

Please note that the English language version of the terms of study is merely intended for information purposes. Only the German version is legally binding.

**2nd Order amending
the Joint Terms of Study
for the Joint Master's Program in Econometrics
of the Faculty of Management and Economics at Ruhr-University Bochum,
the Department of Statistics in cooperation with the Department of Business and
Economics at TU Dortmund University,
as well as the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics at the University of
Duisburg-Essen**

as of May 15th, 2025

On the basis of § 2 (4) in conjunction with § 64, paragraph 1 of the Higher Education Act for the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz – HG NRW) of September 16, 2014 (GV. NRW. p. 547), last amended by Article 2 of the Act of December 19, 2024 (GV. NRW. p. 1222), the TU Dortmund University has enacted the following terms of study:

Article I

The joint terms of study for the joint Master's Program in Econometrics of the Faculty of Management and Economics at Ruhr University Bochum, the Department of Statistics with the participation of the Department of Business and Economics at TU Dortmund University, and the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics at the University of Duisburg-Essen dated July 31, 2020 (AM 15/2020, page 67 ff.) are amended as follows:

1. In § 3 (Conditions for Admission), paragraph 6 is amended as follows:
 - (6) The criterion for determining whether a degree satisfies the requirements of paragraph 1 is a comparison of the content, scope, and requirements of the corresponding courses, the degree obtained, and the study program with the courses. The same criterion applies to determining the minimum number of credit points required in the area of Economics and in the areas of Mathematics or Statistics in accordance with paragraph 2. Depending on this assessment, the joint examination board may grant admission without conditions or with conditions requiring the successful completion of missing examinations, or it may refuse admission. Conditions may be imposed up to a maximum of 30 credit points to compensate for missing content-related admission requirements. All conditions must be fulfilled by the start of the ME3 “Case Studies” module, which can be completed through the corresponding “Case Studies” course or through an external internship. § 9, 11 (1) and (3), and 12 (1) apply accordingly to the examinations to be taken as part of the conditions.
2. In § 6 (Standard Period of Study, Scope and Structure of Studies), paragraphs 4 and 5 are amended as follows:
 - (4) Students may start the degree program in the summer semester or in the winter semester.
 - (5) The structure of the program and the modules in the compulsory and compulsory elective areas, including the credit points to be earned and the types of examinations (covering the entire module or related to individual courses), are set out in § 8 and

§ 18 and in the appendix to these terms of study.

3. In § 7 (Admission to Module Courses, Admission to Courses with Limited Numbers of Participants), paragraph 4, clause 1, sentence 1, and paragraph 5, clause 1, are amended as follows:
 - (4) If the number of students exceeds the capacity, the dean or a lecturer appointed by the dean shall regulate access with the participation of the Department Committee for Teaching and Studies upon request of the respective lecturer. Applicants shall be considered in the following order:
 1. Students who, based on the course of study of the degree program they are enrolled in, are required to attend the course at this point in time.
 - (5) If a selection must be made within a group, applicants shall be considered in the following order:
 1. Students with long-term or permanent disabilities, chronic illness, or dependent care obligations (care and upbringing of children within the meaning of § 25 (5) of the Bundesausbildungsfoerderungsgesetz, care of a spouse, registered partner, or a relative in the direct line or first degree of kinship, provided that the latter is in need of care).
4. In § 8 (Exams), paragraphs 1, 4, 5, and 11 are amended as follows; Paragraph 12 is inserted so that the previous paragraph 12 becomes paragraph 13, the previous paragraph 13 becomes paragraph 14, the previous paragraph 14 becomes paragraph 15, and the previous paragraph 15 becomes paragraph 16; Paragraph 16 is also amended as follows:
 - (1) Modules are generally completed with only one examination. The module is usually completed with a graded module examination. In exceptional cases, a module may also be successfully completed by cumulative graded partial examinations. Partial examinations are taken within individual courses of a module. The respective types and forms of examination (module examination or partial examination / graded or ungraded) are specified in the appendix to these terms of study.
 - (4) Admission to individual module examinations or partial examinations requires that the examinations specified as prerequisites in the module descriptions in the module handbook have been successfully completed.
 - (5) For module examinations, written examinations shall have a duration of no less than 60 minutes and no more than 240 minutes; oral examinations shall have a duration of no less than 15 minutes and no more than 45 minutes per student. For partial examinations, a maximum duration of 240 minutes shall be allowed for written examinations and a duration of 15 to 30 minutes per student for oral examinations. In justified cases, deviations from these provisions for the duration are possible.
 - (11) Examination performances in written or oral examinations that conclude a degree program and in repeat examinations for which no opportunity for compensation is provided in the event of final failure must be assessed by two examiners within the meaning of § 14. In addition, oral examinations must always be conducted by two examiners or by one examiner in the presence of a competent assessor.
 - (12) Written examinations within the meaning of paragraph 11, with the exception of the Master's thesis, shall be assessed separately by both examiners in accordance with § 19 paragraph 1. The grade for the written examination shall be calculated as the arithmetic mean of the two individual grades. § 19 (7) shall apply accordingly.
 - (16) Regular attendance may be required for courses whose learning objectives cannot be achieved without the active participation of the students. When regulating attendance requirements, the constitutional requirement of proportionality must be

