FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (OER)

Part A: General information for all Master's degree programmes

for the academic year 2025-2026

These Regulations were approved by the Board of the Faculty of Arts on 17 October 2025 with the approval of the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee where required.

Contents

1. General provisions……page 3
2. Qualifications and admission……page 5
3. Content and structure of the degree programme……page 7
4. Examinations ……page 10
5. Final assessment ……page 14
6. Study progress supervision ……page 16
7. Transitional and final provisions ……page 16

SECTION 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1.1 – Applicability

1. These Teaching and Examination Regulations apply to the teaching, examinations, and final assessment of all Master's degree programmes and tracks in the Faculty of Arts, hereinafter referred to as 'the degree programme', for the academic year 2025-2026, and to all students enrolled in the degree programme and tracks.
2. The degree programme is provided by the Faculty of Arts 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 2.3 with a view 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.
6. In these Regulations the term 'the degree programme' refers to the Master's degree programme in which the student is enrolled. Each of the degree programmes listed below has an individual Part B, with provisions that only apply to that degree programme.

List of Master's degree programmes

Some of the degree programmes listed below have a (p) behind their name, to indicate that they are offered as both full-time and part-time programmes.
Master's label with ISAT code:

Literary Studies (p) – (60813)
Literary Studies – Research Master's programme – (60814)
Linguistics – (60815)
Linguistics – Research Master's programme – (60817)
Archaeology – (60805)
Archaeology – Research Master's programme – (60133)
History (p) – (66034)
History – Research Master's programme – (60139)
International Relations (60 ECTS) – (60734)
International Relations (120 ECTS) – (60819)
International Relations – Research Master's programme – (60820)
Classics & Ancient Civilizations – (60821)
Classics & Ancient Civilizations – Research Master's programme – (60039)
Arts & Culture – (60087)
Arts & Culture – Research Master's programme – (60829)
Media Studies – (60831)
Communication & Information Studies – (66826)

Middle Eastern Studies – (60842)
North American Studies – (60845)
European Studies – (60847)
Dutch Studies – (60849)

Article 1.2 – Definitions
In these Regulations, the following definitions apply:

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 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 system.
f. ECTS credit point: a credit within the meaning of Article 7.4 of the Act. The student workload of each course unit is expressed in ECTS credit points, whereby 1 ECTS credit point 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. Syllabus: a document based on the Faculty syllabus model, comprising information about the form, content, and organization of an individual course unit.
j. 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.
k. Academic year: the time period that starts on 1 September and ends on 31 August of the following year.
l. 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.
m. Practical exercise: a teaching or learning activity as referred to in Article 7.13 of the Act, in one of the following forms:
   - a thesis
   - participation in a seminar
   - a written assignment, paper or draft
   - a research assignment
   - participation in a field trip or excursion
   - completion of a placement
   - participation in another educational activity designed to teach certain skills
n. 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.
o. Examiner: a person appointed by the Board of Examiners to

set examinations and determine their results.

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. Programme Committee: the consultative and advisory body that fulfils the duties referred to in Article 9.18 of the Act.
r. N-A registration: Niet Afgerond/Niet Aanwezig / Not Attended/Not Assessed. Registration for students who are registered for a course unit but have not received a final assessment for it.
s. Track: a graduation specialization as approved by the Board of the University.
t. Extraordinary circumstances: circumstances such as those referred to in Article 7.51 of the Act, which will be taken into account when formulating decisions within the meaning of Article 5.4. Article 7.51 of the Act is further elaborated in the University of Groningen Graduation Fund Regulations. In these Regulations, extraordinary circumstances include, in any case, a disability or chronic illness, illness, pregnancy and delivery, extraordinary family circumstances, a degree programme that is not feasible, students with an elite sports status (issued by the elite sports coordinator), and membership of a consultative participation body.
v. FR registration: Registration for students who are enrolled in a course unit but do not receive a final assessment for it because they have been found guilty of cheating or plagiarism.

