



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER)

MASTER's Degree Programmes

**Faculty of Science
University of Amsterdam**

Section A: Faculty section

Academic year 2018-2019

Section A: Faculty section

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Bookmarker:

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 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations

1. 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
 - Astronomy and Astrophysics
 - Biological Sciences
 - Biomedical Sciences
 - Brain and Cognitive Sciences
 - Chemistry
 - Computational Science
 - Earth Sciences
 - Forensic Science
 - Information Studies
 - Life Sciences
 - Logic
 - Mathematics
 - Mathematical Physics
 - Physics
 - Physics and Astronomy
 - Security and Network Engineering
 - Software Engineering
 - Stochastics and Financial Mathematics(hereinafter referred to as: the degree programme).
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 1.2 Definitions

The following definitions are used in these Regulations:

- a. academic year: the period beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August of the following calendar year;
- b. 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 his/her choice. If there is no Admissions Board appointed for the degree programme, the Examination Board (within

- the meaning of Section 7.12 of the WHW) functions as Admissions Board;
- c. COBEX: Examination Appeals Board (Dutch: College van Beroep voor de Examens);
- d. component: a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW;
- e. course catalogue: the guide for the degree programme that provides further details of the provisions and other information specific to that programme. The course catalogue is available electronically at <http://studiegids.uva.nl/>;
- f. course manual: document that provides further 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;
- g. EC (European Credit): a credit with a workload of 28 hours of study;
- h. 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;
- i. 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;
- j. Examination Board: the Examination Board of one or more study programmes of the faculty, within the meaning of Section 7.12 of the WHW;
- k. Executive Board: Dutch: College van Bestuur;
- l. final examination: the final examination of the Master's programme;
- m. interim examination: examination which covers a part of the content of a component;
- n. fraud and plagiarism: the student's acts or failures to act which make it wholly or partially impossible to accurately judge his/her knowledge, understanding and / or skills;
- o. 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;
- p. master's thesis: (a) component(s) consist(s) of literature research and / or a contribution to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;
- q. period: a part of a semester;
- r. 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 or literature review;
 - 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;
 - carry out practical work;
 - conducting tests and experiments.

- s. programme the totality and cohesion of the course components, teaching activities / methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature;
- t. semester the first (September – January) or second (February – August) half of an academic year;
- u. SIS: the Student Information System of the UvA;
- v. thesis: a component comprising literature research and/or a contribution to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;
- w. university the University of Amsterdam;
- x. workload the workload of the components to which an interim examination applies, expressed in terms of credits = EC. (The workload for 1 year (1,680 hours) is 60 EC);
- y. 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 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 2.2 Registration and enrolment

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

Article 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 and examination boards of the relevant degree programmes.

Article 2.4 Admissions procedure

1. The Admissions Board is responsible for admission to the programme.
2. With a view to 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 Examination Appeals Board (COBEX) within six weeks.

Article 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 Examination 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 he/she is 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 Examination Board or the dean will institute an inquiry, of which the student will be informed immediately. The Examination 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 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.

Article 3.2 Organisation of the programme

1. The programme comprises the components included in section B.
2. The size of the degree programme in EC is stipulated in section B.
3. The 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. The compulsory attendance of a component of an educational programme is laid down in the course catalogue or course manual. Compulsory components 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 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, he/she is obliged to take the whole component again.
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 he/she is registered, on condition that he/she meets the requirements for previous education, exit qualification(s) for a component concerned, and there is no limited programme capacity for the component concerned.

Article 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 request with approval from the student, the Examination 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 Examination 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 and information about the actual written examination in form and level, preferably in the form of an example examination.

Article 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 Examination Board determines otherwise in an exceptional case. A student may submit a reasoned request to the Examination Board to depart from the public nature of the oral examination. The Examination Board will balance the interests of the student against the interests of a public examination.
3. Unless otherwise specified by the Examination Board, an oral examination will be taken in the presence of a second examiner or an audio recording will be made of the examination.

