

Teaching and Examination Regulations

Master's programme Philosophy
Faculty of Humanities

Academic year 2023-2024

A. Faculty section

B1. Programme-specific section – general provisions

B2. Programme-specific section – content of programme

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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 2023.	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)

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;
- d. final examination: a master's programme consists of a master's examination;
- e. 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. period: a part of a semester;
- g. practical exercise: the 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;
- h. pre-Master's enrollee: person enrolled in a pre-Master's programme, who is not a student from a legal perspective;
- 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 (*Student Lifecycle Management*);
- k. semester: the first (September - January) or second (February - August) half 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. 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://studiegids.vu.nl/en>;
- o. study monitor: dashboard for students and academic advisers with data of the student that also provides insight into the student's study progress;
- p. subject: see 'unit of education';
- q. thesis: a unit comprising research into the literature and/or contributing to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;
- r. track: a study pathway within a broader Bachelor's or Master's degree programme, such as a fully English-language study pathway within a Dutch-language Bachelor's or Master's programme;
- s. unit of education: a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW;
- t. university: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;
- u. WHW: the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (*Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek*);
- v. 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
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
3. A unit of education comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix
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

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 an annex to the student statute.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix
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2. Signing up may only take place in the designated periods.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix
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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.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (7.13 l)
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Article 3.3 Oral examinations

An oral examination is public unless the Examination Board determines otherwise.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 l and n)
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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 theses and final assignments (NB: this does not include tests, such as written assignments or papers, at the end of regular units of education) is no longer than twenty working days. 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
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 theses are detailed in the relevant work placement manual, thesis manual or teaching regulations.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix
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.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix
3. In case of a resit of a written assignment (such as a paper or essay) the following options exist: a. The resit involves improving the assessed written assignment. In that case the examiner may set a maximum mark to be obtained. b. The resit involves making (a) new assignment(s); Before the start of the unit of education, the examiner will indicate in the course manual which option or which options (under which conditions) apply or applies to the course.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 j)
4. The resit for a (partial) examination must not take place within ten working days of the announcement of the result of the (partial) examination being resat.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 j)
5. In case of partial exams and/or written partial assignments, the examiner will indicate before the start of the unit of education in the course manual how partial exams and/or partial assignments will be resat. The examiner may set a substitute assignment, taking into account the original learning objective to be tested.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 j)
6. The Examination Board may allow a student an extra opportunity to sit an examination if that student:	Ordinance CvB, see appendix

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. The extra opportunity can only be offered if it concerns a written examination, a paper or a take home examination. This provision excludes the practical exercises and the Master's thesis. 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.	
7. If a unit of education is no longer offered in the following academic year, at least one additional opportunity will 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. Marks are given on a scale from 1 to 10 with no more than one figure after the decimal point.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix
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
3. To pass a given course or unit, a final mark of 6 or higher is required.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix
4. The Examination Board can allow the use of symbols rather than numbers, for example V(voldaan = pass), G(goed=good), NVD(niet voldaan=fail), etc.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix

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 of applied sciences (HBO) or 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 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
2. The validity period of a partial examination is limited to the academic year in which it was sat or until the end of the unit of education concerned, as stipulated for the relevant unit of education in Section B. In exceptional circumstances, an examiner may deviate from this; this must be stated in the course manual at the start of the unit of education.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)

Article 3.9 Right of inspection and post-examination discussion

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 can submit a request to inspect their assessed work, the questions and assignments set in it, as well as the standards applied for marking. The place and time at which the inspection takes place will be announced on the VU.nl Dashboard or Canvas in all cases.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 p and q)
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2. If a collective post-examination discussion has been organised, individual post-examination discussions will be held only if the student has attended the collective discussion or if the student was unable to attend the collective discussion through no fault of their own.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 q)
3. Students who meet the requirements stipulated in paragraph 2 can submit a request for an individual post-examination discussion to the relevant examiner. The discussion shall take place at a time and location to be determined by the examiner within the regular timetable, on campus or online.	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 the 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

