

Rules and Regulations

FASoS Bachelor's programmes

FASoS Pre-master's programmes

FASoS Minor programmes

FASoS Master's programmes

2023-2024

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Applicability of the Rules and Regulations

These Rules and Regulations (R&R) are an overarching document for all FASoS bachelor's and master's programmes.

However, parts of the R&R relate only to the BA Education and Examination Regulations (EER), and within certain articles some provisions only apply to a specific programme. The exact applicability of every provision is indicated in the titles of the R&R articles, and if necessary it is further specified within the relevant article.

These R&R also apply to all students who participate in the education delivered by FASoS at BA and MA level, thus also to:

- students from other programmes, faculties or institutions of higher education, insofar as they follow components of the FASoS programme;
- students in the FASoS pre-master's programmes and minor programmes;
- students in the interfaculty BSc Global Studies (BSc GS) programme.

The R&R were adopted by the FASoS Board of Examiners on 24 August 2023. The regulations will take effect on 1 September 2023, and hence will be fully applicable in academic the academic year 2023-2024.

Part I. Assessment

Article 1 Board of Examiners

According to the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act/*Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek* (from here on referred to as the WHW) the Board of Examiners (BoE) is an independent and qualified committee within the higher educational institution.

The BoE is composed of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, general members and at least one external, non-FASoS member.

The BoE is responsible for guaranteeing the quality of the examination (including all intermediate tests/exams and the final work) as well as for warranting the FASoS diplomas (Article 7.12b of the WHW). The BoE monitors the FASoS examinations quality assurance system which guarantees attainment of the programmes' final qualifications.

The BoE has mandated the quality assurance of intermediate/regular tests to the course coordinators, and of the graduation procedure to the Exam Administration. It issues guidelines and stipulates the leading principles that have to be observed by the examiners when conducting and grading exams, and by the Exam Administration when registering grades and issuing diplomas. The Statute of the BoE presents more details about the composition and tasks of the BoE; it is available on Umployee.

Article 2 Responsible examiners

The course coordinators (who are simultaneously appointed as 'responsible examiners') are the primary responsible for designing, conducting and grading of the exams within the course. They are also the ones who ensure and monitor the overall consistency in the assessment work of the different tutors.

Each course coordinator is appointed by the FASoS Dean, explicitly and in writing. The responsible examiners are appointed by the BoE per course. The responsible examiners are obliged to report all information regarding their exams and the performed assessment to the BoE. In addition, the responsible examiners must instruct the tutors. Check the policy document 'Appointment of Examiners at FASoS' for more details about the appointment of responsible examiners (available on Umployee).

Article 3 Exam Administration

The FASoS Exam Administration, a department in the FASoS Office of Student Affairs, is mandated by the BoE to organise intermediate/regular exams, to register exam grades, to conduct the graduation procedure and to maintain the FASoS examination archive.

Article 4 Exams and organisation of exams

At FASoS, exams are structurally organised in modules (i.e. two exam chances per academic year apply).

This section presents the main rules and regulations regarding all exams except final work (for final work provisions, see Article 5 below). In addition to the rules set forth in this section, the Rules of Procedure for Examinations at Maastricht University (available on the FASoS Student Intranet, Umployee and via the UM website under Maastricht University

Regulations) apply to all types of exams (including written exams, collective or oral exams) and to all students (including students with special arrangements). Additional information on the conduct of exams (including digital exams) should also be consulted via the UM Library Resources.

FASoS employs a variety of exam formats, including closed books exams which usually take place in the MECC. Exceptionally, exams may take place at another location. Students are advised to consult their Time Table for up to date information on the location of exams.

Plagiarism checks are performed at all times at FASoS. All digitally submitted exams are uploaded in CANVAS where a plagiarism check takes place automatically. The plagiarism reports are evaluated by the respective graders on a case-by-case basis.

Due dates for electronic submissions should be set on working days and within working hours (9:00 to 17:00 hr; the norm at FASoS is 16:00 hr).

