

Teaching and Examination Regulations

Masterprogramme in Law and Politics of International Security

Faculty of Law

Academic year 2019-2020

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 for the programme, irrespective of the academic year in which the student was first enrolled for the programme.
2. These Regulations enter into force with effect from 1 September 2019.
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.

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. 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; |
| g. 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; |
| h. OLC: | programme committee; |
| i. period: | a part of a semester; |
| j. programme: | the totality and cohesion of the course components, teaching activities/methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature; |
| k. SAP/SLM: | the student information system (<i>Student Lifecycle Management</i>); |
| l. semester: | the first (September - January) or second half (February - August) of an academic year; |
| m. 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://www.vu.nl/en/study-guide/ ; |
| n. subject | see 'educational component'; |
| o. thesis: | a component comprising research into the literature and/or contributing to scientific research, always resulting in a written report; |
| p. university: | Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; |
| q. WHW: | the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (<i>Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek</i>); |
| r. 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.
- s. examiner: lecturer authorized by the Examination Board to assess an examination, constituent examination or practical;
- t. working day: Monday to Friday, except for public holidays or days designated as holidays by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;
- u. Canvas: electronic system intended for the sharing of educational information.

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.
2. Every semester consists of three consecutive periods of eight, eight and four weeks.
3. An educational component comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof.
4. By way of exception to paragraph 3, Section B may stipulate that a unit of study comprises 3 EC or a multiple thereof. The Faculty Board requests permission from the Executive Board.

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 re-sits. The procedure for signing up is described in an annex to the Student Charter.
2. Signing up may only take place in the designated periods.

Article 3.2 Type of examination

1. At the student's request, the Examinations Board may permit a different form of interim examination than that stipulated in the course catalogue. If applicable, more detailed regulations on this are included in the Rules and Guidelines for the Examinations Board.
2. In an educational component is no longer offered in the academic year following its termination, at least one opportunity will be provided to sit the interim examination(s) or parts thereof and a transitional arrangement will be included in the programme-specific section for the subsequent period.

Article 3.3 Oral interim examinations

An oral assessment is public unless the Examinations Board on request determines otherwise.

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 final assignments] 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.
2. The examiner determines the result (i.e. mark) of an oral examination as soon as possible after the examination has finished and informs the student accordingly. The third clause of the first paragraph applies.
3. In the case of alternative forms of oral or written examinations, the Examinations Board determines in advance how and by what deadline the student will be informed of the results.

Article 3.5 Examination opportunities

1. a. Per academic year, two opportunities to take examinations per educational component will be offered.
b. The options for retaking practical components, work placements and theses are detailed in the relevant work placement manual, teaching regulations or graduation regulations.
2. The most recent mark will apply in the event of a re-sit. A retake is allowed for both passed and failed units of study.
3. The re-sit 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.
4. The Examination Board offers a student on request an extra opportunity to take an examination outside the regular occasions or at another date. Herewith the following requirements are attached:
 - a. the student passed all but one of the examinations necessary to meet the degree requirements; and
 - b. has failed the examination during all the previously offered attempts unless participation in an examination was not possible for compelling reasons; and
 - c. taking part on the next regular examination opportunity is leading to disproportionate study delay

The extra opportunity can only be offered for educational components that are examined with a scheduled written exam, paper or take-home examination. Educational components that are examined (partly) otherwise are not included. Due to the construction of these educational components it is not possible to re-sit these examinations on an alternative date. 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.

Article 3.6 Marks

1. Marks are given on a scale from 1 to 10 with no more than one decimal point.
2. The final marks are given in whole or half points.
3. Final marks between 5 and 6 will be rounded off to whole marks: up to 5.5 rounded down; from 5.5 rounded up. To pass a course, a 6 or higher is required.
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.)

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:
 - a) has passed a course component of a university or higher professional education programme that is equivalent in terms of content and level;
 - b) has demonstrated through his/her work and/or professional experience that he/she has sufficient knowledge and skills with regard to the relevant course component.
2. If a student wishes to meet the requirements of a specific examination by studying at a different faculty or university, prior approval from the Examinations Board is required.

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.
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, unless otherwise stipulated in the Study Guide, Study manual or transitional provisions.

