Teaching and Examination Regulations

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
School of Religion and Theology
Master's programme Theology and Religious Studies (60) EC

Academic year 2026-2027

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Section A: Faculty section

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations

1.	These Regulations apply to anyone enrolled in the programme, irrespective of the academic year in which the student was first enrolled in the programme.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
2.	These Regulations enter into force on 1 September 2026.	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)
1.	In certain cases, students may appeal against decisions made on the basis of the Teaching and Examination Regulations, for example decisions made by an examiner, examination board, BSA committee, or admission committee. Whether an appeal can be considered depends on the type of the decision and by whom the decision was made. More information about legal protection can be found in the Student Charter and on the website Complaints, appeals, and objections - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

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. An examination can be completed in writing, orally or in another way;

d. final examination: a Master's examination;

e. internship: period spent working in professional practice as part of a study programme;

f.1 joint degree: a degree awarded by an institution together with one or more institutions in the Netherlands or abroad, after the student has completed a study programme (a degree programme, a specialisation or a specific curriculum within a degree programme) for which the collaborating institutions are jointly responsible;

f.2 double degree: partnership between a program of a Dutch educational institution with a foreign educational institution, whereby students complete all or part of both study programmes and obtain two diplomas on the basis of agreements regarding the mutual recognition of the programme (replacement courses);

g. period: a part of a semester;

h. practical exercise: participation in a practical training activity or other educational learning activity, aimed at acquiring certain (academic) skills. Examples of practical exercises are:

- researching and writing a thesis or dissertation
- carrying out a research assignment
- taking part in fieldwork or an excursion
- taking part in another educational learning activity aimed at acquiring specific skills, or
- participating in and completing a work placement;

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 half (February - August) 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. student:	the person enrolled, requesting enrolment or who has been enrolled in a course or program at the Vrije Universiteit;
o. study guide:	the guide for the study programme that provides further details of the courses, provisions and other information specific to that programme. The study guide is available online at *https://www.vu.nl/studiegids*;
p. study monitor:	dashboard for students and academic advisers containing data pertaining to the student, including the student's study progress;
q. subject:	see u. 'unit of education';
r. thesis:	a unit comprising research into the literature and/or a contribution to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;
s. track:	a study pathway within a programme, of which the workload and the qualities in terms of knowledge, insight and skills that the student must have acquired by the end of the program are equal to those of the programme
t. unit of education:	a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW;
u. university:	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;
v. WHW:	the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (WHW)).
w. workload:	the workload of the unit of education to which an examination applies, expressed in terms of credits = EC credits (ECTS = European Credit and Transfer Accumulation System). The workload for 1 year (1,680 hours) is 60 EC credits.

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

2. Study programme structure

Article 2.1 Structure of academic year and units of education

1.	The study programme will be offered in a year divided into two semesters.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
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 III
3.	A unit of education comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
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 III

3. Assessment and examination

Article 3.1 Signing up for education and examinations

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

Article 3.2 Type of examination

1. 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)

Article 3.3 Oral examinations

1. No more than one student will be examined orally at a time, unless specified otherwise in part B for the relevant unit of education.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 l and n)
2. A second examiner is present when an oral examination is being held, unless the Examination Board has determined otherwise. The oral examination takes place at a time and location to be determined by the examiner within the regular timetable, on campus or online. At the request of the student, and with the approval of the examiners, an audio recording can be made. Should the second examiner not be available unexpectedly, an audio recording of the oral exam is made. This audio recording is retained by the university for the retention period applicable for examinations.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 l and n)

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 final projects is no longer than twenty working days after submission. 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 III
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 final projects are detailed in the relevant course manual or regulations.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
2. The most recent mark will apply in the event of a resit. A resit is allowed for both passed and failed examinations.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
3. The resit for an examination may not take place within ten working days of the announcement of the results for the original examination. Exceptions are only possible in period 6.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 j)

4. The Examination Board may allow a student an extra opportunity to sit an examination if that student: a) has completed all but one units of education to meet the requirements of the degree and b) has failed the examination during all the previously offered attempts in the current year, unless participation in an examination was not possible for compelling reasons. This provision excludes the practical exercises and the final project. Requests for an additional examination opportunity must be submitted to the Examination Board. If necessary, the method of examination may deviate from the provisions in the study guide.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
5. If a unit of education is no longer offered, at least one additional opportunity will subsequently be provided to sit the examination(s) or parts thereof and a transitional arrangement will be included in Section B.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (7.13 j)

Article 3.6 Marks

1. Grades are given on a scale from 1 to 10 with no more than one figure after the decimal point.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
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 III
3. To pass a given course or unit, a final mark of 6 or higher is required.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III
4. The Examination Board can allow the use of symbols rather than numbers.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix III

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 or university of applied sciences (HBO) or a research university (WO) that is equivalent in terms of content and level; b. or have demonstrated through their work and/or professional experience that they have sufficient knowledge and skills with regard to the relevant unit of education.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 r)
2. The Master's thesis/final project 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

Article 3.9 Right of inspection

1. Within twenty working days after the announcement of the results of a written examination, but at least ten working days before the resit opportunity for that examination, the student has the right to inspect their graded examination.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 p and q)
2. Students can view the questions and assignments set in the written examination, and the standards applied when assessing the examination, within the period specified in 3.9.1.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 q)
3. The examiner determines whether the inspection takes place collectively or	Advice OLC;

	individually. In all cases, the time and place of the inspection is announced in the course manual or learning environment.	approval FGV (7.13 q)
4.	Students are entitled to feedback on their academic performance. The manner in which this is provided in each unit of education is described in the course manual.	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 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 a. The Student Counsellor b. Student psychologists c. Faculty academic advisers	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 u)