FASoS archives submitted exams (students' answers/products) for two years, and final work for seven years.

The course coordinators (responsible examiners) are responsible for the format, content and grading of the intermediate/regular exams; they act according to the general FASoS assessment policy, the BoE assessment principles for examiners (see Article 10 below), the suggestions for improvement posed by the respective Programme Committee, and instructions from the educational programme's management. The exam criteria, format and content of the exams are specified in the course book.

The responsible examiner determines the result of an exam and provides the Exam Administration with the necessary information to administer the result within 13 working days of the date on which the exam was taken, not counting that day. The Exam Administration will publish the results of the course exam on the Student Portal within 15 working days of the date on which it was taken, not counting that day.

Article 5 Final work

The definition of final work is presented in the EER of the respective programme.

At FASoS, final work is structurally organised as modules (i.e. two exam chances apply). All final work assessments are to be presented on assessment forms which are annually approved by the BoE.

All final work is assessed by two examiners (supervisor, responsible examiner). They are appointed by the BoE to assess a thesis completed within one of the FASoS programmes.

In all FASoS programmes (except for BSc Global Studies), the appointed examiners exchange views and discuss the assessment of the final work and the envisioned grade (the intervision process). They have to agree on the grade and the argumentation leading to that grade, based on the comments given on the assessment form for final work. If they cannot reach an agreement, the programme director or the final work coordinator appoints a third, experienced examiner, with relevant expertise, who will take a majority decision after consulting the opinions of the first two examiners.

If a student in the EPA, MSDC or GDS programme opts to do an internship, the internship work is assessed by both the internship organisation and a faculty examiner. The internship (evaluation) report, and the internship thesis are assessed by two appointed faculty examiners and the above procedure applies.

The provisions and rules for first and second examiners of final work are listed in the policy document 'Position on final work at FASoS' which is available on Umployee. Furthermore, the annually reviewed 'Procedure for final work', which also specifies the deadlines for the submission of final work grades, is available there.

A student completing the final work (i.e. the Bachelor Thesis) within the BSc Global Studies programme will be assessed, among others, on their ability to work across disciplinary boundaries. The two appointed examiners, from different fields, will assess the thesis independently. They can each have their own argumentation to come to a qualitative evaluation on different criteria in the thesis. In the end, the two examiners must agree on a final grade for the final work as a whole. If they cannot reach an agreement (fulfilling the requirements stipulated in the final work procedure applicable for this programme), the programme director or the thesis coordinator appoints a third, experienced examiner, with relevant expertise, who will take a majority decision after consulting the opinions of the first two examiners. Further appropriate arrangements that accommodate the interdisciplinary requirements in the final works shall be made at the programme level and will be listed in the final work procedure applicable for this programme.

Article 6 Grading scale at FASoS and Dutch grading system

The Dutch grading system¹, used from elementary to university education is the 1 to 10 scale given in the following table, wherein 10 is the highest grade, 6 the minimum pass and 1 the lowest grade.

10	outstanding
9	very good
8	good
7	more than satisfactory
6	satisfactory
5	almost satisfactory
4	unsatisfactory
3	very unsatisfactory
2	poor
1	very poor

Educators uniformly comment on the great difficulty in obtaining 9s and 10s and the respectability of 6s. There is also agreement that an 8 represents a high level of achievement, while grades 6 and 7 generally account for the majority of passing grades awarded.

Most skills and research trainings in FASoS programmes are assessed on the Fail (F) – Pass (P) – Excellent (E) score scale:

Fail = insufficient student performance

Pass = sufficient student performance

Excellent = exceptionally good student performance

These F-P-E scores are not considered in the calculation of the GPA (see Part IV below, Article 6.4 BA/BSc GS/MA EER).

For further detail on the Dutch grading scale please refer to the document 'The Dutch Grading Scale', available on the FASoS Student Intranet and Umployee.

¹ The untranslated Dutch grading system is available on: <https://www.nuffic.nl/onderwijssystemen/nederland/beoordelingssystemen>; accessed 6 June 2023.

