

## Guideline Current Topic Module (CT)

The course catalogue of your individual electives allows you for your 3<sup>rd</sup> semester to choose modules that are not like the regular 3-weeks modules. You have the option to write a scientific paper on a variety of topics covered by a professorship of the faculty. We call them “**current topic modules**” (CT), or in German “Aktuelle Themen”. A CT can replace an individual elective module within your 3<sup>rd</sup> semester (see also the examination regulations).

The CT is built on an individual agreement between a student and the module coordinator. Students must contact the module coordinator in order to suggest or develop an individual topic with him/her. Equivalent to the regular modules writing a CT respectively gets you 5 ECTS points. The workload of this exercise should accordingly correspond to the workload of a 3-weeks module (3x50h = 150h).

### 1. When to write a CT?

Writing a CT can be a useful alternative to a regular module if you want to address a specific topic more in-depth, if you simply wish to practice your scientific writing skills in the “run-up” to your Master’s Thesis or if you would like to familiarize yourself with the standards and expectations of a potential thesis supervisor in advance.

### 2. How to register for the CT?

You can neither enroll for the CTs online nor can you register for the exam, as you would do for a regular module. Instead you have to fill in a form (available on the website of your programme under Studying → Forms and Guidelines → Current Topic) and submit it to the examination office after having arranged a topic with the module coordinator. The form replaces the online exam registration. The form is only complete if it includes the CT’s topic/title (or at least a provisional “working title”), a submission date as well as the signature of your supervisor.

### 3. Supervision

While you are working on your CT, you will need to be supported by an academic supervisor chosen by you. Professors from our faculty and their co-workers (“assistants”) are eligible as supervisors. A potential supervisor may want to see a short exposé before agreeing to this responsibility. The exposé should include your research question, methodology, major sources and expected outcome. Please note that it is **your** responsibility to develop a research question and to find a suitable supervisor.

### 4. Time frame and submission

It is on your own responsibility to decide on when you want to do a CT. You can work on it in the time slot of one of the regular electives or at any other time, e.g. during the semester break. However, it is important that you register before starting and that you set your submission date on the registration form. The time span between registering and submitting the paper is not predetermined, but be aware of the 150 working hours that have to be spent on your CT. For technical reasons make sure the submission date lies within the same semester in which you registered for the CT. You have to submit your CT in the determined format (email, hardcopy) to your supervisor by the date as agreed upon. He or she will then communicate your grade to the Examination Office and a short feedback to you.

## **5. Further relevant information**

There is no formal rule concerning the length of a CT. What can be considered an “appropriate” length for your CT depends very much on the chosen topic and used methodology. The grading will not be based on quantity of your paper, but rather on its content’s quality (writing style, conciseness, and other formal criteria). Hence, be as precise and short as possible and as elaborate as necessary! However, as the topic and the final paper should reflect three weeks of work they will probably not comprise less than 2,000 words.

You can only enroll for one CT per chair/professorship. If you wish to register for a second CT with the same chair/professorship it has to be listed separately as a different module by the chair. Some chairs may offer more than one CT description and thus offer various possibilities for CTs within their specific field.