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Curriculum for the  
**Master's Programme Romance Studies**  
at the Faculty of Language, Literature and Culture of the University of Innsbruck

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## **§ 1 Allocation of the study programme**

According to §54 par. 1 of the Universities' Act 2002, the Master's Programme Romance Studies is allocated to the group of language, literature and culture studies.

## **§ 2 Qualification profile**

(1) The Master's Programme Romance Studies imparts the following competences:

Graduates of the Master's Programme Romance Studies

- have a highly specialised theoretical and methodological knowledge in the field of Romance Studies,
- are able to independently find specialist literature, analyse it against the background of specific questions and develop it further in an innovative way. They have the competence to write and present a scientific paper, in particular a Master's Thesis, in the foreign language and according to the scientific conventions and with regards to the target group,
- they have highly specialised language-practical skills in French, Italian or Spanish. They have a command of the skills of listening, speaking, reading or writing, as well as skills in scientific text production, reception and presentation on the level C2 of the CEFR for languages,
- critically reflect on historic developments and contemporary manifestations of French, Italian or Spanish and/or Romance literatures within and outside Europe. They are able to independently and critically pick up suitable methods, theories and concepts for understanding these phenomena, to develop them further and to find and deal with new scientific questions this way,
- have a broad and highly specialised knowledge in one or several related sub-areas of French, Italian or Spanish linguistics and have gained insights into their scientific interest and methods,
- have highly specialised scientific knowledge in the field of text, media and/or discourse linguistics with regards to Romance languages and are able to independently work on resulting scientific questions, present the gained knowledge in an appropriate way and contribute to the further development of their field of work,
- are familiar with recent developments and issues in French, Italian or Spanish linguistics and are able to independently assess their relevance for science as well as society. The knowledge and information won this way is used for the further development of the field of work of the graduates,
- have a highly specialised knowledge in the area of political discourse, language policy and sociolinguistics with regards to Romance languages and are able to independently deal with scientific issues of these fields,
- are able to analyse language and communication based on system linguistics and to reflect on their situation-appropriate use (pragmatics, sociolinguistics/variety linguistics), in particular their relation to and their occurrence in media and politics and to contribute to the further development of their field of work in a targeted way,
- are trained in the critical dealing with literary and cultural artefacts from the Romance language and cultural areas within and outside of Europe on a high level and have a broad and specialised knowledge of transversal, transdisciplinary and transmedial aspects, theories and methods.
- In particular, they have a very high level of analysis competence for exchange processes, transgressions and hybridisations between different cultural areas, media expressions and Romance national literature and cultures,

- have a high competence to contextualise, critically assess and analyse not only canonised texts, but also popular cultural literary and medial forms of expression (film, comic, text music) and to present the knowledge gained in this way as well as to incorporate it in the further development of their field or work.
  - have a comprehensive, theoretically and subject-specific understanding of the (trans)cultural, economic, historical, ethical-religious, political, social and intersectional as well as gender-specific conditions of the Romance language and cultural area within and outside Europe. They can identify and critically reflect these realities and thus find and work on new scientific issues,
  - have specialised knowledge in dealing with media and are able to record and analyse inter- and transmedial correlations in a scientifically sound way and to use the information and knowledge gained from them for their own research and innovation in their field of work,
  - have a decidedly high competence in questions of cultural science and can grasp, analyse and design inter- and transcultural connections on a scientifically sound basis. At the same time, they have high intercultural and transcultural competences, which enable them to move in different cultural areas and traditions and to bring in knowledge from various areas in their field of work,
  - can apply the acquired advanced theoretical skills and competences in the field of Romance literatures, cultures and languages in a practice-oriented manner and have advanced practical experience and competences,
  - can critically reflect on interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary contexts and at the same time have in-depth expression and problem-solving skills, which enables them to solve complex occupational tasks,
  - have a critical awareness of knowledge issues in an area and at the interface to different areas.
- (2) Graduates of the Master’s Programme Romance Studies can apply their expertise in their field of work or study and use their knowledge from other disciplines for the strategic direction and heading of complex projects, functional areas or businesses. The Master’s Programme Romance Studies enables them to take responsibility for contributions to specialist knowledge and the professional practice and/or for the examination of strategic management of teams. Depending on their specialisation, they are qualified for the following professional fields:
- research (national and international), e.g. at universities, literary archives, research institutions,
  - national and international media, such as print media, radio, TV, new media,
  - book trade and librarianship (national and international),
  - publishing (national and international) such as school book publishing houses, literary publishing houses, scientific publishing houses,
  - cultural administration and education such as houses of literature, cultural institutes, theatres, museums,
  - adult education such as communication consulting, writing coaching, foreign language teaching,
  - international culture and education exchange, e.g. within the scope of a lectorship or in educational counselling,
  - diplomacy and interest representation: work in embassies, consulates, NGOs, development aid and development aid cooperation,
  - public relations e.g. in businesses, in public administration, in cultural institutions.
- (3) The Master’s Programme Romance Studies is a scientific study programme and the basis for a Doctoral Programme.

