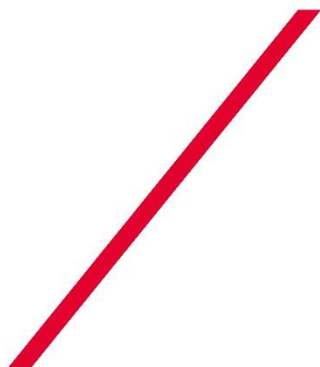




university of groningen

faculty of religion, culture
and society

Teaching and Examination Regulations
Master's degree programme
Theology and Religious Studies
(research)

supplement prospectus 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 of the Teaching and Examination Regulations

1. These Regulations for the academic year 2026-2027 apply to the teaching, examinations and final assessment of the Research Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies, ISAT degree programme code 60827, hereinafter referred to as **the degree programme**, tracks, and to all students enrolled in this degree programme and in tracks within the degree programmes.
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 the degree programme offered by the Faculty to which these Regulations apply.
4. Course units that students of the degree programme as referred to in Article 1.1.1 follow in other degree programmes or at other faculties or institutes of higher education are subject to the Teaching and Examination Regulations of that programme, faculty or institute.

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 taking course units and/or examinations and the final assessment leading to the conferral of a university degree;
- c. degree programme: the Research Master's degree programme listed in Article 1.1 of these Regulations, comprising a coherent set of educational units;
- d. course unit: a teaching unit of the degree programme within the meaning of Section 7.4 of the Act;
- e. OCASYS: the University of Groningen's online course units catalogue;
- f. ECTS credit points: credit points as referred to in Article 7.4 of the Act, which specify the scope of the degree programme's course unit, whereby 1 ECTS is equivalent to a student workload of 28 hours;
- g. pre-Master's programme: a programme intended to remedy deficiencies for admission to the degree programme;
- h. test or examination: a test of the knowledge, understanding and skills of students, including an assessment of the results;
- i. final assessment: the final assessment for the Master's degree which is considered to be passed once all the requirements of the entire Research Master's degree programme have been satisfied;
- j. academic year: the period of time that starts on 1 September and ends on 31 August of the following year;
- k. 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 the latter date as determined by the Board of the University and ending on 31 August;
- l. Board of Examiners: an independent body with the duties and powers as stated in Articles 7.11, 7.12, 7.12b and 7.12c of the Act, including assessing whether the requirements of the final assessment have been met;
- m. Examiner: a person appointed by the Board of Examiners to set examinations and determine their results;
- n. Admissions Board: the board that has decision-making powers in matters concerning admission to the degree programme on behalf of the Faculty Board;
- o. Programme committee: the consultative and advisory body that fulfils the duties referred to in Article 9.18 of the Act;
- p. Track: a graduation specialization as approved by the Board of the University;

- q. study plan: the plan which students must draw up in consultation with their mentor at enrolment in the degree programme, that specifies all modules and practicals the student is going to take, as well as the time-schedule involved and that requires the approval of the Board of the Examiners;
- r. 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 or a draft design
 - a written paper or draft
 - a research assignment
 - a tutorial
 - a research proposal
 - participation in a field trip or an excursion
 - completion of a research traineeship
 - completion of a placement/internship
 - participation in other educational activities designed to teach certain skills;
- s. Extraordinary circumstances: circumstances such as those referred to in Article 7.51 of the Act, which will be taken into account when formulating decisions within the meaning of Article 4.9. Article 7.51 of the Act is further elaborated in the University of Groningen Graduation Fund Regulations. In these Regulations, extraordinary circumstances include, in any case, a disability or chronic illness, illness, pregnancy and delivery, extraordinary family circumstances, a degree programme that is not feasible, students with an elite sports status (issued by the elite sports coordinator), students with a 'student entrepreneur status' (issued by the UGCE), and membership of a consultative participation body.

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

Article 1.3 Type of degree programme

The programme is full-time.