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

SECTION 2 - QUALIFICATIONS AND ADMISSION

Article 2.1 – Qualifications

1. The regular entry requirements for the degree programme are set out in Article 2.1 of Part B of these Teaching and Examination Regulations.
2. The Admissions Board will make a decision concerning admission of holders of a degree other than that stated in Article 2.1 of Part B of these Regulations.
3. Admission entitles students to register for the degree programme.
4. The starting dates of the degree programme are listed in Part B of these Teaching and Examination Regulations.

Article 2.2 – English language requirements

1. The following additional language requirements apply: English at VWO diploma level. The required English language proficiency can be demonstrated by presenting one of the following documents:

a) a VWO diploma
b) a subject certificate for VWO English (mark 6 or higher)
c) the iBT TOEFL test: with a minimum score of 90 and a minimum score of 21 on all components

d) IELTS Academic Module 6.5, with a minimum score of 6.0 on all components
e) a certificate from the University of Groningen Language Centre, at least CEFR C1 and B2 for no more than two components.
f) Cambridge: C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency with a minimum score of 180
g) other documentary proof of the required language proficiency may be submitted to the admission committee for assessment.

2. For some Master's degree programmes, the language requirements differ from those set out in Article 2.2.1. See Section 2 of part B of these Regulations.

Article 2.3 – Pre-Master's programmes

1. Holders of a degree other than that stated in Article 2.1 of Part B of these Regulations must submit a request for admission to the Admissions Board of the degree programme. The Admissions Board may decide that the student must complete a Pre-Master's programme, to be designed on an individual basis, in order to gain admission to the degree programme. Such a Pre-Master's programme may have a student workload of no more than 60 ECTS.
2. A maximum term of four consecutive semesters will apply to the successful completion of the Pre-Master's programme.
3. Students who are required to follow a Pre-Master's programme in order to gain admission to an English-taught Master's degree programme or track must satisfy the language requirement set out in Section 2 of Part B of the Teaching and Examination Regulations of the relevant Master's degree for students with foreign qualifications.
4. The stipulations concerning Pre-Master's programmes in the University of Groningen Regulations for Registration and Tuition Fees 2025-2026 apply.

Article 2.4 – Admissions Board

1. The Admissions Board has the power to decide on behalf of the Faculty Board in matters concerning admission to the degree programme.
2. The composition and duties of the Admissions Board are set out in the Faculty Regulations for the Faculty of Arts.
3. The study advisor for the degree programme (or an equivalent member of Faculty staff) may be appointed as an advisory member.
4. The Faculty Board is responsible for appointing the members of the Admissions Board and for establishing the admission requirements.

2.5 – Entrance examination: times

1. Entrance examinations for the degree programme are held twice a year; once for students starting in the first semester and once for students starting in the second semester.

However, degree programmes that only have one annual starting date, in September, only have one entrance examination per year.

2. The deadline for submitting admission applications to the Admissions Board of the desired degree programme is published on the relevant degree programme's web page.
3. Only in exceptional cases will the Admissions Board consider an application submitted after the date stated in Article 2.6.2.
4. Admission is granted on the condition that on the start date concerned, the candidate satisfies the requirements of Article 2.1 of Part B of these Teaching and Examination Regulations regarding knowledge and skills, as evident from documentary proof of the programmes followed. The written admission decision will include information for the student about the possibility of an appeal to the Board of Appeal for Examinations.

Article 2.6 – Entrance examination: hardship clause

The Board of Examiners may deviate from the stipulations of Article 2.1 in situations where refusal to admit a student would demonstrably lead to a situation of unfairness of an overriding nature. Whether or not such a situation applies will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Article 2.7 – 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 for September or February.

