REGULATIONS AND CURRICULUM FOR THE MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE, 2018

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MSC) IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
AALBORG

Regulations and curriculum for the master's programme in information architecture, 2018

Link to this studyline

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§ 1: PREFACE

In pursuance of Act No. 261 of 18 March 2015 on Universities (the University Act) with subsequent amendments the following regulations and curriculum are stipulated for the Master's Programme in Information Architecture at Aalborg University.

§ 2: BASIS IN MINISTERIAL ORDERS

The Master's programme is organised in accordance with the Ministry of Higher Education and Science's Order no. 1328 of November 15, 2016 on Bachelor's and Master's Programmes at Universities (the Ministerial Order of the Study Programmes) and Ministerial Order no. 1062 of June 30, 2016 on University Examinations (the Examination Order). Further reference is made to Ministerial Order no. 111 of January 30, 2017 (the Admission Order) and Ministerial Order no. 114 of February 3, 2015 (the Grading Scale Order) with subsequent changes.

§ 3: CAMPUS

The programme is offered in Aalborg.

§ 4: FACULTY AFFILIATION

The Master's programme falls under Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Aalborg University.

§ 5: STUDY BOARD AFFILIATION

The Master's programme falls under Study Board of Communication and Digital Media

§ 6: AFFILIATION TO CORPS OF EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

The Master's programme is associated with the external examiners corps on Communication and Experience Design

§ 7: ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the Master's Programme in Information Architecture is for students who have a relevant bachelor degree or professional bachelor degree. A relevant bachelor degree is defined as a degree from a bachelor programme whose central subject areas ensure competence to an extent equivalent to not less than 60 ECTS points within the disciplinary area of information architecture (rhetoric, communication, language theory, philosophy of science, ICT technologies, organisational theory, knowledge organization and categorization, design and human-computer interaction).

Applicants with a legal right of admission (retskrav)

- The Bachelor Programme in Communication and Digital Media from Aalborg University may provide access for students to be admitted to the Master's Programme in Information Architecture.

Applicants without legal right of admission

- The following bachelor programmes from Aalborg University may provide access for students to be admitted to the Master's Programme in Information Architecture: Informatics; Medialogy; and IT.
- The following bachelor programmes from other universities may provide access for students to be admitted to the Master's Programme in Information Architecture: Information Science; and Information Science and Cultural Dissemination.

The following professional bachelor programmes may provide access for students to be admitted to the Master's Programme in Information Architecture: Web Development; and E-concept Development.

Applicants who do not fulfil the conditions stipulated in subsection 1 may be accepted on condition that the Study Board considers that the applicant possesses comparable educational qualifications, on the basis of an assessment of the case in question. In such cases, the Study Board may call in the applicant for an interview.

For further information, visit www.uddannelsestjekker.aau.dk (only available in Danish)

§ 8: THE PROGRAMME TITLE IN DANISH AND ENGLISH

The Master's programme entitles the graduate to the designation Cand.it. i informationsarkitektur. The English designation is: Master of Science (MSc.) in Information Technology, Information Architecture.

§ 9: PROGRAMME SPECIFICATIONS IN ECTS CREDITS

The Master's programme is a 2-year, research-based, full-time study programme. The programme is set to 120 ECTS credits.

§ 10: RULES CONCERNING CREDIT TRANSFER (MERIT), INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY FOR CHOICE OF MODULES THAT ARE PART OF ANOTHER PROGRAMME AT A UNIVERSITY IN DENMARK OR ABROAD

The Study Board can approve that passed programme elements from other educational programmes at the same level replaces programme elements within this programme (credit transfer).

Furthermore, the Study Board can, upon application, approve that parts of this programme is completed at another university or a further education institution in Denmark or abroad (pre-approval of credit transfer).

The Study Board's decisions regarding credit transfer are based on an academic assessment.

