

Teaching and Examination Regulations

Faculty of Law

Master's programme in International Crimes, Conflict and Criminology

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.
2. These Regulations enter into force on 1 September 2026.
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.
4. 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.

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 unit of education 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. final project: | a unit comprising research into the literature and/or a contribution to scientific research, always resulting in a written report; |
| f. internship: | period spent working in professional practice as part of a study programme; |
| g.1 joint degree: | a degree awarded by an institution together with one or more institutions in the Netherlands or abroad, after the student has completed a study programme (a degree programme, a specialisation or a specific curriculum within a degree programme) for which the collaborating institutions are jointly responsible; |
| g.2 double degree: | partnership between a programme of a Dutch educational institution with a foreign educational institution, whereby students complete all or part of both study programmes and obtain two diplomas on the basis of agreements regarding the mutual recognition of the programme (replacement courses); |
| h. period: | a part of a semester; |
| i. 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; |
| j. programme: | the totality and cohesion of the units of education, teaching activities/ methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature; |
| k. SAP/SLM: | the student information system (<i>Student Lifecycle Management</i>); |
| l. semester: | the first (September - January) or second half (February - August) of an academic year; |
| m. specialisation: | optional route of study within a degree programme indicating a deepening of the context of the programme (e.g. interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary); |

- n. 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);
- o. student: the person enrolled in a unit of education or programme at the Vrije Universiteit;
- p. 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>;
- q. study monitor: dashboard for students and academic advisers containing data pertaining to the student, including the student's study progress;
- r. subject: see t. 'unit of education';
- 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 programme 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.
2. Every semester consists of three consecutive periods. The first two periods each consist of eight weeks, and the final period consists of four weeks.
3. A unit of education comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof.
4. By way of exception to article 2.1.3, the Executive Board may in special cases and on request of the Faculty Board, stipulate that a unit of education comprises 3 EC or a multiple thereof.

3. Assessment and examination

Article 3.1 Signing up for education and examinations

1. Every student must sign up to participate in the units of education of the programme, the examinations and resits. The procedure for signing up is described in the Regulations for registering for courses and examinations.
2. Signing up may only take place in the designated periods.

Article 3.2 Type of examination

At the examiner's request, the Examination Board may permit a different form of examination than is stipulated in the study guide.

Article 3.3 Oral examinations

1. No more than one student will be examined orally at a time, unless specified otherwise in part B for the relevant unit of education.
2. A second examiner is present when an oral examination is being held, unless the Examination Board has determined otherwise. The oral examination takes place at a time and location to be determined by the examiner within the regular timetable, on campus or online. At the request of the student, and with the

approval of the examiners, an audio recording is made. Should the second examiner not be available unexpectedly, an audio recording of the oral exam can be made. This audio recording is retained by the university for the retention period applicable for examinations.

Article 3.4 Determining and announcing results

1. Within fifteen working days after the day on which a written examination has been administered, the examiner determines the result of this examination and ensures that the marks are registered and that the student is notified of the mark, taking due account of the applicable confidentiality standards. However, the marking deadline for final projects is no longer than twenty working days after submission.
2. The examiner determines the result (i.e. mark) of an oral examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within [one or two working days] after the examination has finished and informs the student accordingly, taking due account of the applicable confidentiality standards.
3. In the case of assessments other than oral or written examinations, the Examination Board determines in advance how and by what deadline the student will be informed of the results.

Article 3.5 Examination opportunities

1. a. Per academic year, two opportunities to take examinations will be offered for each unit of education.
b. By way of exception to a., the options for retaking practical exercises, work placements and final projects are detailed in the relevant work placement manual, course manual or teaching regulations.
2. The most recent mark will apply in the event of a resit. A resit is allowed for both passed and failed units of education.
3. The resit for an examination may not take place within ten working days of the announcement of the results for the original examination. Exceptions are only possible in period 6.
4. The Examination Board may allow a student an extra opportunity to sit an examination if that student:
 - a. lacks only those credits to qualify for their degree; and
 - b. has failed the examination during all the previously offered attempts unless participation in an examination was not possible for compelling reasons.

This provision excludes the practical exercises and the final project. Requests for an additional examination opportunity must be submitted to the Examination Board no later than 1 July. If necessary, the method of examination may deviate from the provisions in the study guide.

5. If a unit of education is no longer offered, at least one additional opportunity will subsequently be provided to sit the examination(s) or parts thereof and a transitional arrangement will be included in Section B.

Article 3.6 Marks

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

Article 3.7 Exemption

At the written request of the student, the Examination Board may exempt the student from taking one or more examination components, if they:

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

Article 3.8 Validity period for results

The validity period of examinations passed and exemption from examinations is unlimited, unless otherwise specified in Section B.

