

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Subject-Specific Course Regulations
for the International Continuing
Education Master's Program in Open
Design**

Unofficial version

Subject-Specific Course Regulations

for the International Continuing Education Master's Program in Open Design

On the basis of § 17, Para. 1, Point 3 of the Constitution of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin dated 10/24/2013 (Official Bulletin of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin No. 47/2013), the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy III issued the following course regulations* on 31.03.2014:

- § 1 Scope of application
- § 2 Start of the course
- § 3 Course objectives
- § 4 Teaching formats
- § 5 Course modules
- § 6 Effective date

Annex 1: Module descriptions

Annex 2: Example program of study

§ 1 Scope of application

(1) These course regulations contain the subject-specific regulations for the international continuing education Master's program in Open Design. They apply in conjunction with the subject-specific examination regulations for the international continuing education Master's program in Open Design and the General Admission, Course and Examination Regulations of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (ZSP-HU), as amended.

(2) The continuing education Master's program in Open Design is offered jointly by the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU) and the Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA), and leads to a joint degree from these partner institutions.

§ 2 Start of the course

1) Students may only commence the international continuing education Master's program in Open Design in the winter semester every two years.

2) The course is a full-time program.

§ 3 Course objectives

(1) The objective of the course is the acquisition of interdisciplinary expertise enabling students to form interfaces between different fields.

- Firstly, graduates will acquire a diverse range of academic methods that encompass analysis from

cultural studies and the humanities, historicization, scientific experimentation, and design synthesis.

- Secondly, they will acquire praxis-oriented and creative problem-solving strategies that they have demonstrated in multiperspective projects and concepts.

- Thirdly, diverse social competencies will be conveyed, starting with critical self-reflection on collaboration in an interdisciplinary team, via linguistic competencies, through to intercultural competencies in communicating between different international knowledge and work cultures.

- By integrating innovative forms of teaching and learning, training will be provided in a flexible approach to and professional use of the latest media.

(2) The title of the international continuing education Master's program in Open Design sets out its focus on an interdisciplinary "design turn" in scholarship. The aim is to practice interdisciplinary collaboration in the research-oriented Master's program in Open Design during the course itself in order to address complex problems with the diversity of methods available today. The transfer of interdisciplinary and intercultural knowledge will enable students to diagnose problems and develop solutions to them.

(3) Independent academic and creative work in a team is a crucial component of the course. In face-to-face teaching, Internet-based study, project work, and through a high proportion of self-directed learning, students will acquire academic, analytical and design competencies.

(4) The international continuing education Master's program in Open Design is a double degree. It promotes internationality as modules and module components must be completed abroad. It is a requirement of the course that at least two semesters abroad are completed at the UBA.

(5) Successful completion of the course will qualify graduates for careers in

- Intercultural and interdisciplinary communication and mediation

- Interdisciplinary problem solving

- Development and innovation research

- Conceptual work and project management in industry, research and society

- As a research-oriented master's program, a career in research and knowledge transfer is one particular possibility.

* The Headship of the University approved the course regulations on ____.

§ 4 Teaching formats

(1) The competencies that students will acquire on the course will be conveyed in different teaching and learning formats. Students' workload is formed of the contact time (semester hours per week, SWS) and self-directed learning. The total workload is set out in the module descriptions.

(2) The language of the program is English, and at least 25 CP must be obtained in an English-language course. Courses carrying a total of 25 CP can be completed in English and/or Spanish. Courses carrying a total of 30 CP can be completed in English and/or German. The master's thesis must be written in English.

(3) In addition to the teaching formats specified in the ZSP-HU, the teaching formats in the course include:

Laboratory: The laboratory enables interdisciplinary work of an innovative nature. As a physical workspace, the laboratory grants the students permanent access to work equipment and enables communication with fellow students. The laboratory is an operational unit in which the knowledge acquired in the different teaching units (modules) can be transformed into practical experiences. It is a platform for translating design into a scientific process of experimentation and research.

§ 5 Course modules

In the course, 120 CP must be attained, of which 30 CP are awarded for the master's thesis, including the colloquium and the thesis defense. The first and second semesters of the master's program will be completed at the UBA; in the third semester, students will complete a compulsory semester at the HU Berlin. In the fourth semester, students will write their master's thesis, with the option to do so at the HU or the UBA.

