

**REGULATIONS AND CURRICULUM FOR
THE MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (INFORMATION
STUDIES)**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
AALBORG UNIVERSITY**

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**REGULATIONS AND CURRICULUM FOR
THE MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN INFORMATION STUDIES
AT AALBORG UNIVERSITY**

In pursuance of Act No. 261 of 18 March 2015 on Universities (the University Act) with subsequent amendments the following regulations and curriculum are stipulated for the Master's Programme in Information Studies at Aalborg University.

PART 1
PRELIMINARY REGULATIONS

Section 1 Legal Framework

The Master's Programme in Information Studies has been planned in accordance with the Ministry of Higher Education and Science's Ministerial Order No. 1061 of 30 June 2016 on Bachelor and Master's programmes at Universities (the Ministerial Order on the Study Programmes) with subsequent amendments. Ministerial Order No. 1062 of 30 June 2016 on University Examinations and Grading (the Examination Order). Additional information is available in the Grading Scale Order and in the Admission Order.

Section 2 Faculty Affiliation

The Master's Programme in Information Studies belongs under the Faculty of Humanities.

Section 3 Study Board Affiliation

The Master's Programme in Information Studies belongs under the Study Board of Communication and Digital Media.

Section 4 External Censorship

The Master's Programme in Information Studies applies "Censorkorps for Informationsstudier, kommunikation og digitale medier." (Censorship for Information Studies, Communication and Digital Media).

PART 2
OBJECTIVES, DURATION, STRUCTURE, ETC.

Section 5 Programme Objectives

The Master's Programme in Information Studies is a research based experimental full-time programme that provides students with a basis for the execution of professional work functions and qualifies for admission to PhD studies.

Subsection 2

The overall objective of the Master's Programme in Information Studies is to educate graduates who are capable of adapting and developing ICT solutions that have been considered in relation to a wide spectrum of solutions and variables, including their adaptation to users and the organisational contexts into which they will enter. The Master's Programme in Information Studies builds on and supplements the knowledge and skills that students have acquired in the course of the preceding bachelor education. The object of study for Information Studies is ICT systems, their theoretical basis and their integration in human and organisational practices. Particular emphasis is given to communication, learning and knowledge processes in relation to ICT.

Subsection 3

Objectives

Through the Master's Programme in Information Studies, students will acquire:

Knowledge of:

- theory and method as regards the understanding of human practice in relation to the use of ICT
- theory and method as regards the development and design of ICT
- theory and method as regards categorisation and formalisation in relation to the design of ICT
- theory, methods and concrete ICT based tools for ICT based data collection and analysis
- theory, methods and concrete ICT based tools for managing learning, knowledge and other types of content through ICT systems
- theory of science related to the discipline
- the correlation between the theory of science related to the discipline, scientific method and choice of theory in scientific studies within the field of informatics; on this basis they will be able to reflect on the knowledge of the discipline and identify scientific issues
- the competence requirements of the discipline in relation to professional work.

Subsection 4

Through the Master's Programme in Information Studies, students will acquire:

Skills in:

- assessing, choosing and applying relevant strategies, methods and ICT based tools for collecting, processing and handling data in order to identify human practice in relation to the usage and development of ICT
- assessing, choosing and applying relevant strategies and methods for developing ICT to and with specific user groups
- using formal models for developing and communicating system development and system design
- developing and applying new methods for examining human practice in relation to the usage and development of ICT
- communicating knowledge and solutions founded in the field of informatics, including research, development and design results to peers and laymen
- engaging in critical dialogue on research, development and design results with peers and laypeople
- working in practice with a basis in the field of informatics, including being capable of identifying research and development needs on the basis of the theory and methods of the discipline
- organising and undertaking scientifically based studies on the basis of informatics.

Subsection 5

Through the Master's Programme in Information Studies, students will acquire:

Competences in:

- managing complex and unpredictable work, research and development situations that require new solutions within the field of informatics as regards the study of human practice in relation to ICT and the development of ICT
- independently initiating and engaging in disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration on studying human practice in relation to ICT and the development of ICT, with a professional approach
- working independently and engaging in disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration on the planning of informatics-related studies and research projects, with a professional approach
- taking an analytical, reflective and critical approach to the study of human practice in relation to ICT and the development of ICT
- taking an analytical, reflective and critical approach to ICT tools for data collection and analysis as well as managing learning, knowledge and other content
- identifying own learning needs and structuring own learning on the basis of problem based learning (PBL) and other types of learning in relation to the field of informatics.

Section 6 Duration, structure etc.

The duration of the Master's Programme in Information Studies is two years, equivalent to 120 ECTS credits.

Subsection 2

The Master's Programme spans four semesters (7th to 10th semester). Students become co-creators of their own academic profiles by following their particular interests within the field of Information Studies in the following ways: by choosing elective courses from a range of options on the 7th and 8th semesters and by choosing specific problem formulations, theory and method within the thematic frame in the project modules on the 7th and 8th semesters. On the 9th semester the students may choose between "Information Studies in Practice", and a focus on Social Analytics. On the 10th semester the students choose the focus of their Master's thesis. The Programme may include a study placement abroad.

Subsection 3

On completion of the Master's Programme, the student is awarded the degree *cand.it.* (*candidatus/candidata informationis technologiae*) *i informationsvidenskab*. In English, the title translates into *Master of Science (MSc) in Information Technology (Information Studies)*.

