

Teaching and Examination Regulations

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

School of Humanities

Master's programme Philosophy

Academic year 2026-2027

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Section A: Faculty section

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations

1. These Regulations apply to anyone enrolled in the programme, irrespective of the academic year in which the student was first enrolled in the programme.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
2. These Regulations enter into force on 1 September 2026.	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)
1. In certain cases, students may appeal against decisions made on the basis of the Teaching and Examination Regulations, for example decisions made by an examiner, examination board, BSA committee, or admission committee. Whether an appeal can be considered depends on the type of the decision and by whom the decision was made. More information about legal protection can be found in the Student Charter and on the website Complaints, appeals, and objections - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

Article 1.2 Definitions

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

- a. academic year: the period beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August of the following calendar year;
- b. EC (European Credit): a course credit with a workload of 28 hours of study;
- c. examination: an assessment of the student's knowledge, understanding and skills relating to a unit of education. The assessment is expressed in terms of a final mark. An examination may consist of one or more partial examinations. A resit always covers the same material as the original examination. An examination can be completed in writing, orally or in another way;
- d. final examination: a Master's examination;
- e. internship: period spent working in professional practice as part of a study programme;
- f.1 joint degree: a degree awarded by an institution together with one or more institutions in the Netherlands or abroad, after the student has completed a study programme (a degree programme, a specialisation or a specific curriculum within a degree programme) for which the collaborating institutions are jointly responsible;
- f.2 double degree: partnership between a program of a Dutch educational institution with a foreign educational institution, whereby students complete all or part of both study programmes and obtain two diplomas on the basis of agreements regarding the mutual recognition of the programme (replacement courses);
- g. period: a part of a semester;
- h. practical exercise: participation in a practical training activity 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;

i. programme:	the totality and cohesion of the units of education, teaching activities/methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature;
j. SAP/SLM:	the student information system (<i>Student Lifecycle Management</i>);
k. semester:	the first (September - January) or second half (February - August) of an academic year;
l. specialisation:	optional route of study within a degree programme indicating a deepening of the context of the programme (e.g. interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary);
m. 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);
n. student:	the person enrolled, requesting enrolment or who has been enrolled in a course or program at the Vrije Universiteit;
o. 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 ;
p. study monitor:	dashboard for students and academic advisers containing data pertaining to the student, including the student's study progress;
q. subject:	see u. 'unit of education';
r. thesis:	a unit comprising research into the literature and/or a contribution to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;
s. track:	a study pathway within a programme, of which the workload and the qualities in terms of knowledge, insight and skills that the student must have acquired by the end of the program are equal to those of the programme
t. unit of education:	a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW;
u. university:	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;
v. WHW:	the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (WHW)).
w. workload:	the workload of the unit of education to which an examination applies, expressed in terms of credits = EC credits (ECTS = European Credit and Transfer Accumulation System). The workload for 1 year (1,680 hours) is 60 EC credits.

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

2. Study programme structure

Article 2.1 Structure of academic year and units of education

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

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 the Regulations for registering for courses and examinations.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. Signing up may only take place in the designated periods.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

Article 3.2 Type of examination

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

1. No more than one student will be examined orally at a time, unless specified otherwise in part B for the relevant unit of education.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 l and n)
2. A second examiner is present when an oral examination is being held, unless the Examination Board has determined otherwise. The oral examination takes place at a time and location to be determined by the examiner within the regular timetable, on campus or online. At the request of the student, and with the approval of the examiners, an audio recording can be made. Should the second examiner not be available unexpectedly, an audio recording of the oral exam is made. This audio recording is retained by the university for the retention period applicable for examinations.	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 examination within ten working days. However, the marking deadline for final projects is no longer than twenty working days after submission. The examiner will then immediately ensure that the marks are registered and also ensures that the student is immediately notified of the mark, taking due account of the applicable confidentiality standards.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. The examiner determines the result (i.e. mark) of an oral examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within 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 assessments other than oral or written examinations, the Examination Board determines in advance how and by what deadline the student will be informed of the results.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 o)

