

# Teaching and Examination Regulations

## Faculty of Religion and Theology Master's programmes

Academic year 2020-2021

### A. Faculty section

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam



Faculty of Religion  
and Theology

## Index

<b>Section A: Faculty section</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1. General provisions</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations .....	3
Article 1.2 Definitions .....	3
<b>2. Study programme structure</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Article 2.1 Structure of academic year and educational components.....	4
<b>3. Assessment and Examination</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Article 3.1 Signing up for education and interim examinations .....	4
Article 3.2 Type of examination.....	5
Article 3.3 Oral interim examinations .....	5
Article 3.4 Determining and announcing results .....	5
Article 3.5 Examination opportunities.....	5
Article 3.6 Marks .....	6
Article 3.7 Exemption .....	6
Article 3.8 Validity period for results.....	6
Article 3.9 Right of inspection and post-examination discussion.....	6
<b>4. Academic student counselling and study progress</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Article 4.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling .....	6
Article 4.2 Facilities for students with a disability .....	7
<b>5. Hardship clause</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Article 5.1 Hardship clause .....	7

## 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 become effective on 1 September 2020.	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. CvB: the Executive Board of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
- c. EC (European Credit): an EC credit with a workload of 28 hours of study;
- d. educational component: a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW;
- e. examination: the final examination of the Master's programme;
- f. FGV: Faculty joint assembly – assembly of the faculty student council and faculty staff council;
- g. interim examination: an assessment of the student's knowledge, understanding and skills relating to a course component. The assessment is expressed in terms of a final mark. An interim examination may consist of one or more partial examinations. A resit always covers the same material as the original interim examination;
- h. 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;
- i. OLC: programme committee;
- j. period: a part of a semester;
- k. practical exercise: the 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;

l. programme:	the totality and cohesion of the course components, teaching activities/methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature;
m. SAP/SLM:	the student information system ( <i>Student Lifecycle Management</i> );
n. semester:	the first (September - January) or second half (February - August) of an academic year;
o. specialization	optional route of study within a degree programme indicating a deepening of the (inter/multi) disciplinary context of the programme;
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: <a href="https://www.vu.nl/en/study-guide/">https://www.vu.nl/en/study-guide/</a> ;
q. study monitor ( <i>studiemonitor</i> ):	dashboard for students and academic advisors with data of the student and that provides insight into the student's study progress;
r. subject	see 'educational component';
s. track	full route of study within a broad bachelor's or master's degree programme or a fully English-language route of study within a Dutch-language bachelor's or master's degree;
t. thesis:	a component comprising research into the literature and/or contributing to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;
u. university:	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;
v. WHW:	the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act ( <i>Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek</i> );
w. workload:	the workload of the unit of study to which an interim 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 educational components

1. The study programme will be offered in a year divided into two semesters.	Ordinance CvB
2. Every semester consists of three consecutive periods of eight, eight and four weeks	Ordinance CvB
3. An educational component comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof.	Ordinance CvB
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 study comprises 3 EC or a multiple thereof.	Ordinance CvB

## 3. Assessment and Examination

### Article 3.1 Signing up for education and interim examinations

1. Every student must sign up to participate in the educational components of the programme, the examinations and resits. The procedure for signing up is described in an annex to the Student Charter.	Ordinance CvB
2. Signing up may only take place in the designated periods.	Ordinance CvB

### Article 3.2 Type of examination

1. At the examiner's and/or student's request, the Examinations Board may permit a different form of interim examination than is stipulated in the study guide.	Advice OLC, Approval FGV (7.13 l)
---	---

### Article 3.3 Oral interim examinations

1. An oral assessment is public unless the Examinations Board in special cases determines otherwise.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 l and n)
--	---

### Article 3.4 Determining and announcing results

1. The examiner determines the result of a written interim examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within ten working days. By way of departure from that stipulated in the first clause, the marking deadline for theses and other final projects is no longer than twenty working days. 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
2. The examiner determines the result (i.e. mark) of an oral examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within two working days 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 forms of examination other than oral or written examinations, the Examinations Board determines in advance how and by what deadline the student will be informed of the results.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 o)

### Article 3.5 Examination opportunities

1. a. Per academic year, two opportunities to take examinations per educational component will be offered. b. By way of exception to a., the options for retaking practical components, work placements and theses are detailed in the relevant work placement manual, teaching regulations or graduation regulations.	Ordinance CvB
2. The most recent mark will apply in the event of a resit. A retake is allowed for both passed and failed units of study.	Ordinance CvB
3. The resit for a (partial) interim examination must not take place within ten working days of the announcement of the result of the (partial) examination being resat.	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) is lacking only those credits to qualify for his or her degree; 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 assignments and the Master's thesis. Requests for an additional examination opportunity must be submitted to the Examination Board no later than 1 July. If necessary, the method of examination may deviate from the provisions in the study guide.	Ordinance CvB
5. If an educational component is no longer offered, at least one opportunity will be provided to sit the interim examination(s) or parts thereof and/or a transitional arrangement will be included in the programme-specific section for the subsequent period.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (7.13 j)

