Faculty of Spatial Sciences

Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER)
Master’s degree programme in

Economic Geography

for academic year 2017-2018

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The Teaching and Examination Regulations set out the specific rights and obligations that apply to each degree programme taught at the University of Groningen, for both students and the degree programme. The University-wide section of the Student Charter sets out the rights and obligations that apply to all students.
These Regulations were decreed by the Board of the Faculty of Spatial Sciences on June 14th 2017 and approved by the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee where required on June 21st 2017.

Section 1: General provisions

Article 1.1 - Applicability

1. These Regulations for academic year 2017-2018 apply to the teaching, examinations and final assessment of the Master’s degree programme in Economic Geography, CROHO degree programme code 60657, hereinafter referred to as the degree programme, and to all students enrolled in this degree programme.

2. The degree programme is provided by the Faculty of Spatial Sciences of the University of Groningen, hereinafter referred to as the Faculty.

3. These Teaching and Examination Regulations also apply to students of other degree programmes, faculties or institutes of higher education, insofar as they follow course units in the degree programme to which these Regulations apply.

4. Course units that students of the degree programme as referred to in Article 1.1.1 follow in other degree programmes or at other faculties or institutes of higher education are subject to the Teaching and Examination Regulations of that programme, faculty or institute.

5. These Regulations also apply to the admission of students to the Pre-Master’s programmes referred to in Article 2.3 with a view to following the degree programme. In all other respects, the relevant Bachelor’s OER will apply to students who are enrolled in a Pre-Master’s programme.

Article 1.2 - Definitions

The following definitions apply to these Regulations:


b. Student: a person registered at the University for the purpose of taking course units and/or examinations leading to the conferral of a university degree

c. Degree programme: the Master’s degree programme referred to in Article 1.1 of these Regulations, comprising a coherent set of course units

d. Course unit: a syllabus unit or other part of the degree programme within the meaning of Article 7.3 of the Act, included in OCASYS

e. OCASYS: the University of Groningen’s online course catalogue
f. **ECTS credit point**: a credit point within the meaning of the Act. The student workload of each course unit is expressed in ECTS credit points, whereby 1 ECTS is equivalent to a student workload of 28 hours

g. **Pre-Master’s programme**: a programme intended to remedy deficiencies for admission to the degree programme

h. **Test or examination**: a test of the knowledge, understanding and skills of students, including an assessment of the results

i. **Final assessment**: the final assessment for the Master’s degree which is considered to be passed once all the requirements of the entire Master’s degree programme have been satisfied

j. **Academic year**: the period of time that starts on 1 September and ends on 31 August of the following year

k. **Semester**: part of the academic year, either starting on 1 September and ending on a date to be determined by the Board of the University, or starting on a date to be determined by the Board of the University and ending on 31 August

l. **Board of Examiners**: an independent body with the duties and powers as stated in Articles 7.11, 7.12, 7.12b and 7.12c of the Act, including assessing whether the requirements of the final assessment have been met

m. **Examiner**: a person appointed by the Board of Examiners to set examinations and determine their results

n. **Admissions Board**: the board that has decision-making powers in matters concerning admission to the degree programme on behalf of the Faculty Board

o. **Programme Committee**: the consultative and advisory body that fulfils the duties referred to in Article 9.18 of the Act.

All other terms will have the meaning that the Act ascribes to them.

**Section 2: Admission**

**Article 2.1 - Entry requirements**

1. Holders of a certificate from the Bachelor’s degree programme in ‘Human Geography & Urban and Regional Planning (Sociale Geografie & Planologie)’ of the University of Groningen will be admitted to the degree programme. Holders of a certification from the Bachelor's degree programme in ‘Spatial Planning and Design (Technische Planologie)’ of the University of Groningen or a certification from the Bachelor’s degree programme in Human Geography & Urban and Regional Planning (Sociale Geografie & Planologie) from a Dutch university are assumed to have sufficient knowledge and skills and will also be admitted to the degree programme on that basis.

   More information about admission can be found on http://www.rug.nl/masters/economic-geography/admission-and-application

2. There are two starting dates for the admission process per academic year, namely September 1st and February 1st of each year. The track ‘Regional Competitiveness and Trade’ can only be started 1 September.
3. Students with a Dutch or foreign certificate of higher education that, according to the Admissions Board, indicates that they have the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills at the level of a university Bachelor’s degree.