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 final projects are detailed in the relevant course manual or regulations.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. The most recent mark will apply in the event of a resit. A resit is allowed for both passed and failed examinations.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
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.	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) has completed all but one units of education to meet the requirements of the degree and b) has failed the examination during all the previously offered attempts in the current year, unless participation in an examination was not possible for compelling reasons. This provision excludes the practical exercises and the final project. Requests for an additional examination opportunity must be submitted to the Examination Board. If necessary, the method of examination may deviate from the provisions in the study guide.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
5. If a unit of education is no longer offered, at least one additional opportunity will subsequently be provided to sit the examination(s) or parts thereof and a transitional arrangement will be included in Section B.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (7.13 j)

Article 3.6 Marks

1. Grades are given on a scale from 1 to 10 with no more than one figure after the decimal point.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. A final mark between 5 and 6 will be rounded to the nearest whole number: final marks below 5.5, rounded down; final marks of 5.5 or higher, rounded up. All other final marks will be expressed in whole or half marks.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
3. To pass a given course or unit, a final mark of 6 or higher is required.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
4. The Examination Board can allow the use of symbols rather than numbers.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

Article 3.7 Exemption

1. At the written request of the student, the Examination Board may exempt the student from taking one or more examination components, if they: a. have either passed a unit of education at a university 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.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 r)
2. The Master's thesis/final project 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 examinations passed and exemption from examinations is unlimited, unless otherwise specified in Section B.	Legal provision
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Article 3.9 Right of inspection

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 has the right to inspect their graded examination.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 p and q)
2. Students can view the questions and assignments set in the written examination, and the standards applied when assessing the examination, within the period specified in 3.9.1.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 q)
3. The examiner determines whether the inspection takes place collectively or	Advice OLC; approval FGV

individually. In all cases, the time and place of the inspection is announced in the course manual or learning environment.	(7.13 q)
4. Students are entitled to feedback on their academic performance. The manner in which this is provided in each unit of education is described in the course manual.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 p and q)

4. 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 has a list of the results achieved at their disposal in VU.nl Dashboard.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 u)
2. Enrolled students are eligible for academic student counselling. Academic student counselling is in any case provided by - The Student Counsellor - Student psychologists - Faculty academic advisers	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 u)

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 intended learning outcomes 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 a psychological evaluation.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
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.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
5. In the event of a positive decision in response to a request as referred to in paragraph 1, the student can make an appointment with the academic adviser to discuss the details of the provisions.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
6. A request for one or more facilities can be refused if it would place a disproportionate burden on the organisation or the resources of the faculty or university were it upheld. Any such refusal will be substantiated.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
7. If the disability or impairment justifies an extension of the examination time, the responsible person on behalf of the Examination Board will register in SAP this entitlement to an extension. If a disability or impairment justifies other measures to be taken, the academic adviser can take the necessary measures. The student can consult the study monitor to check which facilities have been granted to them.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
8. The decision as referred to in paragraph 5 may specify a limited validity of the facilities granted.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)

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.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
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Section B1: Programme specific – general provisions

6. General programme information and characteristics

Article 6.1 Study programme information

1. The programme Philosophy RIO number 60823 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 4 years.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 i)

Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment

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

Article 6.3 Academic student counselling

The programme offers the following counselling in addition to the student counselling mentioned in Section A: individual guidance from the coordinators.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 u)
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7. Further admission requirements

Article 7.1 Intake date(s)