The Master's program in Open Design includes the following modules, carrying a total of 120 CP:

(a) Compulsory modules (110 CP):

- Module 1 Elements (UBA) 12 CP
- Module 2 Laboratory Elements (UBA) 13 CP
- Module 3 Experiments (UBA) 12 CP
- Module 4 Laboratory Experiments (UBA) 13 CP
- Module 5 Projects (HU) 12 CP
- Module 6 Laboratory Projects (HU) 13 CP
- Module 7 Intercultural and Interdisciplinary Competencies (HU) 5 CP
- Module 12 Master's Thesis (UBA/HU) 30 CP

(b) Compulsory elective modules (10 CP):

- Module 8 Elective I (UBA) 5 CP
- Module 9 Language Course I (UBA) 5 CP
- Module 10 Elective II (UBA) 5 CP
- Module 11 Language Course II (UBA) 5 CP

Two of the four modules must be completed.

§ 6 Effective date

(1) These course regulations will take effect on the day after their publication in the Official Bulletin of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

(2) These course regulations will apply to all students who commence their studies after these regulations take effect or continue their studies after a change of university, course or major.

Annex 1: Module descriptions

a. Compulsory modules:

Module 1 Elements (UBA)		12 credit points	
<p>Learning and skills objectives: Based on the knowledge they acquire of the historical, theoretical and material properties of structures, students will be able to interpret physical structures as the basic elements of the design process in different fields of knowledge and analyze their significance as an interdisciplinary level of mediation. Alongside this focus of the module, students will develop competencies in using software programs (LabView, FromZ, Rhinoceros, InDesign), sensors, and interfaces.</p>			
<p>Prerequisites for participating in the module or particular teaching formats in the module: none</p>			
Teaching format	Contact time, workload in hours	Credit points and requirements for their award	Themes and content
Seminar (block): Physical Structures 1 (English)	<u>2 SWS</u> <u>100 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 75 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	4 CP , participation; paper, presentation, or position statement	History and theory of structures, structures of interdisciplinary work
Seminar: Media 1 (English)	<u>2 SWS</u> <u>100 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 75 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	4 CP , participation; paper, presentation, or position statement	Media theory and academic praxis, sensors
Seminar: Design Strategies 1 (English)	<u>2 SWS</u> <u>100 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 75 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	4 CP , participation; paper, presentation, or position statement	Introduction to general design theory and concepts of design research
Final module examination	None		
Duration of the module	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 semester <input type="checkbox"/> 2 semester		
Module start	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> winter semester <input type="checkbox"/> summer semester Every other year in the winter semester. Attendance: 1st semester		

Module 2 Laboratory Elements (UBA)		13 credit points	
<p>Learning and skills objectives: The module will enable students to undertake course-specific, praxis-related research and project work based on specific topics. The project work for the semester will focus on a theme that is directed toward current problems and set by the instructors. One of the particular key skills that participants will acquire is the ability to develop iterative problem-solving strategies for interdisciplinary problems. Based on the core elements of the design and research process (design, concept, model, etc.), students will gain interdisciplinary project skills and in-depth experiences of using software programs (LabView, FromZ, Rhinoceros, InDesign) for modeling, simulations, presentations and conveying knowledge.</p>			
Prerequisites for participating in the module or particular teaching formats in the module: none			
Teaching format	Contact time, workload in hours	Credit points and requirements for their award	Themes and content
Practical: Elements (English)	<u>2 SWS</u> <u>100 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 75 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	4 CP , participation; paper, presentations, or position statement	Core elements of the design and research process
Laboratory (block) (English)	<u>6 SWS</u> <u>150 hours</u> 75 hours contact time 75 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	6 CP , participation, two interim presentations	Thematically focused, experimental project work developed independently but supervised by the instructors in the scientific laboratory; using software programs
Final module examination	<u>75 hours</u> Portfolio examination: presentation of the student's own work during the semester and preparation	3 CP , pass	
Duration of the module	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 semester <input type="checkbox"/> 2 semester		
Module start	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> winter semester <input type="checkbox"/> summer semester Every other year in the winter semester. Attendance: 1st semester		