Article 7 Fraud, including plagiarism and fabricating and/or falsifying research data

This article explains how the BoE acts under Article 7.12b (2) of the WHW.

'Fraud', including plagiarism, means actions or omissions by a student that make it impossible in whole or in part to properly evaluate their knowledge, understanding and skills.

'Plagiarism' means the presentation of ideas or words from one's own or someone else's sources without proper acknowledgment of the sources. For exams in a paper format, such as take home exams, essays, or research papers, the course manual explicitly indicates whether (or not) it is allowed to submit a reworked version of the first sit for the resit.

1. The BoE may impose one or more of the sanctions set down in paragraph 8 of this article if it establishes that students, in any exam or exam component have committed fraud, including:
 - a. have had any aids/devices, resources, text, software or notes at their disposal, or have used aids and/or (communication) devices that were not explicitly allowed, or that were explicitly forbidden in the exam instructions and/or Rules of Procedure for Examinations;
 - b. have communicated or tried to communicate with another student without permission from an invigilator, examiner or BoE member;
 - c. have copied or attempted to copy from another student, or have provided the opportunity to copy;
 - d. have collaborated on a graded assignment, paper or practical training, whereas this was not explicitly allowed;
 - e. have posed as someone else or let someone else pose as them;
 - f. have misled, or at least attempted to mislead or provided the opportunity to mislead an invigilator, an examiner, an assessor or the BoE with respect to the exam;
 - g. have used an obfuscation method in submitted work that is likely to have the effect that plagiarism checking tools do not work optimally;
 - h. have disregarded the instructions of the invigilator or the instructions for the exam (component) such that an unfair advantage might have been obtained;
 - i. have performed any other actions or omissions which make it impossible in whole or in part to properly evaluate their knowledge, understanding and/or skills.
2. The Board of Examiners may impose one or more of the sanctions set down in paragraph 8 of this article if it establishes that students have committed fraud, including:
 - a. have falsified the information on mandatory attendance, participation or effort obligation; or had someone else falsify that information; or have signed off on attendance, participation or effort obligation when it was not (fully) met;
 - b. have falsified exam results;
 - c. have falsely obtained, or attempted to, access to an exam;
 - d. have misled an examiner relating to exam (components), registration, or grading;
 - e. have facilitated other students to engage in fraud;
 - f. have fabricated and/or falsified survey or interview answers or research data;
 - g. have breached or attempted to breach the security measures around exams.
3. The BoE may impose one or more of the sanctions set down in paragraph 8 of this article if it establishes that students have committed plagiarism in any exam, part or component, including:

- a. using or copying their own or other people's texts (including code), data, ideas, other materials or thoughts without adequate reference to the source;
 - b. presenting the structure or central body of thought from others without adequate reference to the source and thus passing it off as their own;
 - c. not clearly indicating in the text (including code), for example via quotation marks or a certain layout, that verbatim or nearly verbatim quotes have been used;
 - d. paraphrasing the content of their own or other people's texts (including code) without adequate reference to the source;
 - e. copying image, video, audio or test material, software or program codes from others without adequate reference to the source and thus passing them off as their own;
 - f. copying work from other students and thus passing it off as their own;
 - g. submitting a text that is identical or similar to (parts of) a text previously submitted for a different module, thus attempting to receive credits twice for the same work;
 - h. submitting work or assignments acquired from or written by a third party (whether or not for payment) and thus passing them off as their own; where in all of these provisions "others" and "third party" does not only refer to people but also to generative artificial intelligence such as GPT-x, ChatGPT (Plus), BARD. If the use of artificial intelligence is allowed and/or does not have to be disclosed for a specific use, this is explicitly mentioned in the course materials.
4. During the exam inspection, students are not allowed to have communication devices and/or other electronic devices at their disposal, neither to take the exam and answer key outside the room where the inspection takes place nor to copy these documents in any form. Also, students are not allowed to make any modifications to the exam. When the exam inspection takes place online it is not allowed to make screenshots or record the inspection. The BoE may impose one or more of the sanctions set down in paragraph 8 of this article if it establishes that a student did not adhere to these rules.
 5. In case of fraud/plagiarism in group assignments, all students in the group are in principle responsible for fraud/plagiarism. If it is unambiguously clear that only one or more specific students have committed fraud/plagiarism, only the student(s) in question will receive punitive sanctions (e.g. a reprimand), but all could be subject to corrective sanctions (e.g. invalidation the result of the relevant exam).
 6. In the event that the BoE suspects that students have committed fraud in any way, the BoE opens an inquiry into the established facts, and may call in an expert for support.
 7. If the BoE establishes that a student has committed fraud in any other way in any exam or exam component, it can impose a sanction set down in paragraph 8.
 8. In the cases referred to in paragraphs 1 to 7, the BoE can declare the results of the relevant exam or exam component and/or the attendance registration invalid, as well as impose the following punitive sanctions:
 - a. a reprimand;
 - b. exclusion from participation or further participation in one or more exams in the programme for a period of at most one year;
 - c. in serious cases of fraud, the BoE can propose to the UM's Executive Board that the student(s) concerned be permanently deregistered from the programme.
 9. Repeated offenses of fraud and/or plagiarism are considered an aggravating circumstance and may result in more severe sanctions. This also includes fraud in components/modules that were taken at other faculties or institutions of higher

