Curriculum for the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration
(International Business Economics) at Aalborg University

September 2016

File no.: 2016-422-00002

The following curriculum for the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics) is established pursuant to Act no. 261 of 18 March 2015 on Universities (the University Act).

1. Introduction
The Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics) is structured in accordance with Ministerial Order no. 1061 of 30 June 2016 on Bachelor and Master’s (Candidatus) Programmes at Universities (the University Programme Order) by the Ministry of Higher Education and Science and Ministerial Order no. 1062 of 30 June 2016 on University Examinations and Grading (the Examination Order). Further reference is made to Ministerial Order no. 1068 of 30 June 2016 on Admission and Enrolment on Master’s (Candidatus) Programmes at Universities and Ministerial Order no. 114 of 3 February 2015 (the Grading Scale Order).

2. Study board and faculty
The Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics) falls under the Study Board of Economics and Business Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, Aalborg University.

The programme falls under the team of examiners for Economics and Business Administration.

3. Admission
Admission to the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics) requires a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics and Business Administration or other relevant qualifications at the same level.

(2) The university may admit students who meet the requirements stipulated in subsection 1 provided that they upon enrolment on the master’s programme complete a supplementary study activity at the university of no more than 15 ECTS credits. The student must have passed the supplementary study activity no later than 12 months after the commencement of study.

(3) The student has three examination attempts to pass the test(s) included in the supplementary study activity.

(4) Pursuant to the regulations set down by the Study Board of Economics and Business Administration, the supplementary study activity consists in completion of one or more tests stipulated in the ‘Curriculum for the Bachelor Programme in Economics and Business Administration, part 2, Aalborg University, September 2013’ (or any recent versions). The test rules, learning goals etc. follow from the regulations set down in the curriculum for the bachelor programme.

(5) Under a transitional arrangement in force up until 31 August 2016 applicants who fail to meet the requirements set down in subsection 1 or 2, but who hold a relevant bachelor degree may be enrolled on the pro-
programme following an individual assessment and with specially organised supplementary elements. Students who have completed the bachelor programme may undertake supplementary activities with a view to meeting the admission requirements for master’s programmes. The last time this is possible is for the master’s programmes who commence on 1 September 2016.

4. Title of the programme in Danish and English
The titles of the programme in Danish and English are Kandidatuddannelsen i Erhvervsøkonomi (International Virksomhedsøkonomi) and Master of Science (MSc) in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics), respectively. The title in Latin is cand.merc. (candidatus/candidata mercaturae).

5. Prescribed completion time (ECTS credits)
The Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics) is a two-year research-based full-time programme. The programme is prescribed to 120 ECTS credits.

6. Academic profile
The aim of the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics) is to enable the student to define, analyse and implement international issues in private and public businesses and organisations, and to qualify the student to undertake academic development work, among other things through further education in the form of a PhD programme.

(2) Academic and professional competences upon completion
Upon completion of the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics) the student must have acquired the following academic and professional knowledge, skills and competences:

(Knowledge)
- Must within one or more subject areas possess knowledge on international issues/problems and possible solutions based on the highest level of international research.
- Must be able to understand and, on a scientific basis, reflect on the knowledge of the subject area(s) as well as identify scientific issues.

(Skills)
- Must master the academic methods and tools of the subject area as well as basic skills relevant to employment within economics and business administration.
- Must be able to assess and choose between academic theories, methods, tools and basic skills within the subject area and, on a scientific basis, establish analysis models and possible solutions. In this connection, the student must be able to contribute with independent analyses relevant to the strategic planning of businesses, organisations and authorities.
- Must be able to communicate, in writing and orally, research-based knowledge within the core areas of the programme and discuss practical and scientific issues/problems with peers and non-specialists alike, including contribute to research in the area and possess insight into the possible practical and theoretical implications of the research.

(Competences)
- Must be able to undertake problem-based work, including manage work and development situations that are complex, unpredictable and require new solutions. Must be able to work in teams and undertake project management.
- Must be able to independently identify issues, initiate and conduct professional and cross-disciplinary cooperation and assume professional responsibility, including independently make and substantiate decisions on knowledge related to international issues/problems and conduct analyses with a view to establishing a basis for decision within the area.
- Must be able to independently take responsibility for own professional development and specialisation.

