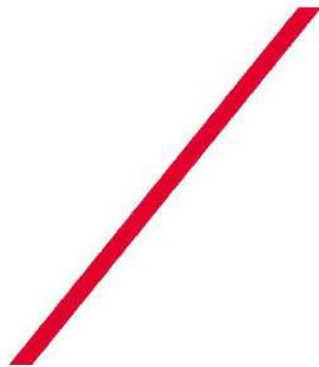




university of groningen

faculty of religion, culture and society

Teaching and Examination Regulations
(TER)

Bachelor's degree programme in
Religious Studies

for academic year 2026-2027

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

These Regulations were adopted by the Board of the Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society on 27 august 2026 and approved by the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee where required by law on 8 July 2026.

SECTION 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1.1 – Applicability

1. These Regulations for academic year 2026-2027 apply to the teaching, examinations and final assessment of the Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies, ISAT degree programme code 50902, hereinafter referred to as **the degree programme**, and to all students enrolled in this degree programme.
2. The degree programme is provided by the Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society of the University of Groningen, hereinafter referred to as **the Faculty**.
3. These Regulations also apply to students of other degree programmes, faculties or institutes of higher education, insofar as they follow course units in one of the degree programmes (including Minors) offered by the Faculty to which these Regulations apply.
4. Course units or Minors that students of the degree programme as referred to in Article 1.1.1 follow in other degree programmes or at other faculties or higher education institutions are subject to the Teaching and Examination Regulations of that programme, faculty or institute.
5. These Regulations also apply to students enrolled in the degree programme for the purpose of following a Pre-Master's programme as referred to in Article 8.7.1.

Article 1.2 – Definitions

The following definitions apply to these Regulations:

- a. The Act: the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW: *Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek*)
- b. Student: a person registered at the University of Groningen for the purpose of following course units and/or taking examinations leading to the conferral of a university degree
- c. Degree programme: the Bachelor's degree programme referred to in Article 1.1 of these Regulations, comprising a coherent set of course units
- d. Course unit: a teaching unit or other part of the degree programme within the meaning of Article 7.4 of the Act.
- e. OCASYS: the University of Groningen's online course units catalogue
- f. ECTS credit point: a credit point 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 is equivalent to a student workload of 28 hours
- g. First year of the degree programme: the first period in the degree programme, with a student workload of 60 ECTS
- h. Second and third years of the degree programme: the part of the Bachelor's degree programme that follows the first year of the degree programme
- i. Study progress overview: a written overview of study results and their ECTS credit points, which is sent to students by e-mail
- j. Preliminary study advice: a written overview of study results accompanied by a preliminary study advice, which is issued to students halfway through the first year of the degree programme
- k. Definitive study advice: a study advice that is issued only once and which may result in rejection of the student in question, in accordance with Articles 7.8b.1 and 7.8b.2 of the Act
- l. binding (negative) study advice: a negative study advice that is binding for the student in question and means the student may not continue with the degree programme, in accordance with Article 7.8b.3 of the Act
- m. Major: all compulsory course units in the first, second and third years of the degree programme
- n. Minor room: the space available for students to specialize within the degree programme
- o. Minor package: a coherent set of course units that can be followed within the Minor room

- p. Pre-Master's programme: a programme intended to remedy deficiencies for admission to the Master's degree programmes;
- q. Test or examination: a test of the knowledge, understanding and skills of students, including an assessment of the results
- r. Track: a programme within a Bachelor's degree programme of which the student workload and the qualities in terms of knowledge, understanding, and skills that the student must have acquired upon completion of the programme are equivalent to those of the degree programme;
- s. Final assessment: the final assessment for the Bachelor's degree which is considered to be passed once all the requirements of the Bachelor's degree programme have been satisfied
- t. Academic year: the period of time that starts on 1 September and ends on 31 August of the following year
- u. 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
- v. Practical: a practical exercise, as referred to in Article 7.13 of the Act, in one of the following forms:
 - a thesis
 - a written assignment, paper or draft
 - a research assignment
 - participation in fieldwork or an excursion
 - completion of a placement
 - participation in another educational activity designed to teach certain skills
- w. Board of Examiners: an independent body with the duties and powers as set out 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
- x. Examiner: a person appointed by the Board of Examiners to set examinations and determine their results
- y. Programme Committee: the consultative and advisory body that fulfils the duties referred to in Articles 9.18 and 9.38c of the Act
- z. Admissions Board: the board that has decision-making powers in matters concerning admission to the degree programme on behalf of the Faculty Board
- aa. VWO diploma: pre-university certificate in accordance with Article 2.58(2)(a) or Article 2.80(2)(a) of the Secondary Education Act 2020
- bb. Matching: the procedure concerning the provision of matching activities and the issuing of study advice in accordance with Article 7.31a ff. of the Act, further elaborated in Chapter 3 of the University of Groningen Regulations for Registration and Tuition Fees.
- cc. Extraordinary circumstances: circumstances such as those referred to in Article 7.51 of the Act, and which will be taken into account when formulating a decision within the meaning of Articles 5.4 and 9.9. For the UG, the Student Support Fund Regulations contain an elaboration of Article 7.51 of the Act. In these Regulations, extraordinary circumstances include, in any case, a disability or chronic illness, illness, pregnancy and delivery, extraordinary family circumstances, a degree programme which is not feasible, students with an elite sports status (issued by the elite sports coordinator), membership of a consultative participation body;

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

SECTION 2 QUALIFICATIONS AND ADMISSION

Article 2.1 – Admission to the programme

1. A pre-university education diploma (VWO with any profile) grants admission to the degree programme.

2. In addition to the certificates that grant admission to the degree programme according to the Act, holders of an equivalent certificate as listed in Appendix 1 will also be granted admission to the degree programme.
3. Article 2.3.2 applies to holders of a certificate as referred to in Article 2.1.2 (N.B. For English-taught degree programmes only).

Article 2.2 – Admission to the programme based on a HBO, University or Open University propaedeutic certificate

1. A successfully completed first year of a University of Applied Sciences Bachelor's/ University Bachelor's or Open University Bachelor's, without the possession of a pre-university education certificate or an equivalent certificate as mentioned in Article 2.1, allows direct admission to the degree programme.

Article 2.3 – 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 a Dutch or English language test, depending on the language of the chosen degree programme, to be administered by an agency stipulated by the Board.
2. The English language proficiency requirement can in any event be met by passing an examination in English at the level of the VWO final exam or by passing the TOEFL with a score of at least 4 (internet-based) (reading and listening 4, speaking 3.5, writing 24.5), an IELTS score of 6.0 or higher (6.0 on each part), a Pearson Academic score of at least 61 (reading 62, listening and speaking 54, writing 62), a LanguageCergt Academic score of at least 65 (65 on each part), a certificate of the Language Centre of the University of Groningen, at least CEFR B2 or a comparable Cambridge Proficiency score (C1 Advanced with at least a score of 169).

Article 2.4 – Entrance examination

1. Students who do not satisfy the admission requirements set out in Articles 2.1 and 2.2 may participate in an entrance examination in accordance with Article 7.29 of the Act.
2. Students who wish to take the entrance examination must be aged 21 or over on the date on which the examination is held. An exception to the age requirement may be made if the student in question has gained a certificate abroad that would grant admission to a university degree programme in their home country, or if the student has refugee status and for this reason is unable to present a degree certificate.
3. The entrance examination will cover the following subjects at the stated level:
Dutch (pre-university vwo-level)
History (pre-university vwo-level)
English (pre-university vwo-level)
In the faculty entrance examination regulation is laid down which organization will evaluate the different subjects. The provisions of Article 2.3 apply.
4. A successfully completed entrance examination will grant admission to the University of Groningen degree programme for which it was taken for the duration of two academic years after the date on which the examination was taken.

Article 2.5 – 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 Admissions Board consists of:
 - one member, also the Chair, selected from the professors who teach in the degree programme or one member selected by the Board of the Faculty from the academic staff who teach in the degree programme
 - one member / two members selected from the other academic staff who teach in the degree programme.

