

Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER)

MASTER's Degree Programmes

Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Faculty of Sciences

University of Amsterdam

Faculty of Sciences

VU University Amsterdam

Section A: faculty section

Academic year 2016-2017

Section A: Faculty section

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Bookmarker: The Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER) apply to the three science faculties of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) and the University of Amsterdam (UvA). The regulation is equal for both universities except a few exceptions. If there is a difference or specific regulation it is pointed out in red for the UvA and in blue for the VU.

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations

1. These Regulations apply to the teaching and examinations for the Master's degree programmes:

At the Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences (FALW) Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam hereinafter referred to as VU or University:

Biology
Biomedical Sciences
Biomolecular Sciences
Earth Sciences
Ecology
Environment and Resource Management
Geosciences of Basins and Lithosphere (research) (joint degree)
Global Health (research)
Health Sciences
Hydrology
Management, Policy Analysis and Entrepreneurship in the Health and Life Sciences
Neurosciences (research)

At the Faculty of Sciences (FNWI) University of Amsterdam hereinafter referred to as UvA or University:

Artificial Intelligence
Astronomy and Astrophysics
Biological Sciences
Biomedical Sciences
Brain and Cognitive Sciences
Chemistry
Computational Science
Earth Sciences
Forensic Science
Information Studies
Life Sciences
Logic
Mathematics
Mathematical Physics
Physics
Physics and Astronomy
Software Engineering
Stochastics and Financial Mathematics
System and Network Engineering

At the Faculty of Sciences (FEW) VU

Artificial Intelligence
Bioinformatics
Business Analytics
Chemistry
Computer Science
Drug Discovery and Safety
Information Sciences
Mathematics
Medical Natural Sciences
Parallel and Distributed Computer Systems
Physics
Physics and Astronomy
Stochastics and Financial Mathematics

- (hereinafter referred to as: the degree programme) provided by the Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences, Faculty of Sciences and Faculty of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as: the faculty)
2. These Regulations consist of a faculty section (A) and a programme-specific section (B). Section A contains general provisions and applies to the teaching and examinations of the Master's degree programmes of the faculty. Section B contains programme-specific provisions. Together, Sections A and B form the Teaching and Examination Regulations for the programme.
 3. The Regulations can be declared to apply *mutatis mutandis* to the joint degree programmes and units of study, pursuant to Section 7.3c of the WHW, also provided by the faculty.
 4. These Regulations apply to anyone enrolled in the programme, irrespective of the academic year in which the student was first enrolled in the programme.
 5. Section B of these Teaching and Examination Regulations may contain additional general provisions for the relevant degree programme.

Article 1.2 Definitions

The following definitions are used in these Regulations:

- a. academic year: the period beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August of the following calendar year;
- b. Admissions Board: the committee that assesses, on behalf of the faculty board, whether a candidate meets the requirements for admission to the Master's degree programme of his/her choice. If there is no Admissions Board appointed for the degree programme, the Examination Board (within the meaning of Section 7.12 of the WHW) functions as Admissions Board;
- c. COBEX: Examination Appeals Board (Dutch: College van Beroep voor de Examens);
- d. component: a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW;
- e. course catalogue: the guide for the degree programme that provides further details of the provisions and other information specific to that programme. The course catalogue is available electronically at www.studiegids.vu.nl (VU) and <http://studiegids.uva.nl/> (UvA);
- f. EC (European Credit): a credit with a workload of 28 hours of study;
- g. examination: an assessment of the student's knowledge, understanding and skills relating to a component. The assessment is expressed in terms of a final mark. An examination may consist of one or more partial examinations. A resit always covers the same material as the original examination;
- h. examiner: the person appointed by the Examinations Board for the purpose of holding examinations and determining their results, within the meaning of Section 7.12c of the WHW;
- i. Examination Board: the Examination Board of one or more study programmes of the faculty, within the meaning of Section 7.12 of the WHW;
- j. Executive Board: Dutch: College van Bestuur;
- k. final examination: the final examination of the Master's programme;
- l. interim examination: examination which covers a part of the content of a component;
- m. fraud and plagiarism: the student's acts or failures to act which make it wholly or partially impossible to accurately judge his/her knowledge, understanding and skills;
- n. 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 degree programme (a degree programme, a major or a specific curriculum within a degree programme) for which the collaborating institutions are jointly responsible;
- o. master's thesis: (a) component(s) consists of literature research and / or a contribution to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;
- p. period: a part of a semester;
- q. 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 literature review;
 - carrying out a research assignment;