Section 2 - Qualifications and admission

Article 2.1 Qualifications

1. Admission to the programme requires the following:
 - a. a Bachelor's degree obtained in Religious Studies, Theology or a closely related area;
 - b. the Bachelor's programme must have been completed at a pace and with results that warrant the expectation of successful completion of the Research Master in two years (average grade point of 7.5 out of 10 or higher for BA-2 and BA-3 or an equivalent); also the Bachelor's thesis, the motivation and study plan are taken into account;
 - c. Sufficient knowledge of the English language: for foreign students a TOEFL score of 5 (internet based) (a minimum score for reading and speaking of 4, listening 4.5, writing 5), a minimum score of 7.0 in IELTS (International English Language Testing System; overall 7.0 (6.5 on each part)), a minimum score of 71 in Pearson Academic (64 on reading, 58 on listening and speaking, 70 on writing), or a minimum score of 75 in LanguageCert Academic (70 on each part); the tests are not required of native speakers or of Dutch students with a VWO certificate because this leads to a sufficient proficiency. As an alternative to the above-mentioned TOEFL and IELTS scores, a comparable Cambridge Proficiency score (C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency) or a certificate from the University of Groningen Language Centre with a CEFR C1 or higher score will also be accepted;
 - d. sufficient knowledge, insight and skills in the disciplines relevant to the programme;
 - e. the proper attitude, motivation and talent for the successful completion of this degree programme.
 - f. Students who are admitted to the one year Master's degree programme Theology and Religious Studies can switch to the Research Master's if their results in the first

semester of the one year Master's programme meet the following requirements: an average grade point of 7.5 or higher out of 10 and finished course units for at least 20 ECTS out of 30. The regular application procedure also apply.

2. 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.
3. The Admissions Board is responsible for assessing whether students without a Bachelor's degree are admissible on the basis of sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the level of a Bachelor's degree.
4. Admission within the meaning of paragraph 2.1.1 entitles a student to enrol in the degree programme.
5. If a candidate does not have a Bachelor's degree certificate, the Admissions Board must assess whether the candidate can be admitted based on the possession of knowledge, understanding and skills at Bachelor's level.

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 required 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 Dutch language proficiency requirement will, in any case, be met by passing the national examination in Dutch as a Foreign Language (NT2, programme II).
3. The English language proficiency requirement will be met by passing an examination in English at VWO final exam level or by passing the TOEFL with a score of at least 100 (internet based) (a minimum score for reading/listening/speaking of 21, writing 24), a minimum score of 7.0 in IELTS (International English Language Testing System; overall, (6.5 on each part)), a minimum score of 71 in Pearson Academic (64 on reading, 58 on listening and speaking, 70 on writing), or a minimum score of 75 in LanguageCert Academic (70 on each part); the tests are not required of native speakers or of Dutch students with a VWO certificate because this leads to a sufficient proficiency. As an alternative to the above-mentioned TOEFL and IELTS scores, a comparable Cambridge Proficiency score (C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency) or a certificate from the University of Groningen Language Centre with a CEFR C1 or higher score will also be accepted

Article 2.3 Admissions Board

1. The Admissions Board has the power to take decisions on behalf of the Faculty Board in matters concerning admission to the degree programme.
2. The Admissions Board of the degree programme consists of:
 - a member, also the chairperson, selected from the professors who teach in the degree programme or a member from the academic staff, selected by the Faculty Board
 - three members selected from the other academic staff who will teach the degree programme. The Director of the Graduate School for Religion, Culture and Society (GSRCS) will be member of the Admissions Board.
3. The study advisor for the degree programme (or a comparable Faculty staff member) will be an advisory member and also secretary.
4. The selection will be made by the Faculty Board, which will also determine the admission requirements.

Article 2.4 Application and admission

1. The Board of Admissions will investigate whether the candidate meets the requirements as stated in Article 2.1.1.
2. In order to apply for admission, applicants must submit:
 - a curriculum vitae;

- a certified overview of the results achieved so far within their current Bachelor's (or Master's) programme;
 - official language test results, see article 2.2
 - a letter outlining the reasons for their choice of the programme, including their expectations, interests and ambitions;
 - written results of previous research, if any, such as academic articles or a Bachelor's thesis;
 - two letters of reference;
 - other documents that might highlight their eligibility for the programme.
- These documents must be submitted to the Student Administration Office of the faculty Religion, Culture and Society (studentoffice.rcs@rug.nl) no later than May 1 (for EU/EEA-students as well as non EU/EEA-students).
3. The Board of Admissions shall assess the written documentation and determine whether the prospective student may be admitted to the programme. If so, the student will be invited to an interview, to be held before June 15. The interview will be conducted on the basis of the submitted documentation and may include an approximately 15 minute presentation on an academic subject related to the programme. 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. Rejections shall in all cases be substantiated in writing. Students will be notified no later than July 1 by the Faculty Board whether or not they have been accepted.
 4. For foreign candidates an online interview may be organized with the members of the Board of Admissions.
 5. Admission gives the candidate the right to register for the degree programme.
 6. Appeals against the decisions of the Faculty Board may be lodged with the Board of Appeal for the Examinations.