§ 11: EXEMPTIONS

The Study Board's possibilities to grant exemption, including exemption to further examination attempts and special examination conditions, are stated in the Examination Policies and Procedures published at this website: https://www.studieservice.aau.dk/regler-vejledninger

§ 12: RULES FOR EXAMINATIONS

The rules for examinations are stated in the Examination Policies and Procedures published at this website: https://www.studieservice.aau.dk/regler-vejledninger

§ 13: RULES CONCERNING WRITTEN WORK, INCLUDING THE MASTER'S THESIS

In the assessment of all written work, regardless of the language it is written in, weight is also given to the student's formulation and spelling ability, in addition to the academic content. Orthographic and grammatical correctness as well as stylistic proficiency are taken as a basis for the evaluation of language performance. Language performance must always be included as an independent dimension of the total evaluation. However, no examination can be assessed as 'Pass' on the basis of good language performance alone; similarly, an examination normally cannot be assessed as 'Fail' on the basis of poor language performance alone.

The Study Board can grant exemption from this in special cases (e.g., dyslexia or a native language other than Danish).

The Master's Thesis must include an English summary. If the project is written in English, the summary can be in Danish. The summary is included in the evaluation of the project as a whole.

§ 14: REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE READING OF TEXTS IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The Master's Programme in Information Architecture and the Master's Programme in Information Architecture and Persuasive Design will be conducted in English. A further condition is that both Danish and English speaking applicants must have English at B-level as a no less than or have passed an Englishlanguage test of the equivalent competence level approved by the University.

The students from Master's Programme in Information Architecture and Persuasive Design may write their projects and assignments either in English or in Danish. The oral exams can also be carried out either in English or in Danish.

§ 15: COMPETENCE PROFILE ON THE DIPLOMA

The following competence profile will appear on the diploma:

A Candidatus graduate has the following competency profile:

A Candidatus graduate has competencies that have been acquired via a course of study that has taken place in a research environment.

A Candidatus graduate is qualified for employment on the labour market based on his or her academic discipline as well as for further research (PhD programmes). A Candidatus graduate has, compared to a Bachelor, developed his or her academic knowledge and independence so as to be able to apply scientific theory and method on an independent basis within both an academic and a professional context.

§ 16: COMPETENCE PROFILE OF THE PROGRAMME

The Master's Programme in Information Architecture is a research based experimental full-time programme that provides students with a basis for the execution of professional work functions and qualifies for admission to PhD studies.

The Master's programme in Information Architecture builds on and supplements the knowledge and skills which the student has acquired in the course of the preceding bachelor education. The aim of the Master's programme is that the student gains competence in user-driven design of content and structure in all kinds of information systems within all media, with special focus on design processes in relation to global information systems in which different cultural codes and media modalities are combined in new, constantly changing ways, adapted to market conditions and to cultural and political diversity.

The Master's programme in Information Architecture imparts constructive competence in analysing, assessing and designing structure, function and style in information architectures, and competence in discussing, visualizing, planning and managing design processes. As such construction and procedural competences are utilized in private as well as public sector IT enterprises and departments in designing architectures, in quality assessment and in user education, the candidate should be able to deploy his/her theoretical and practical skills in solving concrete assignments. The candidate will be able to work as a designer, project manager and evaluation consultant within the fields of Information Architecture and User Experience.

The structure, the modules, and the electives of the Master's programme allow the students to choose between two focus areas; Information Architecture in general and Information Architecture and Persuasive Design. Furthermore, the students customize their education through individual choices of electives and project subjects.

The graduate of the Master's programme

Knowledge

Through the Master's Programme in Information Architecture, students will acquire knowledge of:

- Theory and methods as regards interaction with and analysis and design of information architecture across platforms and technologies
- Formats, description, organisation, visualization, and dissemination of knowledge, information, and data
- Analysis, evaluation and test of the usability and user experience of information architectures
- User driven innovation and user centered design of information architectures
- Methods and strategies for utilizing and communicating the potential of knowledge and information
- The role, function, and possibilities of information architecture in an organizational context
- Competence requirements of the discipline in relation to professional work

Through the Master's Programme in Information Architecture with the Persuasive Design focus area students will acquire knowledge of:

