

# Differences 2019/20 and 2024 Examination Regulations - Bachelor

**Note:** The 2019/20 study regulations expire in September 2027. If you have not completed the Bachelor's course of studies by then, you will be forced to switch to the new regulations.

## 1 Most important and general differences

Instead of nine modules in the mandatory elective area (from which five had to be selected), there are now three broader focus areas. Students can select courses across all three focus areas according to their interests, with a few constraints detailed later. Each course is associated with one (and only one) focus area, eliminating the need to figure out how to best assign the courses across their assigned modules in the mandatory elective area—a requirement of the old study regulation.

There are **no oral modular examinations** in the new regulation → One potentially stressful examination less that has a lot of influence on your final grade and can be used to improve the grade, too.

There are different classes in the mandatory area:

- According to the new regulation, you can choose between the lectures “Introduction to Artificial Intelligence” and “Introduction to Computational Linguistics”. If you have taken both, one can be assigned to the mandatory electives (“Complementary Lecture: Cognition in Artificial Systems”)
- In the old regulation “Introduction to Cognitive (Neuro-)Psychology” is mandatory and has 8 ECTS. For the new regulation, the class has only 4 ECTS. Additionally, one has to take either “Introduction to Theoretical and Experimental Linguistics” or “Introduction to Animal Cognition and Communication”. Alternatively, instead of “Intro to CNP”, the two other classes can be taken as well. Students who have taken the old 8 ECTS lecture will be able to get the 4 ECTS for the new “Intro to CNP” and 4 ECTS for the mandatory electives (“Topics in Cognitive Modeling and Psychology”).
- “Introduction to the Ethics of AI” is a mandatory class according to the new study regulation.
- In the old regulation “Neuroinformatics” is 12 ECTS, alternatively “Machine Learning” can be chosen. In the new regulation “Neuroinformatics” is only 8 ECTS and there is no alternative. Students who have not yet taken the Neuroinformatics course or have taken “Machine Learning” instead, have to take the new 8 ECTS “Introduction to Neuroinformatics” course. Students who have taken the 12 ECTS “Neuroinformatics” course receive 8 ECTS for the mandatory module and 4 ECTS for the mandatory electives (“Topics in Neuroinformatics”).

## 2 Pflichtbereich/ Mandatory Area

There are new and different mandatory classes:

AI and Computational Linguistics:

- 2019/20 Regulations: “Intro to AI and Logic Programming (Lecture + Practice)” (8ECTS) and “Introduction to Computational Linguistics (Lecture + Practice)” (8ECTS) are mandatory
- 2024 Regulations: You can decide between “Introduction to Artificial Intelligence” (8 ECTS) and the course “Introduction to Computational Linguistics” (8 ECTS)

Philosophy:

- 2019/20 Regulations: Only two Philosophy Classes: “Intro to Logic and Critical Thinking” (6ECTS) and “Philosophy for Cognitive Science” (4ECTS)
- 2024 Regulations: Additionally “Intro to Ethics of AI” (4 ECTS) is mandatory

Neuroinformatics:

- 2019/20 Regulations: “Neuroinformatics” is 12 ECTS, alternatively one can select “Machine Learning”
- 2024 Regulations: “Introduction to Neuroinformatics” is only 8 ECTS and is mandatory

Cognitive (Neuro-)Psychology:

- 2019/20 Regulations: “Introduction to Cognitive (Neuro-)Psychology” is 8 ECTS
- 2024 Regulations: “Introduction to Cognitive (Neuro-) Psychology” is only 4 ECTS and not mandatory, alternatively one can take “Introduction to Theoretical and Experimental Linguistics”, and “Introduction to Animal Cognition and Communication”

### **3 Wahlpflichtbereich/ Mandatory Elective Area**

In both study regulations, you are fairly free to choose your classes for the mandatory elective area.

Other than in the old regulation, where you had to pick five out of nine mandatory elective modules, the new regulation contains three focus areas. The focus areas are:

- “Cognition: Mind, Ethics, and Society”
- “Cognition: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning”
- “Cognition: Psychology, Communication, Neuroscience, and Behavior”

While you have to take courses from at least two of the three focus areas, you are free to prioritize one focus area or evenly distribute your courses among them. You may not collect more than 48 ECTS from a single focus area. This includes all “Topics in ...” modules assigned to the focus area in question, as well as any complementary lectures. In total 60 ECTS have to be achieved. Doing classes in “Methods of Cognitive Science”, “Topics in Computer Science”, and “Topics in Mathematics” is not mandatory in the Mandatory Elective Area.

### **4 Oral Modular Examination**

There are no oral modular examinations in the new regulation (you had to do one in the old regulations).

### **5 Free Electives**

In the new regulation, there are 33-36 ECTS in the Free Elective Area opposed to 22 to 37 ECTS in the old regulation. Everything else (any course can be chosen, they do not have to be graded) remains the same.

