

Teaching and Examination Regulations

Master's programme in Theology and Religious Studies (research)

Faculty of Religion and Theology

Academic year 2018-2019

B1. Programme specific section – general provisions

B2. Programme specific section – content of programme

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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 Master Theology and Religious Studies (research) CROHO number 60827 is offered on a full-time and part-time basis.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 i)
1a	The part-time programme has a nominal duration of study of 4 years.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 i)
1b	The language of instruction is English.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 b)

Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment

1.	The programme uses the teaching formats as specified in the Study Guide.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 x)
2.	The modes of assessment used per educational component are specified in the Study Guide.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 l)

7. Further admission requirements

Article 7.1 Intake date(s)

The programme starts on September 1.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 b)
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Article 7.2 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.	Partly legal provision & ordinance CvB Admission requirements excepted from participation in WHW
2.	The Admissions Board will investigate whether the applicant meets the admission requirements.	Legal provision
3.	For admission to the programme, students must have fulfilled the following requirements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An average grade of 7.5 (Dutch system) or the equivalent for their bachelor's degree programme. Evidence of sufficient knowledge of the English Language, as intended in article 7.3 of this section. Students who have earned 60 EC of level 400 or 500 (Master's) courses at the Faculty of Religion and Theology, Vrije Universiteit, with an average score of 8,0 or higher can be admitted to the second year of the programme. Students who have earned at least 48 EC of level 400 or 500 (Master's) courses at the Faculty of Religion and Theology, Vrije Universiteit, with an average score of 8,0 or higher can be admitted to the second year of the 	Partly legal provision & ordinance CvB Admission requirements excepted from participation in WHW

<p>programme, if their application is supported by a letter of recommendation written by the supervisor of either his/her internship or thesis</p> <p>e. students from abroad have to hand in a motivation letter and research proposal.</p>	
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Article 7.3 English language requirement for English-language Master's programmes

<p>1. The proficiency requirement in English as the language of instruction can be met if no longer than two years before the start of the programme, the applicant has successfully completed one of the following examinations with at least the scores indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	<p>Advice OLC; approval FGV</p>
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8. Interim examinations and results

Article 8.1 Sequence of interim examinations

<p>1. Students may only do an Internship (G_INTERN) after obtaining 12 EC, of which at least one required module (6 EC). A student may only start with his/her Thesis (G_2MATHES) after passing Research Design 2 (G_RMRD2)</p>	<p>Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 h, s & t)</p>
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Article 8.2 Validity period for results

<p>1. If the exam shows that a student's knowledge is insufficient or outdated, or if the student's skills evaluated in the exam are demonstrably outdated, the Examination Board may impose a supplementary or replacement examination for a course for which an examination was passed more than 6 years ago.</p>	<p>Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 k)</p>
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Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme

9. Programme objectives, specializations and exit qualifications

Article 9.1 Workload

1. The programme has a workload of 120 EC	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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Article 9.2 Programme objective

Students who have completed a Research Master's programme in Theology and Religious Studies have the ability to participate in the academic scholarly discussion in Theology and Religious Studies and to contribute creatively and independently to 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	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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Article 9.3 Exit qualifications

The student	Approval OLC (7.13 c)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">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 projects4. Is skilled in finding, integrating and critiquing relevant professional literature on a research subject or other subject in the field of Theology and Religious Studies5. 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.	

10. Curriculum structure

Article 10.1 Composition of the programme

1. The programme comprises at least a package of compulsory components and an individual Master's thesis or academic internship.	Ordinance CvB,
2. The programme consists of the following units: a. Compulsory educational units b. Optional subjects	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)

<p><i>a. Compulsory educational units</i></p> <p>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)</p> <p><i>b. Optional subjects</i></p> <p>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)</p> <p><i>Other optional subjects</i></p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>2. Educational components are categorized as specialized (400), research oriented (500) and highly specialized (600) level.</p>	Ordinance CvB

Article 10.2 Compulsory educational components

See appendix 2. A detailed description per educational component can be found in the Study Guide.

Article 10.3 Elective educational components

<p>1. See appendix 2. A detailed description per educational component can be found in the Study Guide.</p>	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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Article 10.4 Practical exercise

The following components can be considered as practical exercises:				Approval OLC (7.13 d)
Name of educational component	course code	nr of EC	level	
Thesis	G_2MATHES	12	500	
Internship	G_INTERN	12	500	
Master Seminar	G_MASEM	6	400	

Article 10.5 Participation in practical exercise

<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Approval OLC (7.13 d)
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11. Evaluation and transitional provisions

Article 11.1 Evaluation of the education

1. The education provided in this programme is evaluated in accordance with the attached evaluation plan (appendix 1). The faculty evaluation plan offers the framework.	Approval OLC (7.13 a1)
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Article 11.2 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	Advice OLC (7.13 a)
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Advice and approval by the Programme Committee, on 3 April 2018

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly, on 5 April 2018

Adopted by the board of the Faculty of Religion and Theology on 10 July 2018

Appendices:

- 1. Evaluation of education in the Faculty of Religion and Theology**
- 2. Programme overview**

Appendix 1

Evaluation of the education in the Faculty of Religion and Theology

Course and curriculum evaluations are aimed at improving the quality of the education. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam has a number of key performance indicators that are measured by means of course evaluations. These concern the scores for the quality of the course content, the quality of teaching provided by teachers and the examination.