3. The study advisor for the degree programme (or an equivalent member of staff) will be appointed as an advisory member and also secretary.
4. Nominations are made by the Faculty Board which also determines the entry requirements.

Article 2.6 – Intake date and application dates

1. There is one intake date per academic year, namely 1 September of each year.
2. The provisions of this Article also apply to students who reregister for the same degree programme.
3. In addition to this intake date, there are several application dates on which registration may take place upon the approval of the Admissions Board, namely 1 November, 1 February and 1 April.

4. First year

Students may start the programme after 1 September on condition that they had an interview with the study advisor. This applies to both students from outside the UG and students who switch degree programmes within the University. Students who did have this interview can start the programme on 1 November, 1 February or 1 April in consultation with the study advisor.

Students who have previously been enrolled in the same degree programme may start the programme after 1 September in consultation with the study advisor.

Second and third years

Only students who have previously been enrolled in the same degree programme may start in the second or third year after 1 September. They can start on 1 November, 1 February or 1 April in consultation with the study advisor. New students who wish to start in the second or third year may only do so on 1 September.

Pre-Master's programmes

Although the standard starting dates for pre-Master's programmes are 1 September and 1 February, students may also start on 1 November or 1 April in consultation with the study advisor. The same conditions apply to both students from outside the UG and students with a prior registration at the University of Groningen.

5. A request for admission after 1 September may be submitted to the Admissions Board by email: studentoffice.rcs@rug.nl. A decision regarding this application will be taken within 4-6 weeks.

Article 2.7 – Matching

1. Prior to the first registration for the programme, prospective students are given the opportunity to participate in activities focusing on the choice of degree programme. Any prospective students who choose to participate in activities focusing on programme recommendations will receive a programme recommendation.
2. The provisions in Chapter 3 of the University of Groningen Regulations for Registration and Tuition Fees (RIC) and the Faculty matching procedure apply.
3. Any University of Groningen students who are interested in registering for the first year of the degree programme's during the academic year, in accordance with Article 2.6 and who meet the entry requirements, are admitted after completing an interim matching activity (or activities), consisting of:
 - a) an interview with a study advisor, participation in a web class, or taking a few lectures

SECTION 3 CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 3.1 – Aims and learning outcomes of the degree programme

1. The degree programme is designed to:
 1. acquire knowledge, skills and understanding in the field of religious studies, and to enable the learning outcomes listed in Article 3.1.2 to be attained
 2. promote academic development. This is defined as the development of competences (knowledge, skills and attitudes) concerning:
 - independent academic thought, action and communication
 - the use of the relevant academic instruments
 - academic communication in Dutch or English
 - the use of specific knowledge of a field in a wider academic, philosophical and social/cultural context
 - behavioural norms that apply during the degree programme and in the academic world
 3. prepare students for a further study career. Students become familiar with the theory and practice of academic research from the very start of their Bachelor's degree programme
2. The graduate who starts the Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies as of or after 31 August 2026 will attain the following learning outcomes:

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING:

1. Has demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the theoretical and methodological foundations of religious studies and can define the position of religious studies mainly in relation to the social sciences and the humanities.
2. Has demonstrated knowledge and understanding of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, including their respective histories, sources, practices, and interrelatedness with various cultures.
3. Has demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the disciplines within religious studies:
 - a. Social Sciences (including anthropology, sociology and psychology of religion)
 - b. the Humanities (including history -, philosophy - and ethics of religion).
4. Has demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the research methods commonly used in disciplines within religious studies mentioned at 3.
5. Has demonstrated knowledge and understanding of a specific (possibly self-selected) discipline or field of study outside religious studies.
6. Has demonstrated more advanced knowledge and understanding of a specific theme within religious studies, as demonstrated by, among other things, a thesis or final project written on the topic.

APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING:

7. Is able to use their acquired knowledge and understanding to analyze and explain the interrelatedness of religion and culture in diverse contexts from the perspective of the disciplines mentioned at 3.
8. Is able to apply their acquired knowledge and understanding of the disciplines mentioned at 3 to various themes.
9. Is able to use their acquired knowledge and understanding to carry out a scholarly text analysis.
10. Is able to under supervision use their acquired knowledge and understanding to design and carry out a study of limited scope which requires them to

- a. independently collect material and information in analogue and digital catalogues and databases, and assess the validity of this data;
 - b. formulate a research question;
 - c. determine the relevant disciplinary perspective, methods and theoretical frameworks best suited to study their research question;
 - d. carry out the analysis of their research question using the perspectives, methods and theoretical concepts;
 - e. draw sound conclusions regarding their research question.
11. Is able to apply their acquired knowledge and understanding to develop specific products that are relevant in professional contexts.

FORMING JUDGEMENTS:

- 12. Is able to form sound judgements of their own and other people's research in the field of social, theoretical and ethical religious studies.
- 13. Is able to critically reflect on current scholarly and social debates regarding the role of religion in society.

COMMUNICATION:

- 14. Is able to engage in discussions on the state of affairs of research within one or more subfields of religious studies.
- 15. Is able to provide an academically sound, well-argued and critical oral report of the state of affairs of research within one or more subfields within religious studies to an audience of specialists and non-specialists.
- 16. Is able to provide an academically sound, well-argued and critical written report of the state of affairs of research within one or more subfields within religious studies to an audience of specialists and non-specialists.

LEARNING SKILLS:

- 17. Possesses social and communication skills and can use them in collaborative situations.
 - 18. Is able to give fellow students constructive feedback and receive feedback from fellow students, and they can adequately process substantiated criticism.
 - 19. Is able to adequately process instructions and criticism from supervisors.
 - 20. Is able to work independently, including formulate a realistic plan and adhere to the agreed planning and priorities.
 - 21. Is able to independently gather information about relevant Master's degree programmes and/or relevant professional sectors.
3. The learning outcomes of the various individual course units can be found in Appendix 3.

Article 3.2 – Conducting research

- 1. Students who conduct research in the context of the degree programme do so in accordance with relevant legislation, the Dutch code of conduct for academic integrity, and the requirements of ethically sound research.
- 2. Prior to the investigation, the student makes a risk assessment in which attention is paid both to reflection on the sources or persons to be investigated and to the (position of the) investigator themselves.
- 3. Throughout the entire research process, the student will adhere to the applicable policies and procedures, which are based on the Faculty's data management policy.

4. Prior to the period of research, the student, together with their supervisor, have to draw up a data management plan. This is then stored, in accordance with the faculty's data policy. At a minimum, this plan will address:
 - the student's responsibilities concerning the processing of personal data
 - the data storage measures (including security measures) used in the course of the research
 - the archiving and retention period
 - the responsibility for reusing data after the research has been completed.
5. In general, the student holds the copyright on any theses or other independently written assignments that are intended to test their knowledge, understanding, and skills. If anyone else wishes to use the student's thesis or written work, the student must first give permission for them to do so. The University must be free to perform these procedures unconditionally if it is to archive theses and written assignments (whether or not these are under embargo) and to process them in accordance with the rules of the Dutch Inspectorate of Education and the Act. All students are obliged to give their unconditional consent to the aforementioned procedures.

Article 3.3– Type of degree programme

The degree programme is full time.

Article 3.5– Medium of instruction

1. The degree programme is taught in English. In English taught classes Dutch-speaking students may use the Dutch language in assessments (assignments, papers, exams, oral examinations).
2. Individual non-Dutch students and examiners may make arrangements for assessments to be taken in a different language.

Article 3.6 – Student workload

1. The degree programme has a student workload of 180 ECTS credit points.
2. The first year of the degree programme has a student workload of 60 ECTS credit points.
3. The student workload is expressed in half or whole ECTS credit points.