Article 4.2 Facilities for students with a disability or impairment

1.	Students with a disability or impairment can submit a request via VU.nl Dashboard to qualify for one or more special facilities with regard to teaching, practical exercises and examinations. These facilities will accommodate the student's individual disability or impairment as much as possible, but may not alter the quality or degree of difficulty of a unit of education or an examination. In all cases, the student must fulfil the intended learning outcomes 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 or impairment justifies an extension of the examination time, the responsible person on behalf of the Examination Board will register in SAP this entitlement to an extension. If a disability or impairment justifies other measures to be taken, the academic adviser can take the necessary measures. The student can consult the study monitor to check which facilities have been granted to them.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
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)

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 RIO number 60824 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 2 year(s).	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 i)

Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment

1. The degree 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 unit of education are specified in the study guide.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 l)

Article 6.3 Academic student counselling

The programme offers the academic student counselling as mentioned in section A.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 u)

7. Further admission requirements

Article 7.1 Intake date(s)

The Master's programme starts on 1 September.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)

Article 7.2 Admission requirements

1. Admission to the Master's programme is possible for an applicant who has obtained a Bachelor's degree obtained at an institution of academic higher education, which demonstrates the following knowledge, understanding and skills: a. knowledge of human behaviour and at least three of the world's religions b. understanding of diversity in world views c. skills to apply hermeneutical research methods Directly admissible are: 1. Students with a WO Bachelor's degree in Theology or Religious Studies or Humanistic Studies; 2. Students with a WO Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, Humanities, Law and Behavioral Sciences, including a course in the world's religions; 3. Students with a WO Bachelor's degree in all other sciences, if they have followed 30EC Theology/Religious Studies/Humanistic Studies, including a course in world religions; 4. Students with a HBO Bachelor's degree in Theology at the Christelijke Hogeschool Ede (CHE), Hogeschool Viaa, of Hogeschool Windesheim, with an integrated academic minor (academische opstapminor), such as the minor	Advice OLC, approval by FGV (9.38 sub b)

	‘Missionair Leiderschap’ van de VU (Minor Missionair Leiderschap - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) 5. Students with a HBO Bachelor’s degree from the Reinwardt Academie and who have completed the minor *Religieus Erfgoed in Amsterdam* to the track **Exploring a Discipline.**	
2.	Applicants who wish to follow the track **Spiritual Care** must, in addition to the provisions in paragraph 1, also meet the following requirements with regard to: a. knowledge of the world’s religions, sexuality, loss and mourning, psychopathology and substantial knowledge of their own tradition/religion b. understanding of the consequences of sexual abuse, loss and psychological illnesses on persons, their behaviour, and their world views c. skills to communicate as a caretaker, negotiating between one’s own and the other’s perspective and/or religion Directly admissible are: 1. Students with a WO Bachelor’s degree in Theology or Religious Studies and the minor Spiritual care 2. Students with a WO Bachelor’s degree in a study other than Theology/Religious Studies if they have either 30EC in Theology/Religious studies or the premaster Theology/Religious Studies, as well as the minor Spiritual Care 3. Students with an Bachelor’s degree in Theology at the *Christelijke Hogeschool Ede* (CHE) with an integrated academic minor (academische opstapminor) and the minor Spiritual Care 4. Students with a WO Bachelor’s degree in Humanistic Studies	Advice OLC, approval by 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 ub b)
4.	Applicants who have completed a prior programme of education in a language other than Dutch which entitles them to admission must demonstrate adequate command of the Dutch language, which can be evidenced by successful completion of: - The official Dutch as a Second Language Programme II (NT2-II); - The Inter-university Dutch Language Admission Test (ITN); - Certificate of Dutch as a Second Language (CNaVT), profile ‘*Educatief Professioneel’* (EDUP) C1 or *‘Educatief Startbekwaam’* (SRTR)B2; - Foreign final school examinations accepted by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, which included the Dutch language. Those who have been admitted to a Dutch-language study programme based on a diploma obtained abroad and who have successfully completed level 4 of VWO or higher with a pass grade in Dutch are exempted from the language requirement.	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix 6
4.	Applicants should demonstrate that they have a sufficient level of proficiency in English by meeting at least one of the following standards: - IELTS Academic: an overall score of at least 6.5; At the start of the program, the test must not have been taken more than two years ago. - TOEFL iBT: an overall score of at least 4.5 (formerly 92); At the start of the program, the test must not have been taken more than two years ago.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 ub b)

- Cambridge C2 Proficiency/Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): an overall score of at least 180 - Cambridge C1 Advanced/Certificate Advanced English (CAE an overall score of at least 180 - LanguageCert Academic SELT: an overall score of at least 70. At the start of the program, the test must not have been taken more than two years ago. - Pearson PTE Academic: an overall score of at least 68. At the start of the program, the test must not have been taken more than two years ago.	
5. Applicants who have completed one of the following meet the English language requirement and therefore are exempted from taking an English language test (as mentioned in the section 4): - a secondary education or higher education degree fully taught in English has been completed in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom or the United States of America; - a fully English-language, accredited bachelor's or master's degree in the Netherlands, EU/EFTA countries, Singapore or South Africa, or - a vwo diploma or equivalent diploma in which the course on English of a comparable level is required has been earned.	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

1. Applicants with a Bachelor's degree from a university of applied sciences (HBO), or a Bachelor's degree from an institution of academic higher education (WO) who wish to enter the programme but do not fulfil the admission requirements as stipulated in Article 7.2 can request admission to the pre-Master's programme. Article 2 of these regulations does not apply to admission to a bridging or pre-Master's programme. The provisions of sections A and B only apply to the extent that they are described in Article 7.4. Information about the programme from part B2 applies, insofar as it concerns the units of education from the pre-Master's programme.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
2. Candidates for Spritiual Care must, in addition to paragraph 1 above, also satisfy the following requirements have obtained a minimum of 30 EC regarding: - Knowledge of religions, religious history, religious practices and religious sources - Understanding of the functioning of religion in society - Skill in reading and explaining religious sources and/or sources that relate to world views In exceptional cases the Board of Admissions can deviate from these requirements. The Board of Admissions takes the final decision on admissibility.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
3. A candidate must demonstrate that they meet the language requirements, as specified in Article 7.2.	
4. The pre-master's programme has 30 EC and consists of the units indicated in	Advice OLC;

