



**university of
 groningen**

**faculty of theology and
 religious studies**

Teaching and Examination Regulations
Master's degree programme
Theology and Religious Studies
(research)

supplement prospectus **2021-2022**

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

These Regulations were decreed by the Board of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies on July 8th, 2021 and approved by the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee where required by law on June 2nd and May 12th, 2021 respectively

Section 1 General provisions

Article 1.1 – Applicability of the Teaching and Examination Regulations

1. These Regulations for the academic year 2021-2022 apply to the teaching, examinations and final assessment of the Research Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies, CROHO degree programme code 60827, hereinafter referred to as **the degree programme**, tracks, and to all students enrolled in this degree programme and in tracks within the degree programmes.
2. The degree programme is provided by the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies 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 offered by the Faculty 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 Teaching and Examination Regulations 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: the 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 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;
 - practical: 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
 - a research proposal
 - participation in a field trip or an excursion
 - completion of a research traineeship
 - participation in other educational activities designed to teach certain skills.
- 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 units 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 Research 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 the latter date as 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. study plan: the plan which students must draw up in consultation with their 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 Board of the Examiners;
- r. Practical: a practical exercise, as referred to in Article 7.13 of the Act, in one of the following forms:
 - a thesis
 - a written assignment or a draft design
 - 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;
- s. Extraordinary circumstances: circumstances as defined in Article 7.51 of the Act, which have to be taken into consideration in the decision as defined in Article 5.4.2. The implementation of Article 7.51 of the Act is set out in the Regulations governing the UG Graduation Fund. In any case, these regulations define extraordinary circumstances as: disability or chronic illness, illness, pregnancy and delivery, extraordinary family circumstances, an insufficiently feasible degree programme, students with elite sport status (as issued by the elite sport coordinator), students with the status of ‘top student entrepreneur’ (as issued by the UGCE) and membership of a consultative participation body.
- t. Academic integrity: information about academic integrity and the related procedures can be found on the UG website: <https://www.rug.nl/about-ug/organization/rules-and-regulations/general/gedragscodes-nederlandse-universiteiten/wetenschappelijke-integriteit>

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

Article 1.3 Type of degree programme

The programme is full-time.

Section 2 Admission

Article 2.1 Entry requirements

1. Admission to the programme requires the following:
 - a. a Bachelor degree obtained in Religious Studies, Theology or a closely related area;
 - b. 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

- (average grade point of 7.5 out of 10 or higher for BA-2 and BA-3 or a equivalent); also the Bachelor thesis, the motivation and study plan are taken into account;
- c. Sufficient knowledge of the English language: for foreign students a TOEFL score of 100 (internet based) (a minimum score for reading/listening/speaking of 25, writing 27) or a minimum score of 7.0 in IELTS (International English Language Testing System; overall, (6.5 on parts)); the tests are not required of native speakers or of Dutch students with a VWO certificate because this leads to a sufficient proficiency. As an alternative to the above-mentioned TOEFL and IELTS scores, a comparable Cambridge Proficiency score (C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency with a minimum score of 185) or a certificate from the University of Groningen Language Centre with a CEFR C1 or higher score will also be accepted;
 - d. sufficient knowledge, insight and skills in the disciplines relevant to the programme;
 - e. the proper attitude, motivation and talent for the successful completion of this degree programme.
 - f. Students who are admitted to the one year master's degree programme Theology and Religious Studies can switch to the Research Master if their results in the first semester of the one year master's programme meet the following requirements: an average grade point of 7.5 or higher out of 10 and finished course units for at least 20 ECTS out of 30. The regular application procedure also apply.
2. A request for admission after 1 September may be submitted to the Admissions Board by email: onderwijs.ggw@rug.nl. A decision regarding this application will be taken within 4-6 weeks.
 3. 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.
 4. Admission within the meaning of paragraph 2.1.1 entitles a student to enrol in the degree programme.