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
    a. impart an academic education to students in terms of specialized knowledge, understanding, and skills in the field of the degree programme, such that they are able to perform successfully in positions for which academic knowledge and skills at Master's degree level in the above field are required or preferred.
    b. promote academic development. Students must satisfy the requirements set out in the 'Nederlands Kwalificatieraamwerk Hoger Onderwijs' [Dutch National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education], which distinguishes the following indicators with regard to the second cycle (Master's phase):
        i. Knowledge and understanding
        ii. Applying knowledge and understanding
        iii. Opinion forming
        iv. Communication
        v. Learning skills
2. The learning outcomes of the degree programme are set out in Article 3.2 of Part B of these Teaching and Examination Regulations.

Article 3.2 Conducting research

1. Students who conduct research as part of the degree programme must do so in accordance with the relevant legislation, the Dutch Code of Conduct for Academic Integrity, and the requirements of ethical research.

2. Throughout the research process, the student must adhere to the policies and procedures set out in the Faculty's Data Management Policy.
3. Prior to the research, the student, in collaboration with the supervisor, may draw up a data management plan to be stored in accordance with the Faculty's Data Policy. This plan should address at least:
   a. the student's responsibility when processing personal data
   b. the security measures for storing data during the course of the research
   c. the archiving and retention period
   d. responsibilities in the event of the re-use of data after the research
4. Copyright for theses and other independently written assignments that aim to assess students' knowledge, understanding, and skills will in principle lie with the student in question. Anyone who wants to use a student's thesis or other written work will need this student's permission. In order to archive theses and written assignments (possibly under embargo) and process them in accordance with the rules set out by the Dutch Inspectorate of Education and the Higher Education and Research Act, the University needs to be able to perform these activities without conditions. All students must unconditionally allow the University to perform the above-mentioned activities.

Article 3.3 – Medium of instruction and type of degree programme

a. The medium of instruction is included in part B of the Teaching- and Examination Regulations.
b. The degree programme is full time. Article 1.1 of these Regulations lists the degree programmes that can also be followed in part-time mode.
c. In the case a degree programme consists of one or multiple tracks, this is included in part B of the Teaching- and Examination Regulations of the specific degree programme.

Article 3.4 – Student workload

a. The student workload of the degree programme is set out in Article 3.1 of Part B of these Teaching and Examination Regulations.
b. The student workload is transferred into ECTS.
c. The student workload for a parttime degree programme consists of 30 ECTS per year.

Article 3.5 – Conditions for awarding a University of Groningen degree

1. A Master's degree can only be awarded if at least two-thirds 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. For Double Degree Master's degree programmes or joint 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.

Article 3.6 – Participation in course units

1. All registered students must specify the course units they wish to follow in ProgRESS WWW before the academic year begins. The periods during which students can register are set annually by the Faculty. In principle, students can register for up to 30 ECTS credit points per semester. The Director of Studies may grant students exemption from this rule on the recommendation of the study advisor of the relevant degree programme.
2. Students who register for a course unit are automatically registered for all examinations and tests for that course unit.
3. Enrolment and unenrollment for examinations and tests is possible outside the assigned periods of enrolment.

4. Admission to course units is arranged according to predefined and published admission criteria and priority regulations. Students who are registered for the degree programme will be given priority for the compulsory course units in their Major. If a seminar is oversubscribed, students will be admitted based on the order of registration, bearing in mind the entry requirements for the course unit and the phase the student is in.
5. Students who are enrolled in the Master's degree programme do not have access to any course units of a Bachelor's degree programme.

Article 3.7 – Attendance requirement for seminars

1. An 80% attendance requirement applies to course units that include practical exercises (i.e. seminars). The exact conditions for successfully passing a seminar are included in the syllabus for the course unit in question.
2. In the event of absence of up to 20%, the lecturer may stipulate replacement assignments. Absence of more than 20% will result in the student being barred from further participation in the course unit and from the examination, and an N-A registration. Notification of absence from a seminar must always be supported by reasons. Anyone who misses the first two seminars without reason will lose the right to participate.
3. Students who satisfy the 80% attendance requirement but not the other requirements referred to in Article 3.7.1 in principle need only retake the test or examination in the next academic year and do not have to satisfy the 80% attendance requirement again. However, if the content of the seminar for the following year is significantly different, students must retake the course unit. Decisions in such cases are taken by the Board of Examiners.

