



university of
groningen

FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (TER)

Part B: Research Master's degree programme in:

Archaeology
ISAT 60133

Research Master's track
- Archaeology

for the academic year 2026-2027

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Section 1 General provisions

Article 1.1 – Applicability

These Regulations comprise two parts – Part A and Part B. This degree programme-specific Part B accompanies Part A, which contains general provisions which 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 degree programme-specific provisions which apply to the degree programme in **Archaeology**, hereinafter referred to as 'the degree programme', and the Research Master's track in **Archaeology**, hereinafter referred to as 'the Research Master's track'.

Section 2 Admission

Article 2.1 – Entry requirements

1. Students with a Dutch or foreign certificate of higher education that indicates that they have the following knowledge, understanding and skills shall be admitted to the degree programme:
 - a) Demonstrable knowledge of archaeology at university Bachelor's level as shown by the curriculum followed, in addition to satisfying the following entry requirements:
 - b) sufficient proficiency of English to be able to follow the degree programme successfully (see below 2.2);
 - c) sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills in the academic disciplines relevant to the degree programme.¹

Article 2.2 – Language requirement for foreign certificates

1. Students who have been admitted to a degree programme on the basis of a foreign certificate or degree may be asked by the Admissions Board – before registration – to pass an English language test, to be administered by an agency stipulated by the Board.
2. The English language proficiency requirement will 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 100, with a minimum score of 25 for writing or an IELTS minimum score of 7, with a minimum score of 6.5 for all components.

Article 2.3 – Admission to Research Master's track

In addition to the provisions of Article 2.1, the following admission requirements apply to the Research Master's track in this degree programme:

n/a

Article 2.4 – Registering for the admissions procedure

Students register for the admissions procedure by submitting the following documents:

- a completed registration form
- a curriculum vitae
- an overview of the results achieved so far within the Bachelor's degree programme and/or other university degree programmes
- a letter outlining the prospective student's motivation for selecting the programme and Research Master's track, including his or her expectations and interests
- a writing sample in English, for example, written results of previous research, such as academic articles or a Bachelor's thesis

¹ Sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills means that in the opinion of the Admissions Board, the student will be able to follow the programme without credit points having to be reserved to make up a shortfall in subject mix as demonstrated by the student's application dossier (recommendations, motivation letter, cv).

- two personal recommendations from relevant experts²
- other documents that demonstrate applicant's eligibility for the programme.

Article 2.5 – Admissions procedure for the degree programme

1. Bearing in mind the admissions procedure for the degree programme and the Research Master's track within the meaning of Article 2.1.1, the Admissions Board will assess the knowledge and skills of the candidate. The Admissions Board will assess the written documentation and determine whether the prospective student can be admitted directly to the programme and the Research Master's track. In the event of doubt, the student will be invited to an admissions interview. The interview will be based on the submitted written documentation and may comprise an approx. 15-minute presentation on an academic subject related to the chosen programme.
2. 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 before 15 June. This is a *provisional* decision only. Prospective students may still request an interview, provided they do so within 15 working days. If prospective students do not avail themselves of this option, the provisional decision will become *definitive*. In the case of prospective students who are granted an interview, a formal decision will not be made until after the interview has taken place. Rejections will in all cases be substantiated in writing. Students who have been interviewed will be notified by 15 July whether or not they have been accepted.³
3. Students who have not yet obtained their Bachelor's degree at the time of the selection procedure but who would normally do so before the Research Master's degree programme begins may be granted provisional admission. This is based on the assumption that they a) obtain their Bachelor's degree in time and b) have written a BA thesis with the required level to follow the Research Master.
4. Students who already have a relevant university Master's degree may also apply for admission to the degree programme and the Research Master's track. The procedure as set out above will also apply to them. If they are admitted, the Board of Examiners will decide whether they can be granted exemptions on the basis of that Master's degree (up to a maximum of 60 ECTS credit points).

Article 2.6 – Entrance examination: times

1. The entrance examination will be held once a year. Requests for admission to the degree programme and the Research Master's track starting in the fall semester (i.e. start of the academic year in September) must be submitted to the Admissions Board before 1 May (for both non-EU students and EU students).
2. The Admissions Board may decide to consider a request at a time other than that referred to in Article 2.6.1.
3. The Admissions Board will decide before 15 June on admission to the programme. Admission will be on condition that the candidate has satisfied the requirements set out in Article 2.4 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.

² These are written reports from people recognized as experts by the Admissions Board that present a useful and reliable picture of the student's eligibility for the degree programme.

³ Proof of admission is discussed in Article 7.30b of the Higher Education and Research Act.

