

Teaching and Examination Regulations

MASTER's Degree Programme Theology and Religious Studies (60 EC)

Academic year 2016-2017

VU University Amsterdam,
Faculty of Theology



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Section A: faculty section

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations

1. These Regulations apply to the teaching and examinations for the Master's degree programmes: Theology and Religious Studies, (hereinafter referred to on occasion as 'the degree programme') provided by the Faculty of Theology (hereinafter referred to on occasion as 'the faculty') of VU University Amsterdam.
2. These Regulations consist of a faculty section (A) and a programme-specific section (B). Section A contains general provisions and applies to the teaching and examinations of the Master's degree programmes of the Faculty of Theology. Section B contains programme-specific provisions. Together, Sections A and B form the Teaching and Examination Regulations for the programme.
3. The Regulations can be declared to apply *mutatis mutandis* to the joint degree programmes and units of study, pursuant to Section 7.3c of the WHW, also provided by the faculty.
4. These Regulations apply to anyone enrolled in the programme, irrespective of the academic year in which the student was first enrolled in the programme.
5. Section B of these Teaching and Examination Regulations may contain additional general provisions for the relevant degree programme.

Article 1.2 Definitions

The following definitions are used in these Regulations:

- a. EC (European Credit): an credit with a workload of 28 hours of study;
- b. examination: the final examination of the Master's programme;
- c. fraud and plagiarism: the student's acts or failures to act which make it wholly or partially impossible to accurately judge his/her knowledge, understanding and skills;
- d. credit: a credit within the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), as stated in Article 7.4, paragraph 1 of the Netherlands' Higher Education and Research Act (WHW); one credit equals 28 hours of study for an average student;
- e. component: a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW;
- f. semester: the first or second half of the study year;
- g. practical exercise: the participation in a practical training or other educational learning activity, aimed at acquiring certain (academic) skills. Examples of practical exercises are:
 - o researching and writing a thesis
 - o carrying out a research assignment
 - o taking part in fieldwork or an excursion
 - o taking part in another educational learning activity aimed at acquiring specific skills or participating in and completing a work placement
- h. programme: the totality and cohesion of the course components, teaching activities/methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature;
- i. thesis: a component comprising literature research and/or a contribution to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;
- j. specialization: the student's main subject in the Master's program;
- k. study guide: the electronic guide for the program that contains descriptions of all courses (www.studiegids.vu.nl);
- l. workload: the workload of the unit of study to which an interim examination applies, expressed in terms of credits = EC. (The workload for 1 year (1,680 hours) is 60 EC credits);
- m. academic year: the period beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August of the following calendar year;
- n. examination: an assessment of the student's knowledge, understanding and skills relating to a course component. 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 interim examination;
- o. Admissions Board: the committee that assesses, on behalf of the faculty board/, whether

	a candidate meets the requirements for admission to the Master's degree programme of his/her choice. If there is no Admissions Board appointed for the degree programme, the Examinations Board (within the meaning of Section 7.12 of the WHW) functions as Admissions Board;
p. University:	VU University Amsterdam;
q. WHW:	the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (<i>Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek</i> , WHW);
r. programme charter:	the part of the Student Charter specific to the programme in accordance with Section 7.59 of the WHW.;
s. Examination Board:	the Examination Board of the program is established in accordance with section 7.12 of the act;
t. Final Assessment:	assessment (Dutch: examen) whereby it is established by the Examination Board in accordance with section 7.10 of the act that all course examinations of the courses of the Master program have been completed satisfactorily;
u. Blackboard:	The digital learning environment that is intended for the exchange of program information;
v. tutorial:	supervised study of a small group of students;
w. seminar:	a class in the form of discussion of specified topics;
x. grade:	the mark, result, or evaluation of a student's performance during a course, a course examination, or practicum by the examiner;
y. VUnet:	student portal for all information concerning educational concerns like; marks, schedules, registered subjects, Blackboard announcements. Students can register via VUnet for courses and exams, submit changes of and complete their registration details;
z. Period:	a part of a semester.

The other terms have the meanings ascribed to them by the WHW.

2. Previous education and admission

Article 2.1 Previous education

1. In order to qualify for enrolment in a Master's degree programme, a Bachelor's degree obtained in academic higher education (WO) is required.
2. In the event that a candidate does not have a Bachelor's degree as referred to in paragraph 1, the Admissions Board of the degree programme will assess suitability for admission to the programme on the basis of the requirements stipulated in Section B.
3. In order to qualify for enrolment in a Master's degree programme for teaching in pre-university education, the individual concerned must have been awarded the Master's degree in the relevant subject area, pursuant to Section 7.10a of the WHW.

Article 2.2 Registration and enrollment

1. The deadline for registering for the Master's programme is stipulated in Article 3.3 (Section B).
2. After registering on time, the student must enroll before 1 September.

Article 2.3 Faculty Admissions Board

The faculty board will establish one or more Admissions Boards. The faculty board will appoint its members after consultation with the programme directors and examinations boards of the relevant degree programmes.