Section 7 Admission requirements and conditions

Admission to the Master's Programme in Information Studies is reserved for students who have completed a bachelor's degree in Communication and Digital Media with specialization in Information Studies (Informationsvidenskab) or another relevant bachelor's degree or professional bachelor's degree. A relevant bachelor degree is defined as a degree from a bachelor's programme whose central subject areas ensure competences to an extent equivalent to not less than 60 ECTS points within the disciplinary area of information studies (communication theory, philosophy of science and epistemology, ICT, learning and organisational theory, programming methods, design and human-computer interaction).

The Bachelor's Programme in Communication and Digital Media with specialization in Information Studies (Informationsvidenskab) from Aalborg University will provide access for students to be admitted to the Master's Programme in Information Studies.

Due to the rules of the ministerial "dimensioning of admissions", the admission of a student to the MSc Programme in Information Studies at Aalborg University Copenhagen only applies to Aalborg University Copenhagen and not Aalborg University, Aalborg. The same restriction applies to students admitted to the MSc Programme in Aalborg, which means that they are solely admitted to the MSc Programme in Aalborg.

The following bachelor's programmes from Aalborg University may provide access for students to be admitted to the Master's Programme in Information Studies: Informatics; Medialogy; and IT.

The following bachelor's programmes from other universities may provide access for students to be admitted to the Master's Programme in Information Studies: Information Science; and Information Science and Cultural Dissemination.

The following professional bachelor's programmes may provide access for students to be admitted to the Master's Programme in Information Studies: Web Development; and E-concept Development.

Subsection 2

Applicants who do not fulfil the conditions stipulated in subsection 1 may be accepted on condition that the Study Board considers that the applicant possesses comparable educational qualifications, on the basis of an assessment of the case in question. In such cases, the Study Board may call in the applicant for an interview.

For further information, visit www.uddannelsestjekker.aau.dk (only available in Danish)

Subsection 3

This programme will be conducted in English. A further condition is that both Danish and English speaking applicants must have English at B-level as a no less than or have passed an English-language test of the equivalent competence level approved by the University.

Section 8 General examination provisions

In the assessment of examinations, grades from the 7-point grading scale or a pass/fail grade will be awarded.

Subsection 2

Examinations will be either internal or external. If no other provisions are stated, examinations will be assessed by the examiner and a second internal or external examiner.

Subsection 3

Projects, theme studies etc., may be prepared in collaboration by groups of up to six students. Master's theses may be prepared in collaboration by groups of up to three students. In the examination of projects, theme studies etc., the following examination format will normally apply:

A **project examination** on the basis the written work, whether this was written individually or in collaboration with others. The project report/written work will be considered the shared responsibility of the group. Accordingly, students will be examined and assessed on the basis of the entire project report. One combined grade will be awarded for the project report and the oral performance. At oral

group examinations, the examination must be conducted in such a way that individual assessment of each individual student's performance is ensured, cf. the Examination Order, section 4, subsection 2.

The project examination takes the form of a conversation between the examiners and the student(s) on the basis of the project report of the semester.

For further information on project examinations, please visit the Faculty of Humanities' website.

Subsection 4

Where rules have been stipulated regarding the volume of written work, one page will correspond to 2400 characters, including spaces. The stipulated number of pages only includes the actual body text of the report; title page, preface, table of contents, bibliography, abstract and appendices will not be calculated. However, notes will be included in the calculation of total pages, whereas illustrations will not be calculated. Total page number must be stated on the title page.

Subsection 5

The stipulated time intervals for oral examinations will include voting and announcement of result.

Subsection 6

In the assessment of all written work, irrespective of the language in which this is written, students' spelling and writing skills will be considered. The assessment of the language performance will be based on orthographic correctness, academic writing standards and stylistic proficiency. The language performance will always be assessed as an independent dimension in the overall assessment. However, no examination will be awarded an overall pass grade solely on the basis of good language performance; likewise, an examination cannot be assessed as failed solely on the basis of a poor language performance.

Subsection 7

The study elements on which the individual examinations are based are rated as proportions of an annual full-time equivalent, this being calculated as the annual work of full-time student, including holidays. An annual full-time equivalent is 60 ECTS.

Subsection 8

In order for a student to graduate from the programme, each examination must be passed with a no less than grade of 02 or a 'pass' grade. A weighted average will be calculated for the examinations assessed according to the 7-point scale, on the basis of the ECTS weight of each individual examination. So the average is defined as the sum of individual grades, each multiplied by the ECTS of the examination in question, divided by the sum of the ECTS-points of the examinations included in the average.

Examinations assessed as pass/fail will not be included in this calculation. The average grade with one decimal digit will be stated on the examination certificate.

PART 3
PROGRAMME STRUCTURE, CONTENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Section 9 Programme structure

The Master's Programme in Information Studies is compiled of modules and structured as a problem based and project organised study programme consisting of obligatory project modules, obligatory study subject modules and the obligatory Master's thesis. In addition, the programme comprises two elective modules.

Obligatory modules, with certain options cf. section 9, subsections 2 and 3.

