

Teaching and Examination Regulations

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

School of Religion and Theology

**Master's programme Theology and
Religious Studies (120) EC**

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;

individually. In all cases, the time and place of the inspection is announced in the course manual or learning environment.	approval FGV (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 section

6. General programme information and characteristics

Article 6.1 Study programme information

1. The programme Master Theology and Religious Studies (research) RIO number 60827 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 degree programme uses the modes of assessment as specified in the Study Guide.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 l)

Article 6.3 Academic student counselling

The programme offers the academic student counselling as described in section A.	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 of and insight in religious history, sources, beliefs, practices and/or ethics of a religion or a secular philosophy. b. Understanding: a basic understanding of the academic research process; a basic understanding of the concept of interdisciplinarity; a basic understanding of the relevance of Humanities in society; c. Skills: ability to reason effectively; ability to analyse Admission to the programme is possible for students with a Bachelor's degree in Theology, Religious Studies, Philosophy or Humanistic Studies. Admission to the programme is also possible on the basis of another Bachelor's degree than those mentioned above, if the applicant can describe the topic(s) that will be studied and if the applicant can motivate how and why their previous education and background allow them to meet the abovementioned requirements. The Board of Admissions takes the final decision on admissibility.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
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2. 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 ub 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 6.5; 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 4.5 (formerly 92); 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 70. 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 68. At the start of the program, the test must not have been taken more than two years ago.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 ub b)
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

1. In addition to the admission requirements referred to in Article 7.2, the Faculty board also sets the following selection criteria: - A high level of relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated - by an average of 7,5 in the Bachelor's degree programme - or an average of 7 in the Bachelor's degree programme, combined with at least an 8 for the Bachelor's thesis or an accepted academic article in the field of study - or an average of 7 in the Bachelor's degree programme, combined with a Bachelor's degree in another discipline. - A letter in which the applicant explains which religious subdiscipline they want to study in their programme, and how this topic relates to the research conducted at the faculty.	Advice OLC, approval by FGV (9.38 sub b)
2. a. Students who have earned 24 EC of level 400 or 500 courses of their first semester in the 1-year program Theology and Religious Studies (i.e. the four courses of period 1 and 2), with an average score of 7,5 or higher, can be admitted to the programme.	Advice OLC, approval by FGV (9.38 sub b)

b. Applicants should demonstrate evidence of sufficient knowledge of the English Language, as intended in article 7.2 of this section. c. Students can submit a request to the Examination Board before 1 February to include the courses that have been passed in the first semester for the 1 year programme into the 2 year programme. Permission to take RMA courses in the second semester must also be obtained.	
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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

Students may participate in examinations or practical exercises of the units below only if they have passed the examination or examinations for the units mentioned hereinafter:	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 h, s & t)
Internship (G_INTERN) after obtaining 18 EC, of which at least one required module (6 EC).	
Thesis (G_2MATHES) after passing Research Design (G_RMRD)	

Article 8.2 Validity period for results

If the student's skills, understanding or knowledge as evaluated in the exam are demonstrably outdated, the Examination Board may impose a supplementary or replacement examination for a course for which an examination was passed more than 6 years ago.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 k)
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Section B2: Programme specific section – content of programme

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

Article 9.1 Workload

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

Not applicable.

Article 9.3 Programme objective

Students who have completed a Research Master's programme in Theology and Religious Studies have the ability to participate in the academic scholarly discussion in Theology and Religious Studies and to contribute creatively and independently to the fields of their particular expertise within these respective disciplines/research specializations. The pragmatic purpose of the Research Master's is to provide students with the necessary knowledge, skills and insights to enable graduates to enter a PhD programme or to hold positions that require strong academic research skills and experience.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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Article 9.4 Intended learning outcomes

1. The student - Has a thorough understanding of the contextual character of research in Theology and Religious Studies and is therefore able to approach research questions in this field in a dialogical way, i.e., for instance, taking into account the tension between confessional, theological, and religious studies perspectives, comparing perspectives from various religions, world views and cultures, doing justice to texts and practices from other times and places, or using inter- and multidisciplinary approaches. - Has an excellent knowledge of one or a thorough knowledge of several research specializations within the field of Theology and Religious Studies. - Works according to the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, understands an academic research structure and is able to participate in a research group or in a research project. - Is skilled in finding, integrating and critiquing relevant professional literature on a research subject or other subject in the field of Theology and Religious Studies. - Has the skills to independently detect, formulate, analyse and propose solutions to research problems in the field of Theology and Religious Studies. The student is also able to formulate targeted research questions and present these in a plan for a scholarly research project covering a broader scope (such as a PhD research plan). - Is proficient in conducting research in the field of Theology and Religious Studies and reporting on the research in accordance with reporting standards generally accepted in the field. - Is able to apply the theoretical views and methodological approaches in their own field to a range of academic disciplines and contexts, for discussion and other purposes.	Approval OLC (7.13 c)
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2. Language proficiency may be taken into account in the assessment of examinations.	Approval OLC (7.13 c)
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Article 9.5 Language of instruction

1. The language of instruction and examination is English.	Approval OLC (9.18)
2. The 'Gedragcode vreemde taal' (Code of conduct for foreign languages) applies.	VU policy, 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 or academic internship.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix
2. The programme consists of the following units: A. Compulsory educational units, see 10.2 B. Optional subjects, see 10.3	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
3. Units of education are categorised as specialised (400), research oriented (500) and highly specialised (600) level.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix

Article 10.2 Compulsory units of education

Compulsory educational units are: a. Academic Writing and Presenting (6 EC) b. Internship (12 EC) c. Research Design (6 EC) d. Thesis (30 EC) e. All students have to follow 6 EC worth of courses at one of the National Research Schools throughout the entire Research Master's programme. These courses have to followed in the elective space. 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. Elective units of education are: a. Four Research modules (each module 6 EC) b. Classics See appendix. A detailed description per unit of education can be found in the Study Guide.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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.	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	
Thesis	G_2MATHES	30	600	
Internship	G_INTERN	12	500	
Academic Writing and Presenting	G_RMACP	6	600	

Article 10.5 Participation in practical exercise and seminars

1. In the case of a practical training, the student must attend at least 80 % of the practical sessions. Should the student attend less than 80 %, they must repeat the practical training, or the Examination Board or the examiner may have one or more supplementary assignments issued.	Approval OLC (7.13 d)
2. In the case of a seminar, the student must attend at least 80 % of the practical sessions. Should the student attend less than 80 %, they must repeat the practical training, or the Examination Board or the examiner may have one or more supplementary assignments issued.	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 evaluation plan (see 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:		Advice OLC (7.13 a)
<i>Cancelled Course</i>	<i>Replacement Course</i>	
Academic Writing (G_RMACHWR)	Academic Writing and Presenting (G_RMAWP), Writing component with additional assignment(s) worth up to 6 EC	
Academic Presenting (G_RMACHPR)	Academic Writing and Presenting (G_RMAWP), Presenting component with additional assignment(s) worth up to 6 EC	
Research Design 1 (G_RMRD1)	Humanities Research Career Preparation (L_AAMPALG006)	
Research Design 2 (G_RMRD2)	Research Design (G_RMRD)	

Advice and approval by the Programme Committee on 10 March 2026

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly on 26 May 2026

Adopted by the board of the Faculty on 25 May 2026

Appendix 1 Programme overview

ANNUAL PLAN RESEARCH MASTER THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES 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
YEAR 1	parttime year 1	Period 1								Period 2								Period 3					Period 4					Period 5					Period 6									
		G_CHGC [6 EC] Critical Hermeneutics and Global Citizenship								Elective [6 EC] (or NOSTER **)								Elective [6 EC] (or NOSTER ***)					G_RMAWP [6 EC] Academic Writing and Presenting					G_CLASS [6 EC] Classics or L_AAMPALG017 [6 EC] Digital Humanities or W_AAMPUP013 [6 EC] Philosophical and Historical Aspects					Elective [6 EC] (or NOSTER ***)									
	parttime year 2	Elective [6 EC] *								Elective [6 EC] (or NOSTER ***)																																
G_INTERN [12 EC] Internship																																										
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
YEAR 2	parttime year 3	Period 1								Period 2								Period 3					Period 4					Period 5					Period 6									
		Elective [6 EC] **								G_RMIRD [6 EC] Research Design																																
	parttime year 4	Elective [6 EC] ** (or NOSTER ***)								L_AAMPALG006 [6 EC] Humanities Research Career Preparation													G_2MATHES [30 EC] Research Master Thesis																			
										Elective [6 EC] (or NOSTER ***)																																
* Choose from the electives Year 1, period 1. ** Choose from the electives Year 2, period 1. *** Choose from the electives or a module given by one of the research schools in the Netherlands, e.g., NOSTER or NISIS (see their websites). All Research Master's students have to fulfill for at least 5 EC of the elective space by courses at one of the National Research Schools throughout the entire Research Master's Program. By participating in the faculty's research groups, this can be supplemented to (a multiple of) 6 EC. These courses have to be followed in the elective space.																																										
GENERAL REQUIRED MODULE ELECTIVE WEEK OF EXAMS HOLIDAYS Additional: No education in week 18																																										
Electives (6 EC) - see study guide for course description																																										
* Electives Year 1 Period 1: G_RMEC06 Exegesis of the New Testament G_RMPT1 Personal Tutorial 1														** Electives Year 1 and 2 Period 2: G_EBEC1 Evangelical and Baptistic Ethics: Contemporary Issues G_PSYZI Psychedelica en zingeving G_PTR4 Religion, Violence and Trauma G_RCDUL Religious and Cultural Diversity in Urban Landscapes G_RMBEB2 Engaged Buddhism G_RMBS15 Exegesis and Bible Translation: Law G_RMPT2 Personal Tutorial 2 G_RMRE10 Christian Theology and the Anthropocene G_STEM Spiritualiteit en Transitie: Ecologisch en Maatschappelijk G_TISC Theory of Islamic Spiritual Care																												
** Electives Year 2 Period 1: G_ACEBP Applied Christology: Evangelical and Baptistic Perspectives G_PTR1 Peace, Trauma and Religion 1: Just Peace G_RMBS05 Digital Hermeneutics and the Reception of the Bible G_RMBS13 Biblical Interpretation and Exegesis in the Context of Sustainable Development G_RMEC07 Exegesis of the New Testament: Acts of the Apostles G_RMIRET Introduction to Reformed and Evangelical Theology L_KBMAERF006 (De)Constructing Heritage in Architecture and Town Planning														* Electives Year 1 Period 3: G_REFREL Reframing Religion																												
Subject to changes in this annual plan																																										

Appendix 2 Evaluation of teaching within the School of Religion and Theology

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 Religion and Theology (SRT).

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 Religion and Theology 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 Religion and Theology all courses are evaluated.

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 SRT Examination Board, 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 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.