

**Statutes governing the exam regulations for
external candidates in the “Digital Business
Management” Master of Science (M.Sc.) program of
Nürtingen-Geislingen University**

**dated 13 February 2024,
in the version of the 1st amending statutes dated 11 November 2025**

Legal basis:

Based on section 8 (6) in conjunction with section 30 (1), section 32 (3) and section 33 of the state higher education act in Baden-Württemberg (“Landeshochschulgesetz”, LHG) in the version dated 01 January 2005 (law gazette 2005, page 1), last amended by article 24 of the act dated 17 December 2024 (law gazette 2024 no. 114), the senate of Nürtingen-Geislingen University adopted the following exam regulations for external candidates on 23 October 2025.

A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sect. 1 Scope

These exam regulations apply to the master's examination for non-enrolled students (examination for external candidates) leading to the Master of Science degree in the “Digital Business Management” program.

Sect. 2 Relevance of the course and exam regulations of Nürtingen-Geislingen University

The course and exam regulations of Nürtingen-Geislingen University, general provisions for bachelor's and master's programs (SPO-AT) of 24 January 2022, in the currently valid version, also apply to the examination for external candidates, unless stipulated differently in these exam regulations. Sect. 4 (1) SPO-AT is excluded.

Sect. 3 Admission requirements

- (1) Admission to the examination for external candidates may be granted to candidates who provide proof of the following:
 1. A completed degree program at a German university or Cooperative State University, or an equivalent degree from a university abroad, which as a rule comprises at least 210 ECTS credit points. If it comprises fewer than 210 ECTS credit points, the missing qualification must be proven in accordance with subsection 2. Proof of the degree must be supplied in the form of an officially certified copy or photocopy; in the case of an educational qualification from abroad, the certificate of recognition issued by Studienkolleg Konstanz must also be enclosed.
 2. Proof of sufficient preparation for the examination for external candidates. This requires taking part in a preparatory program which is carried out on the basis of the cooperation agreement between the university and HfWU Akademie e.V. The preparatory program of HfWU Akademie e.V. must have been certified by an accreditation agency recognized by the Accreditation Council.
- (2) Where applicants provide a university degree or an equivalent degree that falls short of the credits required for a 300-credit master's degree by a maximum of 30 credits, but comprises at least 180 credits, the additional individual proof of the missing qualification can be provided by means of option a. or option b. named in sect. 2 (10) SPO-AT. The academic director of the study program decides which option applies in the individual case. For option a., the academic director conducts the equivalence examination in the form of a single oral examination of 30 minutes; for option b., the academic director decides on the recognition or crediting of achievements. The recognized credits are shown as additional modules.
- (3) Any application for admission to the examination for external candidates must also be accompanied by a résumé outlining previous higher education experience and relevant professional experience.
- (4) The examination committee of the faculty of business administration and international finance at Nürtingen-Geislingen University decides on admission to the examination for external candidates.

Sect. 4 Module content and module examinations

- (1) The module examinations generally take place following the relevant preparatory courses of the respective semester.
- (2) The master's thesis is a written academic paper in English. The time allowed for composing it is six months. Upon application, the master's thesis can also be written in German.
- (3) Written assignments, presentations, research papers and the master's thesis can also be set as group work. The individual candidates' contributions must be clearly delineated so that they can be assessed separately.
- (4) It is possible to take modules in a different semester from the one specified in the addendum.
- (5) A module examination may only be retaken as a whole. It is not possible to retake only parts of it.
- (6) The addendum of these exam regulations stipulates the weighting factors for calculating the grades.

Sect. 5 Language of instruction and examinations

- (1) As a rule, the language of instruction and examination is English. The language of instruction for individual classes or modules is determined at the start of the lecture period and announced accordingly, as a rule via the module handbook (sect. 2 (8) SPO-AT).
- (2) The decision on whether individual classes or modules are held in English or German is taken by the academic director of the study program in agreement with the lecturers concerned.
- (3) The examination is usually set in the respective language of instruction.

Sect. 6 Degree certificate and academic title

- (1) Once candidates have passed all the module examinations required for the master's examination, the examination for external candidates is deemed to have been completed successfully. A master's degree certificate (M.Sc.) will be issued containing the results of the master's examination, with a note that the master's examination was taken as an examination for external candidates.
- (2) The master's degree certificate (M.Sc.) contains the module grades, the topic of the master's thesis and the overall grade.
- (3) On successful completion of the master's examination, Nürtingen-Geislingen University awards the academic degree "Master of Science" in the specialization "Digital Business Management". In addition, a diploma supplement (DS) according to the European Diploma Supplement Model (European Union/Council of Europe/UNESCO) is issued.
- (4) Candidates who compose a further master's thesis and complete the required modules of a further specialization can be awarded a further Master of Science degree. If the master's thesis for the first degree was graded 2.0 or better, it can be used for the further degree.