Article 3.7 – Practicals

1. With regard to the following course units, successful participation in the relevant practical is considered to mean passing the examination:

Concepts and Methods 1,
 Religion in South Asia,
 Concepts and Methods 2,
 Rituals in Theory and Practice,
 Religion, Media and Popular Culture,
 The Text Awakens,
 Religion and Politics,
 Religion, Diversity and Identity,
 Internship Bachelor's,
 Climate Change, End Times and Sustainable Futures,
 Religion, Space and Place,
 Cultural and Political Impact of Religion,
 Origins of Religion,
 Bachelor's Thesis Seminar,
 Bachelor's Thesis,
 Science Communication
 Language, Culture and Meaning: Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology
 Inhabiting Cultural Worlds: Research Projects
 Climate Change Inequalities

Article 3.8 – Contact hours

1. The first year of the degree programme comprises a minimum of 420 contact hours a year.
2. The second and third years of the degree programme comprises a minimum of 400 contact hours a year.
3. The structure of the contact hours is set out in in the Student Handbook and/or OCASYS.

Article 3.9– Organization and examinations of the degree programme

1. The entire programme comprises a Major and a University/Personal Minor.
2. The Bachelor's degree programme is concluded with a final assessment.

Article 3.10– Participation in course units

1. Students may participate in course units of the degree programme if they register in good time via Progresswww (<https://progresswww.nl/rug/>).
2. The maximum number of students for each course unit is listed in OCASYS.
3. Admission to course units with limited capacity is arranged according to the order of registration. Students who are registered for the degree programme will be given priority for the course units in their Major (*or Minor*).
4. Students who are registered for the Bachelor's degree programme cannot access the course units of a Master's degree programme

SECTION 4 THE FIRST YEAR OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 4.1 – Structure of the first year

1. The first year comprises the following course units and student workloads:
 1. Concepts and Methods 1: Study of Religion (7.5 ECTS)
 2. Judaism: History, Sources and Praxis (7.5 ECTS)
 3. Religion in South Asia (7.5 ECTS)
 4. Christianity: History, Sources and Praxis (7.5 ECTS)
 5. Islam: History, Sources and Praxis (7.5 ECTS)
 6. Anthropology of Religion (7.5 ECTS)
 7. Psychology and Sociology of Religion (7.5 ECTS)Philosophy of Religion and Spirituality (7.5 ECTS)
2. All course units and their modes of instruction are listed in the digital University course unit catalogue OCASYS.
3. In situations of force majeure where it is not reasonably possible to provide the teaching and examinations in the manner stated in OCASYS, another form of teaching and examination may be temporarily switched to. This is subject to the condition that the established learning objectives are achieved upon completion of the study programme, even after the change of form, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.

SECTION 5 BINDING STUDY ADVICE

Article 5.1 – Preliminary study advice

1. Halfway through the first semester of the first year of registration in the first year of the degree programme, students will receive a study progress overview specifying the student

workload realized thus far. Additional study progress overviews will be sent to students later in the academic year.

2. Students will receive a written preliminary study advice as soon as possible **after the first semester**, and in any case before 1 March.
3. The preliminary study advice should be considered a warning if there is a question of insufficient study progress, giving students the chance to improve their performance.
4. If the study progress is insufficient to such an extent that the student cannot reasonably be expected to satisfy the conditions for receiving a positive study advice within the meaning of Articles 5.2.2 a and b, they will be invited to a meeting with the study advisor. The aim of the meeting is to discuss the student's study habits, to reassess the choice of degree programme, and if necessary to refer them to a different degree programme.

Article 5.2 – Definitive study advice

1. Students must earn at least 45 ECTS credit points in their first year of registration in the first year of the degree programme. This is known as the BSA threshold.
2. A definitive study advice is issued at **the end of the first year** of study, by 31 July at the latest. This can be either:
 - a. positive, for students who have earned at least 45 ECTS of the first year of the degree programme
 - b. negative, for students who have earned fewer than 45 ECTS in the first year of the degree programme. This study advice is binding for students (BSA) in accordance with Article 7.8b, part 3 of the Act.
3. In the event that the preliminary study results are insufficient to such an extent that the student cannot reasonably be expected to pass the 45 ECTS threshold by the end of the first year of study, a binding (negative) study advice may be issued subsequently to the preliminary study advice as referred to in Article 5.1 before the end of the academic year. This may also be at the request of the student. The procedure set out in Article 5.5 will apply.
4.
 - a. The Faculty Board will take extraordinary personal circumstances as referred to in Article 5.4 into account in its decision on which study advice to issue in the first year of registration.
 - b. Notwithstanding the stipulations in Article 5.2.2, if no assessment can be made with regard to a student's suitability for the degree programme due to personal circumstances in the first year, the assessment may be postponed until a later date within the first year of the degree programme.
 - c. Students may be granted a lower binding (negative) study advice threshold in the case of structural circumstances, for instance when a student has performance disabilities.

Article 5.3 – Exceptions to the definitive study advice

Multiple degree programmes at the University of Groningen

1. Students who are registered for the first year of 2 or more University of Groningen degree programmes in their first year of registration and by the end of the year satisfy the BSA threshold as referred to in Article 5.2.1 for one degree programme will not have to satisfy the BSA threshold for the other programme(s) in that year. Students who have successfully completed the first year of a degree programme are exempt from the BSA requirements for the other programmes.

Propaedeutic certificate previously gained

2. Students who have already completed the propaedeutic phase of a degree programme at the University of Groningen or another Dutch university, or (for degree programmes that do not issue propaedeutic certificates) in the opinion of the Board of Examiners have earned 60 ECTS credit points in the first year, will not fall under the BSA system for the degree programme for which they enrol in the first year of the degree programme.

Deregistration before 1 March

3. No definitive study advice will be issued to students who submit a request for deregistration before or as of 1 March of the first year of registration in the degree programme. The procedure set out in Article 5.1 will apply again to students who re-register in a subsequent academic year. The BSA regulations for the academic year in which they re-register will then apply.

Deregistration before 1 March + registration as of 1 February

4. Article 5.2 applies in full to students who deregister from a degree programme before 1 March and register for a degree programme in the same degree programme cluster, as of 1 February of the same academic year.
5. Article 5.2 applies in full to students who deregister from the full-time variant of a degree programme before 1 March and register for the part-time variant of the same degree programme or a programme in the same degree programme cluster, as of 1 February of the same academic year.

Registration as of 1 February

6. An adapted BSA threshold will apply to students who register for a University of Groningen Bachelor's degree programme as of 1 February and have not previously been registered as students in the same academic year. These students must earn 20 ECTS from the second semester of the first year of the degree programme by the end of the second semester of the first year of registration. In all other cases, the provisions of Article 5.2 will apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 5.4 – Extraordinary circumstances

1. When deciding whether to issue a binding (negative) study advice, the Faculty Board will take a student's extraordinary or personal circumstances into account at that student's request. The Faculty Board can thereupon decide to adjust the BSA threshold or postpone issuing a study advice.
The evaluation of extraordinary circumstances will also take into account the student's study behaviour, the agreements made and any study plan drawn up in consultation with the study advisor, when the extraordinary circumstances were reported and the study results achieved by the end of the first year of study.
2. Students must report extraordinary circumstances to the study advisor as soon as possible after arising in order to ensure optimum support. The Faculty Board, or the Faculty BSA Committee on its behalf, will make a decision in response to a student's request for a postponed advice or an adapted BSA threshold. Students must also report to the study advisor as soon as possible if they are unable to complete the study plan drawn up in consultation with the study advisor and based on the original or adapted BSA threshold.
3. Only in the case of extraordinary circumstances as referred to in Article 5.4.1 can, if no assessment can be made at the end of the first year with regard to a student's suitability for the degree programme, this assessment be postponed until a later date within the propaedeutic phase.
4. Postponed advice can be issued at any time as long as the first year of the degree programme has not yet been completed.
 - a. The postponed advice will be positive if the (possibly adapted) BSA threshold has been passed.
 - b. The advice will be negative (and binding) if the student in question still fails to pass the (possibly adapted) BSA threshold by the end of the first year of the degree programme.
5. All students whose study advice has been postponed (whether or not combined with an

adjustment of their BSA threshold) must draw up a study plan in consultation with their study advisor, comprising at least the following:

- a. the course units from the first year of the degree programme that have not yet been passed, with a related time line
 - b. the course units from the second and third years of the degree programme that may be followed in addition to the course units listed under a.
6. Circumstances as referred to in Article 5.4.1 do not automatically lead to a successful application for a grant from the Student Support Fund.

