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Selection Statutes for the Master's Program Mannheim Master in Social Data Science (M.Sc.)

As at 23 January 2024

(Bulletin of the President's Office (Bekanntmachungen des Rektorats) 01/2024, p. 6 et seqq.)

The present version is a non-official version including the aforementioned amendments. Only the version in the Bulletin of the President's Office is legally binding.

Section 1 – Scope

(1) ¹If there are more applicants than study places for the abovementioned degree program, the University of Mannheim conducts its own selection process in accordance with the regulations of higher-ranking legislation. It is governed by these Statutes. ²The decision is made in consideration of the applicants' aptitude for the degree program and the typical subsequent profession.

(2) ¹Sections 2 to 4 of these Statutes apply to all applications regardless of whether or not there is a limited number of study places or a selection procedure takes place; section 37 subsection 1 of the act on the admission to higher education institutions in the Land of Baden-Württemberg (Hochschulzulassungsverordnung, HZVO) and section 6 subsection 3 sentence 4 of the regulations on admission and enrollment (Zulassungs- und Immatrikulationsordnung der Universität Mannheim, ZullmmaO) remain unaffected. ²An impediment to admission in accordance with section 4 subsection 2 number 2 clause 2 is also considered an impediment to enrollment. ³By way of derogation from section 4 subsection 3, all decisions must be made by the examination committee responsible for the master's program Mannheim Master in Social Data Science instead of the admissions committee if no selection process takes place.

(3) The regulations on admission and enrollment of the University of Mannheim (ZullmmaO) remain unaffected in its valid version unless determined otherwise in these Statutes.

Section 2 – Deadlines

(1) Applications for admission for the following fall semester must be submitted until 15 May of each year (definitive deadline).

(2) In case of an application for the fall semester, proof of sufficient English proficiency may be submitted until 15 August of the same year (definitive deadline).

Section 3 – Form of the Application

(1) ¹The application for admission form must be submitted electronically in the form required by the University of Mannheim via the web portal; additionally, the documents listed in subsection 2 must be submitted electronically or in a file format approved by the university and by means of an accepted form of electronic transfer. ²Language test certificates that are submitted to the university directly by the test centers may be submitted in hard copy. ³If it is not possible to submit the application electronically due to hardship, the application may be submitted in writing or verbally on record upon request.

(2) The following additional documents are required according to section 1 subsection 1 sentence 1 clause 2:

1. documents of proof in accordance with section 7 subsection 1 numbers 4, 5, 8 to 10 ZullmmaO,
2. documents of proof that the admission requirements listed in section 4 are met,
3. documents of proof that the selection criteria listed in section 7 are met.

(3) The University of Mannheim may request that applicants submit originals or notarized copies of the documents listed in subsection 2; originals or notarized copies may be required in particular for application for admission forms.

Section 4 – Admission Requirements

(1) Applicants for the master's program Mannheim Master in Social Data Science have to meet the following admission requirements:

1. ¹Applicants are required to have a bachelor's degree in social sciences (in particular sociology, political science, psychology or media and communication studies) or in business administration or economics, or a degree recognized as equivalent by the admissions committee from a German or foreign university or an officially recognized public university of cooperative education (Berufsakademie).

²Additionally, the program of study must include courses equivalent to at least 48 ECTS credits in informatics, mathematics, statistics or empirical research

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methods. ³ECTS credits awarded for a quantitative final thesis must be counted towards those 48 ETCS credits, provided that the supervising university teacher confirms the empirical nature of the final thesis. ⁴The program of study must correspond to at least 180 ECTS credits or have a regular period of study of at least 6 semesters or 3 years. ⁵The final grade of the degree must be at least 2.5; clause 1 applies correspondingly to the current average grade of the bachelor's program in accordance with section 7 subsection 1 number 1.

2. ¹Applicants must provide proof of sufficient knowledge of English. ²The successful completion of a program of study with English as language of instruction and examination of at least 50% of the courses and examinations or a University Entrance Qualification (HZB) from a school with English as the language of instruction serves as proof. ³If an applicant has obtained neither of the above, the following test results can serve as proof of English proficiency:

a) certificate of the Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet Based Test (TOEFL iBT) with a score of at least 90 points; TOEFL MyBest scores are not accepted,

b) First Certificate in English (FCE) with Level C or better,

c) Certificate in Advanced English (CAE),

d) Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE),

e) International English Language Testing System – Academic Test (IELTS) with a band score of 6.5 or better.

f) Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) with a minimum score of 600 points.

g) Graduate Record Examination (GRE) with a score equivalent to at least 600 GMAT points. For conversion, the GRE results of the two sections Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning are placed in the following formula:

$$\text{Verbal Reasoning} * 6.38369593312407 + \text{Quantitative Reasoning} * 10.6230921641945 - 2080.74559330863;$$

the result will be rounded up or down to the nearest increment of ten disregarding the decimal place.

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h) Certificate of the language test offered by the “Universität Mannheim Service and Marketing GmbH” with a minimum level of C in listening comprehension, written language, spoken language and reading comprehension.

i) continuous attendance of English classes throughout the German secondary school education with a minimum average of 10 points.

⁴Only test results obtained no more than five years prior to the deadline in accordance with section 2 subsection 1 will be recognized as proof. ⁵Any other type of documents serving as proof of an applicant’s English proficiency will be considered sufficient if they can be recognized as equivalent.