Appendix 2. The following terms also apply: a. If the pre-Master's student is completing an individualized pre-Master's programme, this is to be communicated to the student in writing. b. The Examination Board can, if the pre-Master's student submits a written request, exempt the student from one or more examinations of a standard pre-Master's programme. c. The provision under b. does not apply to an individualised pre-Master's programme.	approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
5. Evidence that the pre-Master's programme has been completed successfully will entitle the student to admission to the relevant Master's programme in the following academic year. A pre-Master's programme must be completed within one academic year.	advies OLC; instemming FGV (9.38 b)

8. Examinations and results

Article 8.1 Sequence of examinations

Students may participate in examinations [or practical exercises] of the components below only if they have passed the examination or examinations for the components mentioned hereinafter:	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 h, s & t)
Internship (G_INTERN) or Stage Spiritual Care (G_STAGESC) after obtaining 12 EC, of which at least one specialization module (6 EC)	
Thesis (G_1MATHES) after obtaining 18 EC.	

Article 8.2 Validity period for results

If the student's skills, understanding or knowledge 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.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 k)

Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme

9. Programme objectives, tracks/specializations, intended learning outcomes and language

Article 9.1 Workload

The programme has a workload of 60 EC	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)

Article 9.2 Tracks and/or specializations

The programme has the following tracks: - Exploring a Discipline - Peace, Trauma and Religion - Spiritual Care	Approval OLC (7.13 b)

Article 9.3 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.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
3. The degree programme focuses on the student's personal development and promotes their awareness of social responsibility.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)

Article 9.4 Intended learning outcomes

1. The Master of Theology and Religious studies programme enables students: 1. to show in-depth theoretical knowledge and methodological insight in the subjects that belong to the chosen subprogramme; 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. integrate the contextual and hermeneutical character of research in Theology and Religious Studies and therefore approach issues in this field in a dialogical way by critically reflecting on one's own perspective, by taking into account the tension between confessional, theological, and religious studies perspectives and/or by using inter- and multidisciplinary approaches; 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 autonomously 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.	Approval OLC (7.13 c)
2. These aims of the programme are realized in the tracks as follows: *Exploring a Discipline* The Master of Theology and Religious studies track 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. integrate the contextual and hermeneutical character of research in Theology and Religious Studies and therefore approach issues in this field in a dialogical way by critically reflecting on one's own perspective, by taking into account the tension between confessional, theological, and religious studies perspectives and/or by using inter- and multidisciplinary approaches; 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 autonomously 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. *Spiritual Care*	Approval OLC (7.13)

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

1. to show in-depth theoretical knowledge in the key concepts which define the domain of Spiritual Care;
2. to reflect critically (from the perspective of theology and religious studies) on the way of recognizing, analyzing, and approaching the vulnerability of human lives both in religious and non-religious traditions;
3. integrate the contextual and hermeneutical character of research in Theology and Religious Studies and therefore approach issues in this field in a dialogical way by critically reflecting on one's own perspective, by taking into account the tension between confessional, theological, and religious studies perspectives and/or by using inter- and multidisciplinary approaches;
4. to make independent critical judgments on the basis of limited data and with an eye on the social and ethical implications as well as the relation with other disciplines, the organizational context and religious authorities;
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 religious and/or spiritual traditions;
6. to study largely self-directed or autonomously and to conduct independent scholarly research within the area of Spiritual Care;
7. to develop a coherent view of the professional field of Spiritual Care, to develop the ability to situate oneself authentically in this field and to develop the skills required for an initial start as a professional in this field.

Peace, Trauma and Religion

The Master of Theology and Religious studies track 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 postconflict 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. integrate the contextual and hermeneutical character of research in Theology and Religious Studies and therefore approach issues in this field in a dialogical way by critically reflecting on one's own perspective, by taking into account the tension between confessional, theological, and religious studies perspectives and/or by using inter- and multidisciplinary approaches;
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 autonomously and to conduct independent scholarly research within the field of Violence, Religion and Reconciliation in a religious/theological perspective;
7. To gain a coherent knowledge and overview in the field of conflict-studies, peacebuilding and trauma-healing mechanisms and to develop the basic skills of a young professional in this field through participation.

3. Language proficiency is taken into account in the assessment of (interim) examinations.	Approval OLC (7.13 c)

Article 9.5 Language of instruction

1. The language of instruction and examination of the tracks Peace, Trauma and Religion and Exploring a Discipline is English. The language of instruction and examination of the track Spiritual Care is Dutch. A number of courses are offered in English.	Approval OLC (9.18)
2. The 'Gedragscode vreemde taal' (Code of conduct for foreign languages) applies	Ordinance CvB, see Appendix 6

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, see Appendix 6
2. Additionally the programme can offer: - Practical exercises - Electives - Supervision	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 6
4. It is possible to graduate in two tracks within the Master's programme Theology and Religious Studies. The following requirements apply: a. All compulsory modules of the two tracks must be successfully completed, whereby the overlapping modules (with the same module code) only need to be completed once; b. The student does two internships of 12 EC each or one combined internship of 18 EC in total; c. An exception to the stipulation in paragraph b is that the professional internship for the track Spiritual Care cannot be combined; d. The student shall write two theses of 12 EC each or one combined thesis of 18 EC in total; e. Core courses of the first track may be used as electives for the second track and vice versa; f. Only students that meet the admission requirements for the track Spiritual Care as stipulated in art. 7.2.2 can combine this track with one of the other tracks. The number of credits in the master's programme with two tracks with a combined thesis and a combined internship is therefore at least 78 EC.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)

