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| This Diploma Supplement model was developed by the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES. The purpose of the supplement is to provide sufficient independent data to improve the international ‘transparency’ and fair academic and professional recognition of qualifications (diplomas, degrees, certificates etc.). It is designed to provide a description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies that were pursued and successfully completed by the individual named on the original qualification to which this supplement is appended. It should be free from any value judgements, equivalence statements or suggestions about recognition. Information in all eight sections should be provided. Where information is not provided, an explanation should give the reason why. |

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| **1. HOLDER OF THE QUALIFICATION** |  |
| **1.1 Family Name / 1.2 First Name** | |
| Hofmann, Thomas | |
| **1.3 Date, Place, Country of Birth** | |
| April 10, 1986, Lichtenfels | |
| **1.4 Student ID Number or Code** |  |
| 11101958 | |

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| **2. QUALIFICATION** |  | |
| **2.1 Name of Qualification** **(full, abbreviated; in original language)** | | |
| Master of Science (M. Sc.) | | |
| **Title Conferred** **(full, abbreviated; in original language)** | | |
| same | | |
| **2.2 Main Field(s) of Study** | |  |
| Media Informatics | | |
| **2.3 Institution Awarding the Qualification** **(in original language)** | | |
| Technische Hochschule Köln, Fakultät für Informatik und Ingenieurwissenschaften | | |
| **Status (Type / Control)** | | |
| University of Applied Sciences / State Institution | | |
| **2.4 Institution Administering Studies** **(in original language)** | | |
| same | | |
| **Status (Type / Control)** |  | |
| same | | |
| **2.5 Language(s) of Instruction/Examination** | | |
| German | | |

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| **3. LEVEL OF THE QUALIFICATION** |  | |
| **3.1 Level** | | |
| Postgraduate degree | | |
| **3.2 Official Length of Program** | | |
| Two years | | |
| **3.3 Access Requirements** | |  |
| Fachhochschulreife or equivalent; successful completion of a suitable university degree with the minimum degree of “Bachelor of Science” in Informatics and a final cumulative grade of “good” (2.0) or better in the German grading system or its equivalent; German language competence (DSH II) if secondary-school diploma was not obtained from a German institution. | | |