1. A student with a disability can submit a request via the 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 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 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 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 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	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)

have been granted to them.	
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 CROHO 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 following teaching formats: - Lecture - Seminar - Tutorial - Practical Training.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 x)
2. The programme uses the following assessment methods, as described in the Study Guide. The types of assessment that the students actually encounter may depend on which specialization they choose. - Written examination - Written assignment (e.g. paper, essay, lecture protocol, take home examination) - Oral examination / assignment (e.g. presentation, plea, quiz, podcast) - Participation - Thesis.	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: - knowledge in (one or more disciplines of) neuroscience, law or one or more health-related fields, on graduate entry level, and - understanding of the basic methods, theories and developments in (one or more disciplines of) neuroscience, law or health	Advice OLC, approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
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c. skills in conducting and reporting academic research, writing and presentation on graduate entry level, achieved i.e. through successfully following at least three years of consecutive Bachelor education on academic higher education level.	
2. Applicants who wish to follow Philosophy of Neuroscience (PNS) must, in addition to the provisions in paragraph 1, also meet the following specific requirements: - An academic (WO) Bachelor's degree in Biology, Biomedical Sciences, or Psychology with a Biological Psychology or Neuropsychology profile (students with a BSc degree in a closely related discipline (e.g. Movement Sciences, Artificial Intelligence or Medicine) are also eligible to apply, and - Eligibility to a Neuroscience Master programme or a closely related programme. (Explanation: in order to successfully complete the Master Philosophy, Philosophy of Neuroscience, students need to obtain 30 EC in neuroscience courses at 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.)	Advice OLC, approval FGV 9.38 sub b)
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 sufficient level of proficiency in English by meeting at least one of the following standards, no more than two (2) years before the start of the programme at VU Amsterdam: - (academic) IELTS: 7,0, with a minimum of 6,5 for each component; - TOEFL paper based test: 600, with a minimum of 55 for each component and 4.0 in TWE;	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)

- TOEFL internet based test: 100, with a minimum of 20-23 for each component.	
5. Applicants who: - completed an English-taught secondary or higher education degree in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand or Australia, or - have earned a Bachelor's or Master's degree in an English-taught programme accredited by NVAO in the Netherlands, or - have earned a Bachelor's or Master's degree in an accredited English-taught programme in another member state of the European Union, or - have a Dutch VWO diploma, or - have obtained a Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) or a Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE) with a score of A, B or C - have earned a VWO diploma or equivalent diploma in which English of a comparable level is required are exempted from the requirements referred to in paragraph 3.	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

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 k)
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Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme

9. Programme objectives, tracks/specializations, exit qualifications 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: - Philosophy, Bioethics and Health - Philosophy of Law and Governance - Philosophy of Neuroscience.	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 Exit qualifications

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 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 Study Guide.	Advice OLC; (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_PB H	12	500	

Article 10.5 Participation in practical training and tutorials

In case of mandatory participation, the requirements per module are specified in the study guide.	Approval OLC (7.13 d)
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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: <i>not applicable</i>	Advice OLC (7.13 a)
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Advice and approval by the Programme Committee on 28 April 2023