- Theory and methods as regards interaction with and analysis and design of information architecture and persuasive design across platforms and technologies
- Formats, description, organisation, visualization, and dissemination of knowledge, information, and data – in particular using theories of rhetoric and argumentation
- Analysis, evaluation and test of the usability and user experience of persuasive information architectures
- User centred design of information architectures and persuasive design conceived in ethical perspective
- Persuasive methods and strategies for utilizing and communicating the potential of knowledge and information conceived in context of various world views
- The role, function, and possibilities of persuasive information architecture in various social and cultural contexts
- Competence requirements of the discipline in relation to professional work

Skills

Through the Master's Programme in Information Architecture, students will acquire skills in:

- Planning, developing, and designing information architectures

- Assessing, choosing, and applying relevant strategies and methods for analysing, evaluating, and comparing information architectures
- Working critically and constructively in utilizing business strategies by means of information architecture
- Using formal models to identify and integrate user, user requirements and user characteristics into the design and evaluation of information architectures

Through the Master's Programme in Information Architecture and Persuasive Design focus area, students will acquire skills in:

- Planning, developing, and designing persuasive information architectures
- Assessing, choosing, and applying relevant strategies and methods for analysing, evaluating, and comparing information architectures
- Working critically and constructively in utilizing persuasive strategies by means of information architecture
- Using formal models to identify and integrate user requirements and world views into the design and evaluation of persuasive information architectures

Competencies

Through the Master's Programme in Information Architecture, students will acquire competences in:

- Independently, systematically, and critically assessing and applying scientific theories and methods within information architecture, interaction design, categorization, users, and information.
- Independently organizing and communicating knowledge and information by means of information architecture and ICT technologies
- Analytically and critically developing, designing and realising information architectures to support communication between humans and computers
- Communicating information architecture knowledge, solutions , research, and designs to peers and laymen

Through the Master's Programme in Information Architecture and Persuasive Design focus area, students will acquire: competences in:

- Independently, systematically, and critically assessing and applying scientific theories and methods within persuasive information architecture, rhetorical perspectives, ethical considerations, categorization and information.
- Independently organizing and communicating knowledge and information by means of information architecture and persuasive technologies
- Analytically and critically developing, designing and realising persuasive information architectures to support communication between humans and computers
- Communicating information architecture knowledge, solutions , research, and persuasive design to peers and laymen

§ 17: STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS OF THE PROGRAMME

The Master's Programme in Information Architecture is compiled of modules and structured as a problem based and project organised study programme consisting of obligatory project modules, obligatory study subject modules and the obligatory Master's thesis. In addition, the programme comprises two elective modules.

Obligatory modules

Information Architecture, Rhetoric and Persuasive Design (project module)	7th semester	15 ECTS
Web Technology and Databases (study subject module)	7th semester	10 ECTS
Design Tools (study subject module)	8th semester	5 ECTS
Design of Information Architecture (study subject module)	8th semester	5 ECTS
Information Architecture in Organisations (project module)	8th semester	15 ECTS
Information Architecture in a Project-oriented Course	9th semester	25 ECTS

(project module)		
Research Methodology (study subject module)	9th semester	5 ECTS
Master's Thesis	10th semester	30 ECTS

Elective modules, of which students must select two*

Elective course A	7th semester	5 ECTS
Elective course B	8th semester	5 ECTS

*Students may choose electives offered by the Study Board of Communication and Digital Media (see the appendix Elective modules for Master's programmes under the Study Board of Communication and Digital Media), or apply to the Study Board for permission to substitute one or both of the elective modules with electives offered by other study boards at Aalborg University or other universities. Under all circumstances, elective modules must always represent a total of 10 ECTS credits. The elective modules listed are offered as determined by the Study Board. This means that not all elective modules will be offered every year.

The 7th semester of the programme comprises a project module of 15 ECTS credits in "Information Architecture, Rhetoric and Persuasive Design ", a study subject module of 10 ECTS in "Web Technology and Databases" , and a 5 ECTS credits elective module.

