

# **Teaching and Examination Regulations**

## **Master's Degree Programme**

B. programme-specific section

### **M Health Sciences**

Academic year 2015-2016

**Section B: Programme-specific section**

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## **Section B: Programme-specific section**

### **1. General provisions**

#### **Article 1.1 Definitions**

For definitions see part A

#### **Article 1.2 Degree programme information**

1. The programme M Health Sciences CROHO number 66851 is offered on a full-time basis and the language of instruction is English.
2. The programme has a workload of 60 EC.
3. A unit of study comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof, with the exception of Scientific Writing in English (3 EC)

#### **Article 1.3 Intake dates**

The programme is offered starting in the first semester of the academic year ( 1 September). The intake date(s) mentioned in this paragraph ensure(s) that a programme can be completed within the nominal study duration set for the programme.

### **2. Programme objectives and exit qualifications**

#### **Article 2.1 Programme objective**

The programme aims to teach knowledge and skills contributing to an interdisciplinary approach of health promotion, health problems and healthcare.

The master programme Health Sciences contains five specialisations, which aim to give the student an opportunity to focus on a specific area of Health Sciences:

- Health Policy
- Infectious Disease & Public Health
- International Public Health
- Nutrition and Health
- Prevention & Public Health

#### **Article 2.2 Exit qualifications**

##### **Dublin descriptor 1 Knowledge and understanding**

The graduate:

- Understands that a multi- and interdisciplinary approach of health and health care problems is the core of Health Sciences;
- Has knowledge of the central role of evidence-based research in the development of health promotion and healthcare and recognizes evidence-based scientific outcomes;
- Can play a professional role at an academic level in the broad field of Health Sciences and has understanding of the role of diversity in health status between different groups and the determinants causing these differences;
- Suggests relevant interventions based on evidence from empirical epidemiologic population studies;
- Can explain the different perspectives on health depending on the social economic, moral and cultural background;
- Has the ability to compare and integrate the different levels of the problem (micro-, meso- and macro).

The five specialisations of the master Health Sciences are not developed to be separate programmes but enable students to combine research skills with in-depth knowledge in a specific field of Health

Sciences. For this reason the end terms of the specialisations overlap when we consider the aspects of research, communication and judgment. However, the graduate should have specialized theoretical and practical knowledge within the field of specialisation.

The graduate of the specialisation Infectious Disease & Public Health:

- Possesses knowledge of the immunological aspects, development and expression of infectious disease and of the epidemiology, control and elimination of various infectious pathogens, as well as of the appropriate vaccinations;
- Knows the life cycle, virulence and transmission of infectious pathogens, and of the outcome of diseases, and is able to describe the various diagnostic laboratory tests for parasitic infections;
- Is able to describe the relationship between nutrition and the appearance/development of infectious diseases, knows the causes and effects of malnutrition and over-nutrition in relation to infectious diseases with a special focus on vulnerable groups and/or populations;

The graduate of the specialisation Prevention & Public Health:

- Has knowledge of health promotion & disease prevention; concepts, definitions and history.
- Can identify those individual, environmental and lifestyle factors which affects the health of individuals/populations in the short and long term (primary and secondary prevention);
- Knows which psychosocial aspects are important in the treatment and management of (chronic) diseases, such as therapy compliance and care worker-patient communication (tertiary prevention);
- Is familiar with the relevant behavioural change theories/models relating to the development of healthy behaviour, perceptions of illness, and self-regulation;
- Knows how knowledge about health and prevention can contribute to the development of local and national policy.

The graduate of the specialisation International Public Health:

- Is familiar with the relevant methods and techniques (and with their value and limitations) needed to analyse international health issues from an interdisciplinary perspective, and is familiar with the limitations of these methods and techniques;
- Possesses proven knowledge and understanding of interdisciplinary research aimed at solving international public health issues;
- Possesses knowledge and understanding of the concepts and theories that underpin effective communication and collaboration.

The graduate of the specialisation Nutrition and Health:

- Has knowledge on the role of nutrition in the maintenance and promotion of health;
- Has knowledge on the role of nutrition in the development of chronic disorders, like obesity, type 2 diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular diseases, cancer and frailty;
- Understands the role of nutrition in health and development of chronic disorders within the scope of other life style factors;
- Is able to identify qualitative or quantitative research designs for nutrition related research questions;
- Has knowledge on the impact of preventive or therapeutic nutritional interventions both in terms of their potential and actual health benefits.

