

Teaching and Examination Regulations

Faculty of Science

Bachelor's programme in Biomedical Sciences

Academic year 2025-2026

A. Faculty section

B1. Programme-specific section – general provisions

B2. Programme-specific section – content of programme

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Section A: Faculty section

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations

1. These Regulations apply to anyone enrolled in the programme, irrespective of the academic year in which the student was first enrolled in the programme.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
2. These Regulations enter into force on 1 September 2025.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
3. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations is only permitted to concern an academic year already in progress if this does not demonstrably damage the interests of students.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (9.38 sub b)

Article 1.2 Definitions

The following definitions are used in these Regulations (*in alphabetical order*):

- a. academic year: the period beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August of the following calendar year;
- b. EC (European Credit): a course credit with a workload of 28 hours of study;
- c. examination: an assessment of the student's knowledge, understanding and skills relating to a unit of education. The assessment is expressed in terms of a final mark. An examination may consist of one or more partial examinations. A resit always covers the same material as the original examination. An examination can be completed in writing, orally or in another way;
- d. final examination: a Bachelor's programme consists of a propaedeutic examination and a Bachelor's examination;
- e. internship: period spent working in professional practice as part of a study programme;
- f. 1. joint degree: a degree awarded by an institution together with one or more institutions in the Netherlands or abroad, after the student has completed a study programme (a degree programme, a major or a specific curriculum within a degree programme) for which the collaborating institutions are jointly responsible;
2. double degree: partnership between a programme of a Dutch educational institution with a foreign educational institution, whereby students complete all or part of both study programmes and obtain two diplomas on the basis of agreements regarding the mutual recognition of the programme (replacement courses);
- g. minor: a set of thematically related units of education totalling 30 credits. Students choose a minor in order to broaden and/or deepen their studies (within the scope for electives) during the Bachelor's programme;
- h. period: a part of a semester;
- i. practical exercise: participation in a practical training or other educational learning activity, aimed at acquiring certain (academic) skills. Examples of practical exercises are:
 - researching and writing a thesis or dissertation
 - carrying out a research assignment
 - taking part in fieldwork or an excursion
 - taking part in another educational learning activity aimed at acquiring specific skills, or
 - participating in and completing a work placement;

- j. programme: the totality and cohesion of the units of education, teaching activities/methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature;
- k. SAP/SLM: the student information system (*Student Lifecycle Management*);
- l. semester: the first (September - January) or second (February - August) half of an academic year;
- m. specialisation: optional route of study within a degree programme indicating a deepening of the context of the programme (e.g. interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary);
- n. student person studying;
- o. student statute: sets out the rights and responsibilities of students on the one hand, and of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam on the other hand, including those derived from the law and those derived from university regulations. The Executive Board (CvB) officially confirms the student statute once its completeness has been approved by the University Student Council (USC);
- p. study guide: the guide for the study programme that provides further details of the courses, provisions and other information specific to that programme. The Study Guide is available electronically at: <https://studiegids.vu.nl/en#/>;
- q. study monitor: dashboard for students and academic advisors containing data pertaining to the student, including the student's study progress;
- r. subject: see u. 'unit of education';
- s. thesis a unit comprising research into the literature and/or a contribution to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;
- t. track: a study pathway within a broader Bachelor's or Master's degree programme, such as a fully English-language study pathway within a Dutch-language Bachelor's or Master's programme;
- u. unit of education: a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW;
- v. university: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;
- w. WHW: the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek);
- x. workload: the workload of the unit of education to which an examination applies, expressed in terms of credits = EC credits (ECTS = European Credit and Transfer Accumulation System). The workload for 1 year (1.680 hours) is 60 EC credits.

The other terms have the meanings ascribed to them by the WHW.

2. Study programme structure

Article 2.1 Structure of academic year and units of education

1. The study programme will be offered in a year divided into two semesters.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. Every semester consists of three consecutive periods. The first two periods each consist of eight weeks, and the final period consists of four weeks.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
3. A unit of education comprises 6 ECs or a multiple thereof.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
4. By way of exception to paragraph 3, the Executive Board may in special cases and on request of the Faculty Board, stipulate that a unit of education comprises 3 EC or a multiple thereof.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

Article 2.2 Setup of programme

1. All Bachelor's programmes consist of at least the following components: a. Academic core or academic development of at least 24 ECs b. Major/compulsory components of at least 90 ECs c. Elective components of study of at least 30 ECs	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. In the first year of the programme, the programme will offer at least fourteen contact hours a week.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
3. In the second and third years of the programme, the programme will offer at least twelve contact hours a week.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
4. Internationalisation is included as part of the Bachelor's programme and reflected in one or more units of education.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

3. Assessment and examination

Article 3.1 Signing up for education and examinations

1. Every student must sign up to participate in the units of education of the programme, the examinations and resits. The procedure for signing up is described in an annex to the student statute.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. Signing up may only take place in the designated periods.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

Article 3.2 Type of examination

1. At the examiner's request, the Examination Board may permit a different form of examination than is stipulated in the study guide.	Advice OLC, Approval FGV (7.13 I)
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Article 3.3 Oral examinations

1. No more than one student will be examined orally at a time, unless specified otherwise in part B for the relevant unit of education.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 I and n)
2. A second examiner is present when an oral examination is being held, unless the Examination Board has determined otherwise. The oral examination takes place at a time and location to be determined by the examiner within the regular timetable, on campus or online. At the request of the student, and with the approval of the examiners, an audio recording can be made. Should the second examiner not be available unexpectedly, an audio recording of the oral exam can be made. This audio recording is retained by the university for the retention period applicable for examinations.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 I and n)

