

**B. PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC SECTION OF THE TEACHING AND EXAMINATION
REGULATIONS OF THE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN THEOLOGY AND
RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RELIGIOUS STUDIES)**

TRACK(S):

- **SPIRITUALITY AND RELIGION**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
2021-2022**

The Teaching and Examination Regulations are divided into two components (Section A and Section B). Always consider the two parts as a whole.

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Section B: Programme-specific section

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Definitions

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| a. course manual: | the manual containing all information relevant to the unit of study curriculum and examinations. The course manual is made available no later than two weeks before the start of the unit of study; |
| b. feedback: | the feedback provided by a lecturer to a student on a study result, offering insight into the degree to which the student has mastered the correct knowledge and skills levels; |
| c. language of instruction: | the language in which a unit of study is taught and tests are administered. The language of instruction is stated in Article 1.2; |
| d. Rules and Guidelines for the Examinations Board: | the Examinations Board Regulations as adopted and published by the Examinations Board each year, which form a supplement to the Teaching and Examination Regulations; |
| e. semester: | a consecutive part of the academic year which, after having deducted any holiday periods in that part of the year, consists of 20 weeks; |
| f. student: | a person enrolled at the University to receive instruction and/or sit the examination as part of a degree programme. |

Article 1.2 Degree programme information

1. The degree programme Theology and Religious Studies (Religious Studies) CROHO number 60824 is offered on a full-time basis and the language of instruction is English.
- 1b. Students may also attend the study programme in a part-time variant. The part-time variant has a nominal study duration of 2 years.
2. The programme has a workload of 60 ECTS.
3. If the Master's thesis is written in a language other than the degree programme or track's language of instruction, then at least 30 ECTS of the units of study followed and completed by the student must have been in the programme or track's language of instruction. Other requirements for the Master's thesis are listed in the Thesis Regulations Master's programmes, which can be found at <http://www.student.uva.nl/humanities> > A-Z > Thesis regulations Master's programmes.

Article 1.3 Entry date

The programme is offered starting in the first semester of the academic year only. This entry date ensures that the programme can be completed within the nominal study duration.

2. Programme objectives and exit qualifications

Article 2.1 Objective of the degree programme

The aim of the Master's is to equip students with the knowledge, skills and understanding of the discipline that enable them to perform independently and professionally at an advanced academic level. Furthermore, graduates will acquire the knowledge and competences they need for admission to a doctoral programme as well as other positions involving scientific research and the publication thereof.

Article 2.2 Exit qualifications

a. Academic ability

The student who has completed the Master's degree programme:

1. should have insight into the key research methods in the field;

2. should be able to interpret, assess and take an individual position on academic practice – and the results thereof – within the field of study;
3. should be able to assess the academic practice in line with the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Academic Practice (see the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity on the website of the UvA: [Academic Integrity](#));
4. should be able to assess relevant academic literature;
5. should be able to independently formulate questions with regard to the field of study, to operationalise those questions and represent them in a research plan;
6. should be able to independently carry out research in the field of study and report on that research orally and in writing in a way that complies with the common academic conventions in the field of study;
7. should be able to present any scientific knowledge and insights gained during the degree programme and transfer them to a broader audience than the academic community;
8. should be able to answer scientific questions using knowledge of a specialism within the degree programme;
9. should be able to work in a team and give and incorporate feedback in a constructive way.

b. Programme-specific exit qualifications

1. should have a demonstrated advanced knowledge and understanding of important concepts, debates, methods, and theories within the field of Religious Studies (i.e. the academic study of religion), particularly with respect to the role of religion and spirituality;
2. should have a demonstrated advanced knowledge and understanding of the historical backgrounds of the main aspects of spirituality and religion as a key dimension of Western culture through the analysis of textual sources;
3. should have a demonstrated knowledge and understanding of main aspects of spirituality and religion that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying ideas, often within a research context;
4. should be able to apply their knowledge and understanding, and problem solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to spirituality and religion both today and in the past;
5. should be able to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgments with incomplete or limited information using select historical and social-scientific research methods, while including a reflection on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments;
6. should be able to connect the scientific knowledge and insights in their field of study gained during the degree programme with relevant social issues;
7. should be able to reflect on the implications of the insights in their own field or discipline to relevant institutional contexts.

c. Track-specific exit qualifications

For the elective package Esotericism and Spirituality in Western Culture:

8. should have advanced knowledge of the main trends and authors in the history of Western Esotericism and spirituality from Antiquity until today;
9. should be able to apply critical methods in the analysis of sources that are relevant for the study of Western Esotericism and spirituality.