observed. The attendance requirement shall be decided either on the basis of a vote by the study advisory council or on the basis of a two-thirds majority of the faculty council. The attendance requirement must be specified in the module description in the module handbook. The exact details of the attendance requirement shall be communicated to students in an appropriate form at the latest at the beginning of the course.

5. In § 11 (Dates and Deadlines), paragraphs 3 and 5 are amended as follows:
 - (3) Registration for each written or oral examination must be submitted at least two weeks before the start of the respective examination. The registration period should generally be two weeks. The registration deadline is usually announced by the joint examination board at least one month before the start of the deadline or at the beginning of a semester. Different rules may apply to exams that are conducted by another department as part of the degree program.
 - (5) Withdrawal without giving reasons is possible for oral examinations up to one week before the start of the respective examination and for written examinations up to one day before the start of the respective examination. The student is then considered not registered for the exam. For seminars offered by the Department of Business and Economics at TU Dortmund University and the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics at University of Duisburg-Essen, the exam starts when students declare their binding registration for the examination. Different rules may apply to exams that are conducted by another department as part of the degree program.
6. § 15 (Recognition of Previous Academic Work, Placement in Advanced Semesters) is amended to read as follows:
 - (1) Examination results obtained in degree programs at other state or state-recognized universities, at state or state-recognized vocational academies, or in degree programs at foreign state or state-recognized universities shall be recognized upon request, provided that there is no significant difference in the learning outcomes compared to the credits being replaced; no assessment of equivalence shall take place. Sentence 1 shall apply accordingly to transfers between degree programs at TU Dortmund University or between degree programs at the Ruhr University Bochum or the University of Duisburg-Essen.
 - (2) Determining whether significant differences exist requires that all essential elements of the required examination performance correspond to the performance achieved in terms of content and scope of the material relevant to the examination and the type and duration of the examination. This should not be a schematic comparison, but rather an overall assessment and evaluation. To determine the significance of differences in the case of examinations taken at foreign universities, the equivalence agreements approved by the Kultusministerkonferenz and the Hochschulsrektorenkonferenz, as well as agreements within the framework of university partnerships, must be taken into account. In all other cases, the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) should be consulted before a negative decision is made.
 - (3) Credit points earned under the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) will be recognized if the necessary requirements are met. Before the student leaves for their studies abroad, a written agreement (“Learning Agreement”) should be concluded between the student, a representative of the joint examination board, and a representative of the teaching staff of the host university. After returning from abroad, the credits listed in the written agreement (“Learning Agreement”) will be recognized provided that the necessary requirements specified in advance have been

met, in particular that the individual credits have been completed in full and successfully. The Erasmus Charter for Higher Education of TU Dortmund University shall be taken into account in its currently valid version.