Article 3.8 – Study progress administration

1. The Faculty Board is responsible for registering the individual results of students.
2. Students can consult their study results online via ProgRESS Portaal.
3. Students may request a certified printout of their study results from the Office for Student Affairs.

Article 3.9 – Open Degree Programme

Students may choose to follow a degree programme's Open Degree Programme, which deviates from the regular specialization(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. Any further conditions with regard to the Open Degree Programme will be set out in Part B of these Regulations.

SECTION 4 - EXAMINATIONS

Article 4.1 – Examination; general

1. Every course unit has a test or examination.
2. The mandatory order of couse units (and examinations) is included in part B of the Teaching - and Examination Regulations.
3. The test or examination assesses students' academic development and mastery of the learning outcomes of the course unit.
4. Tests and examinations are marked on a scale of 1.0 to 10.0. The final result of a course unit is expressed in a mark to no more than 1 decimal point. A mark of 5.5 or higher is a pass, any mark lower than 5.5 is a fail. If the final mark is calculated on the basis of several tests, the partial marks used in the calculation must not be rounded off.
5. If the calculation results in a mark with two or more decimal places, mathematical rounding rules must be used to round off the mark to one decimal place. An exception to this rule applies to marks between 5.45 and 5.49, which are rounded down to 5.4.
6. All lawfully taken examinations are marked.
7. A thesis is considered to be passed if it is awarded a non-rounded-off mark of at least 5.5.
8. An N-A registration will be recorded for any test or examination that is not taken.
9. The Board of Examiners referred to in Section 4 is always the Board of Examiners for the degree programme that sets the tests and examinations.
10. The Board of Examiners for the degree programme setting the examinations as referred to in Article 4.1.8 is authorized to assess tests and examinations, deal with any complaints, and decide upon requests for alternative exam regulations.

Article 4.2 – Board of Examiners

1. The Board of Examiners is the body responsible for determining, in an objective and expert manner, whether individual students satisfy the conditions set out in the Teaching and Examination Regulations with regard to the knowledge, understanding, and skills required to gain a degree.
2. The composition and duties of the Board of Examiners are set out in the Faculty Regulations for the Faculty of Arts.

Article 4.3 – 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 or part thereof, upon stating the grounds for such a decision and on condition that the student:
   a. has completed part of a university or higher vocational degree in the Netherlands or abroad
   b. that is equivalent in content and level, or
   c. can demonstrate by work experience that he/she has sufficient knowledge and skills
   d. with respect to the course unit in question.
2. Regulations as described in article 3.5 with regards to the successful completion of course units elsewhere are applicable to the granting of exemptions.
3. The validity period of exemptions granted for course units or parts thereof is identical to that of examination results.

Article 4.4 – Replacements and electives followed elsewhere

1. Based on a well-founded request by a student, the Board of Examiners may grant permission to replace one or more course units in the examination programme by one or more other course units offered by the UG or another university in the Netherlands or abroad that dovetails well with 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.

Article 4.5 – Examination frequency and periods

1. There will be at least two opportunities a year to sit examinations. For partial examinations, one resit for all partial examinations together may be opted for.
2. The periods in which examinations or partial examinations are held, are listed in the assessment programme and the syllabus. Partial exams may also be held outside the assigned period.
3. The Board of Examiners will make a decision with regard to examinations for course units that are not taught in the relevant academic year.
4. Transitional provisions apply to examinations for course units that are no longer offered due to programme changes. These transitional provisions can be found in an Appendix to Part B of these Regulations.
5. The syllabus contains a resit regulation to explain which substitute or supplementary tests students can take if they have completed all elements of a course unit but have not succeeded in passing it.