Article 2.4 Admissions procedure

1. The Admissions Board is responsible for admission to the programme.
2. With a view to admission to the programme, the Admissions Board assesses the candidate's knowledge, understanding and skills. The Board may request experts within or outside the University to test certain types of knowledge, understanding and skills, in order to supplement written evidence of the programme the student has already completed. In its assessment, the Board includes knowledge of the language in which the programme will be taught.
3. Candidates receive either confirmation of admission or a negative decision. An appeal against a negative decision can be lodged with the Examination Appeals Board within six weeks.

Article 2.5 Refusal or termination of enrollment (*unsuitability/judicium abeundi*)

1. In certain cases, the Executive Board may refuse admission to the programme or terminate the student's registration on the recommendation of the Examination Board and the Faculty Board responsible for the programme in question and after careful consideration of the interests involved. These measures will be taken if the student's conduct or statements demonstrate his/her unsuitability to work in the relevant field or discipline, or to take part in the practical training component of this programme. This concerns conduct or statements that may be construed as a threat to others. In such a case, the Executive Board will issue a written decision and state the grounds for its decision. Registration or re-registration for the same programme or a related programme may also be denied on the same grounds.
2. If the board of another institution of higher education decides to refuse or to terminate an individual's registration on the grounds stated in paragraph 1, the Executive Board may decide to adopt that decision. Paragraphs 3 and 4 will apply *mutatis mutandis*.
3. Before the Executive Board takes a decision as referred to in paragraph 1, it will give the individual concerned the opportunity to be heard. At this hearing, the individual concerned has the right to be accompanied by counsel.
4. The individual will be informed immediately of the termination or refusal of registration.

3. Degree programme structure

Article 3.1 Structure of academic year

1. Every degree programme will be offered in a year divided into two semesters.
2. Every semester consists of three consecutive periods of eight, eight and four weeks.

Article 3.2 Organisation of the programme

1. The programme comprises the units of study included in Section B.
2. The size of the degree programme in EC is stipulated in Section B.
3. A unit of study comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof.
4. By way of exception to paragraph 3, Section B may stipulate that a unit of study comprises 3 EC.
5. The programme is made up of compulsory part and an individual Master's thesis and internship and, if applicable, a subject-specific optional component as specified in more detail in the programme-specific section.
6. If the student wishes to choose a different unit of study than those stipulated in Section B as part of his/her electives, prior permission is required from the Examinations Board.
7. If students must sign up for participation in a unit of study, this will only be possible in the periods designated for that purpose.

4. Examinations

Article 4.1 Admission to Examinations

1. Participants in a course should enroll for the course, in the case of obliged enrollment for this course. It is compulsory to enroll for a specific exam or resit, before the exam can take place. Enrollment is only possible in designated periods. The enrollment procedure can be found in the Students Statute.
2. Participation is granted in the order of registration with the proviso that students registered for the program will be given preference in the courses that are compulsory for their program.
3. The student is given the opportunity to take the examination of a course twice a year:
 - the first time following the course in the period in which the course is offered;
 - the second time in the reexamination period.
4. Section 3 is not applicable to internship and thesis. The examiner will ensure that the student makes sufficient progress. The monitoring will be conducted on a regular base, pre-arranged and agreed on by student and examiner.
5. A planning will be provided in which the regulated examination opportunities of written examinations are announced. This planning will be provided at the start of the academic year.
6. If it is not indicated with respect to an examination how many times a student can take the examination because it concerns a course that is not offered in the program itself, the stipulations in the Degree Regulations of the other program in question apply. The Examination Board can take a different decision with respect to this matter.
7. In the case of a unit of study that is no longer offered, in the academic year following its termination, at least one opportunity will be provided to sit the examination(s) or parts thereof

- and a transitional arrangement will be included in the programme-specific section for the subsequent period.
8. The Study Guide announces courses, in which students can not be enrolled before acquiring specific examinations.
 9. The Examination Board can allow a different number of exams of a course in specific situations.
 10. If class attendance is deemed compulsory, the student may take the examination only if the obligation to attend classes has been fulfilled. The standard here is that the student must attend at least 80% of the classes unless otherwise stipulated.
 11. Before a written examination begins the examiner requests the student to show his/her valid proof of registration.
 12. Participation will take place in order of enrollment. Students are granted priority by enrollment for classes compulsory for the programme in which they are enrolled.
 13. The examiner will ensure that the student makes sufficient progress during the course.

Article 4.2 Form of Examinations

1. The means of testing for each course will be indicated in the course description of the electronic Study Guide.
2. At the request of the student, the Examination Board can allow a course examination to be taken in a way different from the one prescribed.
3. In case of courses which are determined, at least one opportunity of examination is granted in the academic year following the year of determination. Programs of transition are provided for the following years in section B.

Article 4.3 Oral examinations

1. Unless otherwise specified for the relevant unit of study in Section B, no more than one student will be examined orally at the same time.
2. An oral examination is public unless the Examinations Board or examiner determines otherwise in an exceptional case. A student may submit a reasoned request to the Examinations Board to depart from the public nature of the oral examination. The Examinations Board will balance the interests of the student against the interests of a public examination.
3. When students take an oral examination, the examination is also attended by a second examiner or an observer appointed by the Examination Board or a full sound recording is made of the examination, unless otherwise determined by the Examination Board.