- taking part in fieldwork or an excursion;
 - taking part in another educational learning activity aimed at acquiring specific skills;
 - participating in and completing a work placement (internship) or research project;
 - preparing an assignment, paper, project or prototype;
 - conducting a design or research assignment;
 - conducting a literature review;
 - conducting assignments independently;
 - carry out practical work;
 - conducting tests and experiments.
- r. programme: the totality and cohesion of the course components, teaching activities/methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature;
- s. programme charter: the part of the Student Charter specific to the programme in accordance with Section 7.59 of the WHW.
- t. Semester: the first (September – January) or second (February – August) half of an academic year;
- u. SAP/SLcM: [the Student Information System of the VU](#);
- v. SIS: [the Student Information System of the UvA](#);
- w. thesis: a component comprising literature research and/or a contribution to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;
- x. university: [the University of Amsterdam / Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam](#);
- y. workload: the workload of the unit of study to which an interim examination applies, expressed in terms of credits = EC. (The workload for 1 year (1,680 hours) is 60 EC credits);
- z. WHW: the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek, WHW); The other terms have the meanings ascribed to them by the WHW.

2. Previous education and admission

Article 2.1 Previous education

1. In order to qualify for enrolment in a Master's degree programme, a Bachelor's degree obtained in academic higher education (WO) is required. The requirements that the Bachelor's degree must meet are specified in section B.
2. In the event that a candidate does not have a Bachelor's degree as referred to in paragraph 1, the Admissions Board of the degree programme will assess suitability for admission to the programme on the basis of the requirements stipulated in section B.
3. In order to qualify for enrolment in a Master's degree programme for teaching in pre-university education, the individual concerned must have been awarded the Master's degree in the relevant subject area, pursuant to Section 7.10a of the WHW.

Article 2.2 Registration and enrolment

1. The deadline for registering for the Master's programme is stipulated in Article 3.4 (section B).
2. After registering on time, the student must enrol before 1 September or, if applicable, before 1 February.

Article 2.3 Faculty Admissions Board

The faculty board (VU) / dean (UvA) will establish one or more Admissions Boards. The faculty board will appoint its members after consultation with the programme directors and examination boards of the relevant degree programmes.

Article 2.4 Admissions procedure

1. The Admissions Board is responsible for admission to the programme.
2. With a view to admission to the programme, the Admissions Board assesses the candidate's knowledge, understanding and skills. The Board may request experts within or outside the University to test certain types of knowledge, understanding and skills, in order to supplement written evidence of the programme/programmes the student has already completed. In its

assessment, the Board includes knowledge of the language in which the programme will be taught.

3. Candidates receive either confirmation of admission or a negative decision. An appeal against a negative decision can be lodged with the Examination Appeals Board within six weeks (COBEX).

Article 2.5 Refusal or termination of enrolment (*unsuitability/iudicium abeundi*)

1. Based on the provisions of Section 7.42a of the WHW, the faculty board (VU) / dean (UvA) or the Examination Board may, in exceptional cases, ask the Executive Board to terminate or refuse a student's enrolment in a programme, if that student's actions or remarks show that he/she is unsuitable either for practising one or more of the professions for which the programme in question is preparing the student or for the practical preparation for professional practice.
2. If a student is suspected of being unsuitable as described in paragraph 1, the Examination Board or the faculty board (VU) / dean (UvA) will institute an inquiry, of which the student will be informed immediately. The Examination Board or the faculty board (VU) / dean (UvA) will not issue any recommendation without carefully considering the interests involved and giving the student the opportunity to be heard.

3. Degree programme structure

Article 3.1 Structure of academic year

1. Every degree programme will be offered in a year divided into two semesters.
2. Every semester consists of three consecutive periods of eight, eight and four weeks.

Article 3.2 Organisation of the programme

1. The programme comprises the units of study included in section B.
2. The size of the degree programme in EC is stipulated in section B.
3. A unit of study comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof.
4. By way of exception to paragraph 3, section B may stipulate that a unit of study comprises 3 EC or a multiple thereof. The **Executive Board (VU) / dean (UvA)** may grant permission.
5. The programme is made up of a compulsory part and an individual Master's Thesis, academic work placement (internship) or research project and, if applicable, a subject-specific optional component as specified in more detail in section B.
6. If the student wishes to choose a different unit of study than those stipulated in section B as part of his/her electives, prior permission is required from the Examination Board.