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 there will be an post-examination discussion. Place, date and specified time will be announced at least 10 working days before the post-examination discussion.
2. The post-examination discussion is collective, unless otherwise decided by the examiner. The examiner can decide that the individual post-examination discussion will be done by email. If a student is unable to

attend the collective discussion due to compelling personal circumstances, the examiner will allow an individual post-examination discussion on request.

3. The student can inspect his/her assessed work as well as the standards applied for marking, if available. On request the examiner will explain the marking.
4. The student can be issued with a copy of the marked work at his/her request after the post-examination discussion date, regardless whether the student was at the post examination discussion.
5. Regarding article 3.9 the examiner may add restrictions to the right of inspection. These restrictions have to be announced at least ten days before the post-examination discussion.

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.
2. Enrolled students are eligible for academic student counselling. Academic student counselling is in any case provided by
 - a. The Student General Counselling Service
 - b. Student psychologists
 - c. Faculty academic advisors

Article 4.2 Adaptations 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 special adaptations with regard to teaching, practical training and interim examinations. These adaptations 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.
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.
3. Students who have been diagnosed with dyslexia must provide a recent statement from a BIG, NIP or NVO registered professional who is qualified to conduct psychological evaluation.
4. The faculty board, or the responsible person on behalf of the faculty board, decides on the adaptations concerning the teaching facilities and logistics. The Examinations Board will rule on requests for adaptations with regard to examinations.
5. In the event of a positive decision in response to a request as referred to in paragraph 1, the student will make an appointment with the study adviser to discuss the details of the provisions.
6. A request for adaptations will be refused if it would place a disproportionate burden on the organization or the resources of the faculty or university were it upheld.
7. If the disability justifies an extension of the interim examination time, the Examinations Board will issue a statement testifying to this entitlement to an extension. If a disability justifies other measures to be taken, the academic adviser can take the necessary measures.
8. The decision as referred to in paragraph 5 may specify a limited validity of the special adaptations.

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.

Section B1: Programme specific – general provisions

6. General programme information and characteristics

Article 6.1 Study programme information

1. The programme Law and Politics of International Security CROHO number 60685 is offered on a full-time basis.
2. The language of instruction is English

Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment

1. The programme uses the teaching formats as specified in the study guide.
2. The modes of assessment used per educational component are specified in the study guide.

Article 6.3 Academic student counselling

The programme offers the following counselling in addition to the student counselling mentioned in Section A: Career Advisors

7. Further admission requirements

Article 7.1 Intake date

The programme starts on September 1.

Article 7.2 Admission requirements

1. Applicants must have an academic Bachelor's or equivalent degree in Law, Social Sciences or Liberal Arts, and a basic knowledge of International Law and/or International Relations theory.
2. Applicants who do not have a background in either International Law or International Relations requirement(s) are also invited to apply, provided that they have good grades, considerable experience in the field of Law, Social Sciences or Liberal Arts and can show their interest in the subject field of the programme.
3. The Admissions Board will investigate whether the applicant meets the admission requirements.
4. For their application, candidates must submit:
 - a. Transcript
 - b. CV
 - c. Motivation letter
 - d. Letters of recommendation
 - e. Proof of academic writing
 - f. Proof of proficiency English if applicable (article 7.3)
5. The LPIS Admissions Board will make a **merit based** selection of students based on the following criteria:
 - a. Academic excellence (as evidenced by overall grade average, CV, recommendations, and writing sample).
 - b. Motivation and fit with the program (as evidenced by motivation letter, (optional) courses and extracurricular activities).
 - c. Diversity of the cohort.
6. Admission is granted for a specific academic year, unless the Admissions Board decides otherwise.

Article 7.3 English language requirement for English-language Master's programmes or English-language specializations

1. In deviation from the language proficiency requirements as stated in the Application and registration regulation (RAI) 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:
 - a. (academic) IELTS: minimum totale score ≥ 7.0 , minimum score per test section: 6.5
 - b. TOEFL paper based test: 600
 - c. Revised TOEFL PBT: minimum total score 68, minimum score per test section: 22
 - d. TOEFL iBT (internet based test): minimum total score ≥ 100 , minimum score per test section: 22
 - e. Cambridge Advanced English: minimum score B
 - f. C2 Proficiency (formerly Cambridge English: Proficiency): minimum score C
2. Applicants who:
 - a. completed an English-taught secondary or higher education degree in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand or Australia or
 - b. have earned a Bachelor's or Master's degree in a programme accredited by NVAO in the Netherlands, or
 - c. have earned a Bachelor's or Master's degree in an accredited English-taught programme in another member state of the European Unionare exempted from the requirements referred to in paragraph 1.