education. For this reason, UM Boards of Examiners can inform each other if fraud and/or plagiarism has been established in an exam (component) at another faculty.

10. Before the BoE imposes an appropriate sanction, or makes a proposal to the Executive Board, the students are given the opportunity to be heard and may have an adviser accompanying them.
11. If fraud is established, this is included in the student's dossier and, if applicable for the programme in question, a notice of unprofessional behaviour will be drawn up.
12. If, after investigation, it is ultimately determined that the student concerned did not commit fraud, the student will be informed of this; all other correspondence about the alleged fraud will not be included in the student file.
13. The BoE does not grant exemptions on the grounds of study results obtained elsewhere while the student was excluded from participating in the programme's exams because fraud was committed.
14. A student who was excluded from participation in exams, or whose exam was declared invalid for a component/module due to fraud, is not eligible for individual arrangements for those components/modules (e.g. extra exam opportunity).

Article 8 Irregularity

If the BoE establishes that one or more exam components or an entire exam have not been taken in the prescribed manner or if an exam (component) has not been conducted properly, the BoE can declare the exam or the relevant component(s) invalid, even in cases when the student is not accountable, in order to secure its legal duty as stated in Article 7.12b (1)(a) of the WHW.

Article 9 Inspection, explanation and appeal of exams

1. Students can ask for inspection of their graded exam within 10 working days after the publication date of the official exam results on the Student Portal.
2. Students have the right to ask the (responsible) examiner for an explanation of the assessment.
3. Students have the right to lodge an appeal with the UM Board of Appeal for the Examinations (CBE) against an assessment, or any other decisions of FASoS examiners or the BoE, within six weeks after the announcement of the decision (in case of grades, the publication date on the Student Portal).
4. Before they appeal an assessment or any other decision made by an examiner, students are expected to ask their examiner or the coordinator for an explanation of the grade or decision.
5. The appeal should be submitted to the UM's Complaints Service Point (CSP), in accordance with the procedural guidelines.
6. Appealing an assessment does not automatically lead to reassessment/different assessment of the exam. Reassessment of an exam is only an option if the BoE or the CBE decides that there are substantial reasons to doubt the lawfulness of the given assessment by the original examiner.

You can find an elaborate explanation of these procedures on the FASoS Student Intranet.

Article 10 Assessment principles for examiners

Good quality assessment is typically defined as the result of valid, reliable, transparent and fair exams and assessment practices. Consequently, at FASoS responsible examiners are expected to define, in the framework of their courses, procedures and instruments that assure and safeguard these leading principles:

1. **Validity:** the exam assesses what it should assess

The exam should assess the intended learning outcomes of the course and the studied material. The assessment of the course and its relation to the intended learning outcomes should be made explicit in the course book. The latter should also indicate the exam format(s) and how the final grade is calculated.