Article 2.5 Entrance examination: times

1. The entrance examination for the degree programme will be held once a year for the degree programme including the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's programme Religious Diversity in a Globalised World, which commences in the first semester.
2. Applications for admission to the degree programme must be submitted to the Admissions Board before 1 May (for the non EU/EER-students as well the EU/EER-students).
3. In special cases, the Admissions Board can handle a request that has been submitted after the closing date stated in Article 2.6.2.
4. The Admissions Board decides before 15 June. Admission is granted on condition that on the start date concerned, the candidate satisfies the requirements set out in Article 2.1 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.

Article 2.6 Validity of an admission decision

The decision of the Admissions Board that a candidate is admitted to a Master's degree programme remains valid during two successive years.

Article 2.7 Re-registration for a Master's degree programme

Students who were admitted to the Master's degree programme in a previous year can re-register as of September.

Section 3 - Content and structure of the degree programme

Article 3.1 Aim and learning outcomes of the degree programme

1. The degree programme is designed to:
 - convey specialized knowledge, skills and understanding in the field of Theology and Religious Studies, and to enable the learning outcomes listed in Article 3.1.2 to be achieved
 - 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 the mother tongue
 - the use of specific knowledge of a field in a wider academic, philosophical and social/cultural context
 - the necessary skills to conduct research in the field of Theology and Religious Studies, applying the relevant disciplinary standards of responsible research, and to report on such research in a way that satisfies the recognized standards in the field
 - enable graduates to enter a PhD-programme or positions outside academia that require strong academic research skills and experience.
2. Students who have completed the Research Master's programme have acquired the following competences in the fields of Theology and Religious Studies:
 1. a comprehensive knowledge of the main debates and approaches relevant for the fields of Theology and Religious Studies and their history, with a focus on interdisciplinary methodologies and theoretical perspectives;
 2. in-depth knowledge of at least one theoretical and methodological approach relevant for the fields of Theology and Religious Studies;
 3. the skills to find, examine and critique specialized literature on a subject in at least one subfield of Theology and Religious Studies and become acquainted with the methods applied in this field;
 4. the ability to structure and conduct independent research in at least one subfield of Theology and Religious Studies, to apply the appropriate research methods, and to report on this in accordance with the standards commonly used in this discipline;
 5. the ability to follow and analyse complex scientific debates and subsequently determine and defend their own position;
 6. the ability to consider historical, methodological, social and ethical interests within their own discipline when it comes to the academic assessment and analysis of complex issues;
 7. the ability to critically reflect on the historical, social and cultural meaning of religious traditions and attitudes in relation to religion;
 8. good oral and written presentation skills, which enable them to write research papers that they present at academic conferences and publish in academic journals. They should also be able to communicate their conclusions to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
 9. an academic attitude that demonstrates independence, creativity, critical-reflectiveness, and academic integrity;
 10. the ability to embark on a PhD programme or to function in an (international) academic environment requiring special research competencies and experience.
3. The learning outcomes of the individual course units taught in the various tracks can be found in Appendix 1.

Article 3.2 Conducting research

1. Students who conduct research in the context of the 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, can 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
 - 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/final project 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 Higher Education and Research Act. All students are obliged to give their unconditional consent to the aforementioned procedures.

Article 3.3 Type of degree programme

The programme is full-time.

Article 3.4 Language of the programme

The language of the entire degree programme is English.

Article 3.5 Student workload

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

Article 3.6 Content of the degree programme

1. The programme has the following units, each with its related study load:
 - a. core modules (compulsory):
 - *Theories of Religion and Culture* (10 ECTS);
 - *Philosophy of Science in the Study of Religion and Culture* (10 ECTS);
 - *Field specific Research Skills (one of two: Fragments and Ruins: Heritage and Historical Approaches to the Past, and: Social Scientific Research Methods)* (5 ECTS);
 - *Generic academic skills* (5 ECTS)
 - b. optional modules of 20 ECTS in total which may be taken from the Faculty's regular Master's degree programme as listed in Ocasys (see Appendix 1), or from other (inter)national Research Master's programmes. In the latter case, the approval the Board of Examiners is required who can obtain advice from the director of the Graduate School.
 - c. Tutorials (10 ECTS)
 - d. NOSTER course unit(s) (10 ECTS)
 - e. practicals, consisting of:
 - research traineeships (20 ECTS);
 - thesis/final project (25 ECTS);
 - writing a research proposal (5 ECTS)

2. The programme of the specialization Religious Diversity in a Globalized World consists of the course units as stated in Appendix 2
3. The contents and the teaching methods of the compulsory parts of the degree programme in more detail, including the knowledge and skills that are required for successfully taking the course units in question, are set out in the Course units Catalogue (Ocasys) (see also appendix 1).