Module 3 Experiments (UBA)		12 credit points	
<p>Learning and skills objectives: Students will acquire a fundamental understanding of experimentation and the construction of experimental systems in different disciplines of knowledge. They will be able to demonstrate skills in the application of the fundamentals of media technology (LabView, virtualization, and materialization), and they will be able to apply design strategies to the design of experiments. They will be able to analyze and interpret the structure of experimental systems in the natural sciences, the humanities, and design, based on case studies, problems, and investigation scenarios.</p>			
<p>Prerequisites for participating in the module or particular teaching formats in the module: none</p>			
Teaching format	Contact time, workload in hours	Credit points and requirements for their award	Themes and content
Seminar: Physical Structures 2 (either English or Spanish)	<u>2 SWS</u> <u>75 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 50 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	3 CP , participation; paper, presentations, or position statement	E.g. aleatory structures of sponges or porous materials, structure-function analyses, physical-dynamic structures of textiles
Seminar (block): Technical Media 2 (English)	<u>2 SWS</u> <u>75 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 50 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	3 CP , participation; paper, presentations, or position statement	E.g. optimizing complex networks as a process in electrical engineering, laboratory techniques for analysis and synthesis
Seminar: Design Strategies 2 (either English or Spanish)	<u>2 SWS</u> <u>75 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 50 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	3 CP , participation; paper, presentations, or position statement	Creative and design processes as experimental practices
Final module examination	<u>75 hours</u> Portfolio examination: presentation of the student's own work during the semester and preparation	3 CP , pass	
Duration of the module	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 semester <input type="checkbox"/> 2 semester		
Module start	<input type="checkbox"/> winter semester <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> summer semester Every other year in the summer semester. Attendance: 2nd semester		

Module 4 Laboratory Experiments (UBA)		13 credit points	
<p>Learning and skills objectives: The module will enable students to undertake course-specific, praxis-related research and project work based on specific topics. The project work for the semester will focus on a theme that is directed toward current problems and set by the instructors. One of the particular key skills that participants will acquire is the ability to develop experimental problem-solving strategies for interdisciplinary problems. Based on a fundamental understanding of experimentation and the structure of experimental systems, students will acquire interdisciplinary project and methodological competencies, and in-depth experiences in applying media technology, design strategy, as well as in experiments, their construction and evaluation.</p>			
<p>Prerequisites for participating in the module or particular teaching formats in the module: none</p>			
Teaching format	Contact time, workload in hours	Credit points and requirements for their award	Themes and content
Practical: Experiments (either English or Spanish)	<u>2 SWS</u> <u>100 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 75 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	4 CP , participation; paper, presentation, or position statement	Fundamental understanding of experimentation and the structure of experimental systems
Laboratory (block) (English)	<u>6 SWS</u> <u>150 hours</u> 75 hours contact time 75 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	6 CP , participation, two interim presentations	Thematically focused, experimental project work developed independently but supervised by the instructors in the scientific laboratory; using software programs
Final module examination	<u>75 hours</u> Portfolio examination: presentation of the student's own work during the semester and preparation	3 CP , pass	.
Duration of the module	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 semester <input type="checkbox"/> 2 semester		
Module start	<input type="checkbox"/> winter semester <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> summer semester Every other year in the winter semester. Attendance: 2nd semester		

Module 5 Projects (HU)		12 credit points	
Learning and skills objectives: Students will be able to analyze the specific properties of interdisciplinary design processes in which analytical, historical, experimental and design techniques are integrated in complex ways. They will be able to apply design strategies with an integrated approach to the development of innovative projects and thereby link the diverse elements of the creative process with the methods of scientific praxis.			
Prerequisites for participating in the module or particular teaching formats in the module: none			
Teaching format	Contact time, workload in hours	Credit points and requirements for their award	Themes and content
Seminar: Physical Structures 3 (either English or German)	2 SWS <u>75 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 50 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	3 CP, participation; paper, presentations, or position statement	E.g. comparative structural analysis as a transdisciplinary practice, the design of physical structures in different disciplines such as physics and architecture, materials research and design (macro and nano)
Seminar: Technical Media 3 (either English or German)	2 SWS <u>75 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 50 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	3 CP, participation; paper, presentations, or position statement	E.g. transmitting, processing, and storing data and objects
Seminar (block): Design Strategies 3 (English)	2 SWS <u>75 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 50 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	3 CP, participation; paper, presentations, or position statement	E.g. rapid prototyping, historical genesis of design strategies
Final module examination	<u>75 hours</u> Portfolio examination: presentation of the student's own work during the semester and preparation	3 CP, pass	
Duration of the module	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 semester <input type="checkbox"/> 2 semester		
Module start	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> winter semester <input type="checkbox"/> summer semester Every other year in the winter semester. Attendance: 3rd semester		