Article 3.4 Determining and announcing results

1. The examiner determines the result of a written examination within fifteen working days. However, the marking deadline for theses and final assignments is no longer than twenty working days after submission. The examiner will then immediately ensure that the marks are registered and also ensures that the student is immediately notified of the mark, taking due account of the applicable confidentiality standards.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. The examiner determines the result (i.e. mark) of an oral examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within one working day after the examination has finished and informs the student accordingly. The third clause of the first paragraph applies.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 o)

3. In the case of assessments other than oral or written examinations, the Examination Board determines in advance how and by what deadline the student will be informed of the results.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 o)
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Article 3.5 Examination opportunities

1. a. Per academic year, two opportunities to take examinations will be offered for each unit of education. b. By way of exception to a., the options for retaking practical exercises, work placements and theses are detailed in the relevant work placement manual, course manual or teaching regulations.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. The most recent mark will apply in the event of a resit. A resit is allowed for both passed and failed units of education.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
3. The resit for an (partial) examination may not take place within ten working days of the announcement of the results for the original (partial) examination. Exceptions are only possible in period 6.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 j)
4. The Examination Board may allow a student an extra opportunity to sit an examination if that student: a) lacks only those credits to qualify for their degree; and b) has failed the examination during all the previously offered attempts unless participation in an examination was not possible for compelling reasons. The extra opportunity can only be offered if it concerns a written examination, a paper or a take home examination. This provision excludes the practical exercises and the Bachelor's thesis. Requests for an additional examination opportunity must be submitted to the Examination Board no later than 15 July. If necessary, the method of examination may deviate from the provisions in the study guide.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
5. If a unit of education is no longer offered, at least one additional opportunity will subsequently be provided to sit the examination(s) or parts thereof and a transitional arrangement will be included in Section B.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (7.13 j)

Article 3.6 Marks

1. (Partial) grades are given on a scale from 1 to 10 with no more than one figure after the decimal point.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. A final mark between 5 and 6 will be rounded to the nearest whole number: final marks below 5.50, rounded down; final marks of 5.50 or higher, rounded up. All other final marks will be expressed in whole or half marks.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
3. To pass a given course or unit, a final mark of 6 or higher is required.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
4. The Examination Board can allow the use of symbols rather than numbers, for example: s(atisfactory), g(ood), u(n)s(at)is(factory), etc. In case a student does not take part in any examination, the examiner will register the mark 'ns' (c.q. no show).	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

Article 3.7 Exemption

1. At the written request of the student, the Examination Board may exempt the student from taking one or more examination components, if they: a. have either passed a unit of education at a university of applied sciences (HBO) or research university (WO) that is equivalent in terms of content and level; or	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 r)
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b. have demonstrated through their work and/or professional experience that they have sufficient knowledge and skills with regard to the relevant unit of education.	
2. The Bachelor's thesis is excluded from the possibility of exemption.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
3. a. A maximum of 60 EC of the curriculum can be accumulated through granted exemptions for one three-year bachelor's programme. The substituting courses are not included. b. This regulation does not apply if a student is (simultaneously) enrolled in multiple programmes, which lead to multiple degrees, where courses may be part of both programmes. In such a case, the Examination Board may deviate from the regulations under a.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)

Article 3.8 Validity period for results

1. The validity period of examinations passed and exemption from examinations is unlimited, unless otherwise specified in Section B.	Legal provision
2. The validity period of a partial examination is limited to the academic year in which it was sat or until the end of the unit of education concerned, as stipulated for the relevant unit of education in Section B. In exceptional circumstances, an examiner may deviate from this; this must be stated on Canvas at the start of the unit of education.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)

Article 3.9 Right of inspection and post-examination discussion

1. Within twenty working days after the announcement of the results of a written examination, but at least ten working days before the resit opportunity for that examination, the student can submit a request to review their graded examination.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 p and q)
2. Students can view the questions and assignments set in the written examination, and the standards applied when assessing the examination, within the period specified in 3.9.1.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 q)
3. The examiner determines whether the inspection takes place collectively or individually. In all cases, the time and place of the inspection is announced in the course manual or learning environment.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 q)
4. Students are entitled to feedback on their academic performance. The manner in which this is provided in each unit of education is described in the course manual.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 p and q)

4. Honours programme

Article 4.1 Honours programme

1. The Faculty of Science offers an honours programme for students who meet the admission requirements and who started their bachelor programme before 2025. The honours programme consists of units of education taken in addition to the standard curriculum.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. The honours programme comprises 30 EC, a minimum of 12 EC of which consist of faculty or programme honours components and a minimum of another 12 EC consist of interfaculty honours components. The choices available to the student will be published on the website (www.vu.nl).	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

3. For admission to the honours programme, the student must have secured all credits from the first year by no later than 31 August of the relevant year, and have been awarded a weighted average mark of at least a 7.5.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
4. Students who have met the requirements of the regular Bachelor's programme within the nominal duration of study, who have achieved a weighted average of at least 7.5 for all components of the Bachelor's programme (excluding the honours components) and who have also met the requirements of the honours programme will receive a Bachelor diploma with a transcript indicating that they have successfully completed the honours programme.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

5. Academic student counselling, recommendation on continuation of studies and study progress

Article 5.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling

1. The faculty board is responsible for the correct registration of the students' study results. After the assessment of a unit of education has been registered, every student has the right to inspect the result for that component and also has a list of the results achieved at their disposal in VU.nl Dashboard.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 u)
2. Enrolled students are eligible for academic student counselling. Academic student counselling is provided by - The Student Counsellor - Student psychologists - Faculty academic advisers	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 u)