Sect. 7 Examination fees

Candidates must pay examination fees in accordance with Nürtingen-Geislingen University's statutes on fees and expenses (university fee statutes) dated 29 January 2015 in the currently valid version. They are due immediately upon admission to the examination for external candidates (sect. 3 (4)). The admission only becomes valid once the examination fee has been paid.

Section 8 Commencement

- (1) These statutes come into effect on 01 September 2024.
- (2) The amendment of the course and exam regulations dated 11 November 2025 comes into effect on 01 March 2026. Students who began their studies earlier will complete their studies in accordance with the version valid until now.

B. ADDENDUM

1) Proof of sufficient preparation for the examination for external candidates

The part-time master's program comprises 3 theory semesters with a workload reduced to 73% of a full-time program of study (i.e. on average 22 CR per semester). The candidates are normally required to compose the master's thesis in semester 4. Proof of sufficient preparation for the examination for external candidates is deemed to have been provided if the candidates can supply evidence that they have attended the relevant preparatory courses. The content and structure of the preparation are outlined in a separate agreement with the provider of the preparatory courses.

As regards sect. 2 (9) SPO-AT, classes and examinations of the preparatory courses are normally held online, with the majority of them in synchronous mode.

Therefore, students must ensure they have the necessary prerequisites available for taking part in the online classes of the preparatory courses, especially an internet-ready device with a camera and a microphone and appropriate access to the internet. The respective basic version of the IT tools required, in particular in the areas of AI and data science, is made available to students by the study program as part of the preparatory courses.

2) Modules and module examinations

Semester	Module number	Modules	CR	PV	MP	GM	NG	Comments
1-3	110-001	Digital Business Innovation	6		StA		6	E
	110-002	Digital Business Planning, Steering & Valuation	6		StA		6	E
	110-003	AI Based Customer Experience Management	6		StA		6	E
	107-035	Machine Learning & Big Data Analytics	6		StA		6	E
	110-004	Blockchain Technology & Web3 based Business Models	6		StA		6	E
	110-005	Immersive Web & 3D-Technologies	6		StA		6	E
	110-006	Digital Marketing	6		StA		6	E
	110-007	Digital Sales & E-Commerce	6		R		6	E
	110-008	Digital Leadership	6		StA		6	E
	110-009	Digital Transformation	6		R		6	E
	110-010	Master Research Seminar	6		S		6	E
	Total semester 1 to 3		66				66	
4	110-011	Master's Thesis	24		MA 6Mo		24	D/E
	Total for semester 4		24				24	
Grand total for complete program			90				90	

Legend:

CR	= Credits
D	= German
E	= English
GM	= Weighting for module grade (in %)
MA	= Master's thesis
Mo	= Months
MP	= Module examination ("Modulprüfung")
NG	= Weighting of grades for overall grade ("Notengewichtung für die Gesamtnote")
PV	= Prerequisites for admission to examination ("Prüfungsvorleistung")
R	= Presentation ("Referat/Präsentation")
S	= Written work ("schriftliche Arbeit")
StA	= Research paper ("Studienarbeit")

3) Recognition of credits from other external programs

Upon application, selected modules as well as the master's thesis from the external programs "Digital Marketing & Sales", "Digital Business & Leadership", "Digital Operations Management", "Digital Management & Analytics" and "Digital & Sustainable Management" (DMX) can be recognized towards the degree Master of Science in the "Digital Business Management" program.

For the module 110-010 Master Research Seminar, no further preparatory course needs to be taken if the seminar on digital academic work has already been completed as a prerequisite for admission to examination (PV) within the framework of the master's thesis of the aforementioned programs. The examination performance of the module is provided in the form of an academic (reflection) paper on the topic of the master's thesis.

The master's thesis can only be recognized for up to 24 credits, upon application and after the aforementioned Master Research Seminar has been passed, if it is assessed as formally and substantively equivalent to 110-011 Master's Thesis. This means that it must demonstrate both the academic level required for the M.Sc. degree and the scope and level of detail required for 24 credits. The academic director of the study program examines and assesses this equivalence by means of a short expert opinion. Where the academic director does not have sufficient own expertise in the respective subject area of the master's thesis, one of the reviewers of the master's thesis or another qualified lecturer of the study program is to be involved. The short expert opinion is the basis for the recognition process of the competent examination committee. Furthermore, the grade requirements analogous to sect. 6 (4) must be met as a further condition for the recognition of the master's thesis.

IMPORTANT NOTICE**COURTESY TRANSLATION**

Please refer to the German original version for the official document.