The programme starts on 1 September.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
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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: a. knowledge in law or a health-related field, or a field related to economics and politics on graduate entry level, and b. understanding of the basic methods, theories and developments in law or a health related field, or a field related to economics and politics, and c. skills in conducting and reporting academic research, writing and presentation on graduate entry level	Advice OLC, approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
2. Applicants who wish to follow Ethics, Economics, and Policy (EEP) must, in addition to the provisions in paragraph 1, also meet the following specific requirements: - An academic (WO) Bachelor's degree in Economics; Political Science; Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE), Business, Finance, or a related discipline that meets the following condition: - Eligibility to one of the following (VU) Master's programmes: - o Economics - o Spatial, Transport, and Environmental Economics - o Econometrics - o Bestuurskunde/Public Administration - o Business Administratoin	Advice OLC, approval FGV 9.38 sub b)

○ Management, Policy Analysis, and Entrepreneurship in the Health and Life Sciences ○ International Business Law: Climate Change and Corporations ○ Law and Politics of International Security ○ Political Science ○ Social Sciences for a Digital Society ○ Or to a Master's programme in another discipline related to economics and politics. Explanation: since EEP applies philosophy to economics and politics, 30 EC must be obtained in an economics and politics-related discipline at a master's level. Applicants who wish to follow Philosophy of Law and Governance (PLG) must, in addition to the provisions in paragraph 1, also meet the following specific requirements: - Academic knowledge and understanding of law (at WO Bachelor level), and; - Academic legal research skills (at WO Bachelor level), and; - Admission requirements for PLG are, hence, the same as those for the master in Law at the VU and are specified in the appendix. (Explanation: in order to successfully complete the Master Philosophy, Philosophy of Law and Governance, students need to obtain 30 EC in law courses at Master's level.) Applicants who wish to follow Philosophy of Bioethics and Health (PBH) must in addition to the provisions in paragraph 1, also meet the following specific requirements: - An academic (WO) Bachelor's degree in Medicine, Health Sciences, Psychology, or another discipline that meets the following condition: - Eligibility to one of the three Health-related Masters: Medicine, Psychology, or Health Sciences or another health-related discipline. (Explanation: since PBH applies philosophy to healthcare, 30 EC must be obtained in a health-related discipline at a master's level.)	
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.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
4. Applicants should demonstrate that they have a sufficient level of proficiency in English by meeting at least one of the following standards: - IELTS Academic: an overall score of at least 7.0, with a minimum of 6,5 for each component; At the start of the program, the test must not have been taken more than two years ago. - TOEFL iBT: an overall score of at least 5, with a minimum of 4.5 for each component (formerly 100, with a minimum of 20-23 for each component); At the start of the program, the test must not have been taken more than two years ago. - Cambridge C2 Proficiency/Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): an overall score of at least 180 - Cambridge C1 Advanced/Certificate Advanced English (CAE) an overall score of at least 180 - LanguageCert Academic SELT: an overall score of at least 75.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)

At the start of the program, the test must not have been taken more than two years ago. - Pearson PTE Academic: an overall score of at least 76. At the start of the program, the test must not have been taken more than two years ago.	
5. Applicants who have completed one of the following meet the English language requirement and therefore are exempted from taking an English language test (as mentioned in the section 4): - a secondary education or higher education degree fully taught in English has been completed in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom or the United States of America; - a fully English-language, accredited bachelor's or master's degree in the Netherlands, EU/EFTA countries, Singapore or South Africa, or - a vwo diploma or equivalent diploma in which the course on English of a comparable level is required has been earned.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)

Article 7.3 Selection criteria

Not applicable.

Article 7.3a Capacity restriction

Not applicable.

Article 7.4 Pre-Master's programme

Not applicable.

