



Teaching and Examination Regulations

2013 - 2014

Master's degree programmes

Biology	Astronomy
Biomedical Engineering	Chemistry
Biomedical Sciences	Chemical Engineering
Ecology and Evolution	Energy and Environmental Sciences
Marine Biology	Physics
Medical Pharmaceutical Sciences	Applied Physics
Molecular Biology and Biotechnology	Mathematics
Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences	Applied Mathematics
Artificial Intelligence	Computing Science
Human-Machine Communication	Industrial Engineering and Management

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Section 1 General provisions

Article 1.1 Applicability

These Regulations apply to the course units and final assessment of the Master's degree programme in

Biology	Astronomy
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hereinafter referred to as 'the degree programme'. The degree programme is organized by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Groningen.

Article 1.2 Definitions

The following definitions apply to these Regulations:

- a. the Act: *Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk onderzoek* [Higher Education and Research Act].
- b. student: a person enrolled at the university for the purpose of taking course units and/or examinations and the final assessment leading to the conferral of a university degree.
- c. course unit: a teaching unit or other part of the degree programme within the meaning of the Act.
- d. practical: a learning-by-doing exercise, as referred to in Art. 7.13 of the Act.
- e. examiner: staff member appointed by the Board of Examiners to assess students' knowledge and skills
- f. final assessment: the final assessment of the degree programme.
- g. ECTS: credits in accordance with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (1 ECTS equals 28 hours of study).
- h. semester: part of the academic year, either commencing on 1 September and ending on a date to be determined by the Executive Board on or around 31 January, or commencing on the aforementioned date determined by the Executive Board and ending on 31 August.
- i. study guide: a document containing information about the degree programme and relevant regulations applicable to students.
- j. colloquium: lecture about a discipline related subject based on scientific literature
- k. HBO-applicant: a student with a bachelor degree in Applied Sciences.



The other definitions shall have the meaning that the Act ascribes to them.

Article 1.3 Aim of the degree programme

The teaching outcomes of the master's degree programme are set out in Appendix I.

Article 1.4 Type of degree programme

The degree programme is full-time.

Article 1.5 Teaching language

The degree programme is taught in English, except for the M-profile "Science, Business and Policy" which is partly taught in Dutch.

Article 1.6 - Refusal 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, permanently ban the student from the programme.
2. The Board of the University will not make a decision as referred to in Article 1.6.1 until after the student in question has been heard about the proposed decision, any interests of the student and the institution have been carefully assessed and it has been proven reasonable to assume that the student's behaviour and/or statements prove him/her to be unsuitable for one or more of the professions which he/she is being trained for 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 refusal of registration] as approved by the Nederlandse Federatie van Universitaire Medische Centra [Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centres] on 1 November 2010.

Article 1.7 – University of Groningen Honours College

1. Students may participate in an Honours Programme offered by the Honours College of the University of Groningen.
2. The Honours Programme does not form part of the regular Master's curriculum. The results and marks do not count towards the awarding of an honours predicate for the Master's programme.
3. The Honour's programme has a total student workload of 15 ECTS credit points, to be earned in the period of one year. The Teaching and Examination Regulations of the Honours College apply to this programme.



4. The results of the Honours Programme will be stated on the Diploma Supplement that forms part of the Master's degree certificate awarded to the student.

Section 2 Structure of the degree programme

Article 2.1 Study load

1. The degree programme has a study load of 120 ECTS.
2. The study load of a course unit is expressed in whole ECTS.

Article 2.2 Specializations

Appendix II sets out the specializations of the degree programme.

Article 2.3 Content of the degree programme

Appendix III sets out the (compulsory) parts of the degree programme and specializations, including the load of study, the entry requirements, the form of examinations and whether a practical is included.

Article 2.4 Optional course units

1. Appendix IV sets out the optional course units of the degree programme and specializations, including the load of study, the entry requirements, the form of examinations and whether a practical is included.
2. The Board of Examiners may permit the student to select one or more course units from another master's degree programme (from the University of Groningen or from another university).

Section 3 Examinations and final assessment in the degree programme

Article 3.1. General

1. Examinations, both interim and final, provide the student with the information necessary for the student to assess whether the required learning goals are – or will be achieved. This will help the student with further participation in the degree programme in question.
2. Assessment is expressed in whole and half numbers greater than or equal to 1 and smaller than or equal to 10, or by the qualifications 'pass' (v) or 'fail'(o). A teaching



unit or course unit is passed when a mark higher or equal to 6 is achieved or when the qualification 'pass' (v) is awarded. The mark 5,5 is not awarded.

Article 3.2 Compulsory order of examinations

The entry requirements and the compulsory order of examinations are listed in the Appendix V.

Article 3.3 Frequency and Examination Periods

1. There shall be an opportunity to sit the examinations for the course units listed in Article 2.3 two times each year.
2. An examination for a practical is given once a year.
3. A course unit will be examined twice in the year the course unit was not offered.
4. A course unit will be examined twice in the year following the year a course unit was offered for the last time.

