

Faculty of Science

Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER)

Academic year 2023 - 2024



Section A – Master's Programmes

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Bookmarker:

The Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER) is a statutory regulation (Section 7.13 WHW) that provides students with rules about the study programme they follow at the Faculty of Science.

The TER is part of the Students' Charter, which also contains other regulations that apply to students.

The FNWI Examinations Board have adopted Rules and Guidelines of the Examinations Board which sets out the course of affairs concerning examinations and the tasks and authorizations of the Examinations Boards and examiners. Important subjects are, among others, the cum laude regulation, order during examinations and measures in case of fraud and plagiarism.

In case a student decides to submit a complaint and/or appeal (against) a decision made by (e.g. a lecturer, administration or a committee) relating to the provisions stipulated in this TER, all information concerning the complaints procedure can be found on the website of the study programme.

1. General provisions

Article A-1.1 Applicability of the Regulations

1. These Teaching and Examination Regulations (hereinafter: these Regulations) apply to the teaching and examinations for the Master's degree programmes (hereinafter referred to as: the degree programme) provided by the Faculty of Sciences (FNWI) (hereinafter referred to as: the faculty) of the University of Amsterdam (UvA):
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Biological Sciences
 - Biomedical Sciences
 - Brain and Cognitive Sciences
 - Chemistry¹
 - Computational Science¹
 - Earth Sciences
 - Forensic Science
 - Information Studies
 - Logic
 - Mathematics
 - Physics and Astronomy¹
 - Security and Network Engineering
 - Software Engineering
 - Stochastics and Financial Mathematics
2. These Regulations consist of a faculty section (A) and a programme-specific section (B). Section A contains general provisions and applies to the teaching and examinations of the Master's degree programmes of the faculty. Section B contains programme-specific provisions. Together, Sections A and B form the Teaching and Examination Regulations for the programme.
3. The Regulations can be declared to apply equally to the joint degree programmes and components referred to in Section 7.3c of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) that are co-organised by the faculty.
4. These Regulations apply to anyone enrolled in (components of) the programme, irrespective of the academic year in which the student was first enrolled in (components of) the programme.
5. Section B of these Teaching and Examination Regulations may contain additional general provisions for the relevant degree programme.

Article A-1.2 Definitions

The following definitions are used in these Regulations:

¹ This programme is provided by the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the University of Amsterdam

academic year: the period beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August of the following calendar year;

Admissions Board: the committee that assesses, on behalf of the dean (UvA), whether a candidate meets the requirements for admission to the Master's degree programme of their choice. If there is no Admissions Board appointed for the degree programme, the Examinations Board (within the meaning of Section 7.12 of the WHW) functions as Admissions Board;

CBE: Examination Appeals Board (Dutch: College van Beroep voor de Examens, previously abbreviated to COBEX);

component: a unit of study of the programme assessed by means of an examination, for example course or an internship;

course catalogue: the guide for the degree programme that provides the provisions and other information specific to that programme, including general information about the courses. The course catalogue is available electronically at <http://studiegids.uva.nl/> ;

course manual: document that provides the details of the component-specific provisions and other component-specific information. The course manual will be made available to registered students before the start of the course;

EC (European Credit): a credit with a workload of 28 hours of study;

examination: an assessment of the student's knowledge, understanding and skills relating to a component. The assessment is expressed in terms of a final mark. An examination may consist of one or more interim examinations. A resit always covers the same material as the original examination. A written examination can be taken on paper or digitally;

examiner: the person appointed by the Examinations Board for the purpose of holding examinations and determining their results, within the meaning of Section 7.12c of the WHW;

Examinations Board: the Examinations Board of one or more study programmes of faculty, within the meaning of Section 7.12 of the WHW;

Executive Board: Dutch: College van Bestuur;

final examination: the final examination of the Master's programme within the meaning of Section 7.3 paragraph 3 of the WHW;

fraud and plagiarism: the student's acts or failures to act which make it wholly or partially impossible to accurately judge their knowledge, understanding and / or skills. Please see the Rules and Regulations of the Examinations Board and the text of the Regulations Governing Fraud and Plagiarism for UvA Students 2019;

interim examination: examination which covers a part of the content of a component;

