Teaching and Examination Regulations

MASTER's Degree Programme

Information Sciences

B. Programme-specific section

Academic year 2017-2018

<u>**Section B: Programme-specific section**</u>

Section B: Programme-specific section

1.   General provisions

Article 1.1   Definitions
Not applicable

Article 1.2   Degree programme information
1.   The programme in Information Sciences (CROHO number 60255) is a full-time programme taught in English
2.   The programme consists of 60 credits.
3.   An educational unit comprises 6 credits or a multiple thereof.

Article 1.3   Intake dates
The programme is offered starting in the first semester of the academic year only
(1 September). The intake date(s) mentioned in this paragraph ensure(s) 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
The programme aims to acquire sufficient knowledge, skills and insight within the field of Information Sciences, and any related disciplines, to be able to operate as an independent professional at an academic level, and to be a suitable candidate for a subsequent course of study leading to a career in research or development. Another aim of the programme is to develop students' understanding of the interrelationships between disciplines, as well as their sense of social responsibility.

Article 2.2   Exit qualifications
Information Sciences graduates are expected to have achieved the following at the end of the programme. Knowledge and understanding:
A.   sufficient knowledge and understanding of the latest developments and key themes in the field of Information Science and knowledge of research that is relevant to ongoing efforts to solve problems related to those themes, which include:
       (1) e-business, (2) ontology engineering and semantic web, (3) architectures, (4) requirements engineering, and (5) multimedia.
B.   Practical application of knowledge and understanding:
       the ability to use the acquired knowledge and understanding from the Bachelor's and Master's courses to define a problem and the objective of a research project, and to independently initiate and carry out an advanced research project.
C.   Making judgements:
       the ability to give an informed opinion and adopt a critical scientific attitude.
D.   Communication:
       the ability to report, both orally and in writing, on an advanced research project.
E.   Learning skills:
       the ability to discover and use new information in the field of information science and related, relevant areas.

The programme emphasizes:
•   the student's personal development,
•   promoting the student's sense of social responsibility;

3.   Further admission requirements

Article 3.1   Admission requirements
1.   Applicants will be admitted to the degree programme if they hold a letter of acceptance, issued by or on behalf of the Faculty Board because they have demonstrated that they meet the knowledge, understanding and skills requirements of the final level of attainment in a university Bachelor's degree programme.

2. The Examination Board will assess each individual application for admission with regard to the admission requirements. Prior education requirements:
   - A Bachelor of Science degree in Information Sciences from an accredited Dutch university
   - A university Bachelor's degree in: Computer Science, Business Mathematics and Informatics where the selected subjects should include the following three components
     A. Information Sciences subjects
     B. Business Administration subjects
     C. Computer Science subjects
   - English language proficiency equivalent to final-examination university entry level (VWO level under the Dutch school system).
   - One of the following degrees from a university of applied sciences (HBO):
     o Information Sciences
     o Business Informatics (HEAO-BI; Higher Education in Economics and Management - Business Informatics)
     o Computer Science (Higher Education in Computer Science or HIO)
     o Technical Computer Science (HTS-TC; Higher Technical Qualification Technical Computer Science)
     o Information Engineering (IE)
     o Information and Computer Science (I&I)
     o Interaction Design
   - Students coming from a university of applied sciences will take a one-year pre-Master's programme. The exact programme, which is dependent on the subjects passed during a student's prior education, will be set on a student-by-student basis.
   - Students with deficiencies in their background knowledge can only be admitted after successfully completing the catch-up courses (in fields a to c, as shown above) indicated by the study advisor. This is subject to the condition that the courses required to fill these gaps in a student's background knowledge do not exceed a total of 60 credits.
3. If the degree programme consists of distinct tracks or specializations, the Examination Board will assess whether the applicant has met the applicable admission requirements.
4. Those not yet in possession of a Bachelor's degree, but who meet the admission requirements as regards the knowledge, insight and skills specified in paragraph 2, may on request be granted conditional admission to the associated Master's programme, insofar as failure to grant admission would result in undue unfairness.
5. Applicants who have already successfully completed the pre-Master's programme designated for this Master's programme and have received a certificate of admission as proof thereof, may also be admitted.
6. The letter of acceptance relates exclusively to the academic year following the academic year in which the application for the letter of acceptance was submitted, unless the Executive Board decides otherwise.