Article 4.4 Determining and announcing results

1. The examiner determines the result (= mark) of a written examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within ten working days. Contrary to the provisions of the first sentence, the marking deadline for theses and final assignments is no longer than twenty working days. The examiner is responsible for the registration of the result and ensures that the student is notified of the assessment, taking into account the applicable standards of confidentiality.
2. The examiner determines the result (= mark) of an oral examination as soon as the examination has finished and informs the student accordingly. The third sentence of the first paragraph applies.
3. In the case of alternative forms of oral or written examinations, the Examinations Board determines in advance how and by what deadline the student will be informed of the results.
4. Together with the result of an examination, the student's attention will also be drawn to their right to inspect the assessed work and have a post-examination discussion as stipulated in Articles 4.9 and 4.10, as well as his/her option to appeal to the Examinations Appeals Board.
5. A student may lodge an appeal against the way in which the result was reached with the Examination Appeals Board within six weeks of the announcement of the result.

Article 4.5 Resits

1. An opportunity will be offered to resit examinations in the degree programme once in each academic year.
2. Section 1 does not apply in the case of a fail for an internship or a thesis. The options for retaking work placements and theses are detailed in the relevant internship manual or thesis regulations.
3. The most recent mark will apply in the event of a resit.
4. The resit for an examination must not take place within ten working days of the announcement of the result of the examination being resit.
5. The student who has passed all but one of the examinations necessary to meet the degree requirements and who is unable to sit that examination in the next period, may submit a reasoned request to the Examination Board asking for the opportunity to take this examination at an other date and, if necessary, by alternate means. Exempt from this article are components of academic skills and thesis. Requests for this extra examination need to be handed in at the Examination Board at before June 1st.

Article 4.6 Marks

1. Marks are given on a scale from 1 to 10.
2. Final marks are given with a maximum of one decimal after the point and completed in whole or half numbers (0 - 0,5 - 1...'- 9,5 -10).
3. A mark between 5 and 6 are round up or down: 0.1 to 0.4 are round down and 0.5 to 0.9 are round up.
4. Instead of a mark a symbol can be given (e.g. V, G. etc).

Article 4.7 Exemption

1. At the written request of the student, the Examinations Board may exempt the student from taking one or more examination components, if the student:
 - a) has passed a course component of a university or higher professional education programme that is equivalent in both content and level; or
 - b) has demonstrated through his/her work and/or professional experience that he/she has sufficient knowledge and skills with regard to the relevant course component.
2. the Examinations Board will settle within thirty working days after receiving the request.
3. This exemption does not apply for a Master's thesis or final assignment.
4. If a student wishes to meet the requirements of a specific examination by studying at a different faculty or university, prior approval from the Examination Board is required.

Article 4.8 Validity period for results

1. The validity period of examinations passed and examination exemptions is limited to six years.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of the first paragraph, the Examination Board may require an additional or replacement examination before the student is admitted to the examination if a passing grade was earned more than six years ago.
3. The validity of the results of a constituent examination is limited to the academic year in which it took place, unless the programme-specific section for the relevant educational unit states otherwise.
4. The Examination Board may extend the limited validity of an examination or exemption if a student submits a request stating reasons to this effect. The Examination Board may decide to extend the validity only after the student making the request has passed an additional examination in the relevant subject matter.

Article 4.9 Right of inspection

1. For a period of at least twenty working days following publication of the results of a written examination, the student will be given the opportunity to inspect his or her assessed work on request, including the questions and assignments set and the standards used for assessment.
2. The Examination Board may decide that the inspection referred to in paragraph 1 will take place at a particular place and at a particular time. The place and time referred to in the previous sentence will be announced at the examination and on the Faculty's website (VU.net).

3. If the student can demonstrate that he or she was unable to attend at the place and time referred to in paragraph 2, due to force majeure, the student will be granted another opportunity to do so.
4. If a student intends to appeal against the way in which his or her work has been assessed, he or she may be issued with a copy of the assessed work.

Article 4.10 Post-examination discussion

1. 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 he/she was unable to attend the collective discussion through no fault of his/her own.
2. Students who meet the requirements stipulated in the first paragraph can submit a request for an individual post-examination discussion to the relevant examiner. The discussion will take place at a time and location to be determined by the examiner.

Article 4.11 Master's final examination

1. The Examinations Board determines the final examination result and the date on which the student obtains his/her degree after it has been established that the student has passed all the units of study belonging to the programme.
2. A diploma can only be awarded after the Executive Board has declared that the student has satisfied all the procedural requirements, including the payment of tuition fees.

Article 4.12 Thesis

1. For the MA Thesis the MASTER'S THESIS REGULATIONS applies. These regulations can be found at [VU-net](#)
2. If a student wishes to graduate in two Master's specializations (or subprogrammes) of a Master's degree programme, the student must write a separate thesis for each specialization (subprogramme). The student may however (partially) make use of the same literature and may use parts of one thesis for the other. Each thesis has its own research question and perspective (congruent with the learning goals of the specialization or subprogramme).