**Article 3.6 Marks**

1. Marks are given on a scale from 1 to 10 with no more than one decimal point.	Ordinance CvB
2. The final marks are given in whole or half points.	Ordinance CvB
3. In deviation from paragraph 2, final marks between 5 and 6 will be rounded off to whole marks: up to 5.50 rounded down; from 5.50 rounded up. To pass a course, a 6 or higher is required.	Ordinance CvB
4. The Examination Board can allow to use symbols rather than numbers, for example; v(oldaan), g(oed), n(iet)v(ol)d(aan), etc.)	Ordinance CvB

**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 the student has passed an earlier examination in higher education in the Netherlands or abroad that is equivalent in terms of subject area, level and study load to what is required for the unit of study for which an exemption is requested.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 r)
2. The Master's thesis is excluded from this exemption possibility.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)

**Article 3.8 Validity period for results**

1. The validity period of interim examinations passed and exemption from interim 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 study concerned, as stipulated for the relevant unit of study in Section B.	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 interim examination, the student can, on request, inspect his or her assessed work, the questions and assignments set in it, as well as the standards applied for marking. The place and time referred to in the previous clause will be announced at the time of the interim examination or on Canvas.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 p en q)
2. If a collective post-examination discussion has been organized, individual post-examination discussions will be held only if the student has attended the collective discussion or if the student was unable to attend the collective discussion through no fault of his or her own.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 q)
3. Students who meet the requirements stipulated in paragraph 1 can submit a request for an individual post-examination discussion to the relevant examiner. The discussion shall take place at a time and location to be determined by the examiner.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 p en q)

**4. Academic student counselling and study progress****Article 4.1 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 an educational component 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 his or her disposal in VUnet.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 u)
2. Enrolled students are eligible for academic student counselling. Academic student	Advice OLC;

counselling is in any case provided by a. The Student General Counselling Service b. Student psychologists c. Faculty academic advisors	approval FGV (7.13 u)
--	--------------------------

#### Article 4.2 Facilities for students with a disability

1. A student with a disability can, at the moment of submission to VUnet, or at a later instance, submit a request to qualify for one or more special facilities with regard to teaching, practical training and interim examinations. These facilities will accommodate the student's individual disability as much as possible, but may not alter the quality or degree of difficulty of a unit of study 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 single (one time) request suffices.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
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 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 Examinations Board will rule 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 advisor 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 organization or the resources of the faculty or university were it upheld.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
7. If the disability justifies an extension of the interim examination time, the responsible person on behalf of the Examinations Board will register in SAP this entitlement to an extension. If a disability justifies other measures to be taken, the academic advisor can take the necessary measures. The student can consult the study monitor to check which facilities have been granted to him/her.	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)

## 5. Hardship clause

### Article 5.1 Hardship clause

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

Advice and approval by the Programme Committee, on 23 May 2020

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly, on 18 June 2020

Adopted by the board of the Faculty of Religion and Theology on 24 August 2020

# **Teaching and Examination Regulations**

## **Master's programme Theology and Religious Studies (60 EC)**

### **Faculty of Religion and Theology**

#### **Academic year 2020-2021**

B1. Programme specific section - general provisions

B2. Programme specific section – content of programme



## Index

<b>Section B1: Programme specific – general provisions</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>6. General programme information and characteristics</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Article 6.1 Study programme information.....	3
Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment .....	3
<b>7. Further admission requirements</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Article 7.1 Intake date(s) .....	3
Article 7.2 Admission requirements .....	3
Article 7.3 Pre-Master's programme .....	4
<b>8. Interim examinations and results</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Article 8.1 Sequence of interim examinations .....	5
Article 8.2 Validity period for results.....	5
<b>Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>9. Programme objectives, tracks/specializations, exit qualifications and language</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Article 9.1 Workload .....	6
Article 9.2 Tracks and/or specializations.....	6
Article 9.3 Programme objective .....	6
Article 9.4 Exit qualifications .....	6
Article 9.5 Language of instruction.....	9
<b>10. Curriculum structure</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Article 10.1 Composition of the programme.....	9
Article 10.2 Compulsory educational components.....	10
Article 10.3 Elective educational components .....	10
Article 10.4 Practical exercise .....	10
Article 10.5 Participation in practical exercise and seminars.....	10
<b>11. Evaluation and transitional provisions</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Article 11.1 Evaluation of the education.....	10
Article 11.2 Transitional provisions .....	10

## Section B1: Programme specific – general provisions

### 6. General programme information and characteristics

#### Article 6.1 Study programme information

1.	The programme Master Theology and Religious Studies CROHO number 60824 is offered on a full-time and part-time basis.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 i)
1a	The part-time programme has a nominal duration of study of 2 years.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 i)

#### Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment

1.	The degree programme uses the following teaching formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture</li> <li>• Tutorial</li> <li>• Workshop</li> <li>• Seminar</li> <li>• Online lecture</li> <li>• Work visit</li> <li>• Internship</li> <li>• Summer school</li> </ul>	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 x)
2.	The modes of assessment used per educational component are specified in the study guide. The modes of assessment that the student actually encounter can depend on the track they choose. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written examination</li> <li>• Take home exam</li> <li>• (Written) assignment</li> <li>• Paper</li> <li>• Presentation</li> <li>• Essay</li> <li>• Participation</li> <li>• Portfolio</li> <li>• Log</li> <li>• Internship report</li> <li>• Thesis</li> </ul> <p>In view of the measures taken in response to the Corona virus, assessment forms may be modified.</p>	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 l)

### 7. Further admission requirements

#### Article 7.1 Intake date(s)

The programme starts on September 1.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
--------------------------------------	---