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| **4. CONTENTS AND RESULTS GAINED** |  | |
| **4.1 Mode of Study** | | |
| Fulltime | | |
| **4.2 Program Requirements/Qualification Profile of the Graduate** | | |
| Graduates of the Master’s program in Media Informatics analyze, create, implement, adapt, operate, and evaluate IT- and web-based processes and systems for the design, production, processing, distribution and consumption of media-based information with respect to informatics-related, economic and social contexts. | | |
| Holders of the Master of Science in Media Informatics will have deepened their technical and specialized knowledge of informatics and media informatics in particular, which they previously acquired in their undergraduate studies. Adopting a methodological and analytical approach, they will broaden their skills of abstraction and modeling and of acting in formal domains. Moreover, they will develop critical awareness of the latest developments in informatics and media informatics in particular and will be able to analyze, formulate, formalize and solve problems stemming from new, evolving fields of media informatics in a pure, system-analytical and multi-faceted manner. Subsequently, they will be able to critically evaluate such solutions.  Students will acquire judgmental skills in the analysis and evaluation of complex, inconsistent and incomplete information. They will be proficient in media conception/design and will be able to model concepts and information in terms of structure, use and management. They will be able to deduce from, analyze and define organizational, social, cultural contexts, requirements and rules, and to formulate adequate design objectives, taking into account different perspectives.  Moreover, graduates will be able to categorize concepts in connection with well-established scientific theories and to analyze, discuss and assess such concepts with respect to technical, judicial, economic, social, cultural and ethical objectives. They will be capable of conceptualizing, controlling and evaluating processes for the design, production, processing, distribution and consumption of media-based information with respect to organizational, social and cultural contexts and adequate selection of methods, techniques and tools. Furthermore, they will be able to combine knowledge in informatics, media technology, internet and web technologies as well as related sciences and cope with complex issues.  Students will develop a good understanding of applicable methods and techniques in the value chain of design, production, processing, distribution and consumption of media-based information and know their limitations. Moreover, they will acquire profound technical knowledge of media informatics, dealing with the most advanced knowledge and technology. They will also be aware of non-technical effects of their work both on and in socio-technical systems and will be able to use their understanding and knowledge to analyze, conceive, adapt and evaluate models, systems and processes for the design, production, processing, distribution and consumption of media-based information.  Furthermore, graduates of the program will be proficient in the selection and application of cutting-edge methods to solve problems and will know how to justify their application. They will also acquire the necessary skills to perceive future problems, technologies and scientific findings related to media informatics, and to adopt these skills in their professional career. Graduates will be capable of working scientifically and of further advancing the scientific discipline of media informatics.  Graduates will be able to responsibly and professionally organize, execute, control and manage projects in the field of media informatics. They will be capable of effectively leading teams that are made up of different disciplines, educational levels and culturally or ethnically heterogeneous sub-teams. They will also be able to autonomously and quickly familiarize themselves – both from a theoretical as well as a technical point of view – with new theories, methods and techniques relevant to media informatics.  Graduates will be able to question and develop their own role in their profession and are proficient in the preparation of scientific work for different audiences, which they will then be able to present in a substantiated and convincing manner. They will also be able to acknowledge and assess criticism and deviating positions and incorporate these positions into their own scientific work.  Graduates who specialised in the field of   * “**Human-Computer Interaction”** acquire and further develop the ability to manage development processes for interactive distributed systems. They are able to analyze and specify contexts of use, to identify user needs and to transform them into user- and system requirements, to design for life and work, to assess and evaluate design solutions and communicate results to different stakeholders. Graduates of this specialization are central decision makers for the design and evaluation of interactive systems. * “**Multi-Perspective Product Development**” acquire and further develop the ability to understand, and cope with, the typical heterogeneity of many media informatics projects, ranging from the methodological over the technological up to the socio-technical component. In these projects, stakeholders often have their own perspectives, defined by their specialist languages, methods, techniques, and responsibilities. The interfaces between those perspectives are usually not obvious, because the knowledge often is implicit, or represented in different ways. The study contents are comprehensively and broadly according to these heterogeneous conditions. The aim of the study is the qualification to participate in media informatics projects on a broad scientific basis, and to organize and direct them. * **“Social Computing”** aquire and further develop the ability to understand, analyze, design and implement sociotechnical systems. Theories, models and methodologies of social science, humanities and computer sciences are used to develop, plan and assess IT systems according to ethical, political, social and psychological criteria. Empirical methods and software development skills are addressed. Graduates should be enabled to lead co-creation processes, use design thinking for participative development, and create digital tools and artefacts for social innovation. * “**Visual Computing**” acquire and further develop the ability to understand, develop, and extend applications and algorithms in the heterogeneous field of visual computing, which includes image and video processing (image processing, computer vision, machine learning), image synthesis (computer graphics, virtual and augmented reality, and visualization). They develop transferable technical, analytical, and professional skills in the respective field, supported by a broad awareness of current technology trends. * “**Weaving the Web**” acquire and further the ability to develop and evolve products and services in the Web. Pursuing a rather broad approach the whole lifecycle is being addressed starting from the establishment of a vision, the software development, the development of concepts product placement and marketing, and the publication of the results. The characteristics of the Web as a platform for products and services are being focused in all phases of work:   + the embedding of the product in a network of information flows and processes in the Web,   + the focus on openness in regards to the technologies and frameworks and as attitude towards the communication in teams and in the community,   + the thorough application of agile process models and the utilization of the knowledge and creative resources of users in the community. | | |
| **4.3 Program Details** | |  |
| See Transcript for list of courses and grades; „Prüfungszeugnis“(Master Examination Certificate) for subjects taken in final examinations (written and oral) as well as topic of the thesis, including grades. | | |
| **4.4 Grading Scheme** | | |
| Grades are assigned as set down in the general grading scheme cf. Sec. 8.6.  October 28, 2016  up to 1.5 = excellent  above 1.5 – 2.5 = good  above 2.5 – 3.5 = satisfactory  above 3.5 – 4.0 = sufficient  above 4.0 = fail  The final cumulative grade point average is determined by the weighted grades for the Master’s thesis and the average of the examination grades. Credits are assigned according to ECTS-standards (European Credit Transfer System). | | |
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| **4.5 Overall Classification** **(in original language)** | | |
| **1,2 (sehr gut)** | | |

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| 5. FUNCTION OF THE QUALIFICATION |  |
| 5.1 Access to Further Study | |
| The Master of Science in Media Informatics entitles its holder to apply for admission to doctoral/PhD-level studies (thesis research). | |
| 5.2 Professional Status | |
| The Master’s Degree in Media Informatics entitles its holders to exercise professional and scientific work in the fields of media informatics, informatics and related fields in industry as well as in public institutions. | |