Article 5.2 Recommendation on continuation of studies

1. The faculty board will issue every student on a full-time Bachelor's programme with a recommendation on continuation of their studies, at the end of the first year of study. The recommendation on continuation of studies is issued on behalf of the faculty board by the faculty BSA committee.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. Prior to 1 February, the student will receive an overview of their results.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
3. Students who have not completed enough credits, will receive a warning with the overview stating that if insufficient improvement in their performance is forthcoming by the end of the academic year, they will receive a negative advice regarding the continuation of their studies. These students will also be advised to plan a meeting with an academic adviser.	Advice OLC (7.13 f)
4. If the recommendation at the end of the academic year is negative, the provisions of Article 5.3 apply.	Advice OLC (7.13 f)
5. A recommendation will not be issued if the student terminates their enrolment before 1 February of their first academic year.	Advice OLC (7.13 f)

Article 5.3 Binding (negative) recommendation on continuation of studies (BSA)

1. The recommendation issued at the end of the academic year will contain a binding rejection if the student has not achieved the standard required for a positive recommendation on continuation of studies. A recommendation on continuation of studies will not be issued if the student demonstrates that they have not been able to meet the standard due to personal circumstances as described in Article 2.1 of the Higher Education and Research (Implementation) Act (Uitvoeringsbesluit WHW). The standard is defined in Section B.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. As soon as possible after the last resits of the second semester of the first year, a student who has not met the standard will be informed that the faculty board	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

intends to issue them with negative binding recommendation on continuation of studies. The same procedure applies in the next year of enrolment if the student was permitted to continue with their study programme as a result of personal circumstances and has still not successfully met all of the requirements of the first year of study by that time. No recommendation will be issued to students if they demonstrate that they once again did not meet the standard as a consequence of personal circumstances.	
3. Along with the information referred to in the previous paragraph, students will also be informed of the possibility of being heard by the BSA committee and of how they can apply for such a hearing.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
4. As soon as possible (no more than ten working days) after the end of the hearing and after the BSA committee has issued its advice, the faculty board will issue the definitive recommendation on continuation of studies.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
5. Students may lodge an appeal against a decision on a binding negative recommendation on continuation of studies with the Examination Appeals Board of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam within six weeks of the day of the decision's announcement.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
6. Students who receive a binding negative recommendation on continuation of studies may therefore not enrol in the same Bachelor's programme or Bachelor's programme(s) with the same first year as defined in Article 14.1.2 of section B for a period of three years.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

Article 5.4 Personal circumstances

1. The faculty board will not include a rejection in the binding recommendation on the continuation of studies in the case of personal circumstances, as described in Article 2.1 of the Higher Education and Research (Implementation) Act, as a result of which the student concerned cannot have been reasonably expected to have met the BSA standard.	Advice OLC (7.13 f)
2. If a circumstance, as described in Article 2.1 of the Higher Education and Research (Implementation) Act, should occur, students must notify the academic adviser office as soon as possible, providing details of: - the period in which the circumstance occurs or occurred; - a description of the circumstance and its seriousness; - the extent to which they cannot or could not participate in instruction/classes or an examination. It is students' responsibility to submit documentary evidence to substantiate their report.	Advice OLC (7.13 f)
3. If required, the academic adviser may advise the BSA committee on the extent to which personal circumstances have influenced the student's study progress.	Advice OLC (7.13 f)

Article 5.5 Facilities for students with a disability or impairment

1. Students with a disability or impairment can submit a request via VU.nl Dashboard to qualify for one or more special facilities with regard to teaching, practical exercises and examinations. These facilities will accommodate the student's individual disability or impairment as much as possible, but may not alter the quality or degree of difficulty of a unit of education or an examination. In all cases, the student must fulfil the exit qualifications for the study programme.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
2. The request referred to in the first paragraph must be accompanied by a statement from a doctor or psychologist. If possible, an estimate should be given of the potential impact on the student's study progress. In case of a chronic disability a	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)

single (one time) request suffices.	
3. Students who have been diagnosed with dyslexia must provide a statement from a BIG-, NIP- or NVO-registered professional who is qualified to conduct a psychological evaluation.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
4. The faculty board, or the responsible person on behalf of the faculty board, decides on teaching facilities and facilities regarding logistics. The Examination Board will decide on requests for facilities with regard to examinations.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
5. In the event of a positive decision in response to a request as referred to in paragraph 1, the student can make an appointment with the academic adviser to discuss the details of the provisions.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
6. A request for one or more facilities can be refused if it would place a disproportionate burden on the organisation or the resources of the faculty or university were it upheld. Any such refusal will be substantiated.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
7. If the disability or impairment justifies an extension of the examination time, the responsible person on behalf of the Examination Board will register in SAP this entitlement to an extension. If a disability or impairment justifies other measures to be taken, the academic adviser can take the necessary measures. The student can consult the study monitor to check which facilities have been granted to them.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
8. The decision as referred to in paragraph 5 may specify a limited validity of the facilities granted.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)

6. Hardship clause

Article 6.1 Hardship clause

In instances not regulated by the Teaching and Examination Regulations or in the event of demonstrable extreme unreasonableness or unfairness, the faculty board responsible for the study programme will decide, unless the matter concerned is the responsibility of the Examination Board.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
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Section B1: Programme-specific section

7. General programme information and characteristics

Article 7.1 Study programme information

1. The programme B Biomedical Sciences CROHO number 59324 is offered on a full-time basis.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 u)
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Article 7.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment

1. The programme uses the teaching formats as specified in the study guide.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 x)
2. The modes of assessment used per unit of education are specified in the study guide.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 l)

Article 7.3 Academic student counselling

1. The programme offers the following counselling in addition to the student counselling mentioned in Section A: - Junior lecturers act as tutors	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 u)
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8. Further admission requirements