8. Examinations and results

Article 8.1 Validity period for results

If the exam shows that a student's knowledge is insufficient or outdated, or if the student's skills evaluated in the exam are demonstrably outdated, the Examination Board may impose a supplementary or replacement examination for a course for which an examination was passed more than 4 years ago.

Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme

9. Programme objectives, specializations and exit qualifications

Article 9.1 Workload

The programme has a workload of 60 EC.

Article 9.2 Specializations

The programme has no specializations.

Article 9.3 Programme objective

1. The programme's objectives are as follows:
 - a. to prepare the student to practice professionally in the field of Law and Politics of International Security;
 - b. to teach the student specialized knowledge, skills and understanding in the field of Law and Politics of International Security;
 - c. to prepare the student for academic work in the field of Law and Politics of International Security.
2. The degree programme also promotes the academic education of the student, in particular with reference to:
 - a. independent, academic thought processes and performance;
 - b. communicating at an academic level;
 - c. applying specialist academic knowledge in a wider and/or philosophical and social context.
3. The degree programme focuses attention on the student's personal development, promotes his or her awareness of social responsibility and develops skills of expression.

Article 9.4 Exit qualifications

1. Objectives of the programme

The general objective of the Master programme is to train students to acquire the knowledge, skills, insights and attitude required to operate as an independent professional within the field of international security, to cooperate with others and to conduct academic research. The overall aim of the programme is to train students to acquire a high academic and intellectual level and to take an interdisciplinary approach to matters of international security. Students should have a thorough understanding of the core concepts of the disciplines of international law and international relations, which are relevant to studying problems of international security. They are expected to have an in-depth understanding of the interplay between international conflict and security law and international politics. Students should be able to reach an academic level of intellectual analysis and have the skills to autonomously conduct research. They should be able to use their intellectual and analytical skills in a professional environment.
2. Final Attainment Levels

The student graduating with a Master's degree will have the following knowledge and understanding:

 - a. International conflict and security law, including jus ad bellum, jus in bello and jus post bellum;
 - b. Contemporary theories of international security, as developed in political science (especially IR theory);
 - c. The nature and development of contemporary armed conflicts;
 - d. The overlaps and differences between the legal and political science approaches to international security;
 - e. The interrelationship between international law and international politics in the area of international security;
 - f. The difficulties involved in the application of 'traditional' legal and political science concepts to contemporary armed conflicts.
3. Being capable of:
 - a. Identify and apply theoretical approaches from international law and political science;
 - b. Identify the differences and overlaps between the various methodologies used in law and political science;

- c. Independently set up a legal and political arguments in the area of international conflict and security law;
 - d. Independently apply research methods and interpret results;
 - e. Independently set up, carry out and report the result of research projects;
 - f. Critically reflect on research results and relating those results to theoretical debates within the selected domains.
4. Show evidence of:
The student graduating with a Master's degree will have a critical, creative and innovative attitude with regard to:
- a. The way in which problems in the area of international conflict and security are framed in academic, legal and policy debates;
 - b. The existing legal framework in the field of international conflict and security;
 - c. Existing policy solutions in the field of international conflict and security;
 - d. Existing scientific theories in the area of international security;
 - e. Academic research as well as research results.

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.
2. Additionally the programme can offer:
 - Elective educational components
 - Extra-curricular components
3. Educational components are categorized as specialized (400), research oriented (500) and highly specialized (600) level.