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 degree programme (a degree programme, a major or a specific curriculum within a degree programme) for which the collaborating institutions are jointly responsible;

master's thesis: (a) component(s) consisting of literature research and / or a contribution to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;

period: a part of a semester

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

- researching and writing a thesis;
- carrying out a research assignment;
- taking part in fieldwork or an excursion;
- taking part in another educational learning activity aimed at acquiring specific skills;
- participating in and completing a work placement (internship) or research project;
- preparing an assignment, paper, project or prototype;
- conducting a design or research assignment;
- conducting a literature review;
- conducting assignments independently;
- carrying out practical work;
- conducting tests and experiments.

programme: the totality and cohesion of the course components, teaching activities / methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature;

semester: the first (September – January) or second (February – August) half of an academic year;

SIS: the Student Information System of the UvA;

thesis: a component comprising literature research and/or a contribution to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;

university: the University of Amsterdam;

workload: the workload of the components to which an interim examination applies, expressed in terms of credits = EC. (The workload for 1 year (1680 hours) is 60 EC);

WHW: the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, WHW).

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

2. Previous education and admission

Article A-2.1 Previous education

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

Article A-2.2 Registration and enrolment

1. The deadline for registering for the Master's programme is stipulated in Article B-3.4 of section B.
2. After registering on time, the student must enrol before 1 September or, if applicable, before 1 February.

Article A-2.3 Faculty Admissions Board

The dean will establish one or more Admissions Boards. The dean will appoint its members after consultation with the programme directors of the relevant degree programmes.

Article A-2.4 Admissions procedure

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

Article A-2.5 Refusal or termination of enrolment (unsuitability/iudicium abeundi)

1. Based on the provisions of Section 7.42a of the WHW, the dean or the Examinations Board may, in exceptional cases, ask the Executive Board to terminate or refuse a student's enrolment in a programme, if that student's actions or remarks show that they are unsuitable either for practising one or more of the professions for which the programme in question is preparing the student or for the practical preparation for professional practice.
2. If a student is suspected of being unsuitable as described in paragraph 1, the Examinations Board or the dean will institute an inquiry, of which the student will be informed immediately. The Examinations Board or the dean will not issue any recommendation without carefully considering the interests involved and giving the student the opportunity to be heard.

3. Degree programme structure

Article A-3.1 Structure of academic year

1. The degree programme shall be provided in a semester structure as outlined in the Decision on the Academic Calendar and the decision on a teaching and examination-free week by the Executive Board.

Article A-3.2 Organisation of the degree programme

1. The degree programme comprises the components included in section B.
2. The size of the degree programme in EC is stipulated in section B.
3. The degree programme is made up of a compulsory part and a Master's Thesis, academic work placement (internship) or research project and, if applicable, a subject-specific optional component as specified in more detail in section B.
4. In case a component has compulsory teaching methods, this obligation to attend is laid down in the course catalogue or course manual. Compulsory teaching methods may be stipulated in section B.
5. Further conditions with regard to registration for participation in a component, if applicable, are described in section B.

4. Examinations

Article A-4.1 Signing up for programme components and examinations

1. Every student must sign up to participate in components in the Master's programme, if registration is required for participation. Signing up may only take place in the designated periods. The procedure for signing up is described in the course catalogue. Participation in the examination may be refused if the student does not sign up.
2. By way of exception to the provisions of paragraph 1, any student who has correctly signed up for participation in the instruction/classes for a particular course and has been admitted will also be signed up for the subsequent examination and, where applicable, the resit, unless stipulated otherwise in section B.
3. If a student does not pass the examination and the resit of a component, the student is obliged to take the whole component again, if the student wishes to pass the course.
4. In addition to paragraph 3: This provision does not apply for a number of degree programmes in which certain marks remain valid (which implies that certain educational components need not be followed again). For which exams this applies is described in section B of the degree programme.
5. If a student decides to quit the course, the student must withdraw for the component via SIS.
6. Every student has the right to participate in all programme(s) provided by the university where the student is registered, on condition that the student meets the requirements for previous education, entry qualification(s) for a component concerned, and there is no limited programme capacity for the component concerned.

