Faculty of Spatial Sciences

Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER)
Master’s degree programme in Spatial Sciences (research)

for academic year 2019-2020

Contents:

1. General provisions p.2
2. Admission p.3
3. Content and structure of the degree programme p.5
4. Examinations and final assessment of the degree programme; general provisions p.12
5. Examinations and final assessment of the degree programme; specific provisions p.16
6. Study progress supervision p.18
7. Transitional and final provisions p.19

The Teaching and Examination Regulations set out the specific rights and obligations that apply to each degree programme taught at the University of Groningen, for both students and the degree programme. The University-wide section of the Student Charter sets out the rights and obligations that apply to all students.

These Regulations were decreed by the Board of the Faculty of Spatial Sciences on 25-06-2019 and approved by the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee where required on 09-07-2019.
Section 1: General provisions

Article 1.1 - Applicability

1. These Regulations for academic year 2019-2020 apply to the teaching, examinations and final assessment of the Master's degree programme in Spatial Sciences (research), CROHO degree programme code 60660, hereinafter referred to as the degree programme, and to all students enrolled in this degree programme. This includes the track 'Islands and Sustainable Development'. In cooperation with the partner universities and research institutes (and potential partners and associates): University of the Aegean, Greece; University of Malta, Malta; University of Las Palmas in Gran Canaria, Spain.

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

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

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

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

Article 1.2 - Definitions

The following definitions apply to these Regulations:


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

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

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

e. OCASYS: the University of Groningen's online course catalogue

f. ECTS credit point: a credit point within the meaning of the Act. The student workload of each course unit is expressed in ECTS credit points, whereby 1 ECTS is equivalent to a student workload of 28 hours

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

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

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

j. Academic year: the period of time that starts on 1 September and ends on 31 August of the following year
k. **Semester**: part of the academic year, either starting on 1 September and ending on a date to be determined by the Board of the University, or starting on a date to be determined by the Board of the University and ending on 31 August

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

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

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

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

p. **Track**: a graduation specialization as approved by the Board of the University.

q. **Specialization**: a particular area of knowledge or the process of becoming an expert in a particular area.

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

**Section 2: Admission**

**Article 2.1 - Entry requirements**

1. Admission to the Research Master in Spatial Sciences requires either:
   - an academic Bachelor’s degree in ‘Human Geography and Urban and Regional Planning or ‘Spatial Planning and Design’
   - an academic Bachelor’s degree in another spatial, social or economic science discipline with substantial socio-spatial and research content. Substantial socio-spatial content is 30 ECTS in human geography and/or urban and regional planning and/or demography and/ or development studies. For those with a different Bachelor degree, the possibilities for admission are discussed with the coordinator.
   - a Master’s degree in human geography or planning.
   - a Master’s degree in another social or economic science field with substantial social-spatial and spatial and research content.

2. In addition, the entrance requirements are as follows:
   - Students must have completed their Bachelor or Master’s degrees with an average grade of at least 7.0 (on a 10 point scale) and with a grade for their Bachelor research work of at least 7.5 or an equivalent grade based on other international grading systems;
   - Basic knowledge of statistical methods equivalent to the programme requirements mentioned in our bachelor programmes.

The decision for admission will be based on:
   - The overall CV of the candidate
     - A clearly motivated request for admission, including some ideas for research
     - proof of compliance with the requirements regarding previous education
     - research output produced so far by the applicant
     - proficiency in English
     - if deemed necessary by the admission board an interview with the applicant is scheduled in which attitude, motivation, orientation and competence for a training in scientific research are evaluated.
3. There are two starting dates for the admission process per academic year, namely September 1st and February 1st of each year.

4. A request for admission after 1 September may be submitted to the Admissions Board by email. A decision regarding this application will be taken within 6 weeks.

5. The Admissions Board is responsible for assessing whether students without a Bachelor’s degree are admissible on the basis of sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the level of a Bachelor’s degree as described in Article 2.1.1.

**Article 2.2 - Language requirement for foreign certificates**

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

2. English language proficiency requirements, one of the following conditions must be met:
   - English at vwo-level
   - Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (A, B or C)
   - Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (A, B or C)
     - A score of 6.5 or higher in the complete International English Language Testing System (Academic version) (IELTS) with minimum scores:
       - Listening 6.5
       - Reading 6.5
       - Writing 6.5
       - Speaking 6.5
   - A score of at least 90 on the internet version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
   - A score of at least 580 on the paper version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
   - A score of at least 237 on the computer version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

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

**Article 2.3 - Admissions Board**

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

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

3. The study advisor for the degree programme (or an equivalent member of faculty staff) will be an advisory member.
4. The Faculty Board selects the members of the Admissions Board and is responsible for specifying the details on the admissions procedure.