Article 8.1 Additional previous education requirements

1. Applicants who meet the previous education requirements as stipulated in the current 'Regulations on Registrations and Admissions in Higher Education' ('Regeling Aanmelding en Toelating Hoger Onderwijs' (RATHO, OCW)) will gain access to the programme.	Legal provision
2. Applicants who do not meet the previous education requirements as stipulated in 'Regulations on Registrations and Admissions in Higher Education' currently in force may still be admitted to the programme by successfully completing one or more of the following exams at final pre-university examination level: - Physics - Chemistry - Mathematics (A or B) - Biology - English	Exception in WHW: advice OLC
3. Sufficient command of the Dutch language (required for admission to the programme from academic year 2026-2027) can be evidenced by successful completion of: - The official Dutch as a Second Language Programme II (NT2-II) and registration in DUO; - Certificate of Dutch as a Second Language (CNaVT), profile 'Educatief Professioneel' (EDUP) C1 or 'Educatief Startbekwaam' (SRTR)B2; - Foreign final school examinations accepted by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, which included the Dutch language. Those who have been admitted to a Dutch-language study programme based on a diploma obtained abroad and who have successfully completed level 4 of VWO or higher with a pass grade in Dutch are exempted from the language requirement.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

4. Sufficient command of the English language can be evidenced by successful completion of: - IELTS Academic: an overall score of at least 6.5; IELTS test has a validity of 2 years. - TOEFL iBT: an overall score of at least 92; TOEFL test has a validity of 2 years. - Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) or Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE) with an overall score of at least 180. Cambridge tests are valid indefinitely. Sufficient command of the English language can also be evidenced by successful completion of: - Secondary education state exam: VWO English language and literature - A VWO diploma or equivalent diploma in which the subject English of a comparable level is required Applicants who have completed one of the following meet the English language requirement and therefore are exempted from taking an English language test: - a secondary education or higher education degree fully taught in English has been completed in Australia, Canada (except Quebec province), Ireland, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, the United Kingdom or the United States of America; - a bachelor's or master's degree from an NVAO-accredited university programme in the Netherlands; - a bachelor's or master's degree fully taught in English in a member state of the European Union/ European Economic Area.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
5. Anyone who does not meet the requirements for previous education but who has passed the propaedeutic examination of a higher professional education programme will be admitted to the programme by successfully completing one or more of the following exams at final pre-university examination level: - Physics - Chemistry - Mathematics (A or B) - Biology - English	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)

Article 8.2 Entrance examination

1. Persons aged 21 years and older who do not meet the requirements for previous education can submit a request to the Executive Board to take an entrance examination, as stipulated in Article 7.29 of the WHW. The entrance examination concerns the following subjects at final pre-university examination level: - Physics - Chemistry - Mathematics (A or B) - Biology - English	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
2. The proof that the entrance examination has been passed only provides entitlement to admission to the intended programme or programmes for the academic year after the examination was taken.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)

9. Examinations and results

Article 9.1 Sequence of examinations

1. Students may participate in the examinations and practical exercises of the units of education below only if they have passed the examination or examinations for the following units of education: - Statistics and Methodology (AB_1201) only after passing Research in Biomedical Sciences (AB_1142) - Elective course Infectious Diseases (AB_471024) only after passing Microbiology (AB_1276) and Immunology (AB_1144) - Lab Safety (LAB_Safety) and the English language test (AB_ELT) are part of Microbiology (AB_1276). A mark for Microbiology (AB_1276) can only be released if the student has successfully completed the requirements of Microbiology (AB_1276), including a pass in Lab Safety (LAB_Safety) and a pass in the English language test (AB_ELT). - Study and Career BMED Year 2 (AB_1232) is part of Philosophy of Science and Ethics (AB_1217). A mark for Philosophy of Science and Ethics (AB_1217) can only be released if the student has successfully completed the requirements of Philosophy of Science and Ethics (AB_1217), including a pass in Study and Career BMED Year 2. - Students will only be admitted to the final project/thesis if they meet the following conditions: after passing all components of the first year (60 EC) and a minimum of 42 EC of the second year.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 h, 7.13 s/t)
2. Students may be admitted to the following specialisations only if they have passed the examinations of the following units of education: - Not applicable	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 h, 7.13 s/t)

Article 9.2 Validity period for results

1. If a student's understanding and skills as evaluated in the exam are demonstrably outdated, the Examination Board may impose a supplementary or replacement examination for a unit of education for which an examination was passed more than 3 years ago.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 k)
2. In addition to article 3.8.2 of part A of the TER: fulfilled attendance requirements and grades for assignments remain valid, which means that certain subcomponents do not need to be retaken, unless the course coordinator decides otherwise.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 k)

Section B2: Programme-specific section – content of programme

10. Programme objectives, tracks/specialisations, exit qualifications and language

Article 10.1 Programme objective

1. The bachelor Biomedical Sciences at the VU strives to equip students with a broad but solid scientific base in the area of the biology of health and disease in humans. The focus lies in doing scientific research towards the origins and courses of diseases, and the possible treatments and cures. Students attain academical knowledge, insights and skills, and they develop a critical, independent and reflective attitude. The knowledge that is offered covers all the organizational levels that can be discerned in biomedical sciences, from molecules to society. Exit qualifications have been composed that fit these descriptions. In line with the identity and core values of the VU, during their personal development students are inspired to think about their responsibility to society in their future profession. Attention is also given to the broad multidisciplinary character of the field which is open to societal, spiritual and cultural influences, and respect and space is given to the diverse personal views that can accompany these core values. During the programme the student encounters scientific practice in the field of societal biomedical issues. Developing academic judgements and critical reflection on the values, functions, boundaries and effects of biomedical science is abundantly featured in the programme. Expertise that is acquired is offered through main topics and concepts in the international biomedical research field with extra emphasis for the core research pillars of the graduate schools of the VU and Amsterdam UMC. Through actively learning to do research, both independently and collaboratively, students get familiar with scientific culture and the practice of working in the field as a biomedical professional. The programme strives to offer approximately half of the contact hours in small scale groupwise education where students learn by investigating. During practicals, work groups and the internship, students are given tasks that are representative for the future work environment and are seen as serious partners during the development of novel ideas and insights. Finally, the programme offers ample space for the development of individual talents and ambitions. The programme is taught entirely in English so that it also offers room for topics like internationalization, diversity and inclusivity which are in line with the vision of the VU.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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Article 10.2 Tracks and/or specialisations