The graduate of the specialisation Health Policy:

- Has comprehension and appreciation of main healthcare issues, - including but not limited to - rising healthcare costs, healthcare system efficiency, market incentives, rationing, coverage of cost effective interventions, access of vulnerable groups, quality of healthcare, labor limitations and patient rights;
- Is aware of the structure that govern the Dutch healthcare system, including the stakeholders and interest group landscape and the governance structure with quality and competition authorities and internal (in organization) governance;
- Is able to apply economic theories to analyse healthcare issues at healthcare system, organizational and intervention level, and from both societal and

stakeholder perspectives;

- Is able to identify, select, evaluate and summarize relevant scientific evidence and translate it into evidence based healthcare policy
- Is able to select research designs to study health policy subjects

### **Dublin descriptor 2 Application of knowledge**

*The graduate should be experienced in carrying out research, in applying techniques specific to the subject area and applying scientific knowledge to problems raised in society.*

The graduate is able to:

- compare, evaluate and criticize the different approaches of healthcare problems to decide what is the best approach in this occasion, depending on its professional view and experience;
- plan, perform, evaluate and report a scientific study in Health Sciences;
- communicate evidence from quantitative or qualitative studies to a lay audience, professionals and decision makers on European, national, regional and local level;
- select, build and apply objective and subjective measurements for health and disease as a whole and by components (physical, mental, social), at individual, family and community level;
- combine biomedical knowledge with expected health prognoses/outcome;
- understand that different healthcare professionals may have a different perspective on healthcare problems;
- change from the individual scope of the patient to a more organizational or policy context;
- shift between the local, the national and the international perspective;
- identify and collect health related information from different sources and uses this information to analyse health (care) problems;
- compose new theory from existing models to explain new findings;
- reflect on individual experiences to connect these personal experiences with the broader perspectives;
- express the central theories of Health Sciences in different contexts;
- develop a qualitative or quantitative research design suited to solve the question raised;
- design a research protocol with a good methodology, based on common sense, is theory driven, achievable depending on time and resources, and contributing to a solution for the problem.

### **Dublin descriptor 3 Critical judgment**

*The graduate should be able to independently and critically judge information.*

The graduate:

- evaluates the role of ethics in public health and has a well-defined ethical and moral standard when it comes to research and 'truth finding';
- understands the ethical aspects of health research and its applications and considers these arguments in decision making;
- foresees the technical, methodological and ethical limitations and consequences of (interdisciplinary) health research within the specialisation chosen;
- judges the scientific and societal relevance of research within the own discipline and is able to interpret and evaluate a variety of different methodological studies;
- develops awareness and a critical attitude towards the moral and ethical dimensions of health research and the applications of the outcomes.

### **Dublin descriptor 4 Communication**

*The graduate should be able to transfer knowledge and skills related to the subject area to other persons and to adequately reply to questions and problems posed in society.*

The graduate:

- can report orally on research results in English;
- can produce an English written draft of a scientific article;
- is able to communicate knowledge, insight and political, moral and ethical views with a professional attitude;
- is able to discuss the actual themes in healthcare.

### Dublin descriptor 5 Learning skills

*The graduate should develop learning skills that enable him/her to further self-education and development within the subject area.*

The graduate:

- can identify, retrieve and analyse data about health in specific populations;
- has the ability to interpret research data and to understand, translate and evaluate these data in the context needed;
- is familiar with computer software for data retrieval and analysis (SPSS, MAXQDA);
- finds his/her way in scientific journals and more specific in journals in the specialized field;
- is able to choose the route needed for further professional development; knows the strengths and weaknesses of its own learning preferences.