### 7. Rules on modules, course elements and electives

**Overview of the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Teaching ECTS</th>
<th>Exam ECTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Theory of Internationalisation of Companies in Institutional Context</td>
<td>Internal, oral individual exam based on group report. The exam lasts 30 minutes.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cross-Cultural Management and Leadership</td>
<td>External, oral group exam based on group report. The exam lasts 30 minutes.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Semester Project: Internationalisation and Cross-Cultural Management in a Theoretical and Methodological Perspective</td>
<td>External, oral group exam based on group report. The exam lasts 30 minutes per group member or no more than 2.5 hours. Participation in exercises, seminars or other specified activities must be verified and approved.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a</td>
<td></td>
<td>Research Methodology</td>
<td>Special questions in the Semester Project exam.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3b</td>
<td></td>
<td>Semester Project</td>
<td>See item no. 3.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Managing International Business Functions</td>
<td>External, oral individual exam based on group report. The exam lasts 30 minutes.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Electives</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>Course Description</td>
<td>Assessment Details</td>
<td>Credit Hours</td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>5a International Business Models and Strategy</td>
<td>Internal, individual 4-hour case-based written exam.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>5b Contemporary Issues in International Business</td>
<td>Internal, individual 24-hour written exam.</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>6 Semester Project: International Business in a Business Model and Strategic Perspective</td>
<td>External, oral group exam based on written report. <em>Participation in exercises, seminars or other specified activities must be verified and approved.</em></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>6a Methodology II</td>
<td>Included in Semester Project exam.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>6b Semester Project</td>
<td>See item no. 6.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>7a Company collaboration (project-oriented stay with a company and production of final project)</td>
<td>External, oral individual or group exam based on written report. The exam lasts no more than 60 minutes per group member or 3 hours in total.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>7b Work on an academic project in Denmark</td>
<td>External, oral group exam based on written report. The exam lasts no more than 60 minutes per group member or 3 hours in total</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>7c Studies/courses under other master’s programmes at AAU, another Danish university or approved stay abroad (must comprise a total of 30 ECTS credits)</td>
<td>Transfer of credits.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Master’s Thesis</td>
<td>External, oral group exam based on written report.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
All modules are offered and conducted in English only. The working language is English, which means that all projects and exams are also conducted in English.

**Module 1. Theory of Internationalisation of Companies in Institutional Contexts**

**Aim:** The aim of module 1 is to give the student insight into and an understanding of (1) the dominant theories of internationalisation of various types of companies and (2) the institutional context impacting on internationalisation.

**Content:** The module presents and positions the respective theories and methods of internationalisation of companies. The internationalisation activities of companies are discussed within an institutional context focusing on the actors and the economic and social systems, labour markets, innovation systems and social services.

**Length of module (ECTS credits):** See the table above.

**Teaching and work forms:** The module presents and positions the respective theories and methods of internationalisation of companies through literature, lectures/seminars and case exercises. A module report on a self-selected and pertinent issue/problem is prepared in cross-cultural groups and defended at an oral exam.

**Position in time:** See the table above.

**Participation requirements:** None other than the general admission requirements of the programme.

**Learning goals:** Upon completion of the module, the student will be able to:

- **(Knowledge)** Define, understand and reflect on key concepts and theories of internationalisation of companies and institutional contexts, and apply the knowledge on business reality (cases).
- **(Competences)** Account for main aspects of the described models and theories in practice and theory and, on this basis, examine relevant issues/problems in practice.
- **(Skills)** Discuss and analyse advantages and disadvantages of different theories and models, and link the content of the module to decision-related situations in a company.

**Assessment criteria:** The grade 12 is given for an excellent performance which, considering the above learning goals, displays extensive and reflecting fulfilment of the objectives of the module with no or only a few minor weaknesses. The grade 02 is given for a performance meeting only the minimum requirements for acceptance considering the above learning goals.

**Form of examination:** See the table above.

**Module 2. Cross-Cultural Management and Leadership**

**Aim:** The aim of module 2 is to give the student insight into and an understanding of the dominant theories and practices of cross-cultural management and leadership.

**Content:** The module presents and positions the respective theories of cross-cultural management and leadership. Focus is on culture and the barriers for and building of cross-cultural corporate organisations and cultures.

**Length of module (ECTS credits):** See the table above.

**Teaching and work forms:** The teaching will take the form of lectures, cases and seminars, where appropriate. A module report on a self-selected and pertinent issue/problem is prepared in cross-cultural groups and defended at an oral exam.