Article 4.13 Diplomas and transcripts

1. The Examinations Board grants a diploma as proof that the student has passed his/her final examination. The Executive Board sets the model for the diploma. The Examinations Board adds a diploma supplement to the diploma providing information on the nature and content of the degree programme completed. The diploma supplement is drawn up in Dutch or English and complies with the European format.
2. Individuals who have successfully completed more than one or more components of the programme and who cannot be awarded a diploma as stipulated in paragraph 1 will, on request, receive a statement to be issued by the relevant Examinations Board stating at least the components that have been successfully completed together with the units of study they involved, the number of EC obtained and the way in which the examinations were taken.
3. The student can, without needing to provide reasons, request that the Examinations Board not proceed to award a diploma, unless the student him-/herself submitted the request for its issue.

Article 4.14 Fraud and plagiarism

1. The provisions of the Rules and Guidelines for the Examinations Board apply in full.
2. Electronic detection software programs may be used to detect plagiarism in texts. In submitting a text, the student implicitly consents to the text being entered into the database of the detection program concerned.

5. Study supervision and study progress

Article 5.1 Records of study progress

1. The Faculty Board is responsible for the proper registration of students' degree programme results in SAP/SLcM. Once an examination that counts towards the final degree has been assessed, the student may inspect the results of that examination on SAP/SLcM, where the student will also find a summary of the results achieved.
2. Students registered for a programme are entitled for student guidance. The forms of guidance can be found in Section B.

Article 5.2 Adaptations for students with a disability

1. Students with a disability may qualify for special adaptations to the teaching provided, examinations and practicals, based on digital request submitted for that purpose to the study advisor. These adaptations will be tailored as far as possible to the individual disability of the student, but are not permitted to affect the quality or level of difficulty of a subject or examination.
2. The request referred to in paragraph 1 must be accompanied by a recommendation from a doctor or psychologist. In case of a chronic disability, a single request is sufficient. In case of dyslexia, as recommendation a recent (max 2 years old) statement from a BIG, NIP or NVO accredited testing centre will suffice. Where possible, the statement referred to in this paragraph should include an estimation of the extent to which study progress will be hindered.
3. With regard to requests for adaptations to the educational programme and logistical arrangements, decisions will be made by the Faculty Board or the Director of Education or Director of Studies acting on the Board's behalf. The Examination Board will decide on any requests for adaptations relating to the process of examination.
4. If a positive decision is made in response to a request as referred to in paragraph 1, the student will make an appointment with the study advisor to discuss how the necessary adaptations can be facilitated.
5. A request for adaptation may be declined if granting it would constitute a disproportionately large drain on the organizational resources of the faculty or university.
6. If the student's disability constitutes grounds for an extension of examination time, the Examination Board will issue a statement detailing the entitlement to an extension. The validity of the extension can be limited.
7. If a student's disability constitutes grounds for other additional facilities, the study advisor can initiate other facilities.

6. Hardship clause

Article 6.1 Hardship clause

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

Section B: Programme-specific section

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Degree programme information

1. The programme Master Theology and Religious Studies CROHO number 60824 is available in full-time, and part-time form, and taught in English. In case only Dutch speaking students are enrolled in a course, the course may be taught in Dutch.
- 1a. The full-time programme has an official duration of 1 year.
- 1b. The part-time programme has an official duration of 2 years.
2. The programme has a workload of 60 EC
3. An educational unit comprises 6 credits or a multiple thereof.
4. The successful completion of all of the requirements of the programme leads to the degree of Master of Arts.

Article 1.2 Intake dates

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

2. Programme objectives and exit qualifications

Article 2.1 Programme objective

1. The Master's has a final attainment level corresponding to the Dublin Descriptors (the Framework of Qualifications for the European Higher Education Area) and the Higher Education Qualifications Framework in the Netherlands. In the programme-specific section, this is expressed in the aims of the programme, article 2.2 (section B).
2. The degree programme aims to:
 - a. educate students by giving them the knowledge, understanding and skills described each in the programme-specific section;
 - b. guide students in scientific practice;
 - c. prepare students for professional practice in the relevant field;
 - d. foster independent, academic thinking and practice as well as communication at an academic level in the language or languages of instruction;
 - e. foster the independent application of specialist academic knowledge in a wider philosophical and social context.
3. The degree programme focuses on the student's personal development and promotes his or her awareness of social responsibility and develops the students' language skills in the language or languages of instruction.

Article 2.2 Exit qualifications

The Master of Theology and Religious studies programme seeks to enable students:

1. to show in-depth theoretical knowledge in the subjects that belong to the chosen subprogram;
2. to reflect theologically and critically on the issues that pertain to the chosen subprogram and to place them in a multi-disciplinary frame of reference;
3. to identify the various definitions of hermeneutics as a basis for developing an adequate hermeneutic theory and dialogical praxis and to apply various hermeneutic theories in cases pertinent to your master specialization;
4. to make independent critical judgments on the basis of limited data and with an eye on the social and ethical implications;
5. to communicate the results of research efforts to diverse audiences of specialists and non-specialists;
6. to study largely self-directed or autonomous and to conduct independent scholarly research within the area of the chosen subprogram, as shown in the thesis;
7. to develop a coherent overview of a professional field linked to the chosen subprogram and to develop basic skills of a starting professional in this field through participation.