Module 6 Laboratory Projects (HU)		13 credit points	
<p>Learning and skills objectives: The module will enable students to undertake course-specific, praxis-related research and project work based on specific topics. The project work for the semester will focus on a theme that is directed toward current problems and set by the instructors. One of the particular key skills participants will acquire is the ability to develop project-based problem-solving strategies for complex, interdisciplinary problems. Students will be able to synthesize the elements of the design process using methods such as historical analysis and experimentation, and to apply design strategies as an integrated process to the development and execution of innovative, interdisciplinary project work. Students will be able to execute an interdisciplinary project, taking into account the dynamics of different project steps and the knowledge from different disciplines that must be incorporated.</p>			
Prerequisites for participating in the module or particular teaching formats in the module: none			
Teaching format	Contact time, workload in hours	Credit points and requirements for their award	Themes and content
Practical: Projects (either English or German)	<u>2 SWS</u> <u>100 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 75 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	4 CP , participation; paper, presentation, or position statement	E.g. project management, knowledge management, visualization strategies applied in project processes in historical, theoretical and practical perspective
Laboratory (block) (English)	<u>6 SWS</u> <u>150 hours</u> 75 hours contact time 75 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	6 CP , participation, two interim presentations	Thematically focused, experimental project work developed independently but supervised by the instructors in the scientific laboratory; using software programs
Final module examination	<u>75 hours</u> Portfolio examination: presentation of the student's own work during the semester	3 CP , pass	
Duration of the module	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 semester <input type="checkbox"/> 2 semester		
Module start	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> winter semester <input type="checkbox"/> summer semester Every other year in the winter semester. Attendance: 3rd semester		

Module 7 Intercultural and Interdisciplinary Competencies (HU)		5 credit points	
Learning and skills objectives: The module Intercultural and Interdisciplinary Competencies will enable students to deepen their knowledge of specifically coded perceptions and evaluations that determine the meaning of cultures and symbolic orders, as well as the use of regional cultural, media and physical techniques and materials. In addition, the transfer of knowledge between Europe and Latin America (Germany and Argentina) will provide students with the opportunity to reflect on this exchange process as an intercultural experience in historical and theoretical perspective.			
Prerequisites for participating in the module or particular teaching formats in the module: none			
Teaching format	Contact time, workload in hours	Credit points and requirements for their award	Themes and content
Seminar: Intercultural Competencies (either English or German)	2 SWS <u>75 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 50 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	3 CP , participation; paper, presentation, or position statement	Concepts of regional, global and intercultural competency (local / global knowledge)
Practical: Interdisciplinary Competencies (either English or German)	2 SWS <u>50 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 25 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, and the special assignment	2 CP , participation; paper, presentation, or position paper	Analysis of cultural practices and forms of behavior based on illustrative historical and contemporary topics
Final module examination	None		
Duration of the module	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 semester <input type="checkbox"/> 2 semester		
Module start	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> winter semester <input type="checkbox"/> summer semester		

b. Compulsory elective modules:

Two of the four modules listed here must be completed.

Module 8 Elective I (UBA)		5 credit points	
Learning and skills objectives: This module will enable students to acquire cross-subject competencies in different disciplines of their own choice. Students will be able to apply their disciplinary perspective to new fields of knowledge. They will acquire a multidisciplinary portfolio of methods for description, analysis, and interpretation, and an in-depth understanding of the perspectives and approaches in other disciplines.			
Prerequisites for participating in the module or particular teaching formats in the module: none			
Teaching format	Contact time, workload in hours	Credit points and requirements for their award	Themes and content
Variable	75 hours	3 CP, in line with the requirements of the other subjects	
Variable	50 hours	2 LP, in line with the requirements of the other subjects	
Final module examination	None		
Duration of the module	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 semester <input type="checkbox"/> 2 semester		
Module start	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> winter semester <input type="checkbox"/> summer semester		