Article 3.7 Electives

1. Following a student's substantiated request, the Board of Examiners can grant prior permission to:
 - a. replace part of the examination programme with another course unit offered by the University of Groningen or another university in the Netherlands or elsewhere that is in keeping in with the examination programme, or
 - b. replace one of the examinations programmes' s electives with one or more course units followed at the University of Groningen or another university in the Netherlands or elsewhere.
2. When assessing the request, the Board of Examiners will in any case evaluate the coherence of the set of course units (or part thereof) and the level of the course units followed.

Article 3.8 Open Degree Programme

1. Students can choose one of the degree programme's Open Degree Programmes that deviates from the adopted degree programme (or degree programmes). An Open Degree Programme must always be approved in advance by the Board of Examiners of the degree programme for which the student is registered.
2. The following additional requirements apply to Open Degree Programmes:
 - a. Meet the learning outcomes of the Master's degree programme
 - b. Meaningful relationship

Article 3.9 Practicals

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

Theories of Religion and Culture,
 Generic Academic Skills,
 Social Scientific Research Methods,
 Dark Heritage,
 Material Religion,
 The Uses of the Past,
 Creative Heritage: Practices, Communities and Institutions,
 Fragments and Ruins: Heritage and Historical Approaches to the Past,
 Museums and Religion,
 Internship Master THRS,
 Master's thesis,
 Ethnographic Methods,
 Concepts and Debates in Anthropology of Religion 2: Anthropology in Dialogue,
 Religion, Gender and Sexuality: from Politics to Everyday Life,
 Ethnographic Research,
 Religion, Conflict and Globalisation,
 The Construction of Religious Identities in Europe: Religious Diversity in the Greco-Roman World,
 Apocalypse and Politics,
 Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding,
 On the move,
 Growth and Expansion of Religious Identities,
 Religion, Gender and Sexuality: from Politics to Everyday Life,
 Philosophy of Science in the Study of Religion and Culture,

Research Traineeship,
Tutorial,
Writing a Research Proposal,
Learning Progression Route: Knowledge is not neutral,
Learning Progression Route: Strength in Diversity,
Learning Progression Route: Employability,
Policy paper,
Thesis/final project Research Master's

Article 3.10 Contact hours

1. Details of the contact hours are registered in the Student Handbook and/or OCASYS; see Appendix 1 and 2.

Article 3.11 Participation in course units

1. If they have registered for a specific course unit of the programme in good time, by means of Progresswww (<https://progresswww.nl/rug/>), students can then participate in that course unit.
2. The maximum number of students for each course unit is listed in OCASYS.
3. Participation in course units with a limited capacity takes place in the order of registration, subject to the proviso that students registered for the degree programme have priority for the course units in the compulsory part of their degree programme.
4. Students who are registered for the Master's degree programme cannot access the course units of a Bachelor's degree programme.

Section 4 Examinations

Article 4.1 Examinations in general

1. Each course unit of the degree programme 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. The examination assesses students' academic development and mastery of the learning outcomes of the course unit.
4. 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.
5. 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.d and their associated lectures.
 2. If a practical incorporates lectures, a 75% attendance requirement will apply to these lectures.
 3. Students who attend fewer than 75% of the lectures 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 4.3.5 concerning the practicals c.q. the course units with compulsory attendance will apply if they are listed in the course unit description in Ocasys.
 5. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may decide to deviate from the stipulations of the previous articles in favour of a student. Such a decision must be supported by reasons.
6. 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 4.1.5.1 to 4 are banned from participating in the examination.

2. In accordance with the stipulations of Article 4.1.5 with regard to compulsory attendance at practicals or course units, students who attend fewer than 75% of the lectures of the following course units will be banned from participation in the examination:
 - Psychopathology and Religion
 - Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding
7. 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.
8. Papers that are submitted before the original deadline but are awarded a fail mark can be resat/improved and must then be resubmitted before the second deadline, which falls in the resit period of the relevant teaching block.
9. 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.
10. 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
11. The (weighted) final mark for a course unit 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.
12. An examination that has been passed (5.5 or higher) may not be taken again.
13. If a student has completed all the compulsory parts of a course unit to the best of his or her ability but has still not passed, then the examiner may give him or her the opportunity to take a supplementary or replacement test. Granting this opportunity is subject to approval by the Board of Examiners.

