

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has registered, pursuant to Section 36(2) of Act No. 111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments and Additions to Other Acts (Act on Higher Education Institutions), under No. MSMT-16723/2025-2 Regulations of the rigorous examination procedure of the Silesian University in Opava on the date of signing the registration.

*Mgr. Vojtěch Tomášek
Director of the Department of Higher Education*



Regulations of the rigorous examination procedure of the Silesian University in Opava of 7 July 2025

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Article 1

Introductory provisions

- 1) The Rules of the Rigorous Examination Procedure of the Silesian University in Opava (hereinafter referred to as 'the Rules') are internal regulations of the Silesian University in Opava (hereinafter referred to as 'the University') pursuant to Article 21(i) of the Statutes of the Silesian University in Opava, as amended.
- 2) The Regulations shall regulate the procedure for accepting applications for the state rigorous examination (hereinafter referred to as the 'rigorous examination'), the general conditions and details of the holding of such examinations at the faculties and institutes of the University, their conduct and evaluation, the criteria to be applied to the rigorous thesis, as well as the reimbursement of costs associated with the acceptance of the application and the holding of the examination.
- 3) In the event that a study programme is implemented by the University together with a higher education institute, the director of the higher education institute shall exercise the powers of the dean, and the faculty shall be understood to be the higher education institute, unless otherwise provided for in these Regulations or other internal regulations of the University.

Article 2

Conduct of rigorous examinations

- 1) The rigorous examination may be held in the field of study of a master's degree programme under the accreditation of which the University has been authorised to hold rigorous examinations and to award the corresponding academic degrees.
- 2) A list of accredited master's degree programmes and academic degrees awarded after passing the state rigorous examination is published by the University in the public section of the University's website.

- 3) The rigorous examination may be taken in the same field of study by a graduate who has obtained the academic degree "Master" at a Czech university or by a graduate of a foreign university if he or she is considered a graduate of a Master's degree programme in the Czech Republic. The prerequisite is the completion of a study programme in the field of study in which the degree of "Master" is awarded under Act No. 111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education and on Amendments and Supplements to Other Acts (the Higher Education Act), as amended (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"). The assessment of previous studies and their conformity with the given study programme is the responsibility of the faculty at which the rigorosum procedure is held.

Article 3

Fee

- 1) The fee for the acts connected with the acceptance of the application for the rigorosum examination and the holding of the examination shall be set by the dean of the faculty concerned by a decision in an amount not exceeding twice the basis referred to in Section 58(2) of the Act (rounded down to the nearest hundredth of a cent). If the applicant fails to pay the fee within the time limit set, he/she shall be deemed to have withdrawn his/her application.
- 2) The dean of the faculty may, on the basis of a written request, allow the applicant to use the equipment and information technology necessary for the preparation for the rigorous examination, against payment, and to consult professors, associate professors and other experts of the faculty which implements the study programme referred to in Article 2(1). This request may be attached to the application for the rigorous examination. The details and conditions of payment shall be laid down by the dean in an internal standard.
- 3) Payment of the fee under paragraph 1 and the fee under paragraph 2 is made by the applicant in a cashless manner via the Business Centre application of the University Information System (hereinafter referred to as "SU IS").
- 4) The fee set pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be revenue for the core business of the faculty concerned and shall be non-refundable except as provided for in Article 4, paragraph 6 or 7.

Article 4

Submission of applications

- 1) The application for the rigorosum examination shall be submitted by the candidate via the IS SU, or the candidate shall deliver a signed written application to the relevant faculty implementing the study programme.
- 2) The format of the application is entirely at the discretion of the faculty concerned.
- 3) Mandatory annexes to the application form are:
 - a) structured curriculum vitae,
 - b) a copy of the university diploma, diploma supplement or certificate of the state final examination, or documents issued pursuant to Section 25 of Act No 172/1990 Coll., on Higher Education, officially certified by a validation, except for studies completed at a university;

