

## **REGULATIONS ON SELECTION AND PLACEMENT 2025-2026**

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## **PREAMBULE**

In accordance with Article 7.53, paragraph 3, of the Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek, WHW), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam) has drawn up these regulations on the design and implementation of the selection process for degree programmes with restrictions on capacity. These regulations constitute a further elaboration of Chapter 7 of the WHW and the Regulations on application and admission to higher education (RATHO), the provisions of which apply in full.

VU Amsterdam values a fair, transparent and careful selection procedure and aims to implement the selection process as such. In the event that selection is used as a selection method, the VU employs at least two qualitative selection criteria aimed at predicting as best as possible study success in the program in question and the profession(s) to which the program trains. If a test is used in the selection procedure, the examination board of the program in question is responsible for the quality of the test. If a draw is used as a selection method, the draw shall be conducted in the presence of a notary public designated by the VU.

In the context of its selection process, VU Amsterdam takes account of the interests of prospective students from the public bodies of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, Saba, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten. VU Amsterdam also works to ensure that all candidates are treated equally.

In all cases for which no provision is made in these regulations, decisions shall be taken as follows:

- If it concerns the design of the selection process, the Rector Magnificus;
- If it concerns the practical aspects of the selection process, either a member of the Faculty Board with a teaching portfolio or the Dean.

In the event of employees being unable to agree about who is authorised, the Executive Board will designate the body that is authorised for the matter in question

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

### **NUMBER OF APPLICATION ATTEMPTS**

A candidate may attempt a maximum of three times in total in the selection for the Bachelor of Psychology program. A candidate may utilize all of these three attempts at VU.

### **AVAILABLE PLACES**

The bachelor's program in Psychology at VU University has 600 available seats. The program has two tracks: a Dutch-language track and an English-language track. Both tracks are open to all students, provided they meet the admission criteria for the program.

### **LANGUAGE**

The communication around the selection is in Dutch and in English, depending on the communication language of the candidate. The language of communication during the matching day is English.

### **SELECTION PROCEDURE**

The available places (600) will be distributed according to a combination of selection and drawing of lots. Candidates will be scored on the following qualitative selection criteria:

- Score, based on average grade from admissions program
- Score obtained on an effort commitment to be taken at the end of a matching day.

The procedure thereafter is as follows:

- 1) Candidates with a score of 7.5 or higher for the average grade of the admissions program and a satisfactory score achieved for the effort requirement are selected immediately and will receive a training place.
- 2) The remaining spots will be awarded to candidates, who have scored on both selection criteria, through unweighted draw. The draw will take place in March and in the presence of a notary public.

## **CRIMINOLOGIE (DUTCH-TAUGHT)**

### **NUMBER OF APPLICATION ATTEMPTS**

Maximum number of application attempts: a candidate may participate in the selection for the bachelor's programme Criminology a total of a maximum of three times.

### **AVAILABLE PLACES**

There are 130 available places annually at VU. The numerus fixus for the program is a national numerus fixus. This means that the other universities (Erasmus University Rotterdam and Leiden University) that offer the bachelor's program in Criminology also adhere to a set number of available places. The national fixus was instituted to prevent the training of more criminologists than the market could handle.

### **LANGUAGE**

The working language for the selection procedure is Dutch. This means that the study material to be offered, the matching activity and all communication surrounding the selection will be in Dutch.

### **SELECTION PROCEDURE**

The available places (130) will be distributed according to a combination of selection and drawing of lots. The following qualitative selection criteria apply as a condition of participation in the selection:

- Score, based on average grade from admissions program.
- Score for effort commitment consisting of a matching activity.

The procedure thereafter is as follows:

1) Candidates are selected directly and will be given a place within the programme if they have achieved a satisfactory score for the effort requirement and also meet one of the criteria below:

- a. Have a grade point average of 7.5 or higher in their VWO or WO education; or
- b. Have a score of 8 or higher for the average grade of the admissions program, other than VWO or WO.

2) The remaining spots will be awarded by unweighted lottery to candidates, who have scored on both selection criteria.

The draw will take place in March and in the presence of a notary public.

In the event that the number of candidates eligible for direct selection exceeds the number of available places within the programme, a ranking within this group will take place based on the scores on both qualitative selection criteria.

## **GENEESKUNDE (DUTCH-TAUGHT)**

### **NUMBER OF APPLICATION ATTEMPTS**

A candidate at Faculty of Medicine VU can participate in the selection a maximum of two times.

