



Traditio et Innovatio



HQE – Stabsstelle für Hochschul- und Qualitätsentwicklung SZ – Sprachenzentrum der Universität Rostock

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#### Summary of the Rahmenprüfungsordnung für die Bachelor- und Masterstudiengänge der Universität Rostock (RPO-Ba/Ma)

This extract from the *Rahmenprüfungsordnung für die Bachelor- und Masterstudiengänge der Universität Rostock* (English: "Regulations concerning the Legal Framework for Examinations for the Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes of the University of Rostock", in short: RPO-Ba/Ma) of 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012, as amended by the *Erste Satzung zur Änderung der Rahmenprüfungsordnung für die Bachelor- und Masterstudiengänge der Universität Rostock* on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2013, specifically addresses international students and summarises the most important contents of the RPO-Ba/Ma.

## Please note that only the German version is authoritative.

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### List of abbreviations

СР	credit point
RED	regular examination date
PSER	programme specific study and examination regulations

# Approximate translations of university-related German terms

programme Bachelor's programme Master's programme	. Bachelorstudiengang
-	Studiengangsspezifische Prüfungs- und Studienordnung (SPSO)
credit point (CP) regular period of study regular examination date (RED)	. Regelstudienzeit
module compulsory module compulsory elective module	. Pflichtmodul
elective module free attempt requirement for admission to an examination	. Wahlmodul . Freiversuch
admission to a module examination	. Zulassung zu einer Modulprüfung . Prüfung, Prüfungsleistung
course achievement time limit; deadline scope	. Bearbeitungsfrist, Frist
assessment examination committee on application/on request	. Prüfungsausschuss

# I. General provisions

## § 2 Admission requirements for a Bachelor's programme

(1) A general admission requirement for a Bachelor's programme is the successful graduation from an education that provides university entrance qualifications.

(2) In a German programme, applicants who did not receive their university entrance qualification from a German-speaking institution or whose native language is not German have to prove sufficient knowledge of the German language. The required language level is stated in the programme-specific study and examination regulations (PSER).

(3) In a programme taught in English or any other foreign language, applicants who did not receive their university entrance qualification from the respective foreign-language institution or whose first language is not this foreign language have to prove sufficient knowledge of the language required. The required language level is stated in the PSER.

(4) If provided in the PSER, an internship in a field relevant to the studies has to be completed before beginning the programme.

(5) If an applicant has already graduated from a programme whose contents are similar to the intended one, he/she cannot be admitted to the Bachelor's programme.

### § 3 Admission requirements for a Master's programme

(1) A general admission requirement for a Master's programme is a first university degree qualifying for a profession. Further requirements are stated in the programme-specific study and examination regulations (PSER).

(2) In a German programme, applicants who did not receive their university entrance qualification from a German institution or whose first language is not German have to prove sufficient knowledge of the German language. The required language level is stated in the PSER.

(3) In a programme taught in English or any other foreign-language, applicants who did not obtain their university entrance qualification from the respective foreign-language institution or whose first language is not that foreign language have to prove sufficient knowledge of the required language. The required level of language skills is stated in the PSER.

(4) Applicants have to submit certified copies of the relevant documents in order to prove that they meet the admission requirements.

(6) In the case of expected special aptitude for the Master's programme, applicants may also be admitted without fulfilling special admission criteria except for the first university degree.

(7) If an applicant has already graduated from a programme whose contents are similar to the intended one, he/she cannot be admitted to the Master's programme.

### § 4 Programme, duration and graduation from the programme

(1) The Bachelor's degree leads to a first professional qualification, the Master's degree to another.

(2) As a rule, programmes are taught in German. However, the whole programme or single modules including their module examination may be taught in English or another foreign language. Details can be found in the PSER as well as in the module descriptions.

(3) Programmes begin in the winter and/or summer semester, according to the PSER.

(4) The regular period of study of a Bachelor's programme is at least six semesters and shall not exceed eight semesters. The regular period of study of a Master's programme is at least two semesters and shall not exceed four semesters. A Bachelor's and a Master's programme studied consecutively shall not exceed ten semesters.

(5) After successful graduation from the Bachelor's or Master's programme, the University of Rostock awards the degree that is stated in the PSER.