Article 4.2 Sitting examinations

1. Registration for a part of the degree programme means registration for the examination for that part.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 4.2.1, students can register and deregister for examinations during certain periods to be further defined.

Article 4.3 Compulsory order of examinations

The examinations for the course units listed below may not be taken until after the examinations for the associated course units have been passed:

Course unit name	after has been passed
Master thesis	one of the following course units: Social Scientific Research Methods (5 ECTS), or Fragments and Ruins: Heritage and Historical Approaches to the Past (5 ECTS)

Article 4.4 Examination frequency and periods

1. There will be an opportunity to sit one examination and one resit for the course units listed in Article 3.6. For partial examinations, one resit for all partial examinations together may be opted for.
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. An exam in conclusion of a course unit must be taken not later than the end of the academic year (examination term)
4. If the course unit is not completed within the examination term, the exam results for that course unit will lapse and the student in question must take the entire course unit again the following year. This rule counts also for papers, these must be rewritten on a new topic.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 4.4.1, there will be only one opportunity in a certain year to take the examination for a course unit not taught in that year.
6. Students may re-sit 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.

Article 4.5 Assessment of research traineeship

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

Article 4.6 Thesis/final project

1. In principle, the thesis/final project applies to one degree programme at the University of Groningen. Full or partial exemptions for a degree programme's thesis/final project may be granted by the Board of Examiners based on a thesis/final project written for another degree programme.
2. Each thesis/final project is assessed by at least two examiners
3. Theses/final projects are kept by the Faculty Board for a period of (at least) seven years.
4. Students will be given the opportunity to write a final-year thesis/final project (at least) once per academic year.
5. The period during which students can write theses/final projects will be published in the Student Handbook and/or OCASYS.
6. More detailed regulations on the design, content, time frame and assessment of the thesis/final project can be found in the Regulations for Master's theses/final projects. This includes, for example, the following regulations:
 - The thesis/final project must be completed within the current academic year. 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 must be submitted on 1 June at the latest, the definitive version on 1 July and the deadline for the revised version should be decided in consultation with the supervisors. This deadline should be before the first of September.
 - No more than 7 supervision and not less than 3 meetings are held for Master's theses.
7. The final mark of the Master's thesis/final project should be at least a (not rounded off) 6.0.
8. If by the end of the period referred to in Article 4.6.6, the assessors 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 work within a time frame defined by the degree programme.
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.

Article 4.7 Form 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, oral examinations).
4. At the student's request, the Board of Examiners may allow an examination to be taken in a form different from that stated in Article 4.7.1.
5. Mock versions of each examination will be made available to practise.

Article 4.8 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 (standard) period for perusal.
2. Oral examinations are not public, unless the Board of Examiners stipulates otherwise or the student motivates his objection to the public nature of the examination.

Article 4.9 Request for an extracurricular examination

1. Students can ask the Board of Examiners to grant them an extracurricular examination.
2. Requests of this kind can be granted if, due to extraordinary circumstances, the student has failed the examination concerned and the failure to grant an extracurricular examination would result in an unacceptable study delay.
3. The following criteria apply to granting a request for an extracurricular examination for the last course unit in the degree programme:
 - it must be the last examination result needed
 - 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 4.10 Competent Board of Examiners for the electives or another 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. The provisions of Article 5.2 on course units obtained elsewhere apply.

Article 4.11 Exemptions

1. At the student's request, the Board of Examiners, having discussed the matter with the examiner in question, may grant exemption from an examination 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 provisions of Article 5.2 on course units obtained elsewhere apply to the granting of exemptions.
3. The same period of validity applies to exemptions for examinations (or parts thereof) as to examination results.

Article 4.12 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 the student counsellor of the Student Service Centre (SSC) before making a decision.

2. With regard to examinations for electives taken by students with a functional impairment, the Board of Examiners of the degree programme that sets the examination will comply with the facilities permitted by the Board of Examiners of the degree programme for which the student is registered.

Article 4.13 Examination provisions

1. If not providing an individual examination provision would lead to an 'exceptional instance of unfairness of overriding nature', the Board of Examiners may decide to grant such a provision contrary to the stipulations of Article 4.5.
2. Requests for individual examination provisions, including documentary evidence, must be submitted to the Board of Examiners as soon as possible.