### § 3 Scope and duration

- (1) The Master's Programme Romance Studies covers 120 ECTS-Credits. This corresponds to a study duration of four semesters. One ECTS-Credit corresponds to a workload of 25 hours.
- (2) The focus lies on a Romance language offered at the institute (French, Italian, Spanish), which is studied as primary language.
- (3) The compulsory and elective modules of the Master's Programme Romance Studies are grouped in three different areas:
  1. language-specific differentiated **disciplinary area**,
  2. cross-language **interdisciplinary area** (Romance languages)
  3. the **elective area**.

### § 4 Admission

- (1) Admission to the Master's Programme Romance Studies requires the completion of a subject-specific Bachelor's Programme or a subject-specific Bachelor's Programme at a University of Applied Sciences or another comparable study programme at an approved post-secondary educational institution home or abroad.
- (2) In any case, the Bachelor's Programme French, Italian or Spanish at the University of Innsbruck are considered relevant study programmes. The rectorate decides, according to the Universities' Act, on study programmes in question or on the equivalence of a study programme passed at a post-secondary educational institution home or abroad for the admission to the Master's programme.
- (3) In the event that equivalence has been established in principle but with certain qualifications missing for full equivalence, supplemental examinations may be required by the rectorate. These examinations must be passed during the respective master's programme.

### § 5 Types of courses and maximum number of participants

- (1) Courses without continuous performance assessment:
  1. Lectures (VO) are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject. No maximum number of participants.
  2. Working **groups** (AG) serve to treat a topic in collective fashion, examining the theories, methods and techniques of an area using group work. Maximum number of participants: 30
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
  1. Seminars (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 20
  2. Lectures with practical elements (VU) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. Maximum number of participants: 20
  3. Excursions (EX), conducted outside the premises of the university, serve to demonstrate and deepen course contents. Maximum number of participants: 30
  4. Practical courses (UE) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks within an area. Maximum number of participants: 20

## § 6 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

In courses with a limited number of participants, course places are allocated as follows:

1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
2. If criterion no. 1 does not suffice for regulating the admission, then first students of the Master's Programme in Romance Studies are to be given priority and second students from whom the course is part of the complementary modules in Romance Studies.

## § 7 Compulsory and elective modules

- (1) In the language-specific differentiated **disciplinary area** the following compulsory modules corresponding to altogether 25 ECTS-Credits must be passed. All modules must be passed in the selected primary language.

1.	Compulsory Module: Language Practice I	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>The course relating to the chosen primary language must be selected: UE Language Skills French/Italian/Spanish - Oral</b>	2	2.5
b.	<b>The course relating to the chosen primary language must be selected: UE Language Skills French/Italian/Spanish - Written Form</b>	2	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students learn to use the selected primary language in the competences of listening/speaking and reading/writing at level C1.			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none			

2.	Compulsory Module: Language Practice II	h	ECTS-Credits
	<b>The course relating to the chosen primary language must be selected: UE Reading and Presenting Scientific Texts French/Italian/Spanish</b>		
	<b>Total</b>		
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> To prepare for writing the Master's Thesis, students acquire specialised knowledge for reading scientific texts as well as oral and written presentation skills for own scientific finding on level C2 of the selected primary language.			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none			

