

Teaching and Examination Regulations

Faculty of Law

**Master's programme in International Crimes, Conflict and
Criminology**

Academic year 2025-2026

- A. Faculty section
- B1. Programme-specific section
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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.
2. These Regulations enter into force on 1 September 2025.
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. assessment component: | an assessment of the student's knowledge, understanding and skills by means of a scheduled assessment or a non-scheduled assessment or an assignment component relating to a part of a course component. The assessment is expressed in a partial result, which contributes to the final mark or to other requirements to pass the course. An assessment component which is not compulsory for a course, for example the possibility to obtain a bonus point, does not qualify as an assessment component as described above; |
| c. EC (European Credit): | a course credit with a workload of 28 hours of study; |
| d. 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; |
| e. final examination: | A Master's examination; |
| f. internship: | period spent working in professional practice as part of a study programme; |
| g.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 specialisation or a specific curriculum within a degree programme) for which the collaborating institutions are jointly responsible; |
| g.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); |
| h. 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; |
| i. period: | a part of a semester; |
| j. practical exercise: | participation in a practical training activity or other educational learning activity, aimed at acquiring certain (academic) skills. Examples of practical exercises are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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; |
| k. programme: | the totality and cohesion of the units of education, teaching activities/ methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature; |

l. SAP/SLM:	the student information system (<i>Student Lifecycle Management</i>);
m. semester:	the first (September - January) or second half (February - August) of an academic year;
n. specialisation:	optional route of study within a degree programme indicating a deepening of the context of the programme (e.g. interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary);
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. student:	person studying;
q. 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 online at https://www.vu.nl/studiegids ;
r. study monitor:	dashboard for students and academic advisers containing data pertaining to the student, including the student's study progress;
s. subject:	see v. 'unit of education';
t. thesis:	a unit comprising research into the literature and/or a contribution to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;
u. 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;
v. unit of education:	a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW;
w. university:	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;
x. WHW:	the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (WHW)).
y. 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.
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.
3. A unit of education comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof.
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.

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.
2. Signing up may only take place in the designated periods.

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.

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.
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.

Article 3.4 Determining and announcing results

1. Within fifteen working days after the day on which a written examination has been administered, the examiner determines the result of this examination and ensures that the marks are registered and that the student is notified of the mark, taking due account of the applicable confidentiality standards. However, the marking deadline for theses and final assignments is no longer than twenty working days after submission.
2. The examiner determines the result (i.e. mark) of an oral examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within [one or two working days] after the examination has finished and informs the student accordingly. The third clause of the first paragraph applies.
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.

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.
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.
3. The resit for an examination may not take place within ten working days of the announcement of the results for the original examination. Exceptions are only possible in period 6.
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 [1 July]. If necessary, the method of examination may deviate from the provisions in the study guide.

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.

Article 3.6 Marks

1. Grades are given on a scale from 1 to 10 with no more than one figure after the decimal point.
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.
3. To pass a given course or unit, a final mark of 6 or higher is required.
4. The Examination Board can allow the use of symbols rather than numbers.

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 or university of applied sciences (HBO) or a research university (WO) that is equivalent in terms of content and level;
 - b. or have demonstrated through their work and/or professional experience that they have sufficient knowledge and skills with regard to the relevant unit of education.

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.

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.
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.
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.
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.

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 a unit of education has been registered, every student has the right to inspect the result for that component and also as a list of the results achieved at their disposal in VU.nl Dashboard.
2. Enrolled students are eligible for academic student counselling.
Academic student counselling is in any case provided by
 - a. The Student Counsellor
 - b. Student psychologists
 - c. Faculty academic advisers

Article 4.2 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.
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 statement from a BIG-, NIP- or NVO-registered professional who is qualified to conduct a psychological evaluation.
4. The faculty board, or the person acting 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.
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.
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.
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.
8. The decision as referred to in paragraph 5 may specify a limited validity of the facilities granted.

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 or unfairness, the faculty board responsible for the study programme will decide, unless the matter concerned is the responsibility of the Examination Board.

Section B1: Programme-specific section

6. General programme information and characteristics

Article 6.1 Study programme information

1. The programme International Crimes, Conflict and Criminology CROHO number 66724 is offered on a full-time basis.

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 unit of education are specified in the study guide.

Article 6.3 Academic student counselling

1. 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(s)

The Master's programme starts on 1 September.

