

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Addendum to Rules and Guidelines of the Examinations Boards (excl. MSc Logic) Academic year 2019-2020

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Introduction

Because of the fight against the corona virus, education has been offered digitally as much as possible in the period 15-03-2020 to 31-08-2020 of the academic year 2019-2020. As stated in the hardship clause (Rules and Guidelines of the Examinations Board (RRvE) article 10), the FNWI Examinations Boards may make exceptions in cases where the provisions of these regulations are unreasonable and unfair to the student. This addendum contains such exception rules that apply to several students. The provisions of the RRvE Article 12 have been taken into account: Changes will only be made where these are not detrimental to the students' interest. As stated in RRvE Article 1.3, the Examinations Boards has taken the following principles into account in her decisions on amendments and has weighed the interests of one principle against that of the other in the event of a conflict:

- a. to uphold the quality and selection requirements of interim and final examinations;
- b. the efficacy of requirements as manifested in, among other things, efforts to minimise delays for students;
- c. to show clemency towards students whose study progress is in danger of being delayed due to circumstances beyond their control.

The additional provisions are shown in the text below in red on the applicable articles (in black).

In principle, the requirements with regard to results are maintained.

The Examination Boards point out that the hardship clause can of course also be invoked for the period 15-03-2020 to 31-08-2020. If it can be convincingly demonstrated that there were exceptionally difficult (corona related) circumstances for (part of) the period mentioned, the Examination Board may be asked to deviate from the applicable rules, including the cum laude rules. Students who wish to submit such a request are asked to discuss this with the study advisor beforehand.

Addendum ad Article 5.2 – Degree classifications (Iudicia)

1. The Examinations Board assesses whether to add the qualification of *cum laude* to the diploma.
2. *Cum laude* guidelines for Bachelor's programmes:
 - a. If a student shows exceptional competence in the final examination, the Examinations Board may decide to add the qualification of *cum laude* to the diploma.
 - b. At a final examination there is exceptional competence, if the student meet the following conditions:
 1. every component is marked with at least a 7 (seven);
 2. the result for the Bachelor's thesis is at least an 8 (eight);
 3. the weighted average (non rounded) of all Bachelor's programme components, excluding the Bachelor's thesis, is at least an 8 (eight). Appendix 2 states which component is considered the bachelor's thesis;
 4. Just one examination opportunity has been used per component, with the exception of a maximum of three components for which a second examination opportunity may have been used. **Additionally, a second examination opportunity may have been used for a maximum of two components that the student has taken and has done examination for in the period 15-03-2020 to 31-08-2020;**
 5. the programme has been completed within the official duration of the programme + 6 months. Students who complete the 'dubbele bachelorprogramma Wis- en Natuurkunde or Wiskunde en Informatica', *cum laude* is also awarded if the student has met the programme requirements within 4 years. **For students who were enrolled in the period 15-03-2020 to 31-08-2020 an addition of 6 months applies on top of the duration set in this paragraph.**
 - c. When determining the weighted average, the mark for each component will be assigned a weighting factor corresponding to the number of credits that the component is worth.
 - d. Exemptions and components marked with a 'pass' will not count towards awarding the qualification of *cum laude*.
 - e. Where more than 1/3 of a curriculum is comprised of exemptions and/or components marked with a 'pass', the qualification of *cum laude* will not be awarded.
 - f. In determining whether the condition as mentioned in article 5.2.2 are met, all components, except extracurricular components (including the components of an approved honours programme), that are mentioned on the diploma supplement are included. If a Bachelor's programmes defers from this rule, this is mentioned in Appendix 1.
3. *Cum laude* guidelines for Master's programmes:
 - a. If a student shows exceptional competence in the final examination, the Examinations Board may decide to add the qualification of *cum laude* to the diploma.
 - b. At a final examination there is exceptional competence, if the student meet the following conditions:
 1. every component is marked with at least a 7 (seven);
 2. the result for the Master's thesis is at least an 8 (eight), this applies to each component separately. The components in a Master's programme that are part of the Master's thesis, are mentioned in Appendix 2;
 3. the weighted average (non rounded) of all Master's programme components, excluding the Master's thesis, is at least an 8 (eight);
 4. Just one examination opportunity has been used per component, with the

- exception of a maximum of one components for which a second examination opportunity may have been used. **Additionally, a second examination opportunity may have been used for a maximum of two components that the student has taken and has done examination for in the period 15-03-2020 to 31-08-2020;**
5. the programme has been completed within the official duration of the programme + 6 months in the case of a full-time Master's programme, or the official duration of the programme + 1 year in the case of a part-time Master's programme. **For students who were enrolled in the period 15-03-2020 to 31-08-2020 an addition of 6 months applies on top of the duration set in this paragraph.**
 - c. When determining the weighted average, the mark for each component will be assigned a weighting factor corresponding to the number of credits that the component is worth.
 - d. Exemptions and components marked with a 'pass' will not count towards awarding the qualification of cum laude.
 - e. Where more than 1/3 of a curriculum is comprised of exemptions and/or components marked with a 'pass', the qualification of *cum laude* will not be awarded.
 - f. In determining whether the condition as mentioned in article 5.2.2. are met, all components, except extracurricular components, that are mentioned on the diploma supplement are included. If a Bachelor's programmes defers from this rule, this is mentioned in Appendix 1.
4. These *cum laude* guidelines replace all previous *cum laude* guidelines. Students who believe they qualify for a *cum laude* qualification on the grounds of expectations derived from previous guidelines can submit a substantiated request to the Examinations Board.
 5. In exceptional cases relating to individual study programmes the Examinations Board may deviate from the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.

Addendum to Article 5.3 - Honours

1. In addition to Bachelor TER-A, Article A-5.1.7 sub 3: in determining the average (weighted) grade obtained over the bachelor's degree component, extracurricular components, including the components of an approved honours programme, are not included. If a bachelor's degree program deviates from this provision, it is listed in RRvE Appendix 1.
2. **In addition to TER A for Bachelor's programmes, an addition of 6 months applies to the duration specified in OER A Bachelor's programmes, Section A-5.1, Paragraph 7 for students enrolled in the period 15-03-2020 to 31-08-2020.**

Adoption Addendum

This addendum has been adopted by the Examinations Board of the Bachelor's programmes of *Bèta-Gamma, Biologie, Biomedische Wetenschappen, Future Planet Studies, Informatica, Informatiekunde, Kunstmatige Intelligentie, Natuur- en Sterrenkunde, Psychobiologie, Scheikunde and Wiskunde*, and the Master's programmes of *Artificial Intelligence, Biological Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Chemistry, Computational Science, Earth Sciences, Forensic Science, Information Studies, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematical Physics, Physics and Astronomy, Software Engineering, Stochastics and Financial Mathematics, and Security and Network Engineering* of the University of Amsterdam, on 04 June 2020.