#### Article 7.2 Admission requirements

1. Admission to the Master's programme is possible for an applicant who has obtained a Bachelor's degree at an institution of academic higher education, which demonstrates the following knowledge, understanding and skills:	Partly legal provision & ordinance CvB. Admission
--	--

<p>- Familiarity with hermeneutical research methods used in theology and/or religious studies. Directly admissible to the programme are students with a Bachelor's degree in Theology, Religious Studies, Social Sciences, Humanities, Law and Behavioral Sciences, as well as students who did the integrated minor at the Christelijke Hogeschool Ede (CHE). Students with other Bachelor's degrees must do a premaster programme: either the specific Interreligieuze Geestelijke Verzorging for students who want to do the Master Spiritual Care or a general pre-Master's programme for all the others.</p> <p>- Introductory knowledge of, and insight in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Students can prove their knowledge of the five world religions by means of an academic course world religions, non-Christian religions or a certificate of the MOOC Religious Literacy: Traditions and Scriptures (offered by Harvard University).</p>	<p>requirements excepted from participation in WHW</p>
<p>2. Applicants who wish to follow the track Exploring a Discipline must, in addition to the provisions in paragraph 1, also meet the following requirements with regard to:</p> <p>a. knowledge of and insight in the discipline they will explore  b. skills in Biblical Hebrew if the discipline is Biblical Studies &amp; Digital Humanities  c. skills in either Biblical Hebrew or Greek if the discipline is Bible Translation</p> <p>Applicants who wish to follow the track Spiritual Care must demonstrate general insight in (1) World religions, (2) Sexuality, sexual development and sexual abuse; (3) Palliative care, loss and mourning; (4) conversation skills, including official secrecy and (5) religion and psychopathology; and specific insight in their own religion/worldview, especially in its ethical side. This knowledge can be acquired by means of the premaster Interreligious Spiritual Care (60EC).</p>	<p>Partly legal provision &amp; ordinance CvB. Admission requirements excepted from participation in WHW</p>
<p>3. Applicants with a bachelor's degree obtained at an institution outside the Netherlands may be asked for additional methods to prove that they meet the admission requirements.</p>	<p>Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)</p>
<p>4. An applicant should demonstrate that he or she has sufficient level of proficiency in English by meeting at least one of the following standards, no more than two (2) years before the start of the programme at the VU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (academic) IELTS: 6.5</li> <li>- TOEFL paper based test: 580</li> <li>- TOEFL internet based test 92</li> </ul>	<p>Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)</p>
<p>5. Applicants who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- completed an English-taught secondary or higher education degree in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand or Australia or</li> <li>- have earned a Bachelor's or Master's degree in an English-taught programme accredited by NVAO in the Netherlands, or</li> <li>- have earned a Bachelor's or Master's degree in an accredited English-taught programme in another member state of the European Union</li> <li>- have obtained a Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) or a Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE) with a score of A, B or C.</li> </ul> <p>are exempted from the requirements referred to in paragraph 4.</p>	<p>Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)</p>

### Article 7.3 Pre-Master's programme

<p>1. Applicants with a Bachelor's degree of a university of applied science (HBO) in a field that corresponds to a sufficient extent with the subject area covered by the Master's programme can request admission to a pre-Master's programme.</p>	<p>Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)</p>
--	--

2. Further conditions and the procedure are set out in the relevant Pre-Master regulation of the faculty.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
---	---

## 8. Interim examinations and results

### Article 8.1 Sequence of interim examinations

1. Students may participate in interim examinations or practical exercises of the components below only if they have passed the interim examination or examinations for the components mentioned hereinafter:	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 h, s & t)
Internship (G_INTERN) after obtaining 12 EC, of which at least one required module (6 EC)	
Thesis (G_1MATHES) after passing Research Skills (G_RESSK) or Comparative Ethics (G_COMPET)	

### Article 8.2 Validity period for results

1. If the student's knowledge assessed is demonstrably outdated, or if the student's skills assessed are demonstrably outdated, the Examination Board may impose a supplementary or replacement examination for a course for which an examination was passed more than 6 years ago.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 k)
---	---

## Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme

### 9. Programme objectives, tracks/specializations, exit qualifications and language

#### Article 9.1 Workload

1. The programme has a workload of 60 EC.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
---	-------------------------

#### Article 9.2 Tracks and/or specializations

The programme has the following tracks: - Building Interreligious Relations - Exploring a Discipline - Media - Peace, Trauma and Religion - Spiritual Care	Approval OLC (7.13 b)
---	--------------------------

#### Article 9.3 Programme objective

<p>1. The Master's has a final attainment level corresponding to the Dublin Descriptors (the Framework of Qualifications for the European Higher Education Area) and the Higher Education Qualifications Framework in the Netherlands.</p> <p>2. The degree programme aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>educate students by giving them the knowledge, understanding and skills described each in the programme-specific section;</li> <li>guide students in scientific practice;</li> <li>prepare students for professional practice in the relevant field;</li> <li>foster independent, academic thinking and practice as well as communication at an academic level in the language or languages of instruction;</li> <li>foster the independent application of specialist academic knowledge in a wider philosophical and social context.</li> </ol> <p>3. The degree programme focuses on the student's personal development and promotes his or her awareness of social responsibility.</p>	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
---	-------------------------