### § 5 Studying abroad

(1) The PSER may require a study-related stay at a university abroad. In this case, the PSER specifies time frame and duration.

(2) The University of Rostock also promotes a voluntary stay at a university abroad.

(3) Before the stay abroad, a teaching and studying agreement has to be concluded with the teaching staff and approved by the examination committee to assure the transfer of achievements. The student is responsible for financing the stay abroad, e.g. with the help of scholarship programmes. The International Office can be consulted for study and financial options in foreign countries.

### § 6 Credit points system and module structure

(1) The programme consists of three kinds of modules: compulsory, compulsory elective and elective modules. Normally they last one semester; in exceptional cases, two semesters.

(2) Credit points are a quantitative measure of the workload. One credit point (CP) is equivalent to 30 working hours. On average students have to earn 30 CPs per semester, equivalent to a workload of 900 hours, and as a rule, 60 CPs per academic year. To earn CPs for a module the students have to pass the respective module examination or provide convincing evidence of required course achievements.

(3) The PSER can require regular attendance for specific types of teaching and studying.

(4) Subject to the provisions of the PSER the admission to particular courses can be restricted by a limitation of the number of participants.

### § 7 Examination structure

(1) The Bachelor's and the Master's examination consist of course-related module examinations and the final examination (see part II). As a rule, module examinations consist of one, but not more than two examinations. Several modules covering not more than 24 CPs can be the subject of one joint examination.

(2) Modules can include requirements for admission to the examination, which are not included in the calculation of the module's grade.

(3) The modules to be attended in a programme, their requirements for admission to the examination, type and extent of the module examinations and course achievements, regular examination dates, and the number of CPs to be gained are stated in the PSER. Modules that are imported from other programmes are subject to the regulations concerning the requirements for admission to the examination, examination periods, module examination etc. as stated in the PSER of the respective programme.

(4) The purpose of the module examination or required course achievements is to check if the qualifications stated in the module descriptions have been acquired.

## § 8 Examination administration system

(1) Students are required to make use of the electronic examination administration system in operation to process the data referring to the dates of module examinations, the registration and cancellations of registrations for these examinations and the publication of the results of examinations.

(2) The students are obliged to check the correctness of the entries at least once per semester.

(3) Examiners contribute to the electronic record of the examination results.

(4) The results of examinations or course achievements are published by means of the electronic examination administration or by a notice. Therefore, the students are under an obligation to use the electronic examination administration system. The results are considered to be published two weeks after being entered into the electronic examination administration administration system or after displaying the notice.

(5) If a student wishes to leave the University of Rostock or to change his/her programme of study, he/she can apply to receive a certificate of all passed and failed examinations, and their results stating whether the Bachelor's or Master's examination is not finished or all attempts failed.

### § 9 Time limits and fixed dates of module examinations

(1) Course-related module examinations should be taken in the scheduled semester (regular examination date [RED]). The examination period may be extended to not more than one month following the end of the semester. Module examinations can also be taken before the RED, provided that the requirements for admission to the examination are met.

(2) The examination periods of the module examinations are stated in the PSER. The registration deadlines for module examinations that take place in the semester break are published not later than six weeks before the beginning of the semester break. The registration deadlines for module examinations that take place during the semester are usually published in the first week of the lecture period, and not later than four weeks before the beginning of the examination.

(3) Students have to register at the examination office for every module examination they wish to take. For repeat examinations, they are registered automatically. The receipt of the registration has to be confirmed appropriately. The registration time for module examinations that take place in the semester break ends four weeks before the end of the lecture time. The registration time for module examinations that take place during the semester usually ends two weeks after the beginning of the lecture period, and not later than two weeks before the beginning of the examination. The registration for an examination can be cancelled not later than fourteen days before the examination date without stating reasons.

(4) The exact examination dates are set by the examination committee. For written examinations, usually there is a precise examination date, and for oral examinations there is an examination period of two weeks. In any case, the exact date of examination is to be published appropriately not later than seven days before the beginning of the examination. There should not be two examinations on the same day; exceptions can be decided by the examination committee.

## § 10 Exceeding the time limit

(1) Students can postpone module examinations for not more than two semesters following the RED; and, on application, for another semester in reasonable exceptional cases.

(2) If the student fails to meet the time limit for postponing a module examination, he/she has to state plausible reasons for this to the examination committee in a written form.