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly on 1 June 2023

Adopted by the board of the Faculty on 6 June 2023

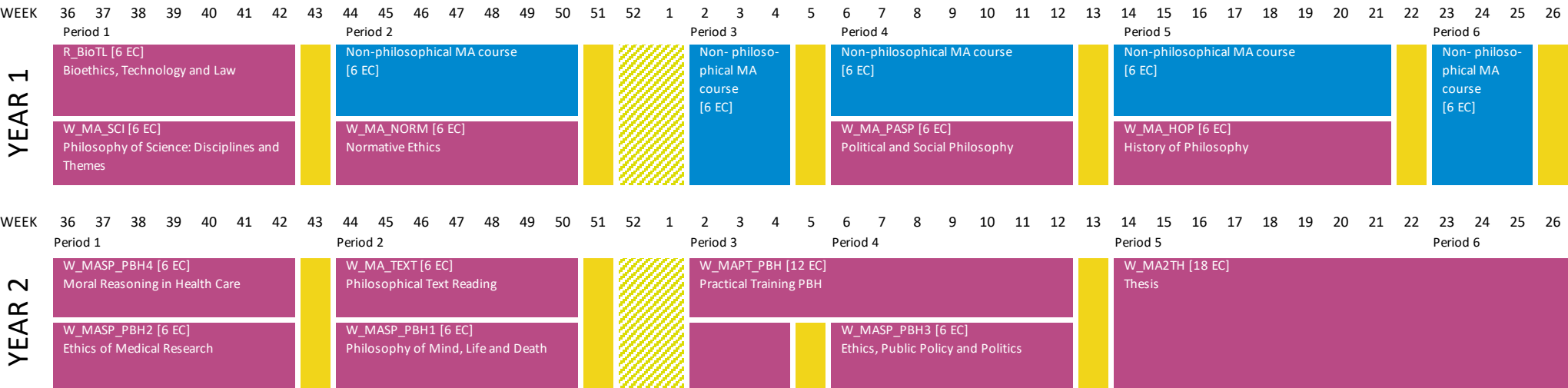
Appendix 1 Programme overview

ANNUAL PLAN MASTER PHILOSOPHY, TRACK PHILOSOPHY OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE 2023-2024

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																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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	W_MA_SCI [6 EC] Philosophy of Science: Disciplines and Themes								W_MA_NORM [6 EC] Normative Ethics														W_MA_PASP [6 EC] Political and Social Philosophy					W_MA_HOP [6 EC] History of Philosophy																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
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We reserve the right to make changes to this annual plan

ANNUAL PLAN MASTER PHILOSOPHY, TRACK PHILOSOPHY, BIOETHICS AND HEALTH 2023-2024

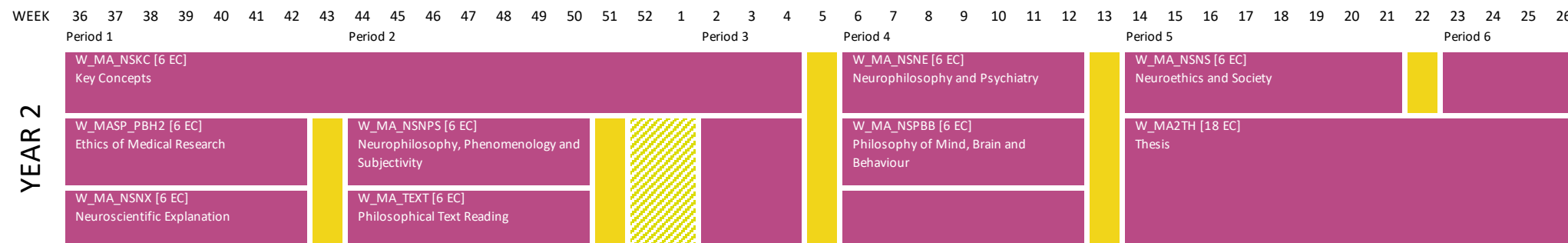
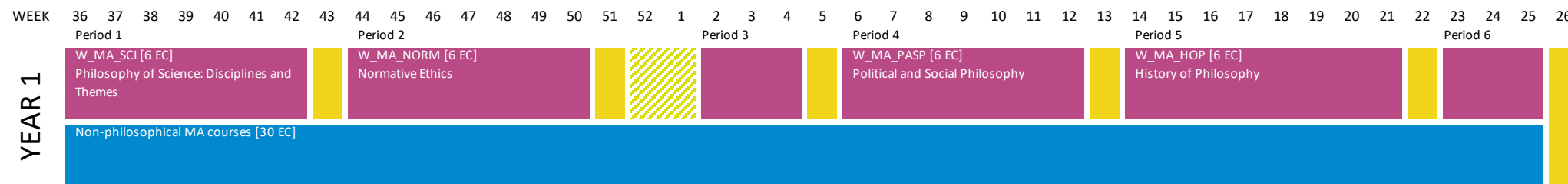


We would like to draw your attention to the elective course Philosophy of Responsibility (W_MA_POR), which is offered in period 4. You can take this course extracurricularly, but the credits do not count towards your programme.

GENERAL REQUIRED MODULE FREE CHOICE OF MODULES EXAMINATION WEEK VACATION Additonal: No education in week 18

We reserve the right to make changes to this annual plan

ANNUAL PLAN MASTER PHILOSOPHY, TRACK PHILOSOPHY OF NEUROSCIENCE 2023-2024



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 Faculty of Humanities

Course and curriculum evaluations aim to improve the quality of education. The VU draws up questionnaires for this purpose with a number of key questions, which are always asked. In addition, the faculty has the option of adding its own questions to the lists.

Within the Faculty of Humanities, questionnaires are distributed digitally. In this way, the anonymity of students is guaranteed and the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle - which serves educational improvement - can be run properly.