Article A-4.2 Type of examination

1. Section B stipulates the way in which a component is concluded and the form any examination will take.
2. At the student's motivated request or at the examiner's request with approval from the student, the Examinations Board may permit a different form of examination than that stipulated in the course catalogue. If applicable, more detailed regulations on this are included in the Rules and Guidelines for the Examinations Board.
3. Where a component is no longer offered, Section B will include a transitional arrangement.
4. The remaining procedures for examinations and the guidelines and instructions for the assessment and determination of test and examination results are described in the Rules and Guidelines of the Examinations Board.
5. In the case of components including a written examination, the student will be entitled to receive sample questions, answer indications and information about the actual written examination in form and level, preferably in the form of an example examination.
6. Students have the right to take the exam paper with them after an examination unless otherwise indicated on the exam cover page or in the course manual.

Article A-4.3 Oral examinations

1. Unless otherwise specified for the relevant component in section B, no more than one student will be examined orally at the same time.
2. An oral (interim) examination is public unless the Examinations Board determines otherwise in an exceptional case. A student may submit a reasoned request to the Examinations Board to depart from the public nature of the oral examination. The Examinations Board will balance the interests of the student against the interests of a public examination.
3. An oral examination will be taken in the presence of a second examiner or an audio recording will be made of the examination.

Article A-4.4 Determining and announcing results

1. The examiner determines the result (= mark) of a written examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within fifteen working days. Contrary to the provisions of the first sentence, the marking deadline for theses and final assignments as research projects is no longer than twenty working days.
The examiner submits the necessary information to the Programme Administration and the Programme Administration will then immediately ensure that the marks are registered. The Programme Administration also ensures that the student is notified of the mark within five working days, taking due account of the applicable confidentiality standards. The examiner does not publish results for which the grades are traceable to the individual student.
2. The examiner determines the result (= mark) of an interim examination no later than ten working days after the interim examination has been held.
3. The examiner determines the result of an interim examination no later than five working days before the next (interim) examination will be held.
4. In case of a conflict paragraph 3 prevails over paragraph 2.
5. The examiner determines the result (= mark) of an oral examination within a day the examination has finished and informs the student accordingly. The registration of the results shall take place in accordance with the provision in paragraph 1.
6. In the case of alternative forms of oral or written examinations, the Examinations Board determines in advance how and by what deadline the student will be informed of the results, however, this deadline shall not be longer than twenty working days.
7. Together with the result of an examination, the student's attention will also be drawn to their right to inspect the assessed work and have a post-examination discussion as stipulated in Articles A-4.9 and A-4.10, as well as the option to appeal to the CBE.
8. A student may lodge an appeal against the way in which the result was reached with the Examination Appeals Board within six weeks of the announcement of the result. A request for reassessment can also be submitted to the examiner. A request for reassessment does not suspend the term for the appeal.

Article A-4.5 Resits

1. An opportunity will be offered to resit examinations in the degree programme once in each academic year.
2. Paragraph 1 does not apply in the case of a fail for a practical exercise, a work placement (internship), a research project or a thesis. The options for retaking work placements and theses are detailed in the relevant work placement manual or thesis regulations, or in section B.
3. The most recent mark will apply in the event of a resit.
4. The resit for an examination must not take place within ten working days of the announcement of the result of the examination being resat, unless this is otherwise regulated for specific components in section B.
5. Further conditions with regard to resits are included in section B, where applicable.