2. **Transparency:** the exam and the related procedures are clear and understandable to everyone involved

All relevant documents related to the course assessment (e.g. grading criteria, exam instructions, preparatory exercises) should be found in the course book, or uploaded to the electronic learning environment of the course.

Important exam-related information, such as the intended learning outcomes of the programme and of the course, the formation of the final grade, the assessment criteria, the required level to pass (pass-fail borderline), the exam date or the submission deadlines, etc. should be communicated to students clearly and timely via the course book or the electronic learning environment of the course.

The questions or assignments comprising the exam should be clear and unambiguous.

3. **Fairness:** all examined students are treated equally (unless required otherwise on account of a medical condition or disability)

The exams and the related grading procedures should not favour or disadvantage certain individual students or groups. The examiners should therefore aim for exam design and grade formation without biases, favourism or prejudices that constitute a form of discrimination.

4. **Reliability:** the assessment procedures generate robust, verifiable and accurate grade results

The examiners have to assure such procedures during the design, conduct and grading of the exam that the final grade is accurate and matches the student performance. An exam with high reliability means that students who have acquired the previewed intended learning outcomes succeed in the exam, and those who have not do not pass the exam.

Article 11 Assessment programme requirements for examiners of each study programme

Within a programme, exams function in the framework of a complete curriculum/assessment scheme. Therefore:

1. The chosen assessment method(s) of each course should be aligned with the final qualifications (program intended learning outcomes) of the study program.
2. Each final qualification of a program should be assessed in at least one exam in the study program.
3. Each study programme provides a yearly curriculum and assessment table, which elucidates the links between the final qualifications and the assessments/courses in the programme.

4. The assessment program should contain an adequate mix of assessment methods, ensuring that students' learning is assessed in all relevant aspects.
5. In each study year, at least 30% of the examinations must be identity proof. This means that the identity of the individual student and the authenticity of the work of the students can directly be verified and guaranteed by the examiners.
6. There should be sufficient opportunities for formative feedback included in the educational design of each study program.

Article 12 Assessment of participation

1. Attendance and participation are the basis for an effective tutorial group meeting. In order to ensure this, students' participation may be assessed at the course level. For more details please refer to the assessment criteria placed on the FASoS Student Intranet (Education > Attendance and Participation).
2. The course coordinator may decide whether participation, as set forth in this article, will be assessed within their course. The information on the assessment of participation and other applicable course-specific attendance requirements shall be included in the course manual.
3. If not indicated otherwise, the assessment of participation is based on aspects relevant for an effective PBL group: Communication; Analysis; Team work; Time Management and Professionalism. All criteria require that students attend meetings. In the occasional case where students cannot attend, they should inform their tutor *before* the meeting. Alternative ways of contributing to or compensating for the meeting may apply.
4. The grade for participation can affect the final grade for a course. Where minimum participation expectations are met, a student's final grade for the course remains unchanged. In the case of outstanding performance in the tutorial group, the final grade will be increased by half a point (plus 0.5). For participation which does not meet minimum expectations, a minus 0.5 is given, which means that the final grade will be decreased by half a point. Participation is assessed at all times in accordance with the Dutch grading scale and is determined by the tutor and/or the course coordinator.
5. If a student is insufficiently performing in tutorials, the tutor should inform them during the course, at a moment at which the student can still improve their performance.
6. Students retaking a module because they failed in the previous academic year are advised to retake the module in full, to attend and to actively participate in all tutorial meetings. If students partake anew, they are again assessed on their participation; so not participating actively may lead to being given a minus 0.5. If a student chooses to only take the exam, the + / - 0.5 result is considered a partial result and is valid for one more academic year.