### 3. Further admission requirements

#### Article 3.1 Admission requirements

1. Admission to the Master's programme is possible for an individual who can demonstrate that he/she has the following knowledge, understanding and skills at the Bachelor's degree level, obtained at an institution of academic higher education:
  - a. knowledge: epidemiology, biostatistics/qualitative research methods, public health/health sciences.
  - b. understanding: epidemiology, biostatistics/qualitative research methods, public health
  - c. skills: biostatistics and qualitative research methodsThe total number of credits required for admission is: epidemiology (6 ECs), biostatistics/qualitative research methods (12 ECs).
2. The Admissions Board will investigate whether the interested person meets the admission requirements.
3. In addition to the requirements referred to in the first paragraph, the Board will also assess requests for admission in terms of proficiency in English for international and national students.
4. Any individual who has obtained a Bachelor's degree in academic higher education on one of the degree programmes below meets the requirements referred to in paragraph 1:  
Bachelor Health Sciences  
Bachelor Health & Life sciences  
Premaster Health Sciences VU University Amsterdam
5. Bachelor University Colleges with sufficient knowledge and understanding of epidemiology, biostatistics/qualitative research methods, public health/health sciences.
6. When the programme commences, the candidate must have fully completed the Bachelor's programme or pre-Master's programme allowing admission to this Master's programme.

#### Article 3.2 Pre-Master's programme

1. Students with a non-University Bachelor's degree in a field that corresponds to a sufficient extent with the subject area covered by the Master's programme can request admission to the pre-Master's programme Health Sciences at VU University.
2. The pre-Master's programme comprises 30 EC (5 units of 6 EC) and is made up of the following units of study:
  - a. Methodology & applied biostatistics 1
  - b. Methodology & applied biostatistics 2
  - c. Methodology & applied biostatistics 3
  - d. Qualitative research methodsand one of the units that prepares students for a specific specialisation:
  - e. Infectious disease
  - f. Health policy
  - g. Nutrition
  - h. Prevention
  - i. International public health
3. Proof of a successfully completed pre-Master's programme serves as proof of admission to the Master's programme specified within it in the subsequent academic year.

### Article 3.3 Limited programme capacity

Not relevant.

### Article 3.4 Final deadline for registration

A candidate must submit a request to be admitted to the programme through Studielink before July 15 2015 in the case of Dutch students, before March 1 2015 in the case of EU students and non-EU students.

### Article 3.5 English language requirement for English-language Master's programmes

1. International and national applicants are required to pass an English language proficiency test. The proficiency requirement in English as the language of instruction can be met by the successful completion of one of the following examinations or an equivalent:
  - IELTS: 6.5
  - TOEFL paper based test: 580
  - TOEFL internet based test: 92-93
  - Cambridge Advanced English: A, B or C
  - Cambridge Proficiency in English.
2. Exemption is granted from the examination in English referred to in the first paragraph to students who, within two years of the start of the programme:
  - met the requirements of the VU test in English language proficiency TOEFL ITP, with at least the scores specified in paragraph 1, or
  - had previous education in secondary or tertiary education in an English-speaking country, or
  - have an English-language 'international baccalaureate' diploma

### Article 3.6 Free curriculum

1. Subject to certain conditions, the student has the option of compiling a curriculum of his/her own choice which deviates from the curricula prescribed by the programme.
2. The concrete details of such a curriculum must be approved beforehand by the Examinations Board.
3. The free curriculum is put together by the student from the units of study offered by University of Amsterdam / VU University Amsterdam and must at least have the size, breadth and depth of a regular Master's programme.
4. The following conditions must at least have been met in order to be eligible for the Master's degree:
  - a. at least 12 EC must be obtained from the regular curriculum, 6 of which must consist of either the course Care and Prevention Research or Research Methods for Needs Assessment.
  - b. the level of the programme must match the objectives and exit qualifications that apply for the MasterHealth Sciences programme for which the student is enrolled.

## 4. Curriculum structure

### Article 4.1 Composition of programme

1. The master programme Health Sciences has a workload of 60 EC and contains five specialisations. Students should choose one of the specialisations before starting the programme. It is not allowed to do two specialisations.
  1. Infectious Disease & Public Health
  2. Prevention & Public Health
  3. International Public Health
  4. Nutrition & Health
  5. Health Policy
2. The programme consists of the following components:



- a. Compulsory courses
- b. Elective courses
- c. Compulsory practical training (see Placement Manual 2015-2016 for further details)

If the student wishes to take a different course outside the master of Health Sciences programme, permission must be obtained in advance from the Examinations Board.