These aims of the programs are realized in the subprograms as follows:

a Exploring a Discipline

The Master of Theology and Religious studies subprogram Exploring a Discipline seeks to enable students:

1. to show in-depth theoretical knowledge in the subjects that belong to the chosen discipline;
2. to reflect theologically and critically on the issues that pertain to the chosen discipline and to place them in a multi-disciplinary frame of reference;
3. to identify the various definitions of hermeneutics as a basis for developing an adequate hermeneutic theory and dialogical praxis and to apply various hermeneutic theories in cases pertinent to the chosen discipline;
4. to make independent critical judgments on the basis of limited data and with an eye on the social and ethical implications;
5. to communicate the results of research efforts to diverse audiences of specialists and non-specialists;
6. to study largely self-directed or autonomous and to conduct independent scholarly research within the area of the chosen discipline, as shown in the thesis;
7. to develop a coherent overview of the professional field linked to the chosen discipline and to develop basic skills of a young professional in this field through participation.

b Leadership

The Master of Theology and Religious studies subprogram Leadership seeks to enable students:

1. to show in-depth theoretical knowledge in contemporary theories on communities, communal identity as moral space, leadership and community building;
2. to reflect theologically and critically on the issues that pertain in these theories and their application in practice and to place them in a multi-disciplinary frame of reference;
3. to identify the various definitions of hermeneutics as a basis for developing an adequate hermeneutic theory and dialogical praxis and to apply various hermeneutic theories to the theories and practices of religious and non-religious Leadership in various contexts.
4. to make independent critical judgments on the basis of limited data and with an eye on the social and ethical implications;
5. to communicate the results of research efforts to diverse audiences of specialists and non-specialists;
6. to study largely self-directed or autonomous and to conduct independent scholarly research within the area of religion/theology and Leadership;
7. to develop a coherent overview of the professional field of religious and/or non-religious Leadership and to develop basic skills of a young professional in this field through participation.

c Media

The Master of Theology and Religious studies subprogram Media seeks to enable students:

1. to show in-depth theoretical knowledge in the area of media and communication in relation to religion and spirituality, media sociology and media ethics and understanding of the religious dimensions and development of today's media culture, the implications of these for established religions, religious communities and individuals;
2. to reflect theologically and critically on the function of media in religion, religion in the media and reflect theologically and creatively on one's own (non-)religious identity in relation to popular culture and to place these in a multi-disciplinary frame of reference;
3. to identify the various definitions of hermeneutics as a basis for developing an adequate hermeneutic theory and dialogical praxis and to apply various hermeneutic theories in cases in which mediation of religion is involved;
4. to make independent critical judgments on the basis of limited data and with an eye on the social and ethical implications;
5. to communicate the results of research efforts to diverse audiences of specialists and non-specialists;
6. to study largely self-directed or autonomous and to conduct independent scholarly research within the area of Media, religion/theology and culture;
7. to develop a coherent overview of the professional field of media, communication and religion

and to develop basic skills of a young professional in this field through participation.

d Spiritual Care

The Master of Theology and Religious studies subprogram Spiritual Care seeks to enable students:

1. to show in-depth theoretical knowledge in a (non) spiritual tradition and functionality of spiritual experience within this tradition and spiritual care in relation to other disciplines and traditions;
2. to reflect theologically and critically on the role of a spiritual care provider and one's own person and skills as a spiritual care provider, the meaning of symbols and rituals in his/her own tradition and their transformation and to place them in a multi-disciplinary and multi-religious frame of reference;
3. to identify the various definitions of hermeneutics as a basis for developing an adequate hermeneutic theory and dialogical praxis and to apply various hermeneutic theories in life stories, on existential themes and their own spiritual biography.
4. to make independent critical judgments on the basis of limited data and with an eye on the social and ethical implications on topics such as the role and function of a spiritual care provider;
5. to communicate the results of research efforts to diverse audiences of specialists and non-specialists and to communicate appropriately and respectfully about one's own and other traditions of spirituality;
6. to study largely self-directed or autonomous and to conduct independent scholarly research within the area of Spiritual Care;
7. to develop a coherent overview of the professional field of Spiritual Care and to develop basic skills of a young professional (spiritual care provider) in this field through participation.

e Building Interreligious Relations

The Master of Theology and Religious studies subprogram Building Interreligious Relations seeks to enable students:

1. to show in-depth theoretical knowledge in religious education, philosophy of religion with regard to the interreligious dialogue;
2. to reflect theologically and critically on interreligious issues and phenomena, their consequences for religious education and to integrate views of authoritative writers on these topics and to place them in a multi-disciplinary frame of reference;
3. to identify the various definitions of hermeneutics as a basis for developing an adequate hermeneutic theory and dialogical praxis and to apply various hermeneutic theories in cases pertinent to the field of religious diversity and education of religion.
4. to make independent critical judgments on the basis of limited data and with an eye on the social and ethical implications;
5. to communicate the results of research efforts to diverse audiences of specialists and non-specialists;
6. to study largely self-directed or autonomous and to conduct independent scholarly research within the area of the Religious Diversity and/or religious education.
7. to develop a coherent overview of the professional field of Religious education and the role of religious diversity therein and to develop basic skills of a young professional in this field through participation.

f Peace, Trauma and Religion

The Master of Theology and Religious studies subprogram Peace, Trauma and Religion seeks to enable students:

1. To show in depth theoretical knowledge in contemporary studies on peace and reconciliation and/or trauma and healing in contexts of conflict and war and in post-conflict contexts;
2. To reflect theologically and critically on the the role played by religious traditions in legitimizing conflict and violence and creating conflicting identities;
3. To identify the various definitions of hermeneutics as a basis for developing an adequate hermeneutical theology and dialogical praxis and to apply various hermeneutical theories to the theories and practices of reconciliation, peace building and trauma healing;
4. To make independent critical judgments on the basis of limited data and with an eye on social and moral implications;

5. To communicate the results of research efforts to diverse audiences of specialists and non-specialists;
6. To study largely self-directed or autonomous and to conduct independent scholarly research within the field of Violence, Religion and Reconciliation in a religious/theological perspective;
7. To develop a coherent view of the professional field of peace and reconciliation and to develop the basic skills of a young professional in this field through participation.

3. Admission requirements

Article 3.1 Admission requirements

1. The programme is a follow-up programme, as referred to in Article 7.30a of the Act, to the Bachelor's programmes of Dutch Universities (WO).
2. The Admissions Board will investigate whether the interested person meets the admission requirements.
3. When the programme commences, the candidate must have fully completed the Bachelor's programme or premaster's programme allowing admission to this Master's programme.

Article 3.2 Premaster's programme

1. Dutch speaking applicants who have a HBO Bachelor's degree, as listed in the Appendix I Admission Requirements, may request admission to the premaster's programme. The premaster's programme is worth 30 credits.
2. The description of the premaster programs is listed in the Appendix I Admission Requirements.
3. For the premaster the "regeling aanmelding en inschrijving", appendix IV, applies. These regulations can be found at www.vu.nl.

Article 3.3 Final deadline for registration

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

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

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

Article 3.5 Free curriculum

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

4. Curriculum structure

Article 4.1 Composition of programme

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

Article 4.2 Participation in practical exercise and tutorials

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

Article 4.3 Maximum exemption

A maximum of 12 EC of the curriculum can be accumulated through granted exemptions, unless the Examinations Board determines otherwise.

Article 4.4 Validity of results

The validity of results of exams and exemptions is limited. Results and exemptions are valid for six years. The validity of midterm exams is limited to one year.

Article 4.5 Degree

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

5. Transitional and final provisions

Article 5.1 Amendments and periodic review

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

Article 5.2 Transitional provisions

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

Article 5.3 Publication

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

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

These Regulations enter into force with effect from September 1, 2016

No Advice of the Examination Board (May 23 2016)

Advice the Board of Studies, on May 2 2016.

Approved by authorised representative advisory body on 30 June 2016

Adopted by the faculty board on 7 July 2016...

Appendix I Admission Requirements (for Dutch-speaking students)

Een afgeronde HBO-opleiding geeft toegang tot het premasterprogramma.

Premaster programma per specialisatie:

De invulling van de premaster is afhankelijk van de specialisatie die gevolgd gaat worden binnen de Master Theology and Religious Studies.

Appendix II Structure of the degree programme

This appendix contains the structure of the following study programmes:

- Master Theology and Religious Studies 1 year, specialization Exploring A Discipline – Full-time and Part time
- Master Theology and Religious Studies 1 year, specialization Leadership – Full-time and Part time
- Master Theology and Religious Studies 1 year, specialization Media – Full-time and Part time
- Master Theology and Religious Studies 1 year, specialization Spiritual Care – Full-time and Part time
- Master Theology and Religious Studies 1 year, specialization Building Interreligious Relations Full-time and Part time
- Master Theology and Religious Studies 1 year, specialization Peace, Trauma and Religion– Full-time and Part time

Master Theology and Religious Studies 1 year, specialization Exploring A Discipline – Fulltime and Parttime

2016-2017

General Required Modules:

G_MAHERMN	Hermeneutics	6 EC
G_RESSK	Research Skills	6 EC
G_INTERN	Internship	12 EC
G_3MATHES	Thesis	12 EC
G_MASEM	Master Seminar	6 EC

Electives:

At least three modules (18 EC) from the Section Modules group and/or Professional Stream Modules

Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	
6 EC	6 EC		12 EC		6EC	
G_SM*	G_SM*		G_INTERN			<i>Parttime Year 1</i>
Section module of the chosen Section 1	Section module of the chosen Section 2		Internship			
6 EC G_MASEM Master Seminar***						
6 EC	6 EC	6 EC	12 EC			
G_MAHERMN	Optional**:	G_RESSK	G_1MATHES			<i>Parttime Year 2</i>
Hermeneutics	Section modules or Professional Stream modules	Research Skills****	Thesis			