Article 2.2 Conditional admission

1. In special cases, the Admissions Board may, at the student's request, admit the student who is preparing for the final examination of the bachelor's programme referred to in Article 2.1.1 to the Master's programme in Theology and Religious Studies (research) during the academic year 2021-2022, if the student so requests:
 - a. the student of the bachelor's programme only still must obtain a study load of 15 credits from the third bachelor year, and
 - b. there is a legitimate expectation that the student will be able to complete the bachelor's programme within a short period of time, but at most within the academic year 2020-2021, and
 - c. the student would experience a disproportionate study delay as a result of COVID-19, which would be avoided by starting the master's programme before the bachelor's programme has been completed.
2. If the student does not pass the bachelor's examination in the academic year 2021-2022, they cannot re-enrol for the master's programme in the academic year 2022-2023. Any components obtained during enrolment in the master's programme will retain their validity in accordance with the provisions of the TER.

Article 2.3 Board of Admissions

1. The Admissions Board has the authority to decide on behalf of the Faculty Board in matters concerning admission to the degree programme.
2. The Admissions Board of the degree programme 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. The Director of the Graduate School for Theology and Religious Studies (GStHRS) will be member of the Admissions Board.

3. The study advisor for the degree programme (or an equivalent member of faculty staff) will be an advisory member and also secretary.
4. The selection will be made by the Faculty Board, which will also determine the admission requirements.

Article 2.4 Admission

1. The Board of Admissions will investigate whether the candidate meets the requirements as stated in Article 2.1.1.
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 English 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 April 1 (for non EU/EEA-students) or May 1 (for EU/EEA-students).
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 June 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 July 1 by the Faculty Board whether or not they have been accepted.
4. For foreign candidates a skype 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 2.5 Entrance examination for the Master's Honours programme: criteria

1. With a view toward the admission for the Master's Honours Programme, the Admissions Board will investigate whether the candidate satisfies the conditions concerning knowledge, expertise and skills.
2. When conducting its investigation, the Board will also consider the motivation and ambitions of the candidate concerning the degree programme in question, as well as the candidate's proficiency in the language in which the programme will be taught.

Article 2.6 Entrance examination: times

1. The entrance examination for the degree programme will be held once a year as the degree programme commences in the first semester.
2. Applications for admission to the degree programme must be submitted to the Admissions Board before 1 April (for non-EU/EER-students) and before 1 June (for EU/EER-students).

3. Only in exceptional cases will the Admissions Board consider an application submitted after the dates stated in Article 2.6.2.
4. The Admissions Board decides before 15 June. Admission is granted on condition that on the start date concerned, the candidate satisfies 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 2.7. Validity of an admission decision

The decision of the Admissions Board that a candidate is admitted to a master's degree programme remains valid during two successive years.

Article 2.8 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.

Section 3 Content and structure of the degree programme

Article 3.1 Aim and learning outcomes of the degree programme

1. The degree programme is designed to:
 - acquire specialized knowledge, skills and understanding in the field of Theology and Religious Studies, and to enable the learning outcomes listed in Article 3.1.2 to be achieved
 - promote academic development. This is defined as the development of competences (knowledge, skills and attitudes) concerning:
 - independent academic thought, action and communication
 - the use of the relevant academic instruments
 - academic communication in the mother tongue
 - the use of specific knowledge of a field in a wider academic, philosophical and social/cultural context
 - the necessary skills to conduct research in the field of Theology and Religious Studies, applying the relevant disciplinary standards of responsible research, and to report on such research in a way that satisfies the recognized standards in the field
 - enable graduates to enter a PhD-programme or positions outside academia that require strong academic research skills and experience.
2. Students who have completed the Research Master's programme have acquired the following competences in the fields of Theology and Religious Studies:
 1. a comprehensive knowledge of the main debates and approaches relevant for the fields of Theology and Religious Studies and their history, with a focus on interdisciplinary methodologies and theoretical perspectives;
 2. in-depth knowledge of at least one theoretical and methodological approach relevant for the fields of Theology and Religious Studies;
 3. the skills to find, examine and critique specialized literature on a subject in at least one subfield of Theology and Religious Studies and become acquainted with the methods applied in this field;
 4. the ability to structure and conduct independent research in at least one subfield of Theology and Religious Studies, to apply the appropriate research methods, and to report on this in accordance with the standards commonly used in this discipline;

5. the ability to follow and analyse complex scientific debates and subsequently determine and defend their own position;
6. the ability to consider historical, methodological, social and ethical interests within their own discipline when it comes to the academic assessment and analysis of complex issues;
7. the ability to critically reflect on the historical, social and cultural meaning of religious traditions and attitudes in relation to religion;
8. good oral and written presentation skills, which enable them to write research papers that they present at academic conferences and publish in academic journals. They should also be able to communicate their conclusions to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
9. an academic attitude that demonstrates independence, creativity, critical-reflectiveness, and academic integrity;
10. the ability to embark on a PhD programme or to function in an (international) academic environment requiring special research competencies and experience.