## Infectious Disease & Public Health

### Article 4.2 Compulsory courses of study

The compulsory courses of study are:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Care and Prevention Research	AM_470806	6	September	Lectures, tutorials	Assignment and exam	
Nutrition and Infectious Disease	AM_470816	6	January	Lectures, tutorials, computer practicals	Exam and assignment	
Parasitology	AM_470052	6	December	Lectures, tutorials	Exam	
Scientific Writing in English	AM_471023	3	February	Lectures, tutorials	Assignment	

\*\* L= lecture, WG= work group, PR= practical, CP= computer practical, LD= literature discussion in thesis

\*\*\* WR= written examination, IA= individual assignment, GW= group work, CA= computer assignment, PF= performance, participation, portfolio, PR= practical, ER= essay, report, PT= (poster)presentation

### Article 4.3 Compulsory practical training = Internship

Internship Infectious Diseases and Public Health	AM_471105	27	Academic year	Practical, research, literature discussion	report, performance, participation, portfolio, presentation	
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### Article 4.4 Electives

The student must take at least one of the following electives:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Containment Strategies Infectious Diseases	AM_470127	6	October	Lectures, tutorials	Exam and assignment	
Advanced statistics	AM_470826	6	November	Lectures, computer practical	Assignment and exam	

## Prevention & Public Health

### Article 4.2 Compulsory courses of study

The compulsory courses of study are:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Care and Prevention Research	AM_470806	6	September	Lectures, tutorials	Assignment and exam	

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	AM_470811	6	October	Lectures, tutorials	Exam and assignment	
Scientific Writing in English	AM_471023	3	February	Lectures, tutorials	Assignment	

#### Article 4.3 Compulsory practical training = Internship

Internship Prevention and Public Health	AM_471104	27	Academic year	Practical, research, literature discussion	report, performance, participation, portfolio, presentation	
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#### Article 4.4 Electives

The student must take at least one of the following electives:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Communication Campaigns and Research	AM_470129	6	January	Lectures, tutorials, computer practicals	Exam and assignment	
Health Psychology	AM_470730	6	November	Lectures, tutorials	Exam and assignments	
Prevention and Policy	AM_470823	6	December	Lectures, tutorials, computer practicals	Exam	
Prevention of Mental Health Problems	AM_470840	6	January	Lectures, tutorials, computer practicals	Exam and assignment	
Advanced statistics	AM_470826	6	November	Lectures, computer practical	Assignment and exam	

#### International Public Health

##### Article 4.2 Compulsory courses of study

The compulsory courses of study are:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Research Methods for Needs Assessment	AM_470817	6	September	Lectures, tutorials	Exam and assignment	
Containment Strategies Infectious Diseases	AM_470127	6	October	Lectures, tutorials	Exam and assignment	
Policy, Management and Organisation in IPH	AM_470819	6	November	Lectures, tutorials	Exam and assignment	
Scientific Writing in English	AM_471023	3	February	Lectures, tutorials	Assignment	

#### Article 4.3 Compulsory practical training = Internship

Internship International Public Health	AM_471106	27	Academic year	Practical, research, literature discussion	report, performance, participation, portfolio, presentation	
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**Article 4.4 Electives**

The student must take at least one of the following electives:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Disability and Development	AM_470588	6	December	Lectures, tutorials	Exam and assignment	
Health, Globalisation and Human Rights	AM_470818	6	December	Lectures, tutorials	Exam and assignment	
International Comparative Analysis of Health Sciences	AM_470820	6	January	Lectures, tutorials	Assignment	
Nutrition and Infectious Disease	AM_470816	6	January	Lectures, tutorials	Exam and assignment	

**Nutrition and Health****Article 4.2 Compulsory courses of study**

The compulsory courses of study are:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Care and Prevention Research	AM_470806	6	September	Lectures, tutorials	Assignment and exam	
Public Health Nutrition	AM_470815	6	November	Lectures, tutorials, excursion	Exam and assignment	
Scientific Writing in English	AM_471023	3	February	Lectures, tutorials	Assignment	

**Article 4.3 Compulsory practical training = Internship**

Internship Nutrition and Health	AM_471107	27	Academic year	Practical, research, literature discussion	report, performance, participation, portfolio, presentation	
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**Article 4.4 Electives**

