student handbook 2012/2013
master programmes
origins of Abrahamic religions
religion, conflict and globalisation
religion and the public domain
concealed knowledge
religion and culture
Information guide Faculty

Theology and Religious Studies

2012-2013

Master
Theology and Religious Studies
(60 EC)

Research Master
Theology and Religious Studies
(120 EC)

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1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies. This course catalogue will give you all the information you need about the aim and structure of the Master’s degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies and the Research Master’s in Theology and Religious Studies (Religion and Culture). This catalogue also contains general information about the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies. You can find descriptions of the course units in Ocasys, the online course catalogue, on the Faculty website: http://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw. The lecture and examination timetable can also be found on the website: http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/rooster (or http://rooster.rug.nl/ via mobile phone).

The most important regulations regarding your studies are set out in the Student Charter (see Section 15 and http://www.rug.nl/studenten/regelingen/studenten statuut/index), the Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER, see Section 16) and the Rules and Regulations (R&R, see Section 17). As a student enrolled at the University of Groningen, you are expected to be familiar with and comply with these regulations, which are authoritative and complete. Here we aim to explain these regulations. Although the following has been drafted with the greatest possible care, you cannot derive any rights from it.

For further information on a wide range of practical and other matters, you can approach the Student Administration Office. It is located in Room 004 and is open from Tuesday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, tel. (050) 363 5568.

For information about your degree programme or for help with drawing up a study plan and monitoring your study progress, you can approach a Faculty study advisor (studieadviseur.ggw@rug.nl). The study advisors conduct regular study progress interviews with all students and advise the Board of Examiners on individual student requests. In some cases they can also refer you to other support agencies. For opening times, see: http://www.rug.nl/ggw/voorzieningen/studieCoordinatorStudieadviseur.

This course catalogue currently contains some sections that are partly in English and partly in Dutch. Although most sections are written in a single language, occasionally a section will contain paragraphs in both English and Dutch.

Work is underway to provide a course catalogue that is entirely in English. It will be placed on the website as soon as it becomes available.
2. THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES IN GRONINGEN

2.1 PROFILE OF THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Both nationally and internationally, the role of religion in today's society is far from played out. Scholarly knowledge about religion, culture and society is becoming increasingly important in our complex society. Perhaps more than ever, there is a need for specialists with expertise to shed light on the meaning and background of conflicts and differences of opinion in which religion is involved. We need experts who know the different religions and can support their views with facts and arguments; experts who comprehend the cultural and social dynamics of religion and religious phenomena. Within the University of Groningen, the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies is the centre of expertise when it comes to religion and culture. The Faculty integrates teaching and research in a coherent way, educating new generations of theologians, religious scholars and spiritual carers.

This focus on the interconnection between religion and culture is what characterizes the teaching and research profile of our Faculty. Religion is never separate from culture. Nor can a culture be properly understood without knowledge of religion. Religion and culture are broad concepts that call for a broad approach. Because all course units offered by our Faculty are based on the perspective of this interaction between religion and culture, your studies will give you a broad picture of the history and significance of religion for people, culture and society.

The Faculty offers two degree programmes at Master's level: a one-year Master's programme in Theology and Religious Studies and a two-year Research Master's in Theology and Religious Studies (Religion and Culture). Both programmes focus on the relationship between religion and culture, today and in the past. You will learn about the ambivalent relationship between religion and culture. On the one hand, religion ties in with culture and there is a question of cultural imbedding and adaptation (acculturation). On the other hand, there is at one and the same time a critical distance between the two. The different Master's programmes each have their own clear focus within this perspective.

2.2 DEGREE PROGRAMMES
The Faculty offers the following degree programmes:
• Bachelor’s programme in Theology
• Bachelor’s programme in Religious Studies
• Master’s programme in Theology and Religious Studies (one-year Master's programme), involving the following five programmes:
  - Origins of Abrahamic Religions: Texts and Contexts
  - Religion, Conflict and Globalization
  - Religion and the Public Domain
  - Concealed Knowledge: Gnosticism, Esotericism and Mysticism
  - Spiritual Care
• Research Master’s programme in Theology and Religious Studies (two-year Master's), incorporating the following programme:
- Religion and Culture
• PhD programme in Theology and Religious Studies

The Research Master’s and the PhD programme are taught within the Graduate School of Theology and Religious Studies (see http://www.rug.nl/gradschoolthrs).

In 2012-2013 the Faculty will offer two university-level minors for University of Groningen students from other faculties:
• Religion in the Modern World
• Bible, Art and Culture

2.3 Teaching vision
The Faculty’s teaching vision ties in closely with that of the University of Groningen. At the same time, the Faculty’s vision takes into account some of the specific characteristics of its own students and degree programmes. It would be true to say, for example, that intrinsic motivation is what typically guides our students in their choice of degree programme. The Faculty’s degree programmes are made up of course units that reflect a wide range of academic disciplines, each with their own demands. The curricula are characterized by their small-scale, involving a good deal of individual contact between lecturers and students. The Faculty works hard to find the right balance between the requirements of the various disciplines that shape the degree programmes, the wishes of students, and signs from the job market.

Objectives and learning outcomes
Our fundamental aim is to prepare students as well as possible for the demands that will be made on them once they have completed their studies. We therefore distinguish two levels – objectives and learning outcomes – when designing curricula for the degree programmes offered by the Faculty. We formulate objectives to indicate what the individual degree programmes train people for. For university programmes, this does not really mean jobs and professions, but rather, areas in which you gain knowledge and acquire theoretical and practical skills. Learning outcomes indicate what students who have graduated should know and be able to do in terms of content and level. This involves not just specialist knowledge, but also understanding and skills. The skills are both generic (i.e. general academic) and domain-specific skills. To promote the development of generic skills, the objectives of the Master’s and Research Master’s degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies include developing an academic attitude, with an emphasis on critical and independent thinking, and encouraging independent learning (see also Sections 5 to 11).

Integration of teaching and research
Teaching that is linked to research at all stages is the hallmark of an academic degree programme. By discussing new theories and research findings in lectures, teaching research skills and engaging students in research, we are able to produce students who possess a depth of understanding, who can analyze, who can think critically and who can use information to draw conclusions independently. During your Master’s degree
programme, you will not only become acquainted with different research methods but you also learn to set up and develop a small research study, and to report on it based on sound academic argumentation.

**Appropriate and activating teaching methods and test formats**

Our choice of teaching methods and test formats is based on our objective to achieve the best possible learning outcomes and competences. This means that we pay a great deal of attention to developing analytical, oral and written skills, for instance by requiring students to give presentations and write papers. In all instances, our aim is to promote independent and active learning. In short, teaching at the faculty is student-oriented, which means that students are central to the way that teaching is structured.

**Testing**

Quality of teaching is inseparably linked to regular and professional testing, which guarantees that the final attainment level and course unit objectives will be achieved. In addition, good testing underpins judgements about student abilities, which in turn means that students can be selected and advised effectively.

The Faculty’s testing policy aims to ensure that all tests:

a. are of good quality
b. match the desired learning objectives of course units
c. receive validly standardized marking.

**Capable and committed lecturers**

Good teaching is the work of proficient, enthusiastic lecturers. The Faculty achieves this by:

1. Working with the University Teaching Qualification for lecturers and deploying qualified lecturers
2. Facilitating ongoing upskilling of lecturers in relation to new teaching techniques and tools.

### 2.4 Quality Care Surrounding Teaching

It is not just good programmes and lecturers that deliver good teaching, it also involves the efforts and motivation of students. The Faculty does not view students as ‘consumers’ of education, but as participants in the learning and teaching process. It would not be possible to provide good teaching without well-motivated students who prepare effectively for lectures and exams. For this reason, the Faculty aims at a quality culture that is based on optimum lecturer and student effort, making it possible to give and receive inspirational teaching.

**Internal quality care**

The Faculty attaches great importance to the quality of the programmes that it offers. Our teaching is therefore evaluated regularly, at different levels and by responsible bodies, students and lecturers. Evaluations of course units by students and lecturers play a key role in this process. In principle, each course unit is evaluated annually and the results are used to make further improvements to the teaching. Alongside course units, the entire curriculum is also evaluated periodically by means of a curriculum evaluation, which
focuses on the cohesion and implementation of the programme, as well as its tie-in with previous and follow-on programmes and with the future job market.

The programme committee (OC – opleidingscommissie), comprised equally of students and lecturers, plays a key role in assessing teaching quality. This committee monitors the teaching process to ensure that it operates in accordance with the Teaching and Examination Regulations. The programme committee also discusses the course unit evaluations, and the semester and curriculum evaluations, and then reports on them to the programme director, who monitors the evaluation process on behalf of the faculty board. The evaluation of course units contains a questionnaire for participating students. Sending, responding to and processing the questionnaires is done electronically with the help of the ISEK-WWW program. Students can view the evaluation results via Nestor or the syllabus.

External quality care
Once every six years there is an external assessment of teaching within the Faculty. In the last external assessment rounds, the degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Groningen were judged to be good to very good, also compared at national level.

For many years, teaching within the Faculty has also been rated as especially good by Elsevier and the Keuzegids Hoger Onderwijs.

2.5 Research
The academic staff associated with the Faculty represents many disciplines and include theologians, religious scholars, historians, philosophers, sociologists, anthropologists and psychologists. The Faculty enjoys an excellent reputation for its research, not only in the Netherlands but internationally as well. In recent years, international assessments of the Faculty’s research in the fields of theology and religious studies have repeatedly ranked our Faculty as the best in the Netherlands. The Faculty maintains many international links with universities abroad (such as Bremen, Marburg, Uppsala, Göttingen, Ghent, Princeton and Rice University), from which you as a student can also benefit. As part of your Master’s degree, you can do part of your programme at one of the universities with which the Faculty has a close partnership.

Centre for Religious Studies (CRS)
Research conducted at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies is organized within the Centre for Religious Studies (CRS). The CRS covers a broad and varied field of research, ranging from the study of world religions to research into religious developments and normative and ethical questions in today’s multicultural society. Regardless of the period or issue under study, or the perspective from which these are approached, the CRS always explores religion in relation to cultural and social developments.

The CRS has three research groups that coincide with the three departments within the faculty:

Each department works on its own long-term research programme. A number of research themes and areas have been allocated to the Faculty research institutes – the Qumran Institute, the Institute for Christian Cultural Heritage and the Institute of Indian Studies (see Section 2.6) – and to the following interdisciplinary partnerships:

- CRASIS: Culture, Religion and Society in Graeco-Roman Antiquity
  [http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderzoek/interdissamen/crasis](http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderzoek/interdissamen/crasis)
- the Colloquium of Indian Religions
- the interdisciplinary research programme on Religion, Identity and Memory

In addition, all researchers work together in the faculty-wide Research Colloquium, exploring themes that transcend departmental boundaries. Internationally renowned guest speakers are regularly invited to attend (see [http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderzoek/interdissamen/religiouschange/](http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderzoek/interdissamen/religiouschange/)).

### 2.6 Research Institutes

**Institute for Christian Cultural Heritage (ICCE)**

Research at the ICCE focuses on the ritual, musical, spatial and visual forms of Christianity. The primary focus of research into the Christian liturgy is late-medieval liturgical practices and early Dutch Protestantism, involving an exploration of historical, theological and practical aspects. Hymn and church music research looks in particular at Dutch hymns since the Reformation. A key part of this is the documentation of hymn texts, recordings, music and other books and music magazines. The church architecture and interiors department researches issues relating to the building, interior design and use of churches. Special areas of interest are the liturgical layout of medieval churches, Protestant church interiors, the refurbishment of churches and the relationship between the church and visual arts. The ICCE has its own specialist library and an extensive slide collection that can be consulted for research purposes. Also available is a large photo collection containing more than 65,000 photos of churches, mainly in the Netherlands but abroad as well. Since 2007 this material is also accessible via www.kerkeninbeeld.nl. The ICCE publishes the *Jaarboek voor Liturgieonderzoek* / *Yearbook for Ritual and Liturgical Studies* and the series *Netherlands Studies in Ritual and Liturgy* (both in partnership with the Institute for Liturgical and Ritual Studies at Tilburg University). Church music or the architecture and iconography of Christianity can be chosen as specializations in the study programme of the Master’s in Theology and Religious Studies.
Qumran Institute
The University of Groningen’s Qumran Institute, founded in 1961 by Professor Adam van der Woude, is unique in the Netherlands. It is the only centre of expertise which has as its main focus the study of early Judaism and the Dead Sea Scrolls. The Institute plays a key role internationally in research on the Dead Sea Scrolls. It edits a number of leading academic publications (journals and series) and also hosts the website of the International Organization for Qumran Studies (IOQS).
Teaching and research are linked, so the research in question conducted by University of Groningen is integrated into the curricula of Theology and Religious Studies to a certain extent. This means that students of Theology and Religious Studies become acquainted early in their degree programme with research on Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls.
The Qumran Institute gives information – and lectures on request – to the general public about ancient Judaism in general and the Dead Sea Scrolls in particular.

Director: Prof. M. Popović (tel. 050-363 5567)
M.Popovic@rug.nl
Address: Oude Boteringestraat 38
9712 GK Groningen
Website: http://www.rug.nl/qumraninstitute

Institute for Indian Studies
The Institute for Indian Studies at the University of Groningen was set up in 1953 by Prof. Jacob Ensink (1921-2005). He held the chair in Sanskrit, established in the Faculty of Arts in 1962, until 1983. Before that, Sanskrit was part of one of the chairs within the Faculty of Arts. Barend Sijmons (1881), professor of Comparative Linguistics and Germanic Languages, was the first person to teach Sanskrit at the University of Groningen. From 1889 to 1903, Sanskrit was taught by Jacob Samuel Speyer, professor of Latin. During his professorship at Groningen, Speyer published his translation of the Jatakamala and his famous Vedische und Sanskrit Syntax in Grundriss der Indo-arischen Philologie.
In 1996 the J. Gonda Stichting of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) established a chair by special appointment in the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies. The teaching duties were the interpretation of Hinduism in the Sanskrit tradition and Indian philosophy. Dr Hans T. Bakker (1948) was appointed to this chair.

The Institute for Indian Studies currently has affiliations with three faculties. Lectures in Sanskrit, Sanskrit literature and Indian cultural history are given at the Faculty of Arts. Lectures in Indian philosophy are offered within the Faculty of Philosophy, and lectures in
Indian religions (Hinduism/Buddhism) are given at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies.

Address:  ‘Huis met de 13 Tempels’,
Oude Boteringestraat 23
9712 GC Groningen
tel. 050-363 5819
Website:  http://www.rug.nl/india
3. STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAMMES

3.1 ACCESS TO THE MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAMMES
You cannot embark on any Master’s programmes until you have satisfied all the requirements of the Bachelor’s certificate.

Follow-on Master’s degree programmes
Your Bachelor’s certificate in Theology or Religious Studies will give you direct admission to the following Master’s programmes:
- Origins of Abrahamic Religions: Texts and Contexts
- Religion, Conflict and Globalization
- Religion and the Public Domain
- Concealed Knowledge: Gnosticism, Mysticism and Esotericism.
However, if you apply for one of these programmes, you must write a letter outlining your reasons for wishing to take the programme, enclosing a curriculum vitae and a copy of your Bachelor’s degree programme results. More information on the admission procedure (including registration deadlines) can be found on the Faculty website: http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/maOpleidingen/applicationandadmission.

Master’s degree programme in Spiritual Care
If you have a Bachelor’s certificate in Theology or Religious Studies and wish to be admitted to the Master’s programme in Spiritual Care, you will need to have passed the preparatory minor in Spiritual Care as part of your Bachelor’s programme. You can find more information on this in Sections 5.13 and 6.11 of the Bachelor’s course catalogue. More information on the admission procedure (including deadlines for registration) can be found on the Faculty website: http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/maOpleidingen/maGV/.

Research Master’s in Theology and Religious Studies (Religion and Culture)
The two-year research Master’s is a selective Master’s for which a separate admission procedure applies. More information on this admission procedure (including deadline for registration) can be found on the Faculty website: http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/maopleidingen/researchmaster/admission/.

You can also approach the study advisors for more information on admission to the various Master’s degree programmes (studieadviseur.ggw@rug.nl).

3.2 MASTER’S ‘LABELS’ AND MASTER’S PROGRAMMES
Master’s in Theology and Religious Studies (60 ECTS)
As of 1 September 2012 the Faculty is offering a one-year Master’s in Theology and Religious Studies (60 ECTS credit points). There are five interdisciplinary thematic programmes included under this broad Master’s label, each one closely linked to the research conducted by the departments delivering the teaching. The programmes are as follows:
- Origins of Abrahamic Religions: Texts and Contexts
- Religion, Conflict and Globalization
- Religion and the Public Domain
- Concealed Knowledge: Gnosticism, Mysticism and Esotericism
- Spiritual Care.

The first four programmes are offered in English. They comprise three teaching course units of 10 ECTS, a placement of 10 ECTS and a thesis of 20 ECTS. You can start these programmes in either September or February. Spiritual Care is a Dutch-taught programme that is offered both full-time and part-time. This programme builds on the pre-Master’s in Spiritual Care and comprises two course units of 5 ECTS, one of 10 ECTS, an placement of 20 ECTS and a thesis of 20 ECTS. Part-time students can begin in either September or February, but full-time students only in September.

More information on the objectives, learning outcomes and structure of these programmes can be found in Sections 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Twice a year, in spring and in autumn, the Faculty organizes a ‘Master Your Talent’ information meeting where you can find out about the different Master’s programmes. You can also learn about placement opportunities in the Master’s programmes in Religion, Conflict and Globalization, Religion and the Public Domain, Concealed Knowledge: Gnosticism, Mysticism and Esotericism, and Origins of Abrahamic Religions: Texts and Contexts.

Research Master's in Theology and Religious Studies (120 ECTS)
The Faculty is offering one programme, Religion and Culture, under the new broad Theology and Religious Studies label (120 ECTS credit points). As this Master’s programme places an emphasis on research, it is a good form of preparation for the PhD programme and for completing your PhD. As well as three compulsory core modules, the programme offers ample scope for your own specialization.

You can find more information on the objectives, learning outcomes and structure of this programme in Section 11. The Research Master’s programme will also be covered at length during the ‘Master Your Talent’ information meetings organized by the faculty in spring and autumn.

3.3 Credit point system and student workload
Ocasys gives the number of credit points (ECTS) for each course unit. ECTS stands for European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, a European system for the transfer and accumulation of credit points. This system has been developed since 1989 in the context of the European Commission’s Erasmus programme for student mobility, in close cooperation with universities, including the University of Groningen.

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System is a student-centred system based on the workload required for a student to attain the objectives of a particular programme. Ideally, these objectives are specified in learning outcomes, which are the sum total of competences that describe what students should know, understand and be able to do on completion of a short or long learning process. The ECTS is based on the agreement that 60 ECTS credit points correspond to the workload of a full-time student in one academic year.
In most cases, the workload for a student in a full-time programme in Europe amounts to 1500-1800 hours per year. In these cases, one ECTS credit point is the equivalent of 25 to 30 hours of work.

In the Netherlands, and therefore also at the University of Groningen, the ECTS credit point system is used as both a cumulative and a transfer system. The application of ECTS is regulated by law, which stipulates that 42 study weeks of 40 hours, in other words one academic year, correspond to a workload of 60 ECTS. This means that one ECTS credit point is the equivalent of 28 hours of work. A university Bachelor’s programme is three years of full-time study, which is the equivalent of 180 ECTS credit points.

The workload is the time spent attending lectures (contact hours) and preparing and processing lecture material (including reading literature, doing assignments, writing papers and preparing presentations). Exam preparation time also comes under workload. The following formula is used to determine the literature workload for lectures and exams: 1 credit hour = 5 to 7 pages of literature (depending on the level of difficulty), excluding the literature covered in lectures. Credit points are only issued once a course unit has been completed and passed – in other words, after the necessary work has been completed and the relevant learning outcomes have been attained.

3.4 Academic Year
The academic year is divided into two semesters, each one 21 weeks in length. The first semester begins in September and runs until the beginning of February. The second semester starts at the beginning of February and runs until the beginning of July. Each semester is made up of two blocks, which are followed immediately by two exam weeks. No lectures are given during exam weeks.

Each block also includes a week-long mid-term break. This is the fifth week of the block in question. The resits from the previous exam period are planned for this week. In principle, no lectures are given during this time. The resits for exams for Master’s course units in block 4 are held in week 28 (8–12 July).

The deadline for the first version of the Master’s thesis is established in advance. The deadline for the second version is decided in consultation between the main supervisor, second supervisor and student.

The 2012-2013 academic year starts on 3 September 2012.  
1st semester: week 36 (3 September 2012) to week 5 (3 February 2013)  
   introductory lecture: Wednesday 5 September 2012 at 3.30 p.m.  
   Blues week: week 40 (1 October to 5 October)  
   exam block 1: weeks 44 and 45 (29 October to 9 November)  
   resits block 1: week 50 (10 to 14 December)  
   exam block 2: weeks 4 and 5 (21 January to 1 February)
2nd semester: week 6 (4 February 2013) to week 28 (12 July 2013)
resits block 2: week 10 (4 to 8 March)
exam block 3: week 15 and 16 (8 to 19 April)
resits block 3: week 21 (21 to 24 May)
exam block 4: weeks 25 and 26 (17 June to 28 June)
resits block 4, Master’s course units (exams): week 28 (8 to 12 July)

Non-teaching days in 2012-2013
• Christmas period: 24 December 2012 to 4 January 2013
• Good Friday: 29 March 2013
• Easter Monday: 1 April 2013
• Queen’s Birthday: 30 April 2013
• Ascension Day: 9 May 2013
• Whit Monday: 20 May 2013
• Summer holidays: week 27 (1 July 2013) to week 35 (30 August 2013)

A complete overview of the 2012-2013 academic year can be found in Section 19.

On the basis of the Student Charter, each student is expected to be available for educational activities between the first and the last timetabled day of the academic year (3 September 2012 to 14 June 2013). Activities requiring compulsory participation may be timetabled during this period.

