FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (OER)

Part B: Master's degree programme in Communication and Information Studies

ISAT 66826

Master's tracks:

- **Communication Studies**
- **Information Science**
- **Digital Humanities**

for the academic year 2025-2026

Content:

1. **General provisions**
2. **Admission**
3. **Content and structure of the degree programme**
4. **Tests and examinations of the degree programme**
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Section 1 - General provisions

Article 1.1 – Applicability of the Teaching and Examination Regulations

These Teaching and Examination Regulations are divided into two sections, Part A and Part B. This degree programme-specific Part B complements Part A, which contains general provisions that apply to the teaching, examinations and final assessments of the Master's degree programmes provided by the Faculty of Arts, hereinafter referred to as **the Faculty**. Part B contains stipulations that specifically concern the Bachelor's degree programme in **Communication and Information Studies**.

Section 2 - Admission

Article 2.1 – Entry requirements

1. Students with a Dutch or foreign certificate of higher education that indicates that they have knowledge and understanding of and subject-specific skills in Communication and Information Studies at academic Bachelor's level will be admitted to the degree programme.
2. Holders of a Bachelor's degree in Communication and Information Studies from the University of Groningen, holders of a Bachelor's degree in Communications Studies from another Dutch university, and holders of a Bachelor's degree in Information Science from the University of Groningen or from another Dutch university are expected to have the knowledge, understanding and skills listed in Article 2.2.1 and will be admitted to the degree programme on that basis (unless otherwise specified under 2.1.4).
3. If a candidate does not have a Bachelor's degree certificate, the Admissions Board must assess whether they can be admitted based on the possession of knowledge, understanding and skills at Bachelor's level.
4. Holders of a Bachelor's degree in Information Science, Dutch Language and Culture, Linguistics, English Language and Culture, or European Languages and Cultures from the University of Groningen who have successfully completed a Minor in Communication and Information Studies (30 ECTS) and/or a pre-Master's programme (30-60 ECTS) can be admitted to the Communication Studies track within the Master's degree programme in Communication and Information Studies. Holders of a Bachelor's degree in Communication and Information Studies, Dutch, Linguistics, English Language and Culture, or European Languages and Cultures from the University of Groningen who have successfully completed a Minor in Information Science (30 ECTS) and/or a pre-Master's programme (30-60 ECTS) can be admitted to the Information Science track within the Master's degree programme in Communication and Information Studies.
5. Holders of a Bachelor's degree in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Groningen can be directly admitted to the Information Science track within the Master's degree programme in Communication and Information Studies.
6. Holders of a Bachelor of Arts degree obtained at the Faculty of Arts, Philosophy, or Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Groningen, or degrees with similar content obtained outside the University of Groningen, can be directly admitted to the Digital Humanities track within the Master's degree programme in Communication and Information Studies.

Article 2.2 – Language requirements for students with foreign qualifications

1. Students who have been admitted to a degree programme on the basis of a foreign certificate or degree may be required by the Board of Examiners – before registration – to pass a Dutch or English language test, depending on language of the chosen specialization, to be administered by an agency stipulated by the Board.
2. The Dutch language proficiency requirement can be met by passing the State Examination in Dutch as a Second Language (NT2-II).
3. The English language proficiency requirement can be met by passing an examination in English at the level of the VWO final exam or by passing the TOEFL iBT with a score of at least 90, with a minimum score of 21 on each individual part, or an IELTS score of 6.5, with a minimum score of 6.0 on each individual part.

Article 2.3 Admission to the Master's tracks

The following additional admission requirements apply to the course units of the Master's track in Communication Studies listed below:

Course unit	Admission requirements
Master Thesis Communication Studies	Students must have passed the course unit Navigating Communication Studies to be granted admission to the Master Thesis Communication Studies.

The following additional admission requirements apply to the course units of the Master's track in Information Science listed below:

Course unit	Admission requirements
Shared Task	Programming skills and knowledge of linguistics at the level of Linguistics for Language Technology, Language Optimization or an equivalent course unit.
Advanced Topics in Natural Language Processing	Programming skills and knowledge of linguistics at the level of Linguistics for Language Technology, Language Optimization or an equivalent course unit.
Semantic Web Technology	Programming skills and knowledge of web technology at the level of Web Technology or an equivalent course unit.
Language Technology Project	Programming skills and knowledge of linguistics at the level of Linguistics for Language Technology, Language Optimization or an equivalent course unit.