When the results of the evaluation are ready, the course coordinator is notified. The course coordinator formulates a response to the results of the evaluation and can also report to the students what they are going to change about the course for the next academic year based on the results. Students will have access to a selection of the evaluation results (provided there were at least five respondents) and the course coordinator's response.

The evaluation reports will be available no later than two weeks after the close of the feedback period for the course coordinator. The evaluation results are available to all lecturers of the course, the staff members of the program committee, the program director, and the evaluation coordinator. The program committees present an analysis of the evaluations in their annual report.

Courses to be evaluated

The following criteria are used to designate a module as requiring evaluation:

- Each course is evaluated (at least) once every three years, this means that one third of all courses are covered anyway. This is spread over periods and years so that not all students of one year level are asked to fill in questionnaires each time;
- all newly developed courses / new curriculum;
- courses taught by new teachers;
- all less well evaluated courses from the previous year based on criteria as defined in the Annual Evaluation Plan;
- all courses from university minors offered by faculty;
- courses addressed in the annual plan of the assessment chamber;
- courses put forward at the request of the programme committees;
- courses, with more than 8 students enrolled, that were identified as requiring evaluation in the previous year, but for which there are no evaluation results.

Curriculum Evaluations

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. The questionnaires are distributed digitally. The program director may add additional questions to this questionnaire. The period in which the questionnaire is distributed is determined in consultation with the programme director. In addition to the programme committee, the results of curriculum evaluations may be discussed with the work field advisory board.

Other forms of evaluation

Besides digital evaluation, there are other ways to evaluate education. The chapter on Educational Evaluations in the VU's Handbook on Educational Quality 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 within the faculty.

National Student Survey (NSE)

The Vrije Universiteit participates in the National Student Survey (*Nationale Studenten Enquete*), which is conducted each spring. The NSE can provide useful information about how students experience their program. The annual reports of the programmes reflect on the results of the NSE.

Appendix 3 Programme objectives and exit qualifications

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. The specific and focused aim of the track *Philosophy in Neuroscience PNS* is
 1. to train students to become conceptually sensitive in the translation of neuroscientific research findings to different fields of application (clinical, educational, public health)
 2. to give students an idea of, and train them in, what it is to be 'a good scientist'.

This specific aim is embedded in a program with more general aims, which are

- a. teaching students in-depth knowledge of, and insight into, the most important topics in philosophy of neuroscience and the relation of these topics to general philosophical issues
 - b. learning students to address, carry out research, formulate problems with respect to a broad domain of conceptual issues at the interfaces between neuroscience, other sciences, clinical practice, and society;
 - c. to enable students to acquire the competence of discussing the above issues and to report on them, both orally and in written form
 - d. to apply in a fruitful manner philosophical skills, knowledge and insights within the context of neuroscience as a practice, with special emphasis on the role of normative and contextual components in reaching an appropriate judgment;
 - e. discussions on-site and in class in order to prepare the student for the ethical demands that are part of becoming a good scientist
 - f. to be prepared for a PhD program in PNS.
- 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.

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 PNS, 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 PNS, 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 PNS, 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 (VSNU).

D. Communication

Graduates in the area of specialization PNS, 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 PNS, 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' exit qualifications 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 Overview of articles that must be included in the OER

Based on Article 7.13, paragraph 2, of the WHW and other Articles of the Act.

Section A: Faculty section

2. Study programme structure	
Article 2.1 Structure of academic year and units of education	7.13 paragraph 2 sub e
3. Assessment and examination	
Article 3.2 Type of examination	7.13 paragraph 2 sub h, l, j
Article 3.3 Oral examinations	7.13 paragraph 2 sub l, n
Article 3.4 Determining and announcing results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub o
Article 3.5 Examination opportunities	7.13 paragraph 2 sub h, j
Article 3.7 Exemption	7.13 paragraph 2 sub r
Article 3.8 Validity period for results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub k
Article 3.9 Right of inspection and post-examination discussion	7.13 paragraph 2 sub p, q
4. Academic student counselling and study progress	
Article 4.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling	7.13 paragraph 2 sub u
Article 4.2 Facilities for students with a disability	7.13 paragraph 2 sub m

Section B1: Programme specific – general provisions

6. General programme information and characteristics	
Article 6.1 Study programme information	7.13 paragraph 2 sub i, r
Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment	7.13 paragraph 2 sub l, x
[keuze:] Article 6.3 Academic student counselling	7.13 paragraph 2 sub u
7. Further admission requirements	
Article 7.2 Admission requirements	7.30b paragraph 1
Article 7.3 Selection criteria	7.30b paragraphs 2 & 5
Article 7.4 Pre-Master's programme	7.57i section 1
8. Examinations and results	
Article 8.1 Sequence of examinations	7.13 paragraph 2 sub h, s, t
[option 1:] Article 8.2 Validity period for results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub k
[option 2:] Article 8.2 Validity period for results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub k

Section B2: Programme-specific section – content of programme

9. Programme objectives, tracks/specialisations, exit qualifications and language	
Article 9.1 Workload	7.13 paragraph 2 sub g
Article 9.2 Tracks and/or specialisations	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a

Article 9.3 Programme objective	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
Article 9.4 Exit qualifications	7.13 paragraph 2 sub b, c
Article 9.5 Language of instruction	9.18 (<i>implementation expected in 2020</i>)
10. Curriculum structure	
Article 10.1 Composition of the programme	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
Article 10.2 Compulsory units of education	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
[Keuze:] Article 10.3 Elective units of education	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
[Keuze:] Article 10.4 Practical exercise	7.13 paragraph 2 sub d
Article 10.5 Participation in practical training and tutorials	7.13 paragraph 2 sub d
11. Evaluation and transitional provisions	
Article 11.1 Evaluation of the programme	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a1
Article 11.2 Transitional provisions	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a

Appendix 6 Overview of advisory and approval rights of Programme Committees (OLC) and Faculty Joint Assembly (FGV)

Article 7.13, paragraph 2, of the Higher Education and Research Act	FGV		OplC	
	I	A	I	A
a. the content of the programme and the associated examinations				
a1. the manner in which teaching and education in the relevant programme are evaluated				
b. the content of the specialisations offered as part of the programme				
c. the programme's final attainment levels with regard to the knowledge, understanding and skills				
d. where applicable, the design of practical exercises				
e. the workload of the programme and of each of its constituent educational units				
f. the detailed rules referred to in Article 7.8b, sixth paragraph, and Article 7.9, fifth paragraph (recommendation on continuation of studies)				
g. the Master's programmes to which Article 7.4a, eighth paragraph, applies (elevated workload)				
h. the number and sequence of examinations and the times at which these can be taken				
i. the full-time, part-time or work-study structure of the programme				
j. where necessary, the order in which students can take the interim and final examinations, as well as the timing of and number of opportunities				
k. where necessary, the period of validity for pass grades awarded for examinations, notwithstanding the authority of the Examination Board to extend this period of validity				
l. whether examinations are administered in oral, written or another form, notwithstanding the authority of the Examination Board to decide otherwise				
m. the way in which students with a disability or chronic health condition are given a reasonable opportunity to take the examinations				
n. the public nature of oral examinations, subject to the right of the Examination Board to determine otherwise in special cases				
o. the period within which the results of an examination must be announced, together with details of whether this period can be altered and if so in what way				
p. the way in which and the period within which students who have taken an examination are given the opportunity to inspect their marked work				
q. the way in which and the period within which information can be provided about the questions asked and exercises given in the framework of a written examination and about the standards used for assessment				
r. the grounds on which the Board of Examiners may grant exemptions from taking one or more examinations on the basis of interim examinations or final examinations previously completed in higher education, or on the basis of knowledge or skills acquired outside higher education				
s. where necessary, the stipulation that students must pass certain examinations as a condition for admission to other examinations				
t. where necessary, the obligation to take part in certain practical exercises with a view to admission to the examination in question, subject to the authority of the Examination Board to grant exemption				

from this obligation, with or without the imposition of alternative requirements				
u. the monitoring of academic progress and individual student support and guidance				
v. where applicable, the manner in which students are selected for a special track within a programme as referred to in Article 7.9b (excellence track within a programme)				
x. the actual design of the education provided				
<i>All other matters that are regulated in the Academic and Examination Regulations but which are not mentioned as such in Article 7.13 of the Higher Education and Research Act under points a to x.</i>				

The lettering corresponds to the lettering of Article 7.13 section 2 of the WHW

Abbreviations used:

FGV: Faculty Joint Assembly
 OpIC: Programme Committee
 I: right of approval
 A: right of advice

Appendix 7 Ordinances of VU Executive Board (CvB) and Binding Master's Guidelines