The student must take at least one of the following electives:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Nutrition in Health and Disease	AM_470841	6	October	Lectures, tutorials	Exam and assignment	
Advanced statistics	AM_470826	6	November	Lectures, computer	Assignment and exam	
Nutrition in Clinical Practice	AM_470842	6	December	Lectures, tutorials	Assignment	
Nutrition and Infectious Disease	AM_470816	6	January	Lectures, tutorials	Exam and assignment	
Advanced Dietetics*	AM_1036	6	January	Tutorials	Assignment	

\* This course is only available for dietitians

**Health Policy****Article 4.2 Compulsory courses of study**

The compulsory courses of study are:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Care and Prevention Research	AM_470806	6	September	Lectures, tutorials	Assignment and exam	
Advanced Health Economics	AM_470843	6	October	Lectures, tutorials	Exam	
Scientific Writing in English	AM_471023	3	February	Lectures, tutorials	Assignment	

**Article 4.3 Compulsory practical training = Internship**

Internship Health Policy	AM_1109	27	Academic year	Practical, research, literature discussion	report, performance, participation, portfolio, presentation	
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**Article 4.4 Electives**

The student must take at least two of the following electives:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period or semester	Teaching method	Type of test	Level
Advanced Statistics	AM_470826	6	November	Lectures, computer	Assignment and exam	
Regulation and Organisation of	AM_470809	6	November	Lectures, tutorials	Exam and assignment	
Economic Evaluation	AM_470828	6	December	Lectures, tutorial,	Exam and assignment	
Advanced Health Law	AM_470844	6	January	Lectures, tutorials	Exam and assignment	
Management in Health Organisation	AM_470822	6	January	Lectures, tutorials	Exam and assignment	

**Article 4.5 Sequence of examinations**

Students may only participate in the internship after passing Care and Prevention Research or Research Methods for Needs Assessment and two other units (specified in the Placement Manual 2015-2016). A total of 18 ECs.

**Article 4.6 Participation in practical exercise and tutorials**

1. In the case of a practical training, the student must attend 100 % of the practical sessions. Should the student attend less than 100 %, he/she must repeat the practical session, or the examiner of the course may issue one or more supplementary assignments.
2. In the case of a work group with assignments, the student must attend 100 % of the work group sessions. Should the student attend less than 100 %, he/she must repeat the work group session, or the examiner of the course may issue one or more supplementary assignments.
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.

**Article 4.7 Maximum exemption**

A maximum of 6 EC of the curriculum can be accumulated through granted exemptions.

#### Article 4.8 Validity period for results

As laid down in article 4.8 of OER part A.

#### Article 4.9 Degree

Students who have successfully completed their Master's final examination are awarded a Master of Science degree. The degree awarded and the specialisation followed are stated on the diploma.

### 5. Transitional and final provisions

#### Article 5.1 Amendments and periodic review

1. Any amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations will be adopted by the faculty board after taking advice from the relevant Board of Studies. A copy of the advice will be sent to the authorised representative advisory body.
2. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations requires the approval of the authorised representative advisory body if it concerns components not related to the subjects of Section 7.13, paragraph 2 sub a to g and v, as well as paragraph 4 of the WHW and the requirements for admission to the Master's programme.
3. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations can only pertain to an academic year that is already in progress if this does not demonstrably damage the interests of students.

#### Article 5.2 Transitional provisions

Notwithstanding the current Teaching and Examination Regulations, the following transitional provisions apply for students who started the programme under a previous set of Teaching and Examination Regulations:

1. **Compulsory components**  
For students who started their programme before academic year 2014-2015 the courses below are not compulsory:
  - a. *Infectious Diseases and Public Health*
    - AM\_470052 Parasitology (6 EC)
2. **Elective components that have been removed from the curriculum**  
No course have been removed from the curriculum
3. **Elective components that have been added to the curriculum**
  - a. *Optional course for all specializations*
    - AM\_470813 Migration, Culture, Health & Research (6 EC)
4. **Total of 60 EC**  
The final examination programme should always total at least 60 EC.

#### Article 5.3 Publication

1. The faculty board will ensure the appropriate publication of these Regulations and any amendments to them.
2. The Teaching and Examination Regulations will be posted on the faculty website and deemed to be included in the course catalogue.

#### Article 5.4 Effective date

These Regulations enter into force with effect from September 1 2015.

Advice from Board of Studies on June 1 2015

Approved by authorised representative advisory body 15 July 2015

Adopted by the faculty board on 21 August 2015