Professional inquiry	7 th semester	5 ECTS
User Practice, User Analysis and Pilot Studies (project module)	7 th semester	15 ECTS
ICT based Data Collection and Analysis (study subject module)	7 th semester	5 ECTS
Development and Design of ICT (project module)	8 th semester	20 ECTS
ICT for Learning, Knowledge and Content Management (study subject module)	8 th semester	5 ECTS
Master's Thesis	10 th semester	30 ECTS

9th semester choice:

Research Methodology (study subject module)	9 th semester	5 ECTS
Information Studies in Practice (project module)	9 th semester	25 ECTS

or

Research Methodology (study subject module)	9 th semester	5 ECTS
Digital Collaboration*	9 th semester	5 ECTS
Data Preparation & Understanding *	9 th semester	5 ECTS
Data Analytics & Visualization*	9 th semester	5 ECTS
Social Analytics in Context *	9 th semester	10 ECTS

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Elective modules, of which students must select two*

Elective course A	7 th semester	5 ECTS
Elective course B	8 th semester	5 ECTS

*Students may choose electives offered by the Study Board of Communication and Digital Media (see the appendix Elective modules for Master's programmes under the Study Board of Communication and Digital Media), or apply to the Study Board for permission to substitute one or both of the elective modules with electives offered by other study boards at Aalborg University or other universities. Under all circumstances, elective modules must always represent a total of 10 ECTS credits. The elective

modules listed are offered as determined by the Study Board. This means that not all elective modules will be offered every year. The Study Board may decide to cancel planned modules.

Subsection 2

The 7th semester of the programme comprises a 5 ECTS credits module in “Professional Inquiry”, a project module of 15 ECTS credits in “User Practice, User Analysis and Pilot Studies”, a 5 ECTS credits study subject module “ICT Based Data Collection and Analysis” and a 5 ECTS credits elective module.

Subsection 3

The 8th semester of the programme comprises a project module of 20 ECTS credits in “Development and Design of ICT”, a 5 ECTS credits study subject module “ICT for Learning, Knowledge and Content Management” and a 5 ECTS credits elective module.

Subsection 4

The 9th semester of the programme offers a choice; the students either chose a project module of 25 ECTS credits in “Information Studies in Practice” or the Social Analytics modules: “Digital Collaboration”, “Data Preparation and Understanding”, “Data Analytics and Visualization”, “Social Analytics in Context”. A 5 ECTS credits study subject module in “Research Methodology” is mandatory.

Subsection 5

In the 10th semester of the programme, the student will, under supervision, prepare a Master’s thesis within the disciplinary area of the programme.

Section 10 The module “Professional Inquiry”

Location of module: 7th semester

The study elements on which the examination is based is equivalent to 5 ECTS.

The module comprises the development and phrasing of empirical inquiry for the purpose of enabling students to formulate research questions and scientific problems within the field of informatics. This will form the basis of the problem based project work and inquiries to be carried out during the course of the informatics study programme.

Objectives:

In this module students will acquire:

Knowledge of:

- the connections and differences between empirical inquiry and research questions based on informatics
- the connection between research questions and the theory of science in the organisation of scientific research
- theory of science within the field of informatics

Skills in:

- describing empirical inquiry
- translating empirical inquiry into a scientific research question within the field of informatics
- combining a scientific research question with the theoretical basis of its investigation.

Competences in:

- preparing scientific research based on personal enquiry
- taking a reflective approach to the basis of scientific inquiry
- engaging in disciplinary collaboration on scientific problem formulation

The module is completed on the 7th semester by passing the following examination:

Examination 1

An internal written examination in English in **“Professional Inquiry”**

The examination is a seven-day take-home assignment on a set topic. Evaluation: pass/fail.

The assignment paper must demonstrate that the student fulfils the objectives for the module stated above.

Alternatively, the examination may be completed by satisfactory and active participation in the module, i.e. a minimum of 80% attendance and completion of set tasks.

Section 11 The module “User Practice, User Analysis and Pilot Studies”

Location of module: 7th semester

Credits: 15 ECTS

Through the module, students will acquire knowledge, skills and competences in relation to the areas of user analysis and pilot studies with particular emphasis on user analysis and pilot studies in relation to the development of ICT for supporting work, knowledge and learning processes.

The module will introduce students to user analysis, user-system interaction and pilot studies within the fields of ICT innovation, design and development, which are areas of core competence within the field of informatics. This includes acquisition and application of knowledge on digital practice, organisational culture, digital culture and cognitive, conative and emotive aspects of the undertaking of user analyses and pilot studies with a view to qualifying operational processes and organisational change.

The module comprises teaching within the following areas:

- user practice, user analysis and pilot studies – theory of science and theory
- data collection and analysis methods

- user practice, user analysis and pilot studies in specific domains

Academic supervision will be offered in connection with the problem oriented project work.

Objectives:

In this module students will acquire:

Knowledge of:

- theory and methods as regards the understanding of human practice and more specifically user practice in relation to technology use at the highest international level
- digital culture and practice, cultural and social phenomena related to ICT use
- cognitive, conative and emotive aspects of ICT use
- the structuring of user analyses and pilot studies directed towards various domains and processes within work life, learning and knowledge sharing.

Skills in:

- assessing strategies and methods for user analyses and pilot studies on the basis of the needs of the study and knowledge of the disciplinary theories and methods.
- choosing suitable strategies and methods for user analyses and pilot studies directed towards various domains
- data collection and analysis as regards user analysis and pilot studies
- communicating user analyses and pilot studies to peers and others.