Section 3 - Content and structure of the degree programme

Article 3.1 – Student workload

1. The student workload of the degree programme is 60 ECTS.
2. The student workload is expressed in whole ECTS credits.

Article 3.2 – Learning outcomes of the degree programme

Dublin Descriptors	Graduates of the Master's degree programme in Communication and Information Studies have:
1. Knowledge and understanding: Graduates have demonstrable knowledge and understanding that is founded upon and extends and/or enhances what is typically associated with the Bachelor's level and that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and /or applying ideas within a research context.	1.1 knowledge of at least one area at the cutting edge of Communication and Information Studies; in other words, are familiar with the latest theories, interpretations, methods and techniques [CK] a. knowledge and understanding of the forms, functions and effects of the use of language, text and image in institutional communication [CK] b. knowledge and understanding of theories and research methodologies in the field of communication studies [CK] c. knowledge and understanding of concepts and theories in the field of linguistic communication skills and the development of those skills [CK] da. knowledge and understanding of various aspects and approaches of digital, multimodal, and AI communication

		[CK] eb. knowledge and understanding of theories and research methodologies current within the fields of digital, multimodal, and AI communication , and of recent developments in research in these fields [IS] a. knowledge and understanding of computational and statistical methods and techniques relevant to information science/humanities computing [IS] b. knowledge and understanding of recent developments in research in the field of language and web technology, and computer communication [DH] a. knowledge and understanding of the theories and research methodologies in the field of digital humanities [DH] b. knowledge and understanding of the influence of digitization and digital methodologies on society and the humanities
	1.2	understanding of the structure of the discipline and the relationship between its various branches
	1.3	the ability to make an original contribution to one or several branches of the field of Communication and Information Studies
2. Applying knowledge and understanding: Graduates have the ability to apply their knowledge and understanding and problem-solving abilities in new and unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their domains of study, and to integrate knowledge and handle complexity.	2.1	knowledge of and skills in the methodologies and techniques related to the field
	2.2	the ability to apply methodologies and techniques to the independent design and implementation of a research project [CK] a. the ability to research complex academic or practice-related problems and issues based on the acquired knowledge and understanding and using qualitative and quantitative methods [CK] b. the ability to analyse problems in the fields of digital, multimodal, and AI communication from a theoretical perspective and come up with well-founded and target group-oriented solutions [IS] the ability to apply computational and statistical methodologies and techniques when analysing and resolving practice-related and academic language and communication issues [DH] the ability to use their knowledge and understanding to select suitable digital methodologies and technologies and apply them to research on interdisciplinary humanities or practice-related problems and issues
	2.3	the ability to use the results of research for further theory formation or to develop practical applications
	2.4	the ability to demonstrate originality and creativity in handling the subject area
	2.5	the ability to independently tackle and solve problems and independently plan and execute tasks at a professional or similar level
3. Making judgements: Graduates have the ability to formulate judgements based on incomplete or limited information, bearing in mind social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgements.	3.1	the ability to grasp, interpret, and evaluate the changing state of theory formation and the search for truth
	3.2	the ability to systematically and creatively deal with complex issues and to form a reasoned judgement
	3.3	the ability to demonstrate initiative and personal responsibility
	3.4	the ability to take well-founded decisions in complex and unpredictable situations

4. Communication: Graduates have the ability to communicate their conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously.	4.1 the ability to clearly impart conclusions to specialist and non-specialist audiences 4.2 communication competences that are widely applicable in society: graduates are sensitive to context and have the ability to present products and services to the target audience, both independently and as part of a team
5. Learning skills: Graduates have the learning skills to enable them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.	5.1 the ability to study independently with a view to ongoing professional development at an academic level 5.2 the ability to follow developments within the discipline and constantly revise their knowledge and understanding and develop new skills accordingly

CK = Communicatiekunde = Communication Studies; IS = Information Sciences; DH = Digital Humanities

See appendix 2 for the *Matrix of realized learning outcomes/course units* of the degree programme.

Article 3.3 – Language

1. The degree programme is taught in Dutch.
2. Notwithstanding Article 3.3.1, one or more course units in the degree programme may be taught in English in line with the University of Groningen Code of Conduct: Languages Used in Teaching and Examinations. The Master's tracks in Digital Humanities and Information Science are entirely taught in English.
3. The thesis/final assignment must be written in Dutch or English. A thesis/final assignment may only be written in a language other than Dutch or English with prior permission from the Board of Examiners.

Article 3.4 – Master's tracks

The degree programme has the following Master's tracks:

No.	Programme
1	Communication Studies
2	Information Science
3	Digital Humanities

Article 3.5 – Composition of Master's tracks

All course units in the Master's tracks are listed in the online University course catalogue OCASYS.

1. The Master's tracks comprise the following course units with their related student workloads:

Master's track in Communication Studies

Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
Challenges to Health Communication (A)	5
Communication and Education (A)	5
Corporate and Organisational Communication in the Real World (A)	5
Designing Interventions in Environmental Communication (A)	5
From Classroom to Career	15

Master Thesis Communication Studies	15
Navigating Communication Studies: From Topics to Thesis	10
Analysing Discourse in Society	5
Evidence-Based Evaluation in Communication	5

Navigating Communication Studies, From Classroom to Career, the Master Thesis Communication Studies as well as Analysing Discourse in Society and Evidence-Based Evaluation in Communication are compulsory course units. In addition, each student must choose two courses labelled by (A).
Students must have passed the course unit Navigating Communication Studies to be granted admission to the Master Thesis Communication Studies.

