

Addendum to the 2020-2021 Academic and Examination Regulations – Faculty of Religion and Theology

Several articles for the 2020-2021 academic year will be temporarily suspended or amended as a result of the consequences of the measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. These amendments apply exclusively to the 2020-2021 academic year, which ends 31 August 2021. In this regard, reference is also made to the addendum to the Application and Registration Regulations for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Teaching and Examination Regulations for Bachelor's degree programmes

Part A Faculty section

Article 5.3 Binding (negative) recommendation on continuation of studies

The first paragraph also applies to students who failed to meet the standard for a positive recommendation on continuation of studies at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. These students will be given another opportunity to meet the standard for a positive recommendation on continuation of studies at the end of the 2020-2021 academic year.

Part B2 Programme-specific section

Article 8.1 Additional educational requirements

Supplementary to paragraph 4, students from institutes of higher professional education (HBO) who are preparing for the first-year examination will be admitted to the Bachelor's programme, provided that:

- The student can produce a positive advisory on completion from his/her HBO institution, which must be provided to Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) by no later than 1 August.
- The student must still pass no more than one teaching unit of the first year of HBO, or in the case that more than one teaching unit must still be passed, these must be worth no more than 6 EC;

If the student has not passed the first-year examination of an HBO Bachelor's programme at the latest by 31 December 2020, the Bachelor's registration at VU will be terminated.

Article 14 Recommendation on continuation of studies (BSA)

The student to whom Article 5.3 of this addendum is applicable has by the end of the 2020-2021 academic year met the requirement as regards the BSA as formulated in Article 14 of the Academic and Examination Regulations for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Academic and Examination Regulations for Master's degree programmes

Part B1 Programme-specific section

Article 7.2 Admission requirements

Supplementary to Article 7.2.1, students* are also admissible for the 2020-2021 academic year (start date September 2020) if, at the latest by 31 August 2020

they have earned at least 162 EC of the WO Bachelor's programme that confers entitlement to admission, under the following conditions:

- All educational components of the Bachelor's programme must still be completed before 15 July 2021 or before the Master's degree certificate is obtained, whichever comes first. If this condition is not met, the student will not be able to continue or complete the Master's programme.
- the Bachelor's thesis must be completed before 1 December 2020.

or they have earned at least 216 EC of the HBO Bachelor's programme that confers entitlement to admission, under the following conditions:

- All educational components of the Bachelor's programme must still be completed before 15 July 2021 or before the Master's degree certificate is obtained, whichever comes first. If this condition is not met, the student will not be able to continue or complete the Master's programme.
- The HBO Bachelor's thesis must be completed before 1 December 2020.
- For students who come in through an integrated programme, an additional requirement is that a maximum of 6 EC may still be open at the start of the master's programme.

or they have earned at least 24 EC of the bridging or pre-Master's programme, under the following conditions:

- The bridging or pre-Master's programme must still be successfully completed before 15 July 2021 or before the Master's degree certificate is obtained, whichever comes first. If this condition is not met, the student will not be able to continue or complete the Master's programme.
- The thesis of the bridging or pre-Master's programme must be completed before 1 December 2020.

*The above supplements do not apply to non-EEA students who must complete a Bachelor's programme outside of the Netherlands.

Article 7.3. Selection requirements

For students of the Theology and Religious Studies (research) programme, in addition to the requirements formulated in Article 7.2, the following applies:

- The average grade for all Bachelor's educational components obtained at the start of the master's programme must be at least 7.5
- They must meet the stipulated language requirements

Article 7.3 Bridging or pre-Master's programme

Supplementary to Article 7.3.1, students* are also admissible for the 2020-2021 academic year (start date September 2020) if, at the latest by 31 August 2020, they have earned at least **216** EC of the designated **HBO** Bachelor's programme, under the following conditions:

- All educational components of the HBO Bachelor's programme must still be completed before 15 July 2021 or before the bridging or pre-Master's programme is completed, whichever comes first. If this condition is not met, the student will not be able to complete or continue the programme.
- The HBO Bachelor's thesis must be completed before 1 December 2020

*The above supplements do not apply to non-EEA students who must complete a Bachelor's programme outside of the Netherlands.