Article A-4.6 Marks

1. Final marks are given on a scale from 1 to 10. Marks are given with a maximum of one decimal after the point.
2. For final marks only decimals 0 or 5 can be given. Final marks between 5 and 6 (5.5) cannot be given.
3. If the final grade is calculated on the basis of partial figures, the individual partial figures will not be rounded. The final grade is calculated from the partial grades, with all digits after the decimal point. The final grade shall then be rounded in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2.
4. Any final mark of 6.0 or higher counts as passed.
5. In cases where the examination of a component consists of two or more parts, each of which are graded separately, the (weighted) mean of these marks (meaning: the final mark) must be rounded off using the following table:

From	Up to but not including	Grade
1,00	1,25	1
1,25	1,75	1,5
1,75	2,25	2,0
2,25	2,75	2,5
2,75	3,25	3,0
3,25	3,75	3,5
3,75	4,25	4,0
4,25	4,75	4,5
4,75	5,50	5,0
5,50	6,25	6,0
6,25	6,75	6,5
6,75	7,25	7,0
7,25	7,75	7,5
7,75	8,25	8,0
8,25	8,75	8,5
8,75	9,25	9,0
9,25	9,75	9,5
9,75	10,0*	10

*(up to and including 10,0)

6. Contrary to the provisions of paragraph 1 till 5 of this Article, a component may be concluded with the 'pass' designation (in Dutch: aan voorwaarden voldaan, AVV) or with the 'fail' designation (in Dutch: niet aan voorwaarden voldaan, NAV). The names of the relevant components can be found in section B of these Regulations, if applicable.
7. If a student has not completed all the constituent parts of a component, the examiner records as the final mark 'not met' (NAV). This registration is seen as an examination opportunity.
8. When a student has not signed out for a component and has not taken the examination nor participated in another type of assessment, a no show will be registered (NAP). This registration is seen as an examination opportunity.

Article A-4.7 Exemption

1. At the written request of the student, the Examinations Board may exempt the student from taking one or more components, if the student:
 - a. has passed a component at a university or higher professional education programme that is equivalent in both content and level; or
 - b. has demonstrated through their work and/or professional experience that they have sufficient knowledge and skills with regard to the relevant component.
 - c. Has indicated having conscientious objections.; the Examinations Board decides which requirements must be met.
2. This exemption does not apply to the Master's thesis, the final work placement (internship) or the final research project (in case of programmes where the research project results in the final paper).
3. The Examinations Board will make a decision within twenty working days of receiving the written request.
4. Further conditions with regard to exemptions are – where applicable – included in Section B and/or the Rules and Guidelines of the Examinations Board.

Article A-4.8 Validity period for results

1. The dean may decide to limit the period of validity of the result of an examination and granted exemption, if knowledge, understanding and skills are evidently becoming obsolete.
2. In the programme-specific section (Part B) the period of validity of the result of an examination and granted exemption is laid down.
3. Contrary to the rule referred to in paragraph 1, the Examinations Board may extend the limited validity of the result of an examination or exemption, if a student submits a substantiated request to this end.
4. The period of validity of the result of an interim examination is limited to the academic year in which it is taken, or until the conclusion of the component, unless stated otherwise in section B.

Article A-4.9 Right of inspection

1. For twenty working days after the announcement of the results of a written examination, the student can, on request, inspect their assessed work, the questions and assignments set, as well as the standards applied for marking. During this inspection the student may take a picture of their assessed work provided that the underlying questions are not listed / in the picture. The student is allowed to take pictures of the underlying questions if it was allowed to take the questions home after the exam.
2. The Examiner can determine that the inspection or post-examination discussion referred to in paragraph 1 take place exclusively at a specified place and at a specified time. The place and time referred to in the previous clause will be announced at the time of the examination and on the digital learning environment (Canvas).
3. If the student was unable to attend at the place and time referred to in paragraph 2 through no fault of their own, they will be offered an alternative option
4. If a student intends to appeal against the way in which their mark was assessed, the student can be issued with a copy of the marked work at their request.
5. The right to inspection applies in full to digital examinations.

Article A-4.10 Post-examination discussion

1. The examiner can organize a post-examination discussion. In this discussion, the examiner deals with the questions of the examination.
2. If a collective post-examination discussion has been organised, individual post-examination discussions will be held only if the student has attended the collective discussion or if the student was unable to attend the collective discussion through no fault of their own.
3. Students who meet the requirements stipulated in the second paragraph can submit a request for an individual post-examination discussion to the relevant examiner. The discussion will take place at a time and location to be determined by the examiner in consultation with the student.