**Position in time:** See the table above.

**Participation requirements:** None other than the general admission requirements of the programme.

**Learning goals:** Upon completion of the module, the student will be able to:
(Knowledge) Define, understand and reflect on key concepts and theories of cross-cultural management and leadership, and apply the knowledge on business reality (cases).

(Competences) Account for main aspects of the described models and theories in practice and theory and, on this basis, examine relevant issues/problems in practice.

(Skills) Discuss and analyse advantages and disadvantages of different theories and models, and link the content of the module to decision-related situations in a company.

Assessment criteria: The grade 12 is given for an excellent performance which, considering the above learning goals, displays extensive and reflecting fulfilment of the objectives of the module with no or only a few minor weaknesses. The grade 02 is given for a performance meeting only the minimum requirements for acceptance considering the above learning goals.

Form of examination: See the table above.

Module 3. Semester Project: Internationalisation and Cross-Cultural Management in a Theoretical and Methodological Perspective

Aim: The aim of module 3 is to provide the student with competences, knowledge and skills in problem formulation, methodological positioning, theoretical reflection and alignment of theories of internationalisation and/or cross-cultural management with practice.

Content: The student can choose between topics and problem areas within the field of economics and business administration related to issues/problems discussed in modules 1 and 2.

Length of module (ECTS credits): See the table above.

Teaching and work forms: The student must choose an international business issue/problem related to the content of modules 1 and 2 and subsequently conduct the following tasks: (1) literature review related to the defined issues/problems followed by the design of a conceptual framework, (2) presentation and discussion of alternative methodological positions (based on the student’s knowledge of theory of science and methodological design), and (3) suggestions for possible solutions to the issues/problems identified. The Semester Project is prepared in groups and presented in a report of no more than 50 pages.

Position in time: See the table above.

Participation requirements: None other than the general admission requirements of the programme.

Learning goals: Upon completion of the module, the student will be able to:

(Knowledge)
- Identify scientific problems within the field of internationalisation.
- Reflect on internationalisation-related problems on a scientific basis.

(Skills)
- Apply internationalisation theory to concrete issues, either from an empirical or theoretical basis.
- Select relevant theory, methods and tools and, on a scientific basis, present possible solutions.
- Analyse internationalisation issues/problems relevant to staff and management.
- Communicate research-based knowledge.
- Discuss professional and scientific issues/problems with peers and non-specialists alike.

(Competences)
- Manage work and development situations that are complex, unpredictable and require new solutions.
- Plan and further develop development projects within internationalisation.
- Make assessments and decisions in complex contexts.
- Independently initiate and conduct professional and cross-disciplinary cooperation and assume professional responsibility.
- Conduct a systematic literature review followed by a synthesis and a conceptual framework related to the identified issue.
- Present scientifically based argumentation.
• Independently take responsibility for own academic development and specialisation relevant for a professional career.

Assessment criteria: The grade 12 is given for an excellent performance which, considering the above learning goals, displays extensive and reflecting fulfilment of the objectives of the module with no or only a few minor weaknesses. The grade 02 is given for a performance meeting only the minimum requirements for acceptance considering the above learning goals.

Form of examination: See the table above.

Module 4. Managing International Business Functions
Aim: The aim of module 4 is to give the student insight into and an understanding of selected business functions that underpin the internationalisation of companies.

Content: The module presents, positions and integrates the respective theories of internationalisation of business functions and focusses in particular on international finance and investment and on the internationalisation of innovation.

Length of module (ECTS credits): See the table above.

Teaching and work forms: The teaching will take the form of lectures, cases and seminars, where appropriate. A module report on a self-selected and pertinent issue/problem is prepared in cross-cultural groups and defended at an oral exam.

Position in time: See the table above.

Participation requirements: None other than the general admission requirements of the programme.

Learning goals: Upon completion of the module, the student will be able to:
• (Knowledge) Demonstrate knowledge of key business functions in an international perspective as well as key concepts and theories of international business functions.
• (Competence) Apply the knowledge acquired on business reality (cases).
• (Skills) Apply relevant theories and models in analysing international business functions.

Assessment criteria: The grade 12 is given for an excellent performance which, considering the above learning goals, displays extensive and reflecting fulfilment of the objectives of the module with no or only a few minor weaknesses. The grade 02 is given for a performance meeting only the minimum requirements for acceptance considering the above learning goals.