EXPLANATORY NOTES Academic and Examination Regulations for Bachelor's degree programmes

Article 5.3 and Article 14 (Negative) recommendation on continuation of studies

Supplementary to Article 5.3.1 of the the Academic and Examination Regulations for Bachelor's degree programmes, a deferment of the recommendation on the continuation of studies is granted on the basis of the Higher Education service document - Coronavirus COVID-19 approach to students who at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year do not meet the standard for a positive recommendation on continuation of studies. These students must still, before the end of the 2020-2021 academic year, meet the standard for a positive recommendation on continuation of studies as set out in the 2019-2020 Academic and Examination Regulations. This is in response to consultations between the minister and the Secondary Education Council, the Association of Universities in the Netherlands and student organizations, in which it was agreed to grant deferment to students who do not meet the standard for the BSA for the programme, because they have incurred a delay in their studies as a result of the coronavirus. For the sake of practicability, students need not actively demonstrate that the delay occurred as a result of the measures against the coronavirus. The arrangement applies to both first-year students and higher-year students who were previously granted deferment and is independent of the number of credits earned in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Article 8.1 Additional prior education requirements

A supplement applies to Article 8.1. The aim is to prevent students being unable to commence their academic Bachelor's programme next academic year because, as a result of the coronavirus crisis, they have not had the opportunity to complete their first year of HBO before 1 September 2020, due to the fact that they were unable to complete one or more subjects.

This provision applies to Dutch and other EEA students who, during the 2019-2020 academic year, were unable to complete their first year of HBO before 1 September 2020.

Admission is subject to the following conditions:

- The HBO first-year students who want to proceed to an academic Bachelor's programme must request an advisory on completion from their HBO institution. This advisory answers the question of whether it is fair to assume that the pupil or student concerned will complete the relevant first year before 1 January 2021.
- The student must submit the advisory on completion from the HBO institution to the WO institution by no later than 1 August. Student & Educational Affairs judges whether the student concerned is admissible. If so, then the student is admitted to the Bachelor's programme.
- If the student admitted does not succeed in completing the first year of HBO before 1 January 2021, VU will terminate the registration for the WO Bachelor's programme.

In this last case, the results obtained will remain valid. As soon as the student has registered again for the Bachelor's programme, they can submit a request to the Examination Board to qualify for an exemption from the subjects from the compulsory programme of study of the Bachelor's programme which they have already passed.

EXPLANATORY NOTES Academic and Examination Regulations for Master's degree programmes

Article 7.2 Admission requirements

Admission to the Master's programme until 1 September 2020 by means of the so-called 'exceptional admission provision' has been added to Article 7.2. This provision applies to Dutch and other EEA¹ students who are pursuing a Bachelor's programme or a bridging/pre-Master's programme in the 2019-2020 academic year.

The exceptional admission gives universities of applied sciences and research universities the flexibility to deviate from the requirement that a Bachelor's programme must be completed prior to participation in a Master's programme, in the way that is best suited to the specific features of the Master's programme. Students must complete their Bachelor's programme or pre-Master's programme at the latest by 31 August 2021. If the student does not fulfil this condition, the student will not be able to continue or complete the Master's programme.

In this last case, the results obtained will remain valid. As soon as the student has registered again for the Master's programme, they can submit a request to the Examination Board to qualify for an exemption from the subjects from the compulsory programme of study of the Master's programme which they have already passed.

Per Master's programme, it is laid down by decision of the Faculty Board under what conditions the student is admitted to the Master's programme if the student does not yet hold a Bachelor's degree or has not yet completed a bridging/pre-Master's programme or does not yet in other respects satisfy the admission requirements for the programme referred to in Article 7.2. These conditions are set out at programme level in the faculty decision in the addendum to the Academic and Examination Regulations. These will in any case indicate the minimum number of credits that must be obtained. If applicable, it will subsequently be specified whether the final project must be completed before the student starts working on the final project for the Master's programme (a frequently occurring condition at VU). Where applicable, additional substantive requirements are

¹ EEA students are students who have an educational background from a country that belongs to the European Economic Area or Liechtenstein, Norway or Iceland. More information can be found at: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/europese-unie/vraag-en-antwoord/welke-landen-horen-bij-de-europese-economische-ruimte-eer>

indicated, as regards knowledge and skills which the student must possess or educational units which the student must have completed before they can be admitted to the Master's programme. The Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences allow direct progression from an HBO Bachelor's programme to a WO Master's programme in the case of several programmes. In Article 7.2, they are requested to indicate separately the minimum number of EC the student must have earned in order to qualify for exceptional admission.

Article 7.3 Selection requirements

The method used to assess whether the selection requirements have been satisfied can be modified here as required. This may be necessary if there is as yet no grade available for the Bachelor's thesis, for instance.

Article 7.4 Bridging or pre-Master's programme

See the explanatory notes to Article 7.2, subject to the proviso that the bridging/pre-Master's programme must be completed within one year and that the HBO/WO Bachelor's programme must be successfully completed before completing the bridging/pre-Master's programme.

If bridging/pre-Master's students do not complete the programme before September 2020 *nor* qualify for exceptional admission, they can, however, re-register for the 2020-2021 academic year. In that case, they will not owe the usual pre-Master's fee for 30 EC, but only for the number of EC still outstanding.