8. Examinations and results

Article 8.1 Sequence of examinations

A student must have obtained a total of at least 60 EC (including at least 30 EC philosophical subjects) before starting the master's thesis.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 h, s & t)
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Article 8.2 Validity period for results

1. If a student's knowledge, understanding or skills 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 6 years ago.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13)
2. Partial exams are only valid in the academic year in which they are held, unless otherwise stated in the course manual.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13)

Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme

9. Programme objectives, tracks/specializations, intended learning outcomes and language

Article 9.1 Workload

The programme has a workload of 120 EC.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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Article 9.2 Tracks and/or specializations

The programme has the following tracks: - Ethics, Economics, and Policy - Philosophy, Bioethics and Health - Philosophy of Law and Governance - Philosophy of Neuroscience, being discontinued, closed for new applicants from 1 September 2025, final graduation date 31 August 2027.	Approval OLC (7.13 b)
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Article 9.3 Programme objective

See appendix.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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Article 9.4 Intended learning outcomes

1. See appendix.	Approval OLC (7.13 c)
2. Adequate language proficiency is a pre-condition for assessment and an examiner may request the student to correct and resubmit a grammatically inadequate submission. Excellent use of style may be rewarded.	Approval OLC (7.13 c)

Article 9.5 Language of instruction

1. The language of instruction and examination of the programme is English.	Approval OLC (9.18)
2. The 'Gedragcode vreemde taal' (Code of conduct for foreign languages) applies.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix

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.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix
2. Additionally the programme can offer: - Practical exercises - Electives	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
3. Units of education are categorized as specialized (400), research-oriented (500) and highly specialized (600) level.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix

Article 10.2 Compulsory units of education

See appendix. A detailed description per unit of education can be found in the Study Guide.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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Article 10.3 Elective units of education

1. See appendix. A detailed description per unit of education can be found in the	Advice OLC;
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Study Guide.	(7.13)
2. If the student wishes to take a different unit of education than listed, advance permission must be obtained in writing from the Examination Board. Non-philosophical optional subjects may only come from the programme of one other master's programme. Students who wish to choose non-philosophical electives from the programme of several master's programmes must discuss their wishes with the coordinator of their track and submit a proposal to the Examination Board for approval .	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 unit of education	course code	nr of EC	level	
Practical Training PBH	W_MAPT_PBH	12	500	

Article 10.5 Participation in practical training and tutorials

1. In case of mandatory participation, the requirements per module are specified in the study guide.	Approval OLC (7.13 d)
2. In case of partial exams and/or written partial assignments, the examiner will indicate in the course manual before the start of the unit of education, how partial exams and/or partial assignments are to be retaken. The examiner may set a substitute assignment, taking into account the original learning objectives of the course.	Approval OLC (7.13 d)

11. Evaluation and transitional provisions

Article 11.1 Evaluation of the education

The education provided in this programme is evaluated in accordance with the appendix. The faculty evaluation plan offers the framework.	Approval OLC (7.13 a1)
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Article 11.2 Transitional provisions

By way of departure from the Teaching and Examination Regulations currently in force, the following transitional provisions apply for students who started the programme under a previous set of Teaching and Examination Regulations: n/a		Advice OLC (7.13 a)
<i>Cancelled course</i>	<i>Replacement Course</i>	

Advice and approval by the Programme Committee on 5 March 2026

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly on 26 May 2026

Adopted by the board of the Faculty on 26 May 2026

Appendix 1 Programme overview

ANNUAL PLAN MASTER PHILOSOPHY, TRACK Ethics, Economy & Policy 2026-2027																																											
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
YEAR 1	Period 1								Period 2								Period 3					Period 4					Period 5					Period 6											
	W_MA_POLE [6 EC] Policy Ethics									Non-philosophical MA course [6 EC]							Non-philosophical MA course [6 EC]					W_MA_POR [6 EC] Philosophy of Responsibility						Non-philosophical MA course [6 EC]															
	W_MA_SCI [6 EC] Philosophy of Science: Disciplines and Themes									W_MA_NORM [6 EC] Normative Ethics												W_MA_HOP [6 EC] History of Philosophy						W_MA_PASP [6 EC] Political and Social Philosophy															
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
YEAR 2	Period 1								Period 2								Period 3					Period 4					Period 5					Period 6											
GENERAL REQUIRED MODULE FREE CHOICE OF MODULES EXAMINATION WEEK VACATION Additional: No education in week 18																																											
We reserve the right to make changes to this annual plan																																											

