

Teaching and Examination Regulations

MASTER's Degree Programme Theology and Religious Studies (research)

Section B: programme-specific

Academic year 2017-2018

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam,
Faculty of Theology



Section B: Programme-specific section

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Section B: Programme-specific section

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Degree programme information

1. The programme Master Theology and Religious Studies (research) CROHO number 60827 is available in full-time, and part-time form, and taught in English.
 - 1a. The full-time programme has an official duration of 2 years.
 - 1b. The part-time programme has an official duration of 4 years.
2. The programme has a workload of 120 EC

Article 1.2 Intake dates

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

2. Programme objectives and exit qualifications

Article 2 Aims and exit qualifications of the programme

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 this field of inquiry. 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.

The student

1. Has an in-depth knowledge of the hermeneutical character of research in Theology and Religious Studies and is able to reflect on the implications of this for developing multi- and interdisciplinary approaches to research questions in the field.
2. Has an excellent knowledge of one or a thorough knowledge of several research specializations within the field of Theology and Religious Studies.
3. Understands the Faculty's research structure and has actively taken part in one or several of the Faculty's research projects.
4. 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.
5. 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).
6. 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.
7. Is able to apply the theoretical views in his or her own field to a range of academic disciplines and contexts, for discussion and other purposes.
8. Is eligible for admission to a PhD programme or to hold an academic position requiring research strengths and competencies.

3. Admission requirements

Article 3.1 Admission requirements

1. Students holding a Bachelor's degree in Theology or Religious studies (the average grade has to be 7.5 or higher) from a Dutch University are directly eligible for admittance in this Master's programme. Students with a Bachelor's degree in Theology or Religious Studies from a university abroad will only be admitted following an assessment of their degree; the grade average needs to be equivalent to (or higher than) a 7.5 in the Dutch grading system.
2. The Admissions Board will investigate whether the interested person meets the admission requirements.
3. When the programme commences, the candidate must have fully completed the Bachelor's programme allowing admission to this Master's programme.
4. Students from abroad have to hand in a motivation letter and research proposal.

Article 3.2 Selection procedure and method

For admission to the programme, students must have fulfilled the following requirements:

- a. An average grade of 7.5 (Dutch system) or the equivalent for their bachelor's degree programme.
- b. Evidence of sufficient knowledge of the English Language, as intended in article 3.4 of this section.
- c. Students who have earned 60 EC in a one year Master at the Faculty of Theology, Vrije Universiteit, with an average score of 8,0 or higher can be admitted to the second year of the programme.
- d. Students who have earned at least 48 EC in a one year Master at the Faculty of Theology, Vrije Universiteit, with an average score of 8,0 or higher can be admitted to the second year of the programme, if their application is supported by a letter of recommendation written by the supervisor of either his/her internship or thesis.

Article 3.3 Final deadline for registration

A candidate must submit a request to be admitted to the programme through Studielink before June 1 in the case students with direct admission and international degree students from the EU/EEA, before April 1 in the case of international degree students from outside the EU/EEA. Under exceptional circumstances, the Board of the University may consider a request submitted after this closing date. The completion of enrollment is set before September 1.

Article 3.4 English language requirement for English-language Master's programmes

1. The proficiency requirement in English as the language of instruction can be met by the successful completion of one of the following examinations or an equivalent:
 - IELTS: 6.5
 - TOEFL paper based test: 580
 - a computer based test: 237
 - TOEFL internet based test: 92-93
 - Cambridge Advanced English: A, B or C.
2. Exemption is granted from the examination in English referred to in the first paragraph to students who, within two years of the start of the programme:
 - met the requirements of the VU test in English language proficiency TOEFL ITP, with at least the scores specified in paragraph 1, or
 - had previous education in secondary or tertiary education in an English-speaking country as listed on the VU website, or
 - have an English-language 'international baccalaureate' diploma, or
 - have a diploma of a Bachelor or Master degree programme which has been accredited by the NVAO in the Netherlands.

Article 3.5 Free curriculum

1. Subject to certain conditions, the student has the option of compiling a curriculum of his/her own choice which deviates from the curricula prescribed by the programme.
2. The concrete details of such a curriculum must be approved beforehand by the Examinations Board.
3. The free curriculum is put together by the student from the units of study offered by VU Amsterdam or other Dutch universities and must at least have the size, breadth and depth of a regular Master's programme.

4. Curriculum structure

Article 4.1 Composition of programme

1. The programme consists of the following units:
 - a. Compulsory educational units
 - b. Optional subjects

a. Compulsory educational units

- a Hermeneutics (6 EC)
- b Research Skills (6 EC)
- c Internship (12 EC)
- d Master Seminar (6 EC)
- e Classics 1 (6 EC)

- f Classics 2 (6 EC)
- g Research Design 1 (6 EC)
- h Research design 2 (6 EC)
- i Thesis (30 EC)

b. Optional subjects

- a Four Research modules of the chosen Specialization (each module 6 EC)
- b Two Research modules (each module 6 EC) or Professional Streams Modules (each module 6 EC) (free choice)

Other optional subjects

The student who wishes to take a course other than those specified in this article needs to obtain prior written permission from the Examination Board.