4. Examinations

Article 4.1 Signing up for programme components and examinations

1. Every student must sign up to participate in the Master's programme and, if registration is required for participation, every student must sign up for examination and resit. Signing up may only take place in the designated periods. The procedure for signing up is described in **the course catalogue** or **in an annex to the Student Charter**. Participation in the examination may be refused if the student does not sign up.
2. By way of exception to the provisions of paragraph 1, any student who has correctly signed up for participation in the instruction/classes for a particular course and has been admitted will also be signed up for the subsequent examination (**UvA: and, where applicable, the resit**), unless the degree programme stipulates a different approach.
3. If a student does not pass the examination and the resit of a component, he/she is obliged to take the whole component again.
4. In addition to paragraph 3: This provision does not apply for a number of degree programmes in which certain marks remain valid (which implies that certain educational components need not be followed again). For which exams this applies is described in section B of the degree programme.
5. If a student decides to quit the course, the student must withdraw for the component via SIS / VUnet.

Article 4.2 Type of examination

1. Section B stipulates the way in which a unit of study is concluded and the form any examination will take.
2. At the student's motivated request or at the examiner request with approval of the student, the Examination Board may permit a different form of examination than that stipulated in the

course catalogue. If applicable, more detailed regulations on this are included in the Rules and Guidelines for the Examination Board.

Article 4.3 Oral examinations

1. Unless otherwise specified for the relevant unit of study in section B, no more than one student will be examined orally at the same time.
2. An oral (interim) examination is public unless the Examination Board determines otherwise in an exceptional case. A student may submit a reasoned request to the Examination Board to depart from the public nature of the oral examination. The Examination Board will balance the interests of the student against the interests of a public examination.
3. Unless otherwise specified by the Examination Board, an oral examination will be taken in the presence of a second examiner.

Article 4.4 Determining and announcing results

1. The examiner determines the result (= mark) of a written examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within fifteen working days. Contrary to the provisions of the first sentence, the marking deadline for theses and final assignments as research projects is no longer than twenty working days. Then,
VU: the examiner will immediately ensure that the marks are registered and also ensures that the student is notified of the mark within five working days, taking due account of the applicable confidentiality standards.
UvA: the examiner submits the necessary information to the Programme Administration and the Programme Administration will then immediately ensure that the marks are registered. The Programme Administration also ensures that the student is notified of the mark within five working days, taking due account of the applicable confidentiality standards.
2. The examiner determines the result (=mark) of an interim examination in any event no later than ten working days after the interim examination has been held.
3. The examiner determines the result of an interim examination no later than five working days before the next (interim) examination will be held.
4. In case of a conflict paragraph 3 prevails over paragraph 2.
5. The examiner determines the result (= mark) of an oral examination within a day the examination has finished and informs the student accordingly. The third sentence of the first paragraph applies.
6. In the case of alternative forms of oral or written examinations, the Examination Board determines in advance how and by what deadline the student will be informed of the results provided within twenty working days.
7. Together with the result of an examination, the student's attention will also be drawn to their right to inspect the assessed work and have a post-examination discussion as stipulated in Articles 4.8 and 4.9, as well as his/her option to appeal to the Examinations Appeals Board (Cobex).
8. A student may lodge an appeal against the way in which the result was reached with the Examination Appeals Board within six weeks of the announcement of the result. A request for review can also be submitted to the examiner. A request for reassessment does not suspend the term for the appeal.

Article 4.5 Resits

1. An opportunity will be offered to resit examinations in the degree programme once in each academic year.
2. Paragraph 1 does not apply in the case of a fail for a practical exercise, a work placement (internship), a research project or a thesis. The options for retaking work placements and theses are detailed in the relevant work placement manual or thesis regulations, or in section B.
3. The most recent mark will apply in the event of a resit.
4. The resit for an examination must not take place within ten working days of the announcement of the result of the examination being resat, unless this is otherwise regulated for specific components in section B.

Article 4.6 Marks

1. Marks are given on a scale from 1 to 10. (Partial) Marks are given with a maximum of one decimal after the point.
2. For final marks only decimals 0 or 5 can be given.
3. The final marks between 5 and 6 (5.5) cannot be given.