4. The Admissions Board is responsible for assessing whether students without a Bachelor’s degree are admissible on the basis of sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the level of a Bachelor’s degree.

Article 2.2 - Language requirement for foreign certificates

1. Students who have been admitted to a degree programme on the basis of a foreign certificate or degree may be required by the Admissions Board – before registration – to pass an English language test to be administered by an agency stipulated by the Board.

2. English language proficiency requirements, one of the following proofs is required:
   - English at VWO level
   - Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (A, B or C)
   - Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (A, B or C)
   - A score of 6.5 or higher in the complete International English Language Testing System (Academic version) (IELTS)
   - A score of at least 90 on the internet version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
   - A score of at least 580 on the paper version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
   - A score of at least 237 on the computer version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

Exemptions: Native English speakers or diploma holders from United States of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland.

Article 2.3 - Pre-Master’s programme

1. Students who do not satisfy the entry requirements listed in Article 2.1 can remedy any deficiencies by successfully completing the specific University of Groningen Pre-Master’s programme for the relevant Master’s degree programme. The Pre-Master’s programme has a student workload of 15, 30, 45 or 60 ECTS credit points.

2. The entry requirements for the Pre-Master’s programme can be found in Appendix 1. The Admissions Board of the relevant Master’s degree programme will decide whether students are admitted to the Pre-Master’s programme.

3. The Pre-Master’s programme must be completed within 24 months. Students who fail to complete the Pre-Master’s programme within this period will lose the results gained in the programme and may be banned from further participation in the Pre-Master's programme by the Faculty Board.
**Article 2.4 - Admissions Board**

1. The Admissions Board has the power to take decisions on behalf of the Faculty Board in matters concerning admission to the degree programme.

2. The Admissions Board consists of:
   - a member, also the chairperson, selected from the staff who teach in the degree programme
   - one member selected from the other academic staff who teach in the degree programme.

3. The study advisor for the degree programme (or an equivalent member of faculty staff) will be an advisory member.

4. The selection will be made by the Faculty Board, which will also set out the admissions procedure.

**Article 2.5 - Entrance examination for the Master’s Honours programme: criteria**

1. With a view to the admissions procedure for the Master’s Honours programme, the Admissions Board will investigate whether the candidate satisfies the conditions concerning knowledge, expertise and skills.

2. When conducting its investigation, the Board will also consider the motivation and ambitions of the candidate concerning the degree programme in question, as well as the candidate’s proficiency in the language in which the programme will be taught.

**Article 2.6 - Entrance examination: times**

1. The entrance examination will be held twice a year, as the degree programme commences in the first and second semesters.

2. Applications for admission to the degree programme must be submitted to the Admissions Board. Dutch students who want to start in September have to submit their application before August 15, international students before May 1. Dutch students who want to start in February have to submit their application before January 15, EU students before December 1 and non-EU students before November 1.

3. Only in exceptional cases will the Admissions Board consider an application submitted after the date stated in Article 2.6.2.

4. Admission will be on condition that the candidate has satisfied the requirements set out in Article 2.1 concerning knowledge and skills by the starting date of the degree programme at the latest, supported by certificates from the degree programmes followed. The written admission statement will include information for the student about the possibility of an appeal to the Board of Appeal for Examinations.
2.7 - Re-registration for a Master’s degree programme

Students who were admitted to the Master’s degree programme in a previous year can re-register as of September and February.

Section 3: Content and structure of the degree programme

Article 3.1 - Aim and learning outcomes of the degree programme

1. Knowledge and Understanding

Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding that is founded upon and extends and/or enhances that typically associated with the first cycle, and that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying ideas, often within a research context.

A. Graduates can summarize and explain, at the level of academic handbooks, the historical development as well as current insights and societal challenges in the field of economic geography with a focus on labour market issues, entrepreneurship and globalization.

B. Graduates can explain how individual decisions by people on the labour market, by firms and by governments influence regional level socio-economic development.

C. Graduates know and they can explain the prime theoretical, methodological and ethical paradigms of economic geography in general and in particular where it concerns the link of micro-level behavior by firms, people and policy and regional level outcomes.

D. Graduates can describe the institutional context in which regional socio-economic dynamics take shape. This includes knowledge of (regional) governance structures as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations that influence economic dynamics.

E. Graduates understand their labour market prospects: They can describe the occupations and tasks they may fulfill and the organizations that typically employ graduates with the skills and knowledge associated with the programme of Economic Geography.
2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding
Graduates can apply their knowledge and understanding, and problem solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field of study.