The programme has the following tracks and/or specialisations - Not applicable	Approval OLC; (7.13 b)
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Article 10.3 Exit qualifications

1. At all events, a graduate of the study programme will have knowledge and understanding in the field of: A. Knowledge and understanding The bachelor is able to:	Approval OLC (7.13)
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- independently acquire novel multidisciplinary knowledge and understanding of biomedical health issues; - explain the biological basis of disease and health; - describe the broad methodological basis of biomedical research. B. Applying knowledge and understanding The bachelor is able to: - define a specific biomedical question, formulate hypotheses and formulate interpretations; - systematically collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data; - carry out biomedical research using the appropriate methods, techniques and statistical analyses; - act on the basis of knowledge of regulations concerning scientific integrity; - act and communicate in a respectful and responsible social and ethical manner in the field of science, employment relations and society. C. Critical judgement The bachelor is able to: - select, understand and critically assess professional literature; - assess whether biomedical laboratory techniques or research models are suitable and applicable for answering a research question or problem; - assess the value of biomedical data collected and their applicability for answering a research question or problem definition; - take a position on biomedical issues based on integrity and relevant clinical, scientific, ethical and societal aspects; - think in a multidisciplinary manner on biomedical issues and establish links with related disciplines (e.g. Medicine and Biology). D. Communication The bachelor is able to: - communicate verbally and in writing with colleagues, professionals and society; - express a reasoned opinion orally and in writing. E. Learning skills The bachelor is able to: - think critically; - reflect on their own role and activities and then act accordingly; - give and receive feedback, value it and act accordingly; - set realistic goals, plan and work on a project basis; - work constructively with (bio)medical professionals and students with different international backgrounds; - choose a follow-up study and career that is appropriate to the possibilities and interests of the bachelor.	
2. Not applicable (concerns additional exit qualifications for tracks/specialisations)	Approval OLC (7.13 b)
3. Language proficiency may be taken into account in the assessment of exams and assignments.	Approval OLC (7.13 c)

Article 10.4 Language of instruction and language test

1. The language of instruction in 2025-2026 is English. A preliminary decision has been taken by the Faculty Board for the language of instruction to change to Dutch from 2026-2027.	Approval OLC (9.18)
2. The 'Gedragscode vreemde taal' (Code of conduct for foreign languages) applies.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
3. At the start of the first year of study every student must complete a diagnostic language test in the language of instruction of the programme.	Advice OLC (7.13 a)
4. Any student who does not achieve a pass on the language test must take the 'Refresher Course' organised by the Language Desk (Taalloket).	Approval OLC (7.13 c)
5. The language test is part of the following unit of education: Microbiology (AB_1276). A mark can only be determined if the student has successfully completed the requirements of the unit of education, including a pass in the language test or completing the Refresher Course and a pass in Lab Safety (LAB_Safety).	Approval OLC (7.13 c)

11. Curriculum structure

Article 11.1 Academic core

1. The academic development consists of: (1) Academic development (2) Methods & techniques (3) Philosophical training	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. (4) Philosophy of Science and/or History of Science (5) Academic English	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)

Article 11.2 Major

1. The major comprises a package of compulsory and possibly optional units of education.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. In addition, units of education are categorised as introductory (100), in-depth (200) and advanced (300) level.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

Article 11.3 Compulsory units of education of the major

A detailed description per unit of education can be found in the Study Guide.

Name of unit of education	course code	nr of EC	level	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
<i>Year 1</i>				
Genetics	AB_1135	6	100	
Introduction to Biomedical Sciences	AB_1136	6	100	
Biochemistry	AB_1137	6	100	
Cell Biology - Histology	AB_1138	6	100	
Research in Biomedical Sciences	AB_1142	6	100	
Human Development	AB_1140	6	100	
Microbiology	AB_1276	6	100	
Human Evolution	AB_1310	6	100	
Immunology	AB_1144	6	100	
Lab Safety	AB_LABSAFETY	0	100	
English Language Test	VU_ELT	0	000	

<i>Year 2</i>				
Study and Career BMED year 2	AB_1232	0	300	
Human Anatomy and Physiology	AB_1197	6	200	
Medical Biochemistry	AB_1198	6	200	
Medical Pharmacology	AB_1199	6	200	
Neurosciences	AB_1200	6	200	
Omics	AB_1311	6	200	
Statistics and methodology	AB_1201	6	300	
Pathology	AB_1202	6	200	
Oncology	AB_1184	6	200	
Philosophy of Science and Ethics	AB_1217	6	300	

Article 11.4 Elective units of education of the major

Name of unit of education	course code	nr of EC	level	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
<i>Year 1: select one (1)</i>				
Biomedical Sciences and Society	AB_1315	6	100	
Science Communication	AB_470185	6	200	
Biochemistry - research	AB_1164	6	100	
<i>Year 2: select one (1)</i>				
Pathophysiology of heart and circulation	AB_1015	6	200	
Big data in Biomedical Sciences	AB_1256	6	200	
International Public Health (BMED)	AB_1145	6	200	
Science Communication	AB_470185	6	200	
<i>Year 3: select one (1)</i>				
Epidemiology	AB_470180	6	200	
Human Neurophysiology	AB_1111	6	300	
Management van Innovaties	AB_470195	6	200	
Infectious Diseases	AB_471024	6	300	
<i>Year 3 thesis: select one (1)</i>				
Bachelor Thesis Biomedical Sciences - Experimental	AB_1234	24	300	
Bachelor Thesis Biomedical Sciences - Data Analysis	AB_1295	24	300	