3.5 Lecture and examination timetable
The lecture and examination timetable for the degree programmes can be found on the Faculty website (http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/rooster). You can also use your mobile phone to access it via http://rooster.rug.nl/.

The scheduling of course units contained in this course catalogue may be subject to change during the year, which will of course have implications for timetabling. The room may also have to be changed at the last minute due to the number of enrolments for a particular course unit. During the academic year, you therefore need to check the website and Nestor regularly for any timetable changes. No rights may be derived from any mistakes in the timetabling of course units and exams.

3.6 Honours college
The University of Groningen offers a university-wide Honours College that challenges talented and motivated students to greater depth and breadth. This is achieved by students taking an additional Honours programme of 15 ECTS alongside their regular Master’s degree programme of 90/120/180 ECTS credit points. The theme of the Master’s Honours programme is ‘Leadership: making the difference’. The programme is of an interdisciplinary nature. Although not a management course in leadership, the Master’s Honours programme does introduce you to the various theories and models relating to
leadership. There will also be an opportunity to further develop your leadership competences. The programme comprises four master classes, a leadership lab and a ‘Masterwork.’ Attention is also paid to your personal development.

If you wish to apply for a place on the Master’s Honours programme, you will find information on the Honours College website: http://www.rug.nl/honours/masterprogramme.

Dr K.E. Knibbe is the Faculty coordinator for the Master’s Honours programme (k.e.knibbe@rug.nl).

3.7 STUDYING ABROAD
Studying abroad is a way to enrich your degree programme and enhance your academic and personal development. As part of your Master’s degree programme, you will have an opportunity to study at a foreign university. This has to be organized well in advance if you hope to fit it within your one-year programme.

Partnership agreements with universities inside and outside Europe have made studying abroad an attractive option that is becoming easier all the time. However, you must plan your study abroad plenty of time ahead, often one year in advance! You will have to make clear arrangements about the course units that you wish to take and request permission from the Board of Examiners. Otherwise you run the risk that course units you have successfully completed at a foreign university, together with the associated credit points, will not count towards your certificate. It is best if you make the necessary arrangements before you actually begin these course units in order to avoid disappointment (and therefore unwelcome study delay) later on. You also have to bear in mind the tight deadlines for applications, and for applying for a grant!

To ensure that everything runs smoothly, check the steps that you should take before travelling to your destination abroad. You will find them on the Faculty website under ‘Studying abroad’; see http://www.rug.nl/ggw/informatievoor/studenten/studereninhetbuitenland. This webpage tells you the places you can go, the forms you need to fill out, how you can fund your study period abroad and what to do if you incur study delay. You will also find information there about practical matters such as renting or subletting a room, visa requirements, insurance, financial assistance, experiences of other students and tips. If you still have questions, contact M.I.H. Vrijens at internationaloffice.thrs@rug.nl.

3.8 PART-TIME STUDY
Formal arrangements have been made so that the Master’s degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies can be studied part-time. Generally speaking, this means that it will take you twice as long to complete. For the Master’s programme in Spiritual Care, course units are timetabled on a set day of the week, Tuesday. For the English-taught Master’s programmes, however, no separate part-time timetabling is offered. If you wish to study
one of the English-taught Master’s programmes part-time, you should contact the study advisors, T.M.L. de Boer or V.M. Haverlach, well in advance (studieadviseur.ggw@rug.nl). They can give you more information about timetabling and any additional provisions.

### 3.9 Information Activities
Various information meetings are organized during the academic year. You will find an overview of the standard ones below. These are intended to tell you about the various options in your Master’s degree programme, as well as to familiarize you with the job market.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information meetings</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Notification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Placement</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Invitation via e-mail and posters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honours College</td>
<td>November/March</td>
<td>Invitation by letter Announced via posters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying abroad</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Announced via e-mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job market</td>
<td>Twice a year (semester 1 and semester 2)</td>
<td>Announced via e-mail and posters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Master Your Talent’</td>
<td>November and March (April for Spiritual Care)</td>
<td>Announced via e-mail, posters and website Announced via the UK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. TEACHING, EXAMS AND FINAL ASSESSMENT

4.1 OVERVIEW OF COURSE UNITS IN OCASYS
The course units in the Master’s degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies and the Research Master's in Theology and Religious Studies (Religion and Culture) are described in the course catalogue on the Faculty website www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw. Ocasys reports the objectives and briefly outlines the content of each course unit. It also tells you more about teaching methods and test formats. The objectives of the course units are derived from the learning outcomes of the Master's degree programmes. Teaching methods and test formats are in turn derived from the objectives of the course unit in question. If attendance is compulsory for a particular course, this is stated in Ocasys.

Abbreviations of Master's and Bachelor's degree programmes and university-level minors in Ocasys
Ma GV Master’s in Spiritual Care – full-time
Ma GV-dlt Master’s in Spiritual Care – part-time
PreMa GV Pre-Master’s in Spiritual Care
RM Religion and Culture Research Master’s in Religion and Culture
Ba TH-vlt Bachelor’s in Theology – full-time
Ba TH-vlt (incl. Greek) Bachelor’s in Theology – full-time, including Greek
Ba TH-dlt Bachelor’s in Theology – part-time
Ba TH-dlt (incl. Greek) Bachelor’s in Theology – part-time including Greek
Ba GW-vlt Bachelor’s in Religious Studies – full-time
Ba GW-dlt Bachelor’s in Religious Studies – part-time
Mi TH RMW Minor – Religion in the Modern World
Mi TH BKC Minor – Bible, Art and Culture

4.2 SYLLABI
The syllabus for each course unit gives you more information about the objectives, teaching content, teaching methods, test formats and examination syllabus. You will also find a weekly timetable outlining exactly what you need to prepare for each lecture and when any assignments or papers have to be handed in. The syllabus can be found in the Nestor space for the relevant course unit.

4.3 TEACHING METHODS
Teaching is offered in one of the following forms:
Course units: Lectures and other activities with a set starting time and duration. The set literature is announced in advance.
Practicals: Practical exercises, training sessions or other forms of training with a set starting time and duration. Full participation (100% attendance) in the activities and assignments is compulsory. Tutorials, progress tests and assignments may form part of the practicals.
Master’s thesis: a reasoned report on a completed research study.

Each course unit is offered once a year. The value in ECTS credit points is established in
4.4 Testing and Assessment
As a rule, you will be given a mark for each course unit that you take. Testing and assessment can take various forms. In the Master’s degree programme, testing mainly involves writing and presenting a paper or presenting a lecture. Sometimes an oral exam is administered. The examination syllabus includes both the literature to be studied and the lecture material, unless the lecturer decides otherwise.

Oral and written exams are administered once a year, with opportunities to resit the exam about five to six weeks after the first exam. For Master’s course units that are examined at the end of the second semester, the resit is held in July. On occasions, an exam that was administered in written form on the first occasion is administered orally in the resit.

Students are deemed to have passed course units made up of distinct parts if the average final mark, after rounding, is a 6 or higher, and if they have gained a minimum mark of five on the individual components. For these course units, students only need to resit the parts for which they gained a mark lower than 5. The Teaching and Examination Regulations sets out which course units this applies to.

You cannot resit course units that you have already passed. Exams that you have passed are valid for six years, unless stated otherwise in the Teaching and Examination Regulations.

In order to spread your workload over the year, it is important to sit and pass exams at the first opportunity. Otherwise you will have to cope with both resits and regular exams in the second semester. You also run the risk of having to devote most of your summer holidays to preparing for the resits.

The deadline for papers is the one stipulated by the lecturer in the syllabus or announced via the Nestor space for the course unit. To ensure that lectures run smoothly and for the sake of your own study progress, it is important to adhere to the set deadlines. Papers are usually presented during a tutorial or lecture period.

Lecturers have a maximum marking time of 10 working days for exams and 20 working days for papers. This means that from the day after exams are administered or the final submission date for papers, they have a maximum of 10 and 20 working days respectively to mark the exam or paper and to pass on the results to the Student Administration Office. After that, it takes another three days maximum before the results are posted on ProgRESS-WWW. The actual exam can be inspected at the Student Administration Office. If you wish to discuss the exam afterwards, you must make an appointment with the lecturer or coordinator of the course unit.
4.5 REGISTERING FOR COURSE UNITS
You need to register via ProgRESS-WWW for the course units that you wish to take. You can find ProgRESS-WWW via an icon on the desktop of a University computer or via the URL: http://progresswww.nl/rug. Your login name is your student number. Your password will be sent to you at home as soon as you have enrolled for your degree programme at the University of Groningen (see also Section 13.7). You will find answers to most of your questions using the comprehensive Help function in ProgRESS-WWW.

The registration period for lectures closes on 20 August for the first semester and on 15 January for the second semester of the academic year in question. The requirement to register for the first semester does not apply to Master’s students who do not yet have an account at the time that registration closes. The Student Administration Office will take care of their registration. If you wish to register for course units at another faculty, you must do so in the registration period of the faculty concerned, which may differ from the period for our Faculty. Enquire about this matter in good time at the relevant faculty.

4.5 REGISTERING FOR EXAMS
Before you can take part in an exam or resit, you must register. Registration is a requirement in the Student Charter. The information below is for information purposes only. The legally binding text can be found in the Rules & Regulations of the Board of Examiners (see Section 17).

Registration for exams is done via ProgRESS-WWW. This is compulsory for all students, including part-time students, and applies to all exams that you wish to sit in the Master’s degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies or the Research Master’s in Theology and Religious Studies (Religion and Culture). The registration period closes one week before the start of the relevant exam period. Students who have forgotten to register may still do so up to one working day before the exam on payment of a fee (see Teaching and Examination Regulations).

You can register for an exam in ProgRESS-WWW using the ‘register’ module. The components for which you can register can be found in the menu on the left of the screen. First select the faculty and then keep clicking until you find the right component. Then click on ‘register’. On the right of the screen you will see the components for which you have registered. To deregister for an exam, click on ‘deregister’. You can deregister for written exams up to 24 hours beforehand and for oral exams up to 48 hours beforehand. The comprehensive Help function in ProgRESS-WWW can answer most of your questions.
4.7 STUDY RESULTS
The ‘results’ module in ProgRESS-WWW gives a personal summary of your results. You can organize this list in different ways (by clicking on one of the triangles at the top) and you can also print it out. If you have enrolled for several degree programmes, you must bear in mind that the credit points are counted in different summaries in which the same course unit appears. As a result, if you add up the credit points across all summaries, the total number of credit points may be too high.

4.8 STUDY PROGRESS SUPERVISION
Study advisor
It takes time and effort to study successfully. If at any time you begin to have doubts about your own ability, you encounter problems in planning your study or you experience study delay as a result of non-study-related problems, it is advisable to contact the study advisor. They can give you information about the degree programme and can help you to plan and monitor your study progress. They can also give you confidential advice on study problems and/or problems of a personal nature. If necessary, the study advisor can refer students to other support agencies. In some cases you can call on the Graduation Fund of the University of Groningen if study delay arises through demonstrable force majeure. To be eligible for financial compensation, you must report to the study advisor within four weeks of these circumstances arising.

4.9 ILLNESS AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS
If you cannot attend lectures and/or exams for any length of time due to illness or other circumstances, you must notify the study advisor at the Student Administration Office as soon as possible. For course units requiring compulsory attendance, you must also personally report your absence to the lecturers concerned.

If you expect your study to be delayed for longer than four weeks, you must report this immediately to the study advisor as you may then be eligible for financial support from the Graduation Fund. If the study delay amounts, or will amount, to more than three months, you must make an appointment with a student counsellor at the Student Service Centre for a follow-up report. For more information, refer to the University of Groningen Student Charter (Section 15).

Students with a physical performance disability, long-term mental complaints or dyslexia are entitled to special provisions to enable them to attend lectures or sit exams. For matters that need to be organized within the degree programme, the study advisor is the person to get in touch with. You should do this as soon as possible as some measures may require some time to organize. For non-degree programme specific problems, such as financial matters or other matters unconnected with the degree programme, you can approach one of the student counsellors at the Student Service Centre. The address of the Student Service Centre can be found in Section 18.
For students with existing or potential problems with RSI, a comprehensive brochure is available from the IT Service Desk and the Faculty's health and safety coordinator. You can also download courses and programmes from the internet (http://www.rsi.pagina.nl). The University of Groningen has a CD-ROM available for all students with information on preventing RSI.

4.10 Graduation
The Master's degree programme concludes with a final assessment. You will be awarded your Master's certificate if you have met all the conditions that the degree programme imposes for the certificate. This means passing all the components, being awarded a pass for your Master's thesis and having successfully defended your thesis during the final assessment. More information about the procedure for applying for the Master's degree certificate can be found on the Faculty website: http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/afstuderen.

You must decide on the date for the final assessment, in consultation with your main supervisor, your second supervisor and the Student Administration Office. No special dates are reserved for this. Once the result of the final assessment has been decided and the certificate awarded, you are entitled to bear the title 'Master of Arts (MA)'. You do so by placing the abbreviation after your name: A.B. Surname MA.

4.11 Degree classes
The following degree classes are used for the final assessment of the Master's programme:

a) 'Cum laude' means that the Master's thesis was awarded at least an 8 and the rounded weighted average of all courses, excluding the thesis, in the Master's programme approved by the Board of Examiners is 8 or higher.

b) 'Summa cum laude' means that the Master's thesis was awarded at least a 9 and the rounded weighted average of all courses, excluding the thesis, in the Master's programme approved by the Board of Examiners is 9 or higher.

For the exact conditions, refer to the Teaching and Examination Regulations of the Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies and the Teaching and Examination Regulations for the Research Master's in Theology and Religious Studies (Section 16).

Students who began their degree programme before 1 September 2010 are subject to the degree classification system that applied to them on 31 August 2010.

4.12 Information sources
The Faculty employs a range of media to communicate with its students. These are:
- e-mail: the account allocated by the University of Groningen to each student
- letters: sent to the address known to the University of Groningen via Studielink
- Nestor: the electronic learning environment: http://nestor.rug.nl
- University newspaper (UK), especially the announcements columns
• ProgRESS-WWW: the registration system for courses and exams.

It is vital that you consult these different media regularly to ensure that you do not miss any important information. Use the University's official e-mail account or link it through to a private account. Log in to Nestor regularly so that course announcements reach you. You should also keep your postal address up to date and inform the Faculty about any change of address. The University of Groningen will, for example, send letters by post containing the binding study advice. It is your responsibility to ensure that you can be contacted.

The UK (University newspaper) appears bi-weekly (from academic year 2012-13) and can be viewed on http://uk.webhosting.rug.nl/. The UK will appear in digital form only after March 2013.

4.13 Nestor
Nestor, the University of Groningen's electronic learning environment, is an important IT application for students as many lecturers use it to support their teaching (http://nestor.rug.nl). Through Nestor you can access teaching content and create individual and group assignments. You can also download syllabi, engage in discussion with your fellow students and lecturers, exchange information and much more. To gain access to the teaching spaces in Nestor, you need to have registered for the relevant course units in ProgRESS-WWW. You can log in to Nestor with your university computer account (see Section 13.7).

4.14 Costs of study materials
The summary below of study costs per degree programme and study phase is based only on the required literature. The price of these books is listed in the course descriptions in Ocasys. Because the price of some editions (e.g. readers) is not known until after this course catalogue has appeared, the actual study costs may be slightly higher or lower.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree programme</th>
<th>Ceiling amount</th>
<th>MA GV</th>
<th>MA THRS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master's (60 ECTS) incl. pre-Master's (60 ECTS)</td>
<td>€1368</td>
<td>€680</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's (60 EC)</td>
<td>€684</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's Honours programme (15 ECTS)</td>
<td>€171</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The University of Groningen has a study costs policy that is designed to keep these costs under control. The idea is that students will not have to spend more than a fixed amount (a cost ceiling) on study materials and other study necessities. The cost ceiling for 2012-2013 is €684 per academic year. For optional course units there is a guideline of €12 per ECTS. Although the Faculty does its best to ensure that costs are kept below this amount, this is not always possible. In such cases, you may apply to the Faculty for reimbursement of half the additional expenditure, or some other arrangement may be made. If you make a
request for reimbursement to the Faculty, you must be able to provide proof in the form of receipts.

Information on the study costs policy can also be obtained from [www.rug.nl/hoezithet](http://www.rug.nl/hoezithet), the study advisor or the Student Service Centre at the University.

4.15 Readers
If you enrol via ProgRESS-WWW for a course unit for which a reader is used, you are obliged to actually purchase it!

4.16 Complaints and Comments
If you have any comments or complaints about teaching delivery and/or content, you should first approach the lecturer responsible. For problems with the structure of the curriculum, you can go to the programme coordinator and the programme committee. The programme director is the person to go to for complaints about teaching.

If you believe that mistakes have been made in the way that the Teaching and Examination Regulations have been applied, you can approach the Board of Examiners. If no satisfactory solution is found, you can then turn to the Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights (CLRS) (see also the Student Charter in Section 15). You can also go to the CLRS if you wish to lodge an objection to the binding study advice.

Complaints of a more general nature should be lodged using the complaints form on [http://www.rug.nl/students/regelingen/klachten/BezwaarBeroep/indienen](http://www.rug.nl/students/regelingen/klachten/BezwaarBeroep/indienen).

Students also have a collective right of complaint. This means that they can lodge a complaint in writing to the faculty board if the University fails to meets its obligations, or does so incompletely or insufficiently, with the result that students are unable to continue their studies in an uninterrupted fashion. The collective right of complaint can be exercised by students in the same degree programme provided that they together make up at least 10 percent of all students enrolled in that programme.
5. MASTER’S IN THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES (60 ECTS)

5.1 OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAMME

5.1.1 OBJECTIVES
The aim of the Master’s in Theology and Religious Studies is to explore religion as a cultural phenomenon, as well as the interaction between religion and other cultural factors, both today and in the past. While the form that religion takes frequently arises out of the cultural context in which it occurs, it can also maintain a critical distance from that culture. Against this shared background, the different Master’s programmes each have their own distinct focus. Some put a stronger emphasis on the past, others on the present day, but all programmes address the renewed ‘visibility’ of religion in modern society.

The degree programme is characterized by an open and critical approach. You will be challenged to thematize the tension that exists in contemporary culture between science and religion and to reflect on its implications for yourself and others.

The Master’s in Theology and Religious Studies is designed to equip you with the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes needed to obtain your Master’s degree, after which you can:

a. continue to conduct academic research in the field of theology and religious studies under supervision, culminating in the timely conferral of a PhD
b. make your academic knowledge relevant in a job for which academic training is necessary or desirable and for which knowledge of theology and religious studies is essential or useful

The degree programme offers a scholarly foundation for jobs in the following professional areas:

a. academic research in the field of theology and religious studies
b. policy, culture, education and communications, e.g. with public bodies, companies, the media, cultural institutions, educational institutions, civil society organizations/NGOs and diplomatic service
c. care and welfare, e.g. as a spiritual carer in a care institution or as a consultant spiritual carer

5.1.2 LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAMME
On completion of the Master’s degree programme you will have attained the following learning outcomes with regard to knowledge, skills and attitude:

Knowledge
Graduates

- Possess specialist subject knowledge and methodological understanding at a level that enables them to develop further independently, in their chosen disciplinary specialization. They are able to conduct independent academic research.
Skills
Graduates
• Possess the technical and theoretical skills to gather, analyse and assess sources and literature in an independent and scholarly fashion, with the aim of creatively formulating and testing clear or explanatory working hypotheses and thereby to contribute to relevant social debates
• Are able to handle varied and difficult source material
• Are able to reflect at a scholarly level on religion in general and on the current situation of religious communities and individuals in their historical and contemporary social context
• Are able to form an independent, substantiated judgement in the field of theology and religious studies
• Are able to apply the knowledge they have acquired to complex theological and/or religious issues
• Are able to convey professional insights and the results of their own academic research and that of others orally and in writing to a wide audience of specialists and non-specialists, and to participate in social debate.

Academic attitude
Students
• Are willing and able to take account of historical, methodological, societal and ethical aspects when forming a scholarly judgement on and analysing complex issues in their own discipline

5.2 INTEGRATION OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH
The different Master’s programmes are closely integrated with the research conducted by the various departments within the Faculty. The programme in Origins of Abrahamic Religions benefits directly from the research carried out within the Jewish, Christian and Islamic Origins department. Both teaching and research focus on the formative stages of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and more specifically on their dynamic interrelationship in the context of ancient Near Eastern, Graeco-Roman and Late Antique Cultures. The programme also benefits from the research carried out at the Qumran Institute.

The MA programme in Religion, Conflict and Globalization benefits directly from the Department of Comparative and Historical Study of Religion. In this department, religion is addressed in all its forms and appearances. Combining historical, cultural and socio-scientific perspectives on religion as a human phenomenon, the research and teaching in this department provide a unique contribution to a sound analysis of the dynamics of globalization and religion in its societal context.

The programme in Religion and the Public Domain benefits directly from the Department of Christianity, Philosophy and Culture. Both teaching and research focus on concepts, ideas, practices and mentalities that are fundamental to an analysis of the public role of religion in our Western society. The department has particular strengths in the history of
ancient and modern philosophy, and in the cultural history of Christianity from the medieval period right through to the present.

This programme also benefits from an affiliation with two highly respected research centres – the Institute for Christian Cultural Heritage and the Centre for Religion, Conflict and the Public Domain.

The expertise of three Faculty departments is combined in the Master’s programme in Concealed Knowledge: Gnosticism, Esotericism and Mysticism. All course units are characterized by an approach that is well established in Groningen: an awareness of (a) the historical dimension that reaches back to Antiquity, (b) the fact that religion in the West is pluralistic (including Judaism, Christianity and Islam, but also pagan and other religious options) and (c) that the notion of ‘Western’ must be critically examined in terms of postcolonial debate and processes of globalization.

The Master’s programme in Spiritual Care relates to the teaching and research of the Department of Psychology of Religion and Spiritual Care.

5.3 PLACEMENTS
A placement (10 ECTS credit points) is part of all of the programmes offered in the one-year Master’s in Theology and Religious Studies. This practical experience will give you some idea of job market opportunities and will acquaint you with the kind of work or organization that best suits you. Placements are also a way of familiarizing companies and institutions with students in the Theology and Religious Studies programme, and therefore with the specific combination of knowledge and skills that these students have mastered. Placements also help you to build up a network in your chosen field and to pave the way for work following your education. This is why it is Faculty policy for you to find your own placement. You must bear in mind that it takes a good deal of time to find a placement position. It is therefore important to attend the information meetings about placements that are held right at the start of the year. Experience shows that more than 40 percent of students on placements are offered a job arising out of their placement.

Placements are also important for the Faculty as they provide an opportunity to test the degree programmes against the practices that students encounter after their studies. The Faculty can also use placements to demonstrate the relevance of its degree programmes. This is why the Faculty likes to organize the placements well and evaluate them. Placement supervision is in the hands of both a placement supervisor at the placement setting and a lecturer from your programme. As of September 2012, the formal organization (information, registration and evaluation) rests with the Placement Office of the Faculty of Arts (see www.rug.nl/let/stagebureau).

There are arrangements for fixed placement positions within the Spiritual Care programme. The formal organization occurs within the Department of Psychology of Religion and Spiritual Care.
5.4 Thesis Seminar
Thesis seminars are organized within each Master’s programme for students wishing to write their Master’s thesis. Although each programme may follow its own procedure, thesis seminar groups generally meet every two to three weeks from midway through the first semester.

During the seminar meetings, students will discuss and practise specific aspects of the writing, planning and research process involved in producing a thesis at Master’s level. Through peer review, each student will benefit from regular feedback. Apart from the seminar meetings, students will be offered a choice of methodology clinics to discuss and practise the use of specific methodologies such as interviewing, observation, discourse analysis and statistical analysis. Each student must attend two of these clinics. Part of the requirements is that students hand in a plan for their thesis and a first draft on predetermined dates.

Participation in the thesis seminar is compulsory for all students who intend to write their Master’s thesis.

5.5 Thesis Guidelines
Scope of the thesis
In order to pass the final assessment, you need to write a thesis within your specialization. The thesis activities amount to 20 ECTS credit points. If the work you do is worth more than 20 ECTS, this cannot be deducted from other parts of the Master’s programme (60 ECTS). The thesis should have a maximum length of about 30,000 words. It should be presented in 12-point font, with 1.5 line spacing and a left-hand margin of 4.5 cm excluding any appendices – in other words, parts which normally do not belong to the body of the thesis.

Forum Scriptorium
Forum Scriptorium is the name of the Nestor space where you can find all the information you need to start your thesis (e.g. thesis guidelines and contract). You will also find other relevant documents such as tips for the writing process, guidelines concerning plagiarism, etc.

Supervision and final responsibility
The main subject lecturer, who is also the first supervisor, bears the final responsibility for the production of the Master’s thesis. In consultation with the first supervisor, you also need to find a second supervisor with expertise in the thesis field or in a specific subfield. The second supervisor must hold a university lectureship, unless the Board of Examiners grants an exception at the student’s request. The extent to which the second supervisor is involved in supervision is determined in consultation between you, the supervisor and the second supervisor.
Thesis plan and supervision agreements
Before you begin work on your thesis, the thesis plan and supervision agreements need to be established. The procedure is as follows:

1. Familiarization stage
Before you actually make a start on your thesis work, you will need to have one or more familiarization sessions with your supervisor regarding the feasibility of your plans. You need to attach a short report on the session(s) to the thesis plan. The supervisor will determine the extent to which the literature – which you study specifically as part of this familiarization process – counts towards the 20 ECTS for the thesis.

2. Thesis plan*
The thesis plan needs to be approved by the supervisor and second reader. It should contain the following:
1. a description of the subject and a definition of the problem
2. an overall indication of the anticipated thesis result
3. a provisional chapter division
4. a schedule of the activities
5. as appendices:
   - a list of the literature consulted in the familiarization stage and to be used in writing the first draft
   - an overall list of the literature that will be used in the thesis

3. Supervision agreements*
Agreements are also made about supervision. These cover:
1. a deadline for completing the thesis
2. deadlines for the different parts/chapters
3. agreements about the frequency of the supervision meetings

The supervision agreements are made in consultation between the supervisor and yourself and are confirmed by means of a supervision agreement form*, which is signed by both parties. Any changes must also be approved in consultation. If either the lecturer or you yourself repeatedly fail to comply with the agreements, they may be annulled following consultation with the second supervisor and the study coordinator. There must be at least three meetings between you and your supervisor during the supervision period.

The originals of the thesis plan and the supervision agreement form will be held in your file at the Student Administration Office. You, the supervisor, the second supervisor and the study coordinator will all have copies. In the event of any major changes to the thesis plan and/or supervision agreements, these then have to be established once again by all the parties referred to above.

* Forms for setting out the thesis plan and supervision agreements in writing are available from the Student Administration Office or via the Nestor space Forum Scriptorium, under the heading 'Thesis Agreements'.

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Submitting the definitive version of the thesis
A printed copy of the final version of your thesis must be submitted to every member of the Board of Examiners and to the Faculty library.

A digital version of your thesis must be submitted via Forum Scriptorium in Nestor, under the heading 'Submit thesis', as well as to the Library (e-mail: bibliotheek.ggw@rug.nl).

Dispute mediation
If problems arise between the various parties during supervision, you can call in a mediator who is acceptable to both parties, in consultation with the study coordinator.

For disputes about marking, you can use the customary appeals procedure set out in Article 7.61 of the Higher Education and Research Act.

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria for Master's thesis

Learning outcomes
On completion of your Master's thesis (20 ECTS), you will be able to independently write an academic treatise based on a source study, empirical study and/or literature review and arising from a problem that you yourself have defined.

Assessment criteria
The thesis is assessed by means of an assessment form that covers the following criteria.

1. General
   - the thesis is written at a satisfactory critical and scholarly level

2. Content
   * Definition of problem:
     - the problem is clearly defined
     - the research area of the problem is clearly defined
     - satisfactory subquestions have been formulated
   * Imbedding in discipline:
     - the procedure is explicitly mentioned and is justified in methodological terms
     - where applicable, reference to theory and earlier research in the field
     - where applicable, demonstrable integration of empirical or source material and theoretical material
     - correct use of sources/literature/interviews/observations
   * Own input:
     - explanation of the terms used
     - development of the argument
     - relationship to the scholarly literature and discussion
     - there is creative/original input:
       - in the analysis of the candidate's own research material/corpus
- in the application of theoretical concepts to the candidate’s own research material/corpus

* Use of literature:
- the content of the literature is correctly represented
- the literature is relevant to the definition of the problem
- references/quotes/presentation of the bibliography are correct

3. Composition
* Master’s thesis as a whole:
- there is a good relationship between the definition of the problem, the central section and the final parts of the text
- there is a good/satisfactory division into chapters
- there is a satisfactory introduction, the conclusions tie in with the problem, the transitions, introduction and conclusions are appropriate within the text

* Chapter structure:
- introduction, transitions in sections/paragraphs, conclusion

4. Presentation
* Style:
- readability, conciseness, consistency
- satisfactory use of academic language

* Polishing:
- the thesis has an informative title
- the grammar and spelling are correct
- the text length is in keeping with the criteria for the thesis
- the layout is appropriate

5. Independence
- there is evidence that the candidate has worked independently
- there is evidence that the candidate has responded constructively to comments and feedback on full or partial drafts of the thesis

6. Planning
- agreements about submitting and discussing drafts have been met
- the thesis was completed within the planned time

7. Defence
- the thesis has been satisfactorily defended in a public session of the Board of Examiners

The mark for the thesis is determined following your defence of the thesis at a public session of the Board of Examiners.
5.6 Opportunities after your studies
Graduates possess the knowledge and skills for the academic professions or jobs for which the relevant Master’s programme equips them. Examples are secondary school teacher, spiritual carer, religious advisor or academic researcher. There are also other academic professions involving ongoing knowledge development, acquisition or processing, and a willingness to enter new and/or unexplored areas and to bear responsibility in areas relating to policy, culture, education and communications. Examples here are jobs with public bodies, companies, the media, cultural institutions, civil society organizations/NGOs and the diplomatic service.

Sections 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5 and 10.6 provide more specific information on opportunities after completing the respective Master’s programmes.
6. ORIGINS OF ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS: TEXTS AND CONTEXTS

6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
A Bachelor’s degree in Theology and Religious Studies will give you entry to the Master’s programme in Origins of Abrahamic Religions: Texts and Contexts. You can also be admitted with a university Bachelor’s degree in the Humanities, Arts, Philosophy or Social Sciences (Sociology, Cultural Anthropology, Psychology). If you apply for one of these programmes, however, you must write a letter outlining your reasons for wishing to take the programme and enclosing a curriculum vitae and a copy of your Bachelor’s degree results. More information on the admission procedure (including registration deadlines) can be found on the Faculty website: http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/maOpleidingen/MasterOAR/applicationandadmission.

If you have other qualifications, you will first have to take a bridging programme. You can obtain more information on this from the study advisors (studieadviseur.ggw@rug.nl).

6.2 PROGRAMME PROFILE
In contemporary discourse about religion, many people base their claims on particular perspectives on the origins and sacred texts of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. To be able to assess modern claims and views, a thorough grounding in these traditions and an understanding of their origins is necessary. As a contested concept, the term Abrahamic Religions challenges us to consider what is shared, different or contested between the various expressions of Jewish, Christian and Islamic traditions and the interactions between their adherents in different contexts in the ancient world. In this internationally unique degree programme you will learn about these pluriform traditions and contexts in their formative periods. Do the sacred texts of Jews, Christians and Muslims have common traditions, or do the differences outweigh the commonalities? Is their history one of peaceful interaction or one of conflict? From what historical and cultural contexts did their traditions emerge, how were their texts formed, and why does this matter? How were sacred texts produced and transmitted? How did they transform and survive in shifting historical and cultural contexts? You will gain in-depth knowledge of the separate traditions and communities, analyse these in a comparative framework and gain a new understanding of their origins and interaction.

6.3 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
In addition to general learning outcomes that you attain on completion of the Master’s programme in Theology and Religious Studies (see Section 5.1), you will also have achieved the following learning outcomes on completion of the Master’s programme in Origins of Abrahamic Religions: Texts and Contexts:
• Knowledge of and insight in the emergence of the so-called Abrahamic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam within their specific historical and cultural contexts;
• Knowledge of and insight in contemporary discourses that are related to the MA programme’s theme;
• Skills to analyse various historical sources (literary and documentary texts, iconography, epigraphy, archaeology) relevant to the origins of the so-called Abrahamic traditions;
• Skills to analyse from a multidisciplinary and comparative perspective what is shared, different or contested between these traditions.

6.4 THE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE
The Master’s programme in Origins of Abrahamic Religions: Texts and Contexts is composed as follows:

Master’s programme in Origins of Abrahamic Religions: Texts and Contexts

Year: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sem</th>
<th>Course unit name</th>
<th>Course unit code</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>*C/O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Revealed Knowledge: Sacred Texts in Judaism, Christianity and Islam</td>
<td>THMRKE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Ancient Mediterranean</td>
<td>THMJCE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Texts of Terror: Violence, Power and Politics</td>
<td>THMTTE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/II</td>
<td>Internship, Additional Course Unit or Academic Tutorial</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>C/O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/II</td>
<td>Master Thesis (incl. Thesis Seminar)</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*C = compulsory; O = optional

6.5 OPPORTUNITIES AFTER YOUR STUDIES
The historical perspective taken in this programme will enable you to gain an understanding of contemporary issues such as acculturation, the use of Jewish, Christian and Islamic traditions and their sacred texts in politics and society, and religious violence. The current debate often refers to perceived historical realities. An understanding of the historical context is essential when assessing such debates and thus contributes to a better understanding of sustainable society.

There are few trained academics in this field and there is a great need to address the issues above through teaching.

Consulting & Policy. You are able to provide well-founded advice on interreligious issues and multicultural society. You can use this expertise in an advisory position at cultural organizations, in companies or in the public sector. Your knowledge equips you for policymaking positions in this field.
**Media & Journalism.** The current debate often refers to perceived historical realities. Your expertise in the formative periods of Judaism, Christianity and Islam enables you to ask critical questions concerning modern-day claims about these religious traditions. You can use your knowledge and skills as an editor at a publishing company, broadcasting company, newspaper or news and current affairs magazine. You could also work as a freelancer.

**Education.** Once you have completed this Master's programme you will have enough knowledge of the subject to become a secondary school teacher in the subject of Religious Studies and Philosophy or Social Studies. You could also opt for a position in higher vocational education, for example teaching Theology at a university of applied sciences. As you also need didactic skills as a teacher, it is advisable to do a Master's in Education after you have completed your regular Master's programme.

**Academia.** If, during your studies, you come to the conclusion that you would like to stay in academia, you can choose to apply for a place in the Research Master's after your regular Master's programme. If you are admitted, you can complete this two-year programme in one year. The Research Master's is a good stepping stone towards a PhD position or a research post at a national or international knowledge institute. See also the website:

http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/maOpleidingen/MasterOAR/oar_graduate

**6.6 COORDINATOR**

Prof. M. Popovic ([m.popovic@rug.nl](mailto:m.popovic@rug.nl)) is the coordinator of the Master’s programme in Origins of Abrahamic Religions: Texts and Contexts.
7. RELIGION, CONFLICT AND GLOBALIZATION

7.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
A Bachelor’s degree in Theology and Religious Studies will give you entry to the Master’s programme in Religion, Conflict and Globalization. You can also be admitted with a university Bachelor’s degree in the Humanities, Arts, Philosophy or Social Sciences (Sociology, Cultural Anthropology, Psychology). If you apply for one of these programmes, however, you must write a letter outlining your reasons for wishing to take the programme and enclosing a curriculum vitae and a copy of your Bachelor’s degree results. More information on the admission procedure (including registration deadlines) can be found on the Faculty website:

If you have other qualifications, you will first have to take a bridging programme. You can obtain more information on this from the study advisors (studieadviseur.ggw@rug.nl).

7.2 PROGRAMME PROFILE
Why has religion become such an important issue in recent years? How does globalization affect local religious traditions? Why does religious fundamentalism seem to be on the increase? How do religious identities impact on the integration of newcomers? When does religion become violent and when can it contribute to peace-building?

In the Master’s programme in Religion, Conflict and Globalization you will study these and other issues in depth in three thematic courses, an internship or academic tutorial, and a year-long thesis seminar in which we address the pivotal role of religion in the present-day dynamics of globalization. You will study how increased flows of information and ideas, technologies, products and people around the globe affect religious views and practices.

In many of the world’s current conflicts religion is a key factor, but it is often understood poorly, whether as a cause for conflict, an excuse or a force for peace-building. Furthermore, religion and globalization interact in multiple ways. The impact of satellite TV on broadening people’s outlook cannot be overestimated. Access to new media reduces people’s dependency on local religious authorities and allows them to ‘shop around’ for religious views and practices. This results in the growth of transnational religious movements and the differentiation of religious authority. Religiosity takes on new forms through new and hybrid forms of consumerism that appear as a result of the spread of technologies and products all over the world. While conspicuous consumerism may meet with criticism on religious grounds in some instances, in other situations we see an increase in religious consumption, such as in religious tourism to sacred sites. Finally, globalization is characterized by an increased flow of people. Migration goes hand in hand with new senses of belonging and the symbols with which to express or contest them. Meanwhile, former colonial relationships continue to inform the accommodation of citizens of different religious backgrounds in national ideologies and structures.
Globalization, then, is a multifaceted and multidirectional phenomenon. Whatever form it may take, its effects are not uniform. While opening up new vistas, globalizing forces can also be destabilizing, creating opportunities for some but hampering others, and widening the gap between elites and disadvantaged groups in society. Religion often becomes a rallying point for protest or for acting on the individual and collective uncertainties that are thus produced.

### 7.3 Programme Objectives and Learning Outcomes
In addition to general learning outcomes that you attain on completion of the Master’s programme in Theology and Religious Studies (see Section 5.1), you will also have achieved the following learning outcomes on completion of the Master’s programme in Religion, Conflict and Globalization:

- Knowledge and understanding of the pivotal role of religion in the dynamics of globalization that shape present-day societies;
- Knowledge and understanding of the relationship between religion, conflict and peace-building;
- Insight into religion as a globalizing force;
- Skills in analysing political, social, psychological and cultural dimensions of the consequences of globalization for religious practices and identities;
- Skills in analysing religious movements and organizations as globalizing forces that provide meaning and identity;
- Skills to analyse the potential of religion to provide meaning and identity in a globalizing world.

### 7.4 The Programme at a Glance
The Master's programme in Religion, Conflict and Globalization is composed as follows:

**Master’s programme in Religion, Conflict and Globalization**

**Year: 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sem</th>
<th>Course unit name</th>
<th>Course unit code</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>*C/O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Global Dynamics and Local Religious Systems</td>
<td>THMGDE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Fundamentalism and Religious Violence</td>
<td>THMFRVE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Migration, Culture and Religious Identity</td>
<td>THMMCE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/II</td>
<td>Internship, Additional Course Unit or Academic Tutorial</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>C/O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/II</td>
<td>Master’s Thesis (incl. Thesis Seminar)</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.5 OPPORTUNITIES AFTER YOUR STUDIES
In this Master’s programme you will study the role of religion in current processes of globalization and localization. You will learn to analyse national and international conflicts and to show how they are interwoven with religious interests and opinions. You will also gain an understanding of the different ways in which both migrants and ‘stay-at-homes’ call on religion to establish a role for themselves in a fast-changing world.

You can make use of the knowledge and skills you acquire in this programme in different sectors.

Consulting & Policy. In a globalizing world, national and international conflicts are far-reaching. There is a need for experts who can explain and help solve these conflicts. With your degree, you can advise or write policy documents on different subjects, such as developmental assistance or multicultural society. You could work for the government, in business or at an NGO. More specifically, this could mean working for the think-tank of a political party, for the Netherlands Institute for Social Research or for the Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael.

Media & Journalism. Religion is in the news every day, often in a negative way, from terrorism to integration issues. With your expertise in the field of religion and conflict, you can intensify the debate in society and, where necessary, add some nuance to the picture. You can put your knowledge into practice as an editor at a publishing company, a broadcasting company, a newspaper or a current affairs magazine.

Education. You will have enough knowledge of the subject to teach Religious Studies and Philosophy or Social Studies in secondary education. You could also opt for a position in higher vocational education. As you also need didactic skills as a teacher, it is advisable to do a Master’s in Education after you have completed your regular Master’s programme.

Academia. If, during your studies, you reach the conclusion that you would like to stay in academia, you can choose to apply for a place in the Research Master’s after your regular Master’s programme. If you are admitted, you can complete this two-year programme in one year. The Research Master’s is a good stepping stone towards a PhD position or a research post at a national or international knowledge institute.

(\url{http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/maOpleidingen/MasterRCG/rcg_graduate})

7.6 COORDINATOR
Dr K.E. Knibbe (k.e.knibbe@rug.nl) is the coordinator of the Master’s programme in Religion, Conflict and Globalization.
8. RELIGION AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

8.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
A Bachelor’s degree in Theology and Religious Studies will give you entry to the Master’s programme in Religion and the Public Domain. You can also be admitted with a university Bachelor’s degree in the Humanities, Arts, Philosophy or Social Sciences (Sociology, Cultural Anthropology, Psychology). If you apply for one of these programmes, however, you must write a letter outlining your reasons for wishing to take the programme and enclosing a curriculum vitae and a copy of your Bachelor’s degree results. More information on the admission procedure (including registration deadlines) can be found on the Faculty website:
http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/maOpleidingen/MasterRAPD/applicationandadmissio
n.

If you have other qualifications, you will first have to take a bridging programme. You can obtain more information on this from the study advisors (studieadviseur.ggw@rug.nl).

8.2 PROGRAMME PROFILE
• ‘We live in a Christian world’
• ‘You can’t understand our culture and the way we live today without being conscious of our Christian heritage’
• ‘Religion is omnipresent in the public domain’
• ‘It is impossible to keep religion out of politics’

If you feel challenged by these statements, this Master’s programme is the ideal choice for you.

Religion, in particular Christianity, is present everywhere in Western culture. At first sight, this might seem an exaggeration – don’t we live in a secular age, with religion largely privatized? However, not only is religion manifest in traditional churches or in Christian rituals, but crucial ideas such as human rights, liberty and democracy have been stimulated and shaped by Christianity. Even the very concept of the secular stems from Christian theology. The claim that we live in a secular world is too unsophisticated to do justice to the relevance of our Christian heritage.

Through a unique combination of cultural-historical and philosophical-conceptual approaches, this Master’s programme will equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to analyse the pivotal role of religion in the Western world in the past and the present. You will become a highly employable specialist whose cultural competence is a valuable asset to a wide range of educational, scientific and political organizations.

8.3 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
In addition to general learning outcomes that you attain on completion of the Master’s programme in Theology and Religious Studies (see Section 5.1), you will also have achieved
the following learning outcomes on completion of the Master’s programme in Religion and the Public Domain:

- A critical awareness of the intricacies of the relationships between religion and culture in Western society;
- Skills in analysing the role of religion in contemporary society and culture and trace the historical backgrounds to contemporary constellations;
- More specifically, the above-mentioned critical awareness and analytical abilities are manifest with respect to the following areas: (1) the intersections of religion, politics and the public domain, (2) contemporary manifestations of the Christian cultural heritage (visual and material culture, ritual and practice), (3) the role of religion in the history of ideas and (4) the history of Christian spirituality;
- Knowledge of the conceptual frameworks to analyse debates on the role of religion in contemporary Western society and its history;
- Research skills and methodologies relevant to theorizing the role of religion in contemporary Western society and its history.

8.4 The programme at a glance
The Master's programme in Religion and the Public Domain is composed as follows:

Master’s programme in Religion and the Public Domain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year: 1</th>
<th>Course unit name</th>
<th>Course unit code</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
<th>*C/O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Theorizing Religion in the Public Domain</td>
<td>THMTRPDE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Christian Cultural Heritage 1</td>
<td>THMCCH1E5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Christian Cultural Heritage 2</td>
<td>THMCCH2E5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>The Invention of the Secular</td>
<td>THMISE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/II</td>
<td>Internship, Academic Tutorial or Additional Course Unit</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>C/O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/II</td>
<td>Master’s Thesis (incl. Thesis Seminar)</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*C = compulsory; O = optional
8.5 OPPORTUNITIES AFTER YOUR STUDIES
Once you have completed the MA programme in Religion and the Public Domain you will have a good understanding of the role of religion in Western societies. You will be able to analyse at an academic level the ways in which religion has shaped our contemporary society and to deal with tensions and opportunities that arise concerning the presence of religion in the public domain.

You can make use of the knowledge and skills that you acquire in this programme in different sectors.

**Consulting & Policy.** Your knowledge about the position of religion in the public domain will enable you to advise upon or write policy documents on a number of different subjects ranging from multicultural society to the conservation of religious heritage. You could find a job with central government but also at organizations and foundations in the cultural sector. This could, for example, be the Museum Catharijneconvent in Utrecht or the *Stichting Oude Groninger Kerken*.

**Media & Journalism.** A number of publishers have shown renewed interest in religion and society. With your knowledge and skills, you can make an expert contribution to publications in this field. You could also use your expertise as an editor at a broadcasting company, newspaper or current affairs magazine.

**Education.** Once you have completed this Master’s programme, you will have sufficient knowledge of the subject to be able to teach Religious Studies or Social Studies in secondary education. Alternatively, you could opt for a position in higher vocational education. As you also need didactic skills as a teacher or lecturer, it is advisable to do a Master’s in Education after you have completed your regular Master’s programme.

**Academia.** If, during your studies, you come to the conclusion that you would like to stay in academia, you can choose to apply for a place in the Research Master’s after your regular Master’s programme. If you are admitted, you can complete this two-year programme in one year. The Research Master’s is a good stepping stone towards a PhD position or a research post at a national or international knowledge institute. ([http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/maOpleidingen/MasterRAPD/rpd_graduate](http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/maOpleidingen/MasterRAPD/rpd_graduate))

8.6 COORDINATOR
Dr J.E.A. Kroesen ([j.e.a.kroesen@rug.nl](mailto:j.e.a.kroesen@rug.nl)) is the coordinator of the Master’s programme in Religion and the Public Domain.
9. CONCEALED KNOWLEDGE: GNOSTICISM, ESOTERICISM AND MYSTICISM

9.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
A Bachelor’s degree in Theology and Religious Studies will give you entry to the Master’s programme in Concealed Knowledge: Gnosticism, Esotericism and Mysticism. You can also be admitted with a university Bachelor’s degree in the Humanities, Arts, Philosophy or Social Sciences (Sociology, Cultural Anthropology, Psychology). If you apply for one of these programmes, however, you must write a letter outlining your reasons for wishing to take the programme and enclosing a curriculum vitae and a copy of your Bachelor’s degree results. More information on the admission procedure (including registration deadlines) can be found on the Faculty website: http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/maOpleidingen/MasterGEM/applicationandadmission. If you have other qualifications, you will first have to take a bridging programme. You can obtain more information on this from the study advisors (studieadviseur.ggw@rug.nl).

9.2 PROGRAMME PROFILE
Are you interested in the history of ‘alternative Christianities’? Or in the contribution of Islamic, Christian and Jewish mysticism to Western culture? Ever wondered how occultism and magic shaped modern science and psychology? Or whether New Age is indeed new? In the Master’s programme in Concealed Knowledge: Gnosticism, Esotericism and Mysticism you will find answers to questions such as these.

Recently, interest has been booming in topics related to the notions of Gnosticism, esotericism and mysticism, both in academic discussion and outside academia. The relevance of mystical and esoteric currents in the history of religion in Europe, as well as the impact of Hermetic and Gnostic spirituality, challenge monolithic narratives of European religious and cultural identities. The MA programme in Concealed Knowledge meets these challenges and offers a deeper analysis of the processes involved.

The course units offered in this trajectory will familiarize students with the most important discussions and historical developments that relate to Gnosticism, esotericism and mysticism. After a solid introduction to ancient esoteric and Gnostic discourse, students will become acquainted with mystical traditions and the influence of kabbalistic esotericism in Western culture from late antiquity through to the present. A third course unit focuses on the modern period and the processes of exchange between East and West that have shaped contemporary religious landscapes.

All course units are characterized by an approach that has a long and well-established tradition in Groningen. This is an awareness of (a) the historical dimension that reaches back to antiquity, (b) the fact that religion in the West is pluralistic (including Judaism, Christianity and Islam, but also pagan and other religious options) and (c) that the notion of ‘Western’ must be critically engaged in terms of postcolonial debate and processes of globalization.

The programme consists of three thematic courses, an internship or academic tutorial, and a year-long thesis seminar. The programme is international in scope and organized in close
collaboration with the Graduate Programme 'Gnosticism, Esotericism and Mysticism' at Rice University (Houston, USA).

9.3 Programme Objectives and Learning Outcomes
In addition to general learning outcomes that you attain on completion of the Master’s programme in Theology and Religious Studies (see Section 5.1), you will also have achieved the following learning outcomes on completion of the Master’s programme in Concealed Knowledge: Gnosticism, Esotericism and Mysticism:
• Knowledge of and insight in the influence of Gnostic, esoteric, and mystical discourses in Western history.
• Knowledge of and insight in the pluralistic nature of European culture.
• Skills to analyse historical sources and contemporary discourses that relate to the theme of the Master’s programme.
• Skills in interdisciplinary research and academic argumentation in written form.

9.4 The Programme at a Glance
The Master’s programme in Concealed Knowledge: Gnosticism, Esotericism and Mysticism is composed as follows:

Master’s programme in Concealed Knowledge: Gnosticism, Esotericism and Mysticism

| Year: 1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sem** | **Course unit name** | **Course unit code** | **ECTS** | **C/O** |
| I | Knowledge, Secrecy, and Revelation in Antiquity | THMKSRAE10 | 10 | C |
| I | Medieval Mysticism, Kabbalah and Contemporary Culture | THMMKCE10 | 10 | C |
| II | Modern Esotericism between East and West | THMMEWE10 | 10 | C |
| I/II | Internship, Academic Tutorial, or Additional Course Unit |  | 10 | C/O |
| I/II | Master’s Thesis (incl. Thesis Seminar) |  | 20 | C |

*C = compulsory; O = optional

9.5 Opportunities after Your Studies
The Master’s programme in Concealed Knowledge will deepen your knowledge of the history of the development of ‘alternative’ religious traditions. You will be aware of their impact on Western cultural history and your deep understanding will allow you to form an
opinion on and assess current developments in this field. You will have learned how to conduct independent research and to report upon this in an academically responsible fashion. You can make use of the knowledge and skills that you acquire in the programme in different sectors.

**Consulting & Policy.** You are specialized in the history and current manifestations of relatively unknown religious traditions. This makes you one of the few experts in this field. Your profile will suit a number of different positions ranging from cultural management to legal advice.

**Media & Journalism.** Throughout the West, mystical traditions are being rediscovered, not just as the subject of study but also as a source through which people can find meaning in life. Publishers and broadcasting companies are responding to this new interest. With your academic background you can make an expert contribution to articles, books and television programmes in this area.

**Education.** Once you have completed this Master’s programme, you will have sufficient knowledge of the subject to teach Religious Studies and Philosophy or Social Studies in secondary education. Alternatively, you could opt for a position in higher vocational education. As you also need didactic skills as a teacher, it is advisable to do a Master’s in Education after you have completed your regular Master’s programme.

**Academia.** If, during your studies, you come to the conclusion that you would like to stay in academia, you can choose to apply for a place in the Research Master’s after your regular Master’s programme. If you are admitted, you can complete this two-year programme in one year. The Research Master’s is a good stepping stone towards a PhD position or a research post at a national or international knowledge institute [http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/maOpleidingen/MasterGEM/ck_graduate](http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/maOpleidingen/MasterGEM/ck_graduate)

**9.6 Coordinator**

Prof. C.K.M. von Stuckrad ([c.k.m.von.stuckrad@rug.nl](mailto:c.k.m.von.stuckrad@rug.nl)) is the coordinator of the Master’s programme in Concealed Knowledge: Gnosticism, Esotericism and Mysticism.
10. RESEARCH MASTER THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES (120 ECTS)

10.1 OVERVIEW
The Research Master's programme takes two years (4 semesters) with a total study load of 120 EC. In order to achieve its aims, the main structure of the programme consists of three compulsory core modules and three research traineeships, which are exclusively reserved for the students of the programme, as well as three optional modules, a Master's thesis and a research proposal.

The programme has the following structure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Master's programme Religion and Culture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1st semester</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- core module 1 (10 EC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- core module 2 (10 EC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- optional module 1 (10 EC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- core module 3 (10 EC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students may spend a (part of a) semester (max. 30 EC) abroad either in the second or the third semester.

Students who have already completed a Master's programme or foreign equivalent may apply to the Research Master Religion and Culture on a one-year programme with exemptions. It has a study load of 70 EC and is structured as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st semester</th>
<th>2nd semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- core module 1 (10 EC)</td>
<td>- core module 3 (10 EC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- core module 2 (10 EC) or research traineeship (10 EC) or optional module (10 EC)</td>
<td>- thesis/research proposal (25 EC/5 EC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- research traineeship (10 EC)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who have enrolled in the Research Master's programme of 70 ECTS must take at least two core modules.

10.2 AIMS
The aim of the core modules is (1) to provide students with a general theoretical and methodological framework, as applied to the fields of theology and religious studies, (2) to bring students to a level of knowledge that will enable them to reflect on theories, methods
and techniques that are employed by the (sub-)disciplines and so (3) to achieve a deepened understanding of the terminology, perspectives and problems in their fields.

*The optional modules* are meant to equip students with in-depth knowledge in specialized subjects, where possible linked to one or more languages, together with subject-specific skills and methodological knowledge. Two of the optional modules are scheduled in the first semester in order to facilitate the choice of a subject in the research traineeship. In turn, the research traineeships are meant to underpin the choice of the subject of the thesis.

The *research traineeships* offer students the opportunity to become thoroughly acquainted with specialist literature, research methods, and current discussions within their fields of specialization. Traineeships are set up in close consultation with, and are supervised by the students’ *mentor*. On approval of the Graduate School, a traineeship may (in part) be taken abroad, preferably at renowned foreign universities, colleges or schools.

*The thesis* (25 EC) must provide substantial evidence of the students’ research skills by displaying their abilities to identify and define academic problems, by reflecting their skills in using specialist literature and by situating their subjects within the existing academic discussions of theology and religious studies. Moreover, students must display their abilities in developing effective methods to solve problems, to put these methods into practice, and to report clearly and adequately on the results of their research.

All students are required to write a *research proposal* (5 EC) for a PhD project on the basis of, and thus after completing their thesis. The proposal must be added as an appendix to the thesis and will be subject of the final examination as well. On approval of the Graduate School, a research proposal may be written at an earlier stage in the programme on the condition that this should enable the student to meet the application requirements of a PhD position.

The placing of core modules in the first year offers the student the possibility to be introduced in the various disciplines of the faculty and to get knowledge about the general theoretical and methodological questions. Students choose the subject of their thesis *at the latest* at the end of the third semester. In this final phase, all the skills and knowledge they have acquired, will be combined and exhibited in their theses.

**10.3 Description of Study Parts**

A. Three compulsory core modules of 10 EC each:
   1. ‘Theories of Religion and Culture’
   2. ‘Religion, Ethics and Pluralism’
   3. ‘Orient and Occident: Critical Investigations and Historical Perspectives’

B. Three optional modules
   These courses may be taken from the regular MA programmes offered by the Faculty as specified in the table below, or by another (Dutch or foreign) Research Master’s
programme. Optional modules should contribute demonstrably to the aim of the student's personal programme. When taking courses of regular MA programmes, Research Master students will be required to study more literature, to write papers that are both more complex and in English, and to pass wider ranging examinations.

**Staff**

Academic Staff of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies and its research centre, the *Centre for Religious Studies* (CRS), is involved in the programme as teachers, mentors, supervisors and as scholars. Each member of staff participates in one of the three research groups of the CRS:

*Jewish, Christian and Islamic Origins*

*Comparative and Historical Study of Religion*

*History of Christianity and Philosophy*

**Research Master Theology and Religious Studies (Religion and Culture)**

The programme of the Research Master is planned as follows:

**Compulsory modules**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>sem</th>
<th>course title</th>
<th>course code</th>
<th>EC</th>
<th>CO/O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Theories of Religion and Culture</td>
<td>THRMTRCE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Religion, Ethics and Pluralism</td>
<td>THRMREPE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Optional Module</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Orient and Occident: Critical Investigations and Historical Perspectives</td>
<td>THRMOOE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Research Traineeship 1</td>
<td>THTMRT1E10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Optional Module</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Year: 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sem</th>
<th>course title</th>
<th>course code</th>
<th>EC</th>
<th>CO/O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Optional Module</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Research Traineeship 2</td>
<td>THTMRT2E10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Research Traineeship 3</td>
<td>THTMRT3E10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Thesis / Research Proposal</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>CO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optional modules

Year: 1,2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sem</th>
<th>course title</th>
<th>course code</th>
<th>EC</th>
<th>CO/O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Revealed Knowledge: Sacred Texts in Judaism, Christianity and Islam</td>
<td>THMRKE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Ancient Mediterranean</td>
<td>THMJCME10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Fundamentalism and Religious Violence</td>
<td>THMFRVE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Global Dynamics and Local Religious Systems</td>
<td>THMGDE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Theorizing Religion in the Public Domain</td>
<td>THMTRPDE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Christian Cultural Heritage 1</td>
<td>THMCCH1E5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Knowledge, Secrecy, and Revelation in Antiquity</td>
<td>THMKSRAE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Medieval Mysticism, Kabbalah, and Contemporary Culture</td>
<td>THMKCCE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Texts of Terror: Violence, Power and Politics</td>
<td>THMTTE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Migration, Culture, and Religious Identity</td>
<td>THMMCE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Christian Cultural Heritage 2</td>
<td>THMCCH2E5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>The Invention of the Secular</td>
<td>THMISE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Modern Esotericism between East and West</td>
<td>THMEEWE10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10.4 Traineeship

Like the core modules, the traineeships are exclusively reserved for students of the Research Master. Tailor-made, they are meant to offer not only the opportunity to become thoroughly acquainted with specialist literature, research methods, and current discussions in their field of specialization, but also to train discipline-specific methods and techniques or language skills. The research traineeships also enable them to make a well-informed and firm choice of the subject of their Master theses.
Before the start of the traineeship, students must draw up a plan of action in consultation with their mentor. The plan should state clearly at least the following:

- what research and training activities are going to undertaken, in cooperation with whom, and for how many credits (EC);
- how and where the research and training will be carried out (supervisor(s), location(s) etc.);
- the aim (why) of the activities (importance, relevance for the training of the student at that particular stage of the programme);
- an estimate of the costs, if any, involved.

The plan should be handed in to the Graduate School Office (Mrs. De Boer) at least two weeks before the start of the traineeship. The research activities should be tailor made to the academic interests and specialization of the student. They may range from writing a publishable book review article, annotated bibliography, article or essay, doing a literature or archive search, making a field trip, interviewing and transcribing interviews, participating in and giving a paper or poster presentation at an (inter)national conference, seminar or workshop, to participating in a summer school and taking a language course. The traineeship as a whole must be graded on the basis of the student’s written work and the acquired certificates. Students conclude it by writing a report in which they make a self-evaluation of the learning outcomes against the background of their plan of action.

10.5 Supervision

The programme is taught by professors with proven experience in supervising young researchers and belonging to a research school. At enrollment, students are assigned a mentor or supervisor in close consultation with whom they draw up a detailed personal study plan. The mentor is a professor or senior staff member who is an expert in the student’s intended field of specialization. He or she acts as coach and supervisor throughout the programme. The plan should specify the core modules the student is planning to take in keeping with his or her interests and preferred field of specialization. The plan has to be approved by the Director of the Graduate School.

During the traineeships, students participate in the ongoing research activities of their mentor or supervisor and/or of scholars affiliated to the Centre for Religious Studies. These activities should culminate in paper presentations in English of rising degrees of complexity and sophistication.

10.6 Thesis and Research Proposal

To obtain their Research Master’s degree students have to write a thesis and draw up a research proposal. The thesis is worth 25 EC, the proposal 5 EC. If work on the thesis and the research proposal will take more than 30 EC, the extra work cannot be compensated by reducing any of the other components of the programme which is worth a total of 120 EC.
10.6.1 Research Master’s Thesis

Size

The number of pages of the thesis should be at least 50 with a maximum of 65 (i.e. approx. 30,000 words; font size 12; line spacing 1.5; left margin at 4.5 cm), not including the bibliography, appendices and other materials that usually do not form part of the main body of the thesis.

Supervision and final responsibility

The member of staff who teaches the main subject is the supervisor for the Master’s thesis. In case of the Research Master, this is normally the mentor. In consultation with the mentor, the student must find a co-reader. The co-reader must be a specialist in the subject of the thesis or in a related area, and must be a university lecturer. Exceptions may be made, subject to the approval of the Board of Examiners. In case of problem with the supervision, students are advised to consult the study coordinator. In the event of disputes relating to marks, students can appeal under Article 7.61 of the Higher Education & Research Act (WHW).

Thesis proposal and supervision arrangements

The supervision arrangements and the thesis proposal are agreed before the student starts work on the thesis. The procedure is as follows:

1. Orientation phase
Before work on the thesis begins, students consult their mentor the feasibility of their thesis plans. The mentor decides how many credits should be spent on preparatory reading. Students then draw up a thesis proposal, which will enable them to plan and to manage the process of writing the thesis. The proposal also allows adequate monitoring of the process by the mentor and the co-reader.

2. Thesis proposal*
The thesis proposal must be approved by the supervisor and co-reader, and must include the following:
1. A description of the subject and the problem definition
2. A general indication of the expected findings
3. Provisional chapter headings
4. Work schedule (including a time-table)
5. Supervision (mentor, co-reader and frequency/schedule of meetings with them)

As appendices:
- list of works to be consulted for the preliminary study
- general list of works to be consulted for the thesis.

3. Supervision arrangements*
In line with the thesis proposal, a number of items regarding the supervision should be specified in the supervision arrangements:
1. a proposed submission date for the thesis
2. provisional completion dates for chapters of the thesis
3. frequency of supervision meetings (with or without the co-reader)
These arrangements will be made in mutual consultation between the mentor, co-reader and the student and laid down in the supervision arrangements form*, which must be signed by the parties involved. Any changes to the document will also be subject to mutual consultation.

The original thesis proposal and the supervision arrangements form will be kept in the student’s file at the Student Administration Office. The student, mentor, co-reader and study coordinator will all have a copy of the file. Major changes in the thesis proposal or supervision schedule must be agreed by all parties mentioned above.

* The forms for the thesis proposal and supervision arrangements are available from the Graduate School Office or from the Forum Scriptorium Nestor space under ‘Thesis arrangements’ (Scriptieafspraken).

**Assessment criteria for the Master’s thesis**
The Master’s thesis will be assessed in terms of the following criteria:

1. **General**
   - The thesis achieves the required standard of academic criticism

2. **Content**
   * **Problem definition:**
     - The problem is clearly defined
     - The problem definition sharply defines the research field
     - Adequate subquestions are defined
     - Embedding in the field:
       - The methodology and approach are clearly explained
       - If relevant: Reference to theory and previous research in the field of the problem under discussion
       - If relevant: The thesis demonstrates an integral interpretation of empirical findings, source material and theory
       - Correct use of and reference to sources/literature/interviews/observations

   * **Own contribution:**
     - Explanation of the concepts used
     - Argumentation structure
     - Positioning in relation to the academic literature and discussion used
     - There is a creative/original contribution regarding:
       - The analysis of the own research material/corpus
       - The application of the theoretical concepts to the own research material/corpus

   * **Use of literature:**
     - The content of the literature used is reflected correctly
     - The literature used is relevant to the problem under discussion
- References to literature/quotations/bibliographical sources are used correctly

3. Composition
* Entire Master’s thesis:
  - There is a good balance between the problem definition, the middle and final part of the text
  - There is a good/adequate division into chapters
  - There is an adequate introduction/the conclusions dovetail with the problem definition/transitions, introductions and conclusions fit into the text

* Chapter structure:
  - Introduction, transitions between sections/paragraphs, conclusion

4. Presentation
* Style:
  - Lively, concise, consistent
  - Adequate academic language use

* Finishing touch:
  - The Master’s thesis has an informative title
  - The grammar and spelling of the text are correct
  - The length of the text is adequate
  - The layout is well presented

5. Independence
- The student is able to work independently
- The student is able to deal constructively with comments on drafts

6. Planning
- Draft sections were submitted and discussed within the agreed periods
- The thesis was completed within the prescribed period

7. Defence
- The thesis was adequately defended at a public hearing of the Board of Examiners

The mark for the thesis will be determined after the thesis is defended at a public hearing of the Board of Examiners.

**Handing in the definitive version of a thesis**
A printed copy of the definitive version must be handed in to each member of the Board of Examiners and to the Faculty Library.
A digital version of the thesis must be handed in via the Forum Scriptorium Nestor space under the ‘Hand in thesis’ (‘Inleveren scriptie’) button and must be sent to the Library (e-mail: bibliotheek.ggw@rug.nl).
10.6.2 Research Proposal

The research proposal (5 EC) should be no longer than 6 pages (c. 3000 words, appendices excluded). The aim of writing the proposal is to enable the student to design and elaborate a plan for independently carrying out a (supervised) research project, whether in the PhD programme of the Graduate School or elsewhere. A good proposal will significantly further a student’s chances of admission to a PhD programme, the requirements for which are usually quite severe.

The proposal should be drawn up under supervision of the mentor. As a proposal will be the more advanced the more it builds on an already advanced thesis, work on the proposal should be concentrated in the last stages of the thesis. It should be submitted to the Board of Examiners together with the thesis. The research proposal can be discussed at the public hearing of the Board of Examiners at the same time as the thesis.

A research proposal should address the following issues:
1. a brief description of the project (main research question, aims and motivation);
2. an indication of the position of the project within the (sub-)discipline (can new insights be expected?);
3. a brief description of the relevant literature (a maximum of one extra page of bibliography may be added);
4. the proposed (methodological) approach;
5. the proposed timetable for the proposed research project and/or the writing of the PhD thesis (c. 150-200 pages, to be completed within four years);
6. a budget estimate of expenses that should be expected to exceed the usual (reimbursable) costs of travel, conference visits etc. (for example, microfilms, extended stay abroad, etc.);
7. a clear indication of the supervision that would be desirable, particularly the required field(s) of expertise.

10.7 Coordinator

The Research Master Theology and Religious Studies (Religion and Culture) is offered by the Faculty's Graduate School Theology and Religious Studies. The Graduate School offers also a four year PhD training and research programme. Director of the Graduate School is prof. J.T.A.G.M. van Ruiten (j.t.a.g.m.van.ruiten@rug.nl).
11. ORGANIZATION OF THE FACULTY

11.1 Faculty Board
The Faculty is governed by the Faculty Board. The Faculty Board bears the final responsibility for everything that takes place within the Faculty. In concrete terms, this means that the Faculty Board is responsible for the management and administration of the Faculty, and for supervising the quality of the teaching and research. It also draws up the budgets and allocates staff.

The Faculty Board has three members who are appointed by the Board of the University, each with a specific area of responsibility (research, education and resources). In addition, a student member is appointed to the Faculty Board in an advisory capacity. The student is appointed for one year by the Faculty Board on the recommendation of the student members of the Faculty Council.

The Board meets once a week. These meetings are not public. For a list of members, see Section 9.5 or the Faculty website.

11.2 Faculty Council
The Faculty Board discusses policy with the Faculty Council. The Faculty Council issues advice in matters concerning teaching and research as well as the Faculty budget. The Board must have the approval of the Council in the following two situations:
- when amending Faculty regulations
- when amending the Teaching and Examination Regulations.

The views of the Council carry significant weight with the Faculty Board because they are an indication of whether there is a support base for potential decisions.

The Faculty Council consists of 10 members, 5 elected by and from the staff (with a two-year term) and 5 elected by and from the student body (with a one-year term). The student members of the Faculty Council represent the interests of students at the Faculty and are a point of contact when complaints arise among the student population.

The chair of the Faculty Council is one of the staff members, the vice chair is always a student member. The elections for the Faculty Council are organized in accordance with the Electoral Regulations of the University. All students and staff have passive and active voting rights. The members of the Faculty Board are not permitted to be members of the Faculty Council. The term for the members begins on 1 September of the year in which the elections for the section in question have taken place. The Faculty website lists the members of the Faculty Council. For information about the contact person, contact W.C. van de Pol, tel. (050) 363 5591, e-mail: W.C.van.de.Pol@rug.nl.

Meetings of the Faculty Council are public, so you can attend if you wish. The student members of the Faculty Council, Faculty Board and programme committees also hold a General Student Platform a couple of times per year. All students are welcome to attend.
11.3 Programme Director and Research Director  
The Programme Director is responsible for the scheduling and implementation of the teaching in the degree programmes. The research director is responsible for drawing up the research programme. However, the final responsibility rests with the Faculty Board. The programme director is advised by the programme committees. The research director is advised by the Centre for Religious Studies (CRS). Because the Faculty is small, the positions of programme director and Faculty Board Member for Education are combined. This also applies to the positions of research director and Faculty Board Member for Research.

11.4 Sub-departments  
The programme director is responsible for the practical implementation of teaching programmes. The principal task of the programme director is to ensure effective coordination between course units and optimum implementation of the teaching programme. Sub-departments are responsible for what is actually taught in a course unit. A sub-department is a unit that brings together colleagues working within the same subject area and is headed by a professor. The Faculty has six sub-departments. The sub-departments work together in three umbrella departments:

- Jewish, Christian and Islamic Origins
- Comparative and Historical Study of Religion
- Christianity, Philosophy and Culture

11.5 Graduate School of Theology and Religious Studies  
The Graduate School of Theology and Religious Studies brings together Research Master’s students, PhD students and researchers in their field of interest. The Graduate School coordinates the Research Master’s degree in Theology and Religious Studies (Religion and Culture) and the PhD programme in Theology and Religious Studies, thereby coordinating the transition from one to the other. The director of the Graduate School is Prof. J.T.A.G.M. van Ruiten, who is responsible on the Faculty Board’s behalf for the teaching and supervision of Research Master’s students and PhD students.

11.6 Programme Committees  
Programme Committees are important advisory bodies for the teaching. By law, each degree programme is required to have its own Programme Committee. The Programme Committees for the Bachelor’s and Master’s degree programmes in Theology are clustered. That also applies to the Programme Committee for the Bachelor’s and Master’s degree programmes in Religious Studies. The Faculty Board has appointed a separate Programme Committee for Spiritual Care. There is also a Programme Committee for the degree programmes run by the Graduate School (Research Master’s degree and PhD).
The task of the Programme Committees is to advise the Faculty Board and programme director, on request or on their own initiative, about the Teaching & Examination Regulations, the teaching programme, quality assurance and course unit evaluations. The subject, semester and curriculum evaluations are conducted by means of a standard questionnaire. The results of the evaluations are public, with the exception of personal comments, and are discussed by the Programme Committees. If problems are signalled, the Programme Committee will inform the programme director, who will then undertake the necessary action to resolve them.

Half of the members of each Programme Committee are students and half are staff. The student members are appointed every two years on the recommendation of the student members of the relevant Programme Committee. For this purpose, the committee organizes open recruitment via the vacancy site on Nestor. All student members of the Programme Committees can attend annual training courses, for example in meeting techniques.

Further information about the composition of the Programme Committees can be found on Nestor.

11.7 Board of Examiners

In accordance with Article 7.12 of the WHW, the Faculty Board has appointed a Board of Examiners for the purpose of organizing and coordinating examinations for the Faculty's degree programmes. The Board of Examiners is the body that determines, in an objective and expert manner, whether a student meets the requirements specified in the Teaching & Examination Regulations with regard to the knowledge, understanding and skills that are required to obtain a degree. The members of the Board of Examiners are appointed from the members of staff responsible for providing the teaching in the relevant degree programme(s). The study advisor is appointed to the Board of Examiners in an advisory capacity.

The duties of the Board of Examiners are as follows:

• to assure the quality of examinations and final examinations
• to hold the examinations
• to organize and coordinate the examinations
• to ensure that examinations proceed satisfactorily
• to approve optional course unit choices (Art. 7.3.c) within existing degree programmes.

The ‘organization and coordination of examinations’ mainly involves the following:

• appointing the examiners who will take the examinations
• drawing up regulations concerning ‘the proper procedure during examinations and the measures to be taken accordingly’
• issuing ‘guidelines and instructions’ to examiners concerning ‘the assessment of the student taking the examination and the determination of the examination result’.

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The Board of Examiners:
• checks examination-subject forms to ensure that examination requirements have been met
• is authorized to form judgements regarding students who are suspected of cheating
• is authorized to extend the validity of examinations
• has the right, in special cases, to hold examinations in a manner other than that specified by the board of the institution
• assesses whether there is a case of clear force majeure when students request dispensation (the following, for example, constitute clear force majeure: illness – for which a doctor’s certificate is required – or the serious illness or death of a close relative). The Board of Examiners assesses such circumstances and allows exceptions to the rules
• can determine whether exemption can be granted for certain course units on the basis of examinations or final examinations already taken in higher education, or for knowledge and skills acquired outside the context of higher education
• deals with requests for approval of combinations of minor subjects

The Board of Examiners usually meets during the first week of each month, except in the month of August, when the meeting is held in the third week. Letters received before the first day of the month are dealt with during the next meeting. Contact: examencommissie.ggw@rug.nl.

The Board of Examiners deals only with electronic mail sent to the above address. Enclosures/attachments such as copies of diplomas, exam slips, lists of marks etc., should preferably be scanned and submitted electronically with the request. Alternatively, hard copies of enclosures can be handed in to the administration office. Attachments should also be submitted before the first day of the month in which the correspondent wishes the request to be dealt with. The person submitting the request will be informed of the Board of Examiners’ decision within four weeks.

11.8 ACADEMIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE / CENTRE FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES (CRS)
The Academic Research Committee / CRS advises, on its own initiative or on request, on the following:
• the development, coordination and prioritization of research to be carried out at the Faculty
• the progress of the research.

The board of the CRS advises the Faculty Board on all matters relating to Faculty research, such as the appointment of PhD students and postdocs, the organization of seminars and conferences, the financing of visits to conferences and other foreign trips, international contacts at Faculty level and the Faculty-wide research colloquium. In addition, every year the CRS lists and evaluates the research activities of the three departments, particularly their research output (books, articles, dissertations, etc.). The results are discussed during the annual CRS research day.
The CRS board comprises the research director, the chairs of departments and research groups, the director of the Graduate School of Theology and Religious Studies, and a PhD student (advisory member).

Director: Prof. G.H. van Kooten
Secretariat: Ms W.C. van de Pol
Tel. 050-363 5591
E-mail: CRS@rug.nl

11.9 Other Faculty Committees

Introduction Committee
The Introduction Committee organizes the introductory period at the beginning of the propaedeutic phase.

BSA Committee
The Committee monitors the progress of students, particularly during the first two years. At the end of the first and second years, after consulting the first-year lecturers, the Committee issues a BSA to first-year and second-year students.

Library Committee
The Library Committee is responsible for maintaining the academic standard of the library. It formulates guidelines for the acquisition of books and periodicals, is involved in spatial issues arising in the library, and investigates whether the collection needs to be reviewed.

Admissions Boards for Master’s degree programmes
Separate Admissions Boards have been appointed for the individual Master’s degree programmes. The boards determine whether students fulfil the entry requirements.

IT Committee
The IT Committee draws up rules for the use of computers by students in the central computer room. The committee also makes suggestions regarding the purchase of computers and software.

Committee for Women’s Studies
The Committee for Women’s Studies promotes teaching and research in the field of Gender Studies/Women’s Studies. It advises the programme committees and the Board on these matters. The committee also organizes an annual study day on religion and gender.
11.10 Faculty society: Gerardus van der Leeuw
The Gerardus van der Leeuw faculty society was established in April 2003. It organizes activities for the first-year introduction programme, Faculty parties, drinks parties, a sailing weekend, a football camp, and more. These activities are designed to bring students together and add a social dimension to studying. The faculty society also organizes study-related activities such as symposia, excursions, lectures and debates. The Faculty society has a number of committees to organize all these activities. There is an editorial committee for the Faculty paper ‘Dei facto’, a social events committee, an introduction committee, an almanac committee, a symposium committee and a film committee. There are plenty of opportunities for students who want to take on an active role in faculty life. New ideas and initiatives are always welcome!
Contact: gerardusvanderleeuw@gmail.com

11.11 Debating societies
The faculty has three debating societies: S.T.A.O. Alektoor, Bonifatius and M.A.T.A. Debating societies (disputen) promote philosophical discussions on a particular theme, or in the spirit of a renowned and respected person. Each debating society has its own characteristics. One of the main aims is to promote contact between new and more senior students. Any student of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies can join a debating society. The societies also have many graduate members (alumni). Debates are held in the evenings, approximately once every three weeks. The meeting usually involves a debate on a chosen theme. For further information, see: http://www.rug.nl/ggw/informatievoor/studenten/verenigingen.

11.12 Panthegron Alumni Society
The society for alumni of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies was established on 3 March 1998. The purpose of the society is to facilitate contact between alumni, and between alumni and the Faculty. Graduates of the Faculty automatically become members of Panthegron. Alumni receive invitations to various Faculty activities and, of course, for events organized by Panthegron. The Faculty also issues a Newsletter to keep alumni up to date with the latest news.

11.13 Faculty Prizes
Prof. H.G. Hubbeling Prize
The Prof. H.G. Hubbeling Prize was introduced by the Faculty in 1994 to promote academic research and knowledge transfer by graduates in theology and religious studies. The Hubbeling Fund, which is managed by the family of the late Prof. H.G. Hubbeling, donates the sum of € 500 for the prize. H.G. Hubbeling was Professor of the Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Ethics at the Faculty from 1967 to 1986.
The prize is awarded once every three years to a graduate of the Faculty who has written a thesis that has been given a grade higher than 8. The winners are selected by a 3-member jury of staff and emeriti, appointed by the Faculty Board.

The Hubbeling Prize has been awarded to the following people:
1994 – Ms G.J.C. Labuschagne
1997 – J. Dijkema
2000 – Dr J.K. Muthert
2003 – Ms M. Crajé
2006 – Dr M.E. Knibbe
2009 – Ms B.E.A.L. van der Lans M.A.

Mallinckrodt Prize
The Mallinckrodt Prize was introduced in 1925 by the family of the late Professor W. Mallinckrodt, who was a Church-appointed professor at the University of Groningen. The prize is awarded once every ten years for the most original theological thesis written and defended by a PhD student of a state university in the Netherlands. The Professors of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at Groningen select the thesis to submit. The Mallinckrodt Prize has been awarded to the following people:
1935 – Dr K.H. Miskotte, Haarlem
1945 – Dr W.C. van Unnik, Schiedam
1955 – Dr D.J. Hoens, Utrecht
1965 – Dr G.H.M. Posthumus Meyes, Ndoungue (Cameroon)
1975 – Dr H.W. de Knijff, Utrecht
1985 – Dr L.J. van der Brom, Soest
1995 – Dr E. Talstra, Amsterdam
2005 – Dr G.F. Jensma, Sauwerd
12. WHO, WHAT, WHERE

12.1 ADDRESS DETAILS: FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies
Oude Boteringestraat 38
9712 GK Groningen, The Netherlands
Telephone: 050-363 8017
Fax: 050-363 6200
E-mail: faculteit.ggw@rug.nl
Website: http://www.rug.nl/ggw

12.2 FACULTY BUILDING OPENING HOURS
During teaching weeks:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Thursday 8.30 a.m. – 9.00 p.m.
During non-teaching weeks:
Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

12.3 STUDY ADVISORS AND STUDENT ADMINISTRATION
The study advisors give information and advice about study planning and guidance,
registration regulations and more personal matters.
If you have questions for the study advisors, visit this site first:
http://www.rug.nl/ggw/informatieVoor/studenten/HoeZitHet

Ms T.M.L. de Boer.
☎ 050-363 5581
E-mail: T.M.L.de.Boer@rug.nl
Room 28
Office hours by appointment.

Ms V.M. Haverlach
☎ 050-363 9382
E-mail: V.M.Haverlach@rug.nl
Room 28
Office hours by appointment.

Student Administration Office
Room 004
☎ 050-363 5568
E-mail: onderwijs.ggw@rug.nl
Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon (closed on Mondays)
12.4 Nestor and the Teaching and Examination Timetable
For questions about Nestor or the teaching and examination timetable, please contact Mr H.T. van Putten
Room 36
☎ 050-363 4589
E-mail: H.T.van.Putten@rug.nl

12.5 Faculty Board
Prof. G.H. van Kooten, Dean and Faculty Board Member for Research (also Research Director)
Room T 74
☎ 050-363 5584
E-mail: G.H.van.Kooten@rug.nl

Prof. M.P.A. de Baar, Vice Dean and Faculty Board Member for Education (also programme director)
Room 108
☎ 050-363 4590
E-mail: Mirjam.de.Baar@rug.nl

W. Heinen, Faculty Board Treasurer
Room 008
☎ 050-363 5588
E-mail: W.Heinen@rug.nl

In addition, a student member is appointed to the Faculty Board in an advisory capacity.

12.6 Library
There is a library in the faculty building for the faculty’s teaching and research. The collection is part of the Theology/Philosophy Library which in turn is part of the University Library. The faculty library comprises approximately 56,000 volumes. These are reference works (encyclopaedias, bibliographies, commentaries, concordances, dictionaries – including theological dictionaries), monographs, articles and CD-ROMs. In addition, the library has more than 300 subscriptions to periodicals and series. The collection can be accessed from the University’s online catalogue. You can also search databases of bibliographical information and journals via the computers in the library. These databases are accessible worldwide via the ProxyServer to students and staff of the University; simply enter your student account details to log in. A valid student card is required to borrow books. Students can also use other University libraries and the collection of the Protestant Theological University (PThU) in Groningen.

The library also has two large slide collections with related photographic documentation. These collections consist of slides and photographs of image material relating to a large number of religions, and slides and photographs relating to ecclesiastical architecture and
art. The latter collection has now been digitized, see [http://www.kerkeninbeeld.nl/](http://www.kerkeninbeeld.nl/). The library also houses the Wijchers Collection, a loaned collection of 15,000 volumes comprising religious songbooks from many countries, dating from the 17th to 20th centuries.

Workplaces are provided for consulting items that cannot be borrowed (e.g. reference works and valuable items) and/or for quiet study.

For further information, visit [http://www.rug.nl/bibliotheek/locaties/bibtheol/index](http://www.rug.nl/bibliotheek/locaties/bibtheol/index). The library is open Monday to Friday, from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Opening hours are limited during vacation periods (Christmas/New Year, Summer).

**12.7 IT**
Computers play an important and self-evident part in the degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies. You are therefore expected to have mastered basic IT skills before starting your degree programme.

*Computer account and e-mail address*
When you begin your degree programme, you will be given a computer account and e-mail address so that you can use a number of the University’s computer programs. Your account will give you access to several university computer programs and to the University of Groningen student network.

You will receive the university computer account from the Central Student Administration (CSA) with the confirmation of your registration or re-registration at the University of Groningen. The account consists of a user name (s + student number) and a password that you will need to change a couple of times each year. The account and e-mail address will remain valid for the duration of your degree programme.

The university e-mail address issued by the University of Groningen is the address that the Faculty uses to send out information to students. Nestor and ProgRESS-WWW also use this address. It is therefore important that you check your e-mail regularly. The University has its own webmail client for e-mail. This e-mail program, CommuniGate Pro, can be accessed via the internet address: [https://webmail.rug.nl](https://webmail.rug.nl). In this case too, you use your university computer account to log in. It is also possible to have your e-mail forwarded to another e-mail account. You can change the settings yourself in CommuniGate Pro.

*Computer facilities and wireless network*
In Room S34 at the Faculty there are several computers available for use during opening hours (8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and also to 9.00 p.m. on Thursdays during teaching weeks). The University Library also has computer facilities for students. For problems relating to computer use, you can contact the IT Service Desk on the first floor of the Harmoniegebouw (Oude Kijk in ’t Jatstraat 26, Faculty of Arts). If you have forgotten your password, you will need proof of identity in addition to your student card.
Students, staff and guests of the University of Groningen have wireless internet access via their personal laptops. Wireless access is possible in public areas in the University buildings, and throughout the Faculty. The following are required: a laptop with a wireless network card, software and a staff/student number. For more information and the software, go to http://www.rug.nl/cit/draadloos.

Computer courses and software
Please contact the University of Groningen's Donald Smits Center for Information Technology (CIT) (Landleven 1, Zernike Complex, 050-363 3232) if you want to follow a computer course or if you need help solving a problem relating to IT equipment, programs and other IT facilities. You can also log in to the University network from home. For more information, go to http://www.rug.nl/studenten/ictvoorzieningen/index. In addition, you can buy software and other IT products legally and at very attractive rates via SURFSPOT.NL (http://surfspot.nl/).

12.8 ACADEMIC STAFF

Prof. M.P.A. de Baar
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Tel. (050) 363 4590
Room 108

Professor in the Cultural History of Early Modern Christianity, and Professor of the History and Principles of Unitarianism (endowed chair: Zwinglibond).
Vice Dean, Faculty Board Member for Education, Director of Studies

Prof. H.T. Bakker
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Tel. (050) 363 5819
Institute of Indian Studies, Oude Boteringestraat 23

Holder of the J. Gonda Chair (KNAW) in the Interpretation of Hinduism in the Sanskrit Tradition and Indian Philosophy
Associate Professor in the History of Buddhism and Iconography

Prof. H. van den Belt
E-mail: H.van.den.belt@rug.nl
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Room 110

Professor of Reformed Religion: Sources, Development and Context (endowed chair: Reformed Alliance in the Protestant Church in the Netherlands)

Prof. H.S. Benjamins
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Room 110

Professor of Liberal Theology: Development and Influence From the 19th Century to the Present (endowed chair: VVP, Association of Dutch Liberal Protestants)

Dr P. Berger
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Room 102

Lecturer in Indian Religions and the Anthropology of Religion
Dr. B.A. Blokhuis  
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Tel. (050) 363 8017  
Lecturer in Greek

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Room 112  
Lecturer in Methods and Techniques

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Room 112  
Associate Professor of Contemporary Islam

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Room 106  
Lecturer in Egyptology

Dr M. van Dijk  
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Tel. (050) 363 4584  
Room 106  
Lecturer in the History of Christianity  
(specialization: The Middle Ages) with  
special attention to Gender Studies, and  
Gender Studies in General

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Room 112  
Lecturer in Methods and Techniques

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Room 234  
Associate Professor of Ethics

Dr K.E. Knibbe  
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Room 112  
Lecturer in the Sociology of Religion

Prof. G.H. van Kooten  
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Room 72  
Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity;  
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Director of Research
Dr J.E.A. Kroesen  
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Room 106

Lecturer in the Art History of Christianity

Prof. Y.B. Kuiper  
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Room 102

Professor of the Anthropology of Religion and Historical Anthropology (endowed chair: Groningen University Fund)  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Cultural Anthropology

Dr J.R. Luth  
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Tel. (050) 363 5578  
Room 106

Lecturer in Liturgical Science (specializing in Hymnology)

Prof. A.R. Mackor  
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Tel: +31 (0)50 533 5698 / 8017  
Room 136

Socrates Professor of Professional Ethics from a Humanist Perspective

Prof. A.L. Molendijk  
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Room 110

Professor of the History of Christianity (including the History of Dogma and Theology)  
Professor of Religious Philosophy

Dr J.K. Muthert  
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Tel. (050) 363 5572  
Room 136

Lecturer in Spiritual Care / Psychology of Religion

Prof. F.T. Oldenhuis  
E-mail: F.T.Oldenhuis@rug.nl  
Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 26  
9712 EK Groningen  
Tel. (050) 363 5472

Professor of Religion and Law (endowed chair: Groningen University Fund)

Prof. H.J. Paul  
E-mail: H.J.Paul@rug.nl  
Tel. (050) 363 8017  
Room 110

Professor of Secularization Studies (endowed chair: Society for Mission in the Netherlands/Dutch Reformed Mission League)
Prof. M. Popoviæ  
E-mail: M.Popovic@rug.nl  
Tel. (050) 363 5567  
Room T 74  
Tenure-track Associate Professor of Old Testament and Early Judaism, with particular attention to the Dead Sea Scrolls

Dr F. L. Roig Lanzillotta  
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Tel. (050) 363 5574  
Room 75  
Lecturer in the New Testament and Early Christianity

Prof. J.T.A.G.M van Ruiten  
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Tel. (050) 363 5575  
Room T 72  
Professor of the Reception History of the Bible: Historical Hermeneutics (endowed chair: Groningen University Fund)  
Associate Professor of Israelite Literature and Exegesis of the Old Testament and Early Jewish Literature  
Director of the Graduate School of Theology and Religious Studies

Dr J. Schaap-Jonker  
E-mail: J.Schaap-Jonker@rug.nl  
Tel. (050) 363 4588  
Room 136  
Lecturer in the Psychology of Religion

Prof. W.H. Slob  
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Tel. (050) 363 4583  
Room 236  
Professor of Theology and Culture  
(endowed chair: Stichting Bijzondere Leerstoel Theologie in de Protestantse Kerk)  
Temporary Lecturer in Philosophy  
Tenure-track chair in Systematic Theology and the Church in the 21st Century  
(endowed by the Confessionele Vereniging of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands)

Dr E. van ’t Slot  
Tel. (050) 363 8017  
Room 110  

Prof. C.K.M. von Stuckrad  
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Tel. (050) 363 5579  
Room 104  
Professor of Religious Studies

Prof. M.A. Verkerk  
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9713 AV Groningen  
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Professor of the Ethics of Care
Dr E.K. Wilson  
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Room 236  
Lecturer  
Director of the Centre for Religion, Conflict and the Public Domain

Prof. T.H. Zock  
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Room 128  
Professor of the Psychology of Religion with Particular Attention to the domain of Spiritual Care  
Professor of Spiritual Care (chair endowed by the KSGV, Study Centre for Religion and Mental Health, sponsored by the VVP, Association of Dutch Liberal Protestants)

A. van der Zwan  
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Tel. (050) 363 5578  
Room 106  
Lecturer in Hebrew  
Temporary Lecturer in Islam

12.9 Postdocs

Dr A.S.H.G. Boisliveau  
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Tel. (050) 363 5577  
Room 75  
postdoc Islamic Origins

Dr A.K. Grieser  
E-mail: A.K.Grieser@rug.nl  
Tel. (050) 363 5593  
Room 112  
postdoc Religious Studies  
Project: ‘The Transformation of the Religious Field since 1800’

Dr N. Mirnig  
E-mail: N.Mirnig@rug.nl  
Tel. (050) 363 5819/8017  
Oude Boteringestraat 23  
postdoc Indian Religions  
Project: ‘The Skandapurana in Nepal: Reception and Reception History’

12.10 Temporary Lecturers

B.E.A.L. van der Lans M.A.  
E-mail: B.E.A.L.van.der.Lans@rug.nl  
Tel. (050) 363 5585  
Room 155  
New Testament and Early Christianity
Dr M.N. van der Meer
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Room 75

**12.11 Support Staff and Management**

Ms T.M.L. de Boer.
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Tel. (050) 363 5581
Room 28

A. Elzinga
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Room 002

Ms B.A. Groenveld
E-mail: B.A.Groenveld@rug.nl
Tel. (050) 363 5597
Room 36

Ms V.M. Haverlach
E-mail: V.M.Haverlach@rug.nl
Tel. (050) 363 9382
Room 28

Ms M.H. de Hei-van der Touw
E-mail: M.H.de.Hei-van.der.Touw@rug.nl
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Room 004

W. Heinen
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Tel. (050) 363 5588
Room 008

Old Testament

Member of the Faculty Board
Treasurer (Finance, Management, Personnel, Health, Safety & Environment)
Ms H.A. Kremer-Groothuis
E-mail: H.A.Kremer-Groothuis@rug.nl
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Room 004

Education Administration Coordinator

Ms H.E. Kuipers-Faber
E-mail: H.E.Kuipers-Faber@rug.nl
Tel. (050) 363 8017
Room 002

Administrative Assistant/Reception

Ms J. Moesker
E-mail: J.Moesker@rug.nl
Tel. (050) 363 5582
Room S45

Assistant Librarian

Ms W.C. van de Pol
E-mail: W.C.van.de.Pol@rug.nl
Tel. (050) 363 5591
Room 006

Management Assistant; Centre for Religious Studies secretariat;
Faculty Coordinator for Health, Safety & Environment

H.T. van Putten
E-mail: H.T.van.Putten@rug.nl
Tel: +31 (0)50 533 4589 / Room 36
Tel: +31 (0)50 533 5568 / Room 004

Nestor project leader, Education Coordinator,
Administration Assistant

Dr J. van Sluis
E-mail: J.van.Sluis@rug.nl
Tel. (050) 363 5582
Room S45

Subject librarian

Ms F.M. Veenstra-Vis
E-mail: F.M.Veenstra-Vis@rug.nl
Tel. (050) 363 5582
Room S45

Head of Library and Documentation

Ms M.I.H. Vrijens
E-mail: m.i.h.vrijens@rug.nl or internationaloffice.thrs@rug.nl
Tel. (050) 363 8017
Room 004 (Mondays only)

Internationalization Policy Officer
13. CODE OF CONDUCT

The guidelines below have been adopted in order to facilitate the smooth running of the teaching programme, both for students and lecturers. Good communication is only possible if the rules are observed by all concerned, so everyone – lecturers as well as students – is expected to comply with the code of conduct.

Using the official e-mail address and correct postal address
All e-mail is sent via the official student e-mail addresses issued by the University (name@student.rug.nl). Please use only this e-mail address or link it to your personal e-mail address. This is important, since communication is mainly via e-mail. The administration office of your degree programme needs the correct addresses and postcodes of all its students for the purpose of information provision. For this purpose, the administration office uses the information in Studielink. When students change their address, they must update the details in Studielink and inform the administration office.

Registering for courses and examinations
Everyone must register in good time via ProgRESS-WWW for lectures and examinations. If you do not do this, you might not be allowed to participate. You will also miss out on the Nestor link and important information about your courses. If you decide not to take an examination for which you have registered, you should cancel your registration via ProgRESS-WWW.

Be on time
Make sure that you are on time for lectures and all other teaching activities. Nothing is more annoying for students and lecturers than people who enter the lecture room after a lecture has begun.

Switch off mobile telephones
Mobile telephones should be switched off during all teaching sessions! This also applies in the library and at IT workstations, where telephone conversations and other forms of intrusive behaviour are prohibited.

Deadlines
There are good reasons for setting deadlines. If a deadline is specified (e.g. for handing a paper or assignment), you should keep to it. Lecturers have the right to grade work that is handed in late as ‘Unsatisfactory’, or to refuse to mark it.

Communication etiquette
When sending e-mails or letters, please state clearly who they are intended for, what they are about and who the sender is. Write clearly and use good Dutch or English. All texts that you submit should meet the requirement of correct and good Dutch or English.
Questions
First, check whether the information you need is in the study guide or on the Faculty website (Information for students > Students > What about...? http://www.rug.nl/ggw/informatieVoor/studenten/HoeZitHet). Please also consider where or to whom you can best put your question – for example to the lecturer, administration office or study adviser. Ask your questions in good time; do not wait until the day before the exam to ask questions about the material.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is forbidden. Using fragments of text without stating the source is a cardinal sin for academics. This applies to text copied from academic literature as well as from the internet. The Board of Examiners regards plagiarism as a form of fraud.

Cooperating in evaluations
Within the framework of quality assurance, all of our teaching is evaluated in various ways (digital, written, oral). We expect you to cooperate with requests to participate in evaluations. It is extremely important for the degree programme, and thus also for students, that we maintain our high standard of teaching.

Deregistering from your degree programme
Students who terminate their degree programme prematurely or temporarily must notify their study advisor and the administration office.

Registration for graduation ceremonies
There are application procedures to be followed for propaedeutic, Bachelor's and Master's examinations. See the Faculty website: Education > aanvragen bul (http://www.rug.nl/ggw/onderwijs/afstuderen). The graduation procedure takes approximately 6 weeks.
14. INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDENT CHARTER

The Student Charter
The Student Charter provides an overview of the rights and obligations of both students and the University. It is based on national legislation, particularly the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW), supplemented by regulations that are specific to the University of Groningen. The latter regulations are set out in the appendices to the university-wide section of the Student Charter.

The Charter is divided into two sections. The university-wide section describes the rights and obligations that apply to the university as a whole, such as registration and protection of rights. This section can be found on the University of Groningen website (www.rug.nl/studenten/ > Legal position > Students’ charter). The University-wide section of the Student Charter does not literally quote the articles from acts and regulations but describes them as clearly as possible. The various topics are accompanied by links to the relevant articles of the act or regulation in question.

The programme-specific section describes the rights and obligations that apply to specific programmes, such as examinations and ECTS credits. The differences for each degree programme are set out in the Teaching and Examination Regulations and in the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners. The programme-specific section can be found in sections 12 and 13 of this guide.

Validity
The Student Charter is valid for the academic year 2012-2013. The University-wide section of the Student Charter is approved annually by the Board of the University and endorsed by the University Council. In the event that the Charter challenges or contradicts any statutory regulations, these statutory regulations will take precedence.

Publication
At the beginning of the academic year, all students receive an e-mail from the Board of the University stating where the Student Charter can be found on the University website, and where copies are available for inspection at the University.

The importance of the Student Charter
All students are expected to be familiar with the contents of the Student Charter. Failure to comply with the rules in the Charter may affect your rights, for example the right to financial support from the Graduation Fund.

Some of these regulations may not be as hard and fast as they sound. Rules and regulations are by definition general in character, and the Student Charter is no exception. This means that is not always straightforward to predict or determine whether these regulations apply in concrete situations and individual instances. Moreover, rules and regulations are never static but always subject to revision. Students who have registered for the first time this year may find that the regulations that apply to them are different to those for students who have reregistered. Make sure that you have the right information from your faculty and/or the Student Service Centre (SSC), and read the Student Charter carefully!
Topics covered by the Student Charter

The university-wide part of the Student Charter contains further information about student rights and obligations with regard to the following topics:
- eligibility and entry requirements for university degree programmes
- registration and deregistration, payment of tuition fees
- education, including binding study advice
- examinations and final assessments
- financial support in the event of force majeure or extraordinary circumstances
- participation
- code of conduct
- legal protection.
15. TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS 2012-2013

15.1 Teaching and Examination regulations Master’s degree programme Theology and Religious Studies (60 ECTS)

CONTENTS

1. General provisions
2. Structure of the degree programme
3. Examinations and final assessment of the degree programme
4. Selection procedure
5. Study progress and supervision
6. Transitional and final provisions

This is a translation of the original Teaching and Examination Regulations for the Master’s degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies, drawn up in Dutch by the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of the University of Groningen in June 2012. No rights can be derived from this translation and the Dutch text shall be binding in all cases.
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 Theology and Religious Studies, hereinafter referred to as 'the Master's programme' or as 'the degree programme'. The degree programme is offered by the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of the University of Groningen, hereinafter referred to as 'the Faculty'.

Article 1.2 Definitions
The following definitions apply to these Regulations:

a. **Act**: the Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek)

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 of the degree programme within the meaning of the Act

d. **Practical**: a practical exercise, as referred to in Art. 7.13 of the Act, in one of the following forms:
   - a thesis
   - a written paper or draft
   - a research assignment
   - participation in a field trip or an excursion
   - completion of a placement/internship
   - participation in other educational activities designed to teach certain skills

e. **Follow-on Master's degree programme (doorstroommaster)**: a Master's degree programme to which access is guaranteed on the basis of a specified Bachelor's degree programme

f. **Final assessment**: the final assessment of the Master's degree programme

g. **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 on or around 31 January, or starting on the aforementioned date determined by the Board and ending on 31 August.

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

Article 1.3 Aim of the degree programme
The degree programme is designed to:

- impart specialized knowledge, skills and understanding in the field of Theology and Religious Studies or Spiritual Care

- *for the Master's degree programme in Spiritual Care:*
  - provide students with an academic basis for reflection on the function and position of a spiritual career in the current religious and cultural situation, and for academic research in this field
  - to provide a basis for a career as a spiritual carer at an academic level
  - to prepare students for the training programme to become an academic researcher in the field of spiritual care

- *for the other Master's degree programmes:*
- to provide an academic basis for a career in the field of policy, culture, education and communication, for example in the media, government institutions, commercial companies and cultural institutions
- to provide an academic basis for a career as a minister in a church congregation or in various forms of special pastoral care, as a teacher of theology, cultural history of Christianity and social studies, or in curriculum development in the field of theology education and religious instruction
- to prepare students for the training programme to become an academic researcher in the field of theology and/or religious studies.

**Article 1.4 Type of degree programme**
The degree programme is available in both full-time and part-time modes.

**Article 1.5 Refusal of registration (*Iudicium abeundi*)**
1. In extraordinary cases of reprehensible behaviour of, 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 said student’s registration.
2. The Board of the University will not make a decision as referred to in Article 1.5.1 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. 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 1.6 Language of the degree programme**
All course units in the Master's degree programme in Spiritual Care are taught in Dutch, and the examinations are also in Dutch.
The language of instruction in all other Master’s degree programmes is in principle English. However, if a course unit is only attended by Dutch-speaking students, it may be taught in Dutch. The examinations will be in Dutch for Dutch-speaking students and in English for non-Dutch speakers, unless examiners and students make other agreements.

**SECTION 2 STRUCTURE OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME**

**Article 2.1 Student workload**
1. The degree programme has a student workload of 60 ECTS credit points (according to the European Creditpoint Transfer System), with one credit point equalling 28 hours of study.
2. The student workload is expressed in full ECTS credit points.
Article 2.2 Content of the degree programme

The degree programme has the following specializations:
A. Specialization *Spiritual Care*, with a placement or a research placement
B. Specialization *Origins of Abrahamic Religions: Texts and Contexts*, with a placement
C. Specialization *Religion, Conflict and Globalisation* with a placement
D. Specialization *Religion and the Public Domain* with a placement
E. Specialization *Concealed Knowledge: Gnosticism, Esotericism and Mysticism* with a placement.

Article 2.3 Content of the specializations

1.1 Specialization A (Spiritual Care) consists of the following theoretical course units with their related student workload:
   1. Ethics in Care (5 ECTS)
   2. Spiritual Care 1 (5 ECTS)
   3. Spiritual Care 2 (5 ECTS)
   4. Psychopathology and Religion

1.2 Specialization B (Origins of Abrahamic Religions: Texts and Contexts) consists of the following theoretical course units with their related student workload:
   1. Revealed Knowledge: Sacred Texts in Judaism, Christianity and Islam (10 ECTS)
   2. Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Ancient Mediterranean (10 ECTS)
   3. Texts of Terror: Violence, Power and Politics (10 ECTS)

1.3 Specialization C (Religion, Conflict and Globalisation) consists of the following theoretical course units with their related student workload:
   1. Fundamentalism and Religious Violence (10 ECTS)
   2. Global Dynamics and Local Religious Systems (10 ECTS)
   3. Migration, Culture, and Religious Identity (10 ECTS)

1.4 Specialization D (Religion and the Public Domain) consists of the following theoretical course units with their related student workload:
   1. Theorizing Religion in the Public Domain (10 ECTS)
   2. Christian Cultural Heritage 1 (5 ECTS)
   3. Christian Cultural Heritage 2 (5 ECTS)
   4. The Invention of the Secular (10 ECTS)

1.5 Specialization E (Concealed Knowledge: Gnosticism, Esotericism and Mysticism) consists of the following theoretical course units with their related student workload:
   1. Knowledge, Secrecy, and Revelation in Antiquity (10 ECTS)
   2. Medieval Mysticism, Kabbalah, and Contemporary Culture (10 ECTS)
   3. Modern Esotericism between East and West (10 ECTS)

2. Specialization A (Spiritual Care) also contains the following compulsory course units with their related student workload:
   (a) a placement or a research placement (10 ECTS)
   (b) a thesis (20 ECTS)

3. Specializations B-E also contain the following compulsory course units with their related student workload:
   (a) a placement (10 ECTS)
   (b) a thesis (20 ECTS)
With the approval of the Board of Examiners, a student may select, instead of a placement, a tutorial or course unit (10 ECTS) from a different specialization of the Master’s degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies or from the Master’s degree programme of another Faculty or University.

Article 2.4 Practical work
1. In addition to teaching in the form of lectures, the course units as listed under Article 2.3 include a practical in the stated form and with the stated student work load. This is in accordance with the Appendix to this Article (Appendices, Appendix II).
2. With regard to the following course units, successful participation in the relevant practical is considered to mean passing the examination: A.1, A.3, B.1, B.2, B.3, C.1, C.2, C.3, D.1, D.2, D.3, D.4, E.1, E.2, E.3.

SECTION 3 EXAMINATIONS AND FINAL ASSESSMENT OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 3.1 General
1. The results of examinations, both interim and final, provide students with the information they need to assess whether, and to what degree, they have achieved the required learning outcomes. If necessary they will be given advice about their further participation in the degree programme in question.
2. The results of an examination are given in marks: 6 or above is a pass, 5 or below a fail.
3. The following stipulations apply to participation in course units and practicals with compulsory attendance:
   1. In this article, ‘practicals’ are understood to be practical exercises as referred to in Article 1.2.d and their associated lectures.
   2. If a practical incorporates lectures, an 80% attendance requirement will apply to these lectures.
   3. Students who fulfil 70% or more but less than 80% of the total attendance requirement for a practical can be required to do one or more replacement assignments by the lecturer.
   4. Students who attend fewer than 70% of the lectures will not be allowed to sit the examination for the course unit in question and must repeat the course unit.
   5. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may decide to deviate from the stipulations of the previous articles in favour of a student. Such a decision must be supported by reasons.
4. The following stipulations apply to participation in examinations:
   1. Students who do not satisfy the stipulations listed in Articles 3.1.3.1 to 5 are banned from participating in the examination.
   2. Students will be banned from participating in the examination if:
      1. a paper/report that constitutes all or part of the examination is submitted late or not at all
      2. assignments made within the framework of the course unit are submitted late or not at all.
   3. The stipulations of Article 3.1.4.2 will only apply if they are listed in the course unit description in the Student Handbook or if the completion or delivery deadline for
papers and/or assignments are correctly indicated in Nestor or the syllabus at the start of the course unit.

4. In accordance with the stipulations of Article 3.1.3 with regard to compulsory attendance at practicals or course units, students who attend fewer than 70% of the lectures of the following course will be banned from participation in the examination:
   - Spiritual Care 1
   - Spiritual Care 2
   - Psychopathology and Religion
   - Fundamentalism and Religious Violence
   - Global Dynamics and Local Religious Systems
   - Migration, Culture and Religious Identity

5. An examination that has been passed may not be taken again.

**Article 3.2 Assessment of placement or research placement**
The assessment of the placement or research placement will be conducted by the Faculty supervisor, on the basis of the placement report and after consultation with the supervisor at the host institution or placement organization. Assessment of placements conducted within the framework of the Master’s degree programme in Spiritual Care is also in consultation with the supervisor, Ms. Drs. G. Wiersma.

**Article 3.3 Examination frequency and periods**
There will be an opportunity to sit one examination and one resit for the course units listed in Article 2.3.

**Article 3.4 Form of Examinations**
1. The examinations for the course units listed in Article 2.3 shall be in accordance with the Appendix to this Article (Appendices, Appendix III).
2. At the student’s request, the Board of Examiners may allow an examination to be taken in a form different from the aforementioned.
3. Students with a performance disability will be given the opportunity to take examinations in a form that will compensate as far as possible for their disability. If necessary, the Board of Examiners will seek expert advice on this matter.

**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. Oral examinations are public, unless the Board of Examiners stipulates otherwise or the student objects to the public nature of the examination.
3. All oral exams held by an examiner must be recorded. Recordings will be deleted immediately after the regular period for perusal.

**Article 3.6 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.
2. With regard to examinations for students with a performance disability, the Board of Examiners of the degree programme referred to in Article 3.6.1 shall comply with the facilities permitted by the Board of Examiners of the degree programme for which the student has registered.

Article 3.7 Marking of Examinations and Publication of Grades
1. After an oral examination, the examiner will assess the examination immediately and provide the student afterwards with the relevant signed exam sheet.
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 Office with the necessary details for written confirmation of the result to be sent to the student.
3. The examiner will mark a paper which is submitted in time within twenty working days of the deadline for submission, unless the examiner and the student have made other agreements. The examiner will provide the Faculty's Administration Office with the necessary details for written confirmation of the result to be sent to the student.
4. If an examination is taken in a form other than oral or written, the Board of Examiners will determine in advance how and when the student will receive written confirmation of the result.
5. The exam sheet stating the results of an examination will inform students of their right of inspection, as stipulated in Article 3.9.1, as well as of the possibility of an appeal to the Board of Appeal for Examinations.

Article 3.8 Validity
1. Examinations that have been passed remain valid indefinitely.
2. Contrary to the provisions of Article 3.8.1, the Board of Examiners may require students to take a supplementary or substitute examination for a course unit taken more than six years previously before allowing them to progress to the final assessment.

Article 3.9 Right of Inspection
1. On request, students have the right to inspect their marked work during a period of six weeks after the results of a written examination have been made known. Also on request, they will be provided with a copy of the work at cost price.
2. Within the timeframe stipulated in Article 3.9.1, any person may request that they be allowed to peruse the examination paper and 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 students can prove that they were prevented from attending at the indicated place(s) and time(s) by force majeure, they will be offered another opportunity, preferably within the period stated in Article 3.9.1.

Article 3.10 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 degree that is equivalent in content and level, or
b. can demonstrate by work experience that he/she has sufficient knowledge and skills with respect to the course unit in question.

Article 3.11 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. 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 in as much as the marks for these course units provide a reason for doing so.
3. By determining the result of the final assessment, the Board of Examiners also commits itself to a speedy processing of the degree certificate ceremony.
4. 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.

Article 3.12 Degree
1. A student who has satisfied all the requirements of the final assessment shall be awarded the degree of ‘Master of Arts’.
2. The degree awarded shall be registered on the degree certificate.

Article 3.13 Honours (Judicium)
1. The Board of Examiners shall determine whether or not the Master’s degree certificate will be awarded an honours predicate.
2. The following conditions apply:
   a) Cum laude: the mark for the thesis must be at least 8.0 and the weighted average (not rounded off) for all course units, excluding the thesis, within the examination programme approved by the Board of Examiners is greater than or equal to 8.0
   b) Summa cum laude: the mark for the thesis must be at least 9.0 and the weighted average (not rounded off) for all course units, excluding the thesis, within the examination programme approved by the Board of Examiners is greater than or equal to 9.0
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 credit points for the degree programme.
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. In certain circumstances, the Board of Examiners may depart from the provisions set out in Articles 3.13.2-5.
7. Students who started the degree programme before 1 September 2010 continue to fall under the honours regulations that applied to them on 31 August 2010.
**Article 3.14 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 assessment method to be used and the test moments for each course unit
5. the test design and assessment procedures and assessment criteria 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 ADMISSION**

**Article 4.1 Entry requirements**
1. Students with a Dutch or foreign certificate of higher education that in the opinion of the Admissions Board indicates that they have sufficient knowledge and skills in the field of classical theology, theology or religious studies, or in a related field within the arts, philosophy or social sciences at University Bachelor’s level.
2. The following requirements apply to the level of knowledge of English for international students: TOEFL 580 paper / 237 computer / 92 internet or higher, IELTS 6.5 or higher. Dutch students without a VWO certificate must satisfy the same language requirement as international students. As an alternative to the above-mentioned TOEFL and IELTS scores, a certificate from the University of Groningen Language Centre with a CEFR B2 or higher score will also be accepted.
3. Holders of a Bachelor’s degree in ‘Godgeleerdheid’, ‘Theologie’, ‘Godsdienstwetenschap’ of ‘Wetenschap van godsdienst en levensbeschouwing’ from the University of Groningen are considered to have the knowledge and skills referred to in Article 4.1.1 and will be admitted to the degree programme on this basis.
4. Admission within the meaning of Articles 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 entitles a student to register for the degree programme.
5. There are at least two starting dates for admission per academic year.

**Article 4.2 Entry requirements for specializations**
1. In addition to the provisions of Article 4.1, the following entry requirements apply to specialization A (Spiritual Care): prior education must have included the following course units with at least the stated student workload:
   - Counselling and Group Dynamics (5 ECTS)
   - Professional Ethics (10 ECTS)
   - Life, Suffering and Death (10 ECTS)
   - Philosophy as Art of Living and Therapy (5 ECTS)
2. In addition, an assessment procedure applies to specialization A, which must be completed before the start of the Master’s degree programme if a practical placement is
Article 4.3 Admissions Board
1. Admission to the degree programme in specializations B-E is at the discretion of the Admissions Board of the degree programme. This Board consists of:
   - a member, also the chairperson, selected from the professors who teach the degree programme or a member from the academic staff, selected by the Faculty Board
   - three members selected from the other academic staff who teach the degree programme.
2. Admission to the degree programme in specialization A (Spiritual Care) is at the discretion of the Admissions Board of the degree programme. This Board consists of:
   - a member, also the chairperson, selected from the professors who teach the degree programme or a member from the academic staff, selected by the Faculty Board
   - one member selected from the other academic staff who teach the degree programme.
3. The study advisor for the degree programme will be an advisory member and also secretary.
4. The selection will be made by the Faculty Board, which will also set out the admissions procedure.

Article 4.4 Entrance examination for Master's degree programmes and follow-on Master's degree programmes: criteria
1. Bearing in mind the admissions procedure for the degree programme within the meaning of Article 4.1.1, the Admissions Board shall examine the knowledge and skills of the candidate. In addition to the written proofs of degree programme(s) already followed, the Board may ask experts from within or outside the University to test given areas of knowledge and skills.
2. Bearing in mind the admissions procedure for a degree programme, the Admissions Board will examine whether the candidate has satisfied or will satisfy the relevant requirements as set out in Article 4.2 in good time. The Board will bear in mind the motivation and ambition of the candidate to complete the relevant degree programme, as well as the proficiency level of the candidate in the language of instruction for that specialization.

Article 4.5 Entrance examination: hardship clause
In situations where non-admission of a student would demonstrably lead to a situation of unfairness of an overriding nature, the Admissions Board may deviate from the provisions of Article 4.4. Whether or not such a situation applies shall be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Article 4.6 Entrance examination: times
1. The entrance examination will be held twice a year for the degree programme, which commences in the first and second semesters.
2. Applications for admission to the degree programme and a specific specialization must be submitted to the Admissions Board before 1 March (for non-EU-students) and 15 May (for EEU-students) or 1 November respectively.

3. Only in exceptional cases will the Admissions Board consider an application submitted after the dates stated in Article 4.6.2.

4. The Admissions Board will make a decision before 15 June or 1 December, respectively. Admission will be on condition that the candidate has satisfied the requirements set out in Article 4.4 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.

Article 4.7 Language requirement for foreign certificates
1. For Master’s degree programme A (Spiritual Care):
The Dutch language proficiency requirement for non-Dutch students is met by passing the Dutch State Exam NT2 (Dutch as a Second Language).

2. For Master’s degree programmes B to E:
The English language proficiency requirement for non-Dutch students is met by passing a language proficiency test with a TOEFL score of 580 paper / 237 computer / 92 internet or higher, or IELTS 6.5 or higher, or CEFR B2 or higher.

SECTION 5 STUDY PROGRESS SUPERVISION

Article 5.1 Study progress administration
1. The Faculty Board is responsible for administrating the individual results of students.
2. The Faculty Board will provide each student with an overview of his/her results via the registration system.

Article 5.2 Tutoring
The Faculty Board will organize the introduction and the tutoring of students enrolled in the degree programme, partly to promote their progress and also with a view to potential study options within and outside the degree programme.

SECTION 6 TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 6.1 Transition from ‘old style’ to ‘new style’
Students who, immediately before the introduction date of these regulations, were registered without interruption for the Master’s degree programme in Theology, Religious Studies or Spiritual Care (programme before 2012) or had been provisionally admitted to one of these degree programmes, may participate in the Master’s degree programme in Theology and Religious Sciences (programme as of 2012) in accordance with these Teaching and Examination Regulations with the approval of the Board of Examiners and on the following conditions:
a. prior results must dovetail with one of the Master’s degree programmes. The Board of Examiners will base its decisions in this regard on the course units listed in Appendix 1 of these Regulations.
b. participation is possible insofar as the introduction of the degree programme and the examinations according to these regulations allow this.
c. participation is possible to the extent that a student is definitively admissible to the Master’s degree programme in accordance with Article 4.1.1.

Article 6.2 Amendments
1. Any amendments to these Regulations will, after due consultation with the Faculty Council or the Programme Committee, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
2. An amendment to these Regulations shall not apply to the current academic year, unless it may reasonably be assumed that the amendment will not harm the interests of students.
3. In addition, an amendment may not influence the following to the detriment of students:
   - an approval issued within the meaning of Article 2.3
   - any other decision taken within the meaning of these Regulations concerning a student.

Article 6.3 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 6.3.1 are available from the Faculty Office.

Article 6.4 Date of Commencement
These Regulations shall take effect on 1 September 2012.

As decreed by the Faculty Board on 20 June 2012.
Approved by the Faculty Council on 26 June 2012.
## Appendices to the Teaching and Examination Regulations for the Master’s degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies, 2012-2013

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<td>Essay, presentations: 20 hrs</td>
<td>Essay, presentation(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Spiritual Care 1 (5 ECTS)</td>
<td>Assignments: 40 hrs Practical training philosophy of life: 20 hrs</td>
<td>Oral examination, assignment(s)</td>
</tr>
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<td>3. Spiritual Care 2 (5 ECTS)</td>
<td>Paper + presentation: 60 hrs</td>
<td>Presentation, paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Psychopathology and Religion (5 ECTS)</td>
<td>Assignments: 20 hrs</td>
<td>Oral examination, assignment(s), participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B) Origins of Abrahamic Religions</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Revealed Knowledge: Sacred Texts in Judaism, Christianity and Islam (10 ECTS)</td>
<td>2 presentations: 20 hrs, paper: 40 hrs</td>
<td>Presentations, paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Ancient Mediterranean (10 ECTS)</td>
<td>1 presentation: 10 hrs; 1 presentation: 10 hrs; academic paper: 40 hrs</td>
<td>Paper, participation, presentation(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Texts of Terror: Violence, Power and Politics (10 ECTS)</td>
<td>2 presentations: 20 hrs, paper: 40 hrs</td>
<td>Presentations, paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C) Religion, Conflict and Globalisation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Fundamentalism and Religious Violence (10 ECTS)</td>
<td>Assignment: 12 hrs Paper: 83 hrs</td>
<td>Attendance &amp; active participation in the discussions, written assignments, final paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Migration, Culture, and Religious Identity (10 ECTS)</td>
<td>Assignment: 12 hrs Paper: 82 hrs</td>
<td>Attendance &amp; active participation in the discussions &amp; on Blackboard, written assignments, final paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D) Religion and the Public Domain</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Theorizing Religion in the Public Domain (10 ECTS)</td>
<td>In-class presentation: 10 hrs, briefing paper: 20 hrs, final paper: 40 hrs</td>
<td>In-class participation, in-class presentation, briefing paper, final paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Christian Cultural Heritage 1 (5 ECTS)</td>
<td>Field trip: 40 hrs Assignments and presentations: 53 hrs Paper: 70 hrs</td>
<td>Assignments, presentations</td>
</tr>
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<td>3. Christian Cultural Heritage 2 (5 ECTS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. The Invention of the Secular (10 ECTS)</td>
<td>Paper and presentation: 256 hrs</td>
<td>Active participation, presentations, final paper</td>
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<td><strong>E) Concealed Knowledge</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1. Knowledge, Secrecy, and Revelation in Antiquity (10 ECTS)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Presentations: 20 hrs, paper: 40 hrs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Presentations, participation, final paper</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Medieval Mysticism, Kabbalah, and Contemporary Culture (10 ECTS)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Presentations: 20 hrs, paper: 40 hrs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Presentations, final paper</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Modern Esotericism between East and West (10 ECTS)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Presentations: 20 hrs, book review: 20 hrs, paper: 40 hrs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Presentations, final paper</strong></td>
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**Regarding specializations A,B,C,D,E**

15.2 Teaching and Examination regulations Research Master Theology and Religious Studies (120 ECTS)

Contents

1. General provisions

2. Structure of the degree programme

3. Examinations and final assessment of the degree programme

4. Selection procedure

5. Study progress and supervision

6. Transitional and final provisions
SECTION 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1.1 Applicability
These Regulations apply to the courses and final assessment of the Research Master’s degree programme Religion and Culture, hereinafter referred to as ‘the Research Master’s programme’ or as ‘the degree programme’. The degree programme is offered by the Graduate School of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of the University of Groningen, hereinafter referred to as ‘the Faculty’.

Article 1.2 Definitions
The following definitions apply to these Regulations:

a. the Act: the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW, Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek);
b. student: a person enrolled at the University for the purpose of taking courses and/or examinations and the final assessment leading to the conferral of a university degree;
c. degree programme: the Research Master’s degree programme listed in Article 1.1 of these Regulations, comprising a coherent whole of educational units, such as:
   - modules: a syllabus unit or other part of the degree programme within the meaning of the Act;
   - practicals: a practical exercise, as referred to in Art. 7.13 of the Act, in one of the following forms:
     - a final-year written thesis
     - a written paper or draft
     - a research assignment
     - participation in a field trip or an excursion
     - completion of a traineeship
     - participation in other educational activities designed to teach certain skills.
d. bridging programme: a Master’s degree programme to which access is guaranteed on the basis of a specified Bachelor’s degree programme.
e. 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 on or around 31 January, or starting on the latter date as determined by the Board and ending on 31 August;
f. study plan: the plan which students must draw up in consultation with their supervisor (mentor) at enrollment in the degree programme, that specifies all modules and practicals the student is going to take, as well as the time-schedule involved and that requires the approval of the director of the Graduate School;
g. final assessment: the final assessment of the Master’s degree which is made when all the requirements of the entire degree programme have been fulfilled; [normally this is directly after the examination in which students defend their final-year thesis.]

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

Article 1.3 Aim of the degree programme
The Research Master’s programme is designed to:
- impart comprehensive knowledge, insight and skills in one or more fields of research and study of the Faculty;
- prepare for the participation in a PhD programme or a position outside the academy for which research skills are required, *inter alia* by writing a research proposal;
- enable students to apply for positions in the public or private sector for which academic research skills and experience are required competences.

**Article 1.4 Type of degree programme**
The programme is full-time.

**Article 1.5 Refusal of registration (*Iudicium abeundi*)**
1. In extraordinary cases of reprehensible behaviour of, 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 said student’s registration.
2. The Board of the University will not make a decision as referred to in Article 1.5.1 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. 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 1.6 Language of the programme**
The language of the entire programme is English.

**SECTION 2 STRUCTURE OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME**

**Article 2.1 Study load**
1. The programme has a study load of 120 EC (European Credits), with one credit equalling 28 hours of study. Study loads are expressed in full ECTS credit points.
2. For students with a MA degree who have been admitted to the programme, the duration of the programme is one year with a study load of 70 EC.

**Article 2.2 Content of the degree programme**
1. The programme has the following units, each with its related study load:
   a. core modules (compulsory):
      - *Theories of Religion and Culture: Key Issues in the Study of Religions* (10 EC);
      - *Orient and Occident: Critical Investigations and Historical Perspectives* (10 EC);
      - *Religion, Ethics and Pluralism* (10 EC);
   b. optional modules of 30 EC in total which may be taken from the Faculty’s regular Master’s programme as listed in Appendix I, part IB to Art. 2.2 or from other (inter)national Research Master’s programmes. In the latter case, the approval of the director of the Graduate School and the Board of Examiners is required.
c. practicals, consisting of:
   - three research traineeships (30 EC);
   - thesis (30 EC), including a research proposal (5 EC).

2. Appendix II, Part IA to Art. 2.2 sets out the contents and the teaching methods of the compulsory parts of the degree programme in more detail, including the knowledge and skills that are required for successfully taking the courses in question.

SECTION 3 EXAMINATIONS AND FINAL ASSESSMENT IN THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 3.1. General
1. The results of examinations, both interim and final, provide students with the information they need to assess whether, and to what degree, they have achieved the required learning goals.
2. The results of an examination are given in marks: 6 or above is a pass, 5 or below a fail.
3. An examination that has been passed may not be taken again.
4. The Board of Examiners of the degree programme is formed by a subcommittee of the Faculty's Board of Examinations and belongs to the Graduate School.

Article 3.2 Assessment of the thesis
The assessment of the final thesis, including the research proposal, will be conducted by a committee appointed by the Board of Examiners.

Article 3.3 Examination Frequency
There will be an opportunity to sit the examinations for the modules listed in Article 2.3 twice a year.

Article 3.4 Form of Examinations
1. The examinations for the modules listed in Article 2.2 shall be in accordance with the appendix to this article (Appendix III).
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 performance disability will be given the opportunity to take examinations in a form that will compensate as far as possible for their disability. If necessary, the Board of Examiners will seek expert advice on this matter.

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. Oral examinations are public, unless the Board of Examiners stipulates otherwise or the student objects to the public nature of the examination.
3. All oral exams held by an examinator must be audio-recorded. Recordings will be deleted immediately after the regular period for perusal.
Article 3.6 Marking of Examinations and Publication of Grades
1. After an oral examination, the examiner will assess the examination immediately and provide the student afterwards with the relevant signed exam sheet.
2. The examiner will mark a written examination within ten working days after the day on which it was taken, and will provide the Faculty’s Administration Office with the necessary details for written confirmation of the result to be sent to the student.
3. The examiner will mark a paper which is submitted in time within twenty working days after the deadline of submission, unless the examiner and the student have made other agreements. The examiner will provide the Faculty’s Administration Office with the necessary details for written confirmation of the result to be sent to the student.
4. If an examination is taken in a form other than oral or written, the Board of Examiners will determine in advance how and when the student will receive written confirmation of the result.
5. The exam sheet stating the results of an examination will inform students of their right of inspection, as stipulated in Article 3.8.1, as well as their right to appeal to the Committee of Appeal for the Examinations.

Article 3.7 Validity
1. Examinations that have been passed remain valid indefinitely.
2. Contrary to the provisions of Article 3.7.1, the Board of Examiners may require students to take a supplementary or substitute examination for a module taken more than five years previously before allowing them to progress to the final assessment.

Article 3.8 Right of Inspection
1. On request, students have the right to examine their marked work for a period of six weeks after the results of a written examination have been made known. Also on request, they will be provided with a copy of the work at cost price.
2. On request, and within the time frame stipulated in Article 3.8.1, any person may request permission to peruse the examination paper and the assessment criteria.
3. The Board of Examiners can determine that this perusal will take place at a certain place and at at least two set times. If students can prove that they were prevented from attending at the indicated place and time by force majeure, they will be offered another opportunity, preferably within the period stated in Article 3.8.1.

Article 3.9 Exemptions
1. At the student’s request, the Board of Examiners, having discussed the matter with the examiner in question, may grant exemption from an examination of the modules mentioned in art. 2.3.1 on condition that the student:
   a. has completed part of a university course that is equivalent in content and level.
   b. can demonstrate by work and/or work experience that he/she has sufficient knowledge and skills in respect of the module in question.
2. Students who have completed a 1-year master of at least 60 EC in the field of religious studies or theology may request admission to the 1-year Research Master programme. The size of the exemptions of the optional modules, compulsory modules or research traineeships is to be decided upon by the Board of Examiners, but it may not surpass 50 EC in all.
**Article 3.10 Final Assessment**
1. The Board of Examiners determines the result of the final assessment and issues a corresponding certificate as soon as the student has passed all the required examinations, thereby acquiring the necessary academic training.
2. Before determining the final assessment, the Board of Examiners may decide to test the student's knowledge or skills of one or more modules or practicals of the degree programme, if and in as much as the marks for these units provide a reason for doing so.
3. After determining the result of the final assessment, the Board of Examiners sees to a speedy processing of the degree certificate ceremony.
4. If students wish to postpone the date of graduation due to extra examinations that still need to be taken, they must submit a request to this end to the Board of Examiners.

**Article 3.11 Degree**
1. A student who has satisfied all the requirements of the final assessment shall be awarded the degree of “Master of Arts”.
2. The degree awarded shall be registered on the degree certificate.
3. The endorsement ‘Research Master degree (120 ECTS)’ shall be registered on the degree certificate.

**Article 3.12 Honours (‘judicium’)**
1. The Board of Examiners shall determine whether or not the Master’s degree certificate will be awarded an honours predicate.
2. The following conditions apply:
   a) Cum laude: the mark for the thesis must be at least 8.0 and the weighted average (not rounded off) for all course units, excluding the thesis, within the examination programme approved by the Board of Examiners is greater than or equal to 8.0
   b) Summa cum laude: the mark for the thesis must be at least 9.0 and the weighted average (not rounded off) for all course units, excluding the thesis, within the examination programme approved by the Board of Examiners is greater than or equal to 9.0
3. No honours are awarded if the study load of the exemptions in ECTS credit points is more than half the total number of ECTS for the degree programme.
4. Honours may only be awarded if the examinations for the modules or practicals were taken only once.
5. Honours may only be awarded if no single module or practical was awarded a mark less than 7.0.
6. In certain circumstances, the Board of Examiners may depart from the provisions set out in Articles 3.12.2-5.
7. Students who started the degree programme before 1 September 2010 continue to fall under the honours regulations that applied to them on 31 August 2010.

**Article 3.13 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 Requirements
1. Admission to the programme requires the following:
   1. a bachelor degree obtained in religious studies, theology or a closely related area;
   2. the bachelor programme must have been completed at a pace and with results that warrant the expectation of successful completion of the Research Master in two years;
   3. Sufficient knowledge of the English language: for foreign students a paper TOEFL score of 637 (270 (computer based) or 110 (internet based)) or a minimum score of 7.5 in IELTS (International English Language Testing System); the tests are not required of native speakers or of Dutch students with a VWO certificate;
   4. sufficient knowledge, insight and skills in the disciplines relevant to the programme;
   5. the proper attitude, motivation and talent for the successful completion of this degree programme.
2. Admission within the meaning of paragraph 4.1.1 entitles a student to enroll in the degree programme.

Article 4.2 Board of Admissions
1. Admission to the degree programme is decided by the Board of Admissions of the programme. This Board has at least three members who will be appointed by the Faculty Board. The Board of Admissions will appoint a chairperson from among its members and will be supported by an official secretary. The Director of the Centre for Religious Studies (CRS) and the Director of the Graduate School for Theology and Religious Studies (GSThRS) will be members of the Admissions Board.
2. The decision of the Board of Admissions needs the approval of the Faculty Board.

Article 4.3 Admission
1. The Board of Admissions will investigate whether the candidate meets the requirements as stated in Article 4.1.1.
2. In order to apply for admission, applicants must submit:
   - a completed and signed registration form;
   - a curriculum vitae;
   - a certified overview of the results achieved so far within their current Bachelor’s (or Master’s) programme;
- official test results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the test of the International Language Testing System (IELTS) (if it concerns candidates from abroad).
- a letter outlining the reasons for their choice of the programme, including their expectations, interests and ambitions;
- written results of previous research, if any, such as academic articles or a Bachelor thesis;
- two letters of reference;
- other documents that might highlight their eligibility for the programme.

These documents must be submitted to the Office of the Graduate School ThRS no later than March 31.

3. The Board of Admissions shall assess the written documentation and determine whether the prospective student may be admitted to the programme. If so, the student will be invited to an interview, to be held before May 15. The interview will be conducted on the basis of the submitted documentation and may include an approximately 15 minute presentation on an academic subject related to the programme. If, on the basis of the submitted documentation, the Board is of the opinion that the student does not qualify for admission and that there is therefore no need for an interview, the student will be notified accordingly. Rejections shall in all cases be substantiated in writing. Students will be notified no later than June 1 by the Faculty Board whether or not they have been accepted.

4. For foreign candidates a televised interview may be organized with the members of the Board of Admissions.

5. Admission gives the candidate the right to register for the degree programme.

6. Appeals against the decisions of the Faculty Board may be lodged with the Board of Appeal for the Examinations.

**Article 4.4 Conditional admission**

1. At the request of candidates who are preparing for the final examination for the Bachelor's degree programme of the University of Groningen or of other universities listed in Article 4.1.1, the Faculty Board may admit them to the programme on condition that:
   They have finished their BA programme with a grade point of 8 or higher before the start of the Research Master's programme on September 1. In that case students should explain the situation in their covering letter and must see to it that the Graduate School Office is in possession of a copy of their BA thesis and their complete and certified transcripts no later than August 25.

2. At the request of candidates who are preparing for the final examination for a Master's degree programme of the University of Groningen or of other universities, the Faculty Board may admit them to the degree programme on condition that:
   They have finished their MA programme with a grade point of 8 or higher before the start of the Research Master's programme on September 1. In that case students should explain the situation in their covering letter and must see to it that the Graduate School Office is in possession of a copy of their BA thesis and their complete and certified transcripts no later than August 25.
SECTION 5  STUDY PROGRESS AND SUPERVISION

Article 5.1 Study progress administration
1. The Faculty Board is responsible for administrating the individual results of students.
2. The Faculty Board will provide all students with an overview of their results, at their request, at least once a year.
3. Students are responsible for drawing up their individual study plan. On approval of their mentor they hand in their plan to the Graduate School Office no later than three weeks after enrolment.

Article 5.2 Supervision
1. Within the framework of the admissions procedure, on behalf of the Faculty Board, the director of the Graduate School ThRS is responsible for ensuring that students have sufficient supervision. A supervisor ('mentor') will be appointed to each student.
2. The Curriculum Committee for the Research Master will monitor and evaluate on a regular basis whether the programme is compatible both with conducting academic research and exercising a profession outside the university.
3. Each half-year the director of the Graduate School evaluates the results of all students in the degree programme. In case of insufficient results, a student may be advised to follow one of the regular master programmes offered by the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies.

SECTION 6  TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 6.1 Transition from ‘old style’ to ‘new style’
Contrary to the provisions of Article 4.1, students who have less than 180 EC of the ‘old’ programme (doctoraalopleiding), may request admission to the Research Master Programme, only after they have enrolled at the Bachelor degree mentioned in art. 4.1.1. In line with art. 4.4 the Faculty Board may admit candidates to the degree programme on condition that:
1. they have passed the compulsory modules of the Bachelor’s degree programme;
2. they have finished the Bachelor’s thesis.
A conditional admission must be converted into admission as laid down in Article 4.1 within 6 months.

Article 6.2 Amendments
1. Any amendments to these Regulations will, after due consultation with the educational committee and the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
2. An amendment to these Regulations shall not apply to the current academic year, unless it may reasonably be assumed that the amendment will not harm the interests of students.
   - In addition, an amendment may not influence the following to the detriment of students: an approval issued within the meaning of Article 2.2.
- any other decision taken within the meaning of these Regulations concerning a student.

**Article 6.3 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 6.3.1 are available from the Faculty office.

**Article 6.4 Date of Commencement**
These Regulations shall take effect on September 1, 2012.

As decreed by the Faculty Board on 20 June 2012.
Approved by the Faculty Council on 26 June 2012.
<table>
<thead>
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<td><strong>Practical work</strong></td>
<td><strong>Form of examinations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>IA. Compulsory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theories of Religion and Culture: Key Issues of the Study of Religion (10 ects)</td>
<td>Presentations, 20 hrs&lt;br&gt;Paper or substitute, 40 hrs</td>
<td>final paper, presentation(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religion, Ethics and Pluralism (10 ects)</td>
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<td>Participation, Presentation, final paper</td>
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<td>Orient and Occident: Critical Investigations and Historical Perspectives (10 ects)</td>
<td>Presentation, 10 hrs&lt;br&gt;Book review, 12 hrs&lt;br&gt;Paper, 50 hrs</td>
<td>Paper, presentation, book review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research traineeships (30 ects)</td>
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<td>IB. Optional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revealed Knowledge: Sacred Texts in Judaism, Christianity and Islam (10 ects)</td>
<td>2 presentations: 20 hrs&lt;br&gt;Paper: 40 hrs</td>
<td>Presentations, paper</td>
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<td>Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Ancient Mediterranean (10 ects)</td>
<td>2 presentations: 20 hrs&lt;br&gt;Paper: 40 hrs</td>
<td>Presentations, participation, paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texts of Terror: Violence, Power and Politics (10 ects)</td>
<td>2 presentations: 20 hrs&lt;br&gt;Paper: 40 hrs</td>
<td>Presentations, paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamentalism and Religious Violence (10 ects)</td>
<td>Assignment:12 hrs&lt;br&gt;Paper: 83 hrs</td>
<td>Attendance &amp; active participation in the discussions, written assignments, final paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Dynamics and Local Religious Systems (10 ects)</td>
<td>Assignment:12 hrs&lt;br&gt;Paper: 83 hrs</td>
<td>Attendance &amp; active participation in the discussions, written assignments, final paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration, Culture, and Religious Identity (10 ects)</td>
<td>Assignment:12 hrs&lt;br&gt;Paper: 82 hrs</td>
<td>Attendance &amp; active participation in the discussions &amp; on Blackboard, written assignments, final paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Invention of the Secular (10 ects)</td>
<td>Presentations and paper: 256 hrs</td>
<td>Participation, presentations, final paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theorizing Religion in the Public Domain (10 ects)</td>
<td>in-class presentation: 10 hrs, briefing paper: 20 hrs, final paper: 40 hrs</td>
<td>in-class participation, in-class presentation, briefing paper, final paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Cultural Heritage 1 (5 ects)</td>
<td>Fieldtrip: 32 hrs, assignments:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modules</td>
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<td>Christian Cultural Heritage 2 (5 ects)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge, Secrecy, and Revelation in Antiquity (10 ects)</td>
<td>Presentations: 20 hrs, paper: 40 hrs</td>
<td>presentations, participation, final paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medieval Mysticism, Kabbalah, and Contemporary Culture (10 ects)</td>
<td>Presentations: 20 hrs, paper: 40 hrs</td>
<td>presentations, final paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Esotericism between East and West (10 ects)</td>
<td>Presentations: 20 hrs, book review: 20 hrs, paper: 40 hrs</td>
<td>presentations, final paper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ad Appendix I, part 1B (optional modules)
The Director of the Graduate School and the Board of Examiners may permit the student to select one or more modules from the Master’s degree programme of other faculties of the University of Groningen or another university.
16. RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

Rules and Regulations, within the meaning of Article 7.12b paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW, *Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*), for the Master’s degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies (60 ECTS credit points) and the Research Master’s degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies (Religion and Culture) (120 ECTS credit points).

The Board of Examiners for the aforementioned degree programmes and university minors, having regard to Article 7.12b paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW, *Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*),

HAS DECIDED
to set the following rules and regulations for the degree programmes:

**Article 1 Definition of terms**
The following definitions apply to these Rules and Regulations:
- OER: the Teaching and Examination Regulations for the aforementioned degree programmes, most recently updated on 20 June 2012
- Examinee: the person who takes an examination or final examination
- Examination: an assessment of the knowledge and/or skills of the examinee concerning a specific course unit in the degree programme
- Student: a person who has registered for the degree programme.

**Article 2 Administrative duties of the Board of Examiners**
1. The Board of Examiners will appoint from its members a board of at least three members, who will be charged with the administrative duties of the Board of Examiners.
2. The administrative duties include:
   a. decisions concerning approval of teaching units as referred to in Article 7.3.d of the WHW
   b. decisions regarding rules that, at the request of the student, may deviate from the current provisions
   c. decisions regarding exemption
   d. preparation for determining examination results
   e. taking measures in the event of infringement of order during an examination, within the meaning of Article 11, and in the event of fraud, within the meaning of Article 12
3. This committee is responsible to the Board of Examiners.

**Article 3 Taking examinations**
1. The Board of Examiners will appoint one or more examiners before any examination is taken.
2. Every examination will be a survey by the examiner of the knowledge, understanding and skills of the student, as well as an assessment of the results of that survey.
3. In the event that one and the same examination is held and assessed by more than one examiner, whether or not at the same time, the relevant Board of Examiners will ensure
that the examiners all use the same assessment criteria. To this end, the assessment criteria will be set out in writing by the relevant examiners in advance. If necessary, the Board of Examiners will appoint one of the examiners to be the main examiner.

4. The examiner will ascertain whether the conditions for taking the examination have been met.

Article 4 Number of examinees at an oral examination
With the permission of the examinees, an examiner may decide that a certain examination will be a joint oral examination.

Article 5 Determining the result of the final assessment
1. The Board of Examiners will determine the mark for the final assessment by a simple majority vote.
2. If there is not a majority, then the examinee will be failed.

Article 6 Times
1. Written examinations will be taken at times that shall be determined by the Board of Examiners at least two months before the start of the relevant semester, in consultation with the relevant examiners and in accordance with the provisions of the OER.
2. When determining the times referred to in Article 6.1, examinations shall not be planned concurrently, as far as possible.
3. Changes to a time as referred to in Article 6.1 may only take place as a result of force majeure, for example the non-availability of the required examination hall.
4. Oral examinations will be taken at a time to be agreed between the examiner or examiners in question and the examinee.
5. The provisions of Article 6.4 will also apply as far as possible to examinations to be taken other than in written or oral form.

Article 7 Registration
1. Participation in a written examination may only take place after proper and timely registration with the Faculty administration office.
2. An electronic notification, sent at least 7 days before the relevant examination period commences, constitutes timely registration.
   In exceptional circumstances, the Board of Examiners may permit a late registration.
3. A final assessment may only take place after proper registration in person with the student administration office at least 42 working days before the relevant session of the Board of Examiners.
   The provision in the last sentence of paragraph 2 shall also apply.

Article 8 Request for exemption
1. Requests for Exemption, stating reasons, must be submitted in writing to the Board of Examiners.
2. The Board of Examiners must discuss the matter with the relevant examiners before making a decision.
3. A decision to grant full or partial exemption may not be made by the Board of Examiners
before the person making the request has been given the chance to put his or her case.

4. The Board of Examiners will make its decision no later than one month after receiving
the request. The person making the request will be informed of the decision
immediately.

Article 9 Order during examinations
1. The Board of Examiners will ensure that invigilators are appointed to supervise written
examinations; they will ensure that the examination proceeds in good order. The Board
of Examiners may delegate this responsibility to the relevant examiner.
2. Examinees must identify themselves by means of their student card at the request or
behest of the Board of Examiners.
3. Examinees must obey the instructions of the Board of Examiners or the examiner, which
will be published before the start of the final assessment or the examination, as well as
instructions given during or immediately after the examination.
4. If an examinee fails to comply with one or more of the directions referred to in Article
9.3, he or she may be excluded from further participation in the examination in question
by the Board of Examiners or the examiner. Exclusion means that no result will be given
for that examination. Before the Board of Examiners or the examiner makes a decision to
exclude a student, they will allow the examinee to put his or her case.
5. The duration of each examination is such that the examinee may reasonably have enough
time to answer the questions.
6. The examinee may take the examination questions away after the examination, unless
the Board of Examiners or someone on their behalf has stated otherwise, or if the nature
of the examination questions precludes this.

Article 10 Cheating
1. Cheating is an act or omission by the examinee designed to partly or wholly hinder the
accurate assessment of his or her knowledge, understanding and skills.
2. The Board of Examiners will take certain measures to prevent cheating, including:
   • clear communication about the penalty for cheating
   • organizing examinations and tests in such a way that cheating is prevented as far as
     possible
   • requiring the use of a plagiarism scanner in order to check assignments and the
     Master’s thesis before these are assessed.
3. In the event of cheating during an examination, the examiner may exclude the examinee
from participation in one or more examinations or final assessments to be determined
by the Board of Examiners, for a period of time also to be determined by the Board of
Examiners with a maximum of one year. In the event of serious types of cheating, the
Board of the University, on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners, may
definitively terminate the student’s registration in the degree programme.
4. The decision to ban will be taken on the basis of the written report of the invigilator
concerning the cheating discovered or suspected by him or her.
5. Before the Board of Examiners makes a decision within the meaning of Article 10.3, it
will give the examinee the opportunity to put his or her case.
6. In cases requiring swift action, the Board of Examiners may decide to impose a provisional ban based on a verbal report by the invigilator. He or she will ensure that this report is committed to writing immediately after the examination and a copy provided to the examinee.

7. A ban means that no result will be recorded for the examination referred to in Article 10.3.

Article 11 Questions and assignments
1. The scope of an examination paper shall not extend beyond the content of the sources upon which the paper is based. These sources will be made public in general terms before the start of the module that will prepare for the examination. The precise content of the examination subjects shall be published not later than one month before the examination.
2. The questions and assignments that comprise the examination will be divided as evenly as possible over the sources.
3. The examination will be representative of the learning objectives with regard to content and form.
4. The questions and assignments in the examination will be clear and unambiguous and contain sufficient indications of the detail required in the answers.
5. In good time before the examination takes place, the Board of Examiners or the examiner will announce how the provisions in Article 3.5 of the OER for the Master’s degree in Theology and Religious Studies and in Article 3.4 of the OER for the Research Master’s degree in Theology and Religious Studies (Religion and Culture) will be implemented with regard to holding the examination.
6. In good time before the examination takes place, the Board of Examiners or the examiner will if possible arrange a mock examination to familiarize the examinees with the type of examination as well as the model answers and the assessment criteria.

Article 12 Assessment
1. The student is deemed to have passed the final propaedeutic assessment when he/she has passed all the examinations (i.e. obtained a mark ≥6).
2. The student is deemed to have passed the final Master’s assessment when he/she has obtained a satisfactory mark (≥ 6) for all the examinations. Practicals may also be assessed as follows: Fail (=ON); Pass (=VO).
3. Exemption from an examination or a practical is considered to be the equivalent of a Pass (VO) and will be indicated by VR.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3.3, as far as possible the assessment of written examinations will occur in line with criteria that have been defined in advance in writing, and amended if necessary as a result of matters that may arise during the correction process.
5. The means of assessment shall be such that the examinee can check how the results of his or her examination have been calculated.
6. The Board of Examiners shall announce in good time in which cases it will conduct an investigation within the meaning of Article 3.12 of the OER for the Master’s degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies and in Article 3.8 of the OER for the
Research Master’s degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies (Religion and Culture).

**Article 13 Postmortem**

1. As soon as possible after publication of the results of an oral examination, there will be a discussion of the results between the examiner and the examinee, either on request or on the initiative of the examiner. The results will then be explained.

2. An examinee can request a postmortem with the relevant examiner concerning the results of an examination other than an oral examination within six weeks of the day following the date on which the results are published. The postmortem will take place at a time and a place determined by the examiner.

3. If the Board of Examiners arranges a collective postmortem for an examination, then an examinee may only submit a request as defined in Article 13.2 if he or she attended the collective postmortem and states reasons for the request, or if he or she was unable to attend the collective postmortem due to force majeure.

4. The provisions in Article 13.3 also apply if the Board of Examiners or the examiner permit the examinee to compare his or her solutions with model answers.

5. The Board of Examiners or the examiner may permit exceptions to the provisions of Article 13.2 and 13.3.

**Article 14 Examiner authorization**

1. Each year the Board of Examiners draws up a list of lecturers involved in the teaching to whom it grants examiner authorization. According to the law, such persons may belong to the following categories:
   - lecturers (with or without a PhD) with a permanent contract
   - lecturers (with or without a PhD) with a temporary contract
   - AIOs (PhD students with employee status)
   - postdocs employed by the Faculty
   - professors by special appointment to the Faculty
   - guest researchers with or without a PhD working for other university institutions within or outside the Netherlands who are temporarily affiliated to the Faculty in a salaried or unsalaried position.

2. At the beginning of the thesis process, students can submit a request to the Board of Examiners to appoint an ‘external examiner’ as a co-reader/second assessor for the Master’s thesis. Such requests must be made before the student draws up the thesis contract with the supervisors in question.

3. At the request of the student, the Board of Examiners can grant examiner authorization to:
   - a second assessor from outside the Faculty but within the University of Groningen
   - a second assessor at another university
   - a second assessor who holds a PhD and is not employed at a university.

4. If the second supervisor is an expert who does not hold a PhD and is not employed by a university in the Netherlands, a third faculty examiner must in any case take part as an examiner in the thesis defence.

5. The number of examiners present at a thesis defence must be no less than two and no more than five, and shall include the main supervisor and co-reader/second assessor.
**Article 15 Standards**
The Board of Examiners or the examiners must adhere to the following standards when making their decisions:

a. the preservation of the quality criteria and selection criteria for each examination
b. effectiveness criteria, concentrating on:
   - the limiting of time lost by students who are progressing well with their studies
   - timely termination of the degree programme by students who are unlikely to pass the examinations
c. protect students from themselves if they want to take on too much
d. be understanding towards students who, through no fault of their own, have suffered study delay.

**Article 16 Right of appeal**
It is possible to lodge an appeal with the Board of Appeal for the Examinations against decisions made by the Board or Examiners or the examiners, within the meaning of Article 7.60 of the WHW.

**Article 17 Amendments to the Rules and Regulations**
No amendments shall be made that apply to the current academic year, unless such an amendment will not harm the interests of students.

**Article 18 Date of commencement**
These Rules and Regulations shall take effect on 1 September 2012.
17. ADDRESSES CENTRAL BODIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

General addresses

Board of the University (CvB)
Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen, the Netherlands
Tel.: (050) 363 5285

University Council (U-raad)
Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen, the Netherlands
Tel.: (050) 363 8535
E-mail: uraad@rug.nl
Internet: www.rug.nl/uraad

Legal Affairs Office (ABJZ)
Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen, the Netherlands
Tel.: (050) 363 5440
E-mail: abjz@rug.nl
Internet: www.rug.nl/bureau/expertisecentra/abjz

Donald Smits Center for Information Technology (CIT)
Visiting address: Zernikeborg, Nettelbosje 1
Postal address: P.O. Box 11044, 9700 CA Groningen, the Netherlands
Tel.: (050) 363 9200
E-mail: secretariaat-cit@rug.nl
Internet: www.rug.nl/cit
CIT Helpdesk: Tel.: (050) 363 3232
E-mail: servicedesk-centraal@rug.nl

Health, Safety and Environment Service (AMD)
Visiting and postal address: Visserstraat 49, 9712 CT Groningen, the Netherlands
Tel.: (050) 363 5551
E-mail: amd@rug.nl
Internet: www.rug.nl/amd

Office of the Confidential Advisor
Marijke Dam, Confidential Advisor
Visiting and postal address: Visserstraat 47, 9712 CT Groningen, the Netherlands
Tel.: (050) 363 5435
E-mail: j.m.dam@rug.nl
Internet: www.rug.nl/vertrouwenspersoon
Complaints Committee for harassment, sexual harassment and aggressive, violent or discriminatory behaviour
Postal address: Antwoordnummer 172, 9700 AB Groningen

Addresses for students

Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights
Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen, the Netherlands
E-mail: CLRS@rug.nl
Internet: www.rug.nl/studenten

University Student Desk (USD)
Visiting address: Broerstraat 5
Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen, the Netherlands
Tel.: (050) 363 8004

International Service Desk (ISD)
Visiting address: Broerstraat 5
Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen, the Netherlands
Tel.: (050) 363 8181
E-mail: isd@rug.nl
Internet: www.rug.nl/isd

Student Service Centre (SSC)
Visiting address: Uurwerkersgang 10
Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen, the Netherlands
Tel.: (050) 363 8066
E-mail: ssc-secretariaat@rug.nl
Internet: www.rug.nl/ssc

Talent and Career Center (T&CC)
Visiting address: Munnekeholm 2, 9711 JA Groningen
Postal address: P.O. Box 7117, 9701 JC Groningen, the Netherlands
Tel.: (050) 311 1589
E-mail: info@talentcareercenter.nl
Internet: www.talentcareercenter.nl

University Funds Committee (UFC)
Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen, the Netherlands
E-mail: ufc@rug.nl
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# 5 September 2012 Faculty Opening Academic Year

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* poss. change enrollment via student adm. office