Article 10.2 Compulsory educational components

Educational component	course code	nr of EC	level
International Humanitarian Law	R_Int.hum.l	6	500
Security Studies	R_SecStud	6	500
Theories and Approaches to War and Collective Security	R_TAWCS	12	500
Politics of International Law	R_PoIL	6	500
Master's Thesis	R_MthLPIS	18	600
Two (2) optional courses totaling <i>at least</i> 12 EC see article 10.3			

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

Article 10.3 Elective educational components

1. The student can take one or more of the following electives without prior consent from the Examination Board:

Name of educational component	course code	nr of EC	level
Corporations, Conflict and International Crimes	R_CorIC	6	500
Human Rights Protection in Europe	R_Hum.ri.pro	6	400
International Criminal Courts and Tribunals	R_Int.cr.c.t	6	500
International Law Clinic	R_IntLClin	12	500
Atrocity Actors; Perpetrators, Bystanders and Victims	R_Perp.bysta	6	500
Philosophy of International Law and Migration	R_Phil.int.l	6	500
Public International Law	R_Pub.int.l	6	600
Terrorism & Security	R_TerrSec	6	500

Theories and Approaches in International Relations	S_TAIR	6	400
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A detailed description per educational component can be found in the Study Guide.

- If the student wishes to take a different educational component than listed, advance permission must be obtained from the Examinations Board and the Programme Board. Permission is discretionary and granted only in exceptional cases.

Article 10.4 4 Extra-curricular components

Educational component	Course code	nr of EC	level
Amsterdam Law Forum	R_ALF	6	600
Capita Selecta Law and Politics of International Security (possibly not offered in 18-19)	R_CSLPIS3	3 or 6	500
Internship		6	

Research Talent Track (only after selection)

Educational component	course code	nr of EC	level
Empirical Research Skills	R_EmpO	6	600
Research Portfolio	R_AcaO	6	600
Academic Skills Researchtalent	R_PropWr	6	600

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

11. Evaluation

Article 11.1 Evaluation of the education

The education provided in this programme is evaluated in accordance with the faculty Kader kwaliteitszorg.

Advice and approval by the Programme Committee, on 12 March 2019.

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly, on 27 June 2019.

Adopted by the board of the Faculty on 27 June 2019.

[Appendix I Article 2.1 of the WHW Implementation Decree \(1 juni 2018\)](#)
(Currently only in Dutch)

1. De persoonlijke omstandigheden bedoeld in de artikelen 7.8b, derde lid, en 7.9, derde lid, van de wet, zijn uitsluitend:

- a. ziekte van betrokkene,
- b. lichamelijke, zintuiglijke of andere functiestoornis van betrokkene,
- c. zwangerschap van betrokkene,
- d. bijzondere familie-omstandigheden,
- e. het lidmaatschap, daaronder begrepen het voorzitterschap, van:
 - 1. bij universiteiten: de universiteitsraad, faculteitsraad, het orgaan dat is ingesteld op grond van de medezeggenschapsregeling, bedoeld in artikel 9.30, derde lid, onderscheidenlijk artikel 9.51, tweede lid, van de wet, het bestuur van een opleiding of de opleidingscommissie, alsmede het lidmaatschap van het bestuur van een stichting die blijkens haar statuten tot doel heeft de exploitatie van voorzieningen, behorende tot de studentenvoorzieningen, dan wel van een daarmee naar het oordeel van het instellingsbestuur gelet op de taak gelijk te stellen orgaan,
 - 2. bij hogescholen: de medezeggenschapsraad, deelraad, studentencommissie of opleidingscommissie.

f. andere in de regelingen, bedoeld in de artikelen 7.8b, zesde lid, en 7.9, vijfde lid, van de wet door het instellingsbestuur aan te geven omstandigheden waarin betrokkene activiteiten ontplooit in het kader van de organisatie en het bestuur van de zaken van de instelling,

g. het lidmaatschap van het bestuur van een studentenorganisatie van enige omvang met volledige rechtsbevoegdheid, dan wel van een vergelijkbare organisatie van enige omvang, bij wie de behartiging van het algemeen maatschappelijk belang op de voorgrond staat en die daartoe daadwerkelijk activiteiten ontplooit.

2. Het instellingsbestuur kan voor de toepassing van het eerste lid, onderdeel g, nadere regels vaststellen omtrent het aantal bestuursleden dat ten hoogste per organisatie per studiejaar in aanmerking komt, zomede omtrent welke bestuursfuncties in aanmerking komen.