Form of examination: See the table above.

Module 5. International Business electives
The aim of module 5 is twofold: (1) to provide the student with insight and skills in formulating international business models and strategies, and (2) to enable the student to present and analyse contemporary international business issues. Students enrolled on the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics) may also select electives under the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Marketing). Module 5 consists of two submodules: 5a and 5b.

Module 5a. International Business Models and Strategies
Aim: The aim of module 5a is to provide the student with knowledge, competences and skills in applying theories and models to explain international business models and strategies.

Content: The module presents and positions various approaches to the formulation of international business models and strategies followed by seminars discussing real-life cases.

Length of module (ECTS credits): See the table above.

Teaching and work forms: The teaching will take the form of lectures, cases and seminars, where appropriate.

Position in time: See the table above.
Participation requirements: None other than the general admission requirements of the programme. Students enrolled on the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Marketing) may participate in this elective.

Learning goals: Upon completion of the module, the student will be able to:

- (Knowledge) Demonstrate knowledge of various approaches to the formulation of business models and international strategy.
- (Competence) Use the knowledge acquired on business reality (cases).
- (Skills) Apply relevant theories and models in analysing international business models and strategies.

Assessment criteria: The grade 12 is given for an excellent performance which, considering the above learning goals, displays extensive and reflecting fulfilment of the objectives of the module with no or only a few minor weaknesses. The grade 02 is given for a performance meeting only the minimum requirements for acceptance considering the above learning goals.

Form of examination: See the table above.

Module 5b. Contemporary Issues in International Business

Aim: The aim of module 5b is to provide the student with knowledge of theories and models explaining contemporary issues within international business economics and strategies.

Content: The module defines and discusses a selected set of contemporary and emerging international business issues, and how the issues/problems may be positioned in the theoretical and managerial landscape.

Length of module (ECTS credits): See the table above.

Teaching and work forms: The teaching will take the form of seminars, guest speakers and company visits to capture the essence of the emerging phenomena.

Position in time: See the table above.

Participation requirements: None other than the general admission requirements of the programme. Students enrolled on the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Marketing) may participate in this elective.

Learning goals: Upon completion of the module, the student will be able to:

- (Knowledge) Demonstrate knowledge of various contemporary issues/problems within international business.
- (Competence) Position the emerging phenomena in the landscape of international business theories and assess their importance for management practices.
- (Skills) Apply relevant theories and models in analysing contemporary issues/problems within international business.

Assessment criteria: The grade 12 is given for an excellent performance which, considering the above learning goals, displays extensive and reflecting fulfilment of the objectives of the module with no or only a few minor weaknesses. The grade 02 is given for a performance meeting only the minimum requirements for acceptance considering the above learning goals.

Form of examination: See the table above.


Aim: The aim of module 6 is to provide the student with knowledge, competences and skills in problem formulation and quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis with a view to creating an informed basis for establishing and selecting international business models and strategies.

Content: The module is based on a self-selected relevant international problem related to issues/problems discussed in modules 4 and 5. The project work consists of three main elements: (1) A review and selection of relevant theories related to the defined issue/problem as well as a conceptual framework for problem
analysis, (2) presentation and discussion of alternative methods of data collection and analysis (quantitative and qualitative), and (3) integration of the theoretical framework and data collection/analysis.

**Length of module (ECTS credits):** See the table above.

**Teaching and work forms:** A project report of no more than 50 pages is prepared within cross-cultural groups and defended at an oral exam.

**Position in time:** See the table above.

**Participation requirements:** None other than the general admission requirements of the programme.

**Learning goals:** Upon completion of the module, the student will be able to:

(Knowledge)
- Identify scientific issues/problems within the field of internationalisation.
- Reflect on internationalisation-related issues/problems on a scientific basis.

(Skills)
- Apply internationalisation theory on concrete issues, either from an empirical or a theoretical basis.
- Select relevant theory, methods and tools and on a scientific basis present possible solutions.
- Analyse internationalisation issues/problems relevant to staff and management.
- Communicate research-based knowledge.
- Discuss professional and scientific issues/problems with peers and non-specialists alike.