#### Article 9.4 Exit qualifications

<p>1. The Master of Theology and Religious studies programme seeks to enable students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to show in-depth theoretical knowledge in the subjects that belong to the chosen subprogram;</li> <li>to reflect theologically and critically on the issues that pertain to the chosen subprogram and to place them in a multi-disciplinary frame of reference;</li> <li>to identify the various definitions of hermeneutics as a basis for developing an adequate hermeneutic theory and dialogical praxis and to apply various hermeneutic theories in cases pertinent to your master specialization;</li> <li>to make independent critical judgments on the basis of limited data and with an eye on the social and ethical implications;</li> <li>to communicate the results of research efforts to diverse audiences of specialists and non-specialists;</li> <li>to study largely self-directed or autonomous and to conduct independent scholarly research within the area of the chosen subprogram, as shown in the thesis;</li> <li>to develop a coherent overview of a professional field linked to the chosen subprogram and to develop basic skills of a starting professional in this field through participation.</li> </ol>	Approval OLC (7.13 c)
--	--------------------------

<p>2. These aims of the programme are realized in the tracks as follows:</p> <p><i>a Exploring a Discipline</i> The Master of Theology and Religious studies subprogramme Exploring a Discipline seeks to enable students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to show in-depth theoretical knowledge in the subjects that belong to the chosen discipline;</li> <li>2. to reflect theologically and critically on the issues that pertain to the chosen discipline and to place them in a multi-disciplinary frame of reference;</li> <li>3. to identify the various definitions of hermeneutics as a basis for developing an adequate hermeneutic theory and dialogical praxis and to apply various hermeneutic theories in cases pertinent to the chosen discipline;</li> <li>4. to make independent critical judgments on the basis of limited data and with an eye on the social and ethical implications;</li> <li>5. to communicate the results of research efforts to diverse audiences of specialists and non- specialists;</li> <li>6. to study largely self-directed or autonomous and to conduct independent scholarly research within the area of the chosen discipline, as shown in the thesis;</li> <li>7. to develop a coherent overview of the professional field linked to the chosen discipline and to develop basic skills of a young professional in this field through participation.</li> </ol> <p><i>b Media</i> The Master of Theology and Religious studies subprogramme Media seeks to enable students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to show in-depth theoretical knowledge in the area of media and communication in relation to religion and spirituality, media sociology and media ethics and understanding of the religious dimensions and development of today's media culture, the implications of these for established religions, religious communities and individuals;</li> <li>2. to reflect theologically and critically on the function of media in religion, religion in the media and reflect theologically and creatively on one's own (non-)religious identity in relation to popular culture and to place these in a multi-disciplinary frame of reference;</li> <li>3. to identify the various definitions of hermeneutics as a basis for developing an adequate hermeneutic theory and dialogical praxis and to apply various hermeneutic theories in cases in which mediation of religion is involved;</li> <li>4. to make independent critical judgments on the basis of limited data and with an eye on the social and ethical implications;</li> <li>5. to communicate the results of research efforts to diverse audiences of specialists and non- specialists;</li> <li>6. to study largely self-directed or autonomous and to conduct independent scholarly research within the area of Media, religion/theology and culture;</li> <li>7. to develop a coherent overview of the professional field of media, communication and religion and to develop basics skills of a young professional in this field through participation.</li> </ol> <p><i>c Spiritual Care</i> The Master of Theology and Religious studies subprogramme Spiritual Care seeks to enable students:</p>	<p>Approval OLC (7.13)</p>
--	--------------------------------

1. to show in-depth theoretical knowledge in the key concepts which define the domain of Spiritual Care;
2. to reflect critically (from the perspective of theology and religious studies) on the way of recognizing, analyzing, and approaching the vulnerability of human lives both in religious and non-religious traditions;
3. to identify the various definitions of hermeneutics as a basis for developing an adequate hermeneutic theory and dialogical praxis and to apply various hermeneutic theories on existential themes in the narrative of clients;
4. to make independent critical judgments on the basis of limited data and with an eye on the social and ethical implications as well as the relation with other disciplines, the organizational context and religious authorities;
5. to communicate the results of research efforts to diverse audiences of specialists and non-specialists and to communicate appropriately and respectfully about one's own and other religious and/or spiritual traditions;
6. to study largely self-directed or autonomous and to conduct independent scholarly research within the area of Spiritual Care;
7. to develop a coherent view of the professional field of Spiritual Care, to develop the ability to situate oneself authentically in this field and to develop the skills required for an initial start as a professional in this field.

#### *d Building Interreligious Relations*

The Master of Theology and Religious studies subprogramme Building Interreligious Relations seeks to enable students:

1. to show in-depth theoretical knowledge in the emerging field of interreligious studies: (1) be able to distinguish this field from both religious studies, comparative religion and theology of religions; (2) be able to identify the main scholarly positions in the field; (3) understand why this field requires a multidisciplinary approach
2. to reflect critically on the way dominant scholarly and/or societal assumptions with regard to religion (what religion is; how it relates to violence; the division between religion and the secular...) impacts the way diversity related conflicts are framed and analyzed.
3. to be able to understand and apply different hermeneutical strategies to a variety of 'sacred' texts and develop a differential and dialogical hermeneutics.
4. to be able to connect theory and praxis, and to analyse judgements and propose on concrete solutions to cases about diversity related problems;
5. to communicate the results of research efforts to diverse audiences of specialists and non-specialists;
6. to study largely self-directed or autonomous and to conduct independent scholarly research within the field of interreligious studies.
7. to develop a coherent overview of the professional field of interreligious studies and develop basic skills of a young professional in this field through participation.