Article 11.5 Practical exercise

Not applicable

Article 11.6 Participation in practical exercises and tutorials

1. In the case of practical exercises, there may be attendance requirements. For details on attendance requirements, please refer to the study manual of the relevant unit of study.	Approval OLC (7.13 d)
2. In the case of tutorials, there may be attendance requirements. For details on attendance requirements, please refer to the study manual of the relevant unit of study.	Approval OLC (7.13 d)
3. For thesis and internship, the programme applies the guidelines as stipulated in the Thesis and Placement Regulations.	Approval OLC (7.13 d)

12. Electives

Article 12.1 Electives

1. The first semester of the third year of the curriculum comprises at least 30 EC of elective units of education at an academic level.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. For this elective period, the student can take: - a minor (a coherent package of related units of education) - individual choice of units of education at the faculty or elsewhere, of which at least 12 EC must be at level 300 and maximum 6 EC can be at level 100. - units of education at a university abroad. For this, the same requirements apply as indicated above. In addition, at a university abroad, students can include a maximum of one unit of education (6 EC) at master's level (level 400 or higher) into their programme; this requires prior permission from the Examination Board. If a student includes a unit of education at master's level here, it can no longer be included in their master's programme.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
3. Prior consent must be obtained from the Examination Board.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

Article 12.2 Minors

1. The student who meets the admission requirements can take a 'University minor' without prior consent from the Examination Board. The 'University minors' are listed on the VU website.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix 3
2. The student can take one of the following minors without prior consent from the Examination Board. Note that a student has to be sure that they meet the admission requirements of the minor that they want to follow: Biomedical Sciences: • Minor Biomolecular Sciences • Minor Neurosciences • Minor Topics in Biomedical Sciences Faculty of Science: • Minor Five Big Issues in Health¹ • Minor Biomedical Topics in Health Care • Minor Communicatie over Gezondheid • Minor Evolutionary Biology and Ecology • Minor Bioinformatics and Systems Biology • Educatieve minor Biologie	Advice OLC; (7.13a)

¹ The minor Five Big Issues in Health will only be offered in 2025-2026 when a minimum of 20 students have signed up for it before 1 July 2025.

School of Business and Economics: - Minor Gezondheidseconomie en Management Faculty of Medicine: - International minor Faculty of Medicine VU (24EC). Biomedical Sciences' students can complete the minor by choosing the course Minor Literature Essay (M_BMITS16) or another course for which they fulfill the requirements for admission. This course requires approval of the Examination Board.	
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Article 13.1 Honours components

The components of the honours programme offered by the faculty or the programme are:

Name of unit of education	course code	nr of EC	level	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
<i>Biomedical Sciences Honours Components</i>				
Extension Bachelor Thesis	A_HP-I-3	6	400	
Honours Research Module	A_HP-I-4	6	400	
Honours Star Variant (3 EC)	A_HP3EC	3	400	
Honours Star Variant (6 EC)	A_HP6EC	6	400	
<i>Science Faculty Honours Courses</i>				
Five O’Clock Neurosciences*	A_HP003	6	400	
Project Science and Tech-based Entrepreneurship*	A_HP007	6	400	
Climate Leadership*	A_HP008	6	400	
Impact of Algorithms on Human Lives*	X_HP015	6	400	

*NB: These Faculty Honours courses are offered every other year. During academic year 2025-2026, HP007 and HP015 will be offered. During academic year 2026-2027, HP_003 and HP_008 will be offered.

14. Binding recommendation on continuation of studies (BSA)

Article 14.1 Binding (negative) recommendation

1. In order to obtain a positive recommendation on continuation of studies, the student must have obtained:	Advice OLC (7.13 f)
a. at least 42 EC of first year's courses by the end of the first year of enrolment.	
2. Students who receive a binding negative recommendation on continuation of studies cannot enrol in the following Bachelor's programme(s) offered by the Faculty during the subsequent three academic years:	Advice OLC (7.13 f)
- B Biomedical Sciences	
3. Not applicable (concerns part-time programmes)	Advice OLC (7.13 f)

15. Evaluation and transitional provisions

Article 15.1 Evaluation of the programme

The education provided in this programme is evaluated in accordance with the document 'Kwaliteitszorg Onderwijs BETA'.	Approval OLC (7.13 a1)
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Article 15.2 Transitional provisions

By way of departure from the Teaching and Examination Regulations currently in force, the following transitional provisions apply for students who started the programme under a previous set of Teaching and Examination Regulations: - The course Biomedical Sciences and Society has moved from year 2 period 3 (compulsory course, course code AB_1011) to year 1 period 5 (elective course, course code AB_1315). A final examination session has been provided for AB_1011. Students who have not passed the final examination session will need to pass Omics (AB_1311). - A preliminary decision has been taken by the Faculty Board for the language of instruction of the Bachelor Biomedical Sciences to change from English to Dutch from academic year 2026-2027 onwards. This means that the language of instruction of a number of courses will most likely change from 2026-2027 onwards. For courses that will no longer be offered in English after 2025-2026, at least one additional opportunity will be provided to sit the examination(s) or parts thereof and a transitional arrangement will be included in the TER 2026-2027.	Advice OLC (7.13 a)
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Approval of the Programme Committee of the curriculum structure (submitted via UAS), on 20/11/2024.

Advice and/or approval by the Programme Committee (with the exception of the curriculum structure),
On 06/06/2025.

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly, on 25/07/2025.

Adopted by the board of the Faculty of Science on 11/08/2025.