Article 3.4 Form of Examinations

1. The form of the examinations for the course units listed in Article 2.3 and 2.4 are set out in the Appendix III and IV.
2. At the student's request, the Board of Examiners may allow an examination to be taken in a form different from that covered by Article 3.4.1.
3. Students with a functional disorder will be given the opportunity to take examinations in a form that will compensate as best as possible for their individual handicap. If necessary, the Board of Examiners will seek expert advice on this matter. Applications for an adjusted examination should be done/made at least one month before the examination.

Article 3.5 Oral Examinations

1. Unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise, an oral examination may only be taken by one student at a time.
2. On request of the examiner or the student a neutral third party may be asked to attend an oral examination.

Article 3.6 Examination of practical course units

1. For practical course units, active and visible participation in the research training as well as the approval of a (research) report written by the student are required for passing the examination.



2. The assessment of internal practical course units and the written report of such course units will be conducted by an examiner.
3. The assessment of an external research training project will be conducted by the internal examiner advised by an external supervisor.

Article 3.7 Authority of the Board of Examiners regarding optional course units

1. The Board of Examiners for the degree programme setting the examination is authorized to assess the examinations and deal with any complaints. This does not apply to a request for an alternative examination regulation. In this case, the Board of Examiners of the degree programme for which the student has registered is authorized.
2. With regard to examinations for students with a functional disorder, the Board of Examiners of the degree programme referred to in Article 3.7.1 shall comply with the facilities permitted by the Board of Examiners of the degree programme for which the student has registered.

Article 3.8 Assessing the Final Degree Project

The assessment of a final degree project (thesis or research projects/internships) takes place within a general assessment framework. The supervisors (at least two) who have been appointed as examiners by the Board of Examiners will determine the mark together. If necessary, they will consult an external supervisor.

Article 3.9 Marking of Examinations and Publication of Grades

1. After an oral examination, the examiner will assess the examination immediately and provides the administration office with a written confirmation.
2. The examiner will mark a written examination within 10 working days after the day the examination was taken and provides the administration office with the necessary details regarding the distribution of the written confirmation to the student.
3. The overview of the results sent digitally to the student twice a year has to be interpreted as the written confirmation.
4. The examiner will mark a practical examination within 10 working days after the day the course unit is finished, with the exception of those practicals for which the Board of Examiners has decided on a deviating term of marking with a maximum of a month.
5. If an examination is taken in a form other than oral, written or practical, the Board of Examiners will determine in advance how and when the student will receive written confirmation of the result.



Article 3.10 Validity

1. Examinations that have been passed remain valid indefinitely.
2. Contrary to the provision of Article 3.10.1, the Board of Examiners may decide to require a student to take a supplementary or substitute examination for a course unit taken more than six years previously before allowing that student to progress to the final assessment.

Article 3.11 Right of Inspection

1. On request, a student has the right to inspect his marked work during a period of six weeks after the results of a written examination have been made known. At the student's request a copy of his work is provided against cost price.
2. Within the time frame stipulated in Article 3.11.1, the student may request that he be allowed to peruse the examination paper and the assessment criteria.
3. The Board of Examiners may determine that this inspection or perusal will take place at a certain place and time. This inspection and perusal may be organized collectively.
If the person concerned can show that he was prevented by force majeure from attending at the indicated place and time, he will be offered another opportunity.

Article 3.12 Exemptions

At the 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 course unit that is equivalent in content and level
- b. can demonstrate by work and/or work experience that he has sufficient knowledge and skills in respect of the course unit in question.

Article 3.13 Final Assessment

1. The Board of Examiners determines the result of the final assessment as soon as the student has passed all the required examinations, thereby acquiring the necessary academic training, and to that end issues a certificate.
2. Students are deemed to have passed the final assessment if they have obtained a sufficient grade for each course unit of the degree programme (see Article 3.1.2).
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 the marks for these course units 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 must submit a request to this end to the Board of Examiners in good time.

Article 3.14 Degree

1. A student who has satisfied all the requirements of the final assessment is awarded the degree of “Master of Science”.
2. The degree awarded is registered on the final certificate.
3. The profile (P or M), specialization or Top programme is registered on the diploma supplement.

Article 3.15 – 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 and the learning outcomes of each course unit;
3. the relationship between course units and learning outcomes;
4. the test method to be used and the test moments for each course unit;
5. the test design and assessment procedures, assessment criteria and pass mark definition used;
6. who is/are responsible for the implementation of the various components of the assessment policy;
7. the method of regular evaluation.

Section 4 Selection procedure

Article 4.1 Previous education

1. The admission to the degree programme is set out in appendix VI.
2. Holders of a Dutch or foreign Bachelor’s or Master’s degree with equivalent learning outcomes as the Bachelor’s degree programmes referred to in article 4.1.1 can also be admitted to the degree programme.
3. Students with Bachelor’s degrees other than those referred to in article 4.1.1 will be admitted at the discretion of the Admissions Board. Admission will be considered if:
 - a) the previous qualification is equivalent to the Bachelor’s degree programme requested in article 4.1.1;



- b) the applicant has sufficient proficiency in the English language to participate in the programme (IELTS test score of 6.5, TOEFL-score of 580 (paper-based), 237 (computer-based) or 92 (internet –based) or equivalent). Applicants with a Dutch VWO or equivalent diploma are exempt for IELTS or TOEFL as are native English speakers;
4. The Board of Examiners can decide on an individual basis that one or more optional course units that are not in the curriculum of the applicant are mandatory course units of the degree programme.
 5. Admission within the meaning of article 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 entitles students to register for the degree programme.