Article 5.5 – Procedure for issuing a definitive study advice

1. A definitive study advice is issued by the Faculty Board on behalf of the Board of the University. The decision will also state the applicable safeguards of legal rights.
2. Before a binding (negative) study advice is issued, students will receive notice of the intention to issue one, after which they will be given the opportunity to put their case to the Faculty Board or its representative.

Article 5.6 – Consequences of a binding (negative) study advice

1. Students who have received a binding (negative) study advice may not register for the degree programme, or for any other degree programme in the cluster of related degree programmes for a period of 2 years from 1 September of the next academic year.
2. Students who have been issued a binding (negative) study advice are not permitted to follow course units in this degree programme via a different degree programme or educational institution in order to avoid the consequences of their binding (negative) study advice. No exemptions will be granted for course units completed in this way, nor will such completed course units be recognized within the framework of the degree programme in any other way.

Article 5.7 - Consequences of a positive study advice

1. Holders of a positive study advice for the degree programme in question at the University of Groningen will be admitted to the second and third years of the degree programme.
2. Notwithstanding Article 5.7.1, the requirement that a previous course unit must have been successfully completed may apply to some course units. This compulsory order of course units is set out in OCASYS and in Article 9.3 of these Teaching and Examination Regulations.
3. The admission does not apply to the Minor of the degree programme. For this, completion of the first year of the degree programme is required.

SECTION 6 ADMISSION TO THE SECOND AND THIRD YEARS OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 6.1 – Criteria for admission to the second and third years of the degree programme

The following may be admitted to the second and third years of the degree programme, after consideration by the Admissions Board:

1. holders of a propaedeutic certificate, or students who have earned 60 ECTS credit points in the first year of study in a related degree programme.
2. The Admissions Board may grant the holder of a certificate, whether or not issued in the Netherlands, exemption from the requirement referred to in Article 6.1.1 if, in the opinion of the Admissions Board, that diploma is at least equivalent to the certificate referred to in Article 6.1.1.

Article 6.2 – Hardship clause for admission to the second and third years of the degree programme

In situations where a change to educational content/educational force majeure demonstrably leads to an unfairness of overriding nature, the Board of Examiners may deviate from the provisions of Article 6.1 and 5.7. Such cases must involve a unique individual circumstance that is so distinctive that admission cannot reasonably be denied.

SECTION 7 THE SECOND AND THIRD YEARS OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 7.1 – Structure of the second and third years of the degree programme

1. The second year of the degree programme comprises the following course units and student workloads:
 1. Concepts and Methods 2: Researching Religion (7.5 ECTS)
 2. Rituals in Theory and Practice (7.5 ECTS)
 3. The Text Awakens: Reading and Using Religious Texts (7.5 ECTS)
 4. The Sacred Image (7.5 ECTS)
 5. Religion, Media and Popular Culture (7.5 ECTS)
 6. Religion and Politics (7.5 ECTS)
 7. Religion, Diversity and Identity (7.5 ECTS)
 8. Ethics, Religion and Care (7.5 ECTS)
2. The third year of the degree programme includes the following mandatory course units with their related student workload:
 - A. University minor or personal minor (15 ECTS), offered by another faculty of the University of Groningen or by a few faculties of the University of Groningen together OR Quranic Arabic 1 (7.5 ECTS) and optional module (7.5 ECTS)
 - B. Faculty course units (choice 2 out of 3), namely:
 1. Climate Change, End Times, Sustainability (7.5 ECTS)
 2. Religion, Space and Place (7.5 ECTS)
 3. optional module (7.5 ECTS)
 - C. Specialization (choice 1 out of 2):
 1. Origins of Religion: Foundational Texts and their Transformations (7.5 ECTS)
 2. Cultural and Political Impact of Religion (7.5 ECTS)
 - D. Bachelor's Thesis Seminar (7.5 ECTS)
 - E. Science Communication (5 ECTS)
Bachelor's Thesis (10 ECTS)
3. To complete the university minor, the student may alternatively choose from the following opportunities:
 - a. study period abroad (15-30 ECTS)
 - b. educational minor (30 ECTS) (certificate NT2, programme II is requested for non-Dutchspeaking students), with access to the educational minor Mens en Maatschappijwetenschappen/Godsdienst en Levensbeschouwing
 - c. work placement (7.5 ECTS)
 - d. preparation to Master's specialization Geestelijke verzorging (30 ECTS) (certificate NT2, programme II is requested for non-Dutchspeaking students)
4. Students who want to prepare themselves for the Master's specialization Spiritual Care (NL taught), follow the course units mentioned below in the third year:
 1. Geestelijke Verzorging in beeld. Inleiding en praktische vaardigheden (7.5 ECTS)
 2. Keuzeruimte (7.5 ECTS)

3. Trauma, rouw en rituelen (7.5 ECTS)
 4. Keuzeruimte (7.5 ECTS)
 5. Filosofie als levenskunst (7.5 ECTS)
 6. Thesis Seminar (7.5 ECTS)
 7. Science Communication (5 ECTS)
 8. Bachelor's Thesis (10 ECTS)
5. Students may replace one or more of the course units listed in Articles 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 on condition that the student workload for the entire degree programme does not as a result fall below 180 ECTS credits, and with the approval of the Board of Examiners.
 6. Students may earn up to 60 ECTS credits abroad with the approval of the Board of Examiners, which will take the student's study progress into account in its decision. No more than 30 of these 60 ECTS credits can replace course units within the university minor space. Up to 30 ECTS credits may be indicated as extracurricular credits on the Diploma Supplement.
- 7.a. The university minor Religion in the Modern World consists of the following course units:
 1. Rituals in Theory and Practices (7.5 ECTS)
 2. Religion in South Asia (7.5 ECTS)
 3. Climate Change, End Times, Sustainability (7.5 ECTS)
 4. Christianity: History, Sources and Praxis (7.5 ECTS)
 5. Ethics, Religion and Care (7.5 ECTS)
 6. Inhabiting Cultural Worlds (7.5 ECTS)
 - b. The university minor Art and Religion consists of the following course units:
 1. Multimedia Scripture (5 ECTS)
 2. Beyond Antiquity: Art and Architecture until 1750 (10 ECTS)
 4. The Sacred Image (7.5 ECTS)
 5. Religion, Space and Place (7.5 ECTS)

NB. The course unit 'Beyond Antiquity: Art and Architecture until 1750' is offered throughout Semester 1. If you choose the full 30 ECTS minor, the workload in block 2 is more than in block 1 (10 ECTS in block 1 and 20 ECTS in block 2). It is also possible to opt for a 15 ECTS programme.
 - c. The university minor Anthropology: What it means to be human consists of the following course units:
 1. Core Module 1: Inhabiting Cultural Worlds: Introduction to Anthropology (5 ECTS)
 2. Core Module 2: Towards Humanity: Physical Anthropology and Human Evolution (5 ECTS)
 3. Core Module 3: Archaeology and Anthropology: History and Theory (5 ECTS)
 4. Core Module 4: Language, Culture, and Meaning: Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology (5 ECTS)
 5. Rituals in Theory and Practice (5 ECTS)
 6. Religion in South Asia (5 ECTS)
 7. Anthropology of Religion (5 ECTS)
 8. Inhabiting Cultural Worlds: Research Project (5 ECTS)
 9. Archeologie: een introductie (5 ECTS)
 10. Inhabitants of Polar areas

NB. If you opt for the 30 ECTS programme, Core Module 1, 2 and 3 are compulsory, and Core Module 4 is recommended (the exception to this is students of the Bachelor's programme Archaeology: for these students, Core

Module 1, 2 and 4 are compulsory). If you opt for the 15 ECTS programme, Core Module 1 is compulsory.

d. The university minor Climate Change and Inequality consists of the following course units:

1. Global Inequality and Climate Change: Themes and Approaches (10 ECTS)
 2. Environment and Development (5 ECTS)
 3. Climate Change Inequalities: Challenged-Based Projects (10 ECTS)
 4. Climate Change, End Times, and Sustainable Futures (5 ECTS)
9. All course units and their modes of instruction are listed in the digital University course catalogue OCASYS.
10. In situations of force majeure where it is not reasonably possible to provide the teaching and examinations in the manner stated in OCASYS, another form of teaching and examination may be temporarily switched to. This is subject to the condition that the established learning objectives are achieved upon completion of the study programme, even after the change of form, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.