#### *e Peace, Trauma and Religion*

The Master of Theology and Religious studies subprogramme Peace, Trauma and Religion seeks to enable students:

1. To show in depth theoretical knowledge in contemporary studies on peace and reconciliation and/or trauma and healing in contexts of conflict and war and in post-conflict contexts;
2. To reflect theologically and critically on the the role played by religious traditions in

<p>legitimizing conflict and violence and creating conflicting identities;</p> <p>3. To identify the various definitions of hermeneutics as a basis for developing an adequate hermeneutical theology and dialogical praxis and to apply various hermeneutical theories to the theories and practices of reconciliation, peace building and trauma healing;</p> <p>4. To make independent critical judgments on the basis of limited data and with an eye on social and moral implications;</p> <p>5. To communicate the results of research efforts to diverse audiences of specialists and non-specialists;</p> <p>6. To study largely self-directed or autonomous and to conduct independent scholarly research within the field of Violence, Religion and Reconciliation in a religious/theological perspective;</p> <p>7. To gain a coherent knowledge and overview in the field of conflict-studies, peace-building and trauma-healing mechanisms and to develop the basic skills of a young professional in this field through participation.</p>	
3. Language proficiency is taken into account in the assessment of (interim) examinations	Approval OLC (7.13 c)

#### Article 9.5 Language of instruction

1. The language of instruction is English. The languages of instruction of the track Spiritual Care are Dutch and English.	Approval OLC (9.18)
2. The 'Gedragcode vreemde taal' (code of conduct foreign languages) applies	Ordinance CvB

## 10. Curriculum structure

#### Article 10.1 Composition of the programme

1. The programme comprises at least a package of compulsory components and an individual Master's thesis or academic internship.	Ordinance CvB
2. Additionally the programme can offer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Practical exercises</li> <li>- Electives</li> <li>- Supervision</li> </ul>	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
3. Educational components are categorized as specialized (400), research oriented (500) and highly specialized (600) level.	Ordinance CvB
4. It is possible to graduate in two tracks within the Master's programme Theology and Religious Studies. The following requirements apply: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. All compulsory modules of the two tracks must be successfully completed, whereby the overlapping modules (with the same module code) only need to be completed once; the master seminar also only needs to be completed once;</li> <li>b. The student does two internships of 12 ec each or one combined internship of 18 ec in total;</li> <li>c. An exception to the stipulation in paragraph b is that the professional internship for the track Spiritual Care cannot be combined;</li> <li>d. The student shall write two theses of 12 ec each or one combined thesis of 18 ec in total;</li> <li>e. Core courses of the first track may be used as electives for the second track and vice versa;</li> </ol>	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)



The number of credits in the master's programme with two theses with a combined thesis and a combined internship is therefore at least 78 ec.	
---	--

#### Article 10.2 Compulsory educational components

See appendix 2. A detailed description per educational component can be found in the Study Guide.

#### Article 10.3 Elective educational components

1. See appendix 2. A detailed description per educational component can be found in the Study Guide.	
2. If the student wishes to take a different educational component than listed, advance permission must be obtained in writing from the Examinations Board.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)

#### Article 10.4 Practical exercise

The following components can be considered as practical exercises:				Approval OLC (7.13 d)
Name of educational component	course code	nr of EC	level	
Thesis	G_1MATHES	12	500	
Internship	G_INTERN	12	500	

#### Article 10.5 Participation in practical exercise and seminars

1. In the case of a practical exercise, the student must attend at least 80 % of the sessions if needed for obtaining the learning goals. Should the student attend less than 80 %, he or she must repeat the practical exercise, or the Examinations Board may have one or more supplementary assignments issued.	Approval OLC (7.13 d)
2. In the case of a seminar, the student must attend at least 80 % of the sessions if needed for obtaining the learning goals. Should the student attend less than 80 %, he or she must repeat the seminar, or the Examinations Board may have one or more supplementary assignments issued.	Approval OLC (7.13 d)
3. In exceptional circumstances, the Examinations Board may, at the request of the student, permit an exemption from this requirement if, in the opinion of the Board, the assessment of the intended skills is also possible with a lesser percentage of participation, with or without the imposition of supplementary requirements.	

## 11. Evaluation and transitional provisions

#### Article 11.1 Evaluation of the education

1. The education provided in this programme is evaluated in accordance with the evaluation plan (Appendix 1). The faculty evaluation plan offers the framework.	Approval OLC (7.13 a1)
---	---------------------------

#### Article 11.2 Transitional provisions

N.A.	Advice OLC (7.13 a)
------	------------------------

Advice and approval by the Programme Committee, on 11 May 2020

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly, on 18 June 2020

Adopted by the board of the Faculty of Religion and Theology on 24 August 2020

#### Appendices

1. Evaluation of Education in the Faculty of Religion and Theology
2. Programme overview

## **Appendix 1**

### **Evaluation of the education in the Faculty of Religion and Theology**

Course and curriculum evaluations are aimed at improving the quality of the education. Each year the Faculty Board adopts an evaluation plan, which is drawn up under the responsibility of the Dean of Education (portefeuillehouder onderwijs) and discussed with the faculty's Programme Directors (opleidingsdirecteuren), Examination Board and Programme Committees.

