

## **Degree Examination Regulations**

### **Master's Degree Course in Historical Sciences - Mobility Studies Curriculum**

#### **Article 1**

##### Field of application

These Regulations, in accordance with the University Teaching Regulations, the University School Regulations, and the Teaching Regulations for the Master's Degree Program in Historical Sciences, establish the regulations for the final exams and graduation ceremonies insofar as not defined by the aforementioned regulations.

#### **Article 2**

##### Description of the Degree Examination

The final examination is comprised of two components: a thesis, written by the student under the supervision of a chosen professor, and a discussion of the thesis in front of the Degree Committee. The purpose of the final examination is to demonstrate mastery of critical interpretative tools and the ability to independently develop the topics covered. The thesis must be comprehensive, well-structured, well-argued, and formally correct. The thesis must be written in Italian or English, with a summary in Italian.

#### **Article 3**

##### Authenticity of the exam and use of artificial intelligence

Students are required to write the final thesis with personal commitment to the chosen topic, in full compliance with copyright and intellectual property protection regulations (Article 28, paragraph 8 of the Student Regulations). It is important to note that the act of submitting a work that has been copied, even in part, as if it were one's own creation, is considered a public offence under Law No. 475/1925, which was amended in 1999. It is imperative that all sources utilised, encompassing both printed books and manuscripts, archival documents, websites, materials provided by the supervisor, and those independently obtained, are consistently and correctly quoted. This requirement extends to any content generated by artificial intelligence. This principle of meticulous quotation applies even to summaries and abstracts. The utilisation of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools and associated technologies is strongly discouraged and, in any case, permitted only with caution, awareness of the limitations, and absolute transparency. The utilisation of artificial intelligence is permissible solely in a supportive capacity, and more in particular, in order to:

1. improve the clarity and style of the text;
2. organize and structure the materials collected.

In such circumstances, the contribution of AI must be explicitly declared and always subject to critical and personal review. The utilisation of AI, which exerts a substantial influence on either the learning process or the composition of significant portions of

the thesis, necessitates the prior approval of the supervisor. In such cases, it is essential that the thesis includes a dedicated section (in the appendix or in the conclusion) that accurately describes the purpose and methods of use of AI tools. Upon submission of the thesis, the student is required to submit a declaration of authenticity, in which they affirm their awareness of the civil, criminal, and administrative consequences of any plagiarism and/or copyright infringement.

#### **Article 4**

Supervisor, co-supervisor and second reader

As a rule, both the supervisor and the second reader must be professors who teach in the Master's Degree Program in Historical Sciences, Mobility Studies curriculum. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the Mobility Studies curriculum, in some cases a co-supervisor may be identified to assist the supervisor during the writing of the thesis. It is understood that the responsibility for supervision remains with the supervisor. The co-supervisor may be a professor affiliated with the Master's Degree Program in Historical Sciences or another degree program at the University of Padua or another university; he or she may also be an expert from within or outside the University.

#### **Article 5**

Degree Committee

The Master's Degree Committee shall consist of five full members and two alternate members. In the event of the duly justified absence of one of the members of the Committee, a substitute shall take their place. The primary responsibility for participation in graduation sessions lies with professors. In the event of conflicting commitments, this obligation must take precedence over all other duties.

#### **Article 6**

Conduct of the final examination

The degree examination comprises a public discussion of the thesis presented to the Degree Committee. It is customary for the examination to last no more than twenty-five minutes. During the discussion, the supervisor and the second reader will pose one or more questions to the candidate that are closely related to the topic of the thesis. The primary responsibility of the supervisor is to submit a report to the Committee on the thesis, thereby ensuring its conformity with the aforementioned criteria. The onus is then placed on the candidate to present the theses that are substantiated by their work. The second reader's task is to provide an assessment of the thesis, evaluating its quality, scientific consistency, argumentative structure, originality, and formal correctness. In the event that a co-supervisor is not a member of the committee, they are still required to contribute to the committee's assessment process by providing the chair with a written opinion on the thesis.

#### **Article 7**

Criteria for awarding the degree grade

For the purposes of awarding the final degree grade, the starting point will be the weighted average, calculated in accordance with the provisions of Article 6, paragraph 2 of the Study Program Regulations.

The base score is added to the score obtained in the final exam, for which the Committee has 0 to 5 points available, which must be awarded based on the fundamental criterion of the quality of the final thesis and its discussion. If the sum of the base score and the final exam score is less than 110, the Commission has an additional bonus of 2 points available, which can be awarded based on the following criteria:

- a. exceptional quality of the final exam;
- b. final exam taken within the normal duration of the degree program (2 points for those who graduate in the summer session, 1 point for those who graduate in the following fall session, by December)
- c. achievement of honors in at least 1/3 of the exams taken
- d. participation in the Erasmus experience (0.3 points for every 9 credits obtained in international mobility, 1 point in the case of an internship abroad).

For the awarding of marks up to full marks, the Commission decides by a majority vote of its members. If the candidate has obtained the maximum mark of 110/110, the distinction of honors may be awarded. The awarding of honors - normally proposed by the co-examiner - requires the unanimous agreement of the members of the Commission.

The Chair of the Degree Committee is responsible for ensuring that the thesis meet the specified requirements and that the established rules and procedures are followed by all members of the Committee.

## **Article 8**

Transitional provisions

These regulations shall apply from the 2025/2026 cohort onwards.