3. The learning outcomes of the individual course units taught in the various tracks can be found in the Appendix.

Article 3.2 Type of degree programme

The programme is full-time.

Article 3.3 Language of the programme

The language of the entire degree programme is English.

Article 3.4 Student workload

1. The programme has a student workload of 120 ECTS credit points.
2. Student workload is expressed in whole ECTS credit points.

Article 3.5 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 ECTS);
 - *Philosophy of Science in the Study of Religion and Culture* (10 ECTS);
 - *Field specific Research Skills (one of four: Historical Methods in Early Christianity(RP), Social Scientific Study of Religion (RCG), Research methods in Heritage and Historical Studies (RCH) (5 ECTS), Conducting research methods on religion, health and wellbeing (RHW) (5 ECTS);*
 - *Generic academic skills* (5 ECTS)
 - b. optional modules of 20 ECTS in total which may be taken from the Faculty's regular Master's degree programme as listed in Appendix I, part IB to Art. 3.5 or from other (inter)national Research Master's programmes. In the latter case, the approval the Board of Examiners is required who can obtain advice from the director of the Graduate School.
 - c. Tutorials (10 ECTS)
 - d. Electives (module/tutorial/traineeship) (10 ECTS)
 - e. practicals, consisting of:
 - research traineeships (20 ECTS);
 - thesis (25 ECTS);
 - (writing) a research proposal (5 ECTS)
2. 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 course units in question, are set out in the Course units Catalogue (Ocasys).

Article 3.6 Electives

1. On the basis of a well-founded request by a student, the Board of Examiners may grant permission in advance to:
 - a. replace a course unit in the examination programme with another course unit offered by the University of Groningen or another university in the Netherlands or abroad that dovetails well with the degree programme, or
 - b. to use one or more course units followed at the University of Groningen or another university in the Netherlands or abroad as electives in the degree programme.
2. When assessing such a request, the Board of Examiners will in any case evaluate the coherence of the set of course units (or part thereof) and the level of the course units followed.

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 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 cluster of degree programmes) in question.
3. 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.
4. The Board of Examiners will appoint examiners to set examinations and determine the results.
5. The Board of Examiners will draw up the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners.

Article 4.2 Assessment plan

An assessment plan approved by the Faculty Board is part of the TER of each degree programme. The assessment plan comprises the following:

1. the learning outcomes of the degree programme;
2. the course units of the degree programme with their student workload in ECTS and the learning outcomes of each course unit;
3. the relationship between course units and learning outcomes;
4. the assessment mode to be used and the assessment moments for each course unit;
5. the test design, the assessment procedures, assessment criteria;
6. the right of inspection;
7. who is/are responsible for the implementation of the various components of the assessment policy;
8. the organization of regular evaluation.

Article 4.3 Examination: general

1. Every course unit has a related examination.
2. An examination can comprise a number of partial exams. The result of these partial exams together determine the examination result.
3. Examinations, both interim and final, provide students with the information they need to assess whether they have attained or will attain the required learning goals.
4. A resit opportunity is offered for each partial exam (summative assessment) of a course unit. This resit may comprise resits of various different partial exams previously taken. The lecturer is responsible for the design of such resits.