#### **Course evaluations**

The following criteria are applied when designating a module as requiring evaluation:

- each course is evaluated (at least) once every three years. This means that in any event one-third of all courses will be covered.
- courses taught by new teachers;
- all newly developed (or fundamentally altered) courses;
- courses that are included in the Examination Committees' annual plans;
- all courses in new or renewed programmes of study;
- all less well rated courses, with scores of < 3.5 for questions 6 (overall rating of the quality of the course content), 17 and 39 (overall rating of the teaching qualities of the teacher) and/or 23 (overall rating of the exam);
- all courses in the university minor Islam;
- courses with more than eight enrolled students which were designated as requiring evaluation in the previous year, but for which no evaluation results are available.

As the previous evaluation system (VUnet DE) will be replaced by a new evaluation system in 2020-2021, it will not be possible to use digital questionnaires during the first semester of 2020-2021. During this period, paper-based evaluations will be possible at a limited scale. Other courses may be evaluated using qualitative forms of evaluation (see "Other ways of evaluating education" below) or may, as an exception, not be evaluated at all.

The evaluation reports of courses within one or more programmes can be viewed by:

- the Programme Directors;
- the contacts for evaluations in the programme committees, who are responsible for further distribution to the other programme committee members. The programme committees record their discussions (and, possibly, ensuing actions) regarding the evaluation reports in their annual reports.

#### **Curriculum evaluations**

The basic principle is that a programme of study is evaluated in any case before the start of a mid-term review or visitation and after every (major) change to the programme of study. BA and MA questionnaires are sent electronically. The Programme Director may add additional questions to the questionnaire. The period in which the questionnaire is sent is determined in consultation with the programme. The results of curriculum evaluations may be discussed with the Work and Employment Advisory Committee, as well as with the Programme Committee.

### **Other ways of evaluating education**

There are other ways of evaluating education besides digital evaluations. The chapter about evaluation of education in the Quality Manual of the Vrije Universiteit offers an overview of qualitative methods that can be used to evaluate and improve education, such as: panel discussions, peer review and quick summary of strengths and suggestions. These evaluation methods are encouraged in the faculty.

### **National Student Survey**

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam takes part in the National Student Survey, which is conducted every spring. The National Student Survey can provide useful information on how students view their programme. The results of the National Student Survey are considered in the programme annual reports.

# ANNUAL PLAN MASTER THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM BUILDING INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS 2020-2021

WEEK	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Period 1						Period 2						Period 3						Period 4						Period 5						Period 6												
<i>parttime year 1</i>	G_BIR1 [6 EC] Building interreligious Relations 1										G_BIR2 [6 EC] Building Interreligious Relations 2												G_COMPET [6 EC] Compara-tive Ethics				G_INTERN [12 EC] Internship																
	G_MASEM [6 EC] ** Master Seminar																																										
<i>parttime year 2</i>	G_MAHERMN [6 EC] Hermeneutics										Elective [6 EC] * Research Module or Professional Stream Module														G_1MATHES [12 EC] Master Thesis																		

\* Elective [6 EC]: One module from the Research Modules or Professional Stream Modules.

\*\* The course *Master Seminar* is taught in period 1 till 6. Part time students will take this course in the same year as their Internship.

## \* Professional Stream Modules (PSM) - see study guide for course description

Period 2:

G_MED2	Media 2
G_LDOC	Life and Death in Orthodox Christianity
G_SPICA2	Spiritual Care 2
G_TISC	Theory of Islamic Spiritual Care
W_FRAAGE	Arguing for and against God's Existence
W_FRFAR	Faith and Reason

## \* Research Modules (RM) - see study guide for course description

Period 2:

G_RMISISL	Islam and Interfaith Relations
G_PTR4	Religion, Violence and Trauma
G_RMMIND	Mindfulness
G_RMRM06	Religion and the Making of Identity in Early Christianity
G_RMBS02	Studies in Leviticus
G_RMRE05	Creation and Redemption: Reformed and Evangelical Theology
L_GOMAALG004	From Constantine to Muhamed
L_TAMATWS013	Working Sessions Bible Translation

GENERAL REQUIRED MODULE
  REQUIRED MODULE FOR THIS SPECIALIZATION
  ELECTIVE
  WEEK OF EXAMS
  HOLIDAYS
 Additional: No education in week 18

Subject to changes in this annual plan

# ANNUAL PLAN MASTER THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM EXPLORING A DISCIPLINE 2020-2021

WEEK	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Period 1						Period 2						Period 3						Period 4						Period 5						Period 6												
parttime year 1	G_RM [6 EC] ** Research module of the chosen Specialization 1 <i>or</i> W_FRNCG [6 EC] The Nature and Character of God <i>or</i> G_BAEBET1 [6 EC] Exploring Baptist & Evangelical Theology 1						G_RM [6 EC] ** Research module of the chosen Specialization 2 <i>or</i> W_FRAAGE [6 EC] Arguing for and Against God's Existence <i>or</i> W_FRFAR [6 EC] Faith and Reason <i>or</i> G_BAEBET2 [6 EC] Exploring Baptist & Evangelical Theology 2						G_RESSK [6 EC] Research Skills ****						G_INTERN [12 EC] Internship																								
	G_MASEM [6 EC] *** Master Seminar																																										
parttime year 2	G_MAHERMN [6 EC] Hermeneutics						Elective [6 EC] * Research Module or Professional Stream Module <i>or</i> W_FRAAGE [6 EC] Arguing for and Against God's Existence <i>or</i> W_FRFAR [6 EC] Faith and Reason												G_1MATHES [12 EC] Master Thesis																								

\* Elective [6 EC]: One module from the Research Modules or Professional Stream Modules.