Article 4.6 – Mode of assessment

1. The mode of assessment for each course unit is set out in the syllabus. The guiding principle is the assessment programme.
2. In situations of force majeure, when it is not reasonably possible to provide examinations in the manner stated in OCASYS, alternative modes of instruction and assessment may temporarily be used. This is on condition that the prescribed learning outcomes are still achieved.
3. The language of examination is included either in part B of the Teaching- and Examination Regulations, or in the appendix (Assessment Plan) of the regulations.
4. At a student's written request, the Board of Examiners may allow an examination to be taken in a form different from that stated above.
5. The Board of Examiners may also grant exemption from active participation in a course unit. In such cases, the Board of Examiners will require the activities connected to the course unit in question to be performed in a different way that it will determine.
6. If no mode of assessment is listed for a course unit in these Regulations because the course unit is not taught in the degree programme, then the relevant Teaching and Examination Regulations for that course unit will apply.
7. Mock versions of each examination will be made available to practise.
8. In situations that the Board of the University deems situations of force majeure, in which it is not reasonably possible to provide teaching and examinations in the manner stated in the syllabus, alternative modes of instruction and assessment may temporarily be used. This is on condition that the temporary alternative modes of instruction and assessment are added to the syllabus as an addendum, after they have been approved by the Board of Examiners. In principle, the approved intended learning outcomes of the relevant course unit must also be achieved while the alternative modes of instruction and assessment are used. After approval by the programme coordinator, a proposal for amending the learning outcomes can be submitted to the Board of Examiners for approval if achieving the intended learning outcomes is impossible. A proposal to that effect must be carefully substantiated and include references to other course units that assess the learning outcomes in question to at least the same level of command. An amendment to a learning outcome will be added as an addendum to both the syllabus of the course unit concerned and the assessment programme, and if necessary to the matrix of learning outcomes as well.

Article 4.7 – Partial examinations

How the marks of partial examinations are weighted and determined is set out in the syllabus of the relevant course unit.

Article 4.8 – 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 disability. If necessary, the Board of Examiners will seek expert advice from a student counselor of the Student Service Centre (SSC) before making a decision.
2. With regard to examinations for electives taken at other degree programmes 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 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 examination at the request of the student and/or the examiner.
2. Oral examinations are public, unless the Board of Examiners or the relevant examiner stipulates otherwise due to extraordinary circumstances.

Article 4.10 – Assessment of placement or research assignment

Placements and research assignments are assessed by the relevant placement supervisor from the degree programme, who has been appointed as an examiner by the Board of Examiners, after consultation with the host institution supervisor and the original commissioner.

Article 4.11 – Thesis

1. A thesis can in principle be used for only one University of Groningen degree programme. Full or partial exemption for a degree programme's thesis may be granted by the Board of Examiners on the basis of a thesis written for another degree programme.
2. Students' theses/final assignments must be individually assessed.
3. Part B of these Teaching and Examination Regulations sets out the language requirements for theses/final assignments.
4. Theses are stored by the Faculty Board for a period of seven years.
5. Students will be given the opportunity to write a final-year thesis/final assignment at least twice per academic year.
6. The period(s) during which students can write theses will be published in the Student Handbook and/or OCASYS.
7. The thesis/final assignment will be assessed by the supervisor and a second assessor. In the event that these two assessors are unable to come to a joint assessment, the Board of Examiners will appoint a third assessor and determine how the final assessment will be reached.
8. If by the end of the period referred to in Article 4.10.5 the assessor(s) is/are of the opinion that the thesis/final assignment cannot be awarded a pass mark, the student will be given one opportunity to remedy the work in order to be awarded a pass mark within a time frame defined by the degree programme. If the revised work cannot be awarded a pass mark, the student will have to complete a new thesis/final assignment with a new topic and a different supervisor.
9. More detailed regulations on the design, content, time frame, and assessment of the thesis can be found in the syllabus for the thesis/final assignment of the Master's degree programme.
10. 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 4.12 – Request for an additional examination opportunity

1. Students may submit a request for an additional examination opportunity 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 examination opportunity would result in unacceptable study delay.
3. The following criteria apply to granting a request for an additional examination opportunity for the last course unit in the degree programme:
   a. it must be the last examination result needed
   b. not granting the request would result in a study delay of at least one semester
   c. the examinee must have taken the last two regular examination opportunities for the course unit in question and in principle have gained at least marks of 4.0 and 5.0.