Appendix I

Overview of articles that must be included in the Teaching and Examination Regulations:

Section A: Faculty section

2. Study programme structure	
Article 2.1 Structure of academic year and units of education	7.13 paragraph 2 sub e
Article 2.2 Setup of the programme	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a, e, x
3. Assessment and examination	
Article 3.2 Type of examination	7.13 paragraph 2 sub h, l, j
Article 3.3 Oral examinations	7.13 paragraph 2 sub l, n
Article 3.4 Determining and announcing results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub o
Article 3.5 Examination opportunities	7.13 paragraph 2 sub h, j
Article 3.7 Exemption	7.13 paragraph 2 sub r
Article 3.8 Validity period for results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub k
Article 3.9 Right of inspection and post-examination discussion	7.13 paragraph 2 sub p, q
4. Honours programme	
Article 4.1 Honours programme	7.13 paragraph 2 sub v
5. Academic student counselling, recommendation on continuation of studies and study progress	
Article 5.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling	7.13 paragraph 2 sub u
Article 5.2 Recommendation on continuation of studies	7.13 paragraph 2 sub f
Article 5.3 Binding (negative) recommendation on continuation of studies (BSA)	7.13 paragraph 2 sub f
Article 5.4 Personal circumstances	7.13 paragraph 2 sub f
Article 5.5 Facilities for students with a disability	7.13 paragraph 2 sub m

Section B1: Programme-specific section – general provisions

7. General programme information and characteristics	
Article 7.1 Study programme information	7.13 paragraph 2 sub i, r
Article 7.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment	7.13 paragraph 2 sub l, x
[Keuze:] Article 7.3 Academic student counselling	7.13 paragraph 2 sub u
8. Further admission requirements	
Article 8.1 Additional previous education requirements	7.25, paragraph 4
Article 8.2 Entrance examination	7.29, paragraph 2
9. Examinations and results	
Article 9.1 Sequence of examinations	7.13 paragraph 2 sub h, s, t
[Keuze 1:] Article 9.2 Validity period for results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub k
[Of keuze 2:] Article 9.2 Validity period for results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub k

Section B2: Programme-specific section – content of programme

10. Programme objectives, tracks/specialisations and exit qualifications	
Article 10.1 Programme objective	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
Article 10.2 Tracks and/or specialisations	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
Article 10.3 Exit qualifications	7.13 paragraph 2 sub b, c
Article 10.4.1 Language of instruction	9.18 (implementation expected in 2020)

Article 10.4.3 Language test	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a, c
11. Curriculum structure	
Article 11.1 Academic core [<i>keuze</i> : academic development]	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
Article 11.2 Major	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
Article 11.3 Compulsory units of education of the major	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
[<i>Keuze</i> :] Article 11.4 Elective units of education of the major	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
[<i>Keuze</i> :] Article 11.5 Practical exercise	7.13 paragraph 2 sub d
Article 11.6 Participation in practical exercises and tutorials	7.13 paragraph 2 sub d
12. Electives	
Article 12.1 Electives	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
Article 12.2 Minors	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
13. Honours programme	
Article 13.1 Honours components	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
14. Binding recommendation on continuation of studies (BSA)	
Article 14.1 Binding (negative) recommendation	7.13 paragraph 2 sub f
15. Evaluation and transitional provisions	
Article 15.1 Evaluation of the programme	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a1
Article 15.2 Transitional provisions	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a

Appendix II

Overview of advisory and approval rights of Programme Committees (OLC) and Faculty Joint Assembly (FGV)

Article 7.13, paragraph 2, of the Higher Education and Research Act	FGV		OpIC	
	I	A	I	A
a. the content of the programme and the associated examinations				
a1. the manner in which teaching and education in the relevant programme are evaluated				
b. the content of the specialisations offered as part of the programme				
c. the programme's final attainment levels with regard to the knowledge, understanding and skills				
d. where applicable, the design of practical exercises				
e. the workload of the programme and of each of its constituent units of education				
f. the detailed rules referred to in Article 7.8b, sixth paragraph, and Article 7.9, fifth paragraph (recommendation on continuation of studies)				
g. the Master's programmes to which Article 7.4a, eighth paragraph, applies (elevated workload)				
h. the number and sequence of examinations and the times at which these can be taken				
i. the full-time, part-time or work-study structure of the programme				
j. where necessary, the order in which students can take the examinations and the final examinations for Bachelor's and Master's programmes, as well as the timing of and number of opportunities				
k. where necessary, the period of validity for pass grades awarded for examinations, notwithstanding the authority of the Examination Board to extend this period of validity				
l. whether examinations are administered in oral, written or another form, notwithstanding the authority of the Examination Board to decide otherwise				
m. the way in which students with a disability or chronic health condition are given a reasonable opportunity to take the examinations				
n. the public nature of oral examinations, subject to the right of the Examination Board to determine otherwise in special cases				
o. the period within which the results of an examination must be announced, together with details of whether this period can be altered and if so in what way				
p. the way in which and the period within which students who have taken an examination are given the opportunity to inspect their marked work				
q. the way in which and the period within which information can be provided about the questions asked and exercises given in the framework of a written examination and about the standards used for assessment				
r. the grounds on which the Board of Examiners may grant exemptions from taking one or more examinations on the basis of the examinations and the final examinations for Bachelor's and Master's programmes previously completed in higher education, or on the basis of knowledge or skills acquired outside higher education				
s. where necessary, the stipulation that students must pass certain examinations as a condition for admission to other examinations				
t. where necessary, the obligation to take part in certain practical exercises with a view to admission to the examination in question, subject to the authority of the Examination Board to grant exemption from this obligation, with or without the imposition of alternative requirements				
u. the monitoring of academic progress and individual student support and guidance				
v. where applicable, the manner in which students are selected for a special track within a programme as referred to in Article 7.9b (excellence track within a programme)				
x. the actual design of the education provided				
<i>All other matters that are regulated in the Academic and Examination Regulations but which are not mentioned as such in Article 7.13 of the Higher Education and Research Act under points a to x.</i>				