- (4) If the exchange does not take place within the framework of a cooperation agreement or an ERASMUS program, the type and scope of the credit points to be recognized shall be bindingly regulated in a written agreement ("Learning Agreement") required in accordance with paragraph 3 at the request of the student.
- (5) Applicants who are entitled to commence their studies in a higher semester on the basis of a placement test in accordance with § 49 (12) HG NRW shall have the knowledge and competencies demonstrated in the placement test recognized as examinations forming part of the Master's degree. The statements recorded in the placement test certificate are binding on the joint examination board.
- (6) Upon request, knowledge and qualifications acquired in ways other than through a course of study (e.g., knowledge acquired and achievements made in the course of vocational training or professional activity) may be recognized for up to 50% of the credit points required for the Master's program if this knowledge and these qualifications are equivalent in content and level to the examination requirements they are intended to replace.
- (7) The joint examination board is responsible for the recognition of examination results and knowledge and qualifications acquired in ways other than through a course of study, as well as for decisions on appeals against decisions made in accordance with this section. The joint examination board may delegate the execution of the recognition procedure to the chair or another member of the joint examination board from the group of university teachers as part of their regular duties. This does not apply to decisions on appeals within the framework of these regulations. Before determining whether significant differences exist, a subject representative must be consulted. If the recognition sought on the basis of an application within the meaning of paragraph 1 is refused or refused in part, the applicant may, without prejudice to procedural or procedural court law deadlines, request a review of the decision by the rectorate. The rectorate shall make a recommendation to the joint examination board for the further processing of the application.
- (8) The application for recognition should be submitted at the same time as the application and enrollment as student or the admission as a cross-registered student. The applicant must specify the modules of their degree program for which they are seeking recognition.
- (9) In cases where the examination results, knowledge, or qualifications eligible for recognition are not available until after the start of the degree program, the application may be submitted at a later date. Recognition is excluded for a module in which the examination procedure specified in the terms of study has already begun for the student.
- (10) As part of the recognition procedure, applicants must provide evidence of the facts asserted in an appropriate form at the time of application. Relevant documents for determining insignificant differences or equivalence are: grade transcripts, diplomas and certificates, transcripts of records, learning agreements, diploma supplements, module descriptions and other descriptions, if applicable. Documents for the recognition procedure must be submitted in German or English, with a certified translation if necessary.
- (11) The joint examination board must provide comprehensible written reasons for any decisions to reject or partially reject an application within the framework of the recognition procedure. The burden of proof that an application does not meet the requirements for recognition within the meaning of § 15 (1) lies with the joint

examination board.

- (12) If the joint examination board concludes that there are no significant differences, the examination achievements will be fully recognized. An examination achievement can also be recognized as part of a module only. The corresponding module is only passed, and the respective examination achievements are acquired when the missing examination achievements have been completed in accordance with the terms of study. The same applies to the recognition of knowledge and qualifications acquired in ways other than through a course of study. The recognition is indicated in the certificate and in the transcript of records.
 - (13) If recognition is requested for examination achievements which also constitute prerequisites for participation in courses or examinations, the joint examination board may admit the student to the relevant courses or examinations in advance if the decision on recognition cannot be made in time before the start of the respective course or examination. Admission is subject to the caveat that the examination achievements to be recognized are actually recognized.
 - (14) Graded examination results are recognized with the grade awarded if the grading systems are comparable. In this case, the grade awarded is transferred and included in the calculation of the overall grade. If the grading systems are not comparable, the joint examination board decides on the procedure for converting and recognizing the relevant examination results. If the recognition of examination results or knowledge and qualifications acquired in ways other than through a course of study, which have been obtained under non-comparable grading systems, concludes that a module grade cannot be determined, the grade “pass” shall be recorded, and this module shall not be included in the calculation of the overall grade.
 - (15) Ungraded examination results shall be recognized with the note “passed”.
 - (16) Decisions by the joint examination board on applications for recognition of examination results or knowledge and qualifications acquired in ways other than through a course of study shall be made within a period of not more than three months. The period shall begin as soon as all necessary documents and information relating to the content of the application have been submitted to the joint examination board. If no decision has been made after three months, the reasons for this must be explained to the applicant ex officio.
 - (17) Appeals against decisions made in accordance with these regulations must be lodged with the chair of the joint examination board in writing or for the record in accordance with § 70 of the Administrative Court Regulations within one month of their announcement. The decision on the appeal shall be issued within one month of the appeal being lodged. If the appeal is not upheld, the decision shall be justified and accompanied by information on the legal remedies available.
 - (18) On the basis of recognition pursuant to § 15 (1) or at the request of the student, the student shall be assigned to a semester of the study program, the number of which is determined by the ratio of the credit points acquired through recognition to the total number of credit points to be acquired in the respective degree program. If the decimal place is less than five, the number is rounded down to the nearest whole semester, otherwise it is rounded up.
7. In § 16 (Defaulting, Withdrawing, Cheating and Breaches of Regulations), paragraph 3 is amended as follows:
- (3) If an examination is influenced by deception (e.g., use of unauthorized aids, copying text passages without citing the source, copying another student’s work or allowing another student to copy, or providing other assistance to others in their attempts to cheat, late submission, etc.), the examination in question shall be graded as

“unsatisfactory” (5.0) or “fail”. This also applies to attempts at deception. If, during an examination, an attempt at deception or deception within the meaning of sentence 1 is detected by the examiner or the supervisor, the latter shall record the attempt at deception or deception. The joint examination board shall decide whether an attempt at deception or an act of deception has taken place and whether the examination is therefore to be graded as “unsatisfactory” (5.0) or “failed.” The principles of prima facie evidence shall apply. The criminal law principle of “in dubio pro reo” does not apply. To determine whether deception has occurred, the examiner or the joint examination board may use appropriate software or other electronic aids. In serious cases of deception or disruption, the joint examination board may exclude the candidate from taking further examinations. Anyone who deliberately attempts to deceive is acting in breach of regulations. The breach of regulations may be punished with a fine of up to €50,000 in accordance with § 63 (5) HG NRW.