Part II. Education

Article 13 Regulations for the literature exam

Further provisions in Article 3.8.3 BA/BSc GS EER

1. Within the bachelor's exam, the student can study a topic that is not part of the education offered in this programme. In that case, the student, in consultation with the tutor, may compile a reading list consisting of books, texts and articles for the literature exam, in compliance with the relevant articles in the regulations.

2. The reading list will be drawn up in close consultation with the tutor; if the student has already designed a detailed proposition for the reading list, this proposition must be submitted to the tutor for approval beforehand. It is recommended that the student works on a topic in which the tutor has expertise.
3. The exam consists of a review essay or an oral exam.
4. The minimum number of credits that can be obtained through one literature exam is 3 ECTS; the maximum number of credits that can be obtained through one or successive literature exams is 12 ECTS.
5. The typical ratio related to the volume of a literature exam is as follows. For a literature exam of 3 ECTS, the reading material amounts to 500 pages; in that case, the review essay should amount to 1500 words. For each extra credit, the reading material increases by 150 pages and the number of words for the review essay increases by 500, unless the programme director recommends a different ratio.
6. The student wishing to take a literature exam should register for EUS/ACU/DSO/GLO9010 and follow further instructions on the course page.

Article 14 Replacement exam

Further provisions in Appendix 1 Transition rules for students with study delay MA EER

1. Master's programmes can offer a replacement exam for a discontinued course.
2. The content of this exam should relate to the content of the discontinued course but should not create overlaps with the content of other courses that the student has passed or still needs to pass.
3. The programme director will set the design, the content and the date of the exam.
4. The minimum number of credits that can be obtained through one replacement exam is 3 ECTS; the maximum number of credits that can be obtained through one or successive replacement exams is 6 ECTS.
5. The typical ratio related to the volume of a replacement exam is as follows. For a replacement exam of 3 ECTS, the reading material amounts to 500 pages (approx. 25 journal articles/chapters); in that case, the student's output should amount to 1500 words. For each extra credit, the reading material increases by 150 pages (approx. 6 journal articles/chapters) and the number of words for the student's output increases by 500, unless the programme director recommends a different ratio.
6. Master Admissions Office will register the student who has to take this replacing exam.
7. The programme director will provide the registered student with a reading list consisting of books, texts and articles for the replacement exam, in compliance with the present article.

Article 15 Flexible bachelor's programme

Further provisions in Article 3.9 BA EER; the following applies to BA AC and BA ES

1. A student who wishes to follow a flexible bachelor's programme must submit a written request for prior approval to the BoE. To this end, the student fills out the application form that can be downloaded from the FASoS Student Intranet.

2. The application form consists of a letter of motivation as well as a detailed study plan. The study plan must explain what modules are dropped and what is proposed to replace these dropped modules, including detailed descriptions of these replacing modules, content of internship, etc. The programme director may invite the student for an appointment to discuss the plan.
3. The applicable compulsory and elective programme modules are listed below.

Article 16 Composition of the flexible bachelor's programme in Arts and Culture

1. All programme modules are compulsory, except for (maximum) one course plus one skills training course offered in period 4 and 5 of year 2.
2. The maximum of 12 ECTS accounting for the one course plus one skills training course offered in period 4 and 5 of year 2 can be chosen from elective units of study as specified in articles 3.6.1/ 3.6. 2 BA EER.
3. Students who are already enrolled in an (old) major of the BA AC/CW programme, can still make use of the regulations for the flexible bachelor's programme as specified in the R&R 2018-2019.

Article 17 Composition of the flexible bachelor's programme in European Studies

I. For students who started the programme before 2020-2021

These students follow year 3 in line with the ES programme offered in or before 2021-22: in period 4 they have to choose 2 of the 4 offered skills: 3 Research Methods and a Language training (of 3 ECTS each).