The modules *Arguing for and Against Gods existence* and *Faith and Reason* (period 2) belong together, you have to choose both, one as an elective.

\*\* Module number depends on the chosen Research module.

\*\*\* The course *Master Seminar* is taught in period 1 till 6. Part time students will take this course in the same year as their Internship.

\*\*\*\* Part time students: the course *Research Skills* has to be completed in the second year of the study. The study load of this course is a fulltime study load. The study load of this course can be distributed over two years (in consultation with the course coordinator).

## \* Professional Stream Modules (PSM) - see study guide for course description

Period 2:

G_MED2	Media 2
G_LDOC	Life and Death in Orthodox Christianity
G_SPICA2	Spiritual Care 2
G_TISC	Theory of Islamic Spiritual Care

## \* Research Modules (RM) - see study guide for course description

Period 1:

G_RMISMOD	Modern Trends in Islamic Thought
G_PTR1	Peace, Trauma and Religion 1
G_RMBOTM1	Buddhism on the Move
G_RMRM05	Stories of Exiles
G_RMBS05	Digital Hermeneutics and the Reception of the Bible
G_RMIRET	Introduction to Reformed and Evangelical Theology
G_RMCONT	Contextual Interpretations: Cases from the Hebrew Bible
G_RMEC04	Apocalypse and Empire

G\_BIR1 Building Interreligious Relations 2  
 G\_AAMAOHS001 From Christ to Constantine: Judaism and Christianity in their Graeco-Roman Contexts  
 L\_TAMATHE012 Introduction Bible Translation Studies

Period 2:

G\_RMISL Islam and Interfaith Relations  
 G\_PTR4 Religion, Violence and Trauma  
 G\_RMMIND Mindfulness  
 G\_RMRM06 Religion and the Making of Identity in Early Christianity  
 G\_RMBS02 Studies in Leviticus  
 G\_RMRE05 Creation and Redemption: Reformed and Evangelical Theology  
 G\_BIR2 Building interreligious Relations 2  
 L\_GOMAALG004 From Constantine to Muhamed  
 L\_TAMATWS013 Working Sessions Bible Translation

 GENERAL REQUIRED MODULE
  REQUIRED MODULE FOR THIS SPECIALIZATION
  ELECTIVE
  WEEK OF EXAMS
  HOLIDAYS
 Additional: No education in week 18

**Subject to changes in this annual plan**

# ANNUAL PLAN MASTER THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM MEDIA 2020-2021

WEEK	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	<b>Period 1</b>						<b>Period 2</b>						<b>Period 3</b>						<b>Period 4</b>						<b>Period 5</b>						<b>Period 6</b>												
<i>parttime year 1</i>	G_MED1 [6 EC] Media 1						G_MED2 [6 EC] Media 2						G_RESSK [6 EC] Research Skills ***						G_INTERN [12 EC] Internship						G_MASEM [6 EC] ** Master Seminar																		
<i>parttime year 2</i>	G_MAHERMN [6 EC] Hermeneutics						Elective [6 EC] * Research Module or Professional Stream Module						G_1MATHES [12 EC] Master Thesis																														

\* Elective [6 EC]: One module from the Research Modules or Professional Stream Modules.

\*\* The course *Master Seminar* is taught in period 1 till 6. Part time students will take this course in the same year as their Internship.

\*\*\* Part time students: the course *Research Skills* has to be completed in the second year of the study. The study load of this course is a fulltime study load. The study load of this course can be distributed over two years (in consultation with the course coordinator).

## \* Professional Stream Modules (PSM) - see study guide for course description

Period 2:

G_LDOC	Life and Death in Orthodox Christianity
G_SPICA2	Spiritual Care 2
G_TISC	Theory of Islamic Spiritual Care
W_FRAAGE	Arguing for and against God's Existence
W_FRFAR	Faith and Reason

## \* Research Modules (RM) - see study guide for course description

Period 2:

G_RMISISL	Islam and Interfaith Relations
G_PTR4	Religion, Violence and Trauma
G_RMMIND	Mindfulness
G_RMIRM06	Religion and the Making of Identity in Early Christianity
G_RMBS02	Studies in Leviticus
G_RMRE05	Creation and Redemption: Reformed and Evangelical Theology
G_BIR2	Building interreligious Relations 2
L_GOMAALG004	From Constantine to Muhamed
L_TAMATWS013	Working Sessions Bible Translation

GENERAL REQUIRED MODULE
  REQUIRED MODULE FOR THIS SPECIALIZATION
  ELECTIVE
  WEEK OF EXAMS
  HOLIDAYS
 Additional: No education in week 18

Subject to changes in this annual plan

# ANNUAL PLAN MASTER THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM PEACE, TRAUMA AND RELIGION 2020-2021

WEEK	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Period 1						Period 2						Period 3						Period 4						Period 5						Period 6												
parttime year 1	G_PTR1 [6 EC] Peace, Trauma and Religion 1: Just Peace						G_PTR4 [6 EC] Religion, Violence and Trauma						G_RESSK [6 EC] Research Skills ***						G_INTERN [12 EC] Internship																								
	G_MASEM [6 EC] ** Master Seminar																																										
parttime year 2	G_MAHERMN [6 EC] Hermeneutics						Elective [6 EC] * Research Module or Professional Stream Module or G_3MARMG Religie en mentale gezondheid												G_1MATHES [12 EC] Master Thesis																								

\* Elective [6 EC]: One module from the Research Modules or Professional Stream Modules.