Module 9 Language Course I (UBA)		5 credit points	
Learning and skills objectives: The students will develop advanced language skills in English, Spanish, or German. The language course's level of difficulty will be based on the individual's existing knowledge.			
Prerequisites for participating in the module or particular teaching formats in the module: none			
Teaching format	Contact time, workload in hours	Credit points and requirements for their award	Themes and content
Language course (K)	2 SWS <u>50 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 25 hours preparation for class and follow-up work	2 CP , participation, exercises	Spanish / German / English
Language course (K)	2 SWS <u>75 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 50 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, exam	3 CP , participation, exercises, exam	Spanish / German / English
Final module examination	None		
Duration of the module	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 semester <input type="checkbox"/> 2 semester		
Module start	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> winter semester <input type="checkbox"/> summer semester		

Module 10 Elective II (UBA)		5 credit points	
Learning and skills objectives: This module will enable students to acquire cross-subject competencies in different disciplines of their own choice. Students will be able to apply their disciplinary perspective to new fields of knowledge. They will acquire a multidisciplinary portfolio of methods for description, analysis, and interpretation, and an in-depth understanding of the perspectives and approaches in other disciplines.			
Prerequisites for participating in the module or particular teaching formats in the module: none			
Teaching format	Contact time, workload in hours	Credit points and requirements for their award	Themes and content
Variable	<u>75 hours</u>	3 LP , in line with the requirements of the other subjects	
Variable	<u>50 hours</u>	2 LP , in line with the requirements of the other subjects	
Final module examination	None		
Duration of the module	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 semester <input type="checkbox"/> 2 semester		
Module start	<input type="checkbox"/> winter semester <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> summer semester		

Module 11 Language Course II (UBA)		5 credit points	
Learning and skills objectives: The students will develop advanced language skills in English, Spanish, or German. The language course's level of difficulty will be based on the individual's existing knowledge.			
Prerequisites for participating in the module or particular teaching formats in the module: none			
Teaching format	Contact time, workload in hours	Credit points and requirements for their award	Themes and content
Language course (K)	2 SWS <u>50 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 25 hours preparation for class and follow-up work	2 CP , participation, exercises	Spanish / German / English
Language course (K)	2 SWS <u>75 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 50 hours preparation for class, follow-up work, exam	3 CP , participation, exercises, exam	Spanish / German / English
Final module examination	None		
Duration of the module	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 semester <input type="checkbox"/> 2 semester		
Module start	<input type="checkbox"/> winter semester <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> summer semester		

Master's Thesis

Module 12 Master's Thesis		30 credit points	
<p>Learning and skills objectives: In their master's theses, students will demonstrate, in both practice and theory, that they are able to investigate an issue independently from a scientific and a design perspective, and incorporate interdisciplinary connections from current research. The master's thesis is to be produced within four months and should not exceed a total of 120,000 text characters as a general rule. The thesis is to be written in English. The thesis defense is a presentation of the creative output (model, concept or similar) of the master's project.</p>			
<p>Prerequisites for participating in the module or particular teaching formats in the module: completion of modules I-III</p>			
Teaching format	Contact time, workload in hours	Credit points and requirements for their award	Themes and content
-	600 hours Work on the master's thesis including research and contact time with the adviser	24 CP , pass	Master's thesis on a topic in the subject area.
Colloquium	2 SWS <u>50 hours</u> 25 hours contact time 25 hours preparation for class and follow-up work	2 CP , participation and presentation of the master's project	The laboratory will also be open to students as a workspace and development platform outside the <u>colloquium hours</u> .
Defense	<u>100 hours</u> Project presentation and defense of the master's thesis	4 CP , pass	Project presentation and defense of the master's thesis
Duration of the module	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 semester <input type="checkbox"/> 2 semester		
Module start	<input type="checkbox"/> winter semester <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> summer semester Every other year in the winter semester. Attendance: 4th semester		

Annex 2: Example program of study

1st semester	2nd semester	3rd semester	4th semester
Elements 3 classes, 12 CP	Experiments 3 classes, 12 CP	Projects 3 classes, 12 CP	
Laboratory Elements 2 classes, 13 CP	Laboratory Experiments 2 classes, 13 CP	Laboratory Projects 2 classes, 13 CP	
Elective I or Language Course I 2 classes, 5 CP	Elective II or Language Course II 2 classes, 5 CP	Intercultural and Interdisciplinary Competencies 2 classes, 5 CP	
			Colloquium 1 class, 2 CP
			Master's thesis and its defense 24 + 4 CP
18 SWS	18 SWS	18 SWS	2 SWS
30 CP	30 CP	30 CP	30 CP