1. The following programme modules are compulsory:
 - a. the following courses (total of 70 ECTS):
 - all courses from year 1 (43 ECTS);
 - the following 4 courses from year 2: EU Law I; Policy Domains; Comparative Politics and Government; and Area Studies (27ECTS).
 - b. the following skills trainings from the programme are compulsory (total of 39.5 ECTS):
 - all skills trainings from year 1 (17 ECTS);
 - all skills trainings from year 2 (19.5 ECTS);
 - one of the following skills trainings from period 4 of year 3 (3 ECTS): Research Methods: Interviewing; or Research Methods: Advanced document Analysis; or Research Methods: Survey Research. A student may also propose taking an alternative subject representing at least 3 credits that prepares them to do research for the Bachelor thesis. Therefore, if they do not wish to include one of these skills trainings in the flexible bachelor's programme, they should explicitly pay attention to this in the request for approval.
 - c. Passing the final Bachelor thesis is compulsory (12ECTS).
2. The remaining 58.5 ECTS can be chosen from elective units of study as specified in the BA EER.
3. Students who lack discontinued courses/skills must take the replacing courses and skills trainings, in line with the transition rules (refer to the Bachelor's Education and Examination Regulation).
4. If students have set up a study plan with their student adviser, based on the revised programme (1st year programme of 2020-2021, 2nd year programme as of 2021-22, etc.), the composition of the flexible bachelor's programme at II will apply.

II. For students who started the programme in 2020-21

These students follow year 3 in line with the ES programme offered in 2022-23: in period 4 they have to choose 2 of the 3 offered Research Methods (of 3 ECTS each).

1. The following programme modules are compulsory:
 - a. all courses and skills trainings of year 1 (total of 60 ECTS);
 - b. all courses and skills trainings of year 2 (total of 60 ECTS).
 - b*: Contrary to the regular ES programme, a student can freely choose 2 courses of all offered elective courses of 2.4 and 2.5.
 - c. the two skills trainings from period 4 of year 3 (6 ECTS).
 - c*: A student may also propose taking an alternative subject representing at least 3 ECTS that prepares them to do research for the Bachelor thesis. Therefore, if a student does not wish to include one of these skills trainings in the flexible bachelor's programme, they should explicitly pay attention to this in the request for approval.
 - d. Passing the final Bachelor thesis is compulsory (12ECTS).
2. The remaining subjects (the 3.4 and 3.5 elective courses plus the credits for semester 5, thus maximum 42 ECTS) can be substituted with other credits that can be chosen freely from elective units of study as specified in the BA EER.

III. For students who started the programme in (or after) 2021-22

These students follow year 3 in line with the ES programme offered in 2023-24: in period 4 they have to choose 1 of the 3 offered Research Methods (of 4 ECTS).

1. The following programme modules are compulsory:
 - a. all courses and skills trainings of year 1 (total of 60 ECTS);
 - b. all courses and skills trainings of year 2 (total of 60 ECTS).
 - b*: Contrary to the regular ES programme, a student can freely choose 2 courses of all offered elective courses of 2.4 and 2.5.
 - c. the skills training from period 4 of year 3 (4 ECTS).
 - c*: A student may propose taking an alternative subject representing at least 4 ECTS that prepares them to do research for the Bachelor thesis. Therefore, if a student does not wish to include this skills trainings in the flexible bachelor's programme, they should explicitly pay attention to this in the request for approval.
 - d. Passing the final Bachelor thesis is compulsory (17 ECTS).
2. The remaining subjects (the 3.4 and 3.5 elective courses plus the credits for semester 5, thus maximum 39 ECTS) can be substituted with other credits that can be chosen freely from elective units of study as specified in the BA EER.

Article 18 Course registration, extra modules and limited capacity

Further provisions in Article 4.3 and 4.5 BA EER; Article 4.3 BSc GS EER

1. A student who does not register in time cannot participate in the module, unless they use one of the tokens according to the procedure mentioned in paragraph 2.
2. At the beginning of the study programme, each student gets two tokens. A student can use a token when they did not register or deregister for a module in time (see paragraph 1). The student can submit a request for late course registration or deregistration by means of a token at the faculty's Front Office until Tuesday 16:00h CE(S)T after the publication date of the time table for the upcoming period.
3. Participation in extra modules on top of the regular study load is not allowed (unless students participate in the honours programme or in the MARBLE project for BA Arts and Culture students).