Article 4.14 Determining the examinations and publication thereof

1. After an oral examination, the examiner will assess the examination immediately and provide the student afterwards with the relevant signed exam sheet.
2. The examiner will mark a written examination within ten working days after the day on which it was taken, and will provide the Faculty's Administration Office with the necessary details for registration of the result in Progress.
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 term is not possible in Block 2b.
4. The examiner will mark a paper which is submitted in time within fifteen working days after the deadline of submission, unless the examiner and the student have made other arrangements. 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 the student 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 4.16.1, as well as their right to appeal
7. Students can lodge an appeal against the results of an examination with the Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights (CLRS) within 6 weeks of the date on which the result was announced.

Article 4.15 Validity

1. The validity period of completed components is unlimited.
2. a. Contrary to the provisions of Article 4.10.1, 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 is receiving support from the Graduation 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 4.16 Right of Inspection

1. On request, students have the right to examine their marked work for a period of 30 working days after the results of a written examination have been made known. If students make use of this opportunity, they will be provided with a copy of their work at cost price at their request.
2. On request, and within the time frame stipulated in Article 4.16.1, any interested person

may request permission to peruse the examination paper and, if possible, the assessment criteria.

3. The Board of Examiners can determine that this perusal will take place at a certain place and at least two set times. If students can prove that they were prevented from attending at the indicated place and time by force majeure, they will be offered another opportunity, preferably within the period stated in Article 4.16.1.

Article 4.17 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 the 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. Members of the Board or other people who have financial responsibilities within the institution may not be appointed as members of the Board of Examiners.
4. The Board of Examiners will appoint examiners to set examinations and determine the results.
5. The Board of Examiners sets the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners to assess and determine the results of examinations.

Article 4.18 Cheating and plagiarism (see appendix 3)

1. Cheating is an act or omission by a student designed to partly or wholly hinder the forming of a correct assessment of his or her own or someone else's knowledge, understanding and skills.
2. Cheating also includes plagiarism, which means copying of another person's or one's own knowledge, understanding and skills without proper reference.
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. 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.
5. By submitting written assignments for the purpose of assessment within the degree programme, students implicitly give the University permission to use a plagiarism scanner to check their assignments for plagiarism. Each student is individually responsible for maintaining academic integrity.
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 very serious cheating, the Board of Examiners can advise to the Board of the University to permanently terminate a student's registration in the degree programme.
8. In any case, serious cheating can be regarded as:
 - 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 them;
 - 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
9. The Board of Examiners will set out its course of action in the event of cheating in its Rules and Regulations.

Article 4.19 Invalid examination

In the event of irregularities with regard to an examination that are so serious that an accurate assessment of the examinee's knowledge, understanding and skills cannot be made,

the Board of Examiners may declare the examination invalid for either an individual examinee or a group of examinees.

Article 4.20 Termination of registration (Judicium Abeundi)

1. In extraordinary cases of reprehensible behaviour of, and/or statements made by a student, the Board of the University may, on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners or the Faculty Board, terminate said student's registration.
2. The Board of the University will not make a decision as referred to in Article 4.20.1 until after the student in question has been given the opportunity to respond to the proposed decision, the interests of the student and the institution have been carefully assessed, and it is 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 the profession.
3. In such cases the Faculty Board, the Board of Examiners and the Board of the University will follow the *Protocol Iudicium Abeundi* [protocol for termination of registration] as approved by the Nederlandse Federatie van Universitaire Medische Centra [Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centres] on 1 November 2010.
4. The stipulations in the University of Groningen Regulations for Registration and Tuition Fees apply.

Section 5 – The final assessment

Article 5.1 Final assessment

1. The degree programme is concluded with a final assessment.
2.
 - a. On the condition that the student's study programme has been approved, the Board of Examiners will determine the result of the final assessment as soon as the student has passed all the required examinations. The Board of Examiners may define terms to this end. The result of the final assessment indicates that the student has acquired the necessary academic training. The Board of Examiners will issue a degree certificate indicating this.
 - b. If a student fails to meet the relevant deadlines for approval of the study programme referred to under a, the Board of Examiners may postpone their graduation date. This date may be in the academic year following the year in which the last examination was passed
3. Before the result of the final assessment can be determined, the Board of Examiners may decide to test the student's knowledge of one or more course units or components of the degree programme, if and inasmuch as the marks for the relevant examinations provide a reason for doing so.
4. By determining the result of the final assessment, the Board of Examiners also commits itself to a speedy processing of the degree certificate ceremony.
5. Students who wish to postpone the date of graduation due to extra examinations that they must still take must submit a written request to this end to the Board of Examiners within two weeks of the date on which the graduation date is determined.
6. The graduation date is the date on which the final assessment is passed, as determined by the Board of Examiners in accordance with the provisions of Article 5.1.2, and not the date on which the degree certificate is presented to the student.