(2) Applicants are eligible for admission to the master’s program “Mannheim Master in Social Data Science” if they meet the following additional admission requirements:

1. ¹Submission of the application in due time and form. ²If the bachelor’s degree in accordance with subsection 1 number 1 has not been completed by the end of the definitive deadline defined in section 2 subsection 1 due to the fact that individual examinations have not been completed and it is anticipated that the degree will be completed in due time before the beginning of the master’s program Mannheim Master in Social Data Science, admission may be requested provided the applicant is able to prove completion of at least 130 ECTS credits. ³Within the definitive deadline defined in section 2 subsection 1, proof of the credits earned must be submitted. ⁴In this case, admission is subject to the proven completion of the bachelor’s degree in accordance with subsection 1 number 1 by the date defined in the official letter of admission or by the first registration for an exam at the latest. ⁵If proof is not provided in due time, admission to the master’s program will be rescinded.

2. There may not be any impediments to admission; a particular impediment exists if an applicant has lost their eligibility to take exams in the same program or a program in a similar field of study; section 7 subsection 1 number 5 ZullmmaO remains unaffected.

(3) ¹The admissions committee decides whether a degree or a qualification is considered equivalent or comparable and thus meets the admission requirements. ²The School of Business Informatics and Mathematics guarantees a consistent procedure, in particular if more than one admissions committee are formed. ³For the recognition of foreign degrees, the recommendations of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs as well as cooperation agreements between universities must be taken into account. ⁴In cases of doubt, the Central Office

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for Foreign Education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen - ZAB) is consulted.

Section 5 – Admissions Committee

(1) ¹The School of Business Informatics and Mathematics appoints an admissions committee for the preparation of the selection process. ²It is composed of at least three academic staff members whose main employer is the university. ³At least two members must belong to the group of university teachers. One of them must be a member of the School of Social Sciences who acts as chair of the committee. ⁴The committee members' term of office is one year. ⁵Members may be reappointed.

(2) Upon completion of the selection procedure, the admissions committee reports its experiences to the school council of the School of Business Informatics and Mathematics and makes suggestions for the further development of the selection procedure.

(3) The admissions committee may consult up to two additional people familiar with the relevant program of study; these people do not have a vote.

Section 6 – Selection Process

(1) ¹The admissions committee selects potential students based on the selection criteria of section 7 and prepares a ranking. ²The President of the university decides which candidates will be admitted on the basis of the recommendations of the admissions committee.

(2) Admission is denied if the applicant is excluded from the admissions process due to higher-ranking law, especially if the documents as laid out in section 3 subsection 2 were not submitted in due time and form by the definitive deadline as stipulated in section 2 subsection 1 or if another impediment to admission exists.

Section 7 – Selection Criteria and Preparing a Ranking

(1) The admissions committee takes the following criteria into account when preparing the rankings in the selection process:

1. the final grade or the current average grade of the bachelor's program according to section 4 subsection 2 number 1,
2. other previous experiences that are relevant to the desired program in accordance with section 6 subsection 2 sentence 2 number 3 HZG, in particular relevant working experience (vocational training, working experience or

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internships) as well as semesters abroad that prove the eligibility of the applicant for the chosen degree program and the typical subsequent profession.

3. an essay of approximately 5,000 to 10,000 words about a relevant scientific topic. The essay must be written in English, and it must comply with the general rules for academic writing and research.

(2) Each applicant receives a score for each selection criterion according to the following regulations; the admissions committee evaluates the submitted documents:

1. ¹For the final grade or the current average grade of the bachelor's program according to section 4 subsection 2 number 1 a maximum of 10 points may be given. ²The grade, including the first decimal, is translated into points. ³Ten points may be given for the grade 1.0 and 0 points may be given for the grade 2. ⁴The points for the remaining grades in between are calculated in steps of 0.1 and rounded. ⁵If the higher education institution at which the applicant is pursuing their bachelor's degree does not provide the current average grade, the average grade is calculated from all module grades or examination grades weighted in ECTS credits the applicant has achieved in the course of their bachelor's program up until the selection process. ⁶If the final grade or average grade is indicated in a grading system which does not correspond to the grading system used at the University of Mannheim, the grade is converted according to the recommendations of the ZAB.

2. ¹For other previous experiences that are relevant to the desired program as described in subsection 1 number 2 a maximum of 10 points may be given. ²All experiences that prove the eligibility of the applicant for the chosen degree program will be considered. ³Working experiences are considered if they amount to a full-time employment of at least 4 weeks with at least 39.5 hours per week. Considered are, in particular, scientific experiences as well as experiences as a data scientist (or comparable experiences) in private and public institutions.

3. For the essay within the meaning of subsection 1 number 3, a maximum of 10 points may be given. Every essay will be reviewed by a member of the admissions committee, who is also a professor, who then suggests a score. The admissions committee is authorized to use software recommended by the University of Mannheim for detecting plagiarism.

(3) ¹In accordance with subsection 2 numbers 1 to 2, the points are added up; the maximum score is 30 points. ²Based on the score the applicants are ranked in

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descending order. ³In cases where applicants achieve the same score, selection is based on the average grade that was achieved in the degree that is required for admission to the master's program Mannheim Master in Social Data Science; if applicants then have the same score, selection is decided by lot.

(4) In order to guarantee a consistent procedure, the school council of the School of Business Informatics and Mathematics can pass additional regulations for the consideration of proofs for individual selection criteria, in particular for the conversion of grades and for previous experiences as described in subsection 2 number 2; the admissions committee is bound by these regulations.

Section 8 – Commencement; Final Provisions

¹These Statutes will come into effect on the day after their publication in the general selection of the Bulletin of the President's Office (Amtliche Bekanntmachungen des Rektorats). ²During the admissions process for the fall semester 2024/2025 they are applied for the first time.

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