Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER)

Bachelor’s Programmes

Faculty of Science
VU University Amsterdam

Faculty of Science
University of Amsterdam

Section A: Faculty section

2017-2018 Academic year
# Teaching and Examination Regulations Section A, Faculty of Science Bachelor’s Programmes, 2017-2018

## Section A: Faculty section

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Teaching and Examination Regulations Section A, Faculty of Science Bachelor’s Programmes, 2017-2018 (VU and UvA)

Bookmarker: The Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER) apply to the two faculties of science: the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) and the University of Amsterdam (UvA). The regulation is equal for both universities except a few exceptions. If there is a difference or specific regulation it is pointed out in red for the UvA and in blue for the VU.

The personal pronoun ‘he’ as used in these regulations should be read as ‘he or she’

In case a student decides to submit a complaint and/or appeal (against) a decision made by (e.g. a lecturer, administration or a committee) relating to the provisions stipulated in this TER, all information concerning the complaints procedure can be found on the website of the study programme (UvA) / institution (VU).

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Scope of the regulations
1. These regulations apply to the teaching and examinations of the following Bachelor’s programmes:

At the Faculty of Science Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, hereinafter referred to as VU or University:
- Biology
- Biomedical Sciences
- Business Analytics
- Chemistry¹
- Computer Science
- Earth Sciences
- Earth and Economics
- Health and Life
- Health Sciences
- Information, Multimedia and Management
- Lifestyle Informatics
- Mathematics
- Medical Sciences
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Physics and Astronomy¹
- Science, Business & Innovation

Faculty of Science (FNWI)
(University of Amsterdam, hereinafter referred to as UvA):
- Exact Science and Social Science (Bèta-Gamma)
- Biology
- Biomedical Sciences
- Future Planet Studies
- Computer Science
- Information Sciences
- Artificial Intelligence
- Physics and Astronomy¹
- Psychobiology
- Chemistry¹
- Mathematics

(Hereinafter also referred to as: the programme)
These regulations consist of a faculty-specific section (Section A) and a programme-specific section (Section B). Section A contains general provisions and applies to the educational activities and examinations of the Bachelor’s programmes listed above. Section B contains programme-specific provisions. Together, Section A and Section B constitute the Teaching and Examination Regulations of the programme.

¹ The programmes in Physics & Astronomy and Chemistry are operated jointly by VU and UvA.
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2. These regulations apply to mutatis mutandis to the joint programmes and educational units, as referred to in Article 7.3c of the Netherlands Higher Education and Research Act (WHW), which are provided by the faculty in collaboration with others.

3. These regulations apply to anyone who is registered for the programme, regardless of the academic year in which the student first enrolled.

4. The programme-specific section (Section B) of the Teaching and Examination Regulations may contain additional general provisions that relate to the programme in question.

Article 1.2 Definitions

These regulations use the following definitions:

a. specialization: a coherent part of a programme that has one or more of its own final attainment levels;

b. BSA: binding recommendation on continuation of studies;

c. COBEX: Examination Appeals Board;

d. *colloquium doctum*: a written or verbal additional assessment that substitutes for an examination-based diploma;

e. contact hours: scheduled student-teacher activities;

f. constituent examination: examination that covers a portion of the contents of a unit of study;

g. EC (European Credit): a credit with a study load of 28 hours;

h. final Bachelor’s degree assessment: the programme’s final assessment to determine whether a student is entitled to a Bachelor’s degree;

i. Examination Board: the Examination Board for one or more of the faculty’s degree programmes, in accordance with Article 7.12 of the Act;

j. Examiner: the individual appointed by the Examination Board to conduct examinations and determine the results, in accordance with Article 7.12(c) of the Act;

k. cheating and plagiarism: an act or omission by a student that precludes making an accurate assessment of his knowledge, understanding and skills;