Article 7.2 – Replacements and electives followed elsewhere

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

Article 7.3 – Open Degree Programme

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

SECTION 8 OTHER PROGRAMMES

A. Minor

Article 8.1 – Minor

1. The Minor credits can be filled in using any of the options listed in Article 7.1.2.
2. Students may choose between:
 - a) a University Minor
 - b) a Faculty Minor
 - c) a Personal Minor

Article 8.2 – University Minor

1. A University Minor is a coherent set of broadening course units that students can follow either at their own or a different Faculty.
2. Students who choose to fill in their Minor room with a University Minor do not need explicit permission from the Board of Examiners.

Article 8.3 - Faculty Minor package

1. A Faculty Minor is a coherent set of broadening course units that students can follow either in their own degree programme or a different faculty.
2. When choosing a Faculty Minor package to fill the Minor room of the degree programme, the permission of the Board of Examiners of the programme is assumed to have been given.

Article 8.4 – Personalized Minor

1. A Personalized Minor is a coherent set of broadening or deepening course units that students can compile themselves and follow either at their own or a different Faculty of the University of Groningen or at another university in the Netherlands or at a partner university abroad.
2. Personalized Minors must be presented to the Board of Examiners for approval in advance.

Article 8.5 – Authority of the Board of Examiners with regard to Minors

1. Students must present their choice of Minor to the Board of Examiners of their own degree programme for approval, except if they choose a University Minor in accordance with Article 8.2.2.
2. Minors followed in other degree programmes or at other faculties or institutes of higher education are subject to the authority of the Board of Examiners of the degree programme that sets the relevant examinations.
3. Minors in the degree programme followed by students of other degree programmes, faculties or institutes of higher education are subject to the authority of the Board of Examiners of the degree programme.
4. A responsible Board of Examiners will be assigned in the event of interfaculty University Minors in consultation with the relevant faculties.

B. Honours programme

Article 8.6 – Bachelor's Honours Programme

1. The Faculty participates in the Bachelor's Honours Programme organized by the University of Groningen Honours College. The Bachelor's Honours Programme does not form part of the regular Bachelor's curriculum.
2. Students admitted to one of the Bachelor's degree programmes offered by the Faculty can participate in the Bachelor's Honours Programme if they are selected by the Dean of the University of Groningen Honours College. Please consult the Teaching and Examination Regulations of the University of Groningen Honours College for the selection procedure.
3. The Bachelor's Honours programme has a total student workload of 30 ECTS creditpoints, distributed over the three years of the Bachelor's programme.
The Bachelor's Honours Programme, including the deepening Faculty part, is subject to the Teaching and Examination Regulations of the University of Groningen Honours College.
4. a. The Honours programme is not part of the regular Bachelor's curriculum. The results and marks do not count towards the awarding of an honours predicate for the Bachelor's programme.
b. The Diploma Supplement that accompanies the Bachelor's degree certificate will

also list the results gained in the Bachelor's Honours programme.

C. Pre-Master's programmes

Article 8.7 – Pre-Master's programmes

1. The Faculty offers Pre-Master's programmes to facilitate entry into a Faculty Master's degree programme.
2. Students who enrol in the Pre-Master's programmes Religion, Conflict and Globalization, Heritage and Religion, Religion and Pluralism, Anthropology of Religion and Culture or the Pre-Master's programme Teacher Education within Theology and Religious Studies are registered in the Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies as referred to in Article 1.1.1.
3. The content and the student workload of the Pre-Master's programme are determined by the Admissions Board on a case-by-case basis.
4. The Admissions Board of the desired Master's degree programme will decide whether students are admitted to the Pre-Master's programme.
5. Students must complete the Pre-Master's programme within 24 months.
6. In addition to Article 8.7.5, students may only reregister for a Pre-Master's programme if they have earned at least 20 ECTS.
7. The Board of Examiners of the Bachelor's degree programme as referred to in Article 1.1.1 has the authority to decide in matters concerning course units in the Pre-Master's programme.
8. The stipulations concerning Pre-Master's programmes in the University of Groningen Regulations for Registration and Tuition Fees apply.

Article 8.8 – Design of the pre-Master's programme

1. The pre-Master's programme for the English taught tracks can include the following course units, with the stated student workloads:
 1. Concepts and Methods 1: Study of Religion (7.5 ECTS)
 2. Choice: Rituals in Theory and Praxis (7.5 ECTS) OR Christianity: History, Sources and Praxis (7.5 ECTS)
 3. Religion in South Asia (7.5 ECTS)
 4. Choice: Anthropology of Religion (7.5 ECTS) OR Hebrew Bible and Ancient Judaism (7.5 ECTS)
 5. Judaism: History, Sources and Praxis (7.5 ECTS)
 6. Choice: Religion, Media and Popular Culture (7.5 ECTS) OR Religion, Media and Popular Culture (7.5 ECTS) (HR) OR Psychology and Sociology of Religion (7.5 ECTS)
 7. Islam: History, Sources and Praxis (7.5 ECTS)
 8. Philosophy of Religion and Spirituality (7.5 ECTS) OR Religion and Politics (7.5 ECTS)
2. All course units and their modes of instruction are listed in OCASYS, the University's digital Course Catalogue.
3. In situations of force majeure, where it is not reasonably possible to teach in the manner indicated in OCASYS, it is possible to temporarily switch to another format of teaching and examination. This is also subject to the condition that the adopted learning outcomes continue to be achieved after the change of format.
4. Each course unit of the pre-Master's programme concludes with an examination. The examinations are conducted in the manner stated in OCASYS.

SECTION 9

EXAMINATIONS

Article 9.1 – General

1. Each course unit is assessed by means of an examination.
2. An examination can comprise a number of partial exams. The results of these partial exams together determine the examination result.
3. Each course unit has at least two assessments.
4. The examination assesses the students' academic development and mastery of the learning outcomes of the course unit.
5. An examination that concludes a course unit in block 1, 2 or 3 must be taken during the following block at the latest. An examination that concludes a course unit in block 4 must be taken by the end of the academic year at the latest (examination term).
6. A resit opportunity is offered for each partial exam (summative assessment) of a course unit. This resit may comprise resits of various different partial exams previously taken. The lecturer is responsible for the design of such resits.
7. If the examination term is exceeded, the examination requirements that are in force at the moment the examination is taken will apply. This may mean that a student must retake a course unit or its examinations. This rule also applies to written assignments, which will have to be rewritten on a new topic.
8. Papers that are not submitted before the original deadline will fall under the resit regulations and must be submitted before the second deadline, which falls in the resit period.
9. Papers that are submitted before the original deadline but are awarded a fail mark can be rewritten/improved and must then be resubmitted before the second deadline, in the resit period of the relevant teaching block.
10. Papers that are not submitted before the resit deadline will not be marked. The student in question will have to write a new paper on a new topic in the next academic year.
11. The results of an examination are expressed in grades with one decimal place and are either pass or fail, in numbers on a scale of 1 to 10, expressed as 5.5 or more for a pass and 5.4 for a fail.
12. The (weighted) final mark for course units in the BA-1 and BA-2 programmes must be 5.5 or higher. If the final mark is based on several partial exam results, then each part must have been awarded at least a 5.5.
13. The examination material always includes the lecture material, unless specified otherwise by the lecturer on Brightspace or in the syllabus.
14. No resits may be taken for course units that have been passed (5.5. or higher).
15. In accordance with the Assessment Programme, the individual contribution to group assignments will be assessed.

Article 9.2 – Participation in examinations

1. A student who registers for a course unit in the degree programme in accordance with Article 3.9 of the TER is automatically registered for the examination for that course unit.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 9.2.1, students can register and deregister for examinations during certain periods to be further defined.