### **AVAILABLE PLACES**

The Bachelor program in Medicine at VU has 342 available seats.

### **LANGUAGE**

The language for the selection is Dutch. This means that all communication around the selection will be in Dutch.

### **SELECTION PROCEDURE**

A distinction is made between:

- > selection through Track A: 70% of training places
- > selection through Track B: 30% of training places

Classification into Track A and Track B is achieved by classifying candidates based on how they obtain or have already obtained prior education. The selection procedures of both tracks are similar. Candidates will be compared within their track.

Within Track B, 5 spots are reserved for candidates participating in the Taalschakeltraject Amsterdam. A reserved training place will only be filled if a candidate from the Taalschakeltraject is selected for the program. If fewer than five candidates from the Taalschakeltraject Amsterdam are selected, the unfilled places will be released again to the remaining Track B candidates. These places will be awarded in order of ranking.

### **Selection Criteria Track A**

Track A: participation in this track of the selection of Faculty of Medicine VU is possible only for candidates who are in their final vwo examination year at the time of selection and have the appropriate vwo profile to study medicine.

Selection is based on the following criteria:

- > 1. fulfilling the admission criteria for medicine, namely taking 6-vwo final exams in the school year in which the selection takes place, in one of the required profiles;
- > 2. school results (the transition report from 5-vwo);
- > 3. community involvement (distinguished activities undertaken in the two calendar years preceding the year of participation in the selection process). These are the categories of distinctive activities
  - o social contribution
  - o health care; o managerial/organizational;
  - o scientific research/technology;
  - o special achievements
- > 4. skills, (Dutch language skills, social understanding)

Candidates submit a portfolio (parts 1-3). This portfolio consists of an application form including supporting documents, such as a certified grade list and evidence for activities.

Candidates who have submitted a portfolio in the manner indicated on the program website and have done so by the deadline described there will participate in the selection test (section 4).

For the portfolio (items 1-3; weighting 70%) and the selection test (item 4; weighting 30%), scores are assigned to candidates. The final score determines the rank number.

### **Selection Criteria Track B**

**Track B:** participation in this track of the selection of Faculty of Medicine VU is possible for all candidates who do not fall under Track A, but who (will) meet the admission requirements for the program of Medicine by July 15.

Primary selection is based on the following criteria:

- > 1. fully fulfilling (going to fulfil) the admission requirements for Medicine by July 15;
- > 2. school and study results in the three calendar years preceding the year of participation in the selection process;
- > 3. community involvement (distinguished activities undertaken in the two calendar years preceding the year of participation in the selection process). These are the categories of distinctive activities
  - o social contribution;
  - o health care;
  - o managerial/organizational;
  - o scientific research or engineering;
  - o special achievements.
- > 4. skills, (Dutch language skills, social understanding).

Candidates submit a portfolio (parts 1-3). This portfolio consists of an application form including supporting documents, such as certified diplomas and proof of activities. Candidates who have submitted a portfolio in the manner indicated on the program's website and have done so by the deadline described there will participate in the selection test (part 4).

For the portfolio (items 1-3; weighting 70%) and the selection test (item 4; weighting 30%), scores are assigned to candidates. The final score determines the rank number.

## **TANDHEELKUNDE (DUTCH-TAUGHT)**

### **NUMBER OF APPLICATION ATTEMPTS**

Candidates to study dentistry at ACTA can only apply to one institution for the same academic year, either at the Vrije Universiteit (VU) or the University of Amsterdam (UvA). Application for selection for the bachelor's programme Dentistry at ACTA is possible a maximum of two, once through enrollment at the VU and once through enrollment at the UvA.

### **AVAILABLE PLACES**

The numerus fixus for ACTA is set at 138 places. Of these, 75 are filled through the UvA (about 55%) and 63 through the VU (about 45%).

### **LANGUAGE**

The language for the selection is Dutch. This means that all communication around the selection will be in Dutch.

### **SELECTION PROCEDURE**

All students timely registered with Studielink will receive a rank number based on unweighted draw.



## **BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

### **NUMBER OF APPLICATION ATTEMPTS**

A candidate may participate in selection for the bachelor's program in Biomedical Sciences a maximum of two times.

### **AVAILABLE PLACES**

The program has 300 available places annually for Dutch and international candidates combined.

### **LANGUAGE**

The language for the selection is English. This means that all communication around the selection will be in English.