Article 10.2 Compulsory units of education

See appendix 1. A detailed description per unit of education can be found in the Study Guide.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)

Article 10.3 Elective units of education

1. See appendix 1. 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.	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
Thesis	G_1MATHES	12	500
Internship	G_INTERN	12	500
Stage Spiritual Care	G_STAGESC	12	500
General Research Skills	G_GRS	3	500
Professional Skills	G_PROFS	3	500

Article 10.5 Participation in practical exercise and seminars

1. In the case of a practical training, students must attend at least 80 % of the practical sessions. Should they attend less than 80 %, they must repeat the practical training, or the Examination Board or the examiner may have one or more supplementary assignments issued.	Approval OLC (7.13 d)
2. In the case of a seminar, students must attend at least 80 % of the practical sessions. Should they attend less than 80 %, they must repeat the practical training, or the Examination Board or the examiner may have one or more supplementary assignments issued.	Approval OLC (7.13 d)

11. Evaluation and transitional provisions

Article 11.1 Evaluation of the education

The education provided in this programme is evaluated in accordance with the evaluation plan (appendix 3). The faculty evaluation plan offers the framework.	Approval OLC (7.13 a1)

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: — Advice OLC (7.13 a)

Cancelled course	*Replacement Course*
Creation and Redemption (G_RMRE05)	Christian Theology and the Anthropocene (G_RMRE10)
Hermeneutics (G_MAHERMN)	Critical Hermeneutics and Global Citizenship (G_CHGC)
Spiritual Care 1 (G_SPICA1)	Theoretische grondslagen van Spiritual Care en Spiritualiteit (G_SPICA4)
Spiritual Care 2 (G_SPICA2)	Zingeving en Spiritual Care (G_SPICA5)
Interreligieuze ethiek van de zorg (G_INTZORG)	Zorgethiek (G_ZORGE)

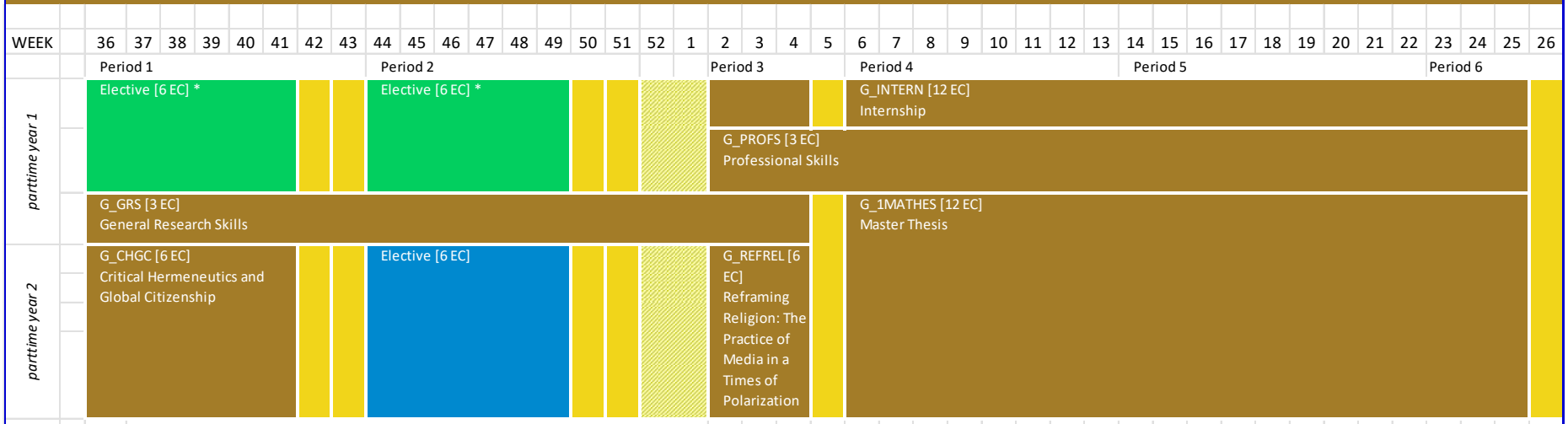
Advice and approval by the Programme Committee on 10 March 2026

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly on 26 May 2026

Adopted by the board of the Faculty on 26 May 2026

Appendix 1 Programme overviews

ANNUAL PLAN MASTER THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES, TRACK EXPLORING A DISCIPLINE 2026-2027



* Elective [2x 6 EC]: Choose one module in each period from the electives.
Choose G_ACEBP *Applied Christology* and G_EBECI *Evangelical and Baptistic Ethics* for Baptist and Evangelical Leadership
Choose G_RMPT1 Personal Tutorial 1 and G_RCDUL Religious and Cultural Diversity in Urban Landscapes for The Future of Religious Heritage.