5. The results of an examination are given as pass or fail, in numbers on a scale of 1 to 10, expressed as 5.5 or more for a pass and 5.4 or less for a fail.
6. The following stipulations apply to participation in course units with seminars or working groups as teaching method 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 75% attendance requirement will apply to these lectures.
 3. Students who attend fewer than 75% of the lectures will not be allowed to sit the examination for the course unit in question and must repeat the course unit.
 4. The stipulations in Article 4.3.5 concerning the practicals c.q. the course units with compulsory attendance will apply if they are listed in the course unit description in Ocasys.
 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.
7. The following stipulations apply to participation in examinations:
 1. Students who do not satisfy the stipulations listed in Articles 4.3.5.1 to 4 are banned from participating in the examination.
 2. In accordance with the stipulations of Article 4.3.5 with regard to compulsory attendance at practicals or course units, students who attend fewer than 75% of the lectures of the following course units will be banned from participation in the examination:
 - Spiritual Care: roles and methods
 - Psychopathology and Religion
 - Religion, Violence and Conflict Transformation
 - Theological Heritage
8. Papers that are not submitted before the original deadline will fall under the resit regulations and must be submitted before the second deadline, which falls in the resit period.
9. Papers that are submitted before the original deadline but are awarded a fail mark can be resat/improved and must then be resubmitted before the second deadline, which falls in the resit period of the relevant teaching block.
10. Papers that are not submitted before the resit deadline will not be marked. The student in question will have to write a new paper on a new topic in the next academic year.
11. An examination that has been passed may not be taken again.
12. The (weighted) final mark for a course unit must be 5.5 or higher. If the final mark is based on several partial exam results, then each part must have been awarded at least a 5.
13. If a student has completed all the compulsory parts of a course unit to the best of his or her ability but has still not passed, then the examiner may give him or her the opportunity to take a supplementary or replacement test. Granting this opportunity is subject to approval by the Board of Examiners.

Article 4.4 Compulsory order of examinations

The examinations for the course units listed below may not be taken until after the examinations for the associated course units have been passed:

Course unit name	after has been passed
Master thesis	one of the following course units: Conducting Research on Religion, Health and Wellbeing (5 ECTS), Historical Research Methods (5 ECTS), Social Scientific Research Methods (5 ECTS) or

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 4.5.1a, students can register and deregister for examinations during certain periods to be further defined.
c. There will be an opportunity to sit the examinations for the modules listed in Article 3.5 twice a year. For partial examinations, one resit for all partial examinations together may be opted for.
2. The periods in which examinations can be sat are listed in the Student Handbook and/or OCASYS . Partial exams can also be taken outside the period indicated.
3. An exam in conclusion of a course unit must be taken not later than the end of the academic year (examination term)
4. If the course unit is not completed within the examination term, the exam results for that course unit will lapse and the student in question must take the entire course unit again the following year. This rule counts also for papers, these must be rewritten on a new topic.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 4.5.1, there will be only one opportunity in a certain year to take the examination for a course unit not taught in that year.
6. Students may re-sit 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.

Article 4.6 Assessment of research traineeship

The assessment of the research traineeship will be conducted by the Faculty supervisor, on the basis of the self-evaluation report and after consultation with the supervisor at the host institution or organization

Article 4.7 Assessment of the thesis and research proposal

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

Article 4.8 Form of Examinations

1. Examinations will be taken in the manner stated in OCASYS.
2. In situations of force majeure where it is not reasonably possible to provide the teaching and examinations in the manner stated in OCASYS, another form of teaching and examination may be temporarily switched to. This is subject to the condition that the established learning objectives are achieved upon completion of the study programme, even after the change of form, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners).
3. 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 4.8.1.
4. Mock versions of each examination will be made available.

Article 4.9 Oral Examinations

1. Unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise, an oral examination may only be taken by one student at a time. A second examiner may attend the oral exam at the request of the student and/or the examiner. In case the oral exam is held by an examiner the exam must be audio-recorded. Recordings will be deleted immediately after the (standard) period for perusal.
2. Oral examinations are not public, unless the Board of Examiners stipulates otherwise or the student motivates his objection to the public nature of the examination.

Article 4.10 Marking of examinations and publication of marks

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 registration of the result in Progress.
3. The examiner will mark a paper which is submitted in time within fifteen working days after the deadline of submission, unless the examiner and the student have made other arrangements. 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 4.11.1, as well as their right to appeal
6. 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 4.11 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 that the validity of a course unit is limited. The Board of Examiners can only decide that a course unit is no longer valid if the student's skills and knowledge are demonstrably outdated. The Board of Examiners may then decide to require a student to take a supplementary or substitute examination before allowing that student to progress to the final assessment .
 - b. In the event of extraordinary personal circumstances the validity term will be extended to include the period during which the student in question is receiving support from the Graduation Fund.
3. Partial examinations and assignments passed within a course unit that has not been successfully completed will lapse at the end of the academic year in which they were passed.

Article 4.12 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. If students make use of this opportunity, they will be provided with a copy of their work at cost price at their request.
2. On request, and within the time frame stipulated in Article 4.12.1, any interested person may request permission to peruse the examination paper and, if possible, the assessment criteria.
3. The Board of Examiners can determine that this perusal will take place at a certain place and 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 4.12.1.