Article 5.2 Course units completed elsewhere

1. As a condition for obtaining the Master's degree certificate, at least half of the degree programme must have been achieved through components provided by the Faculty, during registration as a Master's student for that degree programme at the University of Groningen..
2.
 - a. In the case of a Double Degree or joint degree Master's programme with a foreign educational institution, at least a quarter of the degree programme must have

actually been taken at the Faculty during the period of registration as a Master's student at the University of Groningen for that degree programme at the University of Groningen.

b. The provisions of article 4.6.1 with regard to the thesis/final project must also be taken into account.

Article 5.3 Degree certificate

1. The student 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 specialization within a degree programme, they will receive only one degree certificate.
2. The Board of Examiners will issue an International Diploma Supplement with each degree certificate.
3. If applicable, the results of the Master's Honours Programme are listed in the Diploma Supplement accompanying the Master's degree certificate.

Article 5.4 Degree

1. A student who has satisfied all the requirements of the final assessment shall be awarded the degree of "Master of Arts".
2. The degree awarded is stated on the degree certificate.

Article 5.5 Cum Laude/Summa Cum Laude honours predicate

1. The Board of Examiners will determine whether or not the Master's degree certificate will be awarded an honours predicate.
2. The following conditions apply:
 - a) Cum laude: the mark for the thesis/final project must be at least 8.0 as well as the weighted average (not rounded off) for all course units, excluding the thesis, within the examination programme approved by the Board of Examiners is greater than or equal to 8.0.
 - b) Summa cum laude: the mark for the thesis/final project must be at least 9.0 as well as the weighted average (not rounded off) for all course units, excluding the thesis, within the examination programme approved by the Board of Examiners is greater than or equal to 9.0.
3. No honours are awarded if the study load of the exemptions in ECTS credit points is more than half the total number of ECTS for the degree programme.
4. Honours may only be awarded if the examinations for the modules or practical's were taken only once.
5. Honours may only be awarded if no single module or practical was awarded a mark less than 7.0.
6. No honours are 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 fraud/plagiarism has been detected.
7. In certain circumstances, the Board of Examiners may depart from the provisions set out in Articles 5.5.2 to 5.5.6.

Article 5.6 Assessment programme

The Faculty Board sets an Assessment Programme. The Assessment Programme is part of the TER of each degree programme and includes the following topics:

1. the learning outcomes of the degree programme (see art. 3.1);
2. the course units and the learning outcomes for 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.

Section 6 – Study progress supervision

Article 6.1 Study progress administration

1. The Faculty Board is responsible for registering the individual results of students.
2. The Faculty Board will provide students with an overview of their results via the registration system.
3. Students are responsible for drawing up their individual study plan. On approval of their mentor, they request the approval of the Board of the Examiners. They hand in their plan to the Graduate School Office no later than three weeks after enrolment.

Article 6.2 Study progress supervision

1. Within the framework of the admissions procedure, on behalf of the Faculty Board, the director of the Graduate School RCS is responsible for ensuring that students have sufficient supervision. A mentor will be appointed to each student.
2. The Programme Committee for the Research Master's will monitor and evaluate on a regular basis whether the programme is compatible both with conducting academic research and exercising a profession outside the university.
3. Each half-year the director of the Graduate School evaluates the results of all students in the degree programme. In case of insufficient results, a student may be advised to follow one of the regular Master's programmes offered by the Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society.

Section 7 Transitional and Final Provisions

Article 7.1 Amendments

1. Any amendments to these Regulations will, following a recommendation by and/or upon the approval of the Programme Committee and in consultation with- and where necessary upon the approval of- the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
2. Any amendments to these Regulations will not apply to the current academic year, unless it may reasonably be assumed that the amendment will not harm the interests of students.
3. In addition, the Board of Examiners may not take any decisions under these regulations that would be to the disadvantage of students.

Article 7.2 Publication

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

Article 7.3 Evaluation

1. The Faculty Board is responsible for regular evaluation of these Regulations and in any case takes into account – for the purpose of monitoring and, if necessary, adjusting the student workload – the resulting time commitment for the student.
2. The Faculty Board evaluates the teaching in the Master's degree programme as follows:
 - course unit evaluations
 - programme evaluations

Article 7.4 Date of Commencement

These Regulations will take effect on 31 August 2026.