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| 6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION |  |
| 6.1 Additional Information: | |
| The Master’s program was first accredited on December 14, 2004 and was reaccredited on March 30, 2010. | |
| 6.2 Further Information Sources | |
| For more detailed information on postgraduate studies (Master’s program) in media informatics at  TH Köln (University of Applied Sciences), please visit:  www.th-koeln.de/studium/medieninformatik-master\_3729.php | |

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| 7. CERTIFICATION | |  | |
| This Diploma Supplement is in reference to the following original documents: | | | | |
| Urkunde über die Verleihung des Grades October 28, 2016 | | | | |
| Prüfungszeugnis October 28, 2016 | | | | |
| Transcript of Records | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| Date of certification: | October 28, 2016 | |  | |
|  | | | Chairman of the Examination Board | |
| (Official stamp/seal) | | | (Prof. Dr. S. Eckstein) | |
|  | | |  | |

**8. NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM**

The information on the national higher education system on the following pages provides details about the qualification and the types of institutions that award it.

**8. INFORMATION ON THE GERMAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM[[1]](#endnote-1)**

**8.1 Types of Institutions and Institutional Status**

Higher education (HE) studies in Germany are offered at three types of Higher Education Institutions (HEI).[[2]](#endnote-2)

- Universitäten (Universities) including various specialized institutions, offer the whole range of academic disciplines. In the German tradition, universities focus in particular on basic research so that advanced stages of study have mainly theoretical orientation and research-oriented components.

- Fachhochschulen (Universities of Applied Sciences) concentrate their study programmes in engineering and other technical disciplines, business-related studies, social work, and design areas. The common mission of applied research and development implies a distinct application-oriented focus and professional character of studies, which include integrated and supervised work assignments in industry, enterprises or other relevant institutions.

- Kunst- und Musikhochschulen (Universities of Art/Music) offer studies for artistic careers in fine arts, performing arts and music; in such fields as directing, production, writing in theatre, film, and other media; and in a variety of design areas, architecture, media and communication.

Higher Education Institutions are either state or state-recognized institutions. In their operations, including the organization of studies and the designation and award of degrees, they are both subject to higher education legislation.

**8.2 Types of Programmes and Degrees Awarded**

Studies in all three types of institutions have traditionally been offered in integrated "long" (one-tier) programmes leading to Diplom- or Magister Artium degrees or completed by a Staatsprüfung (State Examination).

Within the framework of the Bologna-Process one-tier study programmes are successively being replaced by a two-tier study system. Since 1998, a scheme of first- and second-level degree programmes (Bachelor and Master) was introduced to be offered parallel to or instead of integrated "long" programmes. These programmes are designed to provide enlarged variety and flexibility to students in planning and pursuing educational objectives, they also enhance international compatibility of studies.

The German Qualification Framework for Higher Education Degrees[[3]](#endnote-3) describes the degrees of the German Higher Education System. It contains the classification of the qualification levels as well as the resulting qualifications and competencies of the graduates.

For details cf. Sec. 8.4.1, 8.4.2, and 8.4.3 respectively. Table 1 provides a synoptic summary.

**8.3 Approval/Accreditation of Programmes and Degrees**

To ensure quality and comparability of qualifications, the organization of studies and general degree requirements have to conform to principles and regulations established by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK).[[4]](#endnote-4) In 1999, a system of accreditation for programmes of study has become operational under the control of an Accreditation Council at national level. All new programmes have to be accredited under this scheme; after a successful accreditation they receive the quality-label of the Accreditation Council.[[5]](#endnote-5)

**8.4 Organization and Structure of Studies**

The following programmes apply to all three types of institutions. Bachelor’s and Master’s study courses may be studied consecutively, at various higher education institutions, at different types of higher education institutions and with phases of professional work between the first and the second qualification. The organization of the study programmes makes use of modular components and of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) with 30 credits corresponding to one semester.

**8.4.1 Bachelor**

Bachelor degree study programmes lay the academic foundations, provide methodological skills and lead to qualifications related to the professional field. The Bachelor degree is awarded after 3 to 4 years.