(3) If the student is responsible for the reasons, the examination is considered "taken" and marked as "fail". An exception is possible if the student – after making use of the student counselling – presents a plan of how he/she wants to finish the programme within not more than two semesters which is accepted by the examination committee.

(4) If the reasons are accepted, the examination committee will inform the student in writing about a new date for the examination.

(5) The student is not responsible for any failure to meet a deadline due to maternity or parental leave.

#### § 11 Admission to the module examinations

- (1) Module examinations can only be taken by students who
  - 1. are matriculated in the respective Bachelor's or Master's programme of the University of Rostock and who have not been granted leave of absence and
  - 2. who satisfy the requirements for admission to the examination.

Module examinations during a leave of absence may only be taken in exceptional cases with permission of the Rectorate.

(2) With their registration for module examinations students have to enclose a list of the modules where they want to take the examination and to prove that the requirements for admission to the examinations have been met. If evidence concerning the requirements of admission to an examination cannot be provided, the student will be admitted with the proviso that this evidence is to be provided not later than by the end of the respective examination. If the student fails to provide this evidence, his/her admission will expire; the registration in this case has no effect.

- (3) The admission to a module examination will be refused if
  - 1. one of the requirements from subsection (1) is not fulfilled,
  - 2. the documents required in subsection (2) are incomplete or
  - 3. the candidate has failed all attempts of an examination of the same or a related programme.
- (4) Taking an examination without admission renders it invalid.

#### § 12 Examinations

(1) There are both oral and written examinations.

(2) The PSER specifies type and duration of the each examination. Oral examinations last at least 20 minutes, but not more than 45 minutes. Written examinations last at least 45 minutes, but not more than 180 minutes. The time limit for other written assignments can be extended by four weeks at the longest.

(3) Oral examinations are taken in the presence of at least two examiners. They are recorded in minutes and the result is announced immediately after the oral examination.

(4) Written examinations are assessed by two examiners if this is the final examination or the last repeat examination. Written examinations should be marked within four weeks.

(5) Examinations are normally taken in German. On application, examinations in courses that are taught in a language other than German can be in this language. The PSER can provide that examinations have to be taken in a language other than German.

(6) According to the PSER, examinations can be taken as group examinations.

(7) For other written assignments students can be required to submit them also in an electronic version – if possible on a data medium – in order to verify their authorship by means of data synchronisation.

(8) Students who want to take the same oral examination at a later date may observe the oral examination subject to the consent of the student to be examined. The listeners are not allowed to participate in the discussion and the announcement of the results of the oral examination.

(9) Unless otherwise stated in the PSER, specially gifted students can take other kinds of examinations than those provided.

(10) The binding publication of the results of examinations and course achievements is done by means of the electronic examination administration system (see § 8 (4)) or by a notice. Students can also be informed about their results on demand.

(11) Module examinations during a leave of absence may only be taken in exceptional cases with permission of the Rectorate.

### § 13 Assessment of examinations, calculation of the grades

(1) Modules are either graded or marked as "pass" or "fail". The PSER determines which modules are graded and which are not. In Bachelor's programmes at least 70 % of the modules have to be graded, in Master's programmes at least 80 %. The PSER can provide that the grades of particular passed module examinations are not taken into account in calculating the final grade. In Bachelor's programmes module grades that are equivalent to at least 60 % of all CPs have to be part of the final grade; in Master's programmes module grades that are equivalent to at least 70 % of all CPs have to be part of the final grade.

(2) For the assessment of a module examination, the following grades are to be used:

				00
1.0; 1.3	=	excellent	=	an outstanding performance;
1.7; 2.0; 2.3	=	good	=	a performance which is significantly above average;
2.7; 3.0; 3.3	=	satisfactory	=	an average performance;
3.7; 4.0	=	pass	=	a performance which, despite shortcomings, still satisfies the re-
				quirements;
5.0	=	fail	=	a performance which, due to severe shortcomings, no longer sat-
				isfies the requirements.

(3) If there is more than one examiner, the grade is the arithmetic mean of the individual grades. If a written examination is assessed by two examiners and the difference between the individual grades is greater than 2.0, a third examiner has to assess it. If the third examiner agrees with the grade of one of the first two, this grade will be awarded. If he/she suggests a third grade, the final grade for the examination is the arithmetic mean of the three individual grades. In all cases only the first decimal place is considered, all other decimals are ignored without rounding.