ANNUAL PLAN MASTER PHILOSOPHY, TRACK PHILOSOPHY OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE 2026-2027																																											
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
YEAR 1	Period 1								Period 2								Period 3					Period 4								Period 5								Period 6					
	Non-philosophical MA course [6 EC]								Non-philosophical MA course [6 EC]								Non- philosophical MA course [6 EC]					W_MA_PLCT [6 EC] Philosophy of Law. Classic Texts								R_Phil.int.I [6 EC] Philosophy of International Law and Migration								Non- philoso- phical MA course [6 EC]					
	R_BioTL [6 EC] Bioethics, Technology and Law								W_MA_NORM [6 EC] Normative Ethics													W_MA_HOP [6 EC] History of Philosophy								W_MA_PASP [6 EC] Political and Social Philosophy													
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
YEAR 2	Period 1								Period 2								Period 3					Period 4								Period 5								Period 6					
	R_BioTL [6 EC] Bioethics, Technology and Law								W_MA_TEXT [6 EC] Philosophical Text Reading								W_MA_PSP [6 EC] Seminar Philosophy of Law					W_MA_PTP [6 EC] Tutorial Philosophy of Law								W_MA2TH [18 EC] Thesis													
	W_MA_PMC [6 EC] Philosophy. Modern Classics								Non-philosophical MA course [6 EC]													W_MA_POR [6 EC] Philosophy of Responsibility																					
GENERAL REQUIRED MODULE FREE CHOICE OF MODULES EXAMINATION WEEK VACATION Additional: No education in week 18																																											
We reserve the right to make changes to this annual plan																																											

ANNUAL PLAN MASTER PHILOSOPHY, TRACK PHILOSOPHY OF NEUROSCIENCE 2026-2027

This program is no longer open to new applications as of 2025-2026. Only re-enrollments are allowed

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										
																																				W_MA2TH [18 EC]											
																																				Thesis											

W_MA2TH [18 EC]
Thesis

GENERAL REQUIRED MODULE

FREE CHOICE OF MODULES

EXAMINATION WEEK

VACATION

Additonal: No education in week 18

We reserve the right to make changes to this annual plan

ANNUAL PLAN MASTER PHILOSOPHY, TRACK PHILOSOPHY, BIOETHICS AND HEALTH 2026-2027																																											
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
YEAR 1	Period 1								Period 2								Period 3					Period 4					Period 5					Period 6											
	R_BioTL [6 EC] Bioethics, Technology and Law								Non-philosophical MA course [6 EC]								Non-philosophical MA course [6 EC]					Non-philosophical MA course [6 EC]					Non-philosophical MA course [6 EC]					Non-philosophical MA course [6 EC]											
	W_MA_SCI [6 EC] Philosophy of Science: Disciplines and Themes								W_MA_NORM [6 EC] Normative Ethics								W_MA_HOP [6 EC] History of Philosophy					W_MA_PASP [6 EC] Political and Social Philosophy																					
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
YEAR 2	Period 1								Period 2								Period 3					Period 4					Period 5					Period 6											
	W_MASP_PBH4 [6 EC] Moral Reasoning in Health Care								W_MA_TEXT [6 EC] Philosophical Text Reading								W_MAPT_PBH [12 EC] Practical Training PBH					W_MA2TH [18 EC] Thesis																					
	W_MASP_PBH2 [6 EC] Ethics of Medical Research								W_MASP_PBH1 [6 EC] Philosophy of Mind, Life and Death								W_MA_EPH [6 EC] Ethics of Public Health																										
We would like to draw your attention to the elective course Philosophy of Responsibility (W_MA_POR), which is offered in period 4. You can take this course extracurricularly, but the credits do not count towards your programme.																																											
GENERAL REQUIRED MODULE FREE CHOICE OF MODULES EXAMINATION WEEK VACATION Additional: No education in week 18																																											
We reserve the right to make changes to this annual plan																																											

Appendix 2 Evaluation of teaching within the School of Humanities

Evaluation Plan 2026-2027

Introduction

The framework with regard to educational evaluations is laid down in [chapter 3](#) of the Manual for Quality Assurance of Teaching and Learning. This is the general evaluation plan for the School of Humanities (SGW).