4. Any final mark of 6.0 or higher counts as passed.
5. In cases where the examination of a component consists of two or more parts, each of which are graded separately, the (weighted) mean of these marks (meaning: the final mark) must be rounded off using the following table:

From (inclusive)	To (inclusive)	Mark
1.00	1.24	1
1.25	1.74	1.5
1.75	2.24	2.0
2.25	2.74	2.5
2.75	3.24	3.0
3.25	3.74	3.5
3.75	4.24	4.0
4.25	4.74	4.5
4.75	5.49	5.0
5.50	6.24	6.0
6.25	6.74	6.5
6.75	7.24	7.0
7.25	7.74	7.5
7.75	8.24	8.0
8.25	8.74	8.5
8.75	9.24	9.0
9.25	9.74	9.5
9.75	10.0	10

6. Contrary to the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Article, a component may be concluded with the 'pass' designation. (in Dutch, UvA: **aan volwaarden voldaan, a.v.v.**, VU: **voldaan vd**) The names of the relevant components can be found in section B of these Regulations, if applicable.
7. UvA: When a student does not fulfil all the requirements of a component, the examiner will register the mark 'did not fulfil all requirements' (in Dutch: **niet aan de eisen voldaan, n.a.v.**).
8. When a student does not take part in any (interim) examination, the examiner will register the mark 'no show' (VU: **ns**, UvA: in Dutch: **niet aanwezig, n.a.**).

Article 4.7 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:
 - a) has passed a course component at a university or higher professional education programme that is equivalent in both content and level; or
 - b) has demonstrated through his/her work and/or professional experience that he/she has sufficient knowledge and skills with regard to the relevant course component.
2. This exemption does not apply to the Master's thesis, the final work placement (internship) or the final research project (in case of programmes where the research project results in the final paper).
3. The Examination Board will make a decision within twenty working days of receiving the written request.

Article 4.8 Validity period for results

1. If programmes are taken on a full-time basis, the validity period of passed examinations is three years in the case of one-year programmes and four years in the case of two-year programmes, unless otherwise specified in section B. If programmes are taken on a part-time basis, the validity period of passed examinations is four years in the case of one-year

programmes and six years in the case of two-year programmes, unless otherwise specified in section B.

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 course concerned, as stipulated for the relevant units of study in section B.
3. The Examination Board can extend the limited validity period of an examination or exemption if a student submits a reasoned request to that effect. The Examination Board can decide to permit the extension of the validity only after the individual making the request has successfully completed a supplementary examination on the relevant subject matter.

Article 4.9 Right of inspection

1. For at least twenty working days after the announcement of the results of a written examination, the student can, on request, inspect his/her assessed work, the questions and assignments set, as well as the standards applied for marking. During this inspection the student may take a picture of his/her assessed work provided that the underlying questions are not listed / in the picture.
2. The Examiner can determine that the inspection or post-examination discussion referred to in paragraph 1 take place exclusively at a specified place and at a specified time. The place and time referred to in the previous clause will be announced at the time of the examination and/or on blackboard and/or on the faculty website.
3. If the student was unable to attend at the place and time referred to in paragraph 2 through no fault of his/her own, an alternative option will be offered.
4. If a student intends to appeal against the way in which his/her mark was assessed, he/she can be issued with a copy of the marked work at his/her request.

Article 4.10 Post-examination discussion

1. If a collective post-examination discussion has been organised, individual post-examination discussions will be held only if the student has attended the collective discussion or if he/she was unable to attend the collective discussion through no fault of his/her own.
2. Students who meet the requirements stipulated in the first paragraph can submit a request for an individual post-examination discussion to the relevant examiner. The discussion will take place at a time and location to be determined by the examiner in consultation with the student.

Article 4.11 Master's final examination

1. The Examination Board determines the final examination result and the date on which the student obtains his/her degree after it has been established that the student has passed all the units of study belonging to the programme.
2. A diploma can only be awarded after the Executive Board has declared that the student has satisfied all the procedural requirements, including the payment of tuition fees.

