

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

**TRACK(S):**

- RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**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*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 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 60827 is offered on a full-time basis and the language of instruction is English.
2. The programme has a workload of 120 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 [for RMAs]*

The aim of the programme is:

1. to equip students with the knowledge and understanding of the discipline that they need to gain admission to a doctoral programme;
2. to equip students with the competences they need to perform high-quality academic research and ensure publication thereof in professional journals;
3. to enable students to hold a position in the public or private sector which calls for advanced research skills.

#### *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*

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

1. should be able to apply the insights gained in their own field of study or discipline to adjoining scientific domains;
2. should be able to link topics from their field of study to current social debates and identify potential contributions;
3. should be able to reflect on their own position and the knowledge they have gained and identify areas of development;
4. should be able to formulate a concise individual research approach that is embedded in current scientific research questions;
5. should have gained practical experience with ongoing (international) research.

### **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.
2. On behalf of the dean, the Admissions Board will investigate whether the interested person meets the admission requirements.
3. 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.
4. 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. Not applicable.

*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.
2. Students are selected for admission on the basis of the following criteria:
  1. a relevant, completed Bachelor's degree programme;
  2. a well-substantiated explanation of why the student has chosen the relevant Master's;
  3. an average study result of 7.5 in the post-propaedeutic phase of the Bachelor's degree programme. If the average result is below 7.5 the student should adequately explain the underlying reasons.

*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 bacculaureate' 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:

- 42 ECTS for core courses;
- 12 ECTS for tutorials;
- 24 ECTS for electives;
- 12 ECTS for electives to be taken at a national research school\*;
- 30 ECTS for the thesis programme, of which 18 ECTS for the thesis and 12 ECTS for the research project.

\*) As part of the programme, students attend 12 ECTS units of study offered by one of the following national research schools:

- Interuniversity Research School for Archaeology in the Netherlands (ARCHON);
- Netherlands school for Advanced studies in Theology and Religion (NOSTER);
- Huizinga Institute – Research Institute and Graduate School for Cultural History;
- Netherlands National Graduate School of Linguistics (LOT);
- Netherlands Institute for Cultural Analysis (NICA);
- Netherlands Research School of Women's Studies (NOG);
- Netherlands Interuniversity School for Islamic Studies (NISIS);

- National Research School in Classical Studies (OIKOS);
- The Netherlands Research School for Literary Studies (OSL);
- Research School for Political History (OPG);
- Dutch Postgraduate School for Art History (OSK);
- The Netherlands Research School for Medieval Studies (OZMED);
- Dutch School of Philosophy (OZSW);
- N.W. Posthumus Institute – Research School for Economic and Social History in the Netherlands and Flanders;
- Research School for Media Studies (RMeS).

The number of credits awarded to certain units of study at these partner institutions may differ from the number of credits awarded by the UvA. Units of study completed at these partner institutions can only be registered with this deviating number of ECTS, after permission from the Examinations Board.

*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 may choose core courses and electives from the master's degree programme Spirituality and Religion. Students may further choose 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.
2. Students can take the following units of study as degree programme electives:
  - Not applicable.

*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](http://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:

- Thesis Research Project Religious Studies.

*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 a research internship or an internship with a research component worth a maximum of 12 credits
6. The internship will be assessed with a grade.
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](http://www.student.uva.nl/humanities) > A-Z > Tutoring);
- study adviser ([www.student.uva.nl/humanities](http://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 Appendix 2.

*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.





<b>Appendix 1 - Compulsory units</b>				
<b>Units of study</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Academic year</b>	<b>Period (semester, block)</b>	<b>Level</b>
Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion	15	year 1	semester 1, block 1-2-3	research master
Current Issues in Religious Studies	3	year 1	semester 1 and 2	research master
Religious Experience	12	year 1	semester 2, block 1-2	research master
Elective(s)	18	year 1	semester 1 or 2, block 1 or 2	research master
Elective at national research school	6	Year 1	semester 1 or 2, block 1 or 2	research master
Research Tutorial 1 Religious Studies	6	year 1	semester 2, block 3	research master
Nature and the Supernatural	12	year 2	semester 1, block 1-2	research master
Elective(s)	6	year 2	semester 1, block 1 or 2	research master
Elective at national research school	6	Year 2	semester 1, block 1 or 2	research master
Research Tutorial 2 Religious Studies	6	year 2	semester 1, block 3	research master
Thesis Research Project Religious Studies	12	year 2	semester 2, block 1-2-3	research master
RMA Thesis Religious Studies	18	year 2	semester 2, block 1-2-3*	research master
			*including MA Thesis Seminar meetings at scheduled intervals	