

Teaching and Examination Regulations

Master's programme in Theology and Religious Studies (Research)

Faculty of Religion and Theology

Academic year 2021-2022

- A. Faculty section
- B1. Programme specific section - general provisions
- B2. Programme specific section – content of programme

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Section A: Faculty section

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations

1. These Regulations apply to anyone enrolled in the programme, irrespective of the academic year in which the student was first enrolled in the programme.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
2. These Regulations enter into force on 1 September 2021.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
3. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations is only permitted to concern an academic year already in progress if this does not demonstrably damage the interests of students.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (9.38 sub b)

Article 1.2 Definitions

The following definitions are used in these Regulations (*in alphabetical order*) :

- a. academic year: the period beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August of the following calendar year;
- b. CvB: the Executive Board of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
- c. EC (European Credit): an EC credit with a workload of 28 hours of study;
- d. educational component: a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW;
- e. examination: the final examination of the Master's programme;
- f. FGV: Faculty joint assembly – assembly of the faculty student council and faculty staff council;
- g. interim examination: an assessment of the student's knowledge, understanding and skills relating to a course component. The assessment is expressed in terms of a final mark. An interim examination may consist of one or more partial examinations. A resit always covers the same material as the original interim examination;
- h. joint degree: a degree awarded by an institution together with one or more institutions in the Netherlands or abroad, after the student has completed a study programme (a degree programme, a major or a specific curriculum within a degree programme) for which the collaborating institutions are jointly responsible;
- i. OLC: programme committee;
- j. period: a part of a semester;
- k. 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 dissertation
 - carrying out a research assignment
 - taking part in fieldwork or an excursion
 - taking part in another educational learning activity aimed at acquiring specific skills, or
 - participating in and completing a work placement;

l. programme:	the totality and cohesion of the course components, teaching activities/methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature;
m. SAP/SLM:	the student information system (<i>Student Lifecycle Management</i>);
n. semester:	the first (September - January) or second half (February - August) of an academic year;
o. specialization	optional route of study within a degree programme indicating a deepening of the (inter/multi) disciplinary context of the programme;
p. study guide:	the guide for the study programme that provides further details of the courses, provisions and other information specific to that programme. The Study Guide is available electronically at: https://www.vu.nl/en/study-guide
q. study monitor (<i>studiemonitor</i>):	dashboard for students and academic advisors with data of the student and that provides insight into the student's study progress;
r. subject	see ' <i>educational component</i> ';
s. track	a study pathway within a broader Bachelor's or Master's degree programme, such as a fully English-language study pathway within a Dutch-language Bachelor's or Master's degree;
t. thesis:	a component comprising research into the literature and/or contributing to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;
u. university:	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;
v. WHW:	the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (<i>Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek</i>);
w. workload:	the workload of the unit of study to which an interim examination applies, expressed in terms of credits = EC credits (ECTS = European Credit and Transfer Accumulation System). The workload for 1 year (1,680 hours) is 60 EC credits.

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

2. Study programme structure

Article 2.1 Structure of academic year and educational components

1. The study programme will be offered in a year divided into two semesters.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III
2. Every semester consists of three consecutive periods of eight, eight and four weeks	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III
3. An educational component comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III
4. By way of exception to paragraph 3, the Executive Board may in special cases and on request of the Faculty Board, stipulate that a unit of study comprises 3 EC or a multiple thereof.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III

3. Assessment and Examination

Article 3.1 Signing up for education and interim examinations

1. Every student must sign up to participate in the educational components of the programme, the examinations and resits. The procedure for signing up is described in	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III
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an annex to the Student Charter.	
2. Signing up may only take place in the designated periods.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III

Article 3.2 Type of examination

1. At the examiner's request, the Examination Board may permit a different form of interim examination than is stipulated in the study guide. At the student's request, the Examination Board may, in consultation with the examiner, permit a different form of interim examination than is stipulated in the study guide.	Advice OLC, Approval FGV (7.13 l)
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Article 3.3 Oral interim examinations

1. An oral assessment is public unless the Examination Board in special cases determines otherwise.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 l and n)
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Article 3.4 Determining and announcing results

1. The examiner determines the result of a written interim examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within ten working days. By way of departure from that stipulated in the first clause, the marking deadline for theses [and final assignments] is no longer than twenty working days. The examiner will then immediately ensure that the marks are registered and also ensures that the student is immediately notified of the mark, taking due account of the applicable confidentiality standards.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III
2. The examiner determines the result (i.e. mark) of an oral examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within two working days after the examination has finished and informs the student accordingly. The third clause of the first paragraph applies.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 o)
3. In the case of assessments other than oral or written examinations, the Examination Board determines in advance how and by what deadline the student will be informed of the results.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 o)

Article 3.5 Examination opportunities

1. a. Per academic year, two opportunities to take examinations per educational component will be offered. b. By way of exception to a., the options for retaking practical components, work placements and theses are detailed in the relevant work placement manual, teaching regulations or graduation regulations.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III
2. The most recent mark will apply in the event of a resit. A retake is allowed for both passed and failed units of study.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III
3. The resit for a (partial) interim examination must not take place within ten working days of the announcement of the result of the (partial) examination being resat.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 j)
4. The Examination Board may allow a student an extra opportunity to sit an examination if that student: a) is lacking only those credits to qualify for their degree; and b) has failed the examination during all the previously offered attempts unless participation in an examination was not possible for compelling reasons. The extra opportunity can only be offered if it concerns a written examination, a paper or a take home examination. This provision excludes the practical assignments and the Master's thesis. Requests for an additional examination opportunity must be submitted	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III

to the Examination Board no later than 1 July. If necessary, the method of examination may deviate from the provisions in the study guide.	
5. If an educational component is no longer offered in the academic year following its termination, at least one opportunity will be provided to sit the interim examination(s) or parts thereof and a transitional arrangement will be included in the programme-specific section for the subsequent period.	Advice OLC, approval FGV (7.13 j)

Article 3.6 Marks

1. Marks are given on a scale from 1 to 10 with no more than one figure after the decimal point.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III
2. A final mark between 5 and 6 will be rounded to the nearest whole number: up to 5.50, rounded down; 5.50 or higher, rounded up. All other final marks will be expressed in whole or half marks.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III
3. To pass a given course or unit, a final mark of 6 or higher is required.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III
4. The Examination Board can allow to use symbols rather than numbers, for example; V(voldaan=pass), G(goed=good), NVD(niet voldaan=fail), etc.	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III

Article 3.7 Exemption

1. At the written request of the student, the Examination Board may exempt the student from taking one or more examination components, if the student: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> has passed a course component of a university or higher professional education programme that is equivalent in terms of subject area and level; has demonstrated through their work and/or professional experience that they have sufficient knowledge and skills with regard to the relevant course component. 	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 r)
2. The Master's thesis is excluded from this exemption possibility.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)

Article 3.8 Validity period for results

1. The validity period of interim examinations passed and exemption from interim examinations is unlimited, unless otherwise specified in Section B.	Legal provision
2. The validity period of a partial examination is limited to the academic year in which it was sat or until the end of the unit of study concerned, as stipulated for the relevant unit of study in Section B.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)

Article 3.9 Right of inspection and post-examination discussion

1. Within twenty working days after the announcement of the results of a written interim examination, but at least ten working days before the resit opportunity, the student can, on request, inspect their assessed work, the questions and assignments set in it, as well as the standards applied for marking. The place and time referred to in the previous clause will be announced at the time of the examination or on Canvas in all cases.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 p en q)
2. If a collective post-examination discussion has been organized, 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.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 q)

3. Students who meet the requirements stipulated in paragraph 2 can submit a request for an individual post-examination discussion to the relevant examiner. The discussion shall take place at a time and location to be determined by the examiner.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 p en q)
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4. Academic student counselling and study progress

Article 4.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling

1. The faculty board is responsible for the correct registration of the students' study results. After the assessment of an educational component has been registered, every student has the right to inspect the result for that component and also has a list of the results achieved at their disposal in VUweb.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 u)
2. Enrolled students are eligible for academic student counselling. Academic student counselling is in any case provided by <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Student General Counselling Service b. Student psychologists c. Faculty academic advisors 	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 u)

Article 4.2 Facilities for students with a disability

1. A student with a disability can, at the moment of registration to VUweb, or at a later instance, submit a request to qualify for one or more special facilities with regard to teaching, practical training and interim examinations. These facilities will accommodate the student's individual disability as much as possible, but may not alter the quality or degree of difficulty of a unit of study or an examination. In all cases, the student must fulfil the exit qualifications for the study programme.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
2. The request referred to in the first paragraph must be accompanied by a statement from a doctor or psychologist. If possible, an estimate should be given of the potential impact on the student's study progress. In case of a chronic disability a single (one time) request suffices.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
3. Students who have been diagnosed with dyslexia must provide a statement from a BIG, NIP or NVO registered professional who is qualified to conduct psychological evaluation.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
4. The faculty board, or the responsible person on behalf of the faculty board, decides on teaching facilities and facilities regarding logistics. The Examination Board will decide on requests for facilities with regard to examinations.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
5. In the event of a positive decision in response to a request as referred to in paragraph 1, the student can make an appointment with the academic advisor to discuss the details of the provisions.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
6. A request for one or more facilities can be refused if it would place a disproportionate burden on the organization or the resources of the faculty or university were it upheld. Any such refusal will be substantiated.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
7. If the disability justifies an extension of the interim examination time, the responsible person on behalf of the Examination Board will register in SAP this entitlement to an extension. If a disability justifies other measures to be taken, the academic advisor can take the necessary measures. The student can consult the study monitor to check which facilities have been granted to them.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)
8. The decision as referred to in paragraph 5 may specify a limited validity of the facilities granted.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 m)

5. Hardship clause

Article 5.1 Hardship clause

In instances not regulated by the Teaching and Examination Regulations or in the event of demonstrable extreme unreasonableness and unfairness, the faculty board responsible for the study programme will decide, unless the matter concerned is the responsibility of the Examination Board.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
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Appendix I**Overview of articles that must be included in the OER**

Based on Article 7.13, paragraph 2, of the WHW and other Articles of the Act.

Section A: Faculty section

2. Study programme structure	
Article 2.1 Structure of academic year and educational components	7.13 paragraph 2 sub e
3. Assessment and Examination	
Article 3.2 Type of examination	7.13 paragraph 2 sub h, l, j
Article 3.3 Oral interim examinations	7.13 paragraph 2 sub l, n
Article 3.4 Determining and announcing results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub o
Article 3.5 Examination opportunities	7.13 paragraph 2 sub h, j
Article 3.7 Exemption	7.13 paragraph 2 sub r
Article 3.8 Validity period for results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub k
Article 3.9 Right of inspection and post-examination discussion	7.13 paragraph 2 sub p, q
4. Academic student counselling and study progress	
Article 4.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling	7.13 paragraph 2 sub u
Article 4.2 Facilities for students with a disability	7.13 paragraph 2 sub m

Section B1: Programme specific – general provisions

6. General programme information and characteristics	
Article 6.1 Study programme information	7.13 paragraph 2 sub i, r
Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment	7.13 paragraph 2 sub l, x
[option:] Article 6.3 Academic student counselling	7.13 paragraph 2 sub u
7. Further admission requirements	
Article 7.2 Admission requirements	7.30b paragraph 1
Article 7.3 Selection criteria	7.30b paragraph 2, 5
8. Interim examinations and results	
Article 8.1 Sequence of interim examinations	7.13 paragraph 2 sub h, s, t
[option 1:] Article 8.2 Validity period for results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub k
[option 2:] Article 8.2 Validity period for results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub k

Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme

9. Programme objectives, tracks/specializations, exit qualifications and language	
Article 9.1 Workload	7.13 paragraph 2 sub g
Article 9.2 Tracks and/or specializations	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
Article 9.3 Programme objective	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
Article 9.4 Exit qualifications	7.13 paragraph 2 sub b, c
Article 9.5 Language of instruction	9.18 (implementation expected in 2020)
10. Curriculum structure	
Article 10.1 Composition of the programme	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
Article 10.2 Compulsory educational components	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
[Optional] Article 10.3 Elective educational components	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
[Optional] Article 10.4 Practical exercise	7.13 paragraph 2 sub d
Article 10.5 Participation in practical training and tutorials	7.13 paragraph 2 sub d
11. Evaluation and transitional provisions	
Article 11.1 Evaluation of the education	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a1
Article 11.2 Transitional provisions	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a

Appendix II Overview of advisory and approval rights of Programme Committees (OLC) and Faculty Joint Assembly (FGV)

(English underneath)

Onderwerpen Onderwijs – en Examenregeling (OER) 7.13 lid 2 WHW	FGV		OpIC	
	I	A	I	A
a. de inhoud van de opleiding en van de daaraan verbonden examens				
a1. de wijze waarop het onderwijs in de desbetreffende opleiding wordt geëvalueerd				
b. de inhoud van de afstudeerrichtingen binnen een opleiding				
c. de kwaliteiten op het gebied van kennis, inzicht en vaardigheden die een student zich bij beëindiging van de opleiding moet hebben verworven				
d. waar nodig, de inrichting van praktische oefeningen				
e. de studielast van de opleiding en van elk van de daarvan deel uitmakende onderwijseenheden				
f. de nadere regels, bedoeld in de artikelen 7.8b, zesde lid, en 7.9, vijfde lid (BSA)				
g. ten aanzien van welke masteropleidingen toepassing is gegeven aan artikel 7.4a, achtste lid (<i>verhoogde studielast</i>)				
h. het aantal en de volgtijdelijkheid van de tentamens alsmede de momenten waarop deze afgelegd kunnen worden				
i. de voltijdse, deeltijdse of duale inrichting van de opleiding				
j. waar nodig, de volgorde waarin, de tijdvakken waarbinnen en het aantal malen per studiejaar dat de gelegenheid wordt geboden tot het afleggen van de tentamens en examens				
k. waar nodig, de geldigheidsduur van met goed gevolg afgelegde tentamens, behoudens de bevoegdheid van de examencommissie die geldigheidsduur te verlengen				
l. of de tentamens mondeling, schriftelijk of op een andere wijze worden afgelegd, behoudens de bevoegdheid van de examencommissie in bijzondere gevallen anders te bepalen				
m. de wijze waarop studenten met een handicap of chronische ziekte redelijkerwijs in de gelegenheid worden gesteld de tentamens af te leggen				
n. de openbaarheid van mondeling af te nemen tentamens, behoudens de bevoegdheid van de examencommissie in bijzondere gevallen anders te bepalen				
o. de termijn waarbinnen de uitslag van een tentamen bekend wordt gemaakt alsmede of en op welke wijze van deze termijn kan worden afgeweken				
p. de wijze waarop en de termijn gedurende welke degene die een schriftelijk tentamen heeft afgelegd, inzage verkrijgt in zijn beoordeelde werk				
q. de wijze waarop en de termijn gedurende welke kennis genomen kan worden van vragen en opdrachten, gesteld of gegeven in het kader van een schriftelijk afgenomen tentamen en van de normen aan de hand waarvan de beoordeling heeft plaatsgevonden				
r. de gronden waarop de examencommissie voor eerder met goed gevolg afgelegde tentamens of examens in het hoger onderwijs, dan wel voor buiten het hoger onderwijs opgedane kennis of vaardigheden, vrijstelling kan verlenen van het afleggen van een of meer tentamens				
s. waar nodig, dat het met goed gevolg afgelegd hebben van tentamens voorwaarde is voor de toelating tot het afleggen van andere tentamens				
t. waar nodig, de verplichting tot het deelnemen aan praktische oefeningen met het oog op de toelating tot het afleggen van het desbetreffende tentamen, behoudens de bevoegdheid van de examencommissie vrijstelling van die verplichting te verlenen, al dan niet onder oplegging van vervangende eisen				
u. de bewaking van studievoortgang en de individuele studiebegeleiding				
v. indien van toepassing: de wijze waarop de selectie van studenten voor een speciaal traject binnen een opleiding, bedoeld in artikel 7.9b, plaatsvindt (<i>excellentietraject binnen een opleiding</i>)				
x. de feitelijke vormgeving van het onderwijs				
<i>alle overige onderwerpen die in de OER zijn geregeld maar die niet als zodanig zijn genoemd in art. 7.13 WHW onder a t/m x.</i>				

De lettering komt overeen met de lettering van artikel 7.13 lid 2 WHW

Afkortingen:

FGV:	Facultaire Gezamenlijke Vergadering
OpIC:	Opleidingscommissie
I:	Instemmingsrecht
A:	Adviesrecht

Appendix II (English) Overview of advisory and approval rights of Programme Committees (OLC) and Faculty Joint Assembly (FGV)

Disclaimer: this is a translation which only serves as an aid. No rights may be derived from it. The Dutch document prevails.

Article 7.13, paragraph 2, of the Higher Education and Research Act	FGV		OpIC	
	I	A	I	A
a. content of the programme and associated examinations				
a1. the manner in which teaching and education in the relevant programme are evaluated				
b. the content of the specializations offered as part of the programme				
c. the programme's final attainment levels with regard to the knowledge, understanding and skills				
d. where applicable, the design of practical exercises				
e. the study load of the programme and of each of its constituent educational units				
f. the detailed rules referred to in Article 7.8b, sixth paragraph, and Article 7.9, fifth paragraph (recommendation on continuation of studies)				
g. the Master's programmes to which Article 7.4a, eighth paragraph, applies (elevated study load)				
h. the number and sequence of examinations and the times at which these can be taken				
i. the full-time, part-time or work-study structure of the programme				
j. where necessary, the order, and the periods in which and the number of times per academic year that the opportunity to sit examinations and final degree assessments is given				
k. where necessary, the period of validity for pass grades awarded for examinations, notwithstanding the authority of the Examination Board to extend this period of validity				
l. whether examinations are administered in oral, written or another form, notwithstanding the authority of the Examination Board to decide otherwise				
m. the way in which students with a disability or chronic health condition are given a reasonable opportunity to take the examinations				
n. the public nature of oral examinations, subject to the right of the Examination Board to determine otherwise in special cases				
o. the period within which the results of an examination must be announced, together with details of whether this period can be altered and if so in what way				
p. the way in which and the period within which students who have taken an examination are given the opportunity to inspect their marked work				
q. the way in which and the period within which information can be provided about the questions asked and exercises given in the framework of a written examination and about the standards used for assessment				
r. the grounds on which the Examination Board could grant exemption from the taking of one or more examinations to students who have previously passed examinations in higher education or have acquired knowledge or skills outside higher education				
s. where necessary, the stipulation that students must pass certain examinations as a condition for admission to other examinations				
t. where necessary, the obligation to take part in certain practical exercises with a view to admission to the examination in question, subject to the authority of the Examination Board to grant exemption from this obligation, with or without the imposition of alternative requirements				
u. the monitoring of academic progress and individual student support and guidance;				
v. where applicable, the manner in which students are selected for a special track within a programme as referred to in Article 7.9b (excellence track within a programme)				
x. the actual design of the education provided.				
<i>All other matters that are regulated in the Academic and Examination Regulations but which are not mentioned as such in Article 7.13 of the Higher Education and Research Act under points a to x.</i>				

Abbreviations used:

- FGV: Faculty Joint Assembly
 OLC: Programme Committee
 I: right of approval
 A: right of advice

Appendix III Ordinances VU CvB and Binding Guidelines (richtlijn)

Section A, article:	Concerns:	CvB ordinance / guideline
2.1.1, 2.1.2	Year planning two semesters 8-8-4 (uniforme jaarkalender VU-UvA)	29-9-2008 (period 2009-2015) 22-05-2014 (periode 2016-2025)
2.1.3, 2.1.4	Educational components	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
3.1	Signing up for education and interim examinations	CvB ordinance 30-09-2010, prior consent USR.
3.4.1	Determination and publication of the results (1) Grading deadline exams 10 workdays (2) Theses 20 workdays	(1) Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017 (2) Quality demand 11 from the VU assessment policy, CvB ordinance 15-05-2012
3.5.1	Two possibilities to take examinations per year	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
3.5.2	Retake: most recent grade is valid. A pass can be retaken	Taken from the UvA guidelines, as part of the harmonization, CvB ordinance 24-02-2014
3.5.4	Extra retake last year	Included in (prior) model OER 16-17 following a request from committee O&O and adopted by CvB op 27-10-2015
3.6	Grades	CvB ordinance 30-09-2010, with University council's consent. As a result of harmonization UvA, the guideline: 5.5 is a pass, has been added. CvB ordinance 24-02-2014.
Section B1, article:	Concerns:	CvB ordinance / guideline
7.2	Admission criteria; at least WO Bachelor's degree	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
7.3	Selection criteria; type of criteria	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
Section B1, article:	Concerns:	CvB ordinance / guideline
10.1	Composition programme	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
10.2	Categorization of components	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017

Appendix IV Article 2.1 of the Higher Education and Research (Implementation) Act (*Uitvoeringsbesluit*)
(English underneath)

1 De persoonlijke omstandigheden bedoeld in de artikelen 7.8b, derde lid, en 7.9, derde lid, van de wet, zijn uitsluitend:

- a. ziekte van betrokkene,
- b. lichamelijke, zintuiglijke of andere functiestoornis van betrokkene,
- c. zwangerschap van betrokkene,
- d. bijzondere familie-omstandigheden,
- e. het lidmaatschap, daaronder begrepen het voorzitterschap, van:
 1. bij universiteiten: de universiteitsraad, faculteitsraad, het orgaan dat is ingesteld op grond van de medezeggenschapsregeling, bedoeld in artikel 9.30, derde lid, onderscheidenlijk artikel 9.51, tweede lid, van de wet, het bestuur van een opleiding of de opleidingscommissie, alsmede het lidmaatschap van het bestuur van een stichting die blijkens haar statuten tot doel heeft de exploitatie van voorzieningen, behorende tot de studentenvoorzieningen, dan wel van een daarmee naar het oordeel van het instellingsbestuur gelet op de taak gelijk te stellen orgaan,
 2. bij hogescholen: de medezeggenschapsraad, deelraad, studentencommissie of opleidingscommissie.
- f. andere in de regelingen, bedoeld in de artikelen 7.8b, zesde lid, en 7.9, vijfde lid, van de wet door het instellingsbestuur aan te geven omstandigheden waarin betrokkene activiteiten ontplooit in het kader van de organisatie en het bestuur van de zaken van de instelling,
- g. het lidmaatschap van het bestuur van een studentenorganisatie van enige omvang met volledige rechtsbevoegdheid, dan wel van een vergelijkbare organisatie van enige omvang, bij wie de behartiging van het algemeen maatschappelijk belang op de voorgrond staat en die daartoe daadwerkelijk activiteiten ontplooit.
- h. andere in de onderwijs- en examenregeling, bedoeld in artikel 7.13 van de wet, op grond van artikel 7.13, tweede lid, onderdeel f, van de wet, vast te leggen persoonlijke omstandigheden,
- i. andere dan in de onderdelen a tot en met h bedoelde persoonlijke omstandigheden die, indien zij door het instellingsbestuur niet in de beoordeling zouden worden betrokken, zouden leiden tot een onbillijkheid van overwegende aard.

2 Het instellingsbestuur kan voor de toepassing van het eerste lid, onderdeel g, nadere regels vaststellen omtrent het aantal bestuursleden dat ten hoogste per organisatie per studiejaar in aanmerking komt, zomede omtrent welke bestuursfuncties in aanmerking komen.

Appendix IV (English) Article 2.1 of the Higher Education and Research (Implementation) Act

Disclaimer: This is a translation which only serves as an aid. No rights may be derived from it. The Dutch document prevails.

1. The extenuating personal circumstances referred to in Article 7.8b, paragraph 3 and 7.9, paragraph 3 of the Act (WHW) are limited to:

- a. illness of the person concerned,
- b. physical, sensory or other impairment of the person concerned,
- c. pregnancy of the woman concerned,
- d. extenuating family circumstances,
- e. membership, including the chairmanship of:

1. universities: the university council, faculty council, the body established under the participation regulation referred to in Article 9.30, paragraph 3 or Article 9.51, paragraph 2 of the Act, the programme management or the Programme Committee, or membership on the board of a foundation whose bylaws allow for the exploitation of facilities belonging to the student services, or an equivalent body with regard to its activities in the opinion of the board of the institution,
2. universities of applied sciences: the participation council, district council, student committee or Programme Committee.

- f. other circumstances to be designated by the board of the institution in the regulation as referred to in Article 7.8b, paragraph 6 and Article 7.9, paragraph 5 of the Act in which the person concerned engages in activities within the framework of the organization and the administration of the affairs of the institution,
- g. membership on the board of a student organization of a certain size with full legal capacity, or a similar organization of a certain size, whose primary task regards general societal interest and which actually develops activities for this purpose.
- h. other personal circumstances set out in the Teaching and Examination Regulations as referred to in Article 7.13 of the Act, pursuant to Article 7.13, paragraph 2, clause f of the Act,
- i. personal circumstances other than those referred to in a – h above which, if overlooked by the governing bodies of the institution, would lead to an obviously unfair outcome.

2. The institutional board may, for the purposes of the first paragraph, part g, establish specific rules regarding the maximum number of eligible board members per organization per academic year, as well as the eligible administrative offices.

Section B1: Programme specific – general provisions

6. General programme information and characteristics

Article 6.1 Study programme information

1. The programme Master Theology and Religious Studies (research) CROHO number 60827 is offered on a full-time and part-time basis.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 i)
1a The part-time programme has a nominal duration of study of 4 years.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 i)

Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment

1. The degree programme uses the following teaching formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture • Tutorial • Seminar • Workshop • Online lecture • Work visit • Internship • Summer School 	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 x)
2. The degree programme uses the following modes of assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written examination • (Written) assignment • Take home exam • Paper • Presentation • Essay • Participation • Portfolio • Research proposal • Internship report • Thesis 	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 l)

Article 6.3 Academic student counselling

The programme offers the academic student counselling as described in section A.

7. Further admission requirements

Article 7.1 Intake date(s)

The programme starts on 1 September.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)
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Article 7.2 Admission requirements

<p>1. Admission to the Master's programme is possible for an applicant who has obtained a Bachelor's degree at an institution of academic higher education, which demonstrates the following knowledge, understanding and skills: knowledge of and insight in the history, sources, theology/philosophy, praxis, and ethics of the religion that is chosen as the topic of the study.</p> <p>Admissible to the programme are, among others, students with a Bachelor's degree in Theology, Religious Studies or Humanistic Studies.</p>	<p>Partly legal provision & ordinance CvB, see appendix III. Admission requirements excepted from participation in WHW</p>
<p>2. Applicants with a Bachelor's degree obtained at an institution outside the Netherlands may be asked for additional methods to prove that they meet the admission requirements.</p>	<p>Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)</p>
<p>3. Applicants should demonstrate that they have sufficient level of proficiency in English by meeting at least one of the following standards, no more than two (2) years before the start of the programme at VU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (academic) IELTS: 6,5 - TOEFL paper based test: 580 - TOEFL internet based test: 92 	<p>Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)</p>
<p>4. Applicants who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - completed an English-taught secondary or higher education degree in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand or Australia or - have earned a Bachelor's or Master's degree in an English-taught programme accredited by NVAO in the Netherlands, or - have earned a Bachelor's or Master's degree in an accredited English-taught programme in another member state of the European Union - have obtained a Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) or a Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE) with at least a score of A, B or C or, - have a Dutch vwo diploma <p>are exempted from the requirements referred to in paragraph 3.</p>	<p>Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 sub b)</p>

Article 7.3 Selection criteria

<p>1. In addition to the admission requirements referred to in Article 7.2, the Faculty board also sets the following selection criterion:</p> <p>A high level of relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated by an average of 7,5 in the Bachelor's degree programme or an average of 7 in the Bachelor's degree programme, combined with at least an 8 for the Bachelor's thesis or an accepted academic article in the field of study.</p>	<p>Partly legal provision & ordinance CvB, see appendix III. Admission requirements excepted from participation in WHW</p>
<p>2. Students who do not fulfil the criteria of paragraphs 1a and/or 1c, but who do have a Master's degree with an average of 8,0 or higher can also be admitted to the Programme.</p>	
<p>3. a. Students who have earned 24 EC of level 400 or 500 courses of their first semester in the 1-year program Theology and Religious Studies (i.e. Hermeneutics and three Research / Professional Stream Modules), with an average score of 8,0 or higher, can be admitted to the programme.</p> <p>b. Applicants should demonstrate evidence of sufficient knowledge of the English Language, as intended in article 7.3 of this section.</p> <p>c. Students can submit a request to the Examination Board before 1 February to</p>	

include the courses that have been passed in the first semester for the 1 year programme into the 2 year programme.	
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Article 7.3a Capacity restriction

Not applicable.

Article 7.4 Pre-Master's programme

Not applicable.

8. Interim examinations and results

Article 8.1 Sequence of interim examinations

1. Students may participate in interim examinations [or practical exercises] of the components below only if they have passed the interim examination or examinations for the components mentioned hereinafter:	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 h, s & t)
Internship (G_INTERN) after obtaining 12 EC, of which at least one required module (6 EC).	
Thesis (G_2MATHES) after passing Research Design 2 (G_RMRD2)	

Article 8.2 Validity period for results

1. If the student's skills, understanding or knowledge evaluated in the exam are demonstrably outdated, the Examination Board may impose a supplementary or replacement examination for a course for which an examination was passed more than 6 years ago.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 k)
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Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme

9. Programme objectives, tracks/specializations, exit qualifications and language

Article 9.1 Workload

1. The programme has a workload of 120 EC.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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Article 9.2 Tracks and/or specializations

Not applicable.

Article 9.3 Programme objective

Students who have completed a Research Master's programme in Theology and Religious Studies have the ability to participate in the academic scholarly discussion in Theology and Religious Studies and to contribute creatively and independently to the fields of their particular expertise within these respective disciplines/ research specializations. The pragmatic purpose of the Research Master's is to provide students with the necessary knowledge, skills and insights to enable graduates to enter a PhD programme or to hold positions that require strong academic research skills and experience.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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Article 9.4 Exit qualifications

<p>1. The student</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has a thorough understanding of the contextual character of research in Theology and Religious Studies and is therefore able to approach research questions in this field in a dialogical way, i.e., for instance, taking into account the tension between confessional, theological, and religious studies perspectives, comparing perspectives from various religions, world views and cultures, doing justice to texts and practices from other times and places, or using inter- and multidisciplinary approaches. 2. Has an excellent knowledge of one or a thorough knowledge of several research specializations within the field of Theology and Religious Studies. 3. Understands the Faculty's research structure and has actively taken part in one or several of the Faculty's research projects. 4. Is skilled in finding, integrating and critiquing relevant professional literature on a research subject or other subject in the field of Theology and Religious Studies. 5. Has the skills to independently detect, formulate, analyse and propose solutions to research problems in the field of Theology and Religious Studies. The student is also able to formulate targeted research questions and present these in a plan for a scholarly research project covering a broader scope (such as a PhD research plan). 6. Is proficient in conducting research in the field of Theology and Religious Studies and reporting on the research in accordance with reporting standards generally accepted in the field. 7. Is able to apply the theoretical views in his or her own field to a range of academic disciplines and contexts, for discussion and other purposes. 8. Is eligible for admission to a PhD programme or to hold an academic position requiring research strengths and competencies. 	Approval OLC (7.13 c)
<p>2. Language proficiency may be taken into account in the assessment of (interim) examinations</p>	Approval OLC (7.13 c)

Article 9.5 Language of instruction

<p>1. The language of instruction is English.</p>	Approval OLC (9.18)
<p>2. The 'Gedragscode vreemde taal' (code of conduct foreign languages) applies</p>	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III

10. Curriculum structure

Article 10.1 Composition of the programme

<p>1. The programme comprises at least a package of compulsory components and an individual Master's thesis or academic internship.</p>	Ordinance CvB, see appendix III
<p>2. The programme consists of the following units:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Compulsory educational units B. Optional subjects <p><i>A. Compulsory educational units</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a Hermeneutics (6 EC) b Research Skills (6 EC) 	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)

<p>c Internship (12 EC) d Academic Presenting (6 EC) e Classics 1 (6 EC) f Classics 2 (6 EC) g Research Design 1 (6 EC) h Research design 2 (6 EC) i Thesis (30 EC)</p> <p><i>B. Optional subjects</i></p> <p>a Four Research modules (each module 6 EC) b Two Research modules (each module 6 EC) or Professional Streams Modules (each module 6 EC) (free choice)</p> <p>Other optional subjects</p> <p>The student who wishes to take a course other than those specified in this article needs to obtain prior written permission from the Examination Board.</p>	
<p>3. Educational components are categorized as specialized (400), research oriented (500) and highly specialized (600) level.</p>	<p>Ordinance CvB, see appendix III</p>

Article 10.2 Compulsory educational components

<p>See appendix 2. A detailed description per educational component can be found in the Study Guide.</p>	<p>Advice OLC; (7.13 a)</p>
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Article 10.3 Elective educational components

<p>1. See appendix 2. A detailed description per educational component can be found in the Study Guide. All students are advised to follow 10 EC worth of courses of the elective space at one of the National Research Schools throughout the entire Research Master's programme.</p>	<p>Advice OLC; (7.13 a)</p>
<p>2. If the student wishes to take a different educational component than listed, advance permission must be obtained in writing from the Examination Board.</p>	<p>Advice OLC; (7.13 a)</p>

Article 10.4 Practical exercise

<p>The following components can be considered as practical exercises:</p>				<p>Approval OLC (7.13 d)</p>
Name of educational component	course code	nr of EC	level	
Thesis	G_2MATHES	30	600	
Internship	G_INTERN	12	500	
Academic Presenting	G_RMCP	6	500	
Academic Writing	G_RMCPWR	6	600	

Article 10.5 Participation in practical exercise and seminars

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

training, or the Examination Board or the examiner may have one or more supplementary assignments issued.	
3. In exceptional circumstances, the Examinations Board may, at the request of the student, permit an exemption from this requirement if, in the opinion of the Board, the assessment of the intended skills is also possible with a lesser percentage of participation, with or without the imposition of supplementary requirements	

11. Evaluation and transitional provisions

Article 11.1 Evaluation of the education

1. The education provided in this programme is evaluated in accordance with the evaluation plan (appendix 1). The faculty evaluation plan offers the framework.	Approval OLC (7.13 a1)
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Article 11.2 Transitional provisions

By way of departure from the Teaching and Examination Regulations currently in force, the following transitional provisions apply for students who started the programme under a previous set of Teaching and Examination Regulations:		Advice OLC (7.13 a)
Cancelled course	Replacement Course	
Research Skills (G_RESSK)	Academic Writing (G_RMACWR)	

Advice and approval by the Programme Committee on 30 April 2021

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly on 3 June 2021

Adopted by the board of the Faculty on 19 July 2021

Appendices

1. Evaluation of the education in the Faculty
2. [Programme overview](#)
3. [Addendum pertaining to the TER 2021-2022](#)

Appendix 1

Evaluation of teaching within the Faculty of Religion and Theology

Course and curriculum evaluations aim to improve the quality of education. The VU draws up questionnaires for this purpose with a number of key questions, which are always asked. In addition, the faculty has the option of adding its own questions to the lists.

Within the Faculty of Religion and Theology, questionnaires are distributed digitally. In this way, the anonymity of students is guaranteed and the PDCA cycle - which serves educational improvement - can be run properly.

When the results of the evaluation are ready, the course coordinator is notified. The course coordinator formulates a response to the results of the evaluation and can also report to the students what they are going to change about the course for the next academic year as a result of the results. Students will have access to a selection of the evaluation results and the course coordinator's response.

The evaluation results are available to the examiner, the instructor members of the program committee, the program director, and the evaluation coordinator. The Annual Evaluation Plan states when the evaluation results will be available. The program committees can adjust their meeting schedule accordingly, if desired. The program committees present an analysis of the evaluations in their annual report.

Courses to be evaluated

The following criteria are used to designate a module as requiring evaluation:

- Each course is evaluated (at least) once every three years, this means that one third of all courses are covered anyway. This is spread over periods so that not all students of one year level are asked to fill in questionnaires each time;
- all newly developed courses / new curriculum;
- courses taught by new teachers;
- all less well evaluated courses from 2020-2021 based on criteria as defined in the Annual Evaluation Plan;
- all courses from the university minor Islam;
- courses addressed in the annual plan of the Assessment Chamber;
- courses, with more than 8 students enrolled, that were identified as requiring evaluation in the previous year, but for which there are no evaluation results.

Curriculum Evaluations

The basic principle is that a curriculum is evaluated at least before the start of a midterm review or visitation and after every (thorough) curriculum change. BA and MA questionnaires are distributed digitally. The program director may add additional questions to this questionnaire. The period in which the questionnaire is distributed is determined in consultation with the programme director. In addition to the programme committee, the results of curriculum evaluations may be discussed with the work field advisory board.

Other forms of evaluation

Besides digital evaluation, there are other ways to evaluate education. The chapter on Educational Evaluations in the VU's Handbook on Educational Quality provides an overview of qualitative forms of educational evaluation, such as panel discussions, peer review, and quick inventories of strengths and suggestions. These forms of evaluation are encouraged within the faculty.

National Student Survey (NSE)

The Vrije Universiteit participates in the National Student Survey (*Nationale Studenten Enquete*), which is conducted each spring. The NSE can provide useful information about how students experience their program. The annual reports of the programmes reflect on the results of the NSE.