For the elective package Religion and Spirituality in Contemporary Societies:

8. should be capable of doing social-scientific and historical research into the changing status of spirituality and religion in contemporary societies, applying it to religious movements, whether old or new;
9. should be capable of interpreting the role of spirituality and religion in the contemporary world and of situating it in the broader historical and contemporary context of globalization, modernization, and secularization.

For the elective package Islam:

8. should be capable of doing social-scientific and historical research into the movements and trends within Islam, both historical and contemporary;
9. should be able to interpret the role of Islam in the contemporary world and of situating it in the broader historical and contemporary context of globalization, modernization and secularization.

3. Further admission requirements

Article 3.1 Admission requirements

1. Admission to the Master's programme is possible for an individual who has adequate knowledge and understanding of the field of study as well as academic skills at Bachelor's level. Any individual who has obtained a Bachelor's degree in academic higher education in one of the following degree programmes at the UvA or another university in the Netherlands, meets these requirements:
 - Religious Studies, or a comparable degree programme;
 - Humanities, Social Sciences, Law or Liberal Arts and Sciences, or a comparable degree programme, provided that the student has obtained the equivalent of at least 30 ECTS in the field of Religious Studies or any other area that is pertinent to the study of spirituality and/or religion.
 - On behalf of the dean, the Admissions Board will investigate whether the interested person meets the admission requirements.
2. If the intended Master's programme includes different tracks, a successfully completed specialisation or minor in the Bachelor's programme may be required for admission to each of the different tracks.
Not applicable.
3. When the programme commences, candidates must have fully completed the Bachelor's programme or pre-Master's programme allowing admission to this Master's programme.

Article 3.2 Pre-Master's programme

1. Anyone who holds a Bachelor's degree and wishes to follow a Master's programme, but who does not meet the admission requirements as defined in article 3.1, may be admitted to the pre-Master's programme by the Admissions Board of the Master's programme in question.
2. The pre-Master's programme consists of 42 ECTS units of study and can be found in Appendix 2.
3. Persons with a wo-Bachelor's degree take the pre-Master's programme without the unit of study Academic Skills of the pre-Master's programme.
4. The Admissions Board may decide to impose an adapted pre-Master's programme. In that case, the student will receive a written notification before the start of the academic year.
5. Pre-Master's students who have successfully completed the pre-Master's programme that applies to them, shall be admitted in the following academic year to the Master's programme for which the pre-Master's programme prepares.

Article 3.3 Limited programme capacity

1. If necessary, the maximum programme capacity of the degree programme shall be established prior to the start of the academic year.

Article 3.4 English-language requirements for English-language Master's programmes

1. The proficiency requirement in English as the language of instruction can be met by the successful completion of one of the following examinations:
 - IELTS: 7, with a minimum score of 6.5 for the separate test components;
 - TOEFL internet-based test: 100, with a minimum score of 24 for reading, 22 for listening, 25 for speaking and 24 for writing;
 - Cambridge International Examinations: minimum score C1 Advanced (CAE) with a minimum score of 190;
2. Students shall be exempt from the English language proficiency examination referred to in the first paragraph if, prior to commencing the degree programme, they:

- obtained a vwo high school diploma and a Bachelor's degree at an accredited Dutch university or a Dutch university of applied sciences (hbo);
 - obtained a havo high school diploma with an '8' or higher for English and a Bachelor's degree at an accredited Dutch university or a Dutch university of applied sciences;
 - obtained a Bachelor's degree with English as the official language of instruction at an accredited university;
 - hold an 'International baccalaureate' diploma (English Language).
3. A student who does not meet the requirement regarding a command of the English language may submit a reasoned request for exemption to the Examinations Board, provided that all the documents required for enrolment have been submitted to the Admissions Office. The reasoned request must demonstrate that the student meets the language proficiency requirement in a formal and verifiable manner. Personal statements from the candidate or from third parties shall in principle not fulfil the requirement.