The 8th semester of the programme comprises a project module of 15 ECTS credits in "Information Architecture and Organizations", a 5 ECTS credits study subject module in "Design of Information Architecture", a study subject module of 5 ECTS in "Design Tools", and a 5 ECTS credits elective module.

The 9th semester of the programme comprises a project module of 25 ECTS credits in "Information Architecture in Practice", and a 5 ECTS credits study subject module "Research Methodology"

Programme structure Information Architecture and Persuasive Design

Information Architecture, Rhetoric and Persuasive Design (project module)	7th semester	15 ECTS
Logic and Time	7th semester	10 ECTS
Ethical Argumentation	8th semester	5 ECTS
Design of Information Architecture (study subject module)	8th semester	5 ECTS
Persuasive design, Artificial intelligence and Ethics	8th semester	15 ECTS
Information Architecture in a Project-oriented Course project module)	9th semester	25 ECTS
Research Methodology (study subject module)	9th semester	5 ECTS
Master's Thesis	10th semester	30 ECTS

Elective modules, of which students must select two*

Elective course A	7th semester	5 ECTS
Elective course B	8th semester	5 ECTS

*Students may choose electives offered by the Study Board of Communication and Digital Media (see the appendix Elective modules for Master's programmes under the Study Board of Communication and Digital Media), or apply to the Study Board for permission to substitute one or both of the elective modules with electives offered by other study boards at Aalborg University or other universities. Under all circumstances, elective modules must always represent a total of 10 ECTS credits. The elective modules listed are offered as determined by the Study Board. This means that not all elective modules will be offered every year.

The 7th semester of the programme comprises a project module of 15 ECTS credits in "Information Architecture, Rhetoric and Persuasive Design ", a study subject module of 10 ECTS in "Logic and Time" , and a 5 ECTS credits elective module.

The 8th semester of the programme comprises a project module of 5 ECTS credits in "Design of Information Architecture", a 15 ECTS credits study subject module in "Persuasive design, Artificial Intelligence and Ethics", a study subject module of 5 ECTS in "Ethical Argumentation", and a 5 ECTS credits elective module.

The 9th semester of the programme comprises a project module of 25 ECTS credits in "Information Architecture in Practice", and a 5 ECTS credits study subject module "Research Methodology".

The 9th semester of the programme comprises a project module of 25 ECTS credits in "Information Architecture in Practice", and a 5 ECTS credits study subject module "Research Methodology".

General examination provisions

Projects, theme studies etc., may be prepared in collaboration by groups of up to six students. Master's theses may be prepared in collaboration by groups of up to three students. In the examination of projects, theme studies etc., the following examination format will normally apply:

A project examination on the basis the written work, whether this was written individually or in collaboration with others. The project report/written work will be considered the shared responsibility of the group. Accordingly, students will be examined and assessed on the basis of the entire project report. One combined grade will be awarded for the project report and the oral performance. At oral group examinations, the examination must be conducted in such a way that individual assessment of each individual student's performance is ensured, cf. the Examination Order, section 4, subsection 2.

The project examination takes the form of a conversation between the examiners and the student(s) on the basis of the project report of the semester.

Where rules have been stipulated regarding the volume of written work, one page will correspond to 2400 characters, including spaces. The stipulated number of pages only includes the actual body text of the report; title page, preface, table of contents, bibliography, abstract and appendices will not be calculated. However, notes will be included in the calculation of total pages, whereas illustrations will not be calculated. Total page number must be stated on the title page.

The stipulated time intervals for oral examinations will include voting and announcement of result.

Students who wish to register for the Master's thesis examination must have successfully completed all previous examinations, including examinations of electives.

The study elements on which the individual examinations are based are rated as proportions of an annual full-time equivalent, this being calculated as the annual work of full-time student, including holidays. An annual full-time equivalent is 60 ECTS.

In order for a student to graduate from the programme, each examination must be passed with a no less than grade of 02 or a 'pass' grade. A weighted average will be calculated for the examinations assessed according to the 7-point scale, on the basis of the ECTS weight of each individual examination. So the average is defined as the sum of individual grades, each multiplied by the ECTS of the examination in question, divided by the sum of the ECTS-points of the examinations included in the average.