Competences in:

- taking an analytical, reflective and critical approach to the preconditions for user analyses and pilot studies
- taking an analytical, reflective and critical approach to user analyses and pilot studies
- engaging in disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration on user analyses and pilot studies, with a professional approach
- identifying own learning needs and structuring own learning in relation to the subject area of user analysis for pilot studies.

The module is completed on the 7th semester by passing the following examination:

Examination 2

An external oral examination in: **“User Practice, User Analysis and Pilot Studies”**.

The examination is a conversation between the student(s) and the examiner and external examiner based on a project report produced individually or in a group. The project report/written work will be considered the shared responsibility of the group. Students will be examined and assessed on the basis

of the entire project report, and one combined grade will be awarded each student for the project report and the oral performance.

Literature foundation: 1500 standard pages supervisor approved, self-selected literature related to the project.

The project report: the total number of pages must be no less than 15 pages and no more than 20 pages per student in a project group, and 30 pages if written individually.

Duration of examination: 20 minutes per student and 10 minutes per group for assessment and announcement of result, although no longer than a total of two hours. 30 minutes in total for individual examinations.

Evaluation: Grading according to the 7-point scale.

At oral group examinations, the examination must be conducted in such a way that individual assessment of each individual student's performance is ensured.

Credits: 15 ECTS.

The project report and the conversation must demonstrate that the student fulfils the objectives for the module stated above.

In the evaluation of the examination performance, the grade 12 will only be awarded for an excellent performance displaying a high level of command of all aspects of the relevant material, with no or only a few minor weaknesses.

Any re-examinations will be held on the basis of a revised project report.

Section 12 The module "ICT Based Data Collection and Analysis"

Location of module: 7th semester

Credits:5 ECTS.

The module will introduce students to ICT based data collection and analysis offering a number of opportunities to obtain vast amounts of data on the use of for example Web based ICT solutions with relative ease. These opportunities call for fundamental consideration of options and problems, including ethical concerns on the significance of the potentially extensive mappings of individual user behaviour. During the course of the module, students will engage in ICT based data collection and analysis for the support of ICT user analyses and pilot projects.

The module comprises courses and exercises within the following areas:

- theory and method within ICT based data collection and analysis
- tools for ICT based data collection and analysis

Objectives:

In this module students will acquire:

Knowledge of:

- theories and methods at the highest international level as regards qualitative and quantitative oriented data collection and analysis in relation to user analyses and pilot studies
- ICT systems for data collection and analysis in relation to user analyses and pilot studies
- principles, including ethical principles, for managing ICT systems for data collection and analysis in relation to user analyses and pilot studies.

Skills in:

- assessing and selecting a method for qualitative and quantitative oriented data collection and analysis in relation to user analyses and pilot studies
- selecting, configuring and adapting ICT systems for qualitative and quantitative oriented data collection and analysis in relation to user analyses and pilot studies
- communicating methods for ICT based data collection and analysis to peers and laymen
- communicating results on ICT based data collection and analysis to peers and laymen.

Competences in:

- taking an analytical, reflective and critical approach to qualitative and quantitative oriented data collection and analysis in relation to user analyses and pilot studies
- engaging in interdisciplinary collaboration on ICT based data collection and analysis in relation to user analyses and pilot studies
- identifying own learning needs and structuring own learning in relation to the subject area of ICT based data collection and analysis in relation to user analyses and pilot studies.

The module is completed on the 7th semester by passing the following examination:

Examination 3

An internal written examination in English in “**ICT Based Data Collection and Analysis**”.

The examination is a seven-day take-home assignment on a set topic. On the basis of the module, students will respond to one or a number of questions and assignments within the subject area of the module. The assignment paper must not exceed eight pages, and it must be prepared individually.

Evaluation: Grading according to the 7-point scale.

The study elements on which the examination is based is equivalent to 5 ECTS.

In the evaluation of the examination performance, the grade 12 will only be awarded for an excellent performance displaying a high level of command of all aspects of the relevant material, with no or only a few minor weaknesses.

Section 13 The module “Elective Course A”

(See the appendix “Elective modules for Master’s programmes under the Study Board of Communication and Digital Media”).

Section 14 The module “Development and Design of ICT”

Location of module: 8th semester

Credits: 20 ECTS

The module will introduce students to design of ICT directed towards organisational practice or another professional practice as an additional core activity in the practice field of informatics.

The module comprises teaching within the following areas:

- system design with particular emphasis on information architecture and interaction design
- user-driven system development and system development methods in theory and practice
- formal models for preparing and communicating design solutions (for example blueprints, UML etc.)
- information theory and understanding of information with a view to reflecting on the scientific theoretical basis of design work.

Academic supervision will be offered in connection with the problem oriented project work.

Objectives:

In this module students will acquire:

Knowledge of:

- the theory of science, theory and methods of system development
- user-driven techniques and tools
- organisational change and organisational culture in relation to system development and system design pertaining to ICT
- information architecture and usability
- formalisation and categorisation as regards formal models for the preparation, visualisation and communication of design solutions.

Skills in:

- assessing strategies and methods for system development and system design on the basis of user needs and/or customer needs and knowledge of the disciplinary theories and methods.
- choosing suitable strategies and methods for system development and system design directed towards various domains
- data collection and analysis as regards system development and system design

- applying formal models for the preparation and communication of system development and system design
- communicating system development and system design to peers and others.