Article 7.2a. Admission requirements 2025-2026

1. Admission to the Master's programme is possible for prospective students who can demonstrate that they have a relevant academic Bachelor's or Master's programme or equivalent, for instance:
 - a. Criminology
 - b. Law
 - c. Social Sciences
 - d. Political Sciences
 - e. Psychology
 - f. or any related subject
2. The programme aims to offer its students an international mixed classroom and wants to attract prospective students who, in one way or another, can be expected to make a significant contribution to this learning environment. Therefore, in addition to the requirements referred to in paragraph 1, the Admissions Board will take the following additional criteria into account:
 - a. Academic excellence (as evidenced by the overall grade average and proof of writing). Prospective students should have a minimum GPA of 7.3 according to the Dutch grading system. Please note that VU Amsterdam will convert international grades and decide on the international grade equivalents for the Dutch grade of a 7.3.
 - b. A demonstrated interest in conflict related crimes, political violence, international crimes, international criminal justice, and/or post-conflict (as evidenced by previous study programme and/or CV).
 - c. Motivation (as evidenced by motivation letter, CV, (optional) courses and extracurricular activities).
 - d. A somewhat lower score on a particular requirement can be compensated by a strong score on another.
3. Prospective students with a Bachelor's degree obtained at an institution outside the Netherlands may be asked for additional documents.
4. In addition to the qualitative admission requirements in paragraph 2, prospective students must demonstrate that they have a 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 total score ≥ 7.0 , minimum score per test section: 6.5
 - b. TOEFL paper-based test: 600
 - c. 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. C1 Advanced (formerly Cambridge Advanced English): minimum score B
- f. C2 Proficiency (formerly Cambridge English: Proficiency): minimum score C
- 5. Prospective students who:
 - a. have completed an English-taught secondary or higher education degree in countries where English is an official language; 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 Union
 are exempted from the requirements referred to in paragraph 4.
- 6. Admission is granted for a specific academic year, unless the Admissions Board decides otherwise.

Article 7.2.b Admission requirements 2026-2027

1. Admission to the Master's programme is possible for prospective students who can demonstrate that they have a relevant academic Bachelor's or Master's programme or equivalent, for instance:
 - a. Criminology
 - b. Law
 - c. Social Sciences
 - d. Political Sciences
 - e. Psychology
 - f. or any related subject
2. The programme aims to offer its students an international mixed classroom and wants to attract prospective students who, in one way or another, can be expected to make a significant contribution to this learning environment. Therefore, in addition to the requirements referred to in paragraph 1, the Admissions Board will take the following additional criteria into account:
 - a. Academic excellence (as evidenced by the overall grade average and proof of writing). Prospective students should have a minimum GPA of 7.5 according to the Dutch grading system. Please note that VU Amsterdam will convert international grades and decide on the international grade equivalents for the Dutch grade of a 7.5.
 - b. A demonstrated interest in conflict related crimes, political violence, international crimes, international criminal justice, and/or post-conflict (as evidenced by previous study programme and/or CV).
 - c. Motivation (as evidenced by motivation letter, CV, (optional) courses and extracurricular activities).
 - d. A somewhat lower score on a particular requirement can be compensated by a strong score on another.
3. Prospective students with a Bachelor's degree obtained at an institution outside the Netherlands may be asked for additional documents.
5. In addition to the qualitative admission requirements in paragraph 2, prospective students must demonstrate that they have a 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 total score ≥ 7.0 , minimum score per test section: 6.5
 - b. TOEFL paper-based test: 600
 - c. 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. C1 Advanced (formerly Cambridge Advanced English): minimum score B
 - f. C2 Proficiency (formerly Cambridge English: Proficiency): minimum score C
6. Prospective students who:
 - a. have completed an English-taught secondary or higher education degree in countries where English is an official language; 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 Union
 are exempted from the requirements referred to in paragraph 4.
6. Admission is granted for a specific academic year, unless the Admissions Board decides otherwise.

[Article 7.3 Selection criteria](#)

N/A

[Article 7.3a Capacity restriction](#)

N/A

[Article 7.4 Pre-Master's programme](#)

N/A

8. Examinations and results[Article 8.1 Sequence of examinations](#)

N/A

[Article 8.2 Validity period for results](#)

1. If a student's knowledge, understanding or 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 4 years ago.
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 in Section B. In exceptional circumstances, an examiner may deviate from this; this must be stated on Canvas and/or in the course manual at the start of the unit of education.

[Article 8.3 Assessment components](#)

1. As an exception to article 3.5 paragraph 1a, there is only one opportunity per academic year to complete an assessment component if the component concerned accounts for less than 30% of the final grade and must not be passed separately to register a final grade. If a student has been unable to complete an assessment component due to force majeure, a lecturer will grant the student an extra opportunity to complete the assessment component upon the request of the student.

[Article 8.4 Right of inspection and post-examination discussion](#)

- a. As an exception to article 3.9, paragraph 1, for education periods 5 and 6, students must be given the opportunity to review their graded examination no later than five working days before the resit.