Article 9.3 – Compulsory order of examinations

1. The examinations for the course units listed below may not be taken before the examinations for the associated course units have been passed:
second and third years of the degree programme:

Course unit	After passing of
Concepts and methods 2	Concepts and methods 1
Religion, Diversity and Identity	Concepts and methods 1 and 2

Bachelor's thesis	60 ECTS of course units from the second and third years of the degree programme among which Concepts and Methods 2
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2. The course units listed in Article 7.1.1 may be taken once a minimum of 45 ECTS of the propaedeutic phase have been successfully completed and the admission requirements set out in Article 9.3.1 have been satisfied.
The course units listed in Article 7.1.2 may be taken once the propaedeutic phase has been successfully completed and the admission requirements set out in Article 9.3.1 have been satisfied.
3. Contrary to the provisions of Article 9.3.2, the Board of Examiners may grant a student's request for admission to certain course units before they have satisfied the requirements set out in Article 9.3.2. The Board of Examiners has determined that progression as referred to in the first sentence of this article will only apply for a specific period of time.
4. The following stipulations apply to participation in course units with seminars or working groups as teaching method and practicals with compulsory attendance:
 1. In this article, 'practicals' are understood to be practical exercises as referred to in Article 1.2 and their associated lectures.
 2. If a practical incorporates lectures, a 75% attendance requirement will apply to these lectures for first year courses.
 3. Students who attend fewer than 75% of the lectures of first year courses will not be allowed to sit the examination for the course unit in question and must repeat the course unit.
 4. The stipulations in Article 9.3.4 concerning the practicals c.q. the course units with compulsory attendance will apply if they are listed in the course unit description in Ocasys and for first year course units.
 5. In case of force majeure, there can be a deviation from above mentioned regulations.
5. For courses in which academic writing- or presenting skills are embedded, the compulsory attendance of 75% applies to both the core course as well as the skills component. The following stipulations apply to participation in examinations:
 1. Students who do not satisfy the stipulations listed in Articles 9.3.4 sub 1 up to 4 are banned from participating in the examination. Exceptions can only be made in consultation with the teacher, study advisor, or board of examiners.

Article 9.4 – Examination frequency and periods

1. There will be an opportunity to sit the examinations for the course units listed in Articles 4.1 and 7.1 at least twice in each academic year.
2. The periods in which examinations can be sat are listed in the Student Handbook and/or OCASYS. Partial exams can also be taken outside the period indicated.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 9.4.1, there will be only one opportunity in a certain year to take the examination for a course unit not taught in that year.
4. Students may resit an examination for a course unit that is no longer offered at least twice during the first year after it has been removed from the curriculum.
5. Students who do not wish to sit a certain examination or resit must deregister for it.
6. Students who are not registered for a certain course unit but who do wish to sit its examination or resit and who satisfy the relevant admission requirements must register electronically for the examination via ProgressWWW within the stipulated term.
7. If a student has fulfilled the best-efforts obligation with respect to a course unit but has still not passed, then the examiner can give them the opportunity to take a supplementary or replacement test.
8. Granting this opportunity is subject to approval by the Board of Examiners.

Article 9.5 – Assessment of placement/internship or research assignment

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

Article 9.6 – Thesis/final project

1. A thesis/final project can in principle only be used for one University of Groningen degree programme. Full or partial exemptions for a degree programme's thesis/final project may be granted by the Board of Examiners on the basis of a thesis/final project written for another degree programme.
2. Each thesis/final project is assessed by at least two examiners.
3. The final mark of the Bachelor's thesis/final project should be at least a (not rounded off) 6.0.
4. The thesis/final project is 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 project at least once per academic year.
6. The period during which students can write theses/final projects will be published in the Student Handbook and/or OCASYS.
7. More detailed regulations on the design, content, time frame and assessment of the thesis/final project can be found in the Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's theses/final projects, which form part of these Teaching and Examination Regulations. This includes, for example, the following regulations:
 - The thesis/final project must be completed within the current academic year a student has started with the thesis/final project. Students who do not complete their thesis/final project within the academic year in which they started it must submit a reasoned request for extension of the completion term to the Board of Examiners. Upon the student's request, the Board of Examiners may take the student's extraordinary circumstances into account in its assessment of a request for extension, as well as their study behaviour, any agreements made or study plan drawn up in consultation with the study advisor, and the student's plan for completing the thesis/final project. The Board of Examiners will also consult the supervisor before making a decision.
 - Thesis/final project terms can be extended for a period of up to one semester at a time.
 - No more than two extensions will be granted.
 - The draft version of the thesis/final project should be submitted at 31 May at the latest, the definitive version on 18 June and the deadline for the revised version should be decided in consultation with the supervisors. This deadline should be before the first of 1 September.
 - No more than 4 supervision meetings are held for Bachelor's theses/final projects.
8. If by the end of the period referred to in Article 9.6.6 the assessor(s) is/are of the opinion that the thesis/final project cannot be awarded a pass mark, the student will be given one opportunity to revise the thesis or final project within a time frame defined by the degree programme. This revision formally constitutes the resit.
9. The Board of Examiners is the only body that can deviate from the provisions of this Article at the written request of a student.
10. Students must satisfy the following requirements in order to qualify for supervision and assessment of the final-year thesis or final project for the degree programme:
 - they must have completed the BA-1 year and earned at least 60 ECTS credit points in the post-propaedeutic phase of the programme, among which Concepts and Methods

2

Article 9.7 – Type of examinations

1. Examinations will be taken in the manner stated in OCASYS.
2. In situations of force majeure where it is not reasonably possible to provide the teaching

and examinations in the manner stated in OCASYS, another form of teaching and examination may be temporarily switched to. This is subject to the condition that the established learning objectives are achieved upon completion of the study programme, even after the change of form, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.

3. Examinations will be administered in English. Dutch-speaking students may use the Dutch language during assessments (assignments, papers, exams).
4. At a student's request, the Board of Examiners may allow an examination to be taken in a form different from that stated above.
5. Mock versions or some sample questions of each examination will be made available to practise.

Article 9.8 – Oral examinations

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

Article 9.9 – Request for additional resit

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

Article 9.10 – Board of Examiners responsible for electives taken at other degree programmes

1. A request to take an elective at another degree programme must be approved by the Board of Examiners of the student's own degree programme.
2. The Board of Examiners of the other degree programme is authorized to set and assess the examinations and decide upon requests for alternative exam regulations. Article 10.2.2 applies.

Article 9.11 – 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) on the basis of results obtained earlier (possibly elsewhere) on condition that the student:
 - a. has completed part of a university or higher vocational degree in the Netherlands or abroad that is equivalent in content and level
 - b. can demonstrate by work experience that they have sufficient knowledge and skills with respect to the course unit in question.
2. The stipulations of Article 10.2 apply to exemptions.
3. The validity period of exemptions granted for course units or parts thereof is identical to that of examination results in accordance with art. 9.15.

Article 9.12 – Examinations and functional impairments

1. Students with a functional impairment will be given the opportunity to take

examinations in a form that will compensate as far as possible for their individual impairment. If necessary, the Board of Examiners will seek expert advice from a student counsellor 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 9.13 – Examination provision

1. If not providing an individual examination were to lead to a ‘special case of an unfairness of overriding nature’, the Board of Examiners may decide to grant such a provision, contrary to the provisions of Article 9.4.
2. Requests for an individual examination provision must be submitted to the Board of Examiners as soon as possible, including documentary proof.

Article 9.14 – Marking of examinations and publication of marks

1. After an oral examination, the examiner will provisionally assess the examination immediately, and provide the student with a signed exam slip stating the definitive result at a later time.
2. The examiner will mark a written examination within ten working days of the day on which it was taken, and will provide the Faculty’s administration department with the necessary details for registration of the result in ProgRESS. A marking term of five working days applies to examinations sat in June/July as well as their resits.
3. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, as a result of which the period of ten working days is not reasonably feasible, this period can be extended by a maximum of five working days. The programme director/programme management must grant permission for this. Extending the period is not possible in Block 2b, nor for course units in the first year of the degree programme.
4. The examiner will mark a paper which is submitted in time within fifteen working days of the deadline for submission, unless the examiner and the student have made other agreements. The examiner will provide the Faculty’s Administration Office with the necessary details for written confirmation of the result to be sent to the student.
5. 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.
6. The written confirmation of the result of an examination will inform students of their right of inspection, as stipulated in Article 9.16, as well as of their right to appeal.
7. If the student wishes to lodge an appeal against the result of the examination, the student must submit this to the Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights (CLRS) within six weeks of the publication of that grade.