### **SELECTION PROCEDURE**

The available places (300) will be distributed according to unweighted draw. The draw will take place in March and in the presence of a notary public.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

### **NUMBER OF APPLICATION ATTEMPTS**

A candidate may participate in selection for the bachelor's programme Computer Science programme a maximum of two times.

### **AVAILABLE PLACES**

The programme has 400 available places annually for Dutch and international candidates combined.

### **LANGUAGE**

The language for the selection is English. This means that the study material to be offered, the lectures to be taken, the selection test and all communication surrounding the selection will be in English. The program itself is entirely in English because the field of Computer Science, and consequently, the future workplaces of many students are strongly international in character. By making English proficiency an early part of the curriculum, students learn at an early stage a basic skill that is essential for study and job market success.

### **SELECTION PROCEDURE**

Study and career success in computer science depend on (1) prior knowledge, (2) being able to absorb new knowledge efficiently (deepening and broadening), and (3) using knowledge to gain new insights. The field is enormously diverse and has a growing number of interfaces with other sciences (mathematics, AI, information technology, medicine/health sciences). For the computer science program, it is important that students possess scientific curiosity and creativity. These traits are strong determinants of study and job success, and the selection criteria and procedures are designed to select candidates for the latent presence of these traits.

#### *1. Prior Knowledge*

For testing prior knowledge, we use the normalized average of grades at VWO level, year 5, or equivalent (weighting 30%).

Note: The actual grades at VWO-5 level are the most objective measure of prior knowledge at pre-college level. In order to compare grades of Dutch and international students, the grades will be normalized according to common methodology ([www.nuffic.nl/onderwerpen/waardevan-buitenlandse-cijfers](http://www.nuffic.nl/onderwerpen/waardevan-buitenlandse-cijfers)).

#### *2. Test of ability to absorb new knowledge and gain new insights.*

For testing at 2, a digital multiple-choice test is administered (weighting 70%). This test consists of two parts, 2a and 2b.

##### *2a. Absorbing new knowledge (curiosity).*

To test candidates' ability to absorb new knowledge in an academic setting, a content-based digital multiple-choice test will be administered with knowledge questions on pre-supplied study material and a linked online lecture (1).

Explanation: Study success depends largely on the ability to independently absorb knowledge based on various study materials and lectures by experts. Distinguishing between main and minor issues is essential. In order to provide such an academic context, we opt for mini-lectures in a few basic subjects (e.g. programming, logic, computer architecture) with accompanying study materials in the form of a few texts or simple articles. The test section with knowledge questions based on the offered material covers 60% of the total number of questions.

*2b. Gain new insights (creativity).*

The extent to which candidates can gain new insights will be tested by a series of insight questions based on the material presented under (2).

Explanation: Long-term success depends largely on how acquired knowledge can be translated into new insights. By asking insight questions on the basis of the test material offered, an answer must be reasoned logically by combining different elements. The test part with insight questions covers 40% of the total amount of questions.

The final ranking based on which selection is made is determined by the weighted average of the above three items. In the event of an equal final score, item 3 (insight) will prevail, followed by item 2 (knowledge).

**GEZONDHEID EN LEVEN (DUTCH-TAUGHT)**

**NUMBER OF APPLICATION ATTEMPTS**

A candidate can participate in selection for the bachelor's programme Gezondheid en Leven with a maximum of two.

**AVAILABLE PLACES**

The program has 300 available places annually for Dutch candidates.

**LANGUAGE**

The language for the selection is Dutch. This means that all communication around the selection will be in Dutch.

**SELECTION PROCEDURE**

The available places (300) will be distributed according to unweighted draw. The draw will take place in March and in the presence of a notary public.

## **II. SELECTION AND PLACEMENT IMPLEMENTATION REGULATIONS**

### **ARTICLE 1 ESTABLISHING THE SELECTION CRITERIA**

1. On the recommendation of the Faculty Board (or in the case of VUmc, the Governing Board), and having obtained the advice of the University Student Council, the Executive Board establishes regulations detailing the criteria and procedures for degree programmes with restrictions on capacity.
2. The Regulations on Selection Method, Selection Criteria and Selection Procedure for bachelor's programmes with capacity restrictions and the implementation regulations on selection and placement together constitute the Selection and Placement Regulations of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
3. The Executive Board, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, shall determine the number of times a candidate may participate in the selection process of a program, with a maximum number of three times.