Competences in:

- taking an analytical, reflective and critical approach to the preconditions for system development and system design
- taking an analytical, reflective and critical approach to system development and system design
- engaging in disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration on system development and system design, with a professional approach
- identifying own learning needs and structuring own learning in relation to the subject area of system development and system design.

The module is completed on the 8th semester by passing the following examination:

Examination 4

An external oral examination in: **“Development and Design of ICT”**

The examination is a conversation between the student(s) and the examiner and external examiner based on a project report produced individually or in a group. The project report/written work will be considered the shared responsibility of the group. Students will be examined and assessed on the basis of the entire project report, and one combined grade will be awarded each student for the project report and the oral performance.

Literature foundation: 2000 standard pages supervisor approved, self-selected literature related to the project.

The project report: total number of pages must be no less than 15 pages and no more than 20 pages per student in a project group, and 30 pages if written individually.

Duration of examination: 20 minutes per student and 10 minutes per group for assessment and announcement of result, although no longer than a total of two hours. 30 minutes in total for individual examinations.

Evaluation: Grading according to the 7-point scale.

At oral group examinations, the examination must be conducted in such a way that individual assessment of each individual student’s performance is ensured.

Credits: 20 ECTS.

The project report and the conversation must demonstrate that the student fulfils the objectives for the module stated above.

In the evaluation of the examination performance, the grade 12 will only be awarded to students who give an excellent performance and demonstrate that they have fulfilled the above objectives exhaustively or with only few insignificant omissions.

Any re-examinations will be held on the basis of a revised project report.

Section 15 The module "ICT for Learning, Knowledge and Content Management"

Location of module: 8th semester

Credits: 5 ECTS.

The module will introduce students to the management and adaptation of systems for learning, knowledge and content management in order to enable students to act independently when needing to adapt systems, implement prototypes and implement more complete solutions on the basis of the adaptation and combination of components.

The module comprises courses and exercises within the following areas:

- systems for learning, knowledge and content management
- use and adaptation of systems for learning, knowledge and content management.

Objectives:

In this module students will acquire:

Knowledge of:

- theory and methods at the highest international level as regards ICT systems for learning, knowledge and content management
- ICT systems for learning, knowledge and content management

Skills in:

- assessing, selecting and applying methods for learning, knowledge and content management
- selecting, configuring and adapting ICT systems for learning, knowledge and content management
- communicating methods and solutions for ICT for learning, knowledge and content management to peers and others.

Competences in:

- taking an analytical, reflective and critical approach to selecting, adapting and applying ICT systems for learning, knowledge and content management
- engaging in interdisciplinary collaboration on selecting, adapting and applying ICT systems for learning, knowledge and content management
- identifying own learning needs and structuring own learning in relation to selecting, adapting and applying ICT systems for learning, knowledge and content management.

The module is completed on the 8th semester by passing the following examination:

Examination 5

An internal written examination in English in **“ICT for Learning, Knowledge and Content Management”**

The examination is a seven-day take-home assignment on a set topic. On the basis of the module, students will respond to one or a number of questions and assignments within the subject area of the module. The assignment paper must not exceed eight pages, and it must be prepared individually.

Evaluation: Grading according to the 7-point scale.

The study elements on which the examination is based is equivalent to 5 ECTS.

In the evaluation of the examination performance, the grade 12 will only be awarded to students for an excellent performance displaying a high level of command of all aspects of the relevant material, with no or only a few minor weaknesses.

Section 16 The module “Elective Course B”

(See the appendix “Elective modules for Master’s Programmes under the Study Board of Communication and Digital Media”).

Section 17 The module “Research Methodology”

Location of module: 9th semester

Credits: 5 ECTS.

In the module students will learn to plan large and complex research studies independently and on the basis of information studies. Emphasis will be on the student’s independent identification and description of the research object, and on the student’s reflections on various methodological approaches for the implementation of the research study, including quantitative and qualitative approaches.

The module comprises virtual courses, seminars and supervision within the following area:

- research design

Objectives:

In this module students will acquire:

Knowledge of:

- disciplinary paradigms and scientific methods
- the correlation between theory of science, scientific methods and choice of theory in scientific research studies

Skills in:

- structuring subject specific research studies and research projects, including choice of research object, method and theory
- assessing the consequences of various methodological and theoretical approaches to subject specific studies and research projects

Competences in:

- structuring subject specific studies and research projects in specific contexts in practice
- working independently and engaging in professional collaboration as regards the structuring of subject specific studies and research projects, with a professional approach.

The module is completed on the 9th semester by passing the following examination:

Examination 6

An internal written examination in English in “**Research Methodology**”

The examination is a take-home assignment in which the student/s will explain the design of a large subject specific study within the disciplinary area of the programme, on the basis of the module, however the actual study will not be carried out. The student/s will choose the topic, and the submission deadline will be set by the Study Board.

The written assignment may be prepared in groups of up to three students. The written assignment paper must not exceed eight pages if written individually, ten pages if written in groups of two, and twelve pages if written in groups of three students.

Evaluation: pass/fail

In the evaluation of the examination performance, the assessment of 'pass' will be awarded to students who demonstrate that they have fulfilled the above objectives to a satisfactory extent.

The assignment paper will be evaluated by the examiner; in case of a fail grade, the assignment paper will also be evaluated by another internal examiner.

The study elements on which the examination is based is equivalent to 5 ECTS.