Article 4.4 Determining and announcing results

1. The examiner determines the result (= mark) of a written examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within 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 in any event 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 third sentence of the first paragraph applies.
6. In the case of alternative forms of oral or written examinations, the Examination Board determines in advance how and by what deadline the student will be informed of the results provided within 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 4.8 and 4.9, as well as his/her option to appeal to the Examinations Appeals Board (Cobex).
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 review can also be submitted to the examiner. A request for reassessment does not suspend the term for the appeal.

Article 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 4.6 Marks

1. Marks are given on a scale from 1 to 10. (Partial) marks are given with a maximum of one decimal after the point.
2. For final marks only decimals 0 or 5 can be given.
3. The final marks between 5 and 6 (5.5) cannot be given.
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	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

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). The names of the relevant components can be found in section B of these Regulations, if applicable.
7. When a student does not fulfil all the requirements of a component, the examiner will register the mark 'did not fulfil all requirements' (in Dutch: niet aan de eisen voldaan, NAV).
8. When a student does not take part in any (interim) examination, the examiner will register the mark 'no show' (in Dutch: niet aanwezig, NA).

Article 4.7 Exemption

1. At the written request of the student, the Examination 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 his/her work and/or professional experience that he/she has sufficient knowledge and skills with regard to the relevant component.
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 Examination Board will make a decision within twenty working days of receiving the written request.

Article 4.8 Validity period for results

1. The dean may decide to limit the period of validity 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 an examination and granted exemption is laid down.
3. Contrary to the rule referred to in paragraph 1, the Examination Board may extend the limited validity of an examination or exemption, if a student submits a substantiated request to this end.
4. The period of validity 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 4.9 Right of inspection

1. For at least twenty working days after the announcement of the results of a written examination, the student can, on request, inspect his/her 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 his/her assessed work provided that the underlying questions are not listed / in the picture.
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 his/her own, an alternative option will be offered.
4. If a student intends to appeal against the way in which his/her mark was assessed, he/she can be issued with a copy of the marked work at his/her request.

Article 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 he/she was unable to attend the collective discussion through no fault of his/her 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 4.11 Master's final examination

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

Article 4.12 Diplomas and transcripts

1. The Examination 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 Examination 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 Examination 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 Examination Board not proceed to award a diploma, unless the student him-/herself submitted the request for its issue.

Article 4.13 Fraud and plagiarism

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

5. Study supervision and study progress

Article 5.1 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 his/her 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 5.2 Adaptations for students with a disability

1. A student with a disability 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 Examination Board will rule on requests for adaptations with regard to examinations.
4. A request for adaptations will be refused if it would place a disproportionate burden on the organisation or the resources of the faculty or university were it to be upheld.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The statement referred to in paragraph 6 is valid the whole period of study.

6. Teaching evaluation

Article 6.1 Teaching evaluation

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

7. Hardship clause

Article 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 Examination Board.

Artikel 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 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 8.2 Transitional provisions

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 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 8.4 Entry into force

Section A of these Regulations enter into force with effect from 1 September 2018.

Adopted by the dean on August 28th 2018

Approved by authorised representative advisory body:

- FSR, dd August 22nd 2018;
- Artificial Intelligence, dd June 5th 2018;
- Biological Sciences, dd June 4th 2018;
- Biomedical Sciences, dd July 2nd 2018;
- Brain and Cognitive Science, dd July 4th 2018;
- Chemistry, dd July 4th 2018;
- Computer Science, dd June 13th 2018;
- Earth Sciences, dd June 21st 2018;
- Forensic Sciences, dd June 26th 2018;
- Information Studies, dd June 21st 2018;
- Logic, dd May 5th 2018;
- Mathematics, Mathematical Physics & Stochastic and Financial Mathematics, dd July 11th 2018;
- Physics and Astronomy, dd June 28th 2018;
- Software Engineering & System and Network Engineering, dd July 17th 2018.