The Bachelor degree programme includes a thesis requirement. Study courses leading to the Bachelor degree must be accredited according to the Law establishing a Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany.[[6]](#endnote-6)

First degree programmes (Bachelor) lead to Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.), Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.), Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.), Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.), Bachelor of Music (B.Mus.) or Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.).

**8.4.2 Master**

Master is the second degree after another 1 to 2 years. Master study programmes may be differentiated by the profile types “practice-oriented” and “research-oriented”. Higher Education Institutions define the profile.

The Master degree study programme includes a thesis requirement. Study programmes leading to the Master degree must be accredited according to the Law establishing a Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany.[[7]](#endnote-7)

Second degree programmes (Master) lead to Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Science (M.Sc.), Master of Engineering (M.Eng.), Master of Laws (L.L.M.), Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.), Master of Music (M.Mus.) or Master of Education (M.Ed.). Master study programmes which are designed for continuing education may carry other designations (e.g. MBA).

Table 1: Institutions, Programmes and Degrees in German Higher Education

Integrated/long (One-Tier) Programmes

Doctorate

Transfer Procedures

**Doctorate**

**(Dr.)**

(Thesis research; may include formal course work)

*Diplom* (FH) degree [4 Jyears]

*Diplom & M.A.* degree, Certificates, certified examinations

[4.5 years]

**Doctorate**

**(Dr.)**

UNIVERSITIES   
(*Universitäten*) &

SPECIALISED INSTITUTIONS

of university standing

(*Theologische und Pädagogische Hochschulen)*

[Doctorate]

[Doctorate]

Universities of applied sciences (uas)

(*fachhochschulen*)

(FH)

Universities of art/Music

(*Kunst-/ Musikhochschulen*)

[Some Doctorate]

*Diplom & Magister Artium* (M.A.) degree [4-5 years]

*Staatsprüfung* (State Examination) [3-6.5 years]

Master (M.A./M.Sc./M.Eng./LL.M./M.Ed.)

[1-2 years]

Bachelor (B.A./B.Sc./B.Eng./LL.B./B.Ed.)

[3-4 years]

Master (M.A./M.Sc./M.Eng./LL.M)

[1-2 years]

Bachelor (B.A./B.Sc./B.Eng./LL.B)

[3-4 years]

Master (M.A./M.F.A./M.Mus./M.Ed.)

[1-2 years]

Bachelor (B.A./B.F.A./B.Mus./B.Ed.)

[3-4 years]

Transfer Procedures

Transfer Procedures

Transfer Procedures

Programmes/

Degrees

First degree

Second degree

Transfer Procedures

**8.4.3 Integrated "Long" Programmes (One-Tier):**

***Diplom* degrees, *Magister Artium, Staatsprüfung***

An integrated study programme is either mono-disciplinary (*Diplom* degrees, most programmes completed by a *Staatsprüfung*) or comprises a combination of either two major or one major and two minor fields (*Magister Artium*). The first stage (1.5 to 2 years) focuses on broad orientations and foundations of the field(s) of study. An Intermediate Examination (*Diplom-Vorprüfung* for *Diplom* degrees; *Zwischenprüfung* or credit requirements for the *Magister Artium*) is prerequisite to enter the second stage of advanced studies and specializations. Degree requirements include submission of a thesis (up to 6 months duration) and comprehensive final written and oral examinations. Similar regulations apply to studies leading to a *Staatsprüfung*. The level of qualification is equivalent to the Master level.

- Integrated studies at *Universitäten (U)* last 4 to 5 years (*Diplom* degree, *Magister Artium*) or 3 to 6.5 years (*Staatsprüfung*). The *Diplom* degree is awarded in engineering disciplines, the natural sciences as well as economics and business. In the humanities, the corresponding degree is usually the *Magister Artium* (M.A.). In the social sciences, the practice varies as a matter of institutional traditions. Studies preparing for the legal, medical and pharmaceutical professions are completed by a *Staatsprüfung*. This applies also to studies preparing for teaching professions of some *Länder.*

The three qualifications (*Diplom*, *Magister Artium* and *Staatsprüfung*) are academically equivalent. They qualify to apply for admission to doctoral studies. Further prerequisites for admission may be defined by the Higher Education Institution, cf. Sec. 8.5.

- Integrated studies at *Fachhochschulen* *(FH)*/Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) last 4 years and lead to a *Diplom (FH)* degree. While the *FH*/UAS are non-doctorate granting institutions, qualified graduates may apply for admission to doctoral studies at doctorate-granting institutions, cf. Sec. 8.5.