Section 3 Content and structure of the degree programme

Article 3.1 – Student workload

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

Article 3.2 – Learning outcomes of the degree programme

<i>Description of Master's level according to the descriptors of the Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area (Dublin descriptors)</i>	<i>Intended learning outcomes of the Research Master's Programme in Archaeology</i> In order to successfully complete the Research Master's programme in Archaeology, students:
1. Knowledge and Understanding Students have demonstrable knowledge and understanding that is founded upon and extends and/or enhances that typically associated with Bachelor's level, and that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying ideas, often within a research context	1.1 have understanding of the development and structure of the discipline and the relationship between its various branches. 1.2 have a thorough and up-to-date knowledge of at least one branch of the discipline. 1.3 have knowledge and understanding of research methods and theories in archaeology. 1.4 show awareness of the interpretive potential of archaeological artefacts, the built environment, organic remains, ecosystems, and landscapes in their historical context. 1.5 have understanding of archaeology's relationship with other scientific disciplines. 1.6 have knowledge and understanding of the role and relevance of archaeology in present-day society.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding Students can apply their knowledge, understanding and problem-solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field of study	2.1 have the skills to apply appropriate methods of analysis and theoretical frameworks when conducting archaeological research 2.2 have the skills to, independently and in collaboration with others, perform a responsible task relating to the organization of an academic event (e.g. workshop or seminar). 2.3 be able to connect one's specialist knowledge to wider debates and current societal issues
3. Making judgements Students have the ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgements with incomplete or limited information, but that include reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgements	3.1 are able to critically evaluate past and current archaeological research and propose methodological and theoretical improvements. 3.2 are able to critically evaluate archaeological research and its impact in terms of ethics and social responsibility 3.3 be able to design, conduct, disseminate research in line with the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

4. Communication Students can communicate their conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously	4.1 be able to participate actively in a group working on a research project 4.2 be able to participate in academic debate and to present an academic problem convincingly, both orally and in writing. 4.3 be able to present the results of academic research to academic and non-academic, both orally and in writing, while making appropriate use of (digital) visual material. 4.4 be able to formulate a research (grant) proposal. 4.5 be able to write a publishable article in accordance with current academic norms.
5. Learning skills Students have the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous	5.1 be able to develop and conduct informed, original, relevant research independently and in collaboration with others. 5.2 be able to communicate about their field of expertise effectively and to engage in debate in a sphere of mutual respect and constructive criticism. 5.3 be able to reflect critically on one's own research design, results, and communication in response to feedback from experienced researchers and peers, and make improvements accordingly.

See Appendix 1 Assessment Plan for the *Matrix of realized learning outcomes / course units in the degree programme*.

Article 3.3 - Language of instruction

1. The degree programme is taught in *English*.
2. The thesis/final assignment must be written in *English*. A thesis/final assignment may only be written in a language other than *English* if the Board of Examiners has given permission to do so.

Article 3.4 – Specialization

n/a

Article 3.5 Structure of the first year

1. The first year consists of the following course units with the assigned workload in ECTS:

Year 1

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	Archaeometry: Scientific Approaches to Material Culture	10 ECTS
2	Landscape Archaeology: Europe's Settled Landscapes	10 ECTS
3	Research and Professional Skills in Archaeology	5 ECTS
4	Flexible Component 1	10 ECTS
5	Flexible Component 1	10 ECTS
6	Flexible Component 1	5 ECTS
7	National Research School Courses	10 ECTS

All course units are listed in the online course catalogue OCASYS.

2. The modes of instruction and assessment for the course units listed above are set out in the syllabus of each individual course unit and the assessment plan of the degree programme.
3. In situations of force majeure, when it is not reasonably possible to provide teaching 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 upon completion of the degree programme.

Article 3.6 Structure of the second year

1. The second year comprises the following course units with their related workload:

Year 2

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	Archaeology of the Anthropocene: Ecology and Society in the Archaeological Record ADVANCED	10 ECTS
2	Archaeological Theory: Current Issues ADVANCED	10 ECTS
3	Mortuary Archaeology: Death as a Mirror of Life: ADVANCED	10 ECTS
12	Research Master's Thesis in Archaeology	30 ECTS

All course units are listed in the online course catalogue OCASYS.

2. The modes of instruction and assessment for the course units listed above are set out in the syllabus of each individual course unit and the assessment plan of the degree programme.
3. In situations of force majeure, when it is not reasonably possible to provide teaching 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 upon completion of 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 before the examinations for the associated course units have been passed:

No.	Course unit	After passing course unit
10	REMA Thesis in Archaeology	Students can start their thesis in semester IV after they have taken all (55 ECTS) compulsory courses and completed at least 45 ECTS of them. If they do not fulfil this condition, they must apply to the Board of Examiners in order to receive permission to start their thesis, submitting also a clear schedule for the completion of any missing assignments and a report by the supervisor on their progress therein.