### **6 Repeating Classes**

You cannot repeat a class once you passed it to improve your grade in the new regulation. In the 2019/2020 regulation you can repeat a class of the mandatory area once to improve your grade.

In both regulations, you can repeat classes as often as you need to pass the course.

## 7 Final Grade

In both cases, the final grade is calculated from the Bachelor's thesis grade and the relevant courses in a ratio of 2 to 1. But the relevant courses differ in the two regulations:

- PO 2019/20: Relevant courses = the five mandatory elective modules and the mandatory courses that are associated with the selected elective module (at least one grade is replaced with the oral modular examination) (divided by 5)
- PO 2024: Relevant courses = ECTS-weighted grades of the following modules:
  - All mandatory elective modules taken
  - Introduction to Statistics and Data Analysis
  - Those mandatory courses that are associated with the two focus areas in which the most ECTS credits have been obtained for the mandatory electives.
  - “Introduction to Computer Science” / “Introduction to Mathematics” if and only if the corresponding “Topics in Computer Science” / “Topics in Mathematics” module in the mandatory electives is taken

## 8 General recommendation

Students who have already passed all mandatory courses and have also taken many mandatory elective courses, planning to fill the nine mandatory elective modules of the old study regulation, or are even close to or have already started to work on their Bachelor's thesis, should not switch to the new regulations. If you switch, you have to take additional courses for the mandatory area and will not be able to start your thesis until you have passed all mandatory courses including these additional courses and 40 credits from the mandatory electives (for details on the additional mandatory courses, see below).

If you only recently begun your studies (winter term 2023/24), you may consider to switch, but you may as well remain studying according to the old regulation and finish until the end of September 2027.

Please note that switching to the new regulations requires a substantial amount of processing in the examinations office to transfer your courses to the new regulation's modules, which may take some time, especially if many students want to switch.

## 9 Open questions

What happens if I already took the 12 ECTS “Neuroinformatics” course? You fulfilled the requirements for the new regulation and do not have to take the 8 ECTS “Neuroinformatics” class, you also receive 4 ECTS for the mandatory elective area.

What happens if I already took the 8 ECTS “Introduction to Cognitive (Neuro-)Psychology” course? You fulfilled the requirements for the new regulation and do not have to take the 4 ECTS “Introduction to Cognitive (Neuro-)Psychology” course, you also receive 4 ECTS for the mandatory elective area. BUT you still have to take either “Introduction to Animal Cognition” or “Introduction to Theoretical and Experimental Linguistics”.

What if I already retook an exam to improve my grade, can I still switch to the new regulation? Yes, you can, and you can keep your new grade.

Can I change back to the 2020 regulation once I changed to the 2024 regulation? No, this is not possible.

What about VP Hours (Versuchspersonenstunden)? In both regulations, you have to do 10 VP hours.

How do I change to the new regulation? Shortly, there will be a form on the website to fill out and to be sent to the examination office.

Until when do I have to decide if I want to switch? In principle, you can decide to switch until September 2027 (Bachelor). At this point, you will be moved to the new regulation anyway. The earlier you decide to switch, the more time you have to attend the additional mandatory classes and plan your schedules accordingly. If you decide on the new regulation, switch before registering your Bachelor's thesis.

Where do I find what class belongs to what focus area? The affiliation list for courses of this winter term 24/25 and their respective focus area can be found on the IKW website → Students → Courses and Lectures → Courses in the winter term 2024/25 → module assignments (PO2024)([https://www.ikw.uni-osnabrueck.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/download/course\\_lists/Module\\_Assignments\\_PO24\\_WiSe2425\\_Web.pdf](https://www.ikw.uni-osnabrueck.de/fileadmin/user_upload/download/course_lists/Module_Assignments_PO24_WiSe2425_Web.pdf)). A list for the former semesters will be added shortly.

I took “Einführung in die Programmierung” last year under the assumption that I do not have to take “Einführung in die Algorithmik”. According to the new regulation attending the one course requires taking the other (for the mandatory module Computer Science). Do I have to attend “Einführung in die Algorithmik” if I switch? Yes, if you switch to the new regulation, you will have to attend “Einführung in die Algorithmik” (or alternatively “Informatik für Anwendende”).

Where do I find more information? On the website (Students → New 2024 Study Regulations) you can find the *Examination regulations* as well as the *Modulhandbuch* and the Guide: [https://www.ikw.uni-osnabrueck.de/en/students/new\\_2024\\_study\\_regulations.html](https://www.ikw.uni-osnabrueck.de/en/students/new_2024_study_regulations.html)

Who do I contact if I am still unsure? You can contact Laura Krieger ([laura.krieger@uos.de](mailto:laura.krieger@uos.de)) to discuss your questions.