



university of
 groningen

FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (TER)

Part B: Research Master's degree programme in:

International Relations
ISAT 60820

Research Master's track

- **Modern History and International Relations (MHIR)**

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 **Modern History and International Relations**.

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 and the Research Master's track:
 - a) knowledge of modern history and/or international relations at university Bachelor's level, in addition to satisfying the following entry requirements:
 - b) sufficient knowledge of English to be able to follow the degree programme successfully
 - c) sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills in the academic disciplines relevant to the degree programme¹
 - d) sufficient ability to follow the programme.

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 Admissions 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 the component 'writing') or an IELTS score of 7 or above (with a minimum score of 6.5 for all components). TOEFL tests taken after 21 January 2026 will use TOEFL's new 1-6 scoring system with a minimum overall score of 5 (min. 5 in speaking and writing)
3. LanguageCert Academic: overall score 75 (min. 70 in all categories)
4. Pearson PTE Academic: overall score 71 (min. 64 in Reading, 58 in Listening and Speaking, 70 in Writing)

Article 2.3 – Admission to Research Master's tracks

In addition to the provisions of Article 2.1, the following admission requirements apply to the various Research Master's tracks 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

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.

- a letter outlining the prospective student's motivation for selecting the programme and Research Master's track, including his or her expectations and interests
- if possible, written results of previous research, such as academic articles or a Bachelor's thesis
- two personal recommendations from relevant experts²
- other documents, if required, which in the opinion of prospective students will highlight their eligibility for the programme and Research Master's track .

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 as the degree programme commences in the first semester.
2. Requests for admission to the degree programme and the Research Master's track must be submitted to the Admissions Board before 1 May.
3. In exceptional cases, the Admissions Board may decide to consider a request at a time other than that referred to in Article 2.6.1.
4. The Admissions Board will decide before 15 June. 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

Graduates are expected to have achieved the following.

Description of Master's level according to the descriptors of the Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area (Dublin descriptors)	Learning outcomes of the Research Master's Programme in Modern History and International Relations
Knowledge and Understanding Have demonstrated 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	<i>Have demonstrated advanced knowledge and understanding of:</i> 1.1 current developments in the historiography and literature of modern history and international relations as well as knowledge and understanding of the historical development of the fields 1.2 the theoretical and methodological approaches within the disciplines and subdisciplines
Applying knowledge and understanding 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	<i>Have demonstrated the comprehensive ability to:</i> 2.1 formulate an academic problem definition 2.2 apply combinations of theoretical and methodological approaches within the disciplines and subdisciplines 2.3 to integrate conflicting disciplinary insights and viewpoints 2.4 apply an academic problem definition in the form of academic research

Making judgements 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	<i>Have demonstrated the ability to:</i> 3.1 understand and critically assess intellectual arguments 3.2 conduct academically responsible selections, analyses and interpretations of research data with the aim of arriving at syntheses concerning the collected material related to the research question or questions 3.3 interpret developments in the discipline and extend and deepen their own knowledge and understanding 3.4 deal creatively and systematically with complex issues and reach well-reasoned conclusions 3.5 demonstrate initiative, sensitivity to context and a general sense of responsibility 3.6 make informed decisions in complex and unpredictable situations 3.7 justify the selection of source material and literature 3.8 evaluate the scientific and societal relevance and effects of the results of their research
Communication Can communicate their conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously	<i>Have demonstrated the ability to:</i> 4.1 make an original contribution to knowledge in at least one branch of the discipline, at the level of an academic publication 4.2 present the results of research, using various media, to an audience of specialists and non-specialists, in written and spoken form, audiovisually and digitally 4.3 participate effectively in the academic debate in the own specialist field within and outside the framework of a research group

Learning skills	<i>Have demonstrated the ability to:</i>
Have the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous	5.1 independently formulate a research proposal 5.2 methodically reflect upon their own actions and academic attitude

See appendix 1 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 – Specializations

The Research Master's track has the following specializations:

No.	Specializations
1.	Modern History
2.	International Relations

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: *Modern History specialization*

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	Theory of Modern History and International Relations	10 ECTS
2	Methodology of Modern History and International Relations	5 ECTS
3	Advanced Methodology of Modern History	5 ECTS
4	Research Seminar Themes, Trends and Topics	10 ECTS
5	Research Seminar I* or Course(s) at National Research School**	10 ECTS
6	Research Seminar II*	10 ECTS
7	Research Seminar III*	10 ECTS
8	-	

Year 1: *International Relations specialization*

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	Theory of Modern History and International Relations	10 ECTS
2	Methodology of Modern History and International Relations	5 ECTS
3	Advanced Methodology of International Relations	5 ECTS
4	Research Seminar Themes, Trends and Topics	10 ECTS
5	Research Seminar I* or Course(s) at National Research School**	10 ECTS
6	Research Seminar II*	10 ECTS
7	Research Seminar III*	10 ECTS

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

- o. 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.
- o. 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: Modern History specialization & International Relations specialization

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
9	MHIR: Specialization I	10 ECTS
10	MHIR: Specialization II	10 ECTS
11	MHIR: Thesis preparation class	5 ECTS
12	MHIR: Bridging Horizons class	5 ECT
13	MA Thesis	30 ECTS

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

- o. 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.
- o. 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:

Modern History specialization

No.	Course unit	No.	After passing course unit
9-12	MHIR: Specializations I, II , Thesis Preparation Class, Bridging Horizons Class	1-4	Research Seminar Themes, Trends and Topics, Theory of Modern History and International Relations, Advanced Methodology of Modern History, Methodology of Modern History and International Relations
13	MA Thesis	1 -7	Research Seminars I to III, Research Seminar Themes, Trends and Topics, Theory of Modern History and International Relations, Advanced Methodology of Modern

			History, Methodology of Modern History and International Relations
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International Relations specialization

No.	Course unit	No.	After passing course unit
8-11	MHIR: Specializations I, and II Thesis Preparation Class, Bridging Horizons Class	1-4	Research Seminar Themes, Trends and Topics Theory of Modern History and International Relations, Advanced Methodology of International Relations, Methodology of Modern History and International Relations
13	MA Thesis	1-7	Research Seminars I to III, Research Seminar Themes, Trends and Topics, Theory of Modern History and International Relations, Advanced Methodology of International Relations, Methodology of Modern History and International Relations

SECTION 5 TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 5.1 – Amendments

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 – Publication

- The Faculty Board shall duly publish these Regulations, any rules and guidelines formulated by the Board of Examiners, and any amendments to these documents.
- Copies of the documents referred to in Article 5.2.1 are available from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website via the Student Portal.

Article 5.3 – 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 and approved by the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee where required.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Assessment Plan