

GSEFM MSQ and Ph.D. Programs

First-Year Orientation

October 2018

Outline of Today's Orientation

- Studying at GSEFM: The Big Picture
- Studying at GSEFM: Advice
- Structure of the MSQ and Ph.D. Programs
- Key Elements of "Prüfungsordnung" (Rules and Policies) for First Year of Studies
- Offerings of the Goethe Graduate Academy (GRADE)
- Writing Papers and Violations of Code of Academic Integrity
- Contacts at GSEFM



Studying at GSEFM: The Big Picture

- GSEFM aims to engage you in substantive research in economics and business administration, of relevance to society as a whole.
- Faculty members at GSEFM invest considerable effort into the MSQ and Ph.D. programs, as we want you to be successful in contributing to the research at Goethe University Frankfurt, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and/or Technische Universität Darmstadt.
- The reward looming upon graduation: A research-oriented career, whether in academia or in research-based policy or private sector institutions.
- All this requires that GSEFM imposes high standards, and much is expected from you.



Studying at GSEFM: Advice

- Chances of successfully completing the first year of studies while spending more than one (work) day per week on non-study related issues are slim.
- Work together with your fellow students.
- When problems do arise, seek advice early on.

Bottom line: It will require dedicated and hard work for you to remain in good academic standing in the programs, but if there was no realistic chance for you to manage it all, you would not have been admitted.



Structure of GSEFM Ph.D. Programs



Economics
Finance
Marketing

Qualification Phase
(First Year)

Quantitative Methods
 Mathematical Methods (8 ECTS CP)
 Advanced Econometrics (16 ECTS CP)
Institutional Foundations
 Historical and Normative Foundations of Economics (8 ECTS CP)

Specific Foundations (32 ECTS CP)

AMA
AMI

AFE
AMA or AMI

AMI
AMK

AFE	-	Advanced Financial Economics
AMA	-	Advanced Macroeconomic Theory
AMI	-	Advanced Microeconomic Theory
AMK	-	Advanced Marketing

Qualifying Examinations (Separate from Course Examinations)

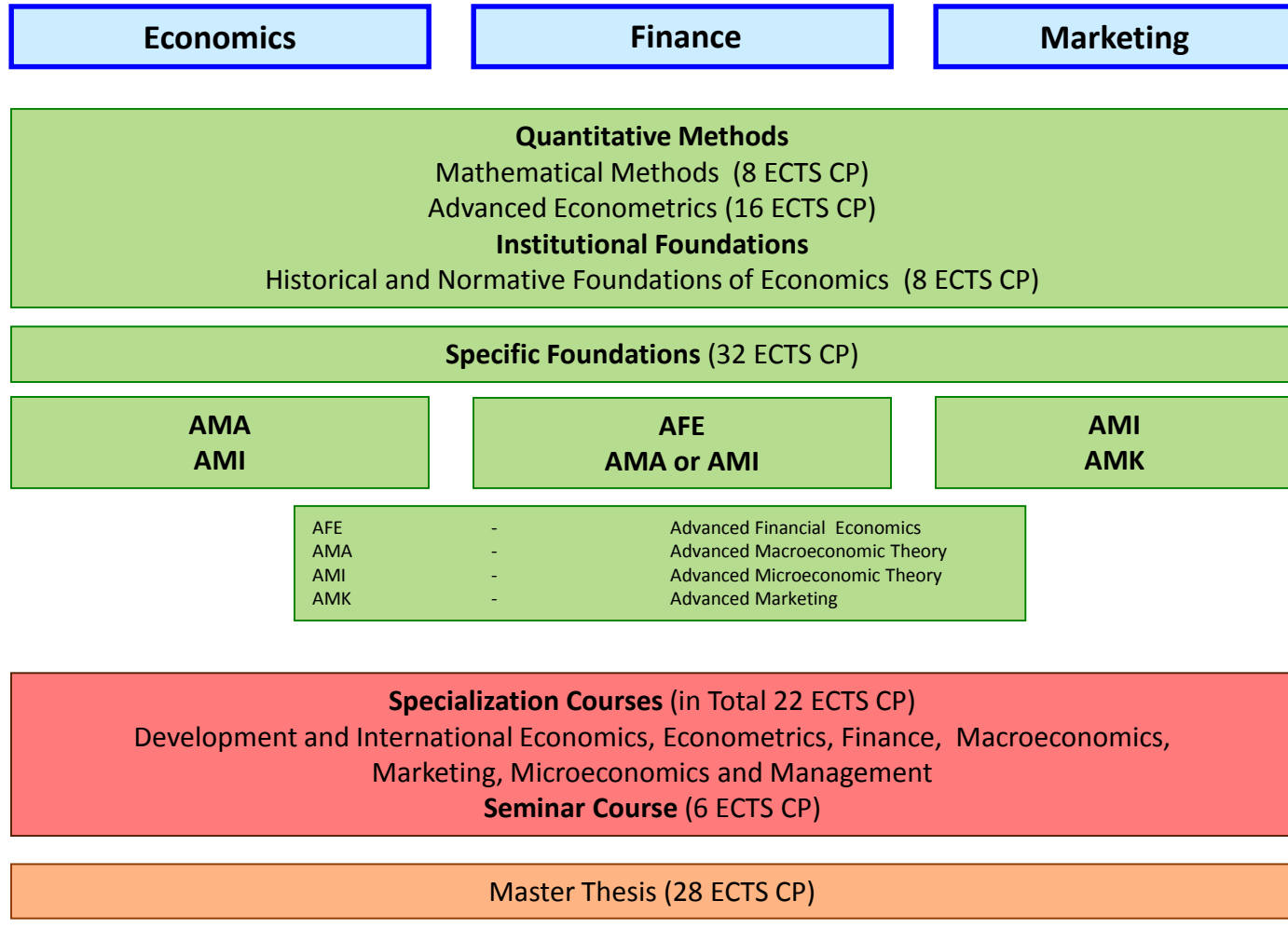
Specialization Phase
(Second Year)