Article A-4.11 Master's final examination

1. The Examinations Board determines the final examination result and the date on which the student obtains the degree after it has been established that the student has passed all the components belonging to the degree programme.
2. A diploma can only be awarded after the Executive Board has declared that the student has satisfied all the procedural requirements, including payment of tuition fees.
3. The rules for conferring the designation of cum laude are set out in the Rules and Guidelines of the Examinations Board.

Article A-4.12 Diplomas and transcripts

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

Article A-4.13 Fraud and plagiarism

1. The provisions of the Regulations governing Fraud and Plagiarism for UvA Students 2019 and the Rules and Guidelines for the Examinations Board apply.
2. Electronic detection software programs may be used to detect plagiarism in texts. In submitting a text, the student implicitly consents to the text being entered into the database of the detection program concerned.

5. Study supervision and study progress

Article A-5.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling

1. The dean is responsible for the correct registration of the students' study results in SIS. After the assessment of an examination component has been registered, every student has the right to inspect the result for that component via SIS and also has a list of the results achieved at their disposal in SIS.
2. Enrolled students are eligible for academic student counselling. The types of academic student counselling available are described in section B.

Article A-5.2 Adaptations for students with a disability or a chronic disease

1. A student with a disability or a chronic disease can qualify for special adaptations with regard to teaching, practical training and interim examinations. Therefore the student should receive a recommendation provided by a student counsellor. These adaptations will accommodate the student's individual disability as much as possible, but may not alter the quality or degree of difficulty of a course or an examination. In all cases, the student must fulfil the exit qualifications for the degree programme.
2. The request referred to in the first paragraph must in part be based on a recent statement from a physician or psychologist. In case of dyslexia a (written) statement is required, provided by The Dutch Association of Psychologists (in Dutch: NIP), BIG-, and/or certified Association of Educationalists-agency (in Dutch: NVO). In the case of a chronic disability the foregoing recommendation need only be provided once.
3. The dean or, on its behalf, the College/Graduate School director or the education programme director decides on the adaptations concerning the teaching facilities and logistics. The Examinations Board will rule on requests for adaptations with regard to examinations.
4. A request for adaptations will be rejected if it would place a disproportionate burden on the organisation or the resources of the faculty or university were it to be upheld. In the event of a positive decision in response to a request as referred to in paragraph 1, the student will make an appointment with the study adviser to discuss the details of the provisions.
5. If the disability justifies an extension to the exam time, and/or other facilities the student counsellor will issue a statement testifying to this entitlement to an extension and/or facility.
6. The statement referred to in paragraph 6 is valid the whole period of study. In the case of a chronic disability the foregoing recommendation need only be provided once.

6. Teaching evaluation

Article A-6.1 Teaching evaluation

The teaching evaluation will take place in the manner determined in section B.

7. Hardship clause

Article A-7.1 Hardship clause

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

Article A-7.2 Calamity

The educational programme director attempts to limit possible negative effects on study progress of a student(s) as a consequence of calamity.

8. Transitional and final provisions

Article A-8.1 Amendments and periodic review

1. Amendments to section A of the Teaching and Examination Regulations will be adopted by the dean with due observance of the regulations pursuant to Section 9.5 of the WHW, as adopted by the Executive Board in relation to section A, and with due observance of the relevant authorities of the representative advisory bodies.
2. An amendment to the section A of 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 A-8.2 Transitional provisions

1. Contrary to the provisions of the applicable Teaching and Examination Regulations, students who started their degree programmes under previous Teaching and Examination Regulations will be subject to the transitional arrangements outlined in Section B.

Article A-8.3 Publication

1. The dean will ensure the appropriate publication of sections A and B of these Regulations and any amendments to them.
2. The Teaching and Examination Regulations will be posted on the Faculty website.

Article A-8.4 Entry into force

Section A of these Regulations enter into force with effect from 1 September 2023.

Adopted by the Dean on 11 July 2023, after receiving approval/advice provided by the authorized representative bodies.