**Article 2.4 - Entrance examination for the Master’s Honours programme: criteria**

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

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

**Article 2.5 - Entrance examination: times**

1. The entrance examination will be held twice a year.

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

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

4. Admission will be on condition that the candidate has satisfied the requirements set out in Article 2.1 concerning knowledge and skills by the starting date of the degree programme at the latest, supported by certificates from the degree programmes followed.

The written admission statement will include information for the student about the possibility of an appeal to the Board of Appeal for Examinations.

**Article 2.6 - Re-registration for a Master’s degree programme**

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

**Section 3: Content and structure of the degree programme**

**Article 3.1 - Aim and learning outcomes of the degree programme**

**Research Master Spatial Sciences**

1. **Theoretical attitudes and understanding, research skills**

Graduates have:

A. Sound knowledge and thorough understanding of important contemporary interdisciplinary issues and theories in spatial sciences, and a detailed knowledge of important issues in the area of interest, including relevant theories and subjects in disciplines related to the Faculty’s Research Programme, towards Wellbeing, Innovation and Spatial Transformation (tWIST).

B. Sound knowledge and understanding of theoretical models, concepts and frameworks that help explain and interpret spatial, societal and institutional phenomena and dynamics.
C. The ability to translate knowledge of contemporary interdisciplinary issues and theoretical models, concepts and frameworks into the development of appropriate research questions and research designs.

D. Expertise and experience in the formulation and implementation of a research project, i.e. a clearly formulated research problem that is original, while building on the state of the art research in the field and related academic disciplines, and firmly supported by the relevant literature in the field.

E. The ability to position one’s own research questions in the relevant philosophical and theoretical debates in the field of regional studies.

F. A helicopter view of suitable and feasible research designs and methods of data collection in different types of research, such as field, survey and/or experimental research, as well as expertise and experience in the adequacy, applicability and factual application of such research designs and methods of data collection.

G. The ability to choose and apply appropriate research methodology, methods and techniques, and to critically evaluate the resulting research outcomes.

H. Expertise and experience in the integration of theory and multi-method empirical research (‘theory-guided empirical research’); data-guided and theory-guided theory building; experience in the entire process of research, including reporting on the research results.

I. The ability to apply theories and results in spatial sciences and related disciplines in an original way to policy and scientific research issues in the context of both disciplinary and societal frameworks.

2. General academic skills

Graduates have:

A. The ability to reflect and act independently and impartially when applying and developing knowledge and judgements; while taking into account social and environmental needs as well as ethical responsibilities, (as expressed in the Magna Charta Universitatum).

B. The ability to present work to specialist and non-specialist audiences and to communicate the underpinnings as well as the limitations of the conclusions.

C. The ability to develop new, creative and well-argued perspectives on existing theoretical, methodological and societal debates in the field of geography, planning and/or demography.

D. The ability to write scientifically.

E. The ability to search for and retrieve information and to document and archive data according to general academic standards.

F. The ability and skills to write a master’s thesis in a largely self-directed or autonomous manner.

G. The ability to formulate the policy implications of scientific research, taking into account the limitations of the information and scientific insight on which practical recommendations are based.

H. The ability to position research designs and research findings in their wider societal context by showing awareness of different ways in which the issues under study are perceived, valued and contested.

3. General work orientation

A. The analytical and research skills required for a PhD programme after graduation, or to function at a professional level in research and policy departments of governmental/non-governmental organizations and enterprises.