Article 9.15 – Validity of course units

1. Any completed course units remain valid indefinitely.
2.
 - a. Contrary to the provisions of Article 9.15.1, the Board of Examiners may decide that the validity of a course unit is limited. The Board of Examiners can only decide that a course unit is no longer valid if the student’s skills and knowledge are demonstrably outdated. The Board of Examiners may then decide to require a student to take a supplementary or substitute examination before allowing that student to progress to the final assessment.
 - b. In the event of extraordinary personal circumstances the validity term will be extended to include the period during which the student in question receives support from the Student Support Fund.
3. Partial examinations and assignments passed within a course unit that has not been successfully completed will lapse at the end of the academic year in which they were

passed.

Article 9.16 – Right of inspection

1. On request, students have the right to inspect their marked work during a period of 30 working days after the results of a written examination have been made known. If the student makes use of this opportunity, the student may request a copy of their completed written examination at the cost price.
2. Within the time frame stipulated in Article 9.16.1, any person may request that they be allowed to peruse the examination paper and the assessment criteria.
3. The Board of Examiners can determine that this inspection or perusal will take place at a certain place and at two set times at least.
Students who can show that they were prevented by force majeure from attending at the indicated places and times will be offered another opportunity, if possible within the period stated in Article 9.16.1.

Article 9.17 – Board of Examiners and Examiners

1. The Board of Examiners is the independent body that determines whether individual students have the knowledge, understanding and skills required to be awarded a degree.
2. The Faculty Board appoints the members of the Board of Examiners on the basis of their expertise in the field of the degree programme (or cluster of degree programmes) in question.
3. The Board of Examiners must comprise at least:
 - a. one member who is a lecturer in the degree programme
 - b. one member from outside the degree programme
4. Members of the (Faculty) Board or other people who have financial responsibilities within the institution may not be appointed as members of the Board of Examiners.
5. The Board of Examiners will appoint examiners to set examinations and determine the results.
6. The Board of Examiners must set out the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners for assessing and determining the results of examinations and final assessments.

Article 9.18 – Cheating and plagiarism (appendix 5)

1. Cheating is, whether or not on purpose, 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 someone else's work without correct reference to the source.
3. Fraud is also defined as the outsourcing of work by the student to artificial intelligence (AI) and presenting it as the student's own work.
4. The assessment of theses and written assignments requires a plagiarism check to be performed, by means of a plagiarism scanner accessed by the University. Students are individually responsible for maintaining academic integrity.
5. In the event of suspected fraud, further investigation of the student's knowledge, understanding and skills may be conducted. This in-depth review will be separate from the examinations for the course unit.
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. In the event of serious cheating, the Board of Examiners can ask the Board of the University to definitively terminate the student's registration in the degree programme.
6. In any case, the following can be considered to be serious cheating:
 - a. impersonating someone else during the exam
 - b. being represented by someone else during the exam
 - c. have a third party (service) sit the exam for hem

- d. obtaining the assignments and/or model answers for the relevant examination before the time when the examination takes place
 - e. fabricating and/or falsifying survey and/or interview answers and/or research data
7. The Board of Examiners will set out its course of action in the event of cheating in its Rules and Regulations.

Article 9.19 – 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. The stipulations in the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners also apply.

Article 9.20 – Termination of enrolment (*Iudicium Abeundi*)

1. In extraordinary cases of reprehensible behaviour and/or statements made by a student, the Board of the University, 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 9.19.1 until after the student in question has been given an opportunity to put forward their case, any interests of the student and the institution have been carefully assessed and it has been proven reasonable to assume that the student's behaviour and/or statements prove them to be unsuitable for one or more of the professions for which they is being trained in their degree programme, or for the practical preparation for that profession. In such cases the Faculty Board, the Board of Examiners and the Board of the University will follow the *Protocol Iudicium Abeundi* [protocol for termination of registration] as approved by the *Nederlandse Federatie van Universitaire Medische Centra* [Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centres] on 1 November 2010.
3. The stipulations in the *University of Groningen Regulations for Registration and Tuition Fees* apply.

SECTION 10 FINAL ASSESSMENT

Article 10.1 – Marking examinations

1. The degree programme is concluded with a final assessment.
2. On condition that the student's examination subjects has been approved, the Board of Examiners will determine the result of the final assessment as soon as the student has passed all the required examinations. The Board of Examiners may define terms to this end. The result of the final assessment indicates that, the student has acquired the necessary academic development. The Board of Examiners will issue a degree certificate to this effect.
3. If the student exceeds the time limits set for approval as referred to in Article 10.1.2, this may cause the Board of Examiners to schedule the examination for a later date. That could be in the academic year following the academic year in which the last examination was passed.
4. Before the final assessment can be determined, the Board of Examiners may itself decide to test the student's knowledge insight, and skills in one or more course units or components of the degree programme, if and in as much as the marks for these course units provide a reason for doing so.
5. By determining the result of the final assessment, the Board of Examiners also commits itself to a speedy processing of the degree certificate ceremony.
6. If the student wishes to postpone their date of graduation in connection with additional examinations that they still need to sit, the student must submit this request to the Board of Examiners within two weeks of the moment at which the examination date

- was set.
7. 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 10.1.2, and not the date on which the degree certificate is presented to the student.
 8. The successfully passed final assessment as referred to in Article 10.1.1, and all assignments submitted within the framework of this assessment, will be kept on file by the Faculty Board for a period of at least 7 years. This is also applicable to the recording of oral exams.

Article 10.2 – Course units completed elsewhere

1. Students can only be awarded a Bachelor's degree from the degree programme if at least half of the programme was followed at the degree programme, during the student's period of registration as a student at the University of Groningen.
2. a. For Double Degree or joint degree Bachelor'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.
b. the provisions of article 9.6.1 regarding the thesis or final project must be observed.

Article 10.3 – Degree certificate

1. Students shall receive a certificate issued by the Board of Examiners as proof that they have passed the final examination. Even if a student successfully completes more than one track or specialization within a degree programme, they will receive only one degree certificate. Article 10.2 applies.
2. The Board of Examiners will issue an International Diploma Supplement with each degree certificate.
3. If applicable, the results of the Bachelor's Honours Programme are listed on the Diploma Supplement accompanying the Bachelor's degree certificate.

Article 10.4 – Degree

1. Students who have successfully passed the final assessment shall be awarded the degree of 'Bachelor of Arts'.
2. The degree awarded will be indicated on the degree certificate.

Article 10.5 – Honours ('Cum Laude')/'Summa Cum Laude')

1. The Board of Examiners will determine whether or not the Bachelor's degree certificate will be awarded an honours predicate.
2. The following conditions apply:
 - a) The mark for the thesis or final project must satisfy the following minimum conditions:
 - i. 'Cum laude': the mark for the thesis or final project must be at least 8.0
 - ii. 'Summa cum laude': the mark for the thesis or final project 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 must be
 - i. greater than or equal to 8.0 for 'Cum laude'
 - ii. greater than or equal to 9.0 for 'Summa cum laude'.
3. No honours predicate is awarded if the student workload of the exemptions in ECTS credit points is more than half of the total number of ECTS for the degree programme. This stipulation does not apply to Double Degree or joint degree programmes.
4. Honours predicates may only be awarded if the examinations for the course units were taken only once.
5. An honours predicate will only be awarded if no course unit has been awarded a mark of less than 7.0.

6. No honours predicates 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.
7. In certain circumstances, the Board of Examiners may depart from the provisions set out in Articles 10.5.2 to 10.5.6.