Specialization Courses (in Total 32 ECTS CP)
 Development and International Economics, Econometrics, Finance, Macroeconomics,
 Marketing, Microeconomics and Management
Seminar Courses (in Total 12 ECTS CP)

Doctoral Dissertation Writing Phase
(From Third Year)

Third-Year Research Paper (28 ECTS CP), Independent Studies Course (Teaching Skills) (6 ECTS CP),
 Participation in Workshops and Conferences, Transferable Skills Courses,
 Job Market Preparation Course (6 ECTS CP), Doctoral Thesis Submission, Doctoral Thesis Defense

Structure of GSEFM MSQ Programs



Note: The detailed learning goals of the courses in the GSEFM MSQ programs are listed in the appendix to these slides.



Details of Rules for First Year in the GSEFM MSQ and Ph.D. Programs: Disclaimers

- *First Disclaimer:* Details of rules beyond the first year, including overall time limits to graduation, are discussed in more detail as part of the second-year orientation. Make sure to attend the second-year orientation next year.

- *Second Disclaimer:* This set of slides features a selective summary of key points of the MSQ and Ph.D. "Prüfungsordnungen" that are posted on the GSEFM website:

MSQ:

http://gsefm.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/dateien_abteilungen/abt_gsefm/Regeln_und_Rechtliches/MSQOrdnung2015_zur-Veroeffentlichung-mit-Datum.pdf

Ph.D.:

http://gsefm.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/dateien_abteilungen/abt_gsefm/Regeln_und_Rechtliches/2016_PhD.pdf

These latter documents are the only legally binding documents. In case of doubt about any of the rules, consult with the GSEFM Office of Academic Records.



Details of Rules for First Year in the GSEFM MSQ and Ph.D. Programs: Courses

- *MSQ and Ph.D.:* The grading scale for all first-year courses ranges from 1.0 (best grade) to 5.0 (worst grade). For all first-year courses, the minimum passing grade is 4.0. Details of course requirements may vary across courses, and for each course are individually announced by the course instructor(s). While many of the first-year courses are split into two separate halves, for each course only one overall course grade will be recorded.



Details of Rules for First Year in the GSEFM MSQ and Ph.D. Programs: Courses (Continued)

- *Ph.D. Only:* All first-year courses must have been passed by the beginning of classes of Wintersemester of the second year of studies (otherwise a student must leave the Ph.D. program, without possibility of re-instatement). Opportunities to make up for a failed course are (i) for AEC1/AEC2, AFE1/AFE2, AMA1/AMA2, AMI1/AMI2, AMM1/AMM2, and LE1/LE2 the two rounds of the qualifying examinations, (ii) for Mathematical Methods make-up examinations typically offered in March/April and October, and (iii) for Historical and Normative Foundations of Economics a make-up examination typically offered in September/October. (There are thus three attempts to pass any of the first-year courses, except for Historical and Normative Foundations of Economics, for which there are only two attempts.)

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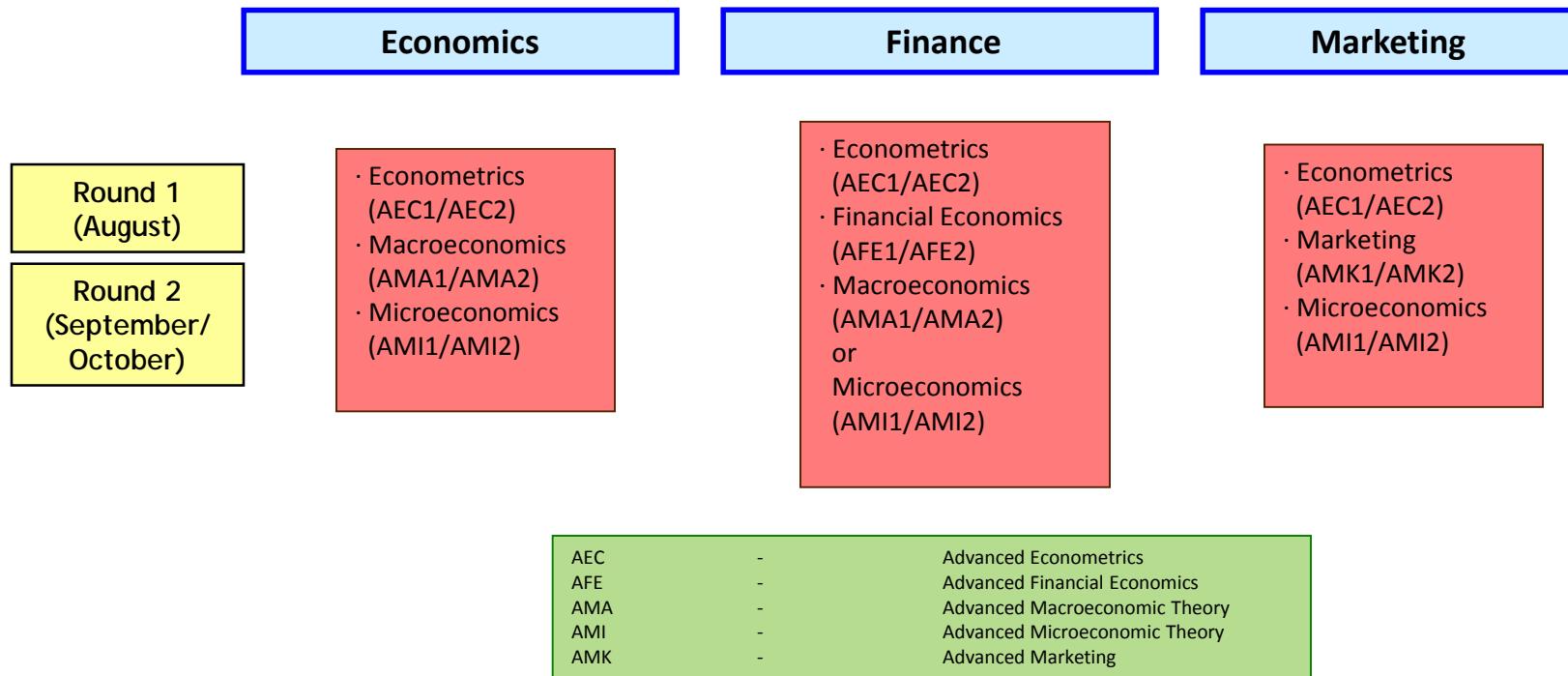
Details of Rules for First Year in the GSEFM MSQ and Ph.D. Programs: Courses (Continued)

- *MSQ Only:* Historical and Normative Foundations of Economics must be passed latest in the second attempt, and all other first-year courses must be passed latest in the third attempt. Otherwise, a student must leave the MSQ program, without possibility of re-instatement. A failed course may be re-taken in its entirety when it is offered again. As an alternative, the same opportunities to make up for a failed course are available as for the Ph.D. programs.



Details of Rules for First Year in the GSEFM Ph.D. Programs: Qualifying Examinations

- In addition to the course examinations, the first year also involves end-of-year qualifying examinations:



Details of Rules for First Year in the GSEFM Ph.D. Programs: Qualifying Examinations (Continued)

- Each qualifying examination consists of two 120-minute parts (for example, for the Econometrics qualifying examination the two parts are AEC1 and AEC2, for the Financial Economics qualifying examination the two parts are AFE1 and AFE2, etc.). The grading scale for all qualifying examinations ranges from 1.0 (best grade) to 5.0 (worst grade). A qualifying examination is passed if the average grade across its two parts is 2.3 or better.

- The following rules are applied to average the grades for the two parts:

average $\in [1.0, 1.15)$:	the grade is 1.0
average $\in [x.15, x.5)$:	the grade is $x.3$
average $\in [x.5, x.85)$:	the grade is $x.7$
average $\in [x.85, (x+1).15)$:	the grade is $(x+1).0$
average $\in [4.0, 5.0]$:	the grade is 5.0

Details of Rules for First Year in the GSEFM Ph.D. Programs: Qualifying Examinations (Continued)

- All qualifying examinations must have been passed by the beginning of classes of Wintersemester of the second year of studies (otherwise a student must leave the Ph.D. program, without possibility of re-instatement). There are thus at most two attempts to pass any qualifying examination: first round, typically taking place in the fourth and fifth weeks after Sommersemester classes have ended, and second round, typically taking place in the third-to-last and second-to-last weeks before the start of Wintersemester classes.
- For the second round of the qualifying examinations, a student may register for and re-take only one part of an examination. (It is not possible, though, to register for and re-take only sub-sets of either part of an examination.) If registering for both parts of an examination, the results from the second round will count, even if they are worse than those for the first round of the qualifying examinations. If registering only for one part of an examination, for the other part the results from the first round of the qualifying examinations will count.

Transfer from MSQ to Ph.D. at GSEFM

- Students who are beginning their studies at GSEFM as "MSQ Only" have one and only opportunity to also enroll in the Ph.D. program, namely at the beginning of classes of Wintersemester of their second year of studies, by (i) having passed at that time each of the three qualifying examinations for their track with an average grade of 2.3 or better, and (ii) having also passed at that time the courses Historical and Normative Foundations of Economics and Mathematical Methods.
- As GSEFM stresses doctoral-thesis level research, all "MSQ Only" students are strongly encouraged to attempt to take advantage of the Ph.D. enrollment option.



Course Registration and Examination Participation in the GSEFM MSQ and Ph.D. Programs

The GSEFM Office of Academic Records communicates with all MSQ and Ph.D. students in regards to the following issues:

- Initial registration with the GSEFM Office of Academic Records.
- Registration for individual courses.
- Rules to observe when falling ill or not being able to continue studies for other relevant reasons.



Offerings of the Goethe Graduate Academy (GRADE)

- All first-year MSQ and Ph.D. students are expected to become a member of GRADE (from the second year of studies onwards only Ph.D. students may be members of GRADE).
- GRADE offers a range of "transferable skills" workshops and short courses (related, for example, to communicative competence, organizational proficiency, and the writing of papers and grant applications).
- GRADE also offers language courses and a language service for English-language manuscripts.
- GRADE membership gives access to numerous opportunities. However, during the first year of studies, all academic focus should be on the MSQ and Ph.D. program courses (with the exception of the module "Good Academic Practice During Doctoral Studies", see the next slide).



Writing Papers and Violations of Code of Academic Integrity

- There are numerous good references on how to write papers in business administration and economics; see, for example, the following collection of documents and links:
<http://www.bus.lsu.edu/hill/writing.htm>.
- By the end of this Wintersemester (March 31, 2019), you are expected to have completed the online module “Good Academic Practice During Doctoral Studies” (http://www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/54293778/Portal_GSP; with your welcome e-mail from GRADE you will receive the requisite GRADE ID / license key). The module covers issues such as how to avoid plagiarism. Submit the certificate for successful completion of this module to GSEFM’s Office of Academic Records.
- GSEFM’s policies in regards to plagiarism and other violations of the code of academic integrity stipulate that if any such violation does occur, the Board of Examiners may decide that the student in question will have to terminate his/her MSQ/Ph.D. studies at GSEFM, even if the violation in question is a first-time occurrence.



Contacts at GSEFM

- All questions related to individual courses should be addressed to the faculty member(s) teaching the course in question.
- Academic questions not specific to individual courses should be addressed to the Program Director in question and the GSEFM Dean.
- For all questions directed at faculty members: Please take advantage of office hours and keep e-mail to a minimum.
- Questions related to general rules of studying at GSEFM and academic records should be addressed to GSEFM's Office of Academic Records.
- Questions related to issues of non-academic support for studies at GSEFM should be addressed to GSEFM's Office of Student Services.
- Feedback for GSEFM: Graduate Student Association can help channeling such feedback (and it is a good idea in general to make sure that you have two active first-year representatives in the Graduate Student Association).





Appendix: Learning Goals of Courses in GSEFM MSQ Programs

Learning Goals of Courses in GSEFM MSQ Programs

LGMSQ-1: Mastering state-of-the art modelling approaches and research methodology in economics, finance, management and/or marketing.

LGMSQ-2: Ability to go beyond the current state of knowledge and adduce novel findings, possibly in inter- or transdisciplinary form, for current research questions in economics, finance, management and/or marketing.

LGMSQ-3: Ability to provide scientifically-substantiated expertise concerning complex issues faced by society in the fields of economics, finance, management and/or marketing.

LGMSQ-4: Ability to effectively communicate, in both written and oral forms, to audiences of experts and non-experts concerning topics in economics, finance, management and/or marketing.