(Competences)
- Manage work and development situations that are complex, unpredictable and require new solutions.
- Plan and further develop development projects within internationalisation.
- Make assessments and decisions in complex contexts.
- Independently initiate and conduct professional and cross-disciplinary cooperation and assume professional responsibility.
- Conduct a systematic literature review followed by a synthesis and a conceptual framework related to the identified issue.
- Present scientifically based argumentation.
- Independently take responsibility for own academic development and specialisation relevant for a professional career.

**Assessment criteria:** The grade 12 is given for an excellent performance which, considering the above learning goals, displays extensive and reflecting fulfilment of the objectives of the module with no or only a few minor weaknesses. The grade 02 is given for a performance meeting only the minimum requirements for acceptance considering the above learning goals.

**Form of examination:** See the table above.

**Module 7. Electives (constituent course)**

Electives comprise courses and study activities that may constitute constituent elements of the master’s programme. Electives may include activities offered by other study boards at Aalborg University or at another Danish or foreign university. The study activity must be pre-approved by the Study Board of Economics and Business Administration to ensure that the activity meets the requirements on a constituent element under the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics). The student’s third-semester study plan is prepared in consultation with the programme coordinator. Upon completion of the elective the student will have acquired a special academic competence which forms part of the chosen profile.

**Module 7a. Company collaboration**

**Aim:** The aim of module 7a is to enable the student to mobilise the knowledge, skills and competences acquired in semesters 1 and 2 in a company project considered a forerunner of the Master’s Thesis, which is completed in the following semester.
Content: A project-oriented study element represents an opportunity to combine theory and methods introduced in the programme with practice in a company or organisation. The project-oriented study element must be conducted in a Danish or foreign company, a Danish institution or authority located in Denmark or abroad or in a foreign or international organisation. The aim of the project-oriented study element must be educational and its work tasks of an academic nature. The project-oriented study element concludes with the completion of a project report. The project report is based on the concrete international tasks which the student has participated in solving in the given company or organisation. The project report, which forms a basis for examination, must document the theoretical and methodical deliberations underlying the chosen solutions as well as assessments and choices of alternative solutions.

Length of module (ECTS credits): See the table above.

Teaching and work forms: The project work, including problem statement, choice of method and literature review, is conducted by the student independently in cooperation with an appointed supervisor, who approves the final problem statement.

Position in time: See the table above.

Participation requirements: The student must have passed the 1st and 2nd semesters of the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics).

Learning goals: Upon completion of the module, the student will be able to:

(Knowledge)
- Identify scientific issues/problems within the area and, on the basis of qualifications achieved in the 1st and 2nd semesters, address these.
- Reflect on issues/problems within international business economics on a scientific basis.

(Skills)
- Apply international business economics theory on concrete issues/problems, either from an empirical or a theoretical basis.
- Select relevant theory, methods and tools and, on a scientific basis, present possible solutions.
- Analyse international issues/problems relevant to staff and management.
- Communicate research-based knowledge.
- Discuss professional and scientific issues/problems with peers and non-specialists alike.

(Competences)
- Manage work and development situations that are complex, unpredictable and require new solutions.
- Plan and further develop development projects within international business economics.
- Make assessments and decisions in complex contexts.
- Independently initiate and conduct professional and cross-disciplinary cooperation and assume professional responsibility.
- Present scientifically based argumentation.

Assessment criteria: The grade 12 is given for an excellent performance which, considering the above learning goals, displays extensive and reflecting fulfilment of the objectives of the module with no or only a few minor weaknesses. The grade 02 is given for a performance meeting only the minimum requirements for acceptance considering the above learning goals.

Form of examination: See the table above.

Module 7b. Work on an academic project in Denmark

Aim: The aim of module 7b is to increase the student’s competences within one or more of the core areas of the programme. The student is expected to conduct the semester project in close cooperation with a relevant research environment. The topic of the semester project is chosen by the student and approved by the programme coordinator.

Content: A project-oriented study element represents an opportunity to combine theory and methods introduced in the programme with practice in a company or organisation, but also to take a more theoreti-
cal/methodical approach in working with a given issue/problem. The semester project is rooted in a relevant research environment, thus enabling the student to conduct theoretical, methodical as well as empirical work.

**Length of module (ECTS credits):** See the table above.

**Teaching and work forms:** The project work, including problem statement, choice of method and literature review, is undertaken by the student independently. However, the problem statement must be approved by the supervisor.

**Position in time:** See the table above.

**Participation requirements:** The student must have passed the 1st and 2nd semesters of the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics).