### **ARTICLE 2 MANDATE FOR SELECTION AND PLACEMENT**

The Director of Student & Educational Affairs (SOZ) is responsible, on behalf of the Executive Board, for the selection and placement of students.

### **ARTICLE 3 3 DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS**

1. Candidates wishing to participate in a selection procedure must submit a request for enrollment via Studielink no later than January 15 prior to the academic year in which they wish to start the programme.
2. Candidates who have not submitted a request for enrollment via Studielink by January 15 and who still wish to participate in a selection procedure of a program at VU must submit a request to this effect to the Director of SOZ. This request is made by e-mail at [studentenbalie@vu.nl](mailto:studentenbalie@vu.nl).
3. The Director of SOZ decides whether the candidate who has made such a request will be admitted to the selection procedure after 15 January. For a candidate to be allowed to participate in a selection procedure after 15 January, all of the following conditions must be met:
  - a. the candidate was demonstrably unable to submit their application request in time;
  - b. the candidate submitted their request as soon as possible after 15 January, but no later than 31 January;
  - c. the selection procedure for the programme the candidate wishes to take has not yet started;
  - d. refusing to allow the candidate to participate in the selection would be manifestly unfair.
4. Requests as described in paragraph 2 and 3 must be accompanied by one or more supporting documents showing that the candidate in question was unable to submit an application request via Studielink before the deadline.

### **ARTICLE 4 PARTICIPATION IN THE SELECTION PROCEDURE**

1. By submitting an active application request for registration for a degree programme as part of a selection procedure by 16 January or by being admitted to the selection procedure after a request as referred to in Article 3 (2), candidates use up one of their application opportunities.
2. The international candidate required to submit a dossier to assess his admissibility, will be admitted to the selection process only if the file is complete by January 31.
3. Candidates who do not or do not fully participate in the selection procedure will not be given a ranking. The Director of SOZ will reject any such candidate's enrollment. Candidates in such cases will have used up an application opportunity.
4. Candidates do not use up a national application opportunity if:
  - a. their application request for registration for a degree programme with a selection procedure via Studielink is withdrawn no later than 15 January;
  - b. they fail to meet the prior education requirements and promptly submit a request to withdraw their application, as referred to in Article 11 of these Regulations.

#### **ARTICLE 5 VERIFICATION OF PERSONAL DATA**

Candidates who participate in a selection procedure must ensure that their correct personal data have been submitted no later than 31 January, to allow verification of their identity by the Department of Student & Educational Affairs. Candidates who do not fulfil this obligation in time will not be permitted to continue in the selection procedure. The Director of SOZ will reject any such candidate's application and enrollment. Candidates in such circumstances will be deemed to have used up an application opportunity.

#### **ARTICLE 6 SELECTION PROCEDURE**

1. If the number of applications on January 16 exceeds the number of places available, selection will take place. The selection procedure will be completed by 14 April at the latest.
2. If the number of applications received by 16 January is lower or equal to the number of available places, there is no need for a selection procedure to take place and the next stage in the process will be the VU Matching Programme, described in the current Application and Registration Regulations.

#### **ARTICLE 7 SELECTION PROCEDURE: RESULTS AND PROOF OF ADMISSION**

1. On April 15, the Executive Board will notify via Studielink the rank number to each candidate who participated in the full selection process. If candidates are selected on the basis of qualitative selection criteria, candidates will receive an explanation of their rank number/result the next working day after April 15. To those candidates who qualify based on their rank number, the Executive Board will issue proof of admission.
2. These candidates are required to accept their proof of admission via Studielink within two weeks after the day of receipt. Any proof of admission that is not accepted within two weeks after the day of receipt will officially lapse.
3. If a proof of admission lapses, the Executive Board will then issue proof of admission to the next candidate who qualifies on the basis of their ranking and who has not yet received proof of admission.
4. If a candidate has not accepted their proof of admission in time and still wishes to take the relevant degree programme, they must immediately submit a request to this effect to the Director of SOZ. The request should be sent by email to [studentenbalie@vu.nl](mailto:studentenbalie@vu.nl).
5. The Director of SOZ, acting on behalf of the Executive Board, will decide on a request of the kind detailed in paragraph 4. Such requests may be granted if all of the following conditions are met:
  - a. the candidate was demonstrably unable to accept their proof of admission in time;
  - b. the candidate made the request as soon as possible but no longer than one week after the expiry of the acceptance period;
  - c. refusing the request would be manifestly unfair.
6. If a request as referred to in paragraph 4 is granted, the candidate will receive proof of admission for the academic year following the academic year to which the application request related. The Director of SOZ may deviate from this and decide to issue the candidate with proof of admission for the academic year to which the original application related.