Questionnaires in the Faculty of Religion and Theology are sent electronically. That guarantees anonymity of students and enables the PDCA cycle – which is intended to improve education – to take place correctly.

When the results of the evaluation have been written up in a report, the course coordinator is notified. The teacher draws up a response to the results of the evaluation and may also inform the students of any changes he/she will make to the course in the following academic year in view of the results. Students are given access to a selection of the results of the evaluation and the teacher's response.

The evaluation reports are available to the Programme Committee, the Director of Studies and the Dean of Education. The Education Office is responsible for correct distribution of the evaluation reports. In the case of the Programme Committees this takes place through the evaluation contact persons. The annual evaluation plan states when the evaluation reports will be available; the Programme Committees can schedule their meetings accordingly if desired. The Programme Committees present an analysis of the evaluations in their annual report.

Courses to be evaluated

The following criteria are applied when designating a module as requiring evaluation:

- each course is evaluated (at least) once every three years. This means that in any event one-third of all courses will be covered.
- courses taught by new teachers;
- all newly developed (or fundamentally altered) courses;
- courses that are included in the Examination Committees' annual plans;
- all courses in new or renewed programmes of study;
- all less well rated courses, with scores of < 3.5 for questions 6 (overall rating of the quality of the course content), 17 and 39 (overall rating of the teaching qualities of the teacher) and/or 23 (overall rating of the exam);
- all courses in the university minor Islam;
- courses with more than eight enrolled students which were designated as requiring evaluation in the previous year, but for which no evaluation results are available.

Curriculum evaluations

The basic principle is that a programme of study is evaluated in any case before the start of a mid-term review or visitation and after every (major) change to the programme of study. BA and MA questionnaires are sent electronically. The Director of Education may add additional questions to the questionnaire. The period in which the questionnaire is sent is determined in consultation with the programme. The results of curriculum evaluations may be discussed with the Work and Employment Advisory Committee, as well as with the Programme Committee.

Available digital questionnaires

BA programme of study Year 1 (BA1)

BA programme of study Year 2 (BA2)

BA programme of study, final questionnaire (BAX)

MA programme of study, final questionnaire (BAX)

Work placement (ST)

Thesis (SC)

Final project - combination of work placement and thesis (AF)

Panel discussions

There are other ways of evaluating education besides digital evaluations. For example, evaluations can also be carried out effectively by means of panel discussions.

Panel discussions are initiated and organized by the Programme Committee; good reporting (including incorporation in the Programme Committee's annual report) is essential. Panel discussions may relate to one course or period, but also to a longer period (a whole semester or year). Programme Committees can determine the best options for their programme(s).

National Student Survey

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam takes part in the National Student Survey, which is conducted every spring. The National Student Survey can provide useful information on how students view their programme. The results of the National Student Survey are considered in the programme annual reports.

Appendix 2

Programme overview

Master Theology and Religious Studies 2 year, Research Master - Fulltime and Parttime 2018-2019

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		Parttime Year 1
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_RESKK	G_Intern			Parttime Year 2
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						<i>Parttime Year 4</i>
<i>Elective**:</i>						
Research modules or Professional Stream modules						

* 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_RMISMOD	Modern Trends in Islamic Thought
G_RMBOTM1	Buddhism on the Move
G_RMRE05	Creation and Redemption in Reformed Theology
G_RMRM05	Stories of Exiles
G_AAMAOHS001	From Christ to Constantine
G_RMBS05	Digital Hermeneutics and the Reception of the Bible
G_MLATIJN1	Latijn 1

Period 2:

G_RMISISL	Islam and Interfaith Relations
G_RMBEB2	Engaged Buddhism
G_RMRE06	Faith and Reason in the Theology
G_RMRM06	Religion and the Making of Identity in Early Christianity
G_RMEC04	Apocalypse and Revelation
G_RMBS06	Hebrew Poetry
G_MLATIJN2	Latijn 2

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

Period 1:

G_BIR1	Building interreligious Relations 1
G_LEAD1	Leadership 1
G_MED1	Media 1

G_PTR1 Peace, Trauma and Religion 1

G_SPICA1 Spiritual Care 1

Period 2:

G_BIR2 Building interreligious Relations 2

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