Section 18 The module “Information Studies in Practice”

Location of module: 9th semester

Credits: 25 ECTS

The theme of the module is the practical reality of information studies. The main component of the module is a three-to-four-month practice oriented work placement, where students collaborate on solving an issue on the basis of Information Studies in a relevant company, organisation or institution. The idea is for students to develop a knowledge and understanding of the concrete work reality that this

programme is directed towards. The work practice will be elucidated in a written report on the basis of the theory and methods of the entire study programme.

As part of the practice oriented work placement, students are expected to carry out an interview with their company, organisation or institution. The interview must elucidate the company, organisation or institution's need for the student's knowledge, skills and competences. The interview will be included in the report as an appendix and also as part of the report in the shape of a brief, edited summary.

In exceptional circumstances, the Study Board may approve that the practice oriented project is not undertaken at a company or organisation, but at the University in the shape of a constructed case directed towards implementing knowledge within Information Studies in practice.

The module also comprises:

- a halfway evaluation and an evaluation when the practice oriented work placement has been completed
- a virtual learning course during the practice oriented semester comprising presentation techniques, negotiation techniques, business communication etc.

Academic supervision will be offered and the teaching will be organised as a practice oriented work placement.

Objectives:

In this module students will acquire:

Knowledge of:

- theory and methods of Information Studies in practice with particular emphasis on the interface of theory and methods on the one hand and the cultural, organisational and/or technological complexity of the application area on the other hand
- the actual work situation towards which the programme is directed
- communication and collaboration practices within the field of informatics
- competence requirements of the discipline in work contexts.

Skills in:

- working in practice on the basis of informatics, including applying strategies and methods for user analysis, pilot studies, system development and system design
- assessing issues and solutions within the field of informatics in practice, on the basis of theories and methods for user analysis, pilot studies, system development or system design
- communicating knowledge within informatics to peers and laypeople

- managing themselves in work contexts with a view to identifying issues pertaining to skills and competences.

Competences in:

- taking an analytical, reflective and critical approach to the preconditions for user analysis, pilot studies, system development or system design in practice
- taking an analytical, reflective and critical approach to user analysis, pilot studies, system development or system design in practice
- engaging in disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration on user analysis, pilot studies, system development or system design in practice, with a professional approach
- identifying own learning needs and structuring own learning in relation to the subject area of user analysis, pilot studies, system development or system design in practice.

The module is completed on the 9th semester by passing the following examination:

Examination 7

An internal oral examination in: **“Information Studies in Practice”**

The examination is a conversation between the student(s) and the examiner based on a project report produced individually or in a group. The project report/written work will be considered the shared responsibility of the group. Students will be examined and assessed on the basis of the entire project report, and one combined grade will be awarded each student for the project report and the oral performance.

Literature foundation: 2500 standard pages supervisor approved, self-selected literature related to the project.

In case a large or several smaller products that the students have made or provided significant contributions to in the course of the internship is handed in along with the project, literature foundation is reduced by 50 % - ie to 1250 pages .

The project report: total number of pages must be no less than 15 pages and no more than 20 pages per student in a project group, and 30 pages if written individually.

Duration of examination: 20 minutes per student and 10 minutes per group for assessment and announcement of result, although no longer than a total of two hours. 30 minutes in total for individual examinations.

Evaluation: Grading according to the 7-point scale.

At oral group examinations, the examination must be conducted in such a way that individual assessment of each individual student’s performance is ensured.

Credits: 25 ECTS

The project report and the conversation must demonstrate that the student fulfils the objectives for the module stated above.

In the evaluation of the examination performance, the grade 12 will only be awarded for an excellent performance displaying a high level of command of all aspects of the relevant material, with no or only a few minor weaknesses.

Any re-examinations will be held on the basis of a revised project report.

Section 19 The Module “Digital Collaboration”

Location of module: 9th semester

Credits: 5 ECTS

The course offers an overview of digital sociality and governance, presenting issue such as Smart Cities and Big Data in a larger societal context. During the course, students are provided with an understanding of how digital collaboration may be instigated and to what purpose. Drawing on collaboration with external partners, students will learn about the opportunities and challenges with data-driven, collaborative projects in various social and organizational contexts.

In this module students will acquire:

Knowledge of:

- The current landscape of digital collaboration in and between various public and private organizations.
- Theoretical approaches to digital, data-driven knowledge collaboration
- The values and opportunities of data-driven collaboration projects as well as their challenges for various stakeholders

Skills in:

- Identifying areas where data-driven collaboration projects can add to existing value propositions
- Crafting digital collaborative set-ups
- Critically discuss and reflect on digital collaborations and their outcomes for various types of stakeholders

Competencies in:

- Designing and discussing collaborative strategies in the context of relevant data project topics
- Professionally engaging in, assessing and reflecting on data-driven knowledge collaborations
- Independently continuing one’s individual competency development within digital collaborations

Examination 8

An internal written examination in English in “**Digital Collaboration**”. The examination is a portfolio submitted in steps during the term, comprising contributions from the students set by the examiner on the basis of the course module. The examination portfolio will be prepared individually by the student and must not exceed 10 pages. The examination portfolio will be evaluated by an internal examiner. A second internal examiner will be included in case of an assignment is given a failed assessment.

Evaluation: Grading according to the 7-point scale.