Section A, article:	Concerns:	CvB ordinance/guideline
2.1.1, 2.1.2	Year planning two semesters 8-8-4 (uniform year calendar VU-UvA)	29-9-2008 (period 2009-2015) 22-05-2014 (period 2016-2025)
2.1.3, 2.1.4	Units of education	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
3.1	Signing up for education and examinations	CvB ordinance 30-09-2010, prior consent USR.
3.4.1	Determination and publication of the results (1) Grading deadline exams ten working days (2) Theses twenty working days	(1) Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017 (2) Quality demand 11 from the VU assessment policy, CvB ordinance 28-02-2013
3.5.1	Two possibilities to take examinations per year	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
3.5.2	Resit: Most recent grade is valid, resit allowed in case of pass grade	Taken from the UvA guidelines, as part of the harmonisation, CvB ordinance 24-02-2014
3.5.4	One-time extra resit in relation to examination requirement	Included in (prior) model OER 16-17 following a request from committee O&O and adopted by CvB op 27-10-2015
3.6	Grades	CvB ordinance 30-09-2010, prior consent USR. As a result of harmonisation UvA, the guideline: 5.5 is a pass, has been added. CvB ordinance 24-02-2014.
Section B1, article:	Concerns:	CvB ordinance/guideline
7.2	Admission criteria	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
7.3	Selection criteria	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
Section B2, article:	Concerns:	CvB ordinance/guideline
10.1.1	Composition programme	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
10.1.13	Categorisation of units	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017

Appendix 8 Implementation act WHW

Article 2.1 of the Higher Education and Research (Implementation) Act

Entered into force on 1 June 2018

(English below)

1 De persoonlijke omstandigheden bedoeld in de artikelen 7.8b, derde lid, en 7.9, derde lid, van de wet, zijn uitsluitend:

- a. ziekte van betrokkene,
- b. lichamelijke, zintuiglijke of andere functiestoornis van betrokkene,
- c. zwangerschap van betrokkene,
- d. bijzondere familie-omstandigheden,
- e. het lidmaatschap, daaronder begrepen het voorzitterschap, van:
 - 1. bij universiteiten: de universiteitsraad, faculteitsraad, het orgaan dat is ingesteld op grond van de medezeggenschapsregeling, bedoeld in artikel 9.30, derde lid, onderscheidenlijk artikel 9.51, tweede lid, van de wet, het bestuur van een opleiding of de opleidingscommissie, alsmede het lidmaatschap van het bestuur van een stichting die blijkens haar statuten tot doel heeft de exploitatie van voorzieningen, behorende tot de studentenvoorzieningen, dan wel van een daarmee naar het oordeel van het instellingsbestuur gelet op de taak gelijk te stellen orgaan,
 - 2. bij hogescholen: de medezeggenschapsraad, deelraad, studentencommissie of opleidingscommissie.
- f. andere in de regelingen, bedoeld in de artikelen 7.8b, zesde lid, en 7.9, vijfde lid, van de wet door het instellingsbestuur aan te geven omstandigheden waarin betrokkene activiteiten ontplooit in het kader van de organisatie en het bestuur van de zaken van de instelling,
- g. het lidmaatschap van het bestuur van een studentenorganisatie van enige omvang met volledige rechtsbevoegdheid, dan wel van een vergelijkbare organisatie van enige omvang, bij wie de behartiging van het algemeen maatschappelijk belang op de voorgrond staat en die daartoe daadwerkelijk activiteiten ontplooit.
- h. andere in de onderwijs- en examenregeling, bedoeld in artikel 7.13 van de wet, op grond van artikel 7.13, tweede lid, onderdeel f, van de wet, vast te leggen persoonlijke omstandigheden,
- i. andere dan in de onderdelen a tot en met h bedoelde persoonlijke omstandigheden die, indien zij door het instellingsbestuur niet in de beoordeling zouden worden betrokken, zouden leiden tot een onbillijkheid van overwegende aard.

2 Het instellingsbestuur kan voor de toepassing van het eerste lid, onderdeel g, nadere regels vaststellen omtrent het aantal bestuursleden dat ten hoogste per organisatie per studiejaar in aanmerking komt, zomede omtrent welke bestuursfuncties in aanmerking komen.

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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 organization and the administration of the affairs of the institution,
- g. membership on the board of a student organization of a certain size with full legal capacity, or a similar organization 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 organization per academic year, as well as the eligible administrative offices.