Master's track in Information Science

Course unit	**Student workload in ECTS**
User Interface Evaluation	5
Semantic Web Technology	5
Computational Semantics	5
Learning from Data	5
*Advanced Topics in Natural Language Processing	5
Research Seminar Information Science	5
Language Technology Project	5
Shared Task Information Science	5
Master's Thesis in Information Science	20

All course units are compulsory.
*Students who started in 2023/2024 or earlier take Advanced Topics in Natural Language Processing instead of Natural Language Processing as an elective.'

Master's track in Digital Humanities

Course unit	**Student workload in ECTS**
Understanding Digital Humanities	5
Collecting Data	5
Database Design	5
Data in Society	5
Analysing Data	5
Coding for Humanities	5
Software and Data as Culture	5
Digital Humanities: Tools and Methods	5
Thesis Lab	5
Master's Thesis in Digital Humanities	15

All course units are compulsory.
Students must have passed the course units in Understanding Digital Humanities, Coding for Humanities, Database Design to be granted admission to the Thesis Lab and the Master's Thesis in Digital Humanities.

2. The modes of instruction and assessment for the course units listed above are set out in the syllabus for each individual course unit and the Assessment Plan for the degree programme.

Section 4 - Tests and examinations of the degree programme

Article 4.1 – Compulsory order

The examinations for the course units listed below may not be taken until after the examinations for the associated course units have been passed:
For the Master's track Communication Studies: Students must have passed the course unit Navigating Communication Studies to be granted admission to the Master Thesis Communication Studies.
For the Master's track in Digital Humanities: Students must have passed the course units in Understanding Digital Humanities, Coding for Humanities, Database Design to be granted admission to the Thesis Lab and the Master's Thesis in Digital Humanities.

Section 5 - Transitional and Final Provisions

Article 5.1 – Amendments

1. Any amendments to Part A of these Regulations will, after due consultation with and, if necessary, upon the approval of the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
2. Any amendments to Part B of 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.
3. 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.
4. In addition, an amendment may not influence any other decision concerning a student taken by the Board of Examiners under these Regulations to the disadvantage of students.

Article 5.2 – Transitions

Students who have not finished the tracks Communication Studies (old), Communication & Education, or Computer-Mediated Communication in the academic year 2024-2025 can finish them in the year 2025-2026.
Courses in these tracks from previous years will no longer be offered. Alternatives to gain missing ECTS are given in the table below. Courses from the track Computer-Mediated Communication that can still be followed in the track Digital Humanities are

- Coding for Humanities
- Database Design.

Previous course (from all three tracks, in alphabetical order)	ECTS	New courses (in the new track Communication Studies)	ECTS
Argumentation and Resistance	10	Challenges in Health Communication + Analysing Discourse in Society	5 + 5
Communication Skills in Medical Interaction	10	Challenges in Health Communication + Analysing Discourse in Society	5 + 5
Communication Technology	5	Evidence-Based Evaluation in Communication	5
Computer-Mediated Communication	5	Evidence-Based Evaluation in Communication	5
Consultancy in Organizational Communication	10	Corporate and Organisational Communcation in the Real World + Analysing Discourse in Society	5 + 5
Conversational Interfaces: Theory	5	Evidence-Based Evaluation in Communication	5

Conversational Interfaces: Practice	5	Evidence-Based Evaluation in Communication	5
Corporate Communication in the Digital Age	10	Corporate and Organisational Communcation in the Real World + Analysing Discourse in Society	5 + 5
Design of Communication Training	10	Challenges in Health Communication + Analysing Discourse in Society	5 + 5
Experimental Research on Persuasion	10	1 (A) course in block 1a + Evidence-Based Evaluation in Communication	5 + 5
Language and Text Optimization	10	1 (A) course in block 1a + Analysing Discourse in Society	5 + 5
Living Lab: Communication for Change	10	Designing Interventions in Environmental Communication + Evidence-Based Evaluation in Communication	5 + 5
Multimodal Instructions: Desk Analysis and Evaluation Study	10	1 (A) course in block 1a + Evidence-Based Evaluation in Communication	5 + 5
Master's Placement in Communication and Information Studies (A)	10	//	//
Master's Thesis in Communication and Information Studies	20	Master Thesis Communication Studies + 1 course in block 1b	15+5
Stories and Clips: Analysis of Dynamic Multimodal Communication	10	1 (A) course in block 1a + Evidence-Based Evaluation in Communication	5 + 5
Questionnaire Design	10	1 (A) course in block 1a+ Evidence-Based Evaluation in Communication	5 + 5
User Interface Evaluation	5	Evidence-Based Evaluation in Communication	5
Writing: Context, Process and Text	10	Communication and Education + Evidence-Based Evaluation in Communication	5 + 5

Finishing elective courses that had been started before should be discussed with the Program Coordinator.

Article 5.3 – Publication

1. The Faculty Board will duly publish these Regulations, the Rules and Regulations formulated by the Board of Examiners, and any amendments to these documents.
2. Any interested party may obtain a copy of the documents referred to in Article 5.2.1 from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website through the Student Portal.

Article 5. 4 – Date of commencement

These Regulations will take effect on 17 October 2025 .

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.

Appendices:

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