**Learning goals:** Upon completion of the module, the student will be able to:

(Knowledge)
- Identify scientific issues/problems within the area and, on the basis of qualifications achieved in the 1st and 2nd semesters, address these.
- Reflect on issues/problems within international business economics on a scientific basis.

(Skills)
- Apply international business economics theory on concrete issues/problems, either from an empirical or a theoretical basis.
- Select relevant theory, methods and tools and, on a scientific basis, present possible solutions.
- Analyse international issues/problems relevant to staff and management.
- Communicate research-based knowledge.
- Discuss professional and scientific issues/problems with peers and non-specialists alike.

(Competences)
- Manage work and development situations that are complex, unpredictable and require new solutions.
- Plan and further develop development projects within international business economics.
- Make assessments and decisions in complex contexts.
- Present scientifically based argumentation.
- Independently take responsibility for own professional development and specialisation.

**Assessment criteria:** The grade 12 is given for an excellent performance which, considering the above learning goals, displays extensive and reflecting fulfilment of the objectives of the module with no or only a few minor weaknesses. The grade 02 is given for a performance meeting only the minimum requirements for acceptance considering the above learning goals.

**Form of examination:** See the table above.

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**Module 7c. Studies/courses under other master’s programmes at AAU, another Danish university or approved stay abroad**

**Aim:** The aim of module 7c is to increase the student’s competences within selected international business economics issues/problems, either by introducing new academic elements or by expanding on existing elements. The student may choose study activities offered by the Study Board of Economics and Business Administration at Aalborg University, by other study boards or by other universities in Denmark or abroad. The specialised electives must be pre-approved by the Study Board of Economics and Business Administration and assessed as described in the applicable course curriculum.

**Content:** Depends on the chosen course elements, which, however, must be relevant to the field of international business economics.

**Length of module (ECTS credits):** See the table above.

**Teaching and work forms:** Depends on the chosen course elements.

**Position in time:** See the table above.
Participation requirements: The student must have passed the 1st and 2nd semesters of the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics).

Learning goals: Depends on the chosen course elements.

Assessment criteria: Depends on the chosen course elements.

Form of examination: Depends on the chosen course elements.

Module 8. Master’s Thesis

Aim: The Master’s Thesis must document knowledge, skills and competences to work with scientific theories and methods within a specified topic building on main areas of international business economics. The Master’s Thesis may address theoretical/practical issues, for example in cooperation with a company or organisation, or purely theoretical/methodical issues. The topic, to be approved by the Study Board, must reflect a degree of complexity and scope that will make it possible to complete within the course of one semester.

Content: Content of the thesis and connection to other modules and semesters:

- The thesis is governed by a programme-relevant issue/problem developed by the student.
- The thesis is delimited to analyses and discussions that are relevant, necessary and adequate to answering the problem statement.
- There is consistency between the problem statement, scope, outline, analysis and conclusion of the thesis, ensuring that its answer to the problem statement appears logical.
- The thesis must contain a discussion and clarification of choices to include and exclude content both as regards scope, theory, method and empirical data (where relevant).
- The thesis must critically reflect on the chosen theory/theories, method/methods and empirical data (where relevant) and evaluate their applicability in answering the problem statement.
- There is consistency in the thesis, meaning that the choice and use of theory and empirical data interact and complement the knowledge production. (Applies to empirical theses).
- The thesis must contain documentation and/or argumentation of claims made in the analysis and conclusion.
- The analysis must include a discussion on how the results of the thesis compare to and/or stand out from other similar studies in the area.
- The analysis must focus on a well-defined issue/problem, i.e. explore the issue/problem in depth and create synthesis based on theory and empirical data (where relevant).
- The thesis must demonstrate understanding of connections within the context of the topic, and put into perspective and generalise its own results in relation to similar situations in other contexts.

Length of module (ECTS credits): See the table above.

Teaching and work forms: Work on the Master’s Thesis, including problem statement, choice of method and literature review, is undertaken by the student independently. However, the problem statement should be approved by the supervisor.

Position in time: See the table above.

Participation requirements: The student must have passed all modules in the previous semesters achieving a grade of no less than 02.

Learning goals: The Master’s Thesis must document skills in applying scientific theory and methods in working with a specified topic. The student must thus:

(Knowledge)

- Identify scientific issues/problems within the area.
- Reflect on internationalisation-related issues/problems on a scientific basis.