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.

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 article 3.9.1.
3. The examiner determines whether the inspection takes place collectively or individually. In all cases, the time and place of the inspection is announced in the course manual or learning environment.
4. Students are entitled to feedback on their academic performance. The way this is provided in each unit of education is described in the course manual.

4. Academic student counselling and study progress

Article 4.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling

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

Article 4.2 Facilities for students with a disability or impairment

1. Students with a disability or impairment, can submit a request via VU.nl Dashboard to qualify for one or more special facilities with regard to teaching, practical exercises and examinations. These facilities will accommodate the student's individual disability or impairment as much as possible, but may not alter the quality or degree of difficulty of a unit of education or an examination. In all cases, the student must fulfil the exit qualifications [intended learning outcomes] for the study programme.
2. The request referred to in article 4.2.1 must be accompanied by a statement from a doctor or psychologist. If possible, an estimate should be given of the potential impact on the student's study progress. In case of a chronic disability a single (one time) request suffices.
3. Students who have been diagnosed with dyslexia must provide a statement from a BIG-, NIP- or NVO-registered professional who is qualified to conduct a psychological evaluation.
4. The faculty board, or the person acting on behalf of the faculty board, decides on teaching facilities and facilities regarding logistics. The Examination Board will decide on requests for facilities with regard to examinations.
5. In the event of a positive decision in response to a request as referred to in article 4.2.1, the student can make an appointment with the academic adviser to discuss the details of the provisions.
6. A request for one or more facilities can be refused if it would place a disproportionate burden on the organisation or the resources of the faculty or university were it upheld. Any such refusal will be substantiated.
7. If the disability or impairment justifies an extension of the examination time, the responsible person on behalf of the Examination Board will register in SAP this entitlement to an extension. If a disability or impairment justifies other measures to be taken, the academic adviser can take the necessary measures. The student can consult the study monitor to check which facilities have been granted to them.
8. The decision as referred to in article 4.2.5 may specify a limited validity of the facilities granted.

5. Hardship clause

Article 5.1 Hardship clause

In instances not regulated by the Teaching and Examination Regulations or in the event of demonstrable extreme unreasonableness or unfairness, the faculty board responsible for the study programme will decide, unless the matter concerned is the responsibility of the Examination Board.

Section B1: Programme-specific section

6. General programme information and characteristics

Article 6.1 Study programme information

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

Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment

1. The programme uses the teaching formats as specified in the study guide.
2. The modes of assessment used per unit of education are specified in the study guide.

Article 6.3 Academic student counselling

The programme offers the following counselling in addition to the student counselling mentioned in Section A: Career Advisors.

7. Further admission requirements

Article 7.1 Intake date(s)

The master's programme starts on 1 September.

Article 7.2. Admission requirements

1. Admission to the master's programme is possible for prospective students who can demonstrate that they have a relevant academic bachelor's or master's degree or equivalent, for instance:
 - a. Criminology
 - b. Law
 - c. Social Sciences
 - d. Political Sciences
 - e. Psychology
 - f. or any related subject
2. In addition to the requirement in article 7.2.1 the programme aims to offer an international mixed classroom and selects prospective students who can be expected to make a significant contribution to this learning environment. Therefore, the Admissions Board takes the following additional criteria into account:
 - a. Academic excellence (as evidenced by the overall grade average and proof of writing). Prospective students should have a minimum GPA of 7.5 according to the Dutch grading system. VU Amsterdam will convert international grades and decide on the international grade equivalents for the Dutch grade of a 7.5.
 - b. Demonstrated interest in conflict-related crimes, and/or post-conflict justice (as evidenced by previous study programme and/or CV).
 - c. Motivation (as evidenced by motivation letter, CV, (optional) units of education and extracurricular activities).

A somewhat lower score on a particular requirement can be compensated by a strong score on another.
3. Prospective students with a bachelor's degree obtained at an institution outside the Netherlands may be asked for additional documents.
4. Prospective students must demonstrate a sufficient level of proficiency in English by meeting at least one of the following requirements before the start of the programme at the VU:
 - a. Cambridge C1 Advanced /Certificate Advanced English (CAE): an overall score of at least 180;
 - b. Cambridge C2 Proficiency/Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): an overall score of at least 180.

For the following standards, the test must not have been taken more than two years before the start of the programme at VU Amsterdam:

 - c. IELTS Academic: an overall score of at least 7.0;
 - d. TOEFL internet-based test: an overall score of at least 5.0;
 - e. VU English Language Proficiency Test; TOEFL ITP: an overall score of at least 580;
 - f. LanguageCert Academic SELT: an overall score of at least 75;
 - g. Pearson PTE Academic: an overall score of at least 76.