8. In § 20 (Final Master’s Module), paragraphs 5 and 10 are amended as follows:
 - (5) The period between the announcement of the topic of the Master's thesis and the submission deadline is six months. The topic and the assignment must be such that the Master's thesis can be completed within this period. Upon justified request by the candidate, the joint examination board may, in agreement with the supervisor, grant a one-time extension of up to four weeks in exceptional cases. A request for an extension must be submitted to the joint examination board no later than fourteen days before the end of the six-month period. In the event of illness, the deadline for submission may be extended by a maximum of three months. A medical certificate must be submitted for this purpose. The extension corresponds to the period of illness. If the period of illness exceeds three months, the candidate will be assigned a new topic without recognition of an examination attempt.
 - (10) Upon submission of the Master's thesis, the candidate must affirm in lieu of an oath that they have written the thesis independently and has not used any sources or aids other than those indicated, and that all quotations, both literal and paraphrased, have been identified. Unpublished contributions must also be included in the list of sources. A standard form provided by the Central Examinations Office must be used for the affidavit and signed and included as part of the Master's thesis when it is submitted or uploaded as a file together with the thesis in accordance with the digital submission procedure at TU Dortmund University in accordance with § 22 (1).
9. In § 24 (Diploma, Certificates for Studying at other Universities), paragraph 3 is amended as follows:
 - (3) At the request of the candidate, additional achievements that have not been included in the module and overall grade will be listed on the transcript of records. In addition, voluntary internships completed during the course of study that have been approved by the joint examination board upon request and that are related to the content and subject matter of the chosen degree program may also be included.
10. In § 25 (Master’s Degree Certificate), paragraph 1 is amended as follows:
 - (1) The candidate will be awarded a dated Master's degree certificate in German and English. The Master's degree certificate documents the award of the academic degree in accordance with § 4. The degree program of the graduate must be specified in the Master's degree certificate.
11. In § 27 (Access to Examination Records), paragraph 1 is amended as follows:
 - (1) Inspection of examination records shall be granted after the announcement of an

examination result. During the inspection, copies or other faithful reproductions may be made. The use of copies and other reproductions of the exam is only permitted for personal use for the purpose of inspecting the exam. In particular, publication, duplication, distribution, and any form of utilization by or transfer to third parties is not permitted. Violations will result in significant legal consequences. The time and place of inspection will be determined by the examiners and announced in an appropriate form at the latest when the examination results are announced. Students may inspect the results of other written examinations upon request. The request must be submitted to the chair of the joint examination board within one month.

Article II

- (1) This amendment shall be published in the official announcements of Ruhr University Bochum, TU Dortmund University and the University of Duisburg-Essen and shall enter into force on October 1, 2024.
- (2) It applies to all students enrolled in the Master's degree program in Econometrics.

Note: Please note that, in accordance with § 12 (5) of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz – HG NRW), a violation of procedural or formal requirements of the university's rules and regulations or other autonomous law cannot be asserted after one year has elapsed since this announcement, unless

1. the regulations have not been properly announced
2. the Rectorate has previously objected to the decision of the body adopting the regulations
3. the formal or procedural defect has been previously reported to the university, specifying the legal provision that has been violated and the fact that constitutes the defect, or
4. the legal consequence of the exclusion of complaints was not pointed out when the regulations were publicly announced.

Issued on the basis of the resolutions of the Department Councils of the Faculty of Management and Economics at Ruhr University Bochum on January 29, 2025, the Department of Statistics with the participation of the Department of Business and Economics on March 19, 2025, and April 30, 2025, at TU Dortmund University and the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics at the University of Duisburg-Essen on November 13, 2024, as well as the resolutions of the rectorates of the Ruhr University Bochum on May 15, 2025, TU Dortmund University on December 4, 2024, and the University of Duisburg Essen on April 9, 2025.

Bochum, May 15, 2025

The Rector of Ruhr University Dortmund,
University Professor Dr. Dr. h. c. Martin Paul

Dortmund, May 15, 2025

The Rector of TU Dortmund University,
Professor Dr. Manfred Bayer

Duisburg and Essen, May 15, 2025

On behalf of the Rector of the University of Duisburg-Essen,
the Chancellor
Ulf Richter