Article 10.6 – Assessment Programme

The Faculty Board sets an Assessment Programme and covers the following subjects:

1. the learning outcomes of the degree programme;
2. the course units of the degree programme and the learning outcomes of each course unit;
3. the relationship between course units and learning outcomes: how are the learning outcomes attained (see Assessment matrix);
4. The mode of assessment and test moments for each course unit (see Assessment plan).

SECTION 11 TUTORING

Article 11.1 – Study progress administration

The Faculty Board bears the responsibility for administrating the individual study results of all students, and at least twice a year and on request provides students with an overview of their study results.

Article 11.2 – Tutoring

The Faculty Board is responsible for the organization of the introduction and the tutoring of students registered for the degree programme, partly for the purpose of their progress during the course of study to promote their progress and partly to gain an impression of potential study options within and outside the degree programme.

SECTION 12 TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 12.1 – Amendments

1. Any amendments to these Regulations will, following a recommendation by and/or upon the approval of after due consultation with 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 12.2 – Publication

1. The Faculty Board will duly publish these Regulations as well as any amendments to them.
2. Copies of these Regulations are available from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website via the Student Portal or via <https://www.rug.nl/rcs/education/studyguide/>.

Article 12.3 – Evaluation

1. The Faculty Board is responsible for the regular evaluation of the TER, and in any case, will consider the resultant demands on the student's time (for the purpose of monitoring and, if necessary, adjusting the student workload).
2. The Faculty Board evaluates the teaching in the Bachelor's degree programme as follows:

- course unit evaluations
- programme evaluations

Article 12.4 – Date of commencement

These regulations will take effect on 31 August 2026.

Appendix 1 Overview of other qualifications that grant access to the first year of the degree programme

In addition to article 2.1, students with the following qualifications will be admitted to the first year of the Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies:

- An HBS diploma, regardless of the specializationA gymnasium diploma, based on a set of subjects
- An 'old-style' VWO diploma, based on a set of subjects
- gained under the provisions applying to or pursuant to the Secondary Education Act.

Appendix 2 Learning outcomes for students who started the Bachelor's programme Religious Studies before 1 September 2016 (art. 3.1)

The learning outcomes for students who started the Bachelor's programme Religious Studies before 1 September 2016 are listed in the Teaching and Examination Regulations for the Bachelor's programme in Religious Studies, 2017-2018.

Appendix 3 Overview learning outcomes course units

Programme	OCASYS link
BA Religious Studies	https://ocasys.rug.nl/2026-2027/catalog/programme/RCS-BARW
Minor Religion in the Modern World	https://ocasys.rug.nl/2026-2027/catalog/programme/RCS-UMRMW
Minor Art and Religion	https://ocasys.rug.nl/2026-2027/catalog/programme/RCS-UMAR
Minor Anthropology: What it means to be human	https://ocasys.rug.nl/2026-2027/catalog/programme/RCS-UMANT
Minor Climate Change and Inequality	https://ocasys.rug.nl/2026-2027/catalog/programme/RCS-UMCLI
Minor Geestelijke Verzorging (Dutch-taught)	https://ocasys.rug.nl/2026-2027/catalog/programme/RCS-FMGV
Pre-Master's programme MA Theology and Religious Studies, tracks Anthropology of Religion and Culture; Religion, Conflict and Globalization; Heritage and Religion; Religion and Pluralism, Ancient and Modern	https://ocasys.rug.nl/2026-2027/catalog/programme/RCS-PM4
Pre-Master's Leraar Voorbereidend Hoger Onderwijs (LVHO) in de Mens- en Maatschappijwetenschappen: Godsdienst en Levensbeschouwing (Dutch-taught)	https://ocasys.rug.nl/2026-2027/catalog/programme/RCS-PMLO

Appendix 4 to Article 4.1: Overview contact hours course units in year 1, academic year 2026-2027

Bachelor's year 1	
Contact hours	Amount of contact hours per year
Lectures	32
Lectures/seminars	294 hrs
Seminars	26 hrs
Tutoring	18 hrs mentoring 16 hrs introduction programme
Supervision of practical training	n.a.
Exams and exam discussion	28 hrs
Supervision of study career (if scheduled for all students)	12 hrs orientation labour market
Other structured hours	10 hrs (excursion)

Total: 436 hrs

RS- BA 1, art. 4.1	
Course units	Amount of hours per week
Concepts and methods 1: The Study of Religion	48 hrs l/s + 2 hrs exam discussion
Judaism: History, Sources and Praxis	32 hrs l + 12 hrs s + 10 hrs excursion + 3 hrs E + 1 hrs exam discussion
Anthropology of Religion and Culture	42 hrs l/s + 3 hrs E + 1 hrs exam discussion
Religion in South Asia	42 hrs l/s + 8 hrs s + 2 hrs exam discussion
Psychology and Sociology of Religion	42 hrs l/s + 3 hrs E + 1 hrs exam discussion
Christianity: History, Sources and Praxis	42 hrs l/s + 2 hrs exam discussion
Islam: History, Sources and Praxis	39 uur l/s + 3 hrs E + 1 hrs exam discussion
Philosophy of Religion and Spirituality	39 hrs l/s + 6 hrs s + 3 hrs E + 1 hrs exam discussion

Appendix 5 Regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism (art. 9.18)

1. Cheating and plagiarism are acts or omissions, regardless of whether these are intentional, by a student designed to partly or wholly hinder the forming of a correct assessment of their own or someone else's knowledge, understanding and skills (see the Teaching and Examination Regulations, Article 9.18).
2. Cheating includes acts such as the following:
 - Cheating during an examination. Anyone who deliberately enables someone else to cheat is considered complicit;
 - Bringing aids (pre-programmed calculators, mobile phones, books, syllabi, notes, etc.) to the examination, consultation of which is not explicitly permitted;
 - Having others complete an assignment or part thereof on one's behalf;
 - Taking possession of the relevant exam questions or assignments before the date or time of the examination;
 - Faking questionnaire or interview answers or research data;
 - Copying fellow students' work and presenting this as one's own work;
 - Resubmitting assignment that has been awarded marks in a previous course unit;
 - Submitting assignments acquired from a commercial institution or written by someone else (whether paid for or not).
- 3.a Plagiarism is a specific type of fraud, where in a thesis or other assignment data or sections of one's own or someone else's work are copied without properly referring to the source. Plagiarism includes acts such as the following:
 - Copying text from digital sources such as encyclopaedias or digital journals without using quotation marks or references;
 - Copying text from the internet without using quotation marks and references.
 - Copying text from printed media such as books, journals or encyclopaedias without using quotation marks or references;
 - Including translations of texts such as the ones listed above without using quotation marks or references;
 - Paraphrasing texts such as the ones listed above without properly acknowledging the source – a paraphrase must be indicated as such, by explicitly linking the text to the original author in either the body of the text or a note, to prevent the impression being formed that it represents the student's own ideas;
 - Copying video, audio or test material from others without mentioning the source and thus presenting it as one's own work;
 - Submitting previously submitted own work without stating the source and presenting it as original work produced for the course unit in question, unless the course unit or the lecturer explicitly permit this;
 - Copying fellow students' work and presenting it as one's own work. A student who gives a fellow student permission to copy their work is considered complicit to plagiarism;
 - If one of the authors collaborating on a joint assignment commits plagiarism, the other authors are complicit to this plagiarism if they could or should have known that the other author was committing plagiarism;
 - Submitting assignments acquired from a commercial institution (such as a website containing extracts or papers) or paying someone else to write them.
- 3.b Electronic detection programs may be used to detect plagiarism in texts. When submitting a text, the student in question implicitly grants permission for the text to be included in the database of the relevant detection program.
4. Lecturers are required to report suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism.
 - a. If an act of cheating or plagiarism has been detected or is suspected, the Board of Examiners will launch an investigation, during which the student and the lecturer will be heard.
 - b. The Board of Examiners will then determine whether an act of cheating or plagiarism has been committed.
5. Once cheating or plagiarism is detected, the Board of Examiners will take the following measures:

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

These Regulations took effect on 1 September 2024 and may be cited as the 'Regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism' of the Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society.