A. Graduates can apply, adapt, analyze and complement their understanding of the actions of individual people, firms and governments and relate the outcome to regional socio-economic dynamics in multiple organizational, institutional and cultural contexts in order to address place-specific issues and challenges.
B. Graduates can independently execute quantitative empirical techniques that allow them to address research questions in the field of economic geography. This includes multi-variate regression techniques suitable for regional level data as well as techniques to address research questions at the micro-level.
C. Graduates can explain how the regional institutional and socio-economic context, including policies, influence regional economic dynamics and how this can lead to place-specific development paths.
D. Graduates are able to position the discipline of economic geography and the research done in the field in relationship to other disciplines.
E. Graduates are able to independently perform academic research, whether or not in an interdisciplinary context.

3. Making Judgements
Graduates have the ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgements with incomplete or limited information, but that include reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgements.

A. Graduates can independently formulate an academically and/or societally relevant problem definition making use of their understanding and knowledge of the academic field of economic geography and relevant societal developments.
B. Graduates can make a substantive argument, using academic sources, for their theoretical and empirical approach to a research problem.
C. Graduates are able to draw practical (policy) implications from their research.
D. Graduates are able to critically reflect on reasoning, arguments and points of view of others as well as on their own work.
E. Graduates have an understanding and a vision of the possibilities of application and of the limitations of science in general and Economic Geography in particular.
4. Communication Skills
Graduates can communicate their conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously.

A. Graduates are able to clearly present the motivation, approach and results of academic research in an academic context as well as in a professional context, for example in discussions regarding business strategies, and regional development policies.
B. Graduates are aware of cultural differences in communication and co-operation and they can adapt accordingly to effectively work together or communicate research findings.
C. Graduates are used to working in teams and they can effectively collaborate on research projects as well as in formulating and presenting regional development strategies.

5. Learning Skills
Graduates have the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.

A. Graduates have the learning skills that enable them to continue their education largely self-directed and autonomously, for example in a professional or academic context.
B. Graduates are able to independently follow relevant developments in the field of economic geography and they are able to reflect on those developments.

Learning outcomes Master in Economic Geography: ‘Regional Competitiveness and Trade’

Below are listed the intended learning outcomes for the Master programme Economic Geography including the track ‘Regional Competitiveness and Trade’. The learning outcomes are grouped according to the Dublin descriptors and each groups starts with the official general description of the learning outcome.

1. Knowledge and understanding
Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding that is founded upon and extends and/or enhances that typically associated with the first cycle, and that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying ideas, often within a research context.

A. Graduates can summarize and explain, at the level of academic handbooks, the historical development as well as current insights and societal challenges in the field of economic geography with a focus on labour market issues, entrepreneurship and globalization.
B. Graduates can explain how individual decisions by people on the labour market, by firms and by governments influence regional level socio-economic development.

C. Graduates know and they can explain the prime theoretical, methodological and ethical paradigms of economic geography in general and in particular where it concerns the link of micro-level behavior by firms, people and policy and regional level outcomes.

D. Graduates can describe the institutional context in which regional socio-economic dynamics take shape. This includes knowledge of (regional) governance structures as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations that influence economic dynamics.

E. Graduates understand their labour market prospects: They can describe the occupations and tasks they may fulfill and the organizations that typically employ graduates with the skills and knowledge associated with the programme of Economic Geography.

F. Graduates can explain the role of international trade in the economic development of countries and regions within countries.

2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding
Graduates can apply their knowledge and understanding, and problem solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field of study.

A. Graduates can apply, adapt, analyze and complement their understanding of the actions of individual people, firms and governments and relate the outcome to regional socio-economic dynamics in multiple organizational, institutional and cultural contexts in order to address place-specific issues and challenges.

B. Graduates can independently execute spatial econometric techniques that allow them to address research questions in the field of economic geography. This includes the mastering of suitable statistical software (GIS/GeoDa, Stata or Matlab).

C. Graduates can explain how the regional institutional and socio-economic context, including policies, influence regional economic dynamics and how this can lead to place-specific development paths.

D. Graduates are able to position the discipline of economic geography and the research done in the field in relationship to other disciplines.

E. Graduates are able to independently perform academic research, whether or not in an interdisciplinary context.

F. Graduates are able to interpret and use theoretical economic models, particularly within the approach of the New Economic Geography, to address issues regarding regional economic development, both between countries and within countries.
3. Making Judgements
Graduates have the ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgements with incomplete or limited information, but that include reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgements.