2. The structure of the degree programme is listed in the Appendix I of these Teaching and Examination Regulations.

Article 4.2 Participation in practical exercise and tutorials

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 %, he/she must repeat the practical training, or the Examinations Board may have one or more supplementary assignments issued.
2. In the case of tutorials with assignments, the student must attend at least 80 % of the tutorials. Should the student attend less than 80 %, he/she must repeat the study group, or the Examinations Board may have one or more supplementary assignments issued.
3. In exceptional circumstances, the Examinations Board may, at the request of the student, permit an exemption from this requirement if, in the opinion of the Board, the assessment of the intended skills is also possible with a lesser percentage of participation, with or without the imposition of supplementary requirements.

Article 4.3 Maximum exemption

A maximum of 24 EC of the curriculum can be accumulated through granted exemptions, unless the Examinations Board determines otherwise.

Article 4.4 Degree

Students who have successfully completed their Master's final examination are awarded a Master of Arts degree. The degree awarded is stated on the diploma.

5. Transitional and final provisions

Article 5.1 Amendments and periodic review

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

Article 5.2 Transitional provisions

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

Article 5.3 Publication

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

[Article 5.4](#) [Effective date](#)

These Regulations enter into force with effect from September 1, 2017

Advice from the Board of Studies on May 31, 2017.

Approved by authorized representative advisory body on June 19, 2017.

Adopted by the faculty board on 6 July 2017

Appendix I Structure of the degree programme

Master Theology and Religious Studies 2 year, Research Master - Fulltime and Parttime

2017-2018

Year 1

General Required Courses

G_MAHERMN	Hermeneutics	6 EC	G_CLAS1	Classic I	6 EC
G_RESSK	Research Skills	6 EC	G_CLAS2	Classic II	6 EC
G_MASEM	Master Seminar	6 EC	G_INTERN	Internship	12 EC

*Elective**:*

One module (6 EC) from the Research modules or Professional Stream modules.

Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	
6 EC	6 EC		6 EC	6 EC		
G_MAHERMN	Elective**:		G_CLAS1	G_CLAS2		<i>Parttime Year 1</i>
Hermeneutics	Research modules or Professional Stream modules		Classics I	Classics II		
6 EC G_MASEM Master Seminar ***						
6 EC	6 EC	6 EC	12 EC			
G_RM*	G_RM*	G_RESSK	G_Intern			<i>Parttime Year 2</i>
Research module of the chosen Specialization	Research module of the chosen Specialization	Research Skills ****	Internship			

Year 2

General Required Courses

G_RMRD1	Research Design 1	6 EC
G_RMRD2	Research Design 2	6 EC
G_2MATHES	Thesis	30EC

*Elective**:*

One module (6 EC) from the Research modules or Professional Stream modules

Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	
6 EC	6 EC			30 EC		
G_RM*	G_RM*		G_2MATHES			<i>Parttime Year 3</i>
Research module of the chosen Specialization	Research module of the chosen Specialization		Thesis			
	6 EC	6 EC				
	G_RMRD1	G_RMRD2				
	Research Design 1	Research Design 2				

6 EC			
Elective**:			
Research modules or Professional Stream modules			Parttime Year 4

* Module number depends on the chosen Research module.

** Choose from the Research modules or Professional Stream modules.

*** The course Master Seminar is taught in period 1-6. Part time students will take this course in the same year as their Internship.

****Part time students: the course Research Skills has to be completed in the second year of the study. The study load of this course is a fulltime study load.

Research Modules (RM) (see digital Study Guide for course descriptions)

Period 1:

G_RMBS03 Analytic Tools and the Study of the Bible
 G_RMEC01 The Text of the NT and its Tradition
 G_RMRE03 Scripture and the Sacraments: a Reception-Theological Approach
 G_RMRM03 Acts of the French Protestant Churches in the Low Countries
 G_MLATIJN1 Latijn 1

Period 2:

G_RMBS02 Studies in Leviticus
 G_RMBS04 Biblical Interpretation in Context: Ancient and Modern Case Studies
 G_RMRE04 Reconciliation and Identities
 G_RMRM04 If You ain't Dutch, You ain't Much. American Neo-Calvinists and their Home Country
 G_MLATIJN2 Latijn 2

Professional Stream Modules (PSM) (see digital Study Guide for course descriptions)

Period 1:

G_BIR3 Building interreligious Relations 3
 G_LEAD1 Leadership 1
 G_MED1 Media 1
 G_PTR3 Peace, Trauma and Religion 3
 G_SPICA1 Spiritual Care 1

Period 2:

G_BIR4 Building interreligious Relations 4
 G_LEAD2 Leadership 2
 G_MED2 Media 2
 G_PTR4 Religion and Trauma
 G_SPICA2 Spiritual Care 2
 G_IPM Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Mindfulness
 G_TISC Theory of Islamic Spiritual Care