Article 4.13 Thesis

1. A thesis can in principle only be used for one University of Groningen degree programme. Full or partial exemptions for a degree programme's thesis may be granted by the Board of Examiners based on a thesis written for another degree programme.
2. Theses are stored by the Faculty Board for a period of at least 7 years.
3. Students will be given the opportunity to write a final-year thesis (at least) once per academic year.
4. The period during which students can write theses will be published in the Student Handbook and/or OCASYS.

5. More detailed regulations on the design, content, time frame and assessment of the thesis can be found in the Regulations for Master's theses. This includes, for example, the following regulations:
 - The thesis must be completed within the current academic year. Students who do not complete their thesis within the academic year in which they started it must submit a reasoned request for extension of the completion term to the Board of Examiners. Upon the student's request, the Board of Examiners may take the student's extraordinary circumstances into account in its assessment of a request for extension, as well as his/her study behaviour, any agreements made or study plan drawn up in consultation with the study advisor, and the student's plan for completing the thesis. The Board of Examiners will also consult the supervisor before making a decision.
 - Thesis terms can be extended for a period of up to one semester at a time.
 - No more than two extensions will be granted.
 - The draft version of the thesis must be submitted on 1 June, the definitive version on 1 July and the revised version on 21 July.
 - No more than 7 supervision meetings are held for Master's theses.
6. The final mark of the master thesis should be at least a (not rounded off) 6.0.
7. If the assessors are of the opinion that the thesis cannot be awarded a pass mark, the student will be given one opportunity to revise the work within a time frame defined by the degree programme.
8. The Board of Examiners is the only body that can deviate from the provisions of this Article at the written request of a student.
9. All copyrights to theses and other independently written assignments that aim to assess a student's knowledge, understanding and skills in principle remain with the student in question. Anyone else who wishes to use the thesis or written assignment will need the student's permission. However, the University needs unconditional freedom to handle theses and written assignments in order to archive (possibly under embargo) and process them in accordance with the Dutch Inspectorate of Education and the WHW. All students are therefore required to give the University unconditional permission to perform these actions and must bear in mind that as students they are individually responsible for maintaining academic integrity.

Article 4.14 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 will be indicated on the degree certificate.
3. The endorsement 'Research Master degree (120 ECTS)' shall be registered on the degree certificate.

Article 4.15 Honours Cum Laude/Summa Cum Laude

1. The Board of Examiners will determine whether or not the Master's degree certificate will be awarded an honours predicate.
2. The following conditions apply:
 - a) Cum laude: the mark for the thesis must be at least 8.0 as well as 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 as well as 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 practical's 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. No honours are awarded if a decision by the Board of Examiners has been taken to the effect that a student is no longer eligible for an honours predicate because fraud/plagiarism has been detected.
7. In certain circumstances, the Board of Examiners may depart from the provisions set out in Articles 4.14,2-6.

Article 4.16 Final Assessment

1. The degree programme is concluded with a final assessment.
2. a. On the 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. The result of the final assessment indicates that the student has acquired the necessary academic training. The Board of Examiners will issue a degree certificate indicating this.
b. If a student fails to meet the relevant deadlines for approval of the study programme referred to under a, the Board of Examiners may postpone their graduation date. This date may be in the academic year following the year in which the last examination was passed
3. Before the result of the final assessment can be determined, the Board of Examiners may decide to test the student's knowledge or skills 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 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 within two weeks after the date of the final assessment has been set.
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 4.16.2, 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 4.16.1, 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. This is also applicable to the recording of oral exams.

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 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. 3.5 on condition that the student:
 - a. has completed part of a university course unit that is equivalent in content and level.
 - b. can demonstrate by work and/or work experience that they has sufficient knowledge and skills in respect of the module in question.
2. Students who have completed accepted optional modules taken from the Faculty's 1 year Master's programme (as listed in Appendix I) may request admission to the Research Master programme. The size of the exemptions of the optional modules is to be decided upon by the Board of Admissions but it may not surpass 20 ECTS in all.
3. The validity period of exemptions granted for course units or parts thereof is identical to that for examination results.