4. Curriculum structure

Article 4.1 Composition of the degree programme

The programme consists of the following components:

- 18 ECTS for track-specific units of study;
- 24 ECTS for elective package;
- 18 ECTS for the thesis.

Article 4.2 Compulsory units of study

The compulsory units of study are listed in Appendix 1 to the Teaching and Examination Regulations, Section B (this section).

Article 4.3 Electives

1. Students can take the following units of study as degree programme electives:
 - Elective package Esotericism and Spirituality in Western Culture;
 - Elective package Religion and Spirituality in Contemporary Societies;
 - Elective package Islam.
2. Upon consultation with the coordinator of the programme, students may choose to substitute individual electives from the elective packages with electives from all master's degree programmes offered by the Faculty of Humanities, provided that the entry requirements are met. The master units of study are included in the course catalogue. If students wish to take a master unit of study offered by another Faculty or University, advance permission must be obtained in writing from the Examinations Board.

Article 4.4 Free curriculum

1. Subject to certain conditions, students have the option to compile a curriculum of their own choice, which deviates from the curricula stipulated by the degree programme. For more information: *Free curriculum Master's programme* in the A-Z of your degree programme.
2. The composition of such a curriculum requires the prior permission of the Examinations Board.
3. The free curriculum will be compiled by the student from among the units of study offered by the University of Amsterdam or another research university and must possess at least the scale, breadth and depth of a regular Master's programme.

Article 4.5 Sequence of examinations

Some examinations and/or practical exercises of the following components cannot be taken until after the student has passed the examination or the examinations of the relevant components:

- Not applicable.

Article 4.6 Further conditions for participation in units of study and examinations

1. In order to take part in units of study, students must register during the period specified on the programme website in accordance with the procedure specified at www.student.uva.nl/humanities > A-Z > Course registration. If students fail to register or to do so within the specified period, they may be refused admission to units of study.
2. Admission to units of study with limited capacity is based on predefined admission criteria and rules for priority admission as published in the Course Catalogue, on the understanding that students enrolled in the degree programme are given priority when enrolling for units of study in the compulsory part of their programme.
3. Exclusively students who are enrolled in a Master's programme can take part in tests and examinations of Master's programmes.
4. Registered students must attend the first meeting of a unit of study. Should they be unable to attend, they must contact the lecturer in advance. Students who are absent without notice or without a valid reason can be excluded from participation.

Article 4.7 Further conditions for examination opportunities

Any further conditions for participation in the resit shall be laid down in the examination regulations for each unit of study. The examination regulations are incorporated in the course manual.

Article 4.8 Further conditions for exemption

The following units of study shall be excluded from the possibility of exemption, as referred to in Section A, Article 4.7:

- Not applicable.

Article 4.9 Validity period of results

The validity period of the examinations and examination exemptions below is limited as follows:

- Not applicable.

Article 4.10 Degree

A student who passes the Master's final examination is awarded a Master of Arts degree, abbreviated to MA. The degree awarded shall be stated on the degree certificate.

Article 4.11 Internships

5. The general elective credits or a portion thereof can also be used for an internship. During their Master's programme, students may do an internship worth a maximum of 12 credits.
6. The internship will be assessed with AVV/NAV.
7. The procedure for doing an internship is set out in the Internship Regulations for Master's programmes (see: <http://www.student.uva.nl/humanities> > A-Z > Internship Master's programmes).

5. Academic student counselling

Article 5.1 Academic student counselling

The academic student counselling for this programme consists of:

- tutoring (www.student.uva.nl/humanities > A-Z > Tutoring);
- study adviser (www.student.uva.nl/humanities > A-Z > Study advisers).

6. Teaching evaluation

Article 6.1 Teaching evaluation

The degree programme is responsible for evaluating the quality of its education. The Faculty makes course evaluation reports available to this end. Additional forms of evaluation may be carried out at the programme's own discretion. The Programme Committee is entitled to receive all teaching evaluations and is expected to discuss them. The Programme Committee can also collect information about teaching quality by other means.