\*\* The course *Master Seminar* is taught in period 1 till 6. Part time students will take this course in the same year as their Internship.

\*\*\* Part time students: the course *Research Skills* has to be completed in the second year of the study. The study load of this course is a fulltime study load. The study load of this course can be distributed over two years (in consultation with the course coordinator).

## \* Professional Stream Modules (PSM) - see study guide for course description

Period 2:

G_MED2	Media 2
G_LDOC	Life and Death in Orthodox Christianity
G_SPICA2	Spiritual Care 2
G_TISC	Theory of Islamic Spiritual Care
W_FRAAGE	Arguing for and against God's Existence
W_FRFAR	Faith and Reason

## \* Research Modules (RM) - see study guide for course description

Period 2:

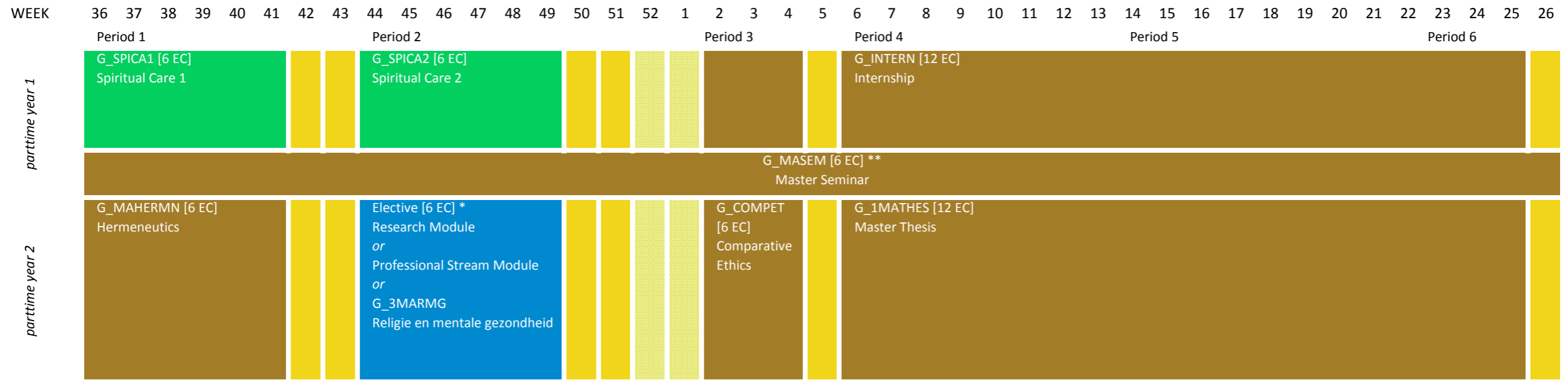
G_RMISL	Islam and Interfaith Relations
G_RMMIND	Mindfulness
G_RMRM06	Religion and the Making of Identity in Early Christianity
G_RMBS02	Studies in Leviticus
G_RMRE05	Creation and Redemption: Reformed and Evangelical Theology
G_BIR2	Building interreligious Relations 2
L_GOMAALG004	From Constantine to Muhamed
L_TAMATWS013	Working Sessions Bible Translation

GENERAL REQUIRED MODULE
  REQUIRED MODULE FOR THIS SPECIALIZATION
  ELECTIVE
  WEEK OF EXAMS
  HOLIDAYS
 Additional: No education in week 18

Subject to changes in this annual plan



# ANNUAL PLAN MASTER THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM SPIRITUAL CARE 2020-2021



\* Elective [6 EC]: One module from the Research Modules or Professional Stream Modules.

\*\* The course *Master Seminar* is taught in period 1 till 6. Part time students will take this course in the same year as their Internship.

## \* Professional Stream Modules (PSM) - see study guide for course description

Period 2:

G_MED2	Media 2
G_LDOC	Life and Death in Orthodox Christianity
G_TISC	Theory of Islamic Spiritual Care
W_FRAAGE	Arguing for and against God's Existence
W_FRFAR	Faith and Reason

## \* Research Modules (RM) - see study guide for course description

Period 2:

G_RMISISL	Islam and Interfaith Relations
G_PTR4	Religion, Violence and Trauma
G_RMMIND	Mindfulness
G_RMRM06	Religion and the Making of Identity in Early Christianity
G_RMBS02	Studies in Leviticus
G_RMRE05	Creation and Redemption: Reformed and Evangelical Theology
G_BIR2	Building interreligious Relations 2
L_GOMAALG004	From Constantine to Muhamed
L_TAMATWS013	Working Sessions Bible Translation

GENERAL REQUIRED MODULE
  REQUIRED MODULE FOR THIS SPECIALIZATION
  ELECTIVE
  WEEK OF EXAMS
  HOLIDAYS
 Additional: No education in week 18

Subject to changes in this annual plan