3.	Compulsory Module: Subject-Specific Independent Study	h	ECTS-Credits
	<b>AG Subject-Specific Independent Study</b>	1	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have extensive and specialised knowledge in selected thematic fields, either in linguistics or in literary and cultural studies with regards to their selected primary language.			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none			

<b>4.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Reflection on the Master's Thesis</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>AG Working Group for the Master's Thesis</b>	1	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students improve their ability for independent scientific work. They are able to critically reflect on their methods and working hypotheses.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>5.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Master's Thesis Defense</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	Oral defense of the Master's Thesis before an examination board to finalise the studies		2.5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Reflection of the Master's Thesis in the overall contexts of the Master's Programme Romance Studies; The focus is on theoretical understanding, methodological foundations, imparting the results of the Master's Thesis as well as presentation skills.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> positive completion of all other compulsory and elective modules as well as the Master's Thesis		

- (2) In the language-specific differentiated disciplinary area elective modules corresponding to altogether 10 ECTS-Credits must be passed. All modules must be passed in the selected primary language.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Elective Module: Advanced Topics in Linguistics</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>The course relating to the chosen primary language must be selected: SE Advanced Topics in French/Italian/Spanish Linguistics</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Graduates have advanced knowledge in one (ore several related) fields of French/Italian/Spanish linguistics and have won insights in their scientific interests and methods. This enables them to write a scientific paper in their field of study.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>2.</b>	<b>Elective Module: Issues and Topics in Linguistics</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>The course relating to the chosen primary language must be selected: VU Issues and Topics in French/Italian/Spanish Linguistics</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Graduates have advanced knowledge in one (or several related) fields of French/Italian/Spanish Linguistics: They are able to evaluate the contents for their relevance for society.		

<b>Prerequisites:</b> none
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Elective Module: Advanced Topics in Literature and Cultural Studies</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>The course relating to the chosen primary language must be selected: SE Advanced Topics in French/Italian/Spanish Literature and Cultural Studies</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Graduates have advanced knowledge in the selected topical area and are able to independently develop a scientific questions in this field and elaborate it in writing in consideration of research literature.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>4.</b>	<b>Elective Module: Issues and Topics in Literature and Cultural Studies</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>The course relating to the chosen primary language must be selected: VU Issues and Topics in French/Italian/Spanish Literature and Cultural Studies</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Graduates have advanced knowledge in the selected topical area and are able to apply the concepts dealt with and the contents taught to examine compulsory reading. They are able to evaluate their relevance for society.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

- (3) In the cross-language interdisciplinary area of Romance two elective modules covering altogether 30 ECTS-Credits must be passed.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Elective Module: Language, Media, Politics I</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VU Language, Media, Politics I</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Language, Media, Politics I</b>	2	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have a broad and specialised scientific knowledge in the field of language, media and politics with regards to Romance languages as well as the intersections, connections and relations between these fields. They are able to independently find and work on new scientific problems in this field of research.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>2.</b>	<b>Elective Module: Discourse, Language Policy &amp; Politics, Sociolinguistics</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO/EX Political Discourse, Language Policy &amp; Politics, Sociolinguistics</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Political Discourse, Language Policy &amp; Politics, Sociolinguistics</b>	2	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have a broad and specialised scientific knowledge in the field of political discourse, language policy &amp; politics as well as sociolinguistics with regards to Romance languages. They are able to independently find and work on new scientific problems in their field of research.</p>			
<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> positive completion of elective module 1 or 4 of the interdisciplinary area</p>			

<b>3.</b>	<b>Elective Module: Contrastive, Applied and/or Text and Discourse Linguistics</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VU Contrastive and Applied Linguistics</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Contrastive and Applied Linguistics</b>	2	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have a broad and specialised scientific knowledge in the field of contrastive, applied and/or text and discourse linguistics with regards to Romance languages. They are able to independently find and work on new scientific problems in this field of research.</p>			
<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> positive completion of elective module 1 or 4 of the interdisciplinary area</p>			