Article 4.13 – Examination provisions

Notwithstanding the stipulations of Article 4.4 (Examination frequency and periods), the Board of Examiners may decide to grant individual students a specific examination provision if not doing so would lead to an 'exceptional instance of unfairness of an overriding nature'. Requests for individual

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

Article 4.14 – Marking of examinations and publication of marks

1. After an oral examination, the examiner will assess the examination as soon as possible, but in any case within one week, and provide the student with a statement on request.
2. Written examinations must be marked within ten working days, although in the case of an examination with essay questions taken by more than 50 students, this term is extended to fifteen working days.
3. If an examination is taken in a form other than oral or written, the Board of Examiners will determine in advance how and when students will receive written confirmation of the result.
4. In special cases, the Board of Examiners may deviate from the above stipulations.
5. The written confirmation of the result of an examination will also inform students of their right of inspection, as stipulated in Article 4.15.1, as well as their right to appeal.
6. A course unit or an examination that has been passed may not be taken again.
7. Students can lodge an appeal against the results of an examination with the Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights (CLRS) within six weeks of the date on which the result was announced.

Article 4.15 – Validity

1. Completed course units remain valid indefinitely.
2. 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 4.16 – Right of inspection

1. On request, students have the right to inspect their marked work during a period of at least six weeks after the results of a written examination have been made known.
2. Within the timeframe stipulated in Article 4.15.1, any interested person may request that they be allowed to peruse the examination paper as well as the assessment norms and criteria.
3. The examiner can determine that inspection or perusal of examination papers will take place at a certain place and at a certain time. 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 4.15.1.

Article 4.17 – Assessment programme

An assessment programme has been approved by the Faculty Board. This assessment programme forms an Appendix to the Teaching and Examination Regulations and comprises the following components:

- the learning outcomes of the degree programme
- the course units and the learning outcomes of each course unit
- the relationship between course units and learning outcomes: how are the learning outcomes attained
- the mode of assessment and test moments for each course unit

Article 4.18 – 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 their own or someone else's knowledge, understanding, and skills.
2. Cheating also includes plagiarism, which means copying one's own or someone else's work without correct reference to the source.
3. Outsourcing efforts to artificial intelligence and presenting it as the student's own written work is also considered as a form of cheating.
4. The University uses a plagiarism scanner to check theses and written assignments for plagiarism. Each student is personally responsible for maintaining academic integrity.
5. In the case cheating is suspected, the student may be required to demonstrate additional knowledge, insight and skills. This addition is not part of the examination of the course unit. Students may be requested to appear at an oral examination within 15 working days of the end of the examination and

after the submission of a thesis/paper, where it will be verified that the examination result is representative of the student's knowledge.

6. 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.
7. The Board of Examiners will make a decision concerning a ban based on the written report by the examiner about the cheating or plagiarism discovered by them, and after hearing the examinee.
8. A ban means that no result will be awarded for the examination or practical exercise in question and an 'FR registration' will be recorded instead.
9. In the event of serious cheating, the Board of Examiners can request the Board of the University to permanently terminate a student's registration in the degree programme.
10. A student will be considered to be committing serious fraud if they (non-exhaustive):
    - impersonate another student during an examination;
    - arrange for another person to take an examination under their name;
    - have a third person sit the exam for them;
    - gain access to the examination questions/tasks or answer key before the scheduled examination date;
    - fabricate and/or falsify questionnaire and/or interview answers and/or research results.
11. The Board of Examiners will set out its anti-fraud procedures in its Rules and Regulations.

Article 4.19 – 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.