- c) in the case of a graduate of a foreign university, a copy of a foreign document certifying completion of foreign higher education in a master's degree programme, if it is automatically equivalent in the Czech Republic without further official procedure under the so-called equivalence agreement concluded by the Czech Republic, or a certificate of recognition of foreign higher education pursuant to Sections 89 to 90 of the Act in the degree corresponding to the master's degree programme, or a notarised copy thereof;
 - d) a summary of the applicant's professional activities in the field of study in which he/she is taking the rigorosum examination, including a list of published results or results accepted for publication.
- 4) The candidate may already submit a rigorous thesis when submitting his/her application.
 - 5) The application for the rigorous examination may include a request from the candidate to take account of specific needs. The Dean, on the basis of a recommendation from the University Counselling Centre, shall determine under what conditions and by what procedure the exercise of the rights and obligations arising from these Regulations shall be regulated by means of compensatory measures in respect of candidates with specific needs arising from a physical or sensory disability.
 - 6) If the application form is not properly completed or if it does not contain the prescribed annexes, the dean shall invite the applicant in writing to remedy the deficiencies and shall set a reasonable time limit for doing so. If the deficiencies are not remedied within this time limit, the application shall be deemed not to have been submitted, the applicant shall be informed of this fact in writing and the application, including any attachments sent, shall be returned to the applicant if it was submitted in paper form, including attachments.
 - 7) If the rigorosum examination cannot be held at the faculty in the same field of study in which the applicant has obtained the Master's degree, the rigorosum procedure shall be discontinued, the applicant shall be informed of this fact in writing and the Dean shall return the rejected application to the applicant with a justification if it was submitted in paper form, including any attachments. In order to assess compliance with the relevant field of study, he/she may request the opinion of the guarantor of the relevant Master's degree programme.
 - 8) In the case referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7, if the fee referred to in Article 3(1) has been paid, the faculty shall refund the fee to the applicant.
 - 9) Within 60 days of the receipt of the application, the dean shall inform the candidate of the details of the rigorosum examination, including the range of topics according to Article 5, paragraph 2, and the deadline for the submission of the rigorosum thesis; the time period referred to in paragraph 6 is not included in this deadline.

Article 5

Rigorous examination

- 1) The rigorous examination shall consist of an oral examination and the defence of the rigorous thesis. These parts may be held on different dates if the dean so determines.
- 2) The oral examination shall consist of thematic areas determined by the programme guarantor. These topics must correspond to the master's degree programme and the focus of the rigorous thesis.

- 3) The rigorous examination shall be held before an examination board (hereinafter referred to as "the board"), and the proceedings and the announcement of the results shall be public. The opponents of the thesis, if they are not members of the committee, are entitled to participate in the non-public part of the committee's deliberations.
- 4) The chairman and members of the commission are appointed by the dean from among professors, associate professors, extraordinary professors and experts approved by the scientific council of the relevant faculty. The commission shall make an electronic record of the course of the rigorous examination or its part in the IS SU. The number of present members of the committee may not be less than three, including the chairperson.
- 5) The dean appoints, on the proposal of the programme guarantor, two opponents of the rigorous thesis, at least one of whom is not an employee of the University.
- 6) Each opponent shall draw up a report on the submitted rigorous thesis, which must include an evaluation of the rigorous thesis and a proposal for classification within the meaning of paragraph 7.
- 7) Both parts of the rigorous examination shall be graded 'pass' - 'fail'; the overall classification of 'pass' shall be determined by the committee only if the candidate passes the oral examination and defends the rigorous thesis.
- 8) The committee shall act by an absolute majority of all members present. In the event of an equality of votes, the chairperson's vote shall be decisive in deciding the result.
- 9) The oral examination and the defence of the rigorous thesis may be repeated only once. In the event of failure in one part of the rigorous examination, it is not necessary to repeat the part that was graded 'pass'. If the committee decides that the candidate has not defended the thesis, it shall determine whether the thesis must be revised or completed. The rigorous examination or part of it may be repeated in six months at the earliest.
- 10) If none of the examiners' reports recommends that the thesis be defended, or if the the thesis is classified as 'failed' after the defence, it will be returned to the candidate for reworking or completion. After resubmitting the thesis, the candidate has the right to defend it despite the non-recommendatory opinion of the new opinions.
- 11) If the candidate fails to appear for any part of the rigorous examination at the appointed time and does not excuse his/her absence in writing, stating a serious reason, within five working days after the appointed time, he/she shall be classified as "failed". The chairman of the board shall decide on the validity of the excuse. In the event that the chairman of the Board accepts the excuse as justified, he shall set a new date for the candidate to take the rigorous examination or part thereof.