Examinations assessed as pass/fail will not be included in this calculation. The average grade with one decimal digit will be stated on the examination certificate.

§ 18: OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME

Programme structure Information Architecture and Persuasive Design

Offered as: 1-professional						
Module name	Course type	ECTS	Applied grading scale	Evaluation method	Assessment method	Language
1 SEMESTER Option A						

Information Architecture, Rhetoric and Persuasive Design (KAINFOAR181)	Project	15	7-point grading scale	Internal examination	Oral exam based on a project	English
Web technology and databases (KAINFOAR186)	Course	10	7-point grading scale	Internal examination	Written exam	English
Electives Choose 5 ECTS	Course	5				
1 SEMESTER Option B - Persuasive Design						
Information Architecture, Rhetoric and Persuasive Design (KAINFOAR181)	Project	15	7-point grading scale	Internal examination	Oral exam based on a project	English
Logic and Time (KAINFOAR189)	Course	10	7-point grading scale	Internal examination	Written exam	English
Electives Choose 5 ECTS	Course	5				
2 SEMESTER Option A						
Design tools (KAINFOAR187)	Course	5	7-point grading scale	Internal examination	Written exam	English
Design of Information Architecture (KAINFOAR182)	Course	5	7-point grading scale	Internal examination	Written exam	English
Information Architecture in Organisations (KAINFOAR188)	Course	15	7-point grading scale	External examination	Oral exam	English
Electives Choose 5 ECTS						
2 SEMESTER Option B - Persuasive Design						
Ethical Argumentation (KAINFOAR1810)	Course	5	7-point grading scale	Internal examination	Written exam	English
Design of Information Architecture (KAINFOAR182)	Course	5	7-point grading scale	Internal examination	Written exam	English
Persuasive design, Artificial intelligence and Ethics (KAINFOAR1811)	Project	15	7-point grading scale	External examination	Oral exam based on a project	English
Electives Choose 5 ECTS	Course	5				
3 SEMESTER						
Information Architecture in a Project-oriented Course (KAINFOAR183)	Project	25	7-point grading scale	Internal examination	Oral exam based on a project	English
Research Methodology (KAINFOAR184)	Course	5	Passed/Not Passed	Internal examination	Written exam	English
4 SEMESTER						
Master's Thesis" (KAINFOAR185)	Project	30	7-point grading scale	External examination	Master's thesis/final project	English

Electives

Students may choose electives offered by the Study Board of Communication and Digital Media, or apply to the Study Board for permission to substitute one or both of the elective modules with electives offered by other study boards at Aalborg University or other universities. Under all circumstances, elective modules must always represent a total of 10 ECTS credits. The elective modules are offered as determined by the Study Board.

Electives Choose 5 ECTS						
Module name	Course type	ECTS	Applied grading scale	Evaluation Method	Assessment method	Language
Media producer (KAKDMVM18166)	Course	5	Passed/Not Passed	Internal examination	Active participation/continuous evaluation	Danish and English
Humans in the Loop: Robots, Automation and Humanities Research (KAKDMVM18220)	Course	5	Passed/Not Passed	Internal examination	Active participation/continuous evaluation	English

§ 19: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

§ 20: COMMENCEMENT AND TRANSITIONAL RULES

The curriculum is approved by the dean and enters into force as of 1. september 2018.

Students who wish to complete their studies under the previous curriculum from XX must conclude their education by the XX at the latest, since examinations under the previous curriculum are not offered after this time.

§ 21: AMENDMENTS TO THE CURRICULUM AND REGULATIONS

These regulations were recommended by the Study Board of Communication and Digital Media and approved by the dean. The regulations will take effect from 1 September 2018 and apply to all students who have commenced their Master's studies on or after this date.

Previous regulations will apply to students who have commenced their studies before 1 September 2018.

The Study Board of Communication and Digital Media and/or the Faculty of Humanities will determine when the last examinations will be held in accordance with these regulations.

Minor editorial changes have been made in connection with the digitisation of the study Curriculum.