l. iudicium abeundi: refusal or termination of a student’s registration (regular student or external student) based on his unsuitability for the programme or profession due to his statements or conduct (not based on academic performance);

m. joint degree: a degree granted to a student by an institution together with one or more institutions at home or abroad, following completion of a programme of study (degree programme, specialization or specific course within a programme) for which the cooperating institutions are jointly responsible;

n. component: a unit of study in the programme as defined in the Act such as a course or internship;

o. programme charter (UvA): the programme-specific section of the student charter in accordance with Article 7.59 of the Act;

p. period: a part of a semester;

q. practical exercise: participation in a practical or other educational activities with the aim of developing specific academic skills or other kinds of skills.

Examples of practical exercises are:

- writing a thesis;
- conducting a research assignment;
- participation in fieldwork or an excursion;
- participation in other educational activities with the aim of developing specific skills or completing an internship;
- producing a report, study assignment or experimental design;
- conducting a design assignment;
- conducting a literature review;
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- completing assignments independently;
- completing a practical;
- conducting tests and experiments.

r. programme: the coherent whole of the components, teaching methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature making up the curriculum leading to a degree;

s. semester: the first half (September through January), or second half (February through August) of the academic year;

t. thesis: a component that consists of a literature survey and/or a research project, in all cases resulting in a written report;

u. thesis: see thesis;

v. Admissions Committee: the committee that assesses on behalf of the Faculty Board whether a candidate meets the requirements for admission to the programme of his/her choice. If an Admissions Committee has not been appointed for the programme in question, then the Examination Board (as referred to in Article 7.12 of the Act) will function as the Admissions Committee.

w. SAP/SLcM: the Student Information System of the VU;

x. SIS: the UvA student information system;

y. study guide: a digital guide to the programme which contains a further elaboration of the programme-specific provisions and requirements and other programme-specific information. The study guide is available in digital format at studiegids.uva.nl (UvA) and studiegids.vu.nl (VU);

z. academic year: the period beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August of the following calendar year;

aa. study load: the study load of the unit of study on which an exam is based, expressed in credits. The study load of one year of study (1680 hours) is 60 credits;

bb. examination/exam: an assessment of a student’s knowledge, understanding and skills with regard to a component. The assessment is expressed as a final mark. An examination can be completed in parts by means of two or more constituent examinations. A resit always covers the same material as the original examination;

c. university: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam / the University of Amsterdam

d. Act: the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW; Wet op Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek).

The definition of all other terms used is in accordance with the definitions used in the Act.

Article 1.3 Dutch language testing and proficiency

1. UvA provisions: Any specific language requirements are indicated in Section B, Article 3.3. This applies to non-Dutch students. Points 2 through 6 apply to VU students:

2. At the start of the first year of study, every student on a Dutch-language Bachelor’s degree programme must complete the diagnostic VU University Amsterdam Dutch language proficiency test. (With the exception of Chemistry B and Physics & Astronomy B due to VU/UvA collaboration.)

3. The language test focuses on written skills and includes sections on grammar, spelling, vocabulary, structure and formulation.

4. Any student who does not achieve a pass on the Dutch language test must take the Dutch Refresher Course (‘Bijspijkercursus Nederlands’) organized by the Language Desk (Taalkoket).

5. The programme-specific section (Section B) may stipulate that a mark may only be given for a unit of study that is partly reliant on the results of the language test if the student has passed the Dutch language test or has completed the Dutch Refresher Course.
6. Language proficiency may be included in a test assessment in accordance with the provisions of Section B.

2. Prior education and Admission

Article 2.1 Prior education
1. An applicant will be admitted to the degree programme if they are in possession of a VWO (pre-university) diploma as referred to in Article 7.24 of the Act, or if exempt from this provision pursuant to Article 7.28 of the Act.
2. With the exception of Computer Science (VU) and Business Analytics (VU), those in possession of a foreign qualification will be deemed to meet the Dutch language proficiency requirement after having passed one of the examinations specified in Section B, or if they are exempted from taking this examination.
3. The following applies to Computer Science (VU) and Business Analytics (VU): those in possession of a foreign qualification will be deemed to meet the English language proficiency requirement after having passed one of the examinations specified in Section B at the level indicated.
4. Section B of the Teaching and Examination Regulations specifies any additional prior education requirements for the relevant programme.
5. If the applicant does not meet the prior education requirements as specified in Section B of the Teaching and Examination Regulations, then the applicant may only be admitted to the programme once any deficiencies have been eliminated by meeting substantively similar requirements at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

Article 2.2 Equivalent prior education
1. A holder of a qualification who does not have the nationality of a signatory state to the Treaty of Lisbon (Trb. 2002, 137) is required to submit the diploma to the Executive Board (VU: through the Department of Student Admissions, UvA: Student Services (Student Service Desk)). The Executive Board will decide whether the applicant meets the requirements for admission based on the diploma and any other documentary evidence.
2. An applicant holding a qualification from a country other than the Netherlands must demonstrate sufficient mastery of the language of tuition before being admitted to the programme.

Article 2.3 University admissions test (colloquium doctum)
1. Individuals aged 21 and over who do not meet the prior education requirements as stipulated in Articles 2.1 or 2.2 may submit a request to the Executive Board to sit a university admissions test (colloquium doctum) as referred to in Article 7.29 of the Act.
2. The programme-specific section (Section B) details the exact requirements for the admissions test.

Article 2.4 Refusal or termination of registration / (iudicium abeundi)
1. Pursuant to the provisions of Article 7.42a of the Act, the Faculty Board (VU) / the Dean (UvA) or the Examination Board may, in exceptional circumstances, request the Executive Board to terminate or refuse a student’s registration on a programme. This may be the case if the student’s conduct or statements demonstrate his or her unsuitability to work in the relevant field or discipline, or to take part in the programme’s practical training component.
2. If a student is suspected of being unsuitable as described in paragraph 1, the Examination Board or the Faculty Board (VU) / the Dean (UvA) will examine the case, and the student will be informed of this immediately. The Examination Board or the
3. **Programme structure**

**Article 3.1 Structure of the academic year**
1. The academic year of the degree programme is divided into two semesters.
2. Each semester comprises three periods of eight, eight and four weeks, respectively.
3. A weekly average of at least fourteen contact hours are provided in the first year of the programme.
4. The programme involves at least twelve contact hours per teaching week in the second and third years.

**Article 3.2 Structure of the programme**
1. The programme consists of the units of study as indicated in the programme-specific section (Section B) of the Teaching and Examination Regulations.
2. The programme comprises 180 credits.
3. An unit of study comprises 6 credits or a multiple thereof.
4. In derogation of the provisions of paragraph 3, Section B may specify that a unit of study comprises 3 credits or a multiple thereof. The Executive Board (VU) / Dean (UvA) may authorize this at the Dean's behest (VU).
5. Prior permission from the Examination Board is required if the student wishes to take a different unit of study or minor other than those referred to in Section B.
6. Academic development is part of every degree programme. This component is specified in Section B.

**Article 3.3 Internationalization**
The Bachelor’s programme emphasizes the development of students’ international experience and awareness, in particular to gain knowledge and skills for multicultural and interdisciplinary cooperation, to follow English study programme (and/or component) at the VU as well as abroad. Section B provides details regarding this for the relevant degree programme.

4. **Assessments and Examinations**

**Article 4.1 Registering for educational activities and examinations**
1. Students are required to register for educational activities if registration is required in order to participate. Students must register for exams and resits. Registration may only take place in the designated periods. The registration procedure is specified in the study guide and/or in a Regulation Registration for Teaching and Examination (in Dutch: Regeling intekenen voor Onderwijs en Tentamens). A failure to register may result in the student being excluded from the exam.
2. As an exception to the provisions of paragraph 1, students who are properly registered for participation in the educational activities for a particular unit of study will also be registered for the subsequent examination associated with the unit of study (UvA: and for the resit if applicable), unless the programme has determined otherwise.
3. If a student fails both the exam and the resit, then the student must repeat the entire unit of study.
4. In addition to paragraph 3: This provision does not apply to a number of programmes that make use of component marks that retain their validity, meaning that certain subcomponents do not have to be taken again. These components are listed in Section B of the Teaching and Examination Regulations, if applicable.
5. If a student decides to quit the course, the student must withdraw for the component via SIS / VUnet.
6. Every student has the right to participate in all programme(s) provided by the university where he/she is registered, on condition that he/she meets the requirements for prior
education, exit qualification(s) for a component concerned, and there is no limited
programme capacity for the component concerned.

Article 4.2 Form of examination
1. The programme-specific section (Section B) of the Teaching and Examination
Regulations defines the manner and form of assessment for each unit of study.
2. At the student's substantiated request, or at the request of the examiner with the
student's permission, the Examination Board may grant permission for an examination
to be administered in a way other than prescribed by the study guide. These cases are
governed by the Rules and Guidelines of the Examination Board, where applicable.

Article 4.3 Oral examinations
1. Oral examinations will be administered to no more than one student at a time, unless
the programme-specific section (Section B) for the relevant unit of study states otherwise.
2. Oral examinations (and constituent examinations) will be public unless decided
otherwise by the Examination Board in exceptional cases. A student may submit a
request to the Examination Board to deviate from the requirement for a public oral
examination. The Examination Board will weigh the student's interests against the
interests of administering a public examination.
3. Unless otherwise specified by the Examination Board at the student's substantiated
request, a second examiner will be present during an oral examination or constituent
examination.

Article 4.4 Determining and publishing results
1. The examiner will determine the results of a written examination as soon as possible, but
at the latest within fifteen working days of the date of the examination. Notwithstanding
the provisions in the previous sentence, the following also applies:
   a. The assessment period for a thesis and/or final assignments may not exceed
twenty working days.
   b. The assessment period in the first year of the programme is not to exceed ten
working days in conjunction with the Binding Study Advice (BSA).
After results have been determined, the following applies:
VU (with the exception of final assignments): The examiner ensures that results are
registered immediately (in SAP/SLcM) and also ensures that students are apprised of
their results within five working days, taking applicable standards of confidentiality into
account.
UvA and VU (only for final assignments): The examiner provides the programme
secretariat with the necessary information and the programme secretariat then records
the results immediately (in SAP/SLcM / SIS). The programme secretariat also ensures
that the student is promptly notified of the results, taking applicable standards of
confidentiality into account.
2. The examiner is to determine the results of constituent examinations within ten working
days.
3. The results of constituent examinations must be made known at least five working
days prior to the next examination opportunity.
4. If the provisions of paragraph 2 and 3 conflict, then the provisions of paragraph 3 will
prevail.
5. The examiner will determine the result of an oral examination within one day and inform
the student forthwith. The results are to be registered in accordance with the provision in
paragraph 1.
6. With regard to examinations that are neither written nor oral, the Examination Board will
decide in advance how the student will be informed of the results and how long this will
take, with a maximum applicable assessment period of twenty working days.
7. Together with the result of an examination, the student's attention will also be drawn to
their right to inspect the assessed work and have a post-examination discussion as
stipulated in Articles 4.9 and 4.10, as well as his/her option to appeal to the Examinations
Appeals Board (COBEX).
8. A student may lodge an appeal before the COBEX against the way in which the results
have been determined within a period of six weeks after publication of the results. A student may also submit a request for reassessment to the examiner. A request for reassessment does not suspend the deadline for lodging an appeal.

Article 4.5 Examination opportunities
1. There are two opportunities to take examinations in the degree programme in each academic year.
2. Paragraph 1 does not apply to a second opportunity if a student has received an unsatisfactory mark for a practical component, student placement (internship) or a thesis. The opportunities for resits are stated in the relevant student placement guidelines or graduation regulations, and/or in Section B of the Teaching and Examination Regulations.
3. The result of the most recent assessment applies in the case of a resit.
4. An exam resit may not take place within ten working days of the publication of the results of the examination in question.

Article 4.6 Marks
1. Marks are given on a scale from 1 to 10. (Partial) marks are given with a maximum of one decimal after the point.
2. For final marks only decimals 0 or 5 can be given.
3. The final marks between 5 and 6 (5.5) cannot be given.
4. Any final mark of 6.0 or higher counts as passed.
5. In cases where the examination of a component consists of two or more parts, each of which are graded separately, the (weighted) mean of these marks (meaning: the final mark) must be rounded off using the following table:

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6. Contrary to the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Article, a component may be concluded with the ‘pass’ designation. (In Dutch, UvA: aan voorwaarden voldaan, a.v.v., VU: voldaan vd) The names of the relevant components can be found in section B of these Regulations, if applicable.

7. UvA: When a student does not fulfil all the requirements of a component, the examiner will register the mark ‘did not fulfil all requirements’ (in Dutch: niet aan de eisen voldaan, n.a.v.).

8. When a student does not take part in any (interim) examination, the examiner will register the mark ‘no show’ (VU: ns, UvA: in Dutch: niet aanwezig, n.a.).

Article 4.7 Exemptions
1. At the student’s written request, the Examination Board may grant an exemption for one or more components of an examination if the student:
   a. has completed a component of a programme in higher education that is equivalent as regards content and level;
   b. demonstrates a sufficient level of knowledge and skills related to the component in question, gained through work and/or professional experience.
   c. has a conscientious objection to the component(s); the examination board then determines which supplementary requirements the student must meet.
2. No exemptions can be granted for the student placement (internship) or Bachelor’s thesis.
3. The Examination Board will make a decision within twenty working days of receiving the request.

Article 4.8 Period of validity for results
1. The faculty board (VU)/ dean (UvA) may decide to limit the period of validity of an examination and granted exemption, if knowledge, understanding and skills are evidently becoming obsolete.
2. In the programme-specific section (Section B) is laid down the period of validity of an examination and granted exemption.
3. Contrary to the rule referred to in paragraph 1, the Examination Board may extend the limited validity of an examination or exemption, if a student submits a substantiated request to this end.
4. The period of validity of an interim examination is limited to the academic year in which it is taken, or until the conclusion of the component, unless stated otherwise in the programme-specific section (Section B).

Article 4.9 Right to inspection
1. For at least twenty working days after the announcement of the results of a written examination, the student can, on request, inspect his/her assessed work, the questions and assignments set, as well as the standards applied for marking. During this inspection the student may take a picture of his/her assessed work provided that the underlying questions are not listed / in the picture.
2. The Examiner can determine that the inspection or post-examination discussion referred to in paragraph 1 take place exclusively at a specified place and at a specified time. The place and time referred to in the previous clause will be announced at the time of the examination and/or CANVAS and/or blackboard.
3. If the student was unable to attend at the place and time referred to in paragraph 2 through no fault of his/her own, an alternative option will be offered.
4. If a student intends to appeal against the way in which his or her work has been assessed, he/she may be issued with a copy of the assessed work at his request.
Article 4.10 Post-examination discussion
1. If a collective post-examination discussion has been organised, individual post-examination discussions will be held only if the student has attended the collective discussion or if he/she was unable to attend the collective discussion through no fault of his/her own.
2. Students who meet the requirements stipulated in the first paragraph can submit a request for an individual post-examination discussion to the relevant examiner. The discussion will take place at a time and location to be determined by the examiner in consultation with the student.

Article 4.11 Final Bachelor's degree assessment
1. The Examination Board determines the final examination result and the date on which the student obtains his/her degree after it has been established that the student has passed all the components belonging to the programme.
2. A degree certificate can only be awarded after the Executive Board has declared that the student has satisfied all the procedural requirements, including payment of tuition fees.

Article 4.12 Degree certificate and statement
1. The Examination Board will award a degree certificate as evidence that the student has met all of the final degree assessment requirements. The Examination Board may award a degree classification. The Rules and Regulations of the Examination Board detail the guidelines for classifications. The model for the degree certificate is determined by the Executive Board. The Examination Board will append a diploma supplement to the degree certificate detailing the nature and content of the degree programme. The diploma supplement is drawn up in Dutch and/or in English and meets the requirements of the European format.
2. Those who have passed more than one examination but who are not entitled to a certificate as referred to in paragraph 1 may, on request, receive a statement issued by the relevant Examination Board which at the very least states the examinations passed, and is accompanied by a specification of the units of study involved, the number of credits thus obtained and when the examination results were achieved.
3. The student may, without stating reasons, submit a request to the Examination Board not to proceed with issuing the certificate, unless the student himself requested the certificate.

Article 4.13 Fraud and plagiarism
2. Electronic detection software programs may be used to detect plagiarism in texts. In submitting a text, the student implicitly consents to the text being entered into the database of the detection program concerned.

5. Honours degree programme

Article 5.1 Honours degree programme
1. The Director of Studies or the Examination Board may invite a student to participate in the honours degree programme. The student then takes the honours degree programme alongside the regular Bachelor's programme.
2. The honours degree programme consists of 30 credits, to be completed with a choice of courses as detailed in the relevant programme’s study guide.
3. For admission to the honours degree programme, the student must have secured all credits from the first year and have achieved a weighted average grade of 7.5 or higher.
4. No more than 12 credits in the honour’s degree programme are to be made up of first-year courses.
5. Section B, Article 6 of the Teaching and Examination Regulations contains the
specific requirements for the honours programme, if applicable.

6. The honours coordinator will evaluate the student’s progress in the regular programme and in the honours programme one year after the start of the honour’s programme. The honours coordinator may recommend that the student leave the honours programme based on this evaluation and the student’s results in the programme.

7. If the student meets the following conditions, he will receive a Bachelor’s degree and a statement indicating that he has successfully completed the honours programme:
   a. The student has met all requirements of the regular Bachelor’s programme within the official duration of the programme;
   b. The student has met all the requirements of the honours programme;
   c. In addition, and depending on the programme, one of the following conditions applies:
      i. for students enrolled at VU (except for the programmes in Physics & Astronomy and Chemistry): a weighted average grade of 7.5 or higher on all units of study in the Bachelor’s programme;
      ii. for students enrolled at UvA (including the programmes in Physics & Astronomy and Chemistry): a weighted average grade of 7.0 or higher on all units of study in the Bachelor’s programme;

8. In order to prevent significant unfairness, the Examination Board may deviate from the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 7.

6. Study advice, Study recommendation and Study progress

Article 6.1 Records of study progress and study advice
1. The Faculty Board (VU) / the Dean (UvA) is responsible for the proper registration of students’ degree programme results in SAP / SIS. Once an examination that counts towards the final degree has been assessed, the student may inspect the results of that examination on VUnet / SIS, where the student will also find a summary of the results achieved.

2. Registered students are entitled to study advice (see Section B, Article 7.1).

Article 6.2 Recommendation on continuation of studies
In the programme’s first semester:
1. Prior to 1 February, students will receive a recommendation on continuation of their studies in the programme.
2. Students who receive a negative recommendation mentioned in paragraph 1 will be invited for an interview with the purpose of discussing their study methods, a review of their choice of degree programme, a discussion of any extenuating personal circumstances, and possibly a referral.

Before the end of the second semester:
3. At the end of the first year of study, every full-time Bachelor’s student will be issued with a recommendation from the Faculty Board (VU) / the Dean (UvA) with regard to the continuation of his studies.
4. This recommendation on continuation of studies is issued on behalf of the Faculty Board (VU) / the Dean (UvA) by the BSA Committee. If the recommendation on continuation of studies involves expulsion (‘negative recommendation’), then the provisions of Article 6.3 apply.
5. Binding recommendations on continuation of studies are issued in accordance with the Regulation on Binding recommendations on continuation of studies, as published on the websites of the educational programmes / VUnet.

Article 6.3 Binding (negative) recommendation on continuation of studies
1. If the student does not meet the norm for a positive recommendation on continuation of studies at the end of the first academic year, then a binding recommendation to leave the programme will be issued.
3. A negative recommendation will not be issued if the student can demonstrate that he or she has not met the norm due to extenuating personal circumstances as referred to in Article 6.4. The norm is specified in Section B, Article 7.2.
3. For UvA students: exemptions are included in the number of credits earned as referred to in paragraph 1.

4. As soon as possible following the examination resits of the second semester of the first year of registration, students who do not meet the norm will receive written notification that the Faculty Board (VU) / the Dean (UvA) intends to issue them with a binding negative recommendation on continuation of studies. The same procedure applies in the next year of registration if the student is allowed to continue studying due to extenuating personal circumstances (see Article 6.4) while not having met all requirements for completion of the first academic year.

5. The notification referred to in the previous paragraph will also serve to notify the student of his or her right to be heard by the BSA Committee, and it will provide information on how to apply for a hearing.

6. As soon as possible following the hearing (within ten working days), and on the advice of the BSA Committee, the Faculty Board (VU) / the Dean (UvA) will determine which students will be issued with a negative recommendation on continuation of studies.

7. An appeal can be lodged against a decision concerning a negative recommendation on continuation of studies within six weeks of the date of the recommendation. This appeal must be lodged before the Examination Appeals Board (COBEX).

8. A negative recommendation on continuation of studies also means that the student concerned may not register for the Bachelor’s programmes specified in Article 7.2 of Section B for a period of three academic years.

9. The faculty regulation on binding recommendations on continuation of studies is to be published on website of the educational programmes / VUnet.

Article 6.4 Extenuating personal circumstances

1. The Faculty Board (VU) / the Dean (UvA) will not terminate the registration of a student who receives a negative binding recommendation on continuation of studies in the case of extenuating personal circumstances which make it unreasonable to expect the student in question to meet the applicable BSA norm.

2. Should a student face circumstances as referred to in the fourth paragraph, then the student should report these circumstances to the study advisor as soon as possible, providing the following information:
   a. the period during which the circumstances are occurring or have occurred;
   b. a description of the circumstances and their severity;
   c. the extent to which the student is not able or was not able to participate in educational activities, including exams.
   The student is responsible for providing documentary evidence for the extenuating personal circumstances.

3. Within four weeks of receipt of the report, the study advisor will issue a written recommendation with supporting arguments detailing whether extenuating personal circumstances as listed in the fourth paragraph do indeed apply. If extenuating personal circumstances are found to apply, the study advisor will append a proposal to his recommendation detailing an alternative study progress plan, as referred to in the fifth paragraph.

4. Extenuating personal circumstances within the meaning of this article are restricted to:
   a. illness of the student concerned;
   b. physical, sensory or other impairment of the student concerned;
   c. pregnancy of the student concerned;
   d. extenuating family circumstances
   e. membership on the university’s participation council or programme committee;
   f. membership on an assessment committee as referred to in section 5a of the Act;
   g. membership on the board of a student organization that is designated by the government within the framework of the Regulation on Administrative Provisions on Nationwide Graduation Support in Higher Education;
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h. certain other individual personal circumstances and other particular activities in public service or in the interest of the university, to be determined by the Faculty Board (VU) / the Dean (UvA) in compliance with the directives of the Executive Board.

5. If the Faculty Board (VU) / the Dean (UvA) determines on the recommendation of the study advisor or from information received directly from the student that there are extenuating personal circumstances within the meaning of this Article, the Board / the Dean will then propose a period that reflects the nature and severity of the student’s extenuating personal circumstances, so that the student is enabled to complete the components of the first year of the degree programme successfully.

Article 6.5 Adaptations for students with a disability
1. A student with a disability can submit a written request to the study adviser to qualify for special adaptations with regard to teaching, practical training and interim examinations. Therefore the student should submit a request via VUnet (VU) / receive a recommendation provided by a student counsellor (UvA). These adaptations will accommodate the student’s individual disability as much as possible, but may not alter the quality or degree of difficulty of a course or an examination. In all cases, the student must fulfil the exit qualifications for the degree programme.
2. The request referred to in the first paragraph must in part be based on a recent statement from a physician or psychologist. In case of dyslexia a (written) statement is required, provided by The Dutch Association of Psychologists (in Dutch: NIP), BIG-, and/or certified Association of Educationalists-agency (in Dutch: NVO).
3. The faculty board (VU) / dean (UvA) or, on its behalf, the College/Graduate School director or the education programme director decides on the adaptations concerning the teaching facilities and logistics. The Examination Board will rule on requests for adaptations with regard to examinations.
4. In the event of a positive decision in response to a request as referred to in paragraph 1, the student will make an appointment with the study adviser to discuss the details of the provisions.
5. A request for adaptations will be refused if it would place a disproportionate burden on the organisation or the resources of the faculty or university were it to be upheld.
6. If the disability justifies an extension to the exam time, and/or other facilities the Examination Board / student counsellor will issue a statement testifying to this entitlement to an extension and/or facility. If a disability justifies other measures being taken, the study adviser can initiate the necessary measures.
7. The statement referred to in paragraph 6 is valid for a maximum period of one year, with the exception for the chronic diseases and disabilities (VU) / the whole period of study (UvA).

Article 6.6 Study progress
1. A student may only participate in education or exams in the third year of the programme once all units of study from the first year have been completed.
2. Section B may list additional requirements regarding the order in which exams may be taken.

7. Hardship clause

Article 7.1 Hardship clause
In cases where the Teaching and Examination Regulations do not provide and where there is disproportionate disadvantage or significant unfairness, the Faculty Board (VU) / Dean (UvA) responsible for the programme will decide, except where the Examination Board has jurisdiction.

Artikel 6.2 Calamity
The educational programme director attempts to limit possible negative effects on study progress of a student(s) as a consequence of calamity.
8. **Transitional and final provisions for Section A**

**Article 8.1 Amendments and periodic assessment**
1. Any amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations will be adopted by the faculty board (VU) / dean (UvA) 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 as stated in the WHW.
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 8.2 Transitional provisions**
1. Notwithstanding the current Teaching and Examination Regulations, the following transitional provisions apply to students who started the programme when an earlier version of the Teaching and Examination Regulations was in force:
   - With regard to Article 5.1, paragraph 6, a weighted average of 7.0 (rather than 7.5 as stated) applies to students admitted to the honours programme prior to the 2016-2017 academic year.
2. See Section B for specific situations.

**Article 8.3 Publication**
1. The faculty board (VU) / dean (UvA) will ensure the appropriate publication of these Regulations and any amendments to them.
2. The Teaching and Examination Regulations will be posted in the course catalogue / on VUnet.

**Article 8.4 Entry into force**
These Regulations enter into force with effect from 1 September 2017.

Approved by authorised representative advisory body:
Authorized representative advisory body Faculty of Science (VU): 6 July, 2017
OR FNWI: 11 July, 2017
FSR FNWI:

Adopted by:
Faculty Board (VU) on 21 July 2017
Dean (UvA) on 7 August 2017

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