#### **ARTICLE 8 ISSUING PROOFS OF ADMISSION**

1. The Executive Board will not issue more proofs of admission than there are places available on degree programmes with restrictions on capacity.
2. The Executive Board will continue to issue proofs of admission until all available proofs of admission have been accepted and every candidate has shown that they meet all the prior education requirements referred to in Article 9, or until 15 August at the latest.

3. On 15 April, the Executive Board will issue ninety-five percent of the available proofs of admission for degree programmes with restrictions on capacity. The remaining five percent of available proofs of admission will be issued at intervals to be determined by the Director of Student & Educational Affairs, between 16 April and 15 August.

#### **ARTICLE 9 DATE FOR PROVIDING PROOF OF MEETING PRIOR EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. The prior education requirements and further prior education requirements are included in the Teaching and Examination Regulations of the relevant program. Candidates holding a proof of admission must demonstrate by July 15 that they meet the prior education requirements and further prior education requirements. For the international candidate who holds a proof of admission for the Biomedical Sciences, Psychology or Computer Science program, he or she must demonstrate by August 1 at the latest that he or she meets the prior education requirements and further prior education requirements. If the candidate fails to meet this requirement, the proof of admission will be forfeited.
2. In derogation of the provisions of paragraph 1, the Executive Board may, on the advice of the Faculty Board, decide that candidates who have been issued proof of admission for a degree programme with restrictions on capacity do not have to prove that they meet all the prior education requirements until a later date. However, this date may not be any later than 31 August.
3. Candidates who receive their proof of admission after 15 July must demonstrate within two weeks of the date of receipt that they meet all the prior education requirements. If the candidate fails to meet this requirement, the proof of admission will be forfeited.
4. Candidates who are unable to demonstrate before 15 July that they meet all the prior education requirements may apply to the Director of SOZ for an extension, stating their reasons. This request must be made no later than 15 July and be sent by email to [studentenbalie@vu.nl](mailto:studentenbalie@vu.nl). The Director of SOZ can grant a candidate a postponement until 31 August at the latest. If within the specified period the candidate does not demonstrate compliance with the prior education requirements and further prior education requirements, the proof of admission will be forfeited.

#### **ARTICLE 10 PAYMENT OBLIGATION**

1. Candidates issued with proof of admission should fulfil their payment obligations no later than 15 July. If the candidate fails to fulfil this obligation, the proof of admission will be forfeited.
2. If a candidate receives a proof of admission after July 15 as referred to in Article 9.3, the student will be given the opportunity until two weeks after receiving the proof to fulfil the payment obligation. If the candidate fails to fulfil this obligation, the proof of admission will be forfeited.

#### **ARTICLE 11 CANDIDATES WHO FAIL TO OBTAIN DIPLOMA**

1. Candidates who fail to meet the prior education requirements may ask the Director of SOZ to reinstate their selection procedure application opportunity. Any such request should be sent by email to [studentenbalie@vu.nl](mailto:studentenbalie@vu.nl).
2. Candidates should submit any request, as meant in paragraph 1, by 1 September. The request will be dealt with by 1 October.
3. Requests of the kind referred to in paragraph 1 should be accompanied by documentation showing that the candidate in question failed to meet the prior education requirements.

#### **ARTICLE 12 RENEWED ENTRY WITHOUT SELECTION**

1. A candidate who, after accepting their proof of admission and completing enrollment in a program, terminates enrollment in that program after September 1, may, with the permission of the relevant Faculty Board, enroll in that program in a subsequent academic year without participating in selection again.

**ARTICLE 13 LEGAL PROTECTION**

1. The candidate may object to decisions regarding selection to the Executive Board. The objection period is six weeks.
2. If the objection is upheld and it is decided that proof of admission will be issued to the candidate, this proof of admission will apply to the academic year for which the request for enrollment was made.
3. Candidates to whom proof of admission is issued after their objection has been upheld may, notwithstanding paragraph 2, be issued with proof of admission for the subsequent academic year if:
  - a. no more proofs of admission are available or will be made available for the academic year to which the request related;
  - b. the ruling on the objection is issued after the start of the academic year, or after 1 September;
  - c. the candidate in question themselves requests proof of admission for the following academic year.