At VU evaluations are conducted with the aim to improve educational quality. The evaluations focus on the quality of courses, teachers' teaching skills and assessment quality. The VU draws up questionnaires for this purpose with a number of mandatory key questions. In addition, the faculty or school has the option of adding its own questions to the lists.

1. Course evaluations

1.1 Quantitative Evaluations

The School of Humanities uses Evalytics to digitally distribute questionnaires. This way, the anonymity of students is guaranteed and the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle - which serves educational improvement - can be run properly.

1.1.1 Frequency

It is a requirement that each course is evaluated using student questionnaires once every three years. Within the School of Humanities courses are evaluated once every two years, though courses with 0-4 registered students are exempt from digital evaluation. The following schedule that alternates even and odd teaching periods is adhered to:

2026-2027	2027-2028
Period 1+3+5	Period 2+4+6

Exceptions are made for:

- courses mentioned in the annual plan of the SGW Examination Board's Assessment Chamber;
- courses that are administered by the following programmes;
 - o Ba Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
 - o Ba Archeology
 - o Ba Ancient Studies
 - o Ba Griekse en Latijnse Taal en Cultuur
- courses that are part of a (University) Minor.

1.1.2 Process

The default start date of course evaluation is the during the last week of education. The default start date of exam evaluation is the examination date or end date of the course. Course coordinators are encouraged to carry out the evaluation of the education part during the last class before the exam.

Four weeks before the examination or end date of the course, the course coordinator receives an e-mail notifying them that they can prepare the evaluations. A link to the questionnaire in Evalytics is given in this e-mail.

The questionnaire can be modified up until one day before the start date of the evaluation. From that point onwards, the evaluation is open to students, who can then fill out the questionnaire. Students who have not yet completed the evaluation in class will receive an invitation via email.

Once the evaluation is closed to students, the responses are stored in Evalytics. At that point, course coordinators receive a notification that the results have been received. They then have two weeks to give feedback on the results and indicate which steps need to be taken to improve the course (if applicable). Course coordinators who have not yet given feedback after one week receive a reminder.

Once the feedback period is over, a summary of the evaluation results is created for students, who are then notified. The course coordinator's feedback is included in this feedback report. The general idea is that if course coordinators communicate to students that evaluation results are taken seriously, and are used to improve education, students' willingness to fill out questionnaires will increase. In general, evaluation reports are available four weeks after publication date of the questionnaires.

1.2 Qualitative Evaluations

The Manual for Quality Assurance of Teaching and Learning provides an overview of qualitative forms of educational evaluation, such as panel discussions, peer review, and quick inventories of strengths and suggestions. These forms of evaluation are encouraged by the School.

1.3 Distribution

In addition to teaching staff and students, all evaluation reports can be viewed by:

- the evaluation coordinator (FEC), who is tasked with the distribution of evaluation reports;
- the policy advisor for Education and Quality Assurance;
- the SGW Examination Board's Assessment Chamber (*toetskamer*), who has the permission to view evaluation reports of courses as part of their activities in examining assessment quality.

The reports of specific programmes are distributed to:

- programme directors;
- evaluation contact person(s) of the Programme Committee.

2. Minors

All courses of University and School minors are evaluated. It is not (yet) possible to evaluate minors as a separate educational units using Evalytics.

3. Curriculum evaluations

It is recommended to conduct a curriculum evaluation once every 3 years. The basic principle is that a curriculum is evaluated at least before the start of a midterm review or visitation and after every (thorough) curriculum change.

