

Regulations concerning Requirements for Master's Degrees

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Regulations concerning Requirements for the master's degrees

Established by the Ministry of Education and Research on 1 December 2005 pursuant to section 3-2, subsection 1, and section 3-7, subsection 2, of the Act of 1 April 2005 no. 15 relating to Universities and University Colleges.

Section 1. *Scope*

These regulations apply to master's degree programmes for institutions subject to the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges.

Section 2. *Requirements as to academic basis etc.*

The institution's Board may decide that certain subjects, courses or course groups must make up part of the educational pathway on which the master's degree programme is based. The Board may establish rules for the ranking of qualified applicants, and the Board also has the authority to establish special academic minimum requirements.

§ 3. *Requirements for a master's degree with a scope of 120 credits*

The master's degree is achieved on the basis of a master's degree examination with a scope of 120 credits (2 years), including independent work pursuant to section 6. The degree is based on one of the following educational pathways:

- a bachelor's degree
- a cand.mag. degree (first cycle degree which was awarded until 2005)
- other degree or vocational education with a scope of minimum 3 years' duration
- an education which has been accredited as the equivalent of the above-mentioned degrees or educational pathways pursuant to section 3-4 of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges.

One of these educational pathways must include the following:

- specialization in a subject, course or course group with a scope of at least 80 credits or
- integrated vocational education with a scope of at least 120 credits within the subject area of the master's degree

In special cases, the institution may recognize other documented qualifications as completely or partly equivalent to the educational pathways mentioned above.

Section 4. *Requirements for a master's degree with a scope of 300 credits*

The master's degree is achieved on the basis of a master's degree examination with a scope of 300 credits (5 years), including independent work pursuant to section 6. An exemption to this provision is the Master of Architecture programme at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design which has a scope of 330 credits (5 ½ years).

Section 5. *Requirements for an experience-based master's degree with a scope of 90 or 120 credits*

The master's degree is achieved on the basis of a master's degree examination with a scope of 90 or 120 credits, including independent work pursuant to section 6 and one of the following educational pathways:

- a bachelor's degree
- a cand.mag. degree (first cycle degree which was awarded until 2005)
- other degree or vocational education with a scope of minimum 3 years' duration
- an education which has been accredited as the equivalent of the above-mentioned degrees or educational pathways pursuant to section 3-4 of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges.

In addition, there is a requirement of at least 2 years of relevant vocational experience. It is up to the institution to assess what is relevant vocational experience and may stipulate requirements of longer vocational experience for each study programme.

In special cases, the institution may recognize other documented qualifications as completely or partly equivalent to the educational pathways mentioned above.

Section 6. *Requirements as to independent work*

Master's degrees pursuant to section 3 and section 5 shall include independent work with a scope of at least 30 credits.

Master's degrees pursuant to section 4 shall include independent work with a scope of at least 20 credits.

The scope of the independent work shall not exceed 60 credits.

The independent work is to demonstrate understanding, reflection and maturity.

The institution decides further provisions concerning the independent work, including the scope, form of assessment and whether the work is to be carried out individually or as a group

Section 7. Exemptions

Master's degree programmes established by Royal Decrees prior to 1 July 2002 pursuant to Act of 12 May 1995 no. 22 relating to Universities and University Colleges or Act of 11 July 1986 no. 53 relating to Private University Colleges, and with a nominal length of study of 1 – 1 ½ years may be continued.

In special cases, the Ministry may on application approve new Master's degree programmes of this type.

Section 8. Entry into force

These Regulations enter into force immediately. At the same time, Regulations of 2 July 2002 no. 738 concerning requirements for Master's degrees are repealed.