Article 5.4 Request for additional resit

1. Students may submit a request for an additional resit to the Board of Examiners.
2. Such a request may be granted if the student in question failed the relevant exam due to extraordinary circumstances and if not granting the request for an additional resit would result in unacceptable study delay.
3. The following criteria apply to granting a request for an additional resit for the last course unit in the degree programme:
 - it must concern the last examination result needed
 - not granting the request would result in study delay of at least one semester
 - the examinee must have taken the last two regular exam opportunities for the course unit in question.

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

1. A request to take an elective at 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 Open Degree Programme

1. Students may choose to follow a degree programme's Open Degree Programme, which deviates from the regular track(s) of the degree programme. An Open Degree Programme must always be approved in advance by the Board of Examiners of the degree programme in which the student is registered.
2. The following additional requirements apply to Open Degree Programmes
 - a. Meet the learning outcomes of the master's degree programme
 - b. Meaningful relationship between the parts of the programme

Article 5.7 Cheating and plagiarism (see appendix 4)

1. Cheating is an act or omission by a student designed to partly or wholly hinder the forming of a correct assessment of his or her own or someone else's knowledge, understanding and skills.
2. Cheating also includes plagiarism, which means copying of another person's or one's own knowledge, understanding and skills without proper reference.
3. By submitting written assignments for the purpose of assessment within the degree programme, students implicitly give the University permission to use a plagiarism scanner to check their assignments for plagiarism. Each student is

- individually responsible for maintaining academic integrity.
4. 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.
 5. In the event of very serious cheating, the Board of Examiners can advise to the Board of the University to permanently terminate a student's registration in the degree programme.
 6. The Board of Examiners will set out its course of action in the event of cheating in its Rules and Regulations.

Article 5.8 Invalid examination

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

Article 5.9 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 followed at the Faculty 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, the Board of Examiners determines before the start of the programme which part (%) of the programme actively must be taken at the faculty during the registration as student at the RUG.
b. The stipulations in article 4.12.1 with regard to the thesis must be observed.

Article 5.10 Termination of enrolment (Judicium 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 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 them to be unsuitable for one or more of the professions for which they is being trained in their 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 apply.

Section 6 Study progress supervision

Article 6.1 Study progress administration

1. The Faculty Board is responsible for registering 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 request the approval of the Board of the Examiners. They hand in their plan to the Graduate School Office no later than three weeks after enrolment.

Article 6.2 Study progress 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 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 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 will not harm the interests of students.
3. In addition, the Board of Examiners may not take any decisions under these regulations that would be 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 the Teaching and Examinations Regulations are available from the Faculty office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website via the Student Portal or <https://www.rug.nl/ggw/education/studyguide/>.

Article 7.3 Evaluation

1. 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.
2. The Faculty Board evaluates the teaching in the master's degree programme as follows:
 - course unit evaluations
 - programme evaluations

Article 7.4 Date of Commencement

These Regulations will take effect on September 1, 2021.

Appendix 1 Overview of the programme Research Master ThRS

Course title	Course code	Ocasys Link
IA. Compulsory		
Theories of Religion and Culture (10 ECTS)	THRMTRCE10	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THRMTRCE10
Philosophy of Science in the Study of Religion and Culture (10 ECTS)	THRMPHSS10	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THRMPHSS10
Field specific Research Skills (5 ECTS); Choice (1 of 4)		
Historical Methods in Early Christianity (5 ECTS)	THMHRME5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THMHRME5
Social Scientific Research Methodes (5 ECTS)	THM-SSRM5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-SSRM5
Research methods in Heritage and Historical Studies (5 ECTS)	THMRMSE5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THMRMSE5
Conducting Research on Religion, Health and Well-being (5 ECTS)	THM-RMRHW	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-RMRHW
Generic academic skills (5 ECTS)		
Generic academic skills (5 ECTS)	THRMGASE5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THRMGASE5
Specialization: Optional Modules (20 ECTS)		
Specialization: Tutorial (10 ECTS)		
Specialization: Electives (module/tutorial/traineeship) (10 ECTS)		
Research traineeships (20 ECTS)	THRMRT	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THRMRT
Research proposal (5 ECTS)	THRM-RP	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THRM-RP
Thesis Research Master (25 ECTS)		
IB. Optional		