A. Graduates can independently formulate an academically and/or societally relevant problem definition making use of their understanding and knowledge of the academic field of economic geography and relevant societal developments.
B. Graduates can make a substantive argument, using academic sources, for their theoretical and empirical approach to a research problem.
C. Graduates are able to draw practical (policy) implications from their research.
D. Graduates are able to critically reflect on reasoning, arguments and points of view of others as well as on their own work.
E. Graduates have an understanding and a vision of the possibilities of application and of the limitations of science in general and Economic Geography in particular.
F. Graduates can interpret and reflect on the outcomes of spatial econometric analysis within the context of regional economic development issues.

4. Communication Skills
Graduates can communicate their conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously.

A. Graduates are able to clearly present the motivation, approach and results of academic research in an academic context as well as in a professional context, for example in discussions regarding business strategies, and regional development policies.
B. Graduates are aware of cultural differences in communication and co-operation and they can adapt accordingly to effectively work together or communicate research findings.
C. Graduates are used to working in teams and they can effectively collaborate on research projects as well as in formulating and presenting regional development strategies.
5. Learning Skills
Graduates have the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.

A. Graduates have the learning skills that enable them to continue their education largely self-directed and autonomously, for example in a professional or academic context.
B. Graduates are able to independently follow relevant developments in the field of economic geography and they are able to reflect on those developments.

The learning outcomes of the individual course units can be found in Ocasys.

Article 3.2 - Type of degree programme
The degree programme is full time.

Article 3.3 - Language
1. The degree programme is taught in English. Exceptions may apply for specific optional course units.

2. The thesis/final assignment shall be written in English unless the supervisors and the student jointly agree to use a different language that all involved understand and are proficient in.

Article 3.4 - Student workload
1. The degree programme has a student workload of 60 ECTS credit points.

2. The student workload is expressed in whole ECTS credit points.

Article 3.5 - Tracks
The degree programme has the following tracks:
a) Regional Competitiveness and Trade
**Article 3.6 - Content of the programme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses Economic Geography</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurship &amp; Regional Development</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Geography: Theory and Application</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spatial Economics</td>
<td>1b</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>1b</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Thesis EG</td>
<td>1b</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Statistical Analysis</td>
<td>2a</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Labour Market Analysis</td>
<td>2a</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Thesis EG</td>
<td>2a</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure Economy &amp; Space</td>
<td>2b</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Thesis EG</td>
<td>2b</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*: Chosen electives from other programmes cannot be mentioned on another diploma (with the exception of Article 3.7). In principle all Master courses from the Faculty of Spatial Sciences can be selected as Electives. Students may choose courses outside the faculty after agreed upon by the Master coordinator.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses track “Regional Competitiveness and Trade”</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurship &amp; Regional Development</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth &amp; Development Policies (FEB)</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spatial Economics</td>
<td>1b</td>
<td>5</td>
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</table>

Ocasys sets out the content and modes of instruction of the compulsory parts of the various tracks in more detail, including the level of prior knowledge students will need to successfully complete the course unit in question.

**Article 3.7 - Exemptions for a second Master’s Degree**

1. If a student wants to follow a second Master’s degree at the Faculty, the programme of the second Master’s degree may not overlap with the first by more than 10 ECTS credits.

2. It is not permitted to take any compulsory or optional course units from the first Master’s degree as optional course units in the second. Only those course units in the first Master’s degree that are compulsory in the second Master’s degree will be considered for exemption, up to a maximum of 10 ECTS credits per Master’s degree.

3. If more than 10 ECTS credits qualify for exemption, the Board of Examiners will decide which module or course units will be granted exemption.

4. The order for exemption for a compulsory module in the second Master’s degree will be decided by the Board of Examiners.

5. Course units followed during the first Master’s degree over and above the minimum of 60 ECTS credits will in principle be considered for exemption, but these extra course units from the first Master’s degree may not be added...
to the second Master’s degree as extra optional course units for a second time.

Section 4: Examinations and final assessment of the degree programme; general provisions

Article 4.1 - Board of Examiners and examiners

1. The Faculty Board appoints the members of the Board of Examiners.

2. The Board of Examiners must comprise at least:
   a. one member who is a lecturer in one of the degree programmes
   b. one member from outside the degree programme

3. Members of the Faculty Board or other people who have financial responsibilities within the institution may not be appointed as members of the Board of Examiners.

