertical lines between examination types indicate possible alternatives.
+	Plus signs indicate multiple examination components to be completed.
x/y	Fractions indicate the weighting with which the respective assessment contributes to the module mark.
()	Round brackets group related assessment components. They can be used to define alternative forms of assessment for a single assessment component, or to split a single assessment component into several.
K	Written exam
mP	Oral examination
H	Term paper

P Presentation
 E Essay
 semA Assignments throughout the semester
 sA Written assignment

CO code		Area Module	CP	Examination	Counts to- wards final mark
	A	Interdisciplinary African Studies	15		yes (A2)
Fak530054	A1	Introduction to African Studies	5	E	
Fak530055	A2	Interdisciplinary Seminar	5	Portfolio assessment: (P 3/10 + H 7/10) (sA + E)	
Fak530056	A3	Topical Debates in African Studies	5	semA	
	B	Navigating the disciplines	15		yes (the two best module grades)
Fak530057	B1	Seminar in Social & Cultural An- thropology in Africa	5	Portfolio assessment: semA + E	
Fak530058	B2	Seminar in Sociology and Politics in Africa	5	Portfolio assessment: semA + E	
Fak530059	B3	Seminar in the Study of Religion in Africa	5	Portfolio assessment: semA + E	
	C-E	Focal Areas From the three focus disciplines C to E, one focus discipline worth 20 credit points must be selected.	20		yes
	C	Focal Area: Social and Cultural Anthropology			yes (C1, C2, C3)
Fak530060	C1	World Anthropologies	5	H K	
Fak530061	C2	Seminar in Anthropology	5	P E	
Fak530062	C3	Research Design & Project Devel- opment (Anthropology)	5	sA	
Fak530063	C4	Data analysis of the anthropologi- cal research project	5	Portfolio assessment: sA + P	
	D	Focal Area Politics and Sociology			yes (the three best module grades)

CO code		Area Module	CP	Examination	Counts to- wards final mark
Fak530064	D1	Social and Political Processes in Africa	5	mP	
Fak530065	D2	Africa's Global Entanglements	5	H	
Fak530066	D3	Research Design & Project Development (Politics and Sociology)	5	sA	
Fak530067	D4	Current Events, Trends and Debates in/on African Politics and Society	5	Portfolio assessment: P 3/10+ (E H) 7/10	
	E	Focal Area African Religion			yes (the three best module grades)
Fak530068	E1	Seminar in the Study of Religion I	5	Portfolio assessment: P 3/10+ (sA semA) 7/10	
Fak530069	E2	Seminar in the Study of Religion II	5	E H	
Fak530070	E3	Research Design & Project Development (Religion)	5	sA	
Fak530071	E4	Seminar in the Study of Religion – Wider Perspectives	5	L S E Portfolio assessment: P 3/10+ (sA semA) 7/10	
	G	Elective classes	15		no
		During the course of study, students must complete 15 ECTS credits of modules in the compulsory elective area G. Students may choose modules from areas C to E that they have not yet completed, as well as other modules related to the core disciplines or modules with an African focus from other degree programmes at the University of Bayreuth (e.g. Area Expertise Module A: African History (MA Global History), W5 Political Geography (MA Human Geography), Introduction to African Legal Systems (supplementary programme in International Legal Studies), E2.1 Overview of African Literatures (MA African Verbal and Visual Arts),	15	See the relevant FPSO	

CO code		Area Module	CP	Examination	Counts to- wards final mark
		Qualitative Methods for the Social Sciences (MA Development Studies).			
	L	Languages	8		No
		During the course of study, students must take language courses totalling 8 ECTS credits. Students may choose from African languages or other languages used in Africa or in African archives (e.g. Swahili, Bambara, Wolof, French, Arabic). When selecting language courses, students must take into account the required prior knowledge, which is specified in the module description. In addition to the modules listed here as examples, other modules for these languages or language groups may be selected from the Language Centre's module handbook. The examination formats and weightings listed there apply to these modules.			
SZBAA11M1		Bambara: Basic Course 1 (A1.1) Bambara Initial Course	4	Portfolio assessment: K 4/5 + mP 1/5	
SZBAA12M1		Bambara: Basic Course 2 (A1.2) Bambara Basic Course	4	Portfolio assessment: K 4/5 + mP 1/5	
SZSWA11M1		Swahili: Basic Course 1 (A1.1) Swahili Initial Course	4	Portfolio assessment: K 4/5 + mP 1/5	
SZSWA12M1		Swahili: Basic Course 2 (A1.2) Swahili Basic Course	4	Portfolio assessment: K 4/5 + mP 1/5	
SZFRA1XM1		French: Basic Course 1 (A1) (UNlcert® Basic)	4	Portfolio assessment: K 3/4 + mP 1/4	
SZFRA2XM1		French: Basic Course 2 (A2) (UNlcert® Basic)	4	Portfolio assessment: K 3/4 + mP 1/4	
	P	Study Project	20		yes (worth 10 credits)
	P1	Study Project	20	sA	

CO code		Area Module	CP	Examination	Counts to- wards final mark
	M	Master's Thesis and Colloquium	27		yes (M2)
Fak530093	M1	Master's Thesis Seminar	5	P	
Fak530094	M2	Master's Thesis	22	Master's thesis	
		TOTAL	120		

Issued pursuant to the resolution of the Senate of the University of Bayreuth dated 4 February 2026 and the approval of the President of the University of Bayreuth dated 24 February 2026, Ref. A 3750.53 - I/1.

Bayreuth, 25 February 2026

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UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH
THE PRESIDENT
[signature]
Professor Dr Dr h. c. Stefan Leible

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