Article 4.2. – Differentiation between 1st and 2nd year students taking compulsory modules

1. The compulsory modules are given in two versions, with 1st and 2nd years having different module codes for 'normal' and advanced versions (see Article 3.5)
2. In the assessment of compulsory course units a differentiation will be made between 1st and 2nd year students taking the rotating compulsory modules together. This will be achieved by making a distinction between general academic skills and module-specific skills in the learning outcomes of each module. These two sets of skills will be weighed differently for 1st and 2nd years, with general academic skills counting more for 1st years and module-specific skills counting more for 2nd years.
3. This differentiation will be formulated clearly in a rubric included in the module description and in any assessment forms.

Article 4.3. – Punctuality and timely completion of compulsory modules

1. If the final assignment for a compulsory module is not submitted on time, the student will receive a Fail mark and have a resit by submitting the final assignment by the end of the next semester block. If a student submits on time, but receives a grade below 5.5 (hence a Fail), the same procedure will be followed.
2. As compulsory courses are given every other year, if a student fails to meet the resit deadline or receives a grade below 5.5, they must apply to the Board of Examiners for an additional resit. The student can redo the failed assignments during the next year in their own time under the supervision of the module lecturers.
3. Punctuality is explicitly assessed and delay in submitting assignments is penalized. If students take a resit a semester block later, their grade will be lowered by 0.25; if they submit the assignment a semester later, the grade will be lowered by 0.5, and if a year later, by 1.0. It should be added that (according to the TER, Part A, p. 14) students are not eligible for a *cum laude* award if they have had to resit a module.
4. In highly exceptional circumstances (such as serious health or personal problems, equipment failure, etc.) delay will not be penalised. In such cases, the student must contact the Study Advisor in good time, i.e. at the moment the problem arises, and put in an application to the Board of Examiners in order to be exempted from becoming penalised for delay. The application should include a scheduled plan of action towards completion at the next possible date.

Article 4.4. – Punctuality and timely completion of flexible components

1. If the final assignment for a flexible component is not submitted on time, the same procedure as in 4.3.1 above will be followed.
2. If a student fails to meet the resit deadline or receives a grade below 5.5 for the resit, they must ask permission by the Board of Examiners to redo the failed assignment. The application should include a scheduled plan of action towards completion at the next possible date. If permission is granted, they can rework and resubmit their assignment in their own time under the supervision of the tutorial supervisor, following once more a clear schedule and clear deadlines.

3. Punctuality is assessed and delay is penalized in the same way as in Article 4.3.3.
4. In highly exceptional circumstances, the same procedure as in Article 4.3.4. will be followed.

Section 5 Transitional and final provisions

Article 5.1. – Transitional arrangements

Students who started the degree programme on 1 September 2023 or earlier can replace profile modules as indicated below:

Previous Module	New Module
Death as a Mirror of Life	Mortuary Archaeology: Death as a Mirror of Life (1)
Death as a Mirror of Life	Mortuary Archaeology: Death as a Mirror of Life: ADVANCED (1)
Anthropocene: Humans shaping the earth	Archaeology of the Anthropocene Ecology and Society in the Archaeological Record (1)
Anthropocene: Humans shaping the earth (ADVANCED)	Archaeology of the Anthropocene Ecology and Society in the Archaeological Record ADVANCED (1)
Current Issues in Archaeological Theory	Archaeological Theory: Current Issues (1)
Current Issues in Archaeological Theory (ADVANCED)	Archaeological Theory: Current Issues ADVANCED (1)
Scientific Approaches to Material Culture	Archaeometry: Scientific Approaches to Material Culture (1)
Scientific Approaches to Material Culture	Archaeometry: Scientific Approaches to Material Culture ADVANCED (1)
Settled Landscapes	Landscape Archaeology: Europe's Settled Landscapes (1)
Settled Landscapes	Landscape Archaeology: Europe's Settled Landscapes ADVANCED (1)
Research and Professional Skills in Archaeology	Research and Professional Skills in Archaeology (1)
Research and Professional Skills in Archaeology	Research and Professional Skills in Archaeology ADVANCED (1)

Article 5.2 – Amendments

1. Any amendments to part A of these Regulations will, following a recommendation by and/or subject to the approval of the Programme Committee and in consultation with – and where necessary subject to the approval of – the Faculty Council, be adopted by the Faculty Board in a separate decision.
2. Any amendments to part B of these Regulations will, following a recommendation by and/or subject to the approval of the Programme Committee and in consultation with – and where necessary subject to the approval of – the Faculty Council, be adopted by the Faculty Board in a separate decision.
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 5.3 – Publication

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

2. Copies of the documents referred to in Article 5.3.1 are available from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website via the Student Portal.

Article 5.4 – Date of commencement

These Regulations shall take effect on **1 September 2026**

These Regulations were decreed by the Board of the Faculty of Arts on 23 June 2026 approved by the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee where required.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Assessment Plan