



Teaching and Examination Regulations

2014 - 2015

Master's degree programmes

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

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Section 1 General provisions

Article 1.1 Applicability

1. These Regulations apply to the teaching, the course units, examinations and final assessment of the Master's degree programme in

Biology	Astronomy
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hereinafter referred to as 'the degree programme', and to all students enrolled in this degree programme.

2. The degree programme is provided by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural 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.
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 4.3 with an eye to following the degree programme. In all other respects, the relevant Bachelor's OER will apply to students who are enrolled in a Pre-master's programme.

Article 1.2 Definitions

The following definitions apply to these Regulations:

- a. the Act: Higher Education and Research Act (WHW; *Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk onderzoek*).
- b. student: a person registered at the University for the purpose of taking course units and/or examinations and a final assessment 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: an educational unit 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. practical: a learning-by-doing exercise, as referred to in Art. 7.13 of the Act.
- g. examiner: staff member appointed by the Board of Examiners to assess students' knowledge and skills
- h. 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 one ECTS is equivalent to a student workload of 28 hours.
- i. Pre-master's programme: a programme intended to remedy deficiencies for admission to the degree programme.
- j. academic year: a 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 an date by the Board of the University and ending on 31 August.
- l. colloquium: lecture about a discipline related subject based on scientific literature.
- m. Test or examination: a test of the knowledge, understanding and skills of students, including an assessment of the results.
- n. 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.
- o. 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.
- p. Admissions Board: the board that has decision-making powers in matters concerning admission to the degree programme on behalf of the Faculty Board.
- q. HBO-applicant: a student with a bachelor degree in Applied Sciences.

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

Article 1.3 Aim of the degree programme

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

Article 1.4 Type of degree programme

The degree programme is full-time.

Article 1.5 Refusal of registration (Iudicium Abeundi)

1. In cases of serious objectionable behaviour and/or remarks by a student, the Board of the University can in certain cases, after an advice from the Board of Examiners or from the Faculty Board, decide to terminate the registration of this student after having carefully assessed all the interests of the student and the institution and once it has proven reasonable to assume that the student's behaviour and/or remarks 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 that profession.

2. The stipulations in the University of Groningen Regulations for registration and Tuition fees apply.

Article 1.6 Teaching language

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

Article 1.7 – University of Groningen Honours College

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

Section 2 Structure of the degree programme

Article 2.1 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 2.2 Specializations

Appendix II sets out the specializations of the degree programme.

Article 2.3 Content of the degree programme

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



Article 2.4 Electives

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

Section 3 Examinations and final assessment in the degree programme

Article 3.1 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 the degree.
2. The Faculty Board appoints the members of the Board of Examiners on the basis of their expertise in the field of the degree programme (or group of degree programmes) in question.
3. The Board of Examiners must comprise at least:
 - a. one member who is a lecturer in the degree programme (or in one of the degree programmes that are part of the relevant group of degree programmes);
 - b. one member from outside the degree programme (or one of the degree programmes that are part of the relevant group of degree programmes).
4. Members of the Board or other people who have financial responsibilities within the institution may not be appointed as members of the Board of Examiners.
5. The Board of Examiners will appoint examiners to set examinations and determine the results.
6. The Board of Examiners will approve the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners.

Article 3.2 General

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



2. Assessment is expressed in whole and half numbers greater than or equal to 1 and smaller than or equal to 10, or by the qualifications 'pass' (v) or 'fail'(o). A teaching unit or course unit is passed when a mark higher or equal to 6 is achieved or when the qualification 'pass' (v) is awarded. The mark 5,5 is not awarded.

Article 3.3 Compulsory order of examinations

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

Article 3.4 Assessment of placement/internship/clerkship assignments and research assignments

The assessment of a placement/internship/clerkship or research assignment will be conducted by the original commissioner, after consultation with the on-site supervisor.