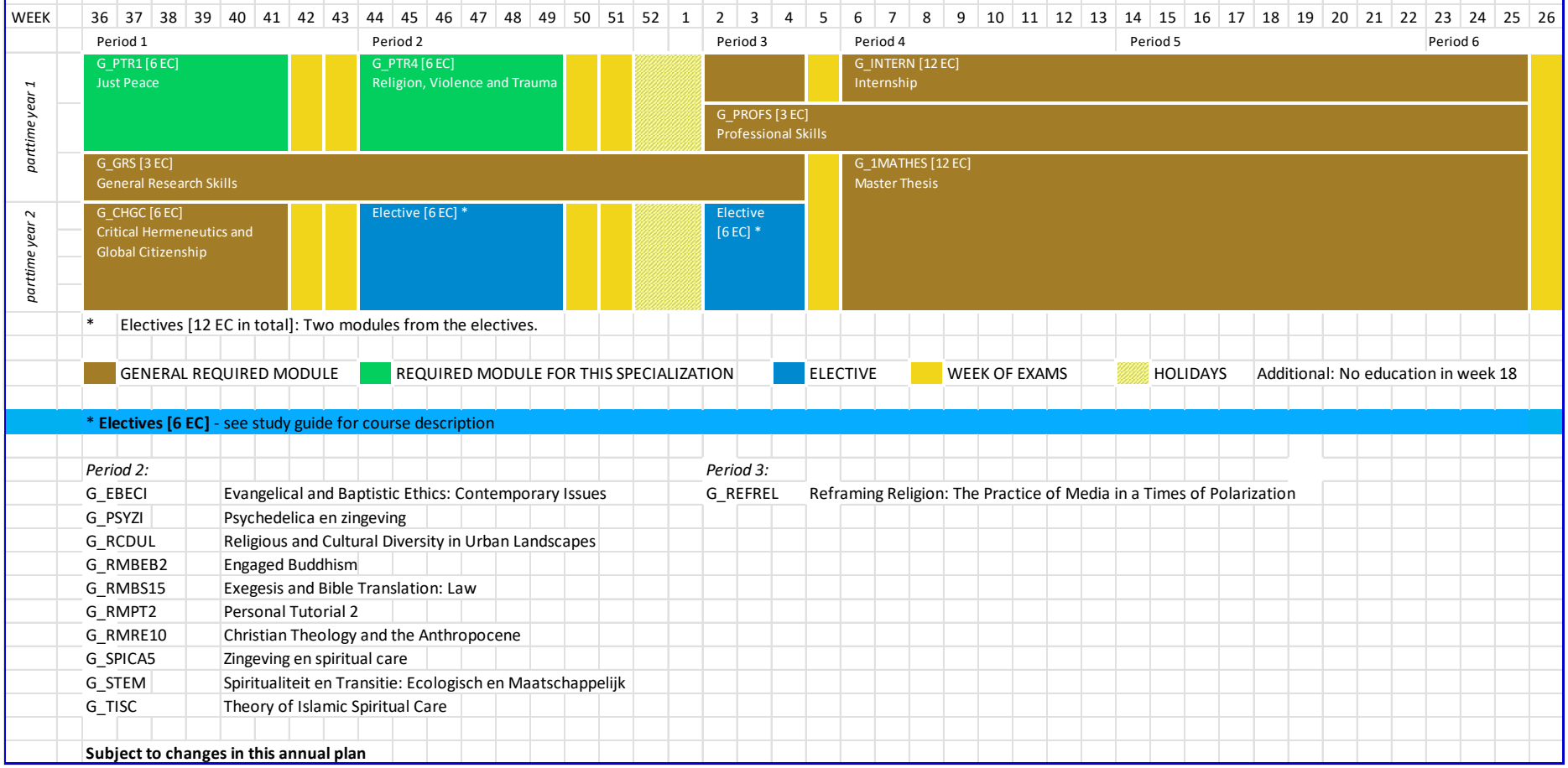
GENERAL REQUIRED MODULE | REQUIRED MODULE FOR THIS SPECIALIZATION | ELECTIVE | WEEK OF EXAMS | HOLIDAYS | Additional: No education in week 18

* **Electives [6 EC]** - see study guide for course description

Period 1:		*Period 2:*	
G_ACEBP	Applied Christology: Evangelical and Baptistic Perspectives	G_EBECI	Evangelical and Baptistic Ethics: Contemporary Issues
G_PTR1	Peace, Trauma and Religion 1: Just Peace	G_PSYZI	Psychedelica en zingeving
G_RMBS05	Digital Hermeneutics and the Reception of the Bible	G_PTR4	Religion, Violence and Trauma
G_RMBS13	Biblical Interpretation and Exegesis in the Context of Sustainable Development	G_RCDUL	Religious and Cultural Diversity in Urban Landscapes
G_RMEC07	Exegesis of the New Testament: Acts of the Apostles	G_RMBEB2	Engaged Buddhism
G_RMIRET	Introduction to Reformed and Evangelical Theology	G_RMBS15	Exegesis and Bible Translation: Law
G_RMPT1	Personal Tutorial 1	G_RMPT2	Personal Tutorial 2
G_SPICA4	Theoretische grondslagen van spiritual care en spiritualiteit	G_RMRE10	Christian Theology and the Anthropocene
L_KBMAERF006	(De)Constructing Heritage in Architecture and Town Planning	G_SPICA5	Zingeving en spiritual care
		G_STEM	Spiritualiteit en Transitie: Ecologisch en Maatschappelijk
		G_TISC	Theory of Islamic Spiritual Care

