

**Subject-Specific Regulations for the
Master's Degree Programme 'Cybersecurity' at Saarland University
Supplementing the Joint Examination Regulations for the Bachelor's and
Master's Degree Programmes of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer
Science**

25 February 2021

Note: This translation is provided for information purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy between the translation and the original German version published in the Official Bulletin (*Dienstblatt der Hochschulen des Saarlandes*), the provisions of the latter shall take precedence.

Pursuant to Section 64 of the Saarland Higher Education Institutions Act (SHSG) (Official Gazette of Saarland I, p. 1080) as amended by the Act of 8–9 December 2020 (Official Gazette I (2021), p. 53) and based on the Joint Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of 25 February 2021 (Official Bulletin No. 62, p. 580) and with the consent of the Saarland University Senate and the University Board, the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science at Saarland University hereby issues the following Subject-Specific Regulations Governing the Master's Degree Programme 'Cybersecurity'.

Section 27

Scope

(cf. Sec. 1 of the Joint Examination Regulations)

These subject-specific regulations apply to the Master's degree programme 'Cybersecurity' at Saarland University.

Section 28

General information

(cf. Sec. 2 of the Joint Examination Regulations)

The Master's programme 'Cybersecurity' is a more research-oriented postgraduate degree programme.

Section 29

Types of degree programmes

(cf. Sec. 3 of the Joint Examination Regulations)

The Master's degree programme 'Cybersecurity' is a single-subject degree programme within the meaning of the Framework Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes at Saarland University (BMRPO).

Section 30

Student workload

(cf. Sec. 4 of the Joint Examination Regulations)

Course attendance may be compulsory for certain seminars, project seminars, exercise and problem-solving classes and practical skills classes. Students will be notified of this by the instructor at the beginning of the course. The compulsory attendance requirement is normally deemed to have been met if a student was present for at least 85% of the course sessions. If there are reasonable grounds for a student's absence, the student may be offered the option of completing alternative assignments.

Section 31
Examiners; thesis examiners; supervisors, observers
(cf. Sec. 8 of the Joint Examination Regulations)

(1) The Examination Board shall appoint examiners, thesis examiners and/or thesis supervisors drawn from the groups in Section 8(1), items 1 to 7 of the Joint Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science and, additionally, from the group of mid-level academic staff with the right to supervise doctoral candidates.

(2) In addition to the examiners, thesis examiners and thesis supervisors specified in Section 8(2) of the Joint Examination Regulations, the Examination Board may in individual cases and with the consent of those members of professorial staff with responsibility for the relevant subject area also appoint heads of independent junior research groups, members of mid-level academic staff qualified to doctoral level, members of staff qualified to doctoral level at the on-campus research institutes CISPA (Helmholtz Center for Information Security), DFKI (German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence), MPI-I (Max Planck Institute for Informatics) or MPI-SWS (Max Planck Institute for Software Systems), as well as other qualified and experienced professionals working in the relevant field.

Section 32
Admission to the Master's programme
(cf. Sec. 12 of the Joint Examination Regulations)

(1) Students seeking admission to the Master's programme shall:

1. have a Bachelor's degree from a German university or an equivalent qualification from a foreign university in computer science, informatics or a related field
2. demonstrate particular academic aptitude (see Section 77(6) of the Saarland Higher Education Institutions Act – SHSG).

(2) The criteria used to assess particular academic aptitude are:

- a. Proof of advanced proficiency in English (typically level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)
- b. Sufficient merit in the applicant's previous academic record and appropriate curricular content of the Bachelor's degree. Applicants should demonstrate a level of knowledge and competence that corresponds to that acquired in the core computer science modules taught in the Bachelor's degree programme 'Cybersecurity' at Saarland University. Applicants are not required to have any existing knowledge or prior learning in specific areas of cybersecurity, though any such knowledge would not be considered a hindrance. Applicants are required to have the necessary level of competence in the following areas:
 - I. Mathematics (discrete mathematics, linear algebra, stochastics, statistics)
 - II. Theoretical informatics (complexity theory, computability)
 - III. Practical informatics (functional and object-oriented programming, data structures and algorithms, system architecture)
- c. Evidence of particular interest in the subject by submission of a personal statement written by the applicant and two letters of recommendation written by referees who know the applicant academically

The criteria listed above will be used to assess the aptitude of the applicant in terms of the academic profile and requirements of the Master's degree programme 'Cybersecurity'. The Examination Board shall decide whether the programme admission requirements have been met.

Section 33
Procedural elements, presentation and layout of the thesis
(cf. Sec. 23 of the Joint Examination Regulations)

A colloquium lasting 30 minutes shall be held in order to establish that the Master's thesis is the candidate's own original work. The colloquium shall be held no later than six weeks after the candidate submits the printed version of the Master's thesis. One of the colloquium examiners shall be the person who set the candidate's thesis topic.

Section 34
Successfully completing the Master's programme and overall grade
(cf. Sec. 24 of the Joint Examination Regulations)

To graduate 'with distinction', a candidate must have attained a final overall grade of 1.1 or better and must have met all of the programme requirements within the standard period of study.

Section 35
Degree qualification and documentation
(cf. Sec. 25 of the Joint Examination Regulations)

In addition to the information presented in Section 25(1) of the Joint Examination Regulations for Master's Degree Programmes of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, the certificate may also list the areas of specialization studied, other student attainments and the results achieved.

Section 36
Commencement

These regulations shall come into force on the day after they are announced in the Official Bulletin of the Institutions of Higher Education in Saarland (*Dienstblatt der Hochschulen des Saarlandes*).

Saarbrücken, 12 August 2021

On behalf of the President of Saarland University
(Univ.-Prof. Dr. Manfred Schmitt)

Vice-President for Administration and Finance
(Dr. Roland Rolles)