Section Modules (SM) (see digital Study Guide for course descriptions)

Period 1:

Specialization Course Dogmatics and Ecumenics 1 (G_SMDO151)
 Specialization Course Church History 1 (G_SMKG151)
 Specialization Course Biblical Studies 1 (G_SMBW141)
 Specialization Course Praxis 1 (G_SMPR141)
 Specialization Course Philosophy of Religion and Comparative Study of Religions 1 (G_SMGF131)
 Specialization Course Islamic Theology 1 (G_SMCIT141)

Period 2:

- Specialization Course Dogmatics and Ecumenics 2 (G_SMDO132)
- Specialization Course Dogmatics and Ecumenics 3 (G_SMDO133)
- Specialization Course Church History 2 (G_SMKG152)
- Specialization Course Biblical Studies 2 (G_SMBW142)
- Specialization Course Praxis 2 (G_SMPR142)
- Specialization Course Philosophy of Religion and Comparative Study of Religions 3 (G_SMGF133)
- Specialization Course Islamic Theology 3 (G_SMCIT143)

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

Period 2:

- Media 2 (G_MED2)
- Leadership 2 (G_LEAD2)
- Spiritual Care 2 (G_SPICA2)
- Building Interreligious Relations 2 (G_BIR2)

*Module number depends on the chosen Specialization Course.

** Choose from the Section 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.

Master Theology and Religious Studies 1 year, specialization Leadership – Fulltime and Parttime

2016-2017

General Required Modules:

G_MAHERMN	Hermeneutics	6 EC
G_RESSK	Research Skills	6 EC
G_INTERN	Internship	12 EC
G_1MATHES	Thesis	12 EC
G_MASEM	Master Seminar	6 EC

Required modules for this specialization:

G_LEAD1	Leadership 1	6 EC
G_LEAD2	Leadership 2	6 EC

Elective:

One module (6 EC) from the Section Modules and/or Professional Stream Modules.

Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
6 EC	6 EC		12 EC		
G_LEAD1	G_LEAD2		G_INTERN		

Leadership 1	Leadership 2		Internship		<i>Parttime Year 1</i>
6 EC G_MASEM Master Seminar **					
6 EC	6 EC	6 EC	12 EC		
G_MAHERMN	Elective*:	G_RESSK	G_1MATHES		<i>Parttime Year 2</i>
Hermeneutics	Section modules or Professional Stream modules	Research Skills***	Thesis		

Section Modules (SM) (see digital Study Guide for course descriptions)

Period 2:

Specialization Course Dogmatics and Ecumenics 2 (G_SMDO132)

Specialization Course Dogmatics and Ecumenics 3 (G_SMDO133)

Specialization Course Church History 2 (G_SMKG152)

Specialization Course Biblical Studies 2 (G_SMBW142)

Specialization Course Praxis 2 (G_SMPR142)

Specialization Course Philosophy of Religion and Comparative Study of Religions 3 (G_SMGF133)

Specialization Course Islamic Theology 3 (G_SMCIT143)

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

Period 2:

Media 2 (G_MED2)

Spiritual Care 2 (G_SPICA2)

Building Interreligious Relations 2 (G_BIR2)

* Choose from the Section 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.

Master Theology and Religious Studies 1 year, specialization Media – Fulltime and Parttime

2016-2017

General Required Modules:

G_MAHERMN	Hermeneutics	6 EC
G_RESSK	Research Skills	6 EC
G_INTERN	Internship	12 EC
G_1MATHES	Thesis	12 EC
G_MASEM	Master Seminar	6 EC

Required modules for this specialization:

G_MED1	Media 1	6 EC
G_MED2	Media 2	6 EC

Elective:

One module (6 EC) from the Section Modules and/or Professional Stream Modules.

Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	
6 EC	6 EC		12 EC			
G_MED1	G_MED2		G_INTERN			<i>Parttime Year 1</i>
Media 1	Media 2		Internship			
6 EC G_MASEM Master Seminar **						
6 EC	6 EC	6 EC	12 EC			
G_MAHERMN	Elective*:	G_RESSK	G_1MATHES			<i>Parttime Year 2</i>
Hermeneutics	Section modules or Professional Stream modules	Research Skills***	Thesis			

Section Modules (SM) (see digital Study Guide for course descriptions)

Period 2:

Specialization Course Dogmatics and Ecumenics 2 (G_SMDO132)
 Specialization Course Dogmatics and Ecumenics 3 (G_SMDO133)
 Specialization Course Church History 2 (G_SMKG152)
 Specialization Course Biblical Studies 2 (G_SMBW142)
 Specialization Course Praxis 2 (G_SMPR142)
 Specialization Course Philosophy of Religion and Comparative Study of Religions 3 (G_SMGF133)
 Specialization Course Islamic Theology 3 (G_SMCIT143)

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

Period 2:

Leadership 2 (G_LEAD2)
 Spiritual Care 2 (G_SPICA2)
 Building Interreligious Relations 2 (G_BIR2)

*Choose from the Section 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.