Subject to changes in this annual plan

ANNUAL PLAN MASTER THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES, TRACK PEACE, TRAUMA AND RELIGION 2026-2027

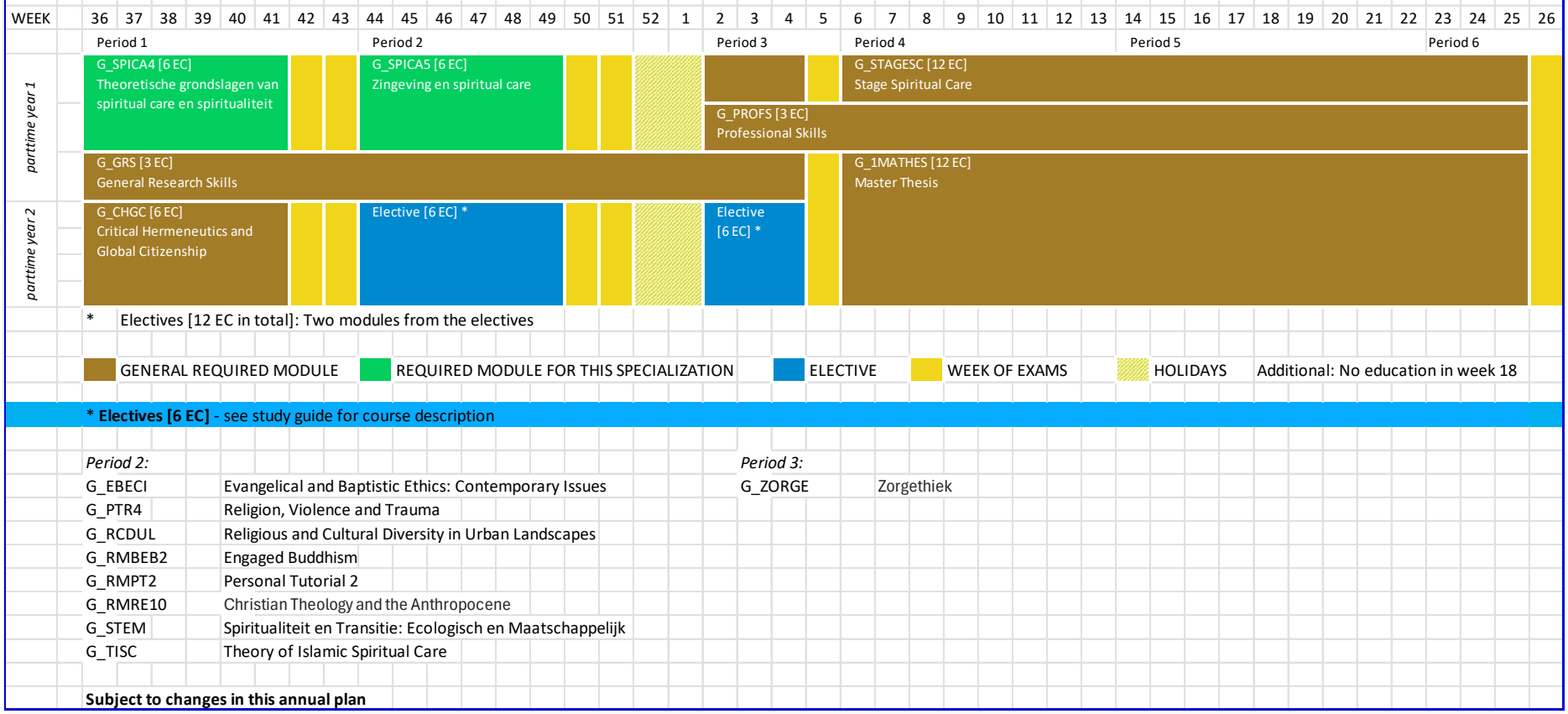


*** Electives [6 EC]** - see study guide for course description

Period 2:		*Period 3:*	
G_EBECI	Evangelical and Baptistic Ethics: Contemporary Issues	G_REFREL	Reframing Religion: The Practice of Media in a Times of Polarization
G_PSYZI	Psychedelica en zingeving		
G_RCDUL	Religious and Cultural Diversity in Urban Landscapes		
G_RMBEB2	Engaged Buddhism		
G_RMBS15	Exegesis and Bible Translation: Law		
G_RMPT2	Personal Tutorial 2		
G_RMRE10	Christian Theology and the Anthropocene		
G_SPICA5	Zingeving en spiritual care		
G_STEM	Spiritualiteit en Transitie: Ecologisch en Maatschappelijk		
G_TISC	Theory of Islamic Spiritual Care		

Subject to changes in this annual plan

ANNUAL PLAN MASTER THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES, TRACK SPIRITUAL CARE 2026-2027



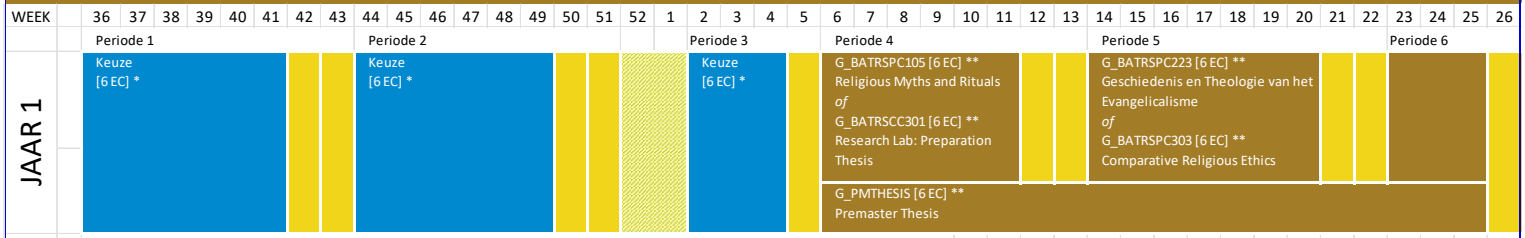
*** Electives [6 EC]** - see study guide for course description

Period 2:		*Period 3:*	
G_EBECI	Evangelical and Baptistic Ethics: Contemporary Issues	G_ZORGE	Zorgethiek
G_PTR4	Religion, Violence and Trauma		
G_RCDUL	Religious and Cultural Diversity in Urban Landscapes		
G_RMBEB2	Engaged Buddhism		
G_RMPT2	Personal Tutorial 2		
G_RMRE10	Christian Theology and the Anthropocene		
G_STEM	Spiritualiteit en Transitie: Ecologisch en Maatschappelijk		
G_TISC	Theory of Islamic Spiritual Care		

Subject to changes in this annual plan

Appendix 2 Premaster overview

PREMASTER THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES - REGULIER 2026-2027



De toelatingscommissie van de School voor Religie en Theologie bepaalt het premasterprogramma voor elke student.