Article 4.2 Admission to a specialization

The admission to a specialization is set out in appendix VI.

Article 4.3 Admission of HBO applicants

1. Applicants with a relevant HBO bachelor's degree will be admitted to the degree programme after having passed a bridging programme of 30 ECTS.
2. Applicants with a HBO bachelor's degree are exempt for IELTS or TOEFL.
3. Within the bridging programme the candidate is allowed to resit an examination only once, the one immediately after the first examination.

Article 4.4 Admissions Board

1. Admission to the degree programme and the various course units is assigned to the Admissions Board of the degree programme. This Board consists of:
 - a member, also the chairperson, selected from the professors who will teach the degree programme
 - two members selected from the other academic staff who will teach the degree programme.
2. The study advisor for the degree programme (or a similar faculty employee) will be an advisory member and also secretary.
3. The members of the Admissions Board are appointed by the Board of Examiners.

Article 4.5 Applications procedure

1. The application deadlines for admission to the degree programme and given course units are set out in Appendix VII. The application must be submitted to the Admissions Board.



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2. Only in exceptional cases will the Admissions Board consider an application submitted after the date stated in Article 4.5.1.
3. The Admissions Board will make a decision before the date set out in Appendix VII. The written admissions declaration will include information for the student about the possibility of an appeal to the Committee of Appeal for the Final Assessments.



Section 5 Tutoring

Article 5.1 Study progress administration

1. The Faculty Board is responsible for the registration of the individual results of students.
2. The Faculty Board will provide each student digitally an overview of his results twice a year.
3. At request of the student the administration office provides a certified overview.

Article 5.2 Tutoring

1. Within the framework of the admissions procedure, the Faculty Board is responsible for making an appointment with the student to discuss the individual degree programme he will follow.
2. The Faculty Board is responsible for providing the student with a study guide at the start of his degree programme.
3. The Faculty Board ensures that the student has sufficient supervision during his degree programme, particular attention will be paid to possible changes deemed necessary to ensure the chosen programme is compatible either with conducting academic research or exercising a profession outside the university.

Section 6 Final Provisions

Article 6.1 Amendments

1. Any amendments to these Regulations will, after discussion with the course unit committee and, if necessary, approval of the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
2. An amendment to these Regulations does not apply to the current academic year, unless it may reasonably be assumed that the amendment will not harm the interests of students.
3. An amendment may not harm the interests of students by affecting decisions taken by the Board of Examiners within the meaning of these Regulations.

Article 6.2 Publication

1. The Faculty Board shall duly publish these Regulations, any rules and guidelines formulated by the Board of Examiners, and any amendments to these documents.



2. Copies of the documents referred to in Article 6.2.1 are available from the Faculty Office.

Article 6.3 Appeal procedure and unexpected events

1. In exceptional cases or cases not covered by these regulations, the Board of Examiners shall have the final say.
2. Appeals against decisions made by an examiner or a Board of Examiners may be filed with the Board of Appeal for Examinations.

Article 6.4 Date of Commencement

These Regulations shall take effect on 1 September 2013.



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**Appendix I Teaching outcomes of the degree programme
(art. 1.3)**



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**Appendix II Specializations of the degree programme
(art. 2.2)**



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Appendix III Content of the degree programme (art. 2.3)

Course unit	ECTS	Practical	Assessment	Entry requirements



Appendix IV Optional course units

(art. 2.4)

**Appendix V Entry requirements and compulsory order of
 examinations**

(art. 3.2)

Course unit	ECTS	Practical	Assessment	Entry requirements



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**Appendix VI Admission to the degree programme and
 different specializations
 (art. 4.1.1 + art. 4.2)**



Appendix VII

Application deadlines for admission (art. 4.5.1)

Deadline of Application	Non-EU students	EU students
Nanoscience	February 1st 2014	February 1st 2014
Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences	April 1st 2014	May 1st 2014
Biomolecular Sciences (topprogramme)	April 1st 2014	April 1st 2014
Evolutionary Biology (topprogramme/EM)	January 15th 2014	January 15th 2014
Remaining FMNS Masters	April 1st 2014	May 1st 2014

Decision deadlines (art. 4.5.3)

Deadline of Decision	Non-EU students	EU students
Nanoscience	June 1st 2014	June 1st 2014
Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences	June 1st 2014	June 1st 2014
Biomolecular Sciences (topprogramme)	June 1st 2014	June 1st 2014
Evolutionary Biology (topprogramme/EM)	June 1st 2014	June 1st 2014
Remaining FMNS Masters	June 1st 2014	June 1st 2014