(4) If a module examination consists of two examinations, the module grade is the arithmetic mean of the grades of the two examinations. Only the first decimal place is considered, all other decimals are ignored without rounding. The grade will be:

for an average of up to 1.5 inclusive
for an average between 1.6 and 2.5 inclusive
for an average between 2.6 and 3.5 inclusive
for an average between 3.6 and 4.0 inclusive
for an average of 4.1 or higher

= excellent:

- good;
- = satisfactory;
- = pass;

= fail.

In accordance with the PSER, the grades of the two examinations may also be weighted differently.

(5) For the Bachelor's and Master's examination a final grade is calculated. The PSER provides which modules are included in the calculation of the final grade, and how it is calculated. The final examination is always part of the final grade. The module grades are weighted according to their assigned CPs. For the final grade, only the first decimal place is considered, all other decimals are ignored without rounding. The final grade will be stated as provided in subsection (4).

(6) In addition to the final grade, there is a relative allocation of an ECTS grade.

## § 14 Non-attendance, withdrawal, academic dishonesty, breach of regulations

(1) If a student withdraws from an examination without a sufficient reason or misses an examination date without a sufficient reason or does not submit an examination paper within the given time limit, the examination will be marked as "fail" (5.0). If a module consists of two examinations and one of them has already been taken, this one will remain unaffected by the withdrawal or failure.

(2) In the case of illness a doctor's certificate is required. In case of doubt a public health officer's report can be required. When the student is the sole caretaker of a child, the child's illness, in most cases, counts as illness of the student him-/herself.

(3) An examination will be marked as "fail" (5.0) in case of academic dishonesty, which also includes plagiarism or use of inadmissible sources of help. An examination will also be marked as "fail" (5.0), when a student disturbs the proper process of an examination and is therefore excluded from proceeding with the examination. In serious and repeated cases of academic dishonesty or use of inadmissible sources of help or disturbance of the proper process of an examination, the student will lose his/her right to take any examination in the programme concerned.

### § 15 Defects in examination procedures

(1) If there are defects in the procedure of an oral or written examination which influenced the result of it, the examination will be repeated by the student affected or all students on application or by official decision. The defects must be announced to the examiner or the chairperson of the examination committee immediately after the examination. In case of a written examination the defects must be announced to the invigilator/proctor, as far as possible.

### § 16 Pass and fail

(1) A module examination is considered passed if the grade is at least "pass" (4.0). If the module examination consists of two examinations, the grade for both examinations has to be at least "pass" (4.0).

(2) The Bachelor's or Master's examination is passed if the required number of CPs in the compulsory, compulsory elective and elective modules according to the PSER is reached and the final examination is graded as at least "pass" (4.0).

(3) If all attempts of the Bachelor's or Master's examination are failed, the chairperson of the examination committee will give an official notification to the student including an instruction about the legal remedies available to him/her.

### § 17 Free attempt, repetition of module examinations

(1) A module examination can be counted as a free attempt if it is the first attempt and if it is taken not later than the RED specified in the PSER. The free attempt is admissible for module examinations with a total amount of not more than 1/3 of all CPs affecting the overall grade. There is no free attempt for the final examination. The application to count a module examination as a free attempt can be made within one month after the publication of the examination result.

(2) A module examination that has not been passed in the free attempt is considered as "not taken", unless it is marked as "fail" due to academic dishonesty or breach of regulations (§ 14 (3)). The regular first examination has to be taken with regard to the time limits stated in § 10, otherwise the examination is considered as taken and marked as "fail".

(3) A module examination passed in the free attempt can be retaken for the purpose of improvement of the grade; the better grade is valid.

(4) A module examination that is taken as a free attempt can only be repeated once after the regular first examination. If an examination is taken without application for a free attempt and not passed, it can be repeated twice. The repetition of a passed examination beyond the free attempt is not possible. If a module examination consists of two examinations, only the part that is failed has to be repeated.