The study elements on which the examination is based is equivalent to 5 ECTS.

The examination must demonstrate that the student can fulfil the objectives outlined above regarding knowledge and understanding, skills and competencies.

Section 20 The module “Data Preparation and Understanding”

Location of module: 9th semester

Credits: 5 ECTS

The course provides students with an understanding of relevant data formats and methods for harvesting large-scale data about user behaviour, interaction, and/or opinions. More specifically, the course is focused on digital, online traces of user behaviour and how to identify, collect, prepare, and make sense of such data. Students are prompted to reflect on the scope and feasibility of different research designs, including their data requirements and the implications for data processing and ethics.

In this module students will acquire

Knowledge of:

- Data formats
- Methods for collecting and processing data
- Legal and ethical principles related to (online) data harvesting and usage.

Skills in:

- Asking data-driven questions about research problems
- Identifying, comparing, and selecting relevant techniques for collecting data about user behavior, interaction, and/or opinions
- Constructing relevant data sets
- Explaining the data set’s construction, limitations and potential use cases.

Competences in:

- Relating theories and methods to real-world cases
- Evaluating the practical and ethical dimensions of a data-driven project in relation to specific research designs

- Taking an analytical, reflective and critical approach to the identification, harvesting, preparation, and understanding of relevant research data.

Examination 9:

An internal written individual examination in **“Data Preparation and Understanding”**. The course is evaluated in an online test and graded as pass/fail.

Duration of examination: 4 hours. The exam is evaluated by an internal examiner. A second internal examiner will be included in case of an assignment is given a failed assessment.

Evaluation: pass/fail

The study elements on which the examination is based is equivalent to 5 ECTS.

The examination must demonstrate that the student can fulfil the objectives outlined above regarding knowledge and understanding, skills and competencies.

Section 21 The Module “Data Analytics and Visualization”

Location of module: 9th semester

Credits: 5 ECTS

The course provides an understanding of different analytical strategies and their implications for data modelling, including descriptive and predictive approaches. It also provides hands-on experience with different data visualization techniques and their analytical contributions.

In this module students will acquire

Knowledge of:

- Descriptive analytics, such as social network analysis and dimensionality reduction
- Predictive analytics, such as regression and machine learning
- Techniques for data visualization.

Skills in:

- Conducting data-driven analysis
- Conducting participatory data design with users
- Identifying, comparing, and selecting relevant techniques for describing and analyzing data about user behavior, interaction, and/or opinions
- Selecting the optimal data visualization techniques for describing and analyzing digital trace data.

Competences in:

- Applying analytical tools to real-world cases

- Taking an analytical, reflective and critical approach to the analysis, visualization, and interpretation of collected research data.

Examination 10:

Internal individual oral exam in **“Data Analytics & Visualization”**. Students must submit a blog post with relevant data visualization and narration. Textual narration should be adapted to the format of a blog post and not exceed 1000 words.

Students may submit the blog post in groups.

Duration of examination: 15 minutes per student and 5 minutes per group for assessment and announcement of result. 20 minutes in total for individual examinations.

Evaluation: Grading according to the 7-point scale.

The study elements on which the examination is based is equivalent to 5 ECTS.

The examination must demonstrate that the student can fulfil the objectives outlined above regarding knowledge and understanding, skills and competencies.

Section 22 The module: “Social Analytics in Context”

Location of module : 9th semester

Credits: 10 ECTS

The module social analytics in context comprises preparation of a project concerning digital collaboration and contains data preparation and data analytics. The project must be carried out in collaboration with an organization or community.

In this module students will acquire

Knowledge of:

- Dataset construction and data harvest, including its technical, ethical and legal implications
- Data relevant problems in organizations, including their relation to organizational culture and the wider ecology of methods available in the organization
- Data driven research designs and their implications for data needs and analysis.

Skills in:

- Formulating data-driven questions that make sense in context, taking available data, existing knowledge practices and the strategic situation of the organization into account.
- Carrying out relevant data analysis

- Producing relevant data visualizations
- Narrating methods and findings in ways that make sense to the organization.

Competences in:

- The management of a data project, including its different stages, components and participants
- The translation of data projects into real world cases and contexts.

Examination 11

An internal oral examination in: **“Social Analytics in Context”**

The examination is a conversation between the student(s) and the examiner based on a project report produced individually or in a group. The project report/written work will be considered the shared responsibility of the group. Students will be examined and assessed on the basis of the entire project report, and one combined grade will be awarded each student for the project report and the oral performance.

Literature foundation: 1000 standard pages supervisor approved, self-selected literature related to the project.

The project report: the total number of pages must be no less than 10 pages and no more than 15 pages per student in a project group, and 20 pages if written individually.

Duration of examination: 15 minutes per student and 5 minutes per group for assessment and announcement of result. 20 minutes in total for individual examinations.

Evaluation: Grading according to the 7-point scale.

At oral group examinations, the examination must be conducted in such a way that individual assessment of each individual student’s performance is ensured.

Evaluation: grading according to the 7-point scale.

Credits: 10 ECTS

The project report and the conversation must demonstrate that the student fulfils the objectives for the module stated above.

In the evaluation of the examination performance, the grade 12 will only be awarded to students who give an excellent performance and demonstrate that they have fulfilled the above objectives exhaustively or with only few insignificant omissions.

Any re-examinations will be held on the basis of a revised project report.