Article 3.5 Examination frequency and periods

1. There will be no more than two opportunities a year to sit the examinations.
2. The periods in which examinations can be sat are listed in the study guide and/or OCASYS. Partial exams can also be taken outside the period indicated.
3. Students may resit an examination for a course unit that is no longer offered at least twice during the first year after it has been removed from the curriculum.
4. An examination for a practical is given once a year.
5. A course unit will be examined twice in the year the course unit was not offered.

Article 3.6 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 covered by Article 3.6.1.
3. Students with a functional disorder will be given the opportunity to take examinations in a form that will compensate as best as possible for their individual handicap. If necessary, the Board of Examiners will seek expert advice on this matter. Applications for an adjusted examination should be done/made at least one month before the examination.

Article 3.7 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 3.5.

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

Article 3.8 Authority of the Board of Examiners regarding electives

1. The Board of Examiners for the degree programme setting the examination is authorized to assess the examinations, deal with any complaints and decide upon requests for alternative exam regulations.
2. Course units taught by other degree programmes or faculties are the responsibility of the Board of Examinations of the degree programme in question.

Article 3.9 Examinations and performance disabilities

1. 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 individual disability. 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 performance disability, the Board of Examiners of the degree programme that sets the examination shall comply with the facilities permitted by the Board of Examiners of the degree programme for which the student has registered.

Article 3.10 Oral Examinations

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

Article 3.11 Examination of practical course units

1. For practical course units, active and visible participation in the research training as well as the approval of a (research) report written by the student are required for passing the examination.
2. The assessment of internal practical course units and the written report of such course units will be conducted by an examiner.
3. The assessment of an external research training project will be conducted by the internal examiner advised by an external supervisor.



Article 3.12 Assessing the Final Degree Project

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

Article 3.13 Determining the examination results and publication thereof

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

Article 3.14 Validity

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

Article 3.15 Right of Inspection

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



Article 3.16 Exemptions

At the student's request, the Board of Examiners, having discussed the matter with the examiner in question, may grant exemption from an examination on condition that the student:

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

The validity period of exemptions granted for course units or parts thereof is identical to that of examination results.

Article 3.17 Fraud and plagiarism

1. Fraud is an act or omission by a student designed to partly or wholly hinder the forming of a correct assessment of his or her own or someone else's knowledge, understanding and skills.
2. Fraud also includes plagiarism, which means copying someone else's work without correct reference to the source.
3. If a student commits fraud, 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 the event of very serious fraud, the Board of Examiners may propose to the Board of the University that the student's registration be definitively terminated.
5. The Board of Examiners will set out its course of action in the event of fraud in its Rules and Regulations.

Article 3.18 Invalid examination

In the event of irregularities with regard to an examination that are so serious that an accurate assessment of the examinee's knowledge, understanding and skills cannot be made, the Board of Examiners may declare the examination invalid.



Article 3.19 Final Assessment

1. The Board of Examiners determines the result of the final assessment as soon as the student has passed all the required examinations, thereby acquiring the necessary academic training, and to that end issues a certificate.
2. Students are deemed to have passed the final assessment if they have obtained a sufficient grade for each course unit of the degree programme (see Article 3.1.2).
3. Before the final assessment can be determined, the Board of Examiners may decide to test the student's knowledge of one or more course units or components of the degree programme, if the marks for these course units provide a reason for doing so.
4. By determining the result of the final assessment, the Board of Examiners also commits itself to a speedy processing of the degree certificate ceremony.
5. If a student wishes to postpone the date of graduation due to extra examinations that still need to be taken, he must submit a request to this end to the Board of Examiners in good time.

Article 3.20 Degree

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

Article 3.21 Assessment plan

An assessment plan has been approved by the Faculty Board, comprising the following topics:

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



Section 4 Selection procedure

Article 4.1 Previous education

1. The admission to the degree programme is set out in appendix VI.
2. Holders of a Dutch or foreign Bachelor's or Master's degree with equivalent learning outcomes as the Bachelor's degree programmes referred to in article 4.1.1 can also be admitted to the degree programme.
3. Students with Bachelor's degrees other than those referred to in article 4.1.1 will be admitted at the discretion of the Admissions Board. Admission will be considered if:
 - a) the previous qualification is equivalent to the Bachelor's degree programme requested in article 4.1.1;
 - b) the applicant has sufficient proficiency in the English language to participate in the programme (IELTS test score of 6.5, TOEFL-score of 580 (paper-based), 237 (computer-based) or 92 (internet –based) or equivalent). Applicants with a Dutch VWO or equivalent diploma are exempt for IELTS or TOEFL as are native English speakers;
4. The Board of Examiners can decide on an individual basis that one or more optional course units that are not in the curriculum of the applicant are mandatory course units of the degree programme.
5. Admission within the meaning of article 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 entitles students to register for the degree programme.