(5) The first repetition examination and attempts of improvement have to be taken not later than the following semester; an extension of time may be granted in case of reasons the student is not responsible for. The second repetition examination has to be taken not later than the next regular examination date. The PSER may provide that the second repetition examination has to be taken as an oral examination. In the case of leave of absence, the repetition examination has to be taken at the next examination date past the end of the leave of absence.

(6) In the case of non-observance of the repetition time limit, the repetition examination is considered as "taken" and marked as "fail", unless the student is not responsible for the non-observance.

### § 18 Special arrangements to eliminate prejudice due to disabilities or chronic diseases

(1) If a student cannot take an examination in the form provided in the regulations due to disability or chronic disease, the length of the examination can be extended or the type of examination can be changed. In this case, a written application has to be submitted with the registration for the examination.

(2) Female candidates on maternity leave may take examinations and submit course achievements only according to the provisions of the Maternity Protection Act ("Mutterschutzgesetz"). On application, there may be different examination conditions.

#### § 19 Transfer of study periods, course achievements and examinations

(1) Within two weeks at the latest after the beginning of a programme, a candidate can submit a list of passed and failed examinations and course achievements from other universities to the examination committee. If examinations or course achievements can be transferred, the evidence and documents required for the transfer must be provided.

(2) Study periods, course achievements and examinations shall be transferred if there are no essential differences between the knowledge and skills acquired and those to be acquired at the University of Rostock. A transfer subject to conditions is also possible. It is not possible to transfer modules which have been used to earn credit points and have therefore contributed to the successful completion of a programme.

(5) For candidates, who, due to an entrance examination, can start a Bachelor's programme in a higher semester, the knowledge and skills proved in the placement test shall be counted as equivalent to examinations.

(6) With examinations and course achievements the grades are transferred and included in the calculation of the final grade, when the grading systems are comparable. If the grading systems are incomparable, the notice "pass" will be recorded.

(7) On application, proved special study periods, such as language semesters or internships covering a whole semester, will not be considered for the regular period of study for up to two semesters. In this case, on application an individual curriculum differing from the standard curriculum can be designed with the consent of the examination committee.

(8) All examinations and course achievements are to be transferred as long as at least 30 CPs including the particular final thesis are to be obtained at the University of Rostock. An application for transfer is not possible if the examination of the module that should be replaced by the course achievement to be transferred has already begun.

### § 22 Invalidity of an examination

(1) In cases of academic dishonesty revealed after the issuing of the certificate, the grade of the concerning examination can be rectified or changed to "fail", and the final examination can be marked as "fail".

(2) If the requirements of a module examination are not met, without the attempt of academic dishonesty, and this is revealed after the issuing of the certificate, the passed examination will cure this defect. In cases of intentional cheating, the module examination can be marked as "fail" and the final examination as "fail".

(3) The student is entitled to be heard before the decision is made.

(4) The incorrect certificate will be collected and declared void and, if appropriate, a new one will be issued. If the final examination is marked as "fail" due to academic dishonesty, the degree award certificate will also be collected and declared void. Such a decision is excluded after a term of five years from the date of the certificate.

### § 23 Objection proceedings

(1) An objection is possible against both refusing decisions and other administrative decisions that are made in examination matters and involve a burden. The objection has to state the reasons in a written form within one month after the publication of the challenged decision.

(2) An objection against the loss of entitlement to an examination suspends the effect of this decision. Students are not entitled to repeat a module examination after they failed the last attempt. If a loss of entitlement to an examination is legally effective, examinations performed after the loss are retrospectively counted as "not taken".

(3) An objection is also possible against the assessment of module examinations and requirements for admission to an examination. The student has to state the reasons in a written form within two weeks after the publication of the assessment. The examiners concerned will then check their decision and state their opinion. The student will be informed by the examination committee about the decision on his/her objection.

## § 24 Viewing of examination files

Viewing of the written examination papers, the assessment and minutes of the examination is possible on application up to one year after completion of the examination process.

### II. Final examination

### § 25 Admission to the final examination

(1) In a Bachelor's programme the bachelor's thesis is the written part of the final examination, to which a colloquium can be added. The scope of the bachelor's thesis is 12 CPs. In a Master's programme the final examination consists of the written master's thesis and a colloquium. The scope of the master's thesis ranges from 15 to 30 CPs, but comprises at least 25 % of all CPs in the programme. Further details are provided in the PSER.