(Skills)

- Apply internationalisation theory on concrete issues/problems, either from an empirical or a theoretical basis.
- Select relevant theory, methods and tools and, on a scientific basis, present possible solutions.
• Analyse issues/problems relevant to staff and management.
• Communicate research-based knowledge.
• Discuss professional and scientific issues/problems with peers and non-specialists alike.

(Competences)
• Manage work and development situations that are complex, unpredictable and require new solutions.
• Plan and further develop development projects within internationalisation.
• Make assessments and decisions in complex contexts.
• Independently initiate and conduct professional and cross-disciplinary cooperation and assume professional responsibility.
• Present scientifically based argumentation.
• Independently take responsibility for own professional development and specialisation.

Assessment criteria: The grade 12 is given for an excellent performance which, considering the above learning goals, displays extensive and reflecting fulfilment of the objectives of the module with no or only a few minor weaknesses. The grade 02 is given for a performance meeting only the minimum requirements for acceptance considering the above learning goals.

Form of examination: See the table above.

8. Rules on written assignments, including the Master’s thesis and the scope hereof
Assessment of the Master’s Thesis and other major written assignments will, in addition to the academic content, include an evaluation of the student’s spelling and formulating capacity. The assessment of the student’s linguistic performance is based on orthographic and grammatical correctness as well as stylistic confidence. The linguistic performance must always constitute an independent part of the overall assessment. However, the student cannot receive a pass or fail on an exam based solely on the quality of the linguistic performance.

The Study Board may grant exemption in special cases (e.g. dyslexia and other native language than Danish).

(2) The Master’s Thesis must include an English-language summary. The summary must be no less than one and no more than two pages in length (not included in the applicable minimum and maximum number of pages per student). The summary forms part of the overall assessment of the project.

(3) The Master’s Thesis concludes the programme. A thesis contract is signed by the student, the supervisor and the head of studies/a representative of the head of studies. At the same time, the thesis statement is approved, and a deadline for submission is established.

If the student fails to submit the thesis by the set deadline, the supervisor and the head of studies must approve a new thesis statement within the same topic, and at the same time a new deadline for submission three months later is established. If the student fails to submit the thesis by the new deadline, the student may be given a third examination attempt under the same rules as the second examination attempt.

(4) The maximum scope of an assignment or project is given in standard pages. A standard page corresponds to 2,400 characters (a letter, sign or space constitutes one character). Notes and bibliography are included in the maximum scope of written assignments and projects, whereas title page, table of contents and summary are not. Appendices may be enclosed in a project. Appendices generally do not include the exam-
inee’s own text, but a presentation/reproduction of source material, and are not included in the total number of pages, although the scope hereof must be reasonable compared to the overall scope of the project.

9. Rules on credit transfer, including the possibility of choosing modules under another study programme at a university in Denmark or abroad
The Study Board can in each individual case authorise that passed study elements from other master’s programmes, cf. the University Programme Order, replace study elements at this programme (credit transfer). Just as the Study Board can also authorise that passed study elements from another Danish or foreign study programme at the same level can replace study elements under this curriculum. Decisions regarding credit transfer are made by the Study Board on the basis of an academic assessment.

10. Rules on project-oriented modules
The programme is based on a combination of project work, seminars, assignments and lectures. The aim is that the student spends at least half the time working with different kinds of projects and the remaining time on seminars, assignments and lectures. The aim is also that the student in part of the project work will establish contact and collaborate with organisations outside the university, just as project-oriented elements can form part of the student’s study activities.

11. Examination rules
For exam registration, make-up exam and re-examination, see the applicable rules on the website of the Faculty of Social Sciences: http://www.en.fak.samf.aau.dk/education/

(2) An average mark is calculated as an ECTS-based average of the obtained marks in the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics). In order to pass and complete the Master’s Programme in Economics and Business Administration (International Business Economics) the student must have passed all the exams.

12. Dispensation
The Study Board can under the event of unusual circumstances grant dispensation from the parts of the curriculum that have not been established by law or ministerial order. Dispensation regarding exams applies for the proximate exam.

13. Commencement and interim provisions
The curriculum has been approved by the dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and will enter into force on 1 September 2016.

Students who wish to complete their studies under the previous 2008 curriculum must complete their programme no later than at the summer exam 2019, seeing as exams under the previous curriculum will no longer be offered after that time.