Article 4.12 Diplomas and transcripts

1. The Examination Board grants a diploma as proof that the student has passed his/her final examination. The guidelines for a degree classification (judicium) are listed in the Rules and Regulations of the Examinations board. The Executive Board sets the model for the diploma. The Examination Board adds a diploma supplement to the diploma providing information on the nature and content of the degree programme completed. The diploma supplement is drawn up in English and complies with the European format.
2. Individuals who have successfully completed more than one components of the programme and who cannot be awarded a diploma as stipulated in paragraph 1 will, on request, receive a statement to be issued by the relevant Examination Board stating at least the components that have been successfully completed together with the units of study they involved, the number of EC obtained and the way in which the examinations were taken.
3. The student can, without needing to provide reasons, request that the Examination Board not proceed to award a diploma, unless the student him-/herself submitted the request for its issue.

Article 4.13 Fraud and plagiarism

1. The provisions of the [Rules and Guidelines for the Examination Board \(VU\)](#) / [Regulations governing Fraud and Plagiarism for UvA Students \(UvA\)](#) (and additions in the [Rules and Guidelines for the Examination Board](#)) apply in full.
2. Electronic detection software programs may be used to detect plagiarism in texts. In submitting a text, the student implicitly consents to the text being entered into the database of the detection program concerned.

5. Study supervision and study progress

Article 5.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling

1. The [faculty board \(VU\)](#) / [dean \(UvA\)](#) is responsible for the correct registration of the students' study results in [SAP/SLcM](#) / [SIS](#). After the assessment of an examination component has been registered, every student has the right to inspect the result for that component via [VUnet](#) / [SIS](#) and also has a list of the results achieved at his/her disposal in [VUnet](#) / [SIS](#).
2. Enrolled students are eligible for academic student counselling.

Article 5.2 Adaptations for students with a disability

1. A student with a disability can submit a written request to the study adviser to qualify for special adaptations with regard to teaching, practical training and interim examinations. These adaptations will accommodate the student's individual disability as much as possible, but may not alter the quality or degree of difficulty of a course or an examination. In all cases, the student must fulfil the exit qualifications for the degree programme.
2. The request referred to in the first paragraph must be accompanied by a recommendation from a student counsellor. The recommendation must be no more than twelve weeks old and must in part be based on a recent statement from a physician or psychologist.
3. The [faculty board \(VU\)](#) / [dean \(UvA\)](#) or, on its / her behalf, the College/Graduate School director or the programme director decides on the adaptations concerning the teaching facilities and logistics. The Examination Board will rule on requests for adaptations with regard to examinations.
4. In the event of a positive decision in response to a request as referred to in paragraph 1, the student will make an appointment with the study adviser to discuss the details of the provisions.
5. A request for adaptations will be refused if it would place a disproportionate burden on the organisation or the resources of the faculty or university were it to be upheld.
6. If the disability justifies an extension to the time in which the examination may be sat, the Examination Board will issue a statement testifying to this entitlement to an extension. If a disability justifies other measures being taken, the study adviser can initiate the necessary measures.
7. The statement referred to in paragraph 6 is valid for a maximum period of one year. The period of validity can be extended on the recommendation of a student counsellor.

6. Hardship clause

Article 6.1 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 \(VU\)](#) / [dean \(UvA\)](#) responsible for the degree programme will decide, unless the matter concerned is the responsibility of the Examination Board.

7. Transitional and final provisions

Article 7.1 Amendments and periodic review

1. Any amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations will be adopted by the **faculty board (VU) / dean (UvA)** after taking advice from the relevant Board of Studies. A copy of the advice will be sent to the authorised representative advisory body.
2. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations requires the approval of the authorised representative advisory body if it concerns components not related to the subjects of Section 7.13, paragraph 2 sub a to g and v, as well as paragraph 4 of the WHW and the requirements for admission to the Master's programme.
3. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations can only pertain to an academic year that is already in progress if this does not demonstrably damage the interests of students.

Article 7.2 Transitional provisions

Not applicable

In case there are transitional provisions for components they are listed in section B.

Article 7.3 Publication

1. The **faculty board (VU) / dean (UvA)** will ensure the appropriate publication of these Regulations and any amendments to them.
2. The Teaching and Examination Regulations will be posted in **the course catalogue** or on **VUnet**.

Article 7.4 Effective date

These Regulations enter into force with effect from 1 September 2016

Approved by authorised representative advisory body:

FGOV FELS and FS (VU): 30 June 2016

OR FNWI: 4 July 2016

FSR FNWI: 18 July 2016

Adopted by

Faculty board (VU) on 14 July 2016

Dean (UvA) on 18 July 2016