** **HBO studenten** volgen *Research Lab: Preparation Thesis* (*G_BATRSCC301* , periode 4) en *Premaster Thesis* (*G_PMTHESIS* , periode 4,5,6).
WO studenten Exploring a Discipline of Peace, Trauma and Religion volgen *Religious Myths and Rituals* (*G_BATRSPC105* , periode 4) en *Geschiedenis en Theologie van het Evangelicalisme* (*G_BATRSPC223* , periode 5) of *Comparative Religious Ethics* (*G_BATRSPC303* , periode 5);
WO studenten Spiritual Care volgen in periode 4 en 5 geen vakken - tenzij ze de premaster met de minor combineren (zie schema hieronder).

VAK KEUZERUIMTE TENTAMENWEEK VAKANTIE

Wijzigingen in dit jaarschema voorbehouden

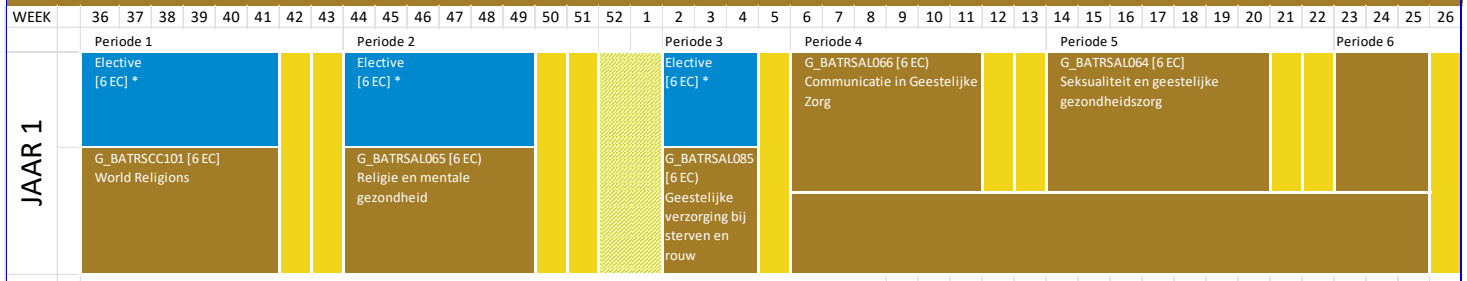
*** Keuzevakken**: Kies per periode één module (6 EC). Voor studenten Islam, Buddhism en Hinduism is er geen of een beperkte keuze, zij volgen onderstaande vakken.

Periode 1:		*Periode 2:*		*Periode 3:*	
Buddhism		**Buddhism**		**Buddhism**	
G_BATRSAL001	Buddhism	G_BATRSAL014	Buddhism, Mindfulness and Psychology	G_BATRSAL046	Spirituality Today
of					
G_BATRSAL095	Living Chinese Buddhism				
Islam		**Islam**		**Islam**	
G_BATRSPC123	Inleiding in de Koran en Soenna	G_BATRSAL027	Islamitische theologie/Kalam	G_BATRSAL049	Islamitische ethiek
Hinduism		**Hinduism**		**Hinduism**	
G_BATRSAL091	Spiritual Transformation through Hindu Texts	G_BATRSAL088	Spirituality and Sustainability	G_BATRSAL093	Practicing Integrative Worldviews
of		*of*			in the Technology Era
G_BATRSAL092	Spiritual Living in Hindu Philosophies	G_BATRSAL036	Yoga Business and Leadership		

Keuzevakken					
Periode 1:		*Periode 2:*		*Periode 3:*	
G_BATRSAL006	Geleefde theologie	G_BATRSAL038	Religion and Sustainable Development	G_BATRSAL046	Spirituality Today
G_BATRSCC204	Interreligieuze Hermeneutiek	G_BATRSAL059	Religieus Humanisme	G_BATRSAL050	Pionierend leiderschap
G_BATRSPC131	Inleiding Religiewetenschappen	G_BATRSAL069	Missie in een seculiere context		
		G_BATRSAL084	Religion, Violence and Fundamentalism		
		G_BATRSCC106	Hedendaagse religieuze vraagstukken		
		G_BATRSCC107	Geschiedenis van de Wereldfilosofie		
Periode 4:		*Periode 5:*		*Periode 6:*	
G_BATRSPC219	Geschiedenis van de Islam na 1800	G_BATRSPC205	Anthropology of Religion	G_BATRSPC214	Religions, Media and Popular Culture
		G_BATRSPC304	Contemporary Theology	G_BATRSPC216	Ethics

JAARSCHEMA PREMASTER THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES - REGULIER 2026-2027

TRACK SPIRITUAL CARE - WO: PREMASTER AND MINOR SPIRITUAL CARE GECOMBINEERD



De toelatingscommissie van de faculteit Reigie en Theologie bepaalt het premasterprogramma voor elke student.

* Keuze [6 EC]: Kies per periode de module (6 EC) uit de gekozen track.

Wijzigingen in dit jaarschema voorbehouden

*** Keuzevakken:** Kies per periode één module (6 EC). Voor studenten Islam, Buddhism en Hinduism is er geen of een beperkte keuze, zij volgen onderstaande vakken.