Article 4.2 Admission to a specialization

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

Article 4.3 Admission of HBO applicants

1. Applicants with a relevant HBO bachelor's degree will be admitted to the degree programme after having passed a pre master programme of 15, 30, 45 or 60 ECTS.
2. Applicants with a HBO bachelor's degree are exempt for IELTS or TOEFL.
3. Within the pre master programme the candidate is allowed to resit an examination only once, the one immediately after the first examination.



Article 4.4 Admissions Board

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

Article 4.5.A 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.B Entrance examination for the Master's Honours programme: criteria

Bearing in mind the admissions procedure for the degree programme within the meaning of Article 4.1, the Admissions Board will investigate whether the candidate satisfies the conditions concerning knowledge, expertise and skills. When conducting its investigation, the Board will also consider the motivation and ambitions of the candidate concerning the degree programme in question, as well as the candidate's proficiency in the language in which the programme will be taught.

Article 4.6 Applications procedure

1. The application deadlines for admission to the degree programme and given course units are set out in Appendix VII. The application must be submitted to the Admissions Board.
2. Only in exceptional cases will the Admissions Board consider an application submitted after the date stated in Article 4.6.1.



3. The Admissions Board will make a decision before the date set out in Appendix VII. The written admissions declaration will include information for the student about the possibility of an appeal to the Committee of Appeal for the Final Assessments.

Section 5 Study progress supervision

Article 5.1 Study progress administration

1. The Faculty Board is responsible for the registration of the individual results of students.
2. At request of the student the administration office provides a certified overview.

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 Final Provisions

Article 6.1 Amendments

1. Any amendments to these Regulations will, after discussion with the course unit committee and, if necessary, approval of the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
2. An amendment to these Regulations does not apply to the current academic year, unless it may reasonably be assumed that the amendment will not harm the interests of students.
3. In addition, an amendment may not influence the following to the detriment of students:
 - an approval granted within the meaning of Article 2.4
 - any other decision taken within the meaning of these Regulations concerning a student.

Article 6.2 Publication

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



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Article 6.3 Appeal procedure and unexpected events

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

Article 6.4 Date of Commencement

These Regulations shall take effect on 1 September 2014.



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



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



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

Course unit	ECTS	Practical	Assessment	Entry requirements



**Appendix IV Electives
 (art. 2.4)**

Course unit	ECTS	Practical	Assessment	Entry requirements

**Appendix V Entry requirements and compulsory order of
 examinations
 (art. 3.2)**

Course unit	ECTS	Practical	Assessment	Entry requirements



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



Appendix VII

Application deadlines for admission (art. 4.6.1)

Deadline of Application	Non-EU students	EU students
Nanoscience	February 1st 2015	May 1 st 2015
Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences	May 1st 2015	May 1st 2015
Biomolecular Sciences (topprogramme)	May 1st 2015	May 1st 2015
Evolutionary Biology (topprogramme/EM)	January 15th 2015	January 15th 2015
Remaining FMNS Masters	May 1st 2015	May 1st 2015

Decision deadlines (art. 4.6.3)

Deadline of Decision	Non-EU students	EU students
Nanoscience	June 1st 2015	June 1st 2015
Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences	June 1st 2015	June 1st 2015
Biomolecular Sciences (topprogramme)	June 1st 2015	June 1st 2015
Evolutionary Biology (topprogramme/EM)	June 1st 2015	June 1st 2015
Remaining FMNS Masters	November 1st 2015	November 1st 2015