A) Religion, Health and Well-being		
Perspectives on Religion, Health and Well-being (5 ECTS)	THM-PRHW	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-PRHW
Ethics in Health Care (5 ECTS)	THM-ME	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-ME
Religion, Gender and Sexuality (5 ECTS)	THM-RGS5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-RGS5
Conducting Research on Religion, Health and Well-being (5 ECTS)	THM-RMRHW	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-RMRHW
Gender, Religion and Sexual Nationalism (5 ECTS)	THM-GRSN5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-GRSN5
B) Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern		
Religious Diversity in the Graeco-Roman World (10 ECTS)	THM-RDGW10	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-RDGW10
Texts of Terror (5 ECTS)	THMTTE5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THMTTE5
Historical Methods in Early Christianity (5 ECTS)	THMHRME5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THMHRME5
'Othering' in Early Islam (5 ECTS)	THM-OEI5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-OEI5
Reception and Re-Use of Authoritative Texts (5 ECTS)	THMRRATE5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THMRRATE5
Dirk Smilde Research Seminar (10 ECTS)	THMDSRSE10	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THMDSRSE10
C) Religion, Conflict and Globalization		
Religion, Conflict and Globalization: A Critical Introduction (5 ECTS)	THM-RCGI5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-RCGI5
Social Scientific Research Methodes (5 ECTS)	THM-SSRM5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-SSRM5
Choice (2 of 4) (10 ECTS)		
<i>Religion, Violence, and Conflict Transformation (5 ECTS)</i>	THM-RVCT5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-RVCT5
Gender, Diversity and Religious Heritage (5 ECTS)	THM-GDRH5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-GDRH5
Nature, Humanity, and Global Perspective (5 ECTS)	THM-NHGP5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-NHGP5

Religion, Gender and Sexuality (5 ECTS)	THM-RGS5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-RGS5
Choice (1 of 3) (10 ECTS)		
Migration, Culture and Identity (5 ECTS)	THM-MCRI5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-MCRI5
Gender, Religion and Sexual Nationalism (5 ECTS) of Psychopathologie en Religie (5ECTS)	THM-GRSN5 of THMPSPRE5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-GRSN5 of https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THMPSPRE5
National Socialism and Religion (5 ECTS)	THM-NSR5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-NSR5
D) Religion and Cultural Heritage		
Heritage, Identity, Religion: Theoretical Approaches (5 ECTS)	THM-HIR5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-HIR5
Choice (1 of 3) (5 ECTS)		
Material Religion: Things, Places, Performances, and Beliefs (5 ECTS)	THMMRE5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THMMRE5
Theological Heritages in a (Post) Modern Context: Confessional and Liberal Concepts of Truth (5 ECTS)	THMTHPMCE5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THMTHPMCE5
Regional Heritage: Old Churches–New Meanings (5 ECTS)	THM-RH5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-RH5
Choice (2 of 5) (10 ECTS)		
Museums and Religion (5 ECTS)	THM-MR5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-MR5
Gender, Diversity and Religious Heritage (5 ECTS)	THM-GDRH5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-GDRH5
Heritage of death: the heritage of funerary practices and memorialization (5 ECTS)	THM-HOD	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-HOD
National Socialism and Religion (5 ECTS)	THM-NSR5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THM-NSR5
Reception and Re-Use of Authoritative Texts (5 ECTS)	THMRRATE5	https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/show?code=THMRRATE5

Ad Appendix 2, part 1B (optional modules)

The Board of Examiners may permit the student to select one or more modules from the Research Master's degree programme of other faculties of the University of Groningen or another university.

Appendix 3 Assessment Plan (article 4.2)

Subjects of the assessment plan:

1. the learning outcomes of the degree programme (see TER master Theology and Religious Studies (research) 2021-2022, art. 3.1)
2. the course units of the degree programme and the learning outcomes of each course unit (see TER master Theology and Religious Studies (research) 2021-2022, appendix of art. 3.1.3)
3. the relationship between course units and learning outcomes (see assessment matrix)
4. the assessment mode to be used and the test moments for each course unit (see TER master Theology and Religious Studies (research) 2021-2022, appendix of art. 3.1.3 or Assessment plan Faculty Theology and Religious Studies 2021-2022, chapter 5))
5. the test design and assessment procedures and assessment criteria used (Assessment plan Faculty Theology and Religious Studies 2021-2022, chapter 7 and 10)
6. right of inspection (Assessment plan Faculty Theology and Religious Studies 2021-2022, chapter 11)
7. who is responsible for the implementation of the various components of the assessment policy (Director of Education, lecturers, Board of Examiners);
8. the method of regular evaluation (Assessment plan Faculty Theology and Religious Studies 2021-2022, chapter 15).