Master Theology and Religious Studies 1 year, specialization Spiritual Care – Fulltime and Parttime

2016-2017

General Required Modules:

G_MAHERMN	Hermeneutics	6 EC
G_RESSK	Research Skills	6 EC
G_INTERN	Internship	12 EC
G_1MATHES	Thesis	12 EC
G_MASEM	Master Seminar	6 EC

Required modules for this specialization:

G_SPICA1	Spiritual Care 1	6 EC
G_SPICA2	Spiritual Care 2	6 EC

Elective:

One module (6 EC) from the Section Modules and/or Professional Stream Modules.

Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	
6 EC	6 EC		12 EC			
G_SPICA1	G_SPICA2		G_INTERN			<i>Parttime Year 1</i>
Spiritual Care 1	Spiritual Care 2		Internship			
6 EC		G_MASEM Master Seminar**				
6 EC	6 EC	6 EC	12 EC			
G_MAHERMN	Elective*:	G_RESSK	G_1MATHES			<i>Parttime Year 2</i>
Hermeneutics	Section modules or Professional Stream modules	Research Skills ***	Thesis			

Section Modules (SM) (see digital Study Guide for course descriptions)

Period 2:

- Specialization Course Dogmatics and Ecumenics 2 (G_SMDO132)
- Specialization Course Dogmatics and Ecumenics 3 (G_SMDO133)
- Specialization Course Church History 2 (G_SMKG152)
- Specialization Course Biblical Studies 2 (G_SMBW142)
- Specialization Course Praxis 2 (G_SMPR142)
- Specialization Course Philosophy of Religion and Comparative Study of Religions 3 (G_SMGF133)
- Specialization Course Islamic Theology 3 (G_SMCIT143)

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

Period 2:

- Media 2 (G_MED2)
- Leadership 2 (G_LEAD2)
- Building Interreligious Relations 2 (G_BIR2)

*Choose from the Section 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.

Master Theology and Religious Studies 1 year, specialization Building Interreligious Relations – Fulltime and Parttime

2016-2017

General Required Modules:

G_MAHERMN	Hermeneutics	6 EC
G_RESSK	Research Skills	6 EC
G_INTERN	Internship	12 EC
G_1MATHES	Thesis	12 EC
G_MASEM	Master Seminar	6 EC

Required modules for this specialization:

G_BIR1	Building Interreligious Relations 1	6 EC
G_BIR2	Building Interreligious Relations 2	6 EC

Elective:

One module (6 EC) from the Section Modules and/or Professional Stream Modules.

Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	
6 EC	6 EC		12 EC			
G_BIR1	G_BIR2		G_INTERN			<i>Parttime Year 1</i>
Building Interreligious Relations 1	Building Interreligious Relations 2		Internship			
6 EC G_MASEM Master Seminar**						
6 EC	6 EC	6 EC	12 EC			
G_MAHERMN	Elective*:	G_RESSK	G_1MATHES			<i>Parttime Year 2</i>
Hermeneutics	Section modules or Professional Stream modules	Research Skills ***	Thesis			

Section Modules (SM) (see digital Study Guide for course descriptions)

Period 2:

Specialization Course Dogmatics and Ecumenics 2 (G_SMDO132)
 Specialization Course Dogmatics and Ecumenics 3 (G_SMDO133)
 Specialization Course Church History 2 (G_SMKG152)
 Specialization Course Biblical Studies 2 (G_SMBW142)
 Specialization Course Praxis 2 (G_SMPR142)
 Specialization Course Philosophy of Religion and Comparative Study of Religions 3 (G_SMGF133)
 Specialization Course Islamic Theology 3 (G_SMCIT143)

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

Period 2:

Media 2 (G_MED2)
 Leadership 2 (G_LEAD2)

Spiritual Care 2 (G_SPICA2)

*Choose from the Section 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.

Master Theology and Religious Studies 1 year, specialization Peace, Trauma and Religion – Fulltime and Parttime

2016-2017

General Required Modules:

G_MAHERMN	Hermeneutics	6 EC
G_RESSK	Research Skills	6 EC
G_INTERN	Internship	12 EC
G_1MATHES	Thesis	12 EC
G_MASEM	Master Seminar	6 EC

Required modules for this specialization:

G_JUSTPEACE	Just Peace: Peace and Justice	6 EC
G_SMPR142	Specialization Course Praxis 2	6 EC
G_SMDO132	Specialization Course Dogmatics and Ecumenics 2	6 EC

Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	
6 EC	6 EC		12 EC			
G_JUSTPEACE	G_SMPR142		G_INTERN			<i>Parttime Year 1</i>
Just Peace: Peace and Justice	Specialization Course Praxis 2		Internship			
6 EC G_MASEM Master Seminar*						
6 EC	6 EC	6 EC	12 EC			
G_MAHERMN	G_SMDO132	G_RESSK	G_1MATHES			<i>Parttime Year 2</i>
Hermeneutics	Specialization Course Dogmatics and Ecumenics 2	Research Skills **	Thesis			

* 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.