Periode 1:		*Periode 2:*		*Periode 3:*	
Buddhism		**Buddhism**		**Buddhism**	
G_BATRSAL001	Buddhism	G_BATRSAL014	Buddhism, Mindfulness and Psychology	G_BATRSAL046	Spirituality Today
of					
G_BATRSAL095	Living Chinese Buddhism				
Islam		**Islam**		**Islam**	
G_BATRSPC123	Inleiding in de Koran en Soenna	G_BATRSAL027	Islamitische theologie/Kalam	G_BATRSAL049	Islamitische ethiek
Hinduism		**Hinduism**		**Hinduism**	
G_BATRSAL091	Spiritual Transformation through Hindu Texts	G_BATRSAL088	Spirituality and Sustainability	G_BATRSAL093	Practicing Integrative Worldviews
of		*of*			in the Technology Era
G_BATRSAL092	Spiritual Living in Hindu Philosophies	G_BATRSAL036	Yoga Business and Leadership		

Keuzevakken					
Periode 1:		*Periode 2:*		*Periode 3:*	
G_BATRSAL006	Geleefde theologie	G_BATRSAL038	Religion and Sustainable Development	G_BATRSAL046	Spirituality Today
G_BATRSCC204	Interreligieuze Hermeneutiek	G_BATRSAL059	Religieus Humanisme	G_BATRSAL050	Pionierend leiderschap
G_BATRSPC131	Inleiding Religiewetenschappen	G_BATRSAL069	Missie in een seculiere context		
		G_BATRSAL084	Religion, Violence and Fundamentalism		
		G_BATRSCC106	Hedendaagse religieuze vraagstukken		
		G_BATRSCC107	Geschiedenis van de Wereldfilosofie		
Periode 4:		*Periode 5:*		*Periode 6:*	
G_BATRSPC219	Geschiedenis van de Islam na 1800	G_BATRSPC205	Anthropology of Religion	G_BATRSPC214	Religions, Media and Popular Culture
		G_BATRSPC304	Contemporary Theology	G_BATRSPC216	Ethics

Appendix 3 Evaluation of teaching within the School of Religion and Theology

Evaluation Plan 2026-2027

Introduction

The framework with regard to educational evaluations is laid down in chapter 3 of the Manual for Quality Assurance of Teaching and Learning. This is the general evaluation plan for the School of Religion and Theology (SRT).

At VU evaluations are conducted with the aim to improve educational quality. The evaluations focus on the quality of courses, teachers' teaching skills and assessment quality. The VU draws up questionnaires for this purpose with a number of mandatory key questions. In addition, the faculty or school has the option of adding its own questions to the lists.

1. Course evaluations

1.1 Quantitative Evaluations

The School of Religion and Theology uses Evalytics to digitally distribute questionnaires. This way, the anonymity of students is guaranteed and the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle - which serves educational improvement - can be run properly.

1.1.1 Frequency

It is a requirement that each course is evaluated using student questionnaires once every three years. Within the School Religion and Theology all courses are evaluated.

1.1.2 Process

The default start date of course evaluation is the during the last week of education. The default start date of exam evaluation is the examination date or end date of the course. Course coordinators are encouraged to carry out the evaluation of the education part during the last class before the exam.

Four weeks before the examination or end date of the course, the course coordinator receives an e-mail notifying them that they can prepare the evaluations. A link to the questionnaire in Evalytics is given in this e-mail.

The questionnaire can be modified up until one day before the start date of the evaluation. From that point onwards, the evaluation is open to students, who can then fill out the questionnaire. Students who have not yet completed the evaluation in class will receive an invitation via email.

Once the evaluation is closed to students, the responses are stored in Evalytics. At that point, course coordinators receive a notification that the results have been received. They then have two weeks to give feedback on the results and indicate which steps need to be taken to improve the course (if applicable). Course coordinators who have not yet given feedback after one week receive a reminder.

Once the feedback period is over, a summary of the evaluation results is created for students, who are then notified. The course coordinator's feedback is included in this feedback report. The general idea is that if course coordinators communicate to students that evaluation results are taken seriously, and are used to improve education, students' willingness to fill out questionnaires will increase. In general, evaluation reports are available four weeks after publication date of the questionnaires.

1.2 Qualitative Evaluations

The Manual for Quality Assurance of Teaching and Learning 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 by the School.

1.3 Distribution
In addition to teaching staff and students, all evaluation reports can be viewed by:

- the evaluation coordinator (FEC), who is tasked with the distribution of evaluation reports;
- the policy advisor for Education and Quality Assurance;
- the SRT Examination Board, who has the permission to view evaluation reports of courses as part of their activities in examining assessment quality.

The reports of specific programmes are distributed to:

- programme directors;
- evaluation contact person(s) of the Programme Committee.

2. Minors
All courses of University and School minors are evaluated. It is not (yet) possible to evaluate minors as a separate educational units using Evalytics.

3. Curriculum evaluations
It is recommended to conduct a curriculum evaluation once every 3 years. 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.

Annually quantitative questionnaires are sent out via Evalytics. Every graduating student receives a request in their e-mailbox to fill out the questionnaire. The period in which the questionnaire is distributed may be determined in consultation with the Programme Director. By default these curriculum evaluations open in October and remain available until September. Programme Directors may add extra questions to the standard questionnaire for graduates.

Alternatively, Programme Committees may organise qualitative curriculum evaluations with permission from the Programme Director and the FEC. The evaluation report should be made available to the Programme Director and the FEC.

Programme Directors are asked to reflect upon the results of curriculum evaluations in their programme annual reports. Discussions of these results with the programme's Advisory Committee (*werkveldadviesraad*) as well as the Programme Committee are encouraged.

4. National student survey
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam takes part in the National Student Survey (*Nationale Studenten Enquête*, or NSE), which is conducted every spring. The NSE can provide useful information about how students experience their program. The programme's annual reports should reflect on the results of the NSE. The Portfolio Holder Education, Programme Directors and the Programme Committees receive the results of the NSE around June.

Appendix 4 Higher Education and Research (Implementation) Act

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