Appendix 4 Regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism (art. 5.7)

1. Cheating and plagiarism are acts or omissions, regardless of whether these are intentional, by a student designed to partly or wholly hinder the forming of a correct assessment of their own or someone else's knowledge, understanding and skills (see the Teaching and Examination Regulations, Article 9.16).
2. Cheating includes acts such as the following:
 - Cheating during an examination. Anyone who deliberately enables someone else to cheat is considered complicit;
 - Bringing aids (pre-programmed calculators, mobile phones, books, syllabi, notes, etc.) to the examination, consultation of which is not explicitly permitted;
 - Having others complete an assignment or part thereof on one's behalf;
 - Taking possession of the relevant exam questions or assignments before the date or time of the examination;
 - Faking questionnaire or interview answers or research data;
 - Copying fellow students' work and presenting this as one's own work;
 - Resubmitting assignment that have been awarded marks in a previous course unit;
 - Submitting assignments acquired from a commercial institution or written by someone else (whether paid for or not).
- 3.a Plagiarism is a specific type of fraud, where in a thesis or other assignment data or sections of one's own or someone else's work are copied without properly referring to the source. Plagiarism includes acts such as the following:
 - Copying text from digital sources such as encyclopaedias or digital journals without using quotation marks or references;
 - Copying text from the internet without using quotation marks and references.
 - Copying text from printed media such as books, journals or encyclopaedias without using quotation marks or references;
 - Including translations of texts such as the ones listed above without using quotation marks or references;
 - Paraphrasing texts such as the ones listed above without properly acknowledging the source – a paraphrase must be indicated as such, by explicitly linking the text to the original author in either the body of the text or a note, to prevent the impression being formed that it represents the student's own ideas;
 - Copying video, audio or test material from others without mentioning the source and thus presenting it as one's own work;
 - Submitting previously submitted own work without stating the source and presenting it as original work produced for the course unit in question, unless the course unit or the lecturer explicitly permit this;
 - Copying fellow students' work and presenting it as one's own work. A student who gives a fellow student permission to copy their work is considered complicit to plagiarism;
 - If one of the authors collaborating on a joint assignment commits plagiarism, the other authors are complicit to this plagiarism if they could or should have known that the other author was committing plagiarism;
 - Submitting assignments acquired from a commercial institution (such as a website containing extracts or papers) or paying someone else to write them.
- 3.b Electronic detection programs may be used to detect plagiarism in texts. When submitting a text, the student in question implicitly grants permission for the text to be included in the database of the relevant detection program.
4. Lecturers are required to report suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism.
 - a. If an act of cheating or plagiarism has been detected or is suspected, the Board of Examiners will launch an investigation, during which the student and the lecturer will be heard.
 - b. The Board of Examiners will then determine whether an act of cheating or plagiarism has been committed.

5. Once cheating or plagiarism is detected, the Board of Examiners will take the following measures:
 - a. In all cases:
 - declare the assignment or examination invalid
 - issue a reprimand, which is recorded in the student's file
 - b. In certain cases, depending on the nature and extent of the cheating or plagiarism, and on the study phase of the examinee, one or more of the following sanctions:
 - expulsion from the course unit
 - denial of permission to participate in examinations or other modes of assessment relating to the relevant course unit for the current academic year, or for a period of 12 months
 - denial of permission to participate in all exams or other modes of assessment for a period of 12 months
 - c. If the student has already been reprimanded in the past: denial of permission to participate in all exams or other modes of assessment for a period of 12 months.
 - d. In the event of very serious cheating or repeated cheating, the Board of Examiners may propose to the Board of the University that the student's registration be definitively terminated.
6. The term 'Board of Examiners' refers to the Board of Examiners of The Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies.
7. The term 'examination' or 'exam' refers to the assessment (including marking) for each course unit of students' knowledge, understanding or skills.
8. If, in case of detected fraud and/or plagiarism, the student has been sanctioned before, he/she will be fully prohibited to participate in exams or other forms of assessments in the programme, or the university as a whole, for a maximum period of 12 months, and will be advised to leave the programme.

These Regulations took effect on 1 January 2019 and may be cited as the 'Regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism' of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies.