



Teaching and Examination Regulations

MASTER's Degree Programme

B. Programme-specific section **M Global Health**

Academic year 2017-2018

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Section B: Programme-specific section

1. General provisions

Article 1.2 Degree programme information

1. The programme Global Health CROHO number 66903 is offered on a full-time basis and the language of instruction is English.
2. The programme has a workload of 120 EC.
3. A unit of study comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof, except for the literature review (9 EC), two internships (30 EC each) and three 3 EC courses: (1) Ethics in Global Health, (2) Writing research grant proposal, and (3) Scientific Writing in English
4. This programme is executed by three partners of the Amsterdam Institute of Global Health and Development (AIGHD); Athena FALW Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Department of Global Health of the Academic Medical Centre (AMC) and the Center for Global Health and Inequality (CGHI) of the University of Amsterdam (UvA)

Article 1.3 Intake dates

The programme is offered starting in the first semester of the academic year only (1 September). The intake date(s) mentioned in this paragraph ensure(s) that a programme can be completed within the nominal study duration set for the programme.

2. Programme objectives and exit qualifications

Article 2.1 Programme objective

After graduation the student possesses academic knowledge, attitude and skills for the integral analysis of complex (inter) national health problems as well as for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of integral intervention strategies through inter- and transdisciplinary research and taking a system's perspective.

Article 2.2 Exit qualifications

In all events, a graduate of the degree programme will have the following qualification:

1. The student has knowledge of relevant theoretical frameworks from social, behavioural, and beta sciences. S/he has relevant knowledge of the latest developments within these disciplines in as far as they are connected to Global Health. In particular, the student acquires:
 - a) Insight in the most important concepts and theories in the field of Global Health and in relevant related disciplines like health sciences, (bio)medical sciences, management and policy sciences, economics and social sciences including medical anthropology.
 - b) Robust knowledge of and insight in system's thinking and the related models, theories, and related concepts (participation, multi-dimensionality, constructivism, complex adaptive systems, non-linear frameworks)
 - c) Insight in the relevance and function of scientific research in the field of Global Health in society
2. The student has acquired the knowledge and insight that are essential for conducting scientific research in the field of Global Health. This includes designing, implementing, and evaluating both health interventions and health care systems to address Global Health challenges:
 - a) Knowledge on research methodologies in the different sub-disciplines of Global Health and their underlying epistemological theories.
 - b) Knowledge of relevant quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and research techniques, their inherent advantages and disadvantages and the way they fit in with research methodologies
 - c) Insight in the way data are gathered, processed, analysed and reported
 - d) Knowledge of and insight in methods to ensure the quality of scientific research (validity, bias, sampling, etcetera)
3. Knowledge in and insight of transdisciplinary research in relation to Global Health issues:
 - a) The placing of the transdisciplinary research approach with respect to mono-, multi- and interdisciplinary research and insight in the differences and relevance
 - b) Knowledge of the status quo concerning theory (epistemology, methodology, inclusive quality criteria) and insight in the most important research questions within transdisciplinary research

- c) Central concepts of transdisciplinary research (active participation of relevant societal actors, collective learning process, systems thinking and so forth)
 - d) Insight in relevant concepts and theories for effective communication and co-operation in the framework of transdisciplinary research
 - e) Insight in the steps to be taken in transdisciplinary research^[1] and related methodological aspects
4. After graduation the student has an attitude that fits with effectively conducting transdisciplinary research in the field of Global Health:
- a) An open, respectful attitude, a reflective, inquisitive nature, critical thinking with regard to one's thinking and handling, cultural sensitivity, and to be aware of the dynamics in group processes and the associated visions, interests and power positions, and to be aware of the broad variation of influences and the willingness to take this into account in research.
 - b) The student looks for solutions and takes responsibility for personal development and personal actions.
5. The student has the following general academic capabilities:
- a) Ability to work in projects
 - b) The student is able to explain fundamental underlying assumption and theoretical schools of his/her focus in global health to scientists and non-scientists alike, incorporating different lines of reasoning, and with the ability to analyse and defend these different points of view.
 - c) The student is able to report findings both in presentations and in reports, for scientists and non-scientists alike.
 - d) The student is able to define personal learning goals and evaluate their own functioning by both self-reflection and consultation with others.
 - e) The student has the ability to independently acquire new knowledge and capabilities in future situations (life-long learning)
6. The student has developed the following academic research capabilities:
- a) The student can independently acquire information on Global Health challenges in different relevant disciplines by means of studying literature and conducting empirical research.
 - b) The student can analyse acquired data in an integral and scientifically critical fashion
 - c) The student contributes to scientific discussions on planning research and analysing results
7. The student has the skills for conducting transdisciplinary research with respect to:
- a) Setting up a research plan for transdisciplinary research
 - b) Selecting, combining and carrying out methods and techniques for transdisciplinary research and analysing obtained data
 - c) Stimulating group processes and learning processes for transdisciplinary research
 - d) Communicating and co-operating with researchers from different scientific disciplines, as well as professionals from businesses and health, and with policy makers and citizens from different cultural backgrounds
 - e) Integrating knowledge and insight from different alpha-, beta- and gamma disciplines, as well as from relevant societal knowledge
 - f) Monitoring and evaluating the quality and effectiveness of transdisciplinary research
8. The student is able to formulate strategies that contribute to solving Global Health issues (on the basis of results from inter- and transdisciplinary research), and to assess them in terms of appropriateness and societal relevance, and thereby continually taking into account ethical and normative aspects.
9. The student has skills for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions and system innovations and is able to conduct comparative analyses (by means of transdisciplinary research).

^[1] Steps: (1) analyse the problem (a concrete, relevant, complex health issue) by means of a needs assessment; (2) development of an intervention on the basis of evidence from science and practice, and from the perspective of relevant actors; and (3) implementation and evaluation of the intervention.

3. Further admission requirements

Article 3.1 Admission requirements

Admission to the Master's programme in Global Health is dependent on a number of entrance requirements:

1. A bachelor degree in one of the core disciplines of Global Health, containing at least 6 EC of epidemiology and/or statistics. Examples are Biology (Biologie), Biomedical Sciences (Medische Biologie), Health and Life (Gezondheid en Leven), Health Sciences (Gezondheidswetenschappen) and Medicine (Geneeskunde), Medical Anthropology (Medische Antropologie), Health Management (Gezondheidsmanagement), Pharmacology (Farmacologie), Health Economics (Gezondheidseconomie), Medical Sciences (medische natuurwetenschappen).
2. Average grades during the Bachelor should be 7.5 or higher in the Dutch grading system, or a foreign equivalent. Bachelor thesis or internship should at least be graded with an 8.0. Preferentially, the candidates completed their degree at a University College, did a double degree or an honours programme, or have other proof of having completed a bachelor's programme geared toward excellence. Non-EU diplomas will be assessed by the VU desk for International Relations;
3. A letter of motivation stating clearly why the applicant wants to enrol into the Master's programme Global Health at the VU University Amsterdam. Attached should be a CV, indicating extra-curricular activities that underline the candidate's societal engagement and broad interests, and two reference letters, of which at least one should be provided by the supervisor(s) of the candidate's bachelor thesis or internship.
4. Score a sufficient mark on the entrance exam. This exam requires the candidate to answer questions based on a video recorded lecture and accompanying literature. The exam is web-based so it can be made from a distance if necessary.
5. Students who meet all the requirements and pass the entrance exam, will be invited for an interview with the director of the Master's programme in Global Health. The interview will be the final selection mechanism.
6. The Admissions Board will investigate whether the interested person meets the admission requirements.
7. When the programme commences, the candidate must have fully completed the Bachelor's programme or pre-Master's programme allowing admission to this Master's programme.

Article 3.2 Pre-Master's programme

1. Students with a Bachelor's degree in a field that corresponds to a sufficient extent with the subject area covered by the Master's programme can request admission to the VU pre-Master's programme of health sciences ("Pre-Masterprogramma Gezondheidswetenschappen"). The master's programme Global Health does not offer its own pre-master's programme, but accepts those students who successfully completed the "Pre-Masterprogramma Gezondheidswetenschappen" (and the criteria as formulated in article 3.1).
2. The pre-Master's programme comprises [30] EC and is made up of the units of study depending on the specialisation chosen by the student.
3. Proof of a successfully completed pre-Master's programme serves as proof of admission to the Master's programme specified within it in the subsequent academic year.

Article 3.3 Limited programme capacity

The programme has a maximum of 30 admittance places per year.

Article 3.4 Final deadline for registration

A candidate must submit a request to be admitted to the programme through Studielink before the dates that are determined in the Application and Registration Regulation (at <http://www.vu.nl/en/programmes/practical/policies/index.asp>). Under exceptional circumstances, the Examinations Board may consider a request submitted after this closing date.

Article 3.5 English language requirement for English-language Master's programmes

1. The proficiency requirement in English as the language of instruction can be met by the successful completion of one of the following examinations or an equivalent:
 - a) IELTS: 6.5
 - b) TOEFL (Paper-based test): 580

- c) TOEFL (Internet-based test): 92-93
 d) Cambridge Advanced English: A, B or C.
2. Exemption is granted from the examination in English referred to in the first paragraph to students who, before the start of the programme:
- a) Met the requirements of the VU test in English language proficiency TOEFL ITP, with at least the scores specified in paragraph 1 (test date maximum 2 years before start of the application for the master program), or
 b) Had previous education in secondary or tertiary education in an English-speaking country or country providing education in English as listed on the VU website, or
 c) Have an English-language 'international baccalaureate' diploma

Article 3.6 Free curriculum

Not applicable

4. Curriculum structure

Article 4.1 Composition of programme

The programme consists of the following components:

- a) Compulsory units of study
 b) Practical exercise
 c) Electives

The first semester of the first academic year of the Research Master Global Health consists of three consecutive periods of eight, eight and four weeks respectively (see Part A: faculty section). This implies that, for the first eight weeks, first year students follow two courses in parallel, and that exams for these courses are organised at the end of the first period of eight weeks. The same structure is applied for the third and fourth courses. The fifth course is organised during a period of four weeks.

Article 4.2 Compulsory units of study

The compulsory units of study are:

Year 1:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period	Level
Research Methods in Global Health	AM_1175	6	1	500
Global Health Interventions	AM_1176	6	1	500
Governance in Global Health	AM_1177	6	2	500
International Comparative Analysis of Health Systems	AM_1025	6	2	500
Research Project Global Health year 1	AM_1102	30	4,5,6	500

Year 2:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of Credits	Period	Level
Addressing Disease Burden in a Global Context	AM_1045	6	1	600
Advanced	AM_1044	6	1	600

Methodology ILA in Global Health				
Global Health Literature Review	AM_1046	9	2, 3	600
Scientific Writing in English	AM_4710 23	3	2,3	400
Ethics in Global Health	AM_1047	3	2	600
Writing Research Grant Proposal	AM_1048	3	2	600
Global Health Master Thesis	AM_1116	30	4,5,6	600

Article 4.4 Electives

The student can take one of the following electives¹:

Name of course component	Course code	Number of credits	Period	Level
Anthropology of Sexuality, Aids and Reproductive Health	739400090Y	6	3	500
Medicine and Human Rights in Cross-Cultural Perspectives	739400070Y	6	3	500
Culture, Psychology and Psychiatry	739400030Y	6	3	500
Challenges in Health Systems Innovation	AM_1026	6	3	500
Future Medicine	AM_1027	6	3	500

If the student wishes to take a different course than the units of study listed, advance permission must be obtained in writing from the Examinations Board.

Article 4.5 Sequence of examinations

Students may participate in examinations [and/or practical exercises] for the units below only if they have passed the examination or examinations for the units mentioned:

Students need to have passed the exams of 24 EC of the compulsory courses of year 1 and the practical exercises before they can start their Research Project Global Health; and the courses Addressing the Burden of Disease and Advanced Methodology ILA in Global Health of year 2 (12 EC) before they can start the Global Health Master thesis.

A course can only be passed when the scores on all parts of the examinations are sufficient (6.0 or higher).

Article 4.6 Participation in practical exercise and tutorials

1. In the case of a compulsory practical training, the student must attend 100% of the practical sessions. Should the student attend less than 100 %, he/she must repeat the practical

¹ The students also have an opportunity to choose an elective outside this list. This can be done only after the approval of the Examination Board. The course needs to be 6ECTs and needs to have direct relevance to global health topics.

- training, or the Examinations Board may have one or more supplementary assignments issued.
2. In the case of compulsory tutorials with assignments, the student must attend at least 100% of the tutorials. Should the student attend less than 100%, he/she must repeat the study group, or the Examinations Board may have one or more supplementary assignments issued.
 3. In exceptional circumstances, the Examinations Board may, at the request of the student, permit an exemption from this requirement if, in the opinion of the Board, the assessment of the intended skills is also possible with a lesser percentage of participation, with or without the imposition of supplementary requirements.

Article 4.7 **Maximum exemption**

Not applicable

Article 4.8 **Validity period for results**

No further specific provisions.

Article 4.9 **Degree**

Students who have successfully completed their Master's final examination are awarded a Master of Science degree. The degree awarded is stated on the diploma.

5. Transitional and final provisions

Article 5.1 **Amendments and periodic review**

1. Any amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations will be adopted by: the faculty board after taking advice, and if necessary approval by the Programme Committee concerned. A copy of the advice will be sent to the authorised representative advisory body.
2. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations requires the approval of the authorised representative advisory body if it concerns components not related to the subjects of Section 7.13, paragraph 2 sub a to g and v, as well as paragraph 4 of the WHW and the requirements for admission to the Master's programme.
3. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations can only pertain to an academic year that is already in progress if this does not demonstrably damage the interests of students.

Article 5.2 **Transitional provisions**

Notwithstanding the current Teaching and Examination Regulations, the following transitional provisions apply for students who started the programme under a previous set of Teaching and Examination Regulations:

For students who started their programme before the academic year 2016-2017, the TER applicable in the year that they started will remain applicable for three consecutive years, counting from and including the year that the programme was started.

Article 5.3 **Publication**

1. VU: The faculty board will ensure the appropriate publication of these Regulations and any amendments to them.
2. The Teaching and Examination Regulations will be posted on the faculty website and deemed to be included in the course catalogue.

Article 5.4 **Effective date**

These Regulations enter into force with effect from 1 September 2017

Advice from Programme Committee, on 14 May 2017

Approved by authorised representative advisory body, on 6 July 2017

Adopted by the Faculty Board, on 21 July 2017

Appendix I

List of articles that must be included in the OER pursuant to the WHW (articles in framed boxes):

Section A

Art. 1.1	7.13, para 1, WHW
Art. 2.1	7.13, para 2 sub w
Art. 3.2	7.13, para 2 sub e
Art. 4.2	7.13, para 2 sub h and l
Art. 4.3	7.13, para 2 sub n
Art. 4.4	7.13, para 2 sub o
Art. 4.5	7.13, para 2 sub j, h
Art. 4.7	7.13, para 2 sub r
Art. 4.8	7.13, para 2 sub k
Art. 4.9	7.13, para 2 sub p
Art. 4.10	7.13, para 2 sub q
Art. 4.11	7.13, para 2 sub a
Art. 5.1	7.13, para 2 sub u
Art. 5.2	7.13, para 2 sub m

Section B

Art. 1.2	7.13, para 2 sub i
Art. 2.1	7.13, para 1 sub b, c
Art. 2.2	7.13, para 2 sub c
Art. 3.1	7.25, para 4
Art. 4.1	7.13, para 2 sub a
Art. 4.2	7.13, para 2 sub e, h, j, l
Art. 4.3	7.13, para 2 sub t
Art. 4.4	7.13, para 2 sub e, h, j, l
Art. 4.5	7.13, para 2 sub s
Art. 4.6	7.13, para 2 sub d
Art. 4.8	7.13, para 2 sub k

Appendix II***Ordinances VU Executive Board (EB) and Binding Masters' Guidelines (Master Richtlijn)***

Part A, article:	Regarding	EB ordinance/richtlijn
3.2 lid 3, 4	Setup of the programme Size of the units of study	Masterrichtlijn, EB ordinance 11-11-2013
4.1 lid 1	Enrolling for exams	EB ordinance 30-09-2010, with university council's consent.
4.4 lid 1	Determination and publication of results (1) grading term 10 workdays (2) theses 20 workdays	(1) Masterrichtlijn, EB ordinance 11-11-2013 (2) Quality demand 11 from VU assessment policy, EB ordinance 15-05-2012
4.5 lid 3	Retake most recent mark applies, Retake of both a pass and a fail is allowed	Adopted from UvA guidelines as a result of harmonization with the UvA, EB ordinance 12-05-2015
4.6	Grades grades scale 1 - 10 round off final grades to whole or halve numbers Grade between 5 and 6 are rounded to a whole number	EB ordinance 30-09-2010, with University council's consent. As a result of harmonization UvA, the guideline: 5.5 is a pass, has been added. EB ordinance 24-02-2014.

Part B, article:	Regarding	EB ordinance/richtlijn
1.2 lid 1 en 3	Programme details (unit of study size 6 EC)	Masterrichtlijn, EB ordinance 11-11-2013
3.1 lid 1 en 3	Further entry requirements knowledge, understanding and skills Further grading criteria	Masterrichtlijn, EB ordinance 11-11-2013