<b>4.</b>	<b>Elective Module: Romance Literatures and Cultures Transversal I</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VU Romance Literatures and Cultures Transversal I</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Romance Literatures and Cultures Transversal I</b>	2	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have a broad and specialised scientific knowledge of transversal aspects, theories and methods of Romance literatures and cultures. They are able to independently examine exchange processes, crossings of lines and hybridisations between different cultural areas, medial types of expression, Romance national literatures and cultures as well as concepts, theories and disciplines and find and work on new scientific questions in this field of research.</p>			
<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> none</p>			

<b>5.</b>	<b>Elective Module: Romance World Literatures</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO/EX Romance World Literatures</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Romance World Literatures</b>	2	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>



	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have a broad and specialised scientific knowledge of Romance world literatures from different European and non-European Romance-language regions with a focus of literatures of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the present in global contexts. They are able to independently find and work on new scientific problems in this field of research.</p>
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> positive completion of elective module 1 or 4 of the interdisciplinary area</p>

6.	Elective Module: Film History	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Film History	2	5
b.	Courses corresponding to 10 ECTS-Credits can be passed from the following offer: SE Film History I SE Film History II	2	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have a broad and specialised scientific knowledge of the epochs of film history. They are able to independently find and work on new scientific problems in this field of research.</p>		
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> positive completion of elective module 1 or 4 of the interdisciplinary area</p>		

- (4) In the elective area further elective modules corresponding to altogether 30 ECTS-Credits must be passed.

In place of the elective modules, complementary modules (30 ECTS-Credits) can be passed, providing the availability of places. Complementary modules are specified modules from other curricula corresponding to 30 ECTS-Credits. They are disclosed in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin.

1.	Elective Module: Interdisciplinary Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Providing the availability of places, courses corresponding to 10 ECTS-Credits may be taken from the curricula of other Master's and/or Diploma programmes at the University of Innsbruck. It is particularly recommended to take a course dealing with gender aspects including results of women's and gender research.		10
	<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> This module serves to expand the study programme as well as the acquisition of additional qualifications.</p>		
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> The prerequisites specified in the respective curricula must be met.</p>		

2.	<b>Elective Module: Subject-Related Internship</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>UE Professional Practical Training</b>	1	2,5
<b>b.</b>	<p><b>Practice</b> To test and apply the acquired knowledge and competences or to orientate on the conditions of the professional practice and to acquire additional qualifications, students of the Master's Programme can pass a practice covering 300 work hours.</p> <p>The professional practice can be also made during the lecture-free period in institutions in a field relating to Romance Studies (e.g. in institutions of education, research, culture, media, publishing houses, development work, public relations, international relations and others).</p> <p>Before starting the internship, it must be approved by the Director of Studies. The duration, scope and contents of the work done must be confirmed by the institution in writing and presented. A practice report must be written.</p>		12,5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students apply their acquired knowledge and skills in a professional environment according to §2 par. 2. Having completed this module, the students are familiar with the conditions of the professional and/or scientific practice.</p>		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

3.	<b>Elective Module: Language, Media, Politics II</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VU Language, Media, Politics II</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Language, Media, Politics II</b>	2	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have a broad and specialised scientific knowledge in the field of language, media and politics with regards to Romance languages as well as intersections, contexts and relations between these fields. They are able to independently find and work on new scientific problems in the field of research.</p>		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

4.	<b>Elective Module: Romance Literatures and Cultures Transversal II</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VU Romance Literatures and Cultures Transversal II</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Romance Literatures and Cultures Transversal II</b>	2	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have a broad and specialised scientific knowledge of transversal aspects, theories and methods of Romance literatures and cultures. They are able to independently deal with exchange processes, crossings of lines and hybridisations between different cultural fields, medial forms of expression, Romance national literatures and cultures as well as concepts in a scientific way and find and work on new scientific problems in this field of research.</p>		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