The lettering corresponds to the lettering of Article 7.13 section 2 of the WHW

Abbreviations used:

FGV:	Faculty Joint Assembly
OpIC:	Programme Committee
I:	right of approval
A:	right of advice

Appendix III

Ordinances of VU Executive Board (CvB) and Guidelines in the model Bachelor's TER

Section A, article:	Concerns:	CvB ordinance/guideline
2.1.1, 2.1.2	Year planning two semesters 8-8-4 (uniform year calendar VU-UvA)	29-9-2008 (period 2009-2015) 22-05-2014 (period 2016-2025)
2.1.3, 2.1.4	Units of education	Bachelor's guideline, included in the model TER, revised on 2 July 2019
2.2.1	Setup of the programme	Bachelor's guideline, included in the model TER, revised on 2 July 2019
2.2.2, 2.2.3	Planning academic year (number of contact hours)	Bachelor's guideline, included in the model TER, revised on 2 July 2019
2.2.4	Internationalisation	CvB ordinance, following the advice from the Internationalisation Board and included in the IP
3.1.1, 3.1.2	Signing up for education and examinations	CvB ordinance 17-11-2020, prior consent of USC.
3.4.1	Determination and publication of the results (1) Grading deadline exams ten working days (2) Theses twenty working days	(1) Bachelor's guideline, included in the model TER, revised on 2 July 2019 (2) Quality demand 11 from the VU-wide assessment policy, CvB ordinance 15-05-2012, approval GV 28-02-2013
3.5.1	Two possibilities to take examinations per year	Bachelor's guideline, included in the model TER, revised on 2 July 2019
3.5.2	Resit: most recent grade is valid, resit allowed in case of pass grade	Taken from the UvA guidelines, as part of the harmonisation, CvB ordinance 24-02-2014
3.5.4	One-time extra resit in relation to examination requirement	Included in (prior) model TER 16-17 following a request from E&R committee and adopted by CvB on 28-10-2015
3.6	Grades	CvB ordinance 30-09-2010, prior consent USR. As a result of harmonisation UvA, the guideline: 5.5 is a pass, has been added. CvB ordinance 24-02-2014.
4.1	Honours programme	Joint CvB ordinance UvA-VU, 28-10-2013 Revised 'Regeling VU-UvA Honoursprogramma' on 27-11-2018
5.2.1	Recommendation on continuation of studies (BSA) at end of first year	BSA kaderregeling ordinance CvB 18-01-2010 (1) BSA kaderregeling ordinance CvB 27-10-2015, consent USR on OER 2016-2017 (2) Framework regulation revised on 12-09-2017
5.2.2	Formal warning before February 1st	BSA kaderregeling ordinance CvB 18-01-2010 (1) BSA kaderregeling ordinance CvB 27-10-2015, consent USR on OER 2016-2017 (2) Framework regulation revised on 12-09-2017
5.3	Binding (negative) recommendation on continuation of studies	BSA kaderregeling ordinance CvB 18-01-2010 (1) BSA kaderregeling ordinance CvB 27-10-2015, consent USR on OER 2016-2017 (2) Framework regulation revised on 12-09-2017
Section B1, article:	Concerns:	CvB ordinance/guideline
8.1.3	RATHO	RATHO wetten.nl - Regulation - Regulation for registration in and admission to higher education - BWBR0035059 (overheid.nl)

Section B2, article	Concerns:	CvB ordinance/guideline
10.4.2	'Gedragscode vreemde taal' (Code of conduct for foreign languages)	CvB ordinance 20-07-2009
11.1.1	Academic core	Bachelor's guideline, included in the model TER, revised on 2 July 2019. 6 June 2017 (Possibly 'development' instead of 'core' due to harmonisation with UvA. CvB ordinance 24-02-2014.
11.2	Major	Bachelor's guideline, included in the model TER, revised on 2 July 2019
12.1	Elective period (first semester, third year)	Bachelor's guideline, included in the model TER, revised on 2 July 2019
12.2	Participation in university minor	CvB ordinance Profileringsruimte 22-11-2010

Appendix IV

Article 2.1 of the Higher Education and Research (Implementation) Act

1. The extenuating personal circumstances referred to in Article 7.8b, paragraph 3 and 7.9, paragraph 3 of the Act (WHW) are limited to:

- a. illness of the person concerned,
- b. physical, sensory or other impairment of the person concerned,
- c. pregnancy of the person concerned,
- d. extenuating family circumstances,
- e. membership, including the chairmanship of:

1. universities: the university council, faculty council, the body established under the participation regulation referred to in Article 9.30, paragraph 3, or Article 9.51, paragraph 2, of the Act, the programme management or the programme committee, or membership on the board of a foundation whose bylaws allow for the exploitation of facilities belonging to the student services, or an equivalent body with regard to its activities in the opinion of the board of the institution,

2. universities of applied sciences: the participation council, district council, student committee or programme committee.

- f. other circumstances to be designated by the board of the institution in the regulation as referred to in Article 7.8b, paragraph 6, and Article 7.9, paragraph 5, of the Act in which the person concerned engages in activities within the framework of the organisation and the administration of the affairs of the institution,
- g. membership on the board of a student organisation of a certain size with full legal capacity, or a similar organisation of a certain size, whose primary task regards general societal interest and which actually develops activities for this purpose,
- h. other personal circumstances set out in the Teaching and Examination Regulations as referred to in Article 7.13 of the Act, pursuant to Article 7.13, paragraph 2, clause f of the Act,
- i. personal circumstances other than those referred to in a – h above which, if overlooked by the governing bodies of the institution, would lead to an obviously unfair outcome.

2 The institutional board may, for the purposes of the first paragraph, part g, establish specific rules regarding the maximum number of eligible board members per organisation per academic year, as well as the eligible administrative offices.