Section B2: Programme-specific section – content of programme

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

Article 9.1 Workload

1. The programme has a workload of 60 EC.

Article 9.2 Tracks and/or specialisations

N/A

Article 9.3 Programme objective

The programme objectives are as follows:

1. to prepare the student to practice professionally as, inter alia, analyst, policy maker, researcher or expert in the field of conflict-related crimes, international criminal justice, and post-conflict justice;
2. to teach the student specialised knowledge, skills and understanding in the field of conflict-related crimes, international criminal justice, and post-conflict justice;
3. to prepare the student for academic work in the field of conflict-related crimes, international criminal justice, and post-conflict justice.

Article 9.4 Exit qualifications

After finishing the Master, the graduate:

Has knowledge of and insight into:

1. Recent approaches, theories, and (research) findings from various disciplines in relation to conflict-related crimes, international criminal justice, and post-conflict justice;
2. Quantitative and qualitative research methodology in relation to conflict-related crimes, international criminal justice, and post-conflict justice;
3. Legal issues concerning conflict-related crimes, international criminal justice, and post-conflict justice.

Is capable of:

4. Identifying and applying theoretical approaches from various disciplines;
5. Applying research methods and interpreting results;
6. Independently setting up, carrying out and reporting the results of an interdisciplinary research project;
7. Critical, independent reflection on research results and independent reflection on the legal and theoretical debates within the selected domain.

Shows evidence of:

8. An investigative, original and creative attitude with regard to existing issues and solutions in relation to conflict-related crimes, international criminal justice, and post-conflict justice;
9. Critical, analytical and normative reflection on academic research and on research results.

Article 9.5 Language of instruction

1. The language of instruction is English.
2. The 'Gedragscode vreemde taal' (Code of conduct for foreign languages) applies.

Article 9.6 Language proficiency

Language proficiency may be taken into account in the assessment of examinations.

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:
 - Restricted elective educational components
 - Extra-curricular components

3. Units of education are categorised as specialised (400), research-oriented (500) and highly specialised (600) level.

Article 10.2 Compulsory units of education

A detailed description per unit of education can be found in the study guide.

Name of unit of education	course code	EC	level
Conflict and Crimes	R_ConCr	12	400
International Criminal Courts and Tribunals	R_Int.cr.c.t	6	500
Research Methodology on Conflict and International Crimes	R_Res.meth.c	6	500
Master Thesis	R_MthICC	18	500
<i>Restricted elective educational components (18 EC), see article 10.3</i>			

Article 10.3 Restrictive units of education

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

1. The student needs to take at least 12 EC of the following electives:

Name of unit of education	course code	EC	level
Atrocity Actors; Perpetrators, Bystanders and Victims	R_Perp.bysta	6	600
Corporations, Conflict and International Crimes	R_CorIC	6	600
International Law Clinic	R_IntLClin	12	600
Terrorism & Security	R_TerrSec	6	600
Transnational Organized Crime and Conflict	R_TCC	6	600

2. The student needs to take at least 6 EC of the following electives:

Name of unit of education	course code	EC	level
Expert Seminar (1)	R_ExpS1	3	600
Expert Seminar (2)	R_ExpS2	3	600
Expert Seminar (3)	R_ExpS3	3	600
Expert Seminar (4)	R_ExpS4	3	600

3. Only in exceptional cases a student can meet the requirements of passing the optional components by taking (an) other elective component(s) relevant to the overall degree programme at the Faculty of Law or a different faculty or university (Dutch or foreign). Prior approval is required from the Programme Board and Examination Board.

Article 10.4 Practical exercise

N/A

Article 10.5. Attendance requirement

- In the case of a practicum or practical exercise (which is possible within different educational sessions, such as tutorial, seminar, meeting, practical, training, study group), the student is obliged to attend and participate in these sessions. The specific details of this attendance requirement are described for each unit of education in the course manual and/or on Canvas. If the student has attended less than the required number of meetings, the student will be excluded from participating in the (partial) examination.
- Students who are required to retake the unit of education must comply with the attendance requirement again.

Article 10.6 Extra-curricular components

Name of unit of education	course code	EC	level
Transitional Justice in Reality; Fieldtrip	R_TJiR	3	500
Center for International Criminal Justice Research Lab	R_CICJ	6	600
Editing the VU blog platform on current legal issues	R_ALF	6	600
Professional opportunities and personal well-being: Working and studying in the field of international crimes	R_popw	3	400

Research Track Law (only after selection)

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

Name of unit of education	course code	EC	level
Empirical Research Skills	R_EmpO	6	600
Academic Writing lab	R_AcaO	6	600
Academic Skills Research talent	R_PropWr	6	600

11. Evaluation and transitional provisions**Article 11.1 Evaluation of the programme**

1. The education provided in this programme is evaluated in accordance with the Kader Kwaliteitszorg of the Faculty.

Article 11.2 Transitional provisions

N/A

Advice and/or approval by the Programme Committee, on May 7th, 2025

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly, on July 10th, 2025

Adopted by the board of the Faculty of Law, on July 10th, 2025

Appendix IV 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.