Article 3.2   Pre-Master's programme
1. Applicants who have a Bachelor's degree in a field that sufficiently corresponds to the field of the Master's programme may request admission to the pre-Master's programme.
2. A certificate stating that the student has successfully completed the pre-Master's programme serves as a letter of acceptance to the associated Master's programme in the next academic year.
3. The letter of acceptance relates exclusively to the academic year following the academic year in which the application for the letter of acceptance was submitted, unless the Executive Board decides otherwise.

Article 3.3   Limited programme capacity
Not applicable

Article 3.4   Final deadline for registration
A candidate must submit a request to be admitted to the programme through Studielink before 1 June in the case of Dutch students, before 1 April in the case of EU students and before 1 February in the case of non-EU students. Under exceptional circumstances, the Examinations Board may consider a request submitted after this closing date.

Article 3.5   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 internet based test: 92-93
    - Cambridge Advanced English: A, B or C.
2. [optional] 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

Article 3.6   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 most appropriate Examinations Board.
3. The free curriculum is put together by the student from the units of study offered by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam or another institution of higher education and must at least have the size, breadth and depth of a regular Master's programme.

4.   Curriculum structure

Article 4.1   Composition of programme
1. The programme has a study load of 60 credits and consists of the following components:
    a. Required educational units
    b. Optional subjects (electives)
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, students may compose their own Master's programme under certain circumstances and with the prior approval of the Examination Board.

Article 4.2   Compulsory units of study

The compulsory units of study are:

Business Information Systems

Course Code	Course Name	EC	Period	Level
X_405061	Service Oriented Design	6	1	400
X_405085	Interdisciplinary Research Meth for IS	6	2	500
X_405087	Thesis Design	6	3	400
X_405115	Business Process Management	6	1	400
XM_405083	Master Project Information Sciences	18	Ac. Year	400

Web and Media

Course Code	Course Name	EC	Period	Level
X_405065	Knowledge and Media	6	1	500
X_405085	Interdisciplinary Research Meth for IS	6	2	500
X_405087	Thesis Design	6	3	400
XM_405083	Master Project Information Sciences	18	Ac. Year	400
XMU_418023	Intelligent Interactive Systems	6	1	400

Article 4.3   Practical exercise

Except for those practical components incorporated in the compulsory units of study above and in relevant electives, the programme has no separate practical exercise.

Article 4.4   Electives

The student can take of the following electives:

Business Information Systems

Constrained choice Period 2 (6 EC)

Course Code	Course Name	EC	Period	Level
X_400170	Software Architecture	6	2	400
X_400653	Digital Innovation: New Ways Org & Work	6	2	400
X_405129	Watson Innovation	6	2	400

Constrained choice Period 4 (6 EC)

Course Code	Course Name	EC	Period	Level
X_400650	Business Process Analytics	6	4	400
X_405086	The Social Web	6	4	400
XMU_418143	Information Visualization	6	4	0

Suggested elective Courses

Course Code	Course Name	EC	Period	Level
R_E.commerc	E-Commerce Law	6	5	500
X_405097	Serious Games	6	5	400
X_405101	ICT4D	6	5	400

Web and Media

Constrained choice Period 2 (6 EC)

Course Code	Course Name	EC	Period	Level
X_400170	Software Architecture	6	2	400
X_405099	Knowledge Engineering	6	2	400
X_405129	Watson Innovation	6	2	400
XMU_417016	Visual Search Engines	6	2	400

Constrained choice Period 4 (6 EC)

Course Code	Course Name	EC	Period	Level
X_405086	The Social Web	6	4	400
XMU_418068	Mobile Systems	6	4	400
XMU_418130	Web Search	6	4	400
XMU_418143	Information Visualization	6	4	0

Suggested elective Courses

Course Code	Course Name	EC	Period	Level
R_E.commerc	E-Commerce Law	6	5	500
X_405097	Serious Games	6	5	400
X_405101	ICT4D	6	5	400

If the student wishes to take a different course than the units of study listed, advance permission must be obtained in writing from the Examinations Board.