Article 6

Rigorous theses

- 1) The thesis shall contain the original results of the candidate's creative activity demonstrating that the candidate has deepened his or her professional knowledge beyond the scope of the master's degree and developed the ability to work independently with new theoretical and practical knowledge. The thesis exceeds in its professional level the standard required for theses in the given field of study.

- 2) An unaltered bachelor's thesis, diploma thesis, rigorous thesis, dissertation or habilitation thesis defended in accordance with the law may not be submitted as a rigorous thesis. Only an amended bachelor's thesis, master's thesis, rigorous thesis, dissertation or habilitation thesis defended according to the law may be submitted as an amended thesis, which may be identical in content to the original thesis to a maximum of 50 %. In this case, the candidate is obliged to submit the original unchanged thesis to the relevant faculty.
- 3) A set of scientific papers or publications may be submitted as a rigorous thesis, supplemented by a comprehensive introduction to the subject and a commentary.
- 4) The thesis may be written in the following languages:
 - (a) in the language in which the relevant master's degree programme is accredited; or
 - (b) in German, if German is the subject of study in the relevant master's degree programme; or
 - (c) in English.
- 5) The candidate submits the thesis via the IS SU. The requirements for the form and editing of the rigorous thesis may be determined by the dean by an internal standard.
- 6) The access to rigorous theses is governed by the internal regulation of the University - Rules on the method of access to theses.

Article 7

Termination of the rigorosum procedure

The rigorous examination procedure shall be terminated:

- (a) successful completion of the rigorous examination if the overall result and all its parts have been graded as "pass",
- (b) unsuccessfully, if any part of the rigorous examination has been marked 'fail' in the repeated rigorous examination or part thereof, or if the overall result has been marked 'fail' in the case referred to in Article 5(11),
- (c) a written declaration by the candidate that he or she has completed the rigorous examination,
- (d) a decision to discontinue the rigorous examination procedure if the time limit set for the removal of defects in the application or its mandatory annexes has expired,
- (e) a decision to discontinue the rigorous examination procedure if the time limit set for the submission of the rigorous examination thesis has expired,
- f) a decision of the Dean if it becomes apparent that:
 1. the candidate has deliberately provided false information in the application form or its annexes, or
 2. the candidate has infringed copyright, or

3. the candidate has committed plagiarism or that his/her rigorous thesis is not original, or any other violation of the conditions laid down in these Regulations or by the Faculty.

Article 8

Issuance of the diploma

- 1) Upon successful completion of the rigorous examination, the University shall issue a diploma to the graduate. The model of the diploma shall be laid down in a directive of the Rector.
- 2) The diploma shall normally be issued to the graduate at the academic graduation ceremony.

Article 9

Proceedings for invalidation of the rigorous examination

Article 29 of the Study and Examination Code for Students of Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes of the Silesian University in Opava, as amended, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* in proceedings for invalidation of the State Rigorous Examination.

Article 10

Transitional, common and final provisions

- 1) The Regulations of the rigorous examination procedure of the Silesian University in Opava registered by the Ministry on 8 August 2017 under no. MSMT-14536/2017, as amended.
- 2) Rigorous proceedings that have not been completed before the entry into force of these Regulations shall be completed in accordance with the existing Regulations of the Rigorous Proceedings.
- 3) These Regulations were approved under Section 9(1)(b) of the Act by the Academic Senate of the University on 10 June 2025.
- 4) These Regulations shall come into force pursuant to Section 36(4) of the Act on the date of registration by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.
- 5) These Regulations shall enter into force on 1 September 2025.

Ing. Lucie Kamrádová, Ph.D.
Chair of the Academic Senate

doc. Mgr. Tomáš Gongol, Ph.D.
Rector