5. Exemptions from the requirements in article 7.2.4 apply to prospective students who have obtained:
 - a. a fully English-language taught secondary or higher education degree in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom or the United States of America; or
 - b. a bachelor's or master's degree in a programme accredited by NVAO in the Netherlands; or
 - c. a fully English-language taught, accredited bachelor's or master's degree, EU/EFTA countries, Singapore or South Africa, or
 - d. a vwo diploma or equivalent diploma including a unit of education in English at a comparable level.
6. Admission is granted for a specific academic year, unless the Admissions Board decides otherwise.

Article 7.3 Selection criteria and Capacity restriction

N/A

Article 7.4 Pre-Master's programme

N/A

8. Examinations and results

Article 8.1 Sequence of examinations

N/A

Article 8.2 Validity period for results

1. The Examination Board may impose an additional or replacement examination for a unit of education for which an examination was passed more than 4 years ago, if the tested knowledge, understanding, or skills are demonstrably outdated.
2. The validity period of a partial examination is determined by the examiner and is stated on Canvas and/or in the course manual prior to the start of the unit of education. If the examiner has not specified the validity period of a partial exam, its validity is limited to the academic year in which it was sat.

Article 8.3 Partial examinations

1. As an exception to article 3.5.1.a, one opportunity per academic year is provided to take a partial examination- When the partial examination accounts for 30% or more of the final grade or must be passed to register a final grade, two opportunities to take this partial examination will be provided per academic year.
2. If a student has been unable, due to force majeure, to take a partial examination-for which one opportunity per academic year is provided, the lecturer will grant the student an extra opportunity to take the partial examination-upon the request of the student.

Article 8.4 Right of inspection

As an exception to article 3.9.1, for education periods 5 and 6, students have the right to inspect their graded examination no later than five working days before the resit.

Section B2: Programme-specific section – content of programme

9. Programme objectives, specialisations, exit qualifications and language

Article 9.1 Workload

The programme has a workload of 60 EC.

Article 9.2 Specialisations

N/A

Article 9.3 Programme objective

The programme objectives are:

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

Article 9.4 Exit qualifications

After finishing the master, the graduate:

Has knowledge of and insight into:

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

Is capable of:

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

Shows evidence of:

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

Article 9.5 Language of instruction

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

Article 9.6 Language proficiency

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

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 final project.
2. The programme can offer: restricted elective educational components and/or extra-curricular components.
3. Units of education are categorised as specialised (400), research-oriented (500) and highly specialised (600) level.

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

Article 10.2 Compulsory units of education

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

Article 10.3 Restrictive units of education

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

<i>Name of unit of education</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>EC</i>	<i>Level</i>
Atrocity Actors; Perpetrators, Bystanders and Victims	R_Perp.bysta	6	600
Corporations, Conflict and International Crimes	R_CorIC	6	600
International Law Clinic	R_IntLCLin	12	600
Terrorism & Security	R_TerrSec	6	600
Transnational Organized Crime and Conflict	R_TCC	6	600

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

<i>Name of unit of education</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>EC</i>	<i>Level</i>
Expert Seminar (1)	R_ExpS1	3	600
Expert Seminar (2)	R_ExpS2	3	600
Expert Seminar (3)	R_ExpS3	3	600
Expert Seminar (4)	R_ExpS4	3	600

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

Article 10.4 Practical exercise

N/A

Article 10.5 Attendance requirement

- For practical exercises (which may take place within different educational sessions, such as tutorial, seminar, meeting, practical, training, study group) or practica, an attendance requirement applies, unless stated otherwise in the course manual and/or on Canvas of the unit of education. The specific requirements for mandatory attendance that apply to the unit of education are described per unit of education in the course manual and/or on Canvas. If the student does not meet these requirements, the student will be excluded from participating in the (partial) examination and resit.
- Students who are required to retake a unit of education must comply with the attendance requirement of this unit of education again, unless stated otherwise in the course manual and/or on Canvas of the unit of education.

Article 10.6 Extra-curricular components

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

Research Talent Track Law (only after selection)

<i>Name of unit of education</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>EC</i>	<i>Level</i>
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Academic Skills research track	R_PropWr	6	600
Academic Writing lab	R_AcaO	6	600
Empirical Research Skills	R_EmpO	6	600

11. Evaluation and transitional provisions

Article 11.1 Evaluation of the programme

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

Article 11.2 Transitional provisions

N/A

Advice and/or approval by the Programme Committee, on March 25th, 2026.

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly, on June 4th, 2026

Adopted by the board of the Faculty of Law, on June 4th, 2026