Section 23 The module “Master’s Thesis”

Location of module: 10th semester

Credits: 30 ECTS

The Master’s thesis module comprises preparation of a Master’s thesis on a subject which the student is free to select from within the disciplinary framework of the programme. The thesis may be written as either a theoretically, methodologically or analytically oriented thesis, or it may be oriented towards practical and constructive ICT solutions on the basis of theory and method.

The topic of the Master’s thesis must be approved by the Study Board. The topic must be presented to the Study Board in the shape of a synopsis comprising a preliminary problem formulation, argumentation for the relevance of the topic and for the theoretical and methodological points of departure, a preliminary bibliography and time schedule, including a submission deadline.

The module includes a number of thesis seminars. Additionally, students will be offered expert thesis supervision in relation with their problem oriented thesis work.

Objectives:

In the Master’s thesis module, the student will acquire:

Knowledge of:

- the theories, methods and technologies of the selected subject area at the highest international level
- research ethics and understanding of the implications of research work
- the theory of science of the selected thesis topic

Skills in:

- applying methods, theories and technologies pertaining to a specific issue within the academic area
- creating an independent and systematic overview of relevant existing knowledge within the topic of the thesis
- independently selecting approaches pertaining to the topic of the thesis on the basis of theory of science, theory, methods, analysis, design and/or technology, and substantiating these academic choices and priorities
- applying, further developing and critically reflecting on relevant theories, methods and technologies pertaining to the topic of the thesis

Competences in:

- critical reflection on the disciplinary area pertaining to the chosen topic of the thesis
- independent and systematic search for knowledge, choosing and explaining this choice and planning and undertaking the research of the topic of the thesis

- arguing for choices as regards the applied theories, methods and technologies as well as choices as regards any empirical material and/or design aspects
- structuring and communicating the acquired knowledge in a suitable manner as regards content and language register to an academic audience within the disciplinary field of the programme.

The module is completed on the 10th semester by passing the following examination:

Examination 12

An external oral examination in: **“Master’s Thesis”**

The examination will be conducted as a conversation between the student(s) and the examiner and external examiner on the basis of a Master’s thesis prepared by one or a number of students. The Master’s thesis will be considered the shared responsibility of the group. The Master’s thesis and the conversation must demonstrate that each student fulfils the objectives for the module stated above as regards knowledge, skills and competences.

The Master’s thesis, including a one-two page summary in a foreign language (see below), forms the basis of the examination and assessment, and a combined grade will be awarded for the Master’s thesis and the oral performance.

Summary: A summary of no less than one page and no more than two pages in Danish or English must be included.

Literature foundation: 3000 standard pages supervisor approved, self-selected literature related to the Master Thesis.

Total number of pages: The extent of The Master’s thesis must follow the current rules at The Faculty of Humanities.

Normal duration of examination: 45 minutes; if two students, 75 minutes; and if three students, 100 minutes.

Evaluation: grading according to the 7-point scale.

Credits: 30 ECTS

The examination must substantiate that each student fulfils the objectives for the module.

In the evaluation of the examination performance, the grade 12 will only be awarded for an excellent performance displaying a high level of command of all aspects of the relevant material, with no or only a few minor weaknesses.

Section 24 Overview of obligatory examinations

No.	Title	Internal pass/fail	Internal 7-point scale	External pass/fail	External 7-point scale
1	Professional Inquiry	5 ECTS			
2	User Practice, User Analysis and Pilot Studies				15 ECTS
3	ICT based Data Collection and Analysis		5 ECTS		
4	Development and Design of ICT				20 ECTS
5	ICT for Learning, Knowledge and Content Management		5 ECTS		
12	Master's Thesis				30 ECTS

Section 25 Overview of examinations in elective courses

Title	Internal pass/fail	Internal 7-point scale	External pass/fail	External 7-point scale
7 th semester elective course A	5 ECTS			
8 th semester elective course B	5 ECTS			

9th semester choice:

	Title	Internal pass/fail	Internal 7-point scale	External pass/fail	External 7-point scale
6	Research Methodology	5 ECTS			
7	Information Studies in Practice		25 ECTS		

or

	Title	Internal pass/fail	Internal 7-point scale	External pass/fail	External 7-point scale
6	Research Methodology	5 ECTS			
8	Digital Collaboration		5 ECTS		
9	Data Preparation and Understanding	5 ECTS			
10	Data Analytics and Visualization		5 ECTS		
11	Social Analytics in Context		10 ECTS		

Section 26 Re-examination

Provisions concerning re-examination outside ordinary examination periods are stipulated in the examination regulations in force at the time in question, which can be studied on the website of the Faculty of Humanities.

PART 4
OTHER PROVISIONS

Section 27 Exemptions

In exceptional circumstances, the Study Board of Communication and Digital Media may make exceptions from the rules in these regulations which were stipulated autonomously by the university.

Section 28 Further information

The Study Board displays and maintains more detailed information on the programme, including examination, on its website.

Section 29 Commencement

These regulations were recommended by the Study Board of Communication and Digital Media and approved by the dean. The regulations will take effect from 1 September 2017 and apply to all students who commence Master's studies on or after this date.

Subsection 2

Previous regulations will apply to students who have commenced their studies before 1 September 2017.

The Study Board of Communication and Digital Media and/or the Faculty of Humanities will determine when the last examinations will be held in accordance with these regulations.