Article 4.20 – Termination of registration (Iudicium Abeundi)

1. In extraordinary cases of reprehensible behaviour 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 4.19.1 until after the student in question has been given an opportunity to put their case forward, any interests of the student and of the institution have been carefully assessed, and it has been proven reasonable to assume that the student's behaviour and/or statements prove that they are unsuitable for one or more of the professions for which they are being trained in their degree programme, or for the practical preparation for the profession.
3. 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.
4. The stipulations in the University of Groningen Regulations for Registration and Tuition Fees apply.

SECTION 5 FINAL ASSESSMENT

Article 5.1 – 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 results of the final assessment are an indication 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 the graduation date. The new 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 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 issuing of the degree certificate.
5. Students who wish to postpone the date of graduation due to extra examinations that they must still take, must submit a written request to this end to the Board of Examiners, via the Office for Student Affairs (bsz.let@rug.nl), within two weeks of the date on which the graduation date is determined. The graduation date will become definite after these two weeks.
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 5.1.2, and not the date on which the degree certificate is presented to the student.

Article 5.2 – Degree certificate

1. Students will receive a certificate issued by the Board of Examiners as proof that they have passed the final assessment. Even if a student successfully completes more than one track within a degree programme, they will receive only one degree certificate. Double Degree programmes are an exception to this rule.
2. The Board of Examiners will issue an International Diploma Supplement with each degree certificate.

Article 5.3 – Degree

1. Students who have satisfied all the requirements of the final assessment will be awarded the degree of 'Master of Arts'. However, students who pass the final assessment of the Information Science track within the Master's degree programme in Communication and Information Sciences are awarded the degree 'Master of Science'.
2. The degree awarded will be indicated on the degree certificate.

Article 5.4 – 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. The mark for the thesis must satisfy the following minimum conditions:
      i. 'Cum laude': the mark for the thesis must be at least 8.0
      ii. '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 is
      i. greater than or equal to 8.0 for 'Cum laude'
      ii. greater than or equal to 9.0 for 'Summa cum laude'
3. Honours may only be awarded if the degree programme was complete with a nominal duration.
4. No honours will be awarded if the student workload of exemptions in ECTS credit points is more than half the total number of ECTS credit point for the degree programme. This stipulation does not apply to Double Degree programmes.
5. Honours may only be awarded if the examinations for the course units were taken only once.
6. Honours may only be awarded if no single course unit was awarded a mark lower than 7.0.
7. No honours will be 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 cheating/plagiarism has been detected.
8. In certain circumstances, the Board of Examiners may depart from the provisions set out in Articles 5.4.2-6.

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. Students can consult their study results online via ProgRESS WWW.
3. Students may request a certified printout of their study results from the Office for Student Affairs.

Article 6.2 – Study progress supervision
The Faculty Board organizes the introduction and the study progress supervision 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 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 in consultation with – and where necessary upon the approval of – 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 detriment 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 Examination Regulations are available from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website through the Student Portal.

Article 7.3 – Evaluation
1. The Faculty Board will ensure that these Regulations are regularly evaluated, assessing at least – for the purpose of monitoring and if necessary, adapting the student workload – the amount of time that students need to complete their tasks as set out therein.
2. The Faculty Board evaluates the education in all programmes as follows:
   The Institute for Education (OWI) organizes the faculty course unit evaluations. The Programme Committees (PCs) have control over the choice of which course units should be evaluated. PCs can indicate this in the (course unit) evaluation plans. In addition to PCs, lecturers can also submit a request for evaluation. In addition to the PC's course unit evaluation plan, the OWI ensures that a course unit is discussed for evaluation at least once every three years. In addition, OWI evaluates new course units, course units involving new lecturers, university and faculty minors and the Dutch Studies programme as standard. As far as the programmes as a whole are concerned, midterm evaluations and accreditations take place as fixed evaluation moments.

Article 7.4 – Date of commencement
These Regulations come into force on 17 October 2025.