B. A general work orientation and ability to be a productive and respected member of a research team by contributing to collective efforts, time management and participating in a network in the research domain of spatial sciences.
Research Master Spatial Sciences: Islands and Sustainable Development

1. Theoretical attitudes and understanding, research skills

Graduates have:

A. Sound knowledge and thorough understanding of important contemporary interdisciplinary issues and theories in spatial sciences, and a detailed knowledge of important issues in the area of interest (Islands and Sustainable Development), including relevant theories and subjects in disciplines related to the Faculty’s Research Programme, towards Wellbeing, Innovation and Spatial Transformation (tWIST).
B. Sound knowledge and understanding of theoretical models, concepts and frameworks that help explain and interpret spatial, societal and institutional phenomena and dynamics.
C. The ability to translate knowledge of contemporary interdisciplinary issues and theoretical models, concepts and frameworks around Islands and Sustainable Development into the development of appropriate research questions and research designs.
D. Expertise and experience in the formulation and implementation of a research project, i.e. a clearly formulated research problem that is original, while building on the state of the art research in the field and related academic disciplines, and firmly supported by the relevant literature in the field with special attention to research of Islands and Sustainable Development.
E. The ability to position one’s own research questions in the relevant philosophical and theoretical debates in the field of regional studies.
F. A helicopter view of suitable and feasible research designs and methods of data collection in different types of research, such as field, survey and/or experimental research, as well as expertise and experience in the adequacy, applicability and factual application of such research designs and methods of data collection.
G. The ability to choose and apply appropriate research methodology, methods and techniques, and to critically evaluate the resulting research outcomes. Methods relevant to Islands and Sustainable Development are of particular interest.
H. Expertise and experience in the integration of theory and multi-method empirical research (‘theory-guided empirical research’); data-guided and theory-guided theory building; experience in the entire process of research, including reporting on the research results.
I. The ability to apply theories and results in spatial sciences and related disciplines with special attention to research of Islands and Sustainable Development in an original way to policy and scientific research issues in the context of both disciplinary and societal frameworks.

2. General academic skills

Graduates have:

A. The ability to reflect and act independently and impartially when applying and developing knowledge and judgements; while taking into account social and environmental needs as well as ethical responsibilities, (as expressed in the Magna Charta Universitatum).
B. The ability to present work to specialist and non-specialist audiences and to communicate the underpinnings as well as the limitations of the conclusions.
C. The ability to develop new, creative and well-argued perspectives on existing theoretical, methodological and societal debates in the field of geography, planning and/or demography with special attention to the field of Islands and Sustainable Development.
D. The ability to write scientifically.
E. The ability to search for and retrieve information and to document and archive data according to
general academic standards.
F. The ability and skills to write a master’s thesis in a largely self-directed or autonomous manner.
G. The ability to formulate the policy implications of scientific research, taking into account the limitations of the information and scientific insight on which practical recommendations are based.
H. The ability to position research designs and research findings in their wider societal context by showing awareness of different ways in which the issues under study are perceived, valued and contested with special attention to the field of Islands and Sustainable Development.

3. General work orientation

A. The analytical and research skills required for a PhD programme after graduation, or to function at a professional level in research and policy departments of governmental/non-governmental organizations and enterprises.
B. A general work orientation and ability to be a productive and respected member of a research team by contributing to collective efforts, time management and participating in a network in the research domain of spatial sciences.

The learning outcomes of the individual course units can be found in Ocasys.
For Master level courses outside the faculty or university the ReMa Master coordinator needs to grant permission and will for that aim assess the learning objectives of those courses.

Article 3.2 - Type of degree programme

The degree programme is full time.

Article 3.3 - Language

1. The degree programme is taught in English. Exceptions may apply for specific electives

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

Article 3.4 - Student workload

1. The degree programme has a student workload of 120 ECTS credit points.

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

Article 3.5 - Tracks and Specializations

1. The degree programme has the following tracks:
   a. The track Islands and Sustainable Development.

2. The degree programme has the following specializations:
   a. Specialization: Cultural Geography
   b. Specialization: Cultural Geography: Tourism Geography & Planning
   c. Specialization: Economic Geography
d. Specialization: Economic Geography: Regional Competitiveness and Trade  
e. Specialization: Real Estate Studies  
f. Specialization: Population Studies  
g. Specialization: Socio-Spatial Planning  
h. Specialization: Environmental and Infrastructure Planning

3. Awarding a formal specialization within the programme is a joint responsibility of the Research Master coordinator and the other relevant Master’s programme coordinator.

**Article 3.6 - Content of the programme**

1.a Division of the courses needs to be approved by the programme coordinator.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme 2018-2019</th>
<th>Course Name (year 1)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Multidisciplinary Research Project</td>
<td>1a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific Reading, Debating and Reflecting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced and Specialized Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thematic Theoretical Specialization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Multidisciplinary Research Project</td>
<td>1b</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific Reading, Debating and Reflecting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Research Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thematic Theoretical Specialization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Research Training</td>
<td>2a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific Reading, Debating and Reflecting</td>
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<td>Thematic Theoretical Specialization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Internship at a Renowned Institute</td>
<td>2b</td>
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<td>Thematic Theoretical Specialization</td>
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<tr>
<th>Programme 2018-2019</th>
<th>Course Name (year 2)</th>
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<td>sem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Research Skills</td>
<td>1a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific English Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced and Specialized Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific Reading, Debating and Reflecting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Process &amp; Proposal Writing</td>
<td>1b</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thematic Theoretical Specialization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific Reading, Debating and Reflecting</td>
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</table>
1.b Track: division of the courses needs to be approved by the programme coordinator.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme 2018-2019: track Islands and Sustainable Development</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Name (year 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1a Joint Multidisciplinary Research Project (on Islands and Sustainability)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1a Scientific Reading, Debating and Reflecting: Islands and Sustainable Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>1a Advanced and Specialized Research Methods</td>
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<td>1b Thematic Theoretical Specialization</td>
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### Research Internship at a Renowned Institute: Islands and Sustainable Development

### Thematic Theoretical Specialization

#### Programme 2018-2019: track Islands and Sustainable Development

**Course Name (year 2)**

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<tr>
<td>Individual Master’s Thesis: Islands and Sustainable Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Master’s Thesis: Islands and Sustainable Development</td>
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</table>
2. For the theoretical/thematic specialization any course of the master programmes of the Faculty of Spatial Sciences can be chosen. It is also allowed, in agreement with the master coordinator, to take relevant courses from other Faculties and Universities. For the advanced and specialized research methods course the students have to choose a broad mix of methodological courses (for instance not only quantitative or only qualitative courses).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Article 4.1 - Board of Examiners and examiners**

1. The Board of Examiners is the independent body that determines whether individual students have the knowledge, understanding and skills required to be awarded a degree.

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

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

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

5. The Board of Examiners will set out the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners.
Article 4.2 - Assessment Plan

The programme has an assessment plan in order to link the learning outcomes to the different course units.

Article 4.3 - Examination; general

1. Every course unit has an examination.

2. An examination can comprise a number of partial exams. The results of these partial exams together determine the examination result.

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

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

Article 4.4 - Compulsory order of examinations

The Individual Research Training needs to be completed before starting the course unit Scientific Writing.

Article 4.5 - Examination frequency and periods

1. a. A student who registers for a course unit is automatically registered for the examination for that course unit.

b. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 4.5.1.a, students can register and deregister for examinations during certain periods to be further defined.

c. There will be two opportunities a year to sit examinations. For partial examinations, the examiner may opt for one resit for all partial examinations together.

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

Article 4.6 - Assessment of internship or research assignment

The assessment of an internship or research assignment will be conducted by an examiner of the Faculty of Spatial Sciences, normally the coordinator of the Research Internship course, who will also take into account the experience and assessment of the hosting institute for the internship or research assignment.

Article 4.7 - Form of examinations

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

2. At the student’s request, the Board of Examiners may allow an examination to be taken in a form different from that stated in Article 4.7.1.
3. Mock versions or examples of each examination will be made available to practise.

**Article 4.8 - Oral examinations**

1. Unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise, an oral examination may only be taken by one student at a time.
2. A second examiner must attend the oral exam.
3. Oral examinations are public, unless the Board of Examiners or the examiner stipulate otherwise or the student objects to the public nature of the examination.

**Article 4.9 - Marking of examinations and publication of marks**

1. After an oral examination, the examiner will assess the examination immediately and provide the student with feedback upon request.
2. The examiner will mark a written examination within ten working days of the day on which it was taken, and will provide the Faculty’s administration department with the necessary details for registration of the result in ProgRESS.
3. If an examination is taken in a form other than oral or in writing, the examiner will determine in advance how and when students will receive written confirmation of the result.
4. Students can lodge an appeal against the results of an examination with the Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights (CLRS) within 6 weeks of the date on which the result was announced.

**Article 4.10 – Validity of course units**

1. Completed course units remain valid indefinitely.
2. a. Contrary to the provisions of Article 4.10.1, the Board of Examiners may decide to require a student to take a supplementary or substitute examination for a course unit taken more than five years previously before allowing that student to progress to the final assessment, only if the student’s knowledge is demonstrably outdated.
   b. In the event of extraordinary personal circumstances the validity term will be extended for the period during which the student in question is receiving support from the Graduation Fund.
3. Partial examinations and assignments passed within a course unit that has not been successfully completed will lapse at the end of the academic year in which they were passed unless the examiner decides differently.

**Article 4.11 - Right of inspection**

1. On request, students have the right to inspect their marked work during a period of at least two weeks after the results of a written examination have been made known.
2. Within the time frame stipulated in Article 4.11.1, students may request that they be allowed to peruse their own examination paper and, if possible, the assessment criteria.
3. The Board of Examiners can determine that this inspection or perusal will take place at a certain place and set at least two dates and/or times. If the person concerned can show that they were prevented by force majeure from attending at the indicated places and times, they will be offered another opportunity, if possible within the period stated in Article 4.11.1.

**Article 4.12 - Thesis**

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

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

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

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

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

**Article 4.13 - Degree**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. The Board of Examiners may depart from the provisions set out in Articles 4.14.2-5.
Article 4.15 - Final assessment

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

2. a. On condition that the student’s study programme has been approved, the Board of Examiners will determine the result of the final assessment as soon as the student has passed all the required examinations. The Board of Examiners may define terms to this end.
   By determining the results of the final assessment, the student has proven to have acquired the necessary academic training. The Board of Examiners will issue a degree certificate to this end.
   b. If a student exceeds the relevant deadlines for approval of the study programme referred to under a, the Board of Examiners may postpone his or her graduation date. This date may be in the academic year following the year in which the last examination was passed.

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

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

5. If a student wishes to postpone the date of graduation due to extra examinations that still need to be taken, he or she must submit a request to this end to the Board of Examiners in good time.

6. The graduation date is the date on which the final assessment is passed, as determined by the Board of Examiners in accordance with the provisions of Article 4.15.2, and not the date on which the degree certificate is presented to the student.

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

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

Article 5.1 - Examination provisions in special circumstances

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

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

Article 5.2 - Examinations and functional impairments

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

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

Article 5.3 - Exemptions

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

Article 5.4 - Request for additional resit

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

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

1. A request to take an elective offered by another degree programme must be approved by the Board of Examiners of the student’s own degree programme.
2. The Board of Examiners of the other degree programme is authorized to set and assess the examinations and decide upon requests for alternative exam regulations.

Article 5.6 - Cheating and plagiarism

1. Cheating is an act or omission by a student designed to partly or wholly hinder the forming of a correct assessment of his or her own or someone else’s knowledge, understanding and skills. Moreover, cheating is an act or omission by a student designed to partly or wholly hinder a correct assessment of his own or someone else’s knowledge, understanding and skills.
2. Fraud also includes plagiarism, which means copying someone else’s or the students’ own work without correct reference to the source.
3. If a student cheats, the Board of Examiners may exclude that student from participation in one or more examinations or final assessments for a maximum of one year.
4. In cases of serious cheating, the Board of Examiners may propose to the Board of the University to definitively terminate the student’s registration.
5. The Board of Examiners will set out its course of action in the event of cheating in its Rules and Regulations.
Article 5.7 - Invalid examination

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

Article 5.8 - Course units completed elsewhere

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

2. a. For Double Degree Master’s degree programmes offered together with an institution abroad, at least one quarter of the programme must have been followed at the degree programme during the student’s period of registration as a student at the University of Groningen.
   b. The stipulations in article 4.12.1 with regard to the thesis must be observed.

Article 5.9 - Termination of registration (Iudicium Abeundi)

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

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

3. The stipulations in the University of Groningen Regulations for Registration and Tuition Fees 2019-2020 apply.

Section 6: Study progress

Article 6.1 - Study progress administration

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

2. The Faculty Board will provide each student with an overview of his or her results at least once a year.
Article 6.2 - Study progress supervision

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

Section 7: Transitional and final provisions

Article 7.1 - Amendments

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

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

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

Article 7.2 – Publication

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

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

Article 7.3 - Evaluation

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

b. The Faculty Board evaluates the teaching in the MSc Spatial Sciences degree programme with the help of course evaluations and curriculum evaluations.

Article 7.4 - Date of commencement

These regulations shall take effect on 1 September 2019.