4. The Board of Examiners will appoint examiners to set examinations and determine the results.

5. The Board of Examiners will set out the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners.

Article 4.2 - Assessment Plan

An Assessment Plan has been approved by the Faculty Board, comprising the following topics:

1. the learning outcomes of the degree programme
2. the course units of the degree programme with their student workload in ETCS, and the learning outcomes of each course unit
3. the relationship between course units and learning outcomes
4. the mode of assessment used and the assessment moments for each course unit
5. the test design and assessment procedures and assessment criteria used
6. the right of inspection
7. who is responsible for the implementation of the various components of the assessment policy
8. the method of regular evaluation.
Article 4.3 - Examination; general

1. Every course unit has an examination.

2. Examinations, both interim and final, provide students with the information they need to assess whether they have achieved or will achieve the required learning outcomes.

3. The results of an examination are given as pass or fail, in numbers on a scale of 1 to 10, expressed as 5.5 or more for a pass and 5.4 or less for a fail.

Article 4.4 - Compulsory order of examinations

There is no compulsory order.

Article 4.5 - Examination frequency and periods

1. a) A student who registers for a course unit is automatically registered for the examination for that course unit.
   b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 4.5.1.a, students can register and deregister for examinations during certain periods to be further defined.
   c) There will be no more than two opportunities a year to sit examinations. For partial examinations, one resit for all partial examinations together may be opted for.

2. The periods in which examinations can be sat are listed on [http://rooster.rug.nl/](http://rooster.rug.nl/). Partial exams can also be taken outside the period indicated.

Article 4.6 - Assessment of placement/internship or research assignment

The assessment of a placement/internship or research assignment will be conducted by an examiner of the Faculty of Spatial Sciences.

Article 4.7 - Form of examinations

1. Examinations will be taken in the manner stated in OCASYS.

2. At the student’s request, the Board of Examiners may allow an examination to be taken in a form different from that stated in Article 4.7.1.

3. Mock versions of each examination will be made available to practise.
Article 4.8 - Oral examinations

1. Unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise, an oral examination may only be taken by one student at a time. A second examiner must attend the oral exam.

2. Oral examinations are public, unless the Board of Examiners or the examiner stipulate otherwise or the student objects to the public nature of the examination.

Article 4.9 - Marking of examinations and publication of marks

1. After an oral examination, the examiner will assess the examination immediately and provide the student with a statement upon request.

2. The examiner will mark a written examination within ten working days of the day on which it was taken, and will provide the Faculty’s administration department with the necessary details for registration of the result in ProgRESS.

3. If an examination is taken in a form other than oral or written, the examiner will determine in advance how and when students will receive written confirmation of the result.

4. Students can lodge an appeal against the results of an examination with the Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights (CLRS) within 6 weeks of the date on which the result was announced.

Article 4.10 - Validity

1. Completed course units remain valid indefinitely.

2. a. Contrary to the provisions of Article 4.10.1, the Board of Examiners may decide to require a student to take a supplementary or substitute examination for a course unit taken more than five years previously before allowing that student to progress to the final assessment, only if the student’s knowledge is demonstrably outdated.

   b. In the event of extraordinary personal circumstances the validity term will be extended for the period during which the student in question is receiving support from the Graduation Fund.

3. Partial examinations and assignments passed within a course unit that has not been successfully completed will lapse at the end of the academic year in which they were passed.
Article 4.11 - Right of inspection

1. On request, students have the right to inspect their marked work during a period of at least two weeks after the results of a written examination have been made known.

2. Within the time frame stipulated in Article 4.11.1, any interested person may request that they be allowed to peruse the examination paper and, if possible, the assessment criteria.

3. The Board of Examiners can determine that this inspection or perusal will take place at a certain place and at two set times at least. If the person concerned can show that they were prevented by force majeure from attending at the indicated places and times, they will be offered another opportunity, if possible within the period stated in Article 4.11.1.

Article 4.12 - Thesis

1. A thesis can in principle only be used for one University of Groningen degree programme. Full or partial exemptions for a degree programme’s thesis may be granted by the Board of Examiners based on a thesis written for another degree programme.

2. Theses are stored by the Faculty Board for a period of at least 7 years.

3. Students will be given the opportunity to start writing a master’s thesis (at least) twice per academic year.

4. The period(s) during which students can write theses will be explained during the introduction of the programme and be published in the course outline on the Student Portal.