(2) Students are admitted to the final examination, provided that they are matriculated in the programme concerned of the University of Rostock and satisfy the requirements for admission to the final examination, as stated in the PSER.

(3) Students have to apply in writing for the admission to the final examination within the time limit stated in the PSER. With the application the topic and the supervisor of the thesis can be suggested.

#### § 26 Purpose of the final examination

(1) In the final examination in a Bachelor's programme the candidate has to prove that he/she masters the substantial and methodical basics of the subject and is able to recognise and solve problems and tasks.

(2) In the final examination in a Master's programme the candidate has to prove that he/she has acquired advanced or extended scientific qualifications, is able to work scientifically and independently, to solve complex problems and tasks, and to recognise and consider future developments in science.

### § 27 Thesis

(1) With the thesis the student shall prove that he/she can work independently on a problem in the relevant subject using scientific methods within the period allowed.

(2) In order to allow the student to meet the deadline, topic, task and scope have to be limited accordingly by the supervisor. On application stating valid reasons the time limit can be extended by three months at the longest.

(3) On application, the thesis can be written in a language other than those admitted in the PSER subject to the consent of the examination committee, the supervisor and the second examiner.

(4) The thesis is supervised by a professor or another member of teaching staff. Subject to the consent of the examination committee, the thesis can also be written at an institution outside the University of Rostock.

(5) The examination committee has to announce the topic of the thesis in due time in order to allow the final examination including the assessment and, if appropriate, the colloquium to take place in the regular period of study. The topic can be refused only once and only within three weeks of the announcement.

(6) The thesis can also be written in groups provided that for every single student the part to be assessed is clearly distinguishable, e.g. by giving sections, page numbers or other objective criteria, and that the requirement in subsection (1) is fulfilled.

### § 28 Submission and assessment of the thesis

(1) The thesis has to be submitted within the period allowed in two hardcover copies and, according to § 12 (7), also in an electronic version. The student has to affirm in writing that he/she has written the thesis (in case of group work the respective part marked accordingly) independently with no sources of help other than those stated.

(2) The thesis will be assessed independently by two examiners, among them the supervisor of the thesis, within four weeks after the submission of the thesis. The grade is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the two given grades.

(3) For a thesis with a grade worse than "pass" (4.0) there is only one more attempt. The examination committee announces the topic of the repetition thesis in due time in order to allow the thesis to be written and the assessment and, if appropriate, the colloquium to take place in the semester following the semester of the unsuccessful attempt. The topic can be refused within three weeks after announcement, but only if this option was not used for the first attempt. After final failure of the written thesis the final examination is definitively failed. In case of withdrawal or failure to repeat the thesis the subsections § 14 (1) and (2) shall apply.

### § 29 Oral defence of the thesis

(1) The following clauses only apply if an oral defence is scheduled.

(2) In the oral defence the student has to prove that he/she is able to present and discuss scientific tasks, methods and results of his/her thesis in a scientific way and in public.

(3) Student are only admitted to the oral defence if the written thesis is marked as "pass" (4.0) or better. The oral defence consists of a presentation by the student and a subsequent discussion. The duration is provided in the PSER. The oral defence takes place in the presence of at least two examiners. The oral defence takes place not later than four weeks after the publication of the grade of the thesis.

(4) The final examination is passed if both the written thesis and the oral defence are marked as "pass" (4.0) or better. The final grade of the final examination is calculated from the double weighted grade of the thesis and the single weighted grade of the oral defence. Both the grade of the oral defence and the final grade are announced immediately after the oral defence.

(5) If the grade of the oral defence is worse than "pass" (4.0), it can be repeated only once within the upcoming semester. After final failure of the oral defence the final examination is definitively failed.

### § 30 Certificate, degree award certificate and Diploma Supplement

(1) The student receives a certificate about the passed Bachelor's or Master's examination within four weeks after passing the last examination. The certificate contains the modules, their grades and CPs, topic of the thesis and its grade as well as the overall grade. Additionally, the certificate may contain the area of studies and, on application, extra modules and the duration of study.

(2) Together with the certificate, the student receives a certificate stating the degree and the completed programme.

(3) Furthermore, the student receives a Diploma Supplement in English.

(4) Moreover, the student receives an English translation of the certificate and the degree award certificate as well as a German Diploma Supplement.