Annually quantitative questionnaires are sent out via Evalytics. Every graduating student receives a request in their e-mailbox to fill out the questionnaire. The period in which the questionnaire is distributed may be determined in consultation with the Programme Director. By default these curriculum evaluations open in October and remain available until September. Programme Directors may add extra questions to the standard questionnaire for graduates.

Alternatively, Programme Committees may organise qualitative curriculum evaluations with permission from the Programme Director and the FEC. The evaluation report should be made available to the Programme Director and the FEC.

Programme Directors are asked to reflect upon the results of curriculum evaluations in their programme annual reports. Discussions of these results with the programme's Advisory Committee (*werkveldadviesraad*) as well as the Programme Committee are encouraged.

4. National student survey

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam takes part in the National Student Survey (*Nationale Studenten Enquête*, or NSE), which is conducted every spring. The NSE can provide useful information about how students experience their program. The programme's annual reports should reflect on the results of the NSE. The Portfolio Holder Education, Programme Directors and the Programme Committees receive the results of the NSE around June.

Appendix 3 Programme objectives and intended learning outcomes

Programme objectives

The specialization tracks in the present master's program aim at the acquisition of an interdisciplinary perspective, combining philosophical perspectives with those within the discipline of specialization. Courses in philosophy and the philosophy of the discipline of specialization help students to identify the historical background of theories and ideas, to provide a theoretical and ethical education that let them think carefully about the kinds of solutions that would be desirable for specific problems, and to give a training in philosophy of the discipline of their specialization that allows students to consider the epistemic and normative presuppositions of different approaches within their disciplines.

The philosophical education trains students to consider what solutions are possible and/or desirable, the education in the discipline of their specialization trains them to focus on solutions that are feasible. On their own, neither philosophical possibility and desirability nor discipline related feasibilities are sufficient for enacting successful solutions.

In addition to these general program objectives, the aims and objectives of the three tracks in the present program include:

- I. Specific aims for the track *Ethics, Economics and Policy* EEP include a number of cognitive and behavioral competences:
 - a. knowledge of key ethical concepts and theories as they pertain to questions in economics and policy;
 - b. the ability to apply ethical theories to contemporary societal challenges in economics and policy;
 - c. the ability to analyse real-world cases from policy and economics using an interdisciplinary perspective, integrating ethical reasoning with economic analysis;
 - d. the ability to critically evaluate policy proposals in terms of justice, responsibility, autonomy and democratic values;
 - e. to be prepared for a careers where strong training in normative reasoning provides added value.

- II. The track *Philosophy of Law and Governance* PLG aims at enabling students:
 - a. to acquire a thorough knowledge of, and insight into, the major components of PLG, its foundations, methods, socio-cultural significance and ethical implications;
 - b. to acquire a deeper and specialized knowledge of, and insight into, present-day topics and views within PLG, in order to teach the student how to contribute to discussions at national and international levels;
 - c. to carry out research, to formulate a problematic issue, to participate in a (scientific) philosophical debate, adding one's own contribution by means of a philosophical treatise about central themes of an academic discipline, also in relation to wider philosophical issues and views;
 - d. to apply in a fruitful manner philosophical skills, knowledge and insights within the context of a practice or profession in Law and Governance, in which the nature of Law and its socio-cultural and normative significance are relevant, and by so doing, to contribute to reaching an appropriate judgment;
 - e. to be prepared for a professional practice where knowledge, insights and skills related to philosophy of Law and Governance have an added value;
 - f. to be prepared for a PhD program in PLG.

- III. The aims for the track *Philosophy, Bioethics and Health* PBH:
Cognitive competences that students acquire on this track include knowledge of:

- a. various normative (medical) ethical theories; theory and methodology of empirical ethics research;
- b. recent developments in psychiatry and neuroscience and their relevance for moral philosophy and medical ethics – and vice versa;
- c. methodological, legal, and moral issues regarding medical research involving human subjects;
- d. the role of the state, insurance companies, health-care providers and patients in health-care systems; factors influencing costs and efficacy of health care;

Behavioral competences that students acquire on this track include:

- a. participating in moral case deliberation;
- b. integrating ethical reasoning, daily practices and legal rules and regulations;
- c. assessing the quality of cure and care from a philosophical and medical ethics perspective;
- d. writing texts, documents and background analyses to inform professionals, policy makers, and other participants in multidisciplinary discussions.