- Studies at *Kunst- and Musikhochschulen* (Universities of Art/Music etc.) are more diverse in their organization, depending on the field and individual objectives. In addition to *Diplom/Magister* degrees, the integrated study programme awards include Certificates and certified examinations for specialized areas and professional purposes.

**8.5 Doctorate**

Universities as well as specialized institutions of university standing and some Universities of Art/Music are doctorate-granting institutions. Formal prerequisite for admission to doctoral work is a qualified Master (UAS and U), a *Magister* degree*,* a *Diplom*, a *Staatsprüfung*, or a foreign equivalent. Particularly qualified holders of a Bachelor or a *Diplom* *(FH)* degree may also be admitted to doctoral studies without acquisition of a further degree by means of a procedure to determine their aptitude. The universities respectively the doctorate-granting institutions regulate entry to a doctorate as well as the structure of the procedure to determine aptitude. Admission further requires the acceptance of the Dissertation research project by a professor as a supervisor.

**8.6 Grading Scheme**

The grading scheme in Germany usually comprises five levels (with numerical equivalents; intermediate grades may be given): "*Sehr Gut*" (1) = Very Good; "*Gut*" (2) = Good; "*Befriedigend*" (3) = Satisfactory; "*Ausreichend*" (4) = Sufficient; "*Nicht ausreichend*" (5) = Non-Sufficient/Fail. The minimum passing grade is "*Ausreichend*" (4). Verbal designations of grades may vary in some cases and for doctoral degrees. In addition institutions partly already use an ECTS grading scheme.

**8.7 Access to Higher Education**

The General Higher Education Entrance Qualification (*Allgemeine Hochschulreife*, *Abitur*) after 12 to 13 years of schooling allows for admission to all higher educational studies. Specialized variants (*Fachgebundende Hochschulreife*) allow for admission to particular disciplines. Access to *Fachhochschulen* (UAS) is also possible with a *Fachhochschulreife*, which can usually be acquiredafter 12 years of schooling. Admission to Universities of Art/Music may be based on other or require additional evidence demonstrating individual aptitude. Higher Education Institutions may in certain cases apply additional admission procedures.

**8.8 National Sources of Information**

* *Kultusministerkonferenz* *(KMK)* [Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Länder* in the Federal Republic of Germany]; Lennéstrasse 6, D-53113 Bonn; Fax: +49[0]228/501-229; Phone: +49[0]228/501-0
* Central Office for Foreign Education (ZaB) as German NARIC; www.kmk.org; E-Mail: zab@kmk.org
* "Documentation and Educational Information Service" as German EURYDICE-Unit, providing the national dossier on the education system (http://www.kmk.org/dokumentation/zusammenarbeit-auf-europaeischer-ebene-im-eurydice-informationsnetz.html; E-Mail: eurydice@kmk.org)
* *Hochschulrektorenkonferenz* *(HRK)* [German Rectors’ Conference]; Ahrstrasse 39, D-53175 Bonn; Fax: +49[0]228/887-110; Phone: +49[0]228/887-0; www.hrk.de; E-Mail: [post@hrk.de](mailto:post@hrk.de)
* "Higher Education Compass" of the German Rectors’ Conference, features comprehensive information on institutions, programmes of study, etc. (www.higher-education-compass.de)

1. The information covers only aspects directly relevant to purposes of the Diploma Supplement. All information as of 1 July 2010. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. *Berufsakademien* are not considered as Higher Education Institutions, they only exist in some of the *Länder*. They offer educa­tio­nal programmes in close cooperation with private companies. Students receive a formal degree and carry out an apprenticeship at the company. Some *Berufsakademien* offer Bachelor courses which are recognized as an academic degree if they are accredited by a German accreditation agency. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. German Qualification Framework for Higher Education Degrees (Resolution of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Länder* in the Federal Republic of Germany of 21.04.2005). [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Common structural guidelines of the *Länder* for the accreditation of Bachelor’s and Master’s study courses (Resolution of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Länder* in the Federal Republic of Germany of 10.10.2003, as amended on 04.02.2010). [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. “Law establishing a Foundation ‘Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany’”, entered into force as from 26.2.2005, GV. NRW. 2005, nr. 5, p. 45 in connection with the Declaration of the *Länder* to the Foundation “Foundation: Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany” (Resolution of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Länder* in the Federal Republic of Germany of 16.12.2004. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. See note No. 5. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. See note No. 5. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)