5. The Board of Examiners is the only body that can deviate from the provisions of this Article at the written request of a student.

Article 4.13 - Degree

A student who has satisfied all the requirements of the final assessment will be awarded the degree of ‘Master of Science’. The degree awarded will be indicated on the degree certificate.

Article 4.14 - Honours (‘Cum Laude’/’Summa Cum Laude’)

1. The Board of Examiners will determine whether or not the Master’s degree certificate will be awarded an honours predicate.

2. The following conditions apply:
   a) The mark for the thesis must satisfy the following minimum conditions:
      - ‘Cum laude’: the mark for the thesis must be at least 8.0
- ‘Summa cum laude’: the mark for the thesis must be at least 9.0
  b) The weighted average (not rounded off) for all course units, excluding the thesis, within the examination programme approved by the Board of Examiners must be:
  - greater than or equal to 8.0 for ‘Cum laude’
  - greater than or equal to 9.0 for ‘Summa cum laude’.

3. No honours are awarded if the student workload of the exemptions in ECTS credit points is more than half the total number of ECTS for the degree programme. This stipulation does not apply to Double Degree programmes.

4. Honours may only be awarded if the examinations for the course units were taken only once.

5. Honours may only be awarded if no single course unit was awarded a mark less than 7.0.

6. The Board of Examiners may depart from the provisions set out in Articles 4.14.2-5.

Article 4.15 - Final assessment

1. The degree programme is concluded with a final assessment.

2. a. On condition that the student’s study programme has been approved, the Board of Examiners will determine the result of the final assessment as soon as the student has passed all the required examinations. The Board of Examiners may define terms to this end.
   By determining the results of the final assessment, the student has proven to have acquired the necessary academic training. The Board of Examiners will issue a degree certificate to this end.

   b. If a student exceeds the relevant deadlines for approval of the study programme referred to under a, the Board of Examiners may postpone his or her graduation date. This date may be in the academic year following the year in which the last examination was passed.

3. Before the final assessment can be determined, the Board of Examiners may decide to test the student’s knowledge of one or more course units or components of the degree programme, if and inasmuch as the marks for the relevant examinations provide a reason for doing so.

4. By determining the result of the final assessment, the Board of Examiners also commits itself to a speedy processing of the degree certificate ceremony.

5. If a student wishes to postpone the date of graduation due to extra examinations that still need to be taken, he or she must submit a request to this end to the Board of Examiners in good time.
6. The graduation date is the date on which the final assessment is passed, as determined by the Board of Examiners in accordance with the provisions of Article 4.15.2, and not the date on which the degree certificate is presented to the student.

7. The successfully passed final assessment as referred to in Article 4.15.1, and all assignments submitted within the framework of this assessment, will be kept on file by the Faculty Board for a period of at least 7 years.

Section 5: Examinations and final assessment of the degree programme; specific provisions

Article 5.1 - Examination provisions in special circumstances

1. If not granting a student an individual examination provision would lead to an ‘exceptional instance of unfairness of overriding nature’, the Board of Examiners may decide to grant such a provision contrary to the stipulations of Article 4.5.

2. Requests for individual examination provisions, including documentary evidence, must be submitted to the Board of Examiners as soon as possible.

Article 5.2 - Examinations and functional impairments

1. Students with a functional impairment will be given the opportunity to take examinations in a form that will compensate as far as possible for their individual impairment. If necessary, the Board of Examiners will seek expert advice from the student counsellor of the Student Service Centre (SSC) before making a decision.

2. With regard to examinations for electives taken by students with a functional impairment, the Board of Examiners of the degree programme that sets the examination will comply with the facilities permitted by the Board of Examiners of the degree programme for which the student is registered.

Article 5.3 - Exemptions

1. At a student’s request, the Board of Examiners, having discussed the matter with the examiner in question, may grant exemption from an examination on condition that the student:
   a) has completed part of a university or higher vocational degree in the Netherlands or abroad that is equivalent in content and level
   b) can demonstrate by work experience that he/she has sufficient knowledge and skills with respect to the course unit in question.

2. The validity period of exemptions granted for course units or parts thereof is identical to that for examination results.
Article 5.4 - Request for additional resit

1. Students may submit a request for an additional resit to the Board of Examiners.

2. Such a request may be granted if the student in question failed the relevant exam due to extraordinary circumstances and if not granting the request for an additional resit would result in unacceptable study delay.

Article 5.5 - Authority of the Board of Examiners regarding electives offered by other degree programmes

1. A request to take an elective offered by another degree programme must be approved by the Board of Examiners of the student’s own degree programme.

2. The Board of Examiners of the other degree programme is authorized to set and assess the examinations and decide upon requests for alternative exam regulations.

Article 5.6 - Cheating and plagiarism

1. Cheating is an act or omission by a student designed to partly or wholly hinder the forming of a correct assessment of his or her own or someone else’s knowledge, understanding and skills.

2. Cheating also includes plagiarism, which means copying someone else’s work without correct reference to the source.

3. If a student cheats, the Board of Examiners may exclude that student from participation in one or more examinations or final assessments for a maximum of one year.

4. In serious cases of cheating, the Board of Examiners may propose to the Board of the University to definitively terminate the student’s registration.

5. The Board of Examiners will set out its course of action in the event of cheating in its Rules and Regulations.

Article 5.7 - Invalid examination

In the event of irregularities with regard to an examination that are so serious that an accurate assessment of the examinee’s knowledge, understanding and skills cannot be made, the Board of Examiners may declare the examination invalid for either an individual examinee or a group of examinees. The stipulations in the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners also apply.
Article 5.8 - Course units completed elsewhere

1. A Master’s degree can only be awarded if at least half of the course units of the degree programme were offered by the degree programme during the student’s period of registration as a student at the University of Groningen.

2. For Double Degree Master’s degree programmes offered together with an institution abroad, at least one quarter of the programme must have been followed at the degree programme during the student’s period of registration as a student at the University of Groningen.

Article 5.9 - Termination of registration (Iudicium Abeundi)

1. In extraordinary cases of reprehensible behaviour and/or statements made by a student, the Board of the University may, on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners or the Faculty Board, terminate that student’s registration.

2. The Board of the University will not make a decision as referred to in Article 5.10.1 until after the student in question has been given the opportunity to respond to the proposed decision, the interests of the student and the institution have been carefully assessed, and it is reasonable to assume that the student’s behaviour and/or statements prove him/her to be unsuitable for one or more of the professions for which he/she is being trained in his/her degree programme, or for the practical preparation for the profession. In such cases the Faculty Board, the Board of Examiners and the Board of the University will follow the Protocol Iudicium Abeundi [protocol for termination of registration] as approved by the Nederlandse Federatie van Universitaire Medische Centra [Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centres] on 1 November 2010.

Section 6: Study progress supervision

Article 6.1 - Study progress administration

1. The Faculty Board will register individual results for students.

2. The Faculty Board will provide each student with an overview of his or her results at least once a year.

Article 6.2 - Study progress supervision

The Faculty Board will organize the introduction and the study progress supervision of students enrolled in the degree programme, partly to facilitate their progress and also with a view to identifying potential study options within and outside the degree programme.
Section 7: Transitional and final provisions

Article 7.1 - Amendments

1. Any amendments to these Regulations will, following a recommendation by and/or upon the approval of the Programme Committee and the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.

2. Any amendments to these Regulations will not apply to the current academic year, unless it may reasonably be assumed that the amendment in question will not harm the interests of students.

3. In addition, an amendment may not influence any other decision concerning a student taken by the Board of Examiners under these Regulations to the disadvantage of students.

Article 7.2 - Publication

1. The Faculty Board will duly publish these Regulations as well as any amendments to them.

2. Copies of these Teaching and Examination Regulations are available from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website via the Student Portal.

Article 7.3 - Evaluation

The Faculty Board will ensure that the OER is regularly evaluated, assessing at least – for the purpose of monitoring and if necessary adapting the student workload – the amount of time students need to complete their duties as set out therein.

Article 7.4 - Date of commencement

These regulations shall take effect on 1 September 2017.
Appendix 1: entry requirements for the Pre-Master’s programme

Entry to the Pre-Master’s programme is granted if graduated bachelor students from a University of Applied Sciences are able to reach a similar level on the following aspects as graduates from the Human Geography and Urban and Regional Planning bachelor programme through a programme of no more than 60 EC, including:

1) Thematic: field of study Economic Geography
2) Methodology
3) Methods of data collection and analytics, statistics

Also the average grade on the bachelor certificate should be at least a 7.0 (on a scale from 1 to 10) and the student needs to be able to write a good motivation letter in English for the Pre-Master’s programme. Exceptions can be made by the Admissions Committee.