Article 4.5   Sequence of examinations
The study guide details those examinations and/or practical exercises that may only be taken once the exams of other (prior) components have been passed.

Article 4.6   Participation in practical exercise and tutorials
1. Student are expected to participate actively in all degree components for which they are registered.
2. In addition to the general requirement regarding active participation, the study guide details additional requirements for each degree component, as well as component attendance requirements.
3. At the start of each degree component, a specification will be made available which details:
   - The final attainment levels of the degree component;
   - The study guidelines for passing the degree component;
   - The way in which the final attainment levels are assessed;
   - The regulations for examinations and resits;
   - The guidance provided by lecturers during scheduled hours and otherwise;
   - Component attendance requirements;
   - The provision of feedback to the student on assignments and reports submitted, and presentations given during the degree component.
4. If a student is prevented by force majeure from attending a required degree component, then the student must send written notification of his or her absence to the examiner and the study advisor as soon as possible. The examiner may, after consultation with the study advisor, give the student an alternative assignment.
5. Absence from degree components with required attendance is only allowed in the case of force majeure.
6. In the event of inadequate participation, either qualitative or quantitative, the examiner may exclude the student from further participation in the degree component or a part of the degree component. The details of the student's inadequate participation must be recorded in advance and approved by the Director of Studies.

Article 4.7   Maximum exemption
Up to 30 credits of the degree curriculum may be awarded on the basis of exemptions.

Article 4.8   Validity period for results
No further specific provisions to article 4.8 of TER part A.

Article 4.9   Degree
Students who have successfully completed their Master's final examination are awarded a Master of Science degree. The degree awarded is stated on the diploma. If it is a joint degree, this will also be 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, and if necessary approval by the Programme Committee concerned. A copy of the advice will be sent to the authorized representative advisory body.
2.   An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations requires the approval of the authorized representative advisory body if it concerns components not related to the subjects of Section 7.13, paragraph 2 sub a to g and v 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:

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 VUnet.

Article 5.4   Effective date
These Regulations enter into force with effect from 1 September 2017.

Advice from Programme Committee, on 20 April 2017.

Advice from Examination Board of the Faculty of Science, on 10 November 2016

Approved by authorized representative advisory body, on 6 July 2017

Adopted by the Board of the Faculty of Science, on 21 July 2017.

Appendix I

List of articles that must be included in the OER pursuant to the WHW (articles in framed boxes):

Section A
Art. 1.1	7.13, para 1, WHW
Art. 2.1	7.13, para 2 sub w
Art. 3.2	7.13, para 2 sub e
Art. 4.2	7.13, para 2 sub h and l
Art. 4.3	7.13, para 2 sub n
Art. 4.4	7.13, para 2 sub o
Art. 4.5	7.13, para 2 sub j, h
Art. 4.7	7.13, para 2 sub r
Art. 4.8	7.13, para 2 sub k
Art. 4.9	7.13, para 2 sub p
Art. 4.10	7.13, para 2 sub q
Art. 4.11	7.13, para 2 sub a
Art. 5.1	7.13, para 2 sub u
Art. 5.2	7.13, para 2 sub m

Section B
Art. 1.2	7.13, para 2 sub i
Art. 2.1	7.13, para 1 sub b, c
Art. 2.2	7.13, para 2 sub c
Art. 3.1	7.25, para 4
Art. 4.1	7.13, para 2 sub a
Art. 4.2	7.13, para 2 sub e, h, j, l
Art. 4.3	7.13, para 2 sub t
Art. 4.4	7.13, para 2 sub e, h, j, l
Art. 4.5	7.13, para 2 sub s
Art. 4.6	7.13, para 2 sub d
Art. 4.8	7.13, para 2 sub k