5.	Elective Module: Second Romance Language I	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Cultural Studies	3	3
b.	VU Francophone/Italophone/Hispanophone Culture and their Representation in the Media	2	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have knowledge on the countries of the French/Italian/Spanish language area in the fields: geography, economy, history, institutions (in politics, administrations, media, education, religion, language politics, arts/culture, international relations); knowledge and reflection on problems such as national and identity politics, transcultural society, cultures of remembrance, media landscape, language politics etc. and the corresponding concepts of cultural studies; understanding of the medial state and relativity of culture; ability to safely and critically deal with different media of communication in society.			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none			

6.	Elective Module: Second Romance Language II	h	ECTS-Credits
<b>Courses corresponding to altogether 10 ECTS-Credits must be selected. At least one course from lit. a, b or c, at least one course from lit. d, e, f g and at least one course from lit. h, i, j.</b>			
<b>a. UE French/Italian/Spanish 1: Grammar and Vocabulary (B1+);</b> 4 hrs., 5 ECTS-Credits			
<b>b. UE French/Italian/Spanish 2: Grammar and Vocabulary (B2);</b> 4 hrs., 4 ECTS-Credits			
<b>c. UE Grammar and Vocabulary French/Italian/Spanish 4 (B2+);</b> 2 hrs., 2.5 ECTS-Credits			
<b>d. UE Reading/Writing 1 (B1+);</b> 1 h, 1.5 ECTS-Credits			
<b>e. UE Reading/Writing 2 (B1+);</b> 1 h, 1.5 ECTS-Credits			
<b>f. UE Reading/Writing 3 (B2);</b> 2 hrs., 2.5 ECTS-Credits			
<b>g. UE Text Production French/Italian/Spanish 4 (B2+);</b> 2 hrs., 2.5 ECTS-Credits			
<b>h. UE Corrective Phonetics (B1 &amp; B2);</b> 2 hrs., 1 ECTS-Credit			
<b>i. UE Listening/Speaking 2 (B1+);</b> 2 hrs., 2 ECTS-Credits			
<b>j. UE Listening/Speaking 3 (B2);</b> 2 hrs, 2.5. ECTS-Credits			
	<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Grammar and vocabulary at level B1+ to B2+, basic competences in reading and writing at level B1+ to B2+, basic competences speaking at level B1 to B2			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none			

7. For **individual specialisation** modules corresponding to a maximum of 20 ECTS-Credits can be freely chosen from the Master's Programmes offered at the University of Innsbruck acc. to §54 par. 1 Universities Act. It is recommended to take modules from the field of women's and gender research or Gender Studies. The prerequisites specified in the respective curricula must be met.

## **§ 8 Master's Thesis**

- (1) In the Master's Programme Romance Studies a **Master's Thesis** amounting to **27.5 ECTS-Credits** must be written. The Master's Thesis is a scientific piece of work that proves the ability to work on a scientific topic independently and in a justifiable way in terms of content and methodology.
- (2) The topic of the Master's thesis must be taken from the field of linguistics or literature and cultural studies of the selected primary language.
- (3) Students have the right to suggest the topic for their Master's Thesis or to select from a number of suggestions.

## **§ 9 Examination regulations**

- (1) Courses of modules are evaluated by course examinations. Course examinations are
  1. examinations that assess the knowledge and skills covered in the lectures in which course assessment is based on a single examination at the end of the course. The course instructor has to define and communicate the method of examination (written or oral) before the course begins.
  2. courses with continuous assessment, for which course assessment is based on regular written and/or oral contributions by participants.
- (2) The course instructor has to inform the students on the objectives, contents and methods, as well as the contents, methods and evaluation criteria of the course examinations in a suitable manner before the start of the course.
- (3) The elective module "Subject-Related Internship" is evaluated by the Director of Studies or the lecturer of the course UE Professional Practical training. Positive evaluation reads "participated with success" and negative evaluation "participated without success".
- (4) The compulsory module "Master's Thesis Defense" is evaluated by an oral examination before an examination board. The examination board consists of three persons.

## **§ 10 Academic degree**

The graduates of the Master's Programme Romance Studies are awarded the academic degree of "Master of Arts", abbreviated "MA".

## **§ 11 Coming into force**

This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2018.