Intended learning outcomes

Based on the program's objectives, the qualifications to be achieved by the graduates in the area of specialization PNS, PBH, and PLG as specified below meet the qualifications outlined by the Dublin descriptors. Upon completion of the program, the students will be qualified, in general terms, for continuing education and research at a PhD level, and will also be strong candidates for employment in administration, politics, institutions of higher learning, and beyond.

A. Knowledge and understanding

More specifically, graduates in the area of specialization EEP, PBH, and PLG of the present Master's program will have

- 1. an overview of important systematic and historical issues in philosophy, and a detailed knowledge of important issues in their area of specialization;
- 2. a mastery of the methodology appropriate to their area of specialization;
- 3. knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories within the philosophy of their area of specialization as presented in their track;

B. Applying knowledge and understanding

Graduates in the area of specialization EEP, PBH, and PLG of the present Master's program will have

- 4. an expertise in formulating clear and innovative research problems related to the state of the art in their area of specialization, as well as the literature;
- 5. experience in integrating philosophical research and developments in scientific fields related to their area of specialization;
- 6. the ability to apply established (disciplinary and interdisciplinary) approaches within philosophy and the discipline of their specialization to the analysis of complex societal questions, and to offer a contribution to their possible solution;

C. Making judgments

Graduates in the area of specialization EEP, PBH, and PLG of the present Master's program

- 7. will have gained experience in the process of scientific research, including reporting on the results of their research, as reflected in their Master Thesis;
- 8. will have the ability to provide policy recommendations encompassing theoretical and normative considerations;
- 9. will have the ability to reflect upon the professional responsibility of researchers and practitioners, and incorporate these reflections into the analysis of societal questions;
- 10. are trained to conduct research in accordance to The Netherlands Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice (UNL).

D. Communication

Graduates in the area of specialization EEP, PBH, and PLG of the present Master's program

11. are trained in argumentation and academic writing.
12. are able to communicate with researchers and practitioners from different backgrounds.
13. are able to report on their research to specialists and non-specialists alike.

E. Learning skills

Graduates in the area of specialization EEP, PBH, and PLG of the present Master's program will have developed the skills that enable them

14. to think analytically and critically;
15. to be flexible, take initiatives, and function as a professional.

Appendix 4 Admission requirements Law (for the track Philosophy of Law and Governance)

Admission to the Master's programme is possible for an applicant who:

- a) has obtained an academic Bachelor's degree, in:
 - 1. Law, or
 - 2. Notarial Law, or
 - 3. Tax Law (LL.B), or
 - 4. in a field other than mentioned under a, b and c,
 - a. which is relevant in preparation for the programme and the chosen specialization, and
 - b. where knowledge of and insight into at least one sub-area of law relevant to the specialization have been acquired at the level of the Bachelor's degrees' intended learning outcomes in Law or Notarial Law. To this end, at least 60 EC in legal course components must have been obtained or proportionate knowledge and/or experience in the legal field;
- b) has a Bachelor's degree of a university of applied science in Law (HBO Rechten, CROHO-code 39205 of 30108) and finished the SchakelzoneRecht VU programme (in Dutch) in collaboration with the Open Universiteit or a package of courses with the same content and the same level as the SchakelzoneRecht VU;
- c) has a Bachelor's degree HBO Rechten (CROHO code 39205), including the Doorstroomprogramma Rechtsgeleerdheid HvA-VU (in Dutch) in collaboration with the Hogeschool van Amsterdam (HvA);
- d) has completed the pre-Master Transnational Law and Society.

The Admission Board examines to what extent the applicant meets the requirements.

Appendix 5 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.