7. Transitional and final provisions

Article 7.1 Amendments and periodic review (Section B)

1. Amendments to Section B of the Teaching and Examination Regulations shall be adopted by the dean following approval and consultation of the representative advisory bodies of the Faculty.
2. Amendments to Section B of the Teaching and Examination Regulations shall require the approval of the Faculty Student Council for components that do not relate to the subject matter of Section 7.13, subsection 2 under a – g and v of the WHW. The Faculty Student Council shall retain the right to be consulted regarding other components.
3. An amendment of Section B of the Teaching and Examination Regulations shall require the approval of the Programme Committee for the components that relate to the subject matter of Section 7.13, subsection 2 under a1 through e, g and v of the WHW. The Programme Committee shall retain the right to be consulted regarding other components.
4. Amendments to the Teaching and Examination Regulations may only pertain to an academic year that is already in progress if it can be demonstrated that this does not harm the interests of students.

Article 7.2 Transitional provisions

1. To accommodate students who, on the date these Regulations become effective, have already successfully completed one or more units of study in accordance with previous regulations, but have not yet fulfilled all the requirements for the examination and whose interests are harmed by provisions in these Regulations that deviate from the provisions in previous regulations, the Examinations Board will define transitional provisions, in compliance with the regulations pertaining to examinations and study units laid down in the WHW.
2. If applicable, transitional provisions concerning curriculum changes are included in an appendix.

Article 7.3 Publication

1. The dean will ensure proper publication of Sections A and B of these Regulations, as well as all amendments to them.
2. The Teaching and Examination Regulations will be published on the Faculty's website.

Article 7.4 Entry into force

Section B of these Regulations comes into effect from 01 September 2021.

Adopted by the dean on 29 June 2021.

Approval and advice of the faculty representative advisory body:

Faculty of Humanities Student Council on 4 June 2021;

Faculty of Humanities Works Council on 8 June 2021;

Programme Committee on 14 April 2021.



Appendix 1 - Compulsory units				
Units of study	Credits	Academic year	Period (semester, block)	Level
Spirituality and religion: Theories, concepts, and methods	6	Year 1	semester 1, block 1	master
Introduction to Western esotericism and spirituality	6	Year 1	semester 1, block 2	master
Spirituality and religion: Lived practices	6	Year 1	semester 1, block 3	master
Programme Related Elective Package	12	year 1	semester 1, block 1-2	master
Programme Related Elective Package	12	year 1	semester 2, block 1-2	master
Master's Thesis Religious Studies	18	year 1	semester 2, block 1-2-3* *including MA Thesis Seminar meetings at scheduled intervals	master

Appendix 1a - Compulsory units of the part-time programme				
Units of study	Credits	Academic year	Period (semester, block)	Level
Spirituality and religion: Theories, concepts, and methods	6	Year 1	semester 1, block 1	master
Introduction to Western esotericism and spirituality	6	Year 1	semester 1, block 2	master
Spirituality and religion: Lived practices	6	Year 1	semester 1, block 3	master
Programme Related Elective Package	12	year 1	semester 2, block 1-2	master
Programme Related Elective Package	12	year 2	semester 1, block 1-2	master
Master's Thesis Religious Studies	18	year 2	semester 2, block 1-2-3* *including MA Thesis Seminar meetings at scheduled intervals	master

Appendix 2 – Overview units of study pre-Master's programme		
Units of study of pre-Master's programme track Spirituality and Religion	Credits	Period (semester, block)
Secrets of the West 1: Culture and Counterculture before Modernity	6 EC	semester 1, block 1
Secrets of the West 2: Culture and Counterculture in the Modern Period	6 EC	semester 1, block 2
Academic Skills pre-Master's	12 EC	semester 1, block 1 & 3
Religie en spiritualiteit in Nederland 1: concepten en theorieën	6 EC	semester 2, block 1
Religie en spiritualiteit in Nederland 2: geleefde religie	6 EC	semester 2, block 2
Religiewetenschappen: geschiedenis en filosofie	6 EC	semester 2, block 2