Appendix 1 Overview of the programme Master's Theology and Religious Studies (research) 2026-2027

Programme	Ocasys Link
Master's Theology and Religious Studies (research)	https://ocasys.rug.nl/2026-2027/catalog/programme/RCS-REMA

Ad Appendix 1, part 1B (optional modules)

The Board of Examiners may permit the student to select one or more modules from the Research Master's degree programme of other faculties of the University of Groningen or another university.

Appendix 2. Study programme and course units of specialization Religious Diversity in a Globalised World (ReD Global; Erasmus Mundus)

Semester 1
1. Focus: Foundational courses theories & methods in the study of religions 2. Disciplinary perspective: History, Anthropology, Sociology 3. Period: Antiquity, contemporary
Semester 2
1. Focus: Foundational courses theories & methods in the Middle Ages, Humanism & early-modern history, incorporating and applying knowledge and skills on study of religions acquired in Semester 1. 2. Disciplinary perspective: History, Philosophy, Philology 3. Period: Antiquity, Middle Ages, Early Modern, Contemporary (via LPR)
Semester 3
1. Focus: Religious Diversity & Social Inclusion in multifarious contexts 2. Disciplinary perspective: Trans-/interdisciplinary: e.g., Sociology, Political Science, Philosophy, Anthropology, Economics; each Research Track-Partner Institution defines a profile for 3rd semester offer with a distinctive "local flavour" 3. Period: Contemporary, building on historical knowledge and skills acquired during 1 st year
Semester 4
1. Focus: Thesis/final project work (in any case co-supervised by 1st and 2nd semester hosts) 2. Disciplinary perspective: To be defined in consultation with supervisors 3. Period: Historical + contemporary; students define focus, but in all cases need to link the historical with the contemporary (and vice versa)

Course units/modules per semester

Semester 1			
ReD Global Course Unit Title	ECTS	Status	Location
Theories of Religion and Culture	10	Compulsory	UG
The Construction of Religious Identities in Europe: Religious Diversity in the Greco-Roman World	10	Compulsory	UG
<i>Choice (1 out of 2):</i> Fragments and Ruins: Heritage and Historical Approaches to the Past; Social Scientific Research Methods	5	Compulsory	UG
<i>Choice (1 out of 2):</i> Growth and Expansion of Religious Identities: Religious Disputes in the Formation of Christianity and Islam; Apocalypse and Politics: How Ancient Religious Expectations Shape Contemporary Political Discourses	5	Compulsory	UG

Semester 2			
ReD Global Course Unit Title	ECTS	Status	Location
Learning Progression Route (LPR) – Module I: Winter School “Knowledge is not neutral”	5	Compulsory	UCO or UC
Interreligious Dialogue and its limits in Late Antiquity and the Medieval World	10	Elective	UC

Sinners and Saints: Revolutions in Hagiography, Narrative and What It Means to be Human	10	Elective	UC
The Jesuits and Religious Controversies across Cultures in a Globalising World	10	Elective	UC
Migrations of Knowledge and Culture: The Greek Legacy in the Construction of Western European Culture	10	Elective	UCO
Religious Minorities in Europe, Past and Present	10	Elective	UCO
Learning Progression Route (LPR) – Module II (virtual) “Strength in Diversity”	5	Compulsory	UCO/UC

Semester 3			
ReD Global Course Unit Title	ECTS	Status	Location
Learning Progression Route (LPR) – Module III (virtual) “Employability”	5	Compulsory	3 rd semester location
3a. Research track: 25 ECTS courses at Partner HEI. Students, in accordance with their academic interests, undertake courses at one of the ReD Global Partners (Programme or Partner Country). Profiles included under Article 9 of STER Erasmus Mundus Joint Master’s.	25	Elective	ReD Global Partner HEI
3b. Professional track: - 560-hour (3 months, full-time) internship, including written outputs, determined in consultation with internship provider (20 ECTS) - Final report from student, to be presented to the internship supervisors (5 ECTS)	20+5	Elective	ReD Global non-academic associated partners

Semester 4			
ReD Global Course Unit Title	ECTS	Status	Location
Thesis: 25 ECTS research thesis of max. 30.000 words (all students)	25	Compulsory	Flexible
4a. Research track: Writing a Research Proposal	5	Elective	Same as thesis
4b. Professional track: Policy paper	5	Elective	Same as thesis

Link to OCASYS:

<https://ocasys.rug.nl/2026-2027/catalog/programme/RCS-MARDGW>

NB. Only the courses that are taught in Groningen are visible in OCASYS.

Appendix 3 Regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism (art. 4.18)

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 4.18).
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/final project 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.