4. In addition to the above paragraph, a student without any study delay and who meets the criteria below is allowed to follow one extra module on top of the regular study load in either semester 3, 4 or 6. The following criteria apply:
 - a. all previous exams of the programme have been passed without any resits;
 - b. the unrounded GPA is at least 7.5.
5. The student who wishes to take modules at UM that are not offered in their programme, either in semester 5 or as an extra module as set forth in the above paragraph, must submit the request via 'Special Course Request'. The programme faculty will consult the receiving faculty (e.g. on entrance requirements) and inform the student of the decision. If the request is granted, the faculty will register the student for the module(s).
6. If students participate in MARBLE projects and modules from the honours programme, the results will be listed on the transcript as specified in Article 3.11 of the BA EERs.
7. Extra modules (as described in paragraph 4 of this Article) are listed as part of the FASoS bachelor's programme.
8. Some modules may have limited capacity. In that case, a student meeting the admission criteria may participate in these modules provided that students registered for the programme will be given priority in registration for the modules that are compulsory for their programme. The following applies:
 - a. Registration is based on the 'first come, first served' principle.
 - b. If places come free due to changes in registration, students will be informed via the Student Portal and via students' UM mail account; this information will also include when/how students can again register and the allocation procedure for these free places.

Part III. Implementation regulations for non-FASoS electives

Article 19 Regulations for exchange programmes in the BA AC, BA ES and BA DS programmes, the MA ESST programme and the MSc ES (Research) programme *Further provisions in Appendix 1 BA EER; Appendix 3 MA EER*

1. The International Relations Office (IRO) arranges the administrative issues for exchange students related to the study abroad at one of the partner universities.
2. Results obtained as an exchange student during the study abroad at a partner university may be incorporated into the examination for the programme for which the student is registered, and acknowledged according to the below paragraphs.
3. The courses taken at the partner university must be of academic nature.
4. In addition, in the case of master's programmes the courses must be of master's level and approved of by the programme director.
5. Upon return, a certified transcript of records must be submitted at the exam administration by the host university or by the student.
6. The study load indicated on the transcript of records will be acknowledged without adjustment, provided that the International Relations Office approved the courses beforehand by signing the learning agreement (for bachelor's programmes); or provided that the programme director approved the courses (for master's programmes).
 If the study load at the other university is not expressed in ECTS credits but in other units, the BoE will convert the study load into ECTS credits. The conversion will be based on the study load for a full year of study or a full programme in relation to a

study load of 60 ECTS for a year at UM or 180 ECTS for a three-year bachelor's programme; or in relation to the 60 ECTS for a one-year master's programme, respective to the 120 ECTS for a two-year master's programme.

7. The faculty registers the approved and the passed credits, also indicating the university where they were obtained; neither course names nor results of individual courses are registered.
8. Therefore, grades obtained abroad are not included in the programme GPA.
9. For courses taken at a university with which the faculty does not have a formal exchange agreement, prior approval from the International Relations Office is required.
10. Insofar as the EER and these further provisions do not address matters relating to incorporation of components obtained elsewhere, the BoE in consultation with the programme director will decide on the matter.
11. For bachelor students, further information about the procedure for exchange programmes is published in the study abroad information on the FASoS Student Intranet and on the Student Portal. For master students, further information about the procedure for exchange programmes is provided by the programme director.

Article 20 Regulations for electives elsewhere

Further provisions in Article 3.8.4 BA EER; Article 3.8.1 BSc GS EER, Article 3.7 MA EER

1. The BoE will assess whether a component may be incorporated into the examination. Incorporation is only possible with the BoE's permission. The following conditions must be satisfied:
 - a. the component is of academic nature, and for master's programmes of a master's level;
 - b. in terms of content, the component does not overlap or hardly overlaps with other examination components of the programme;
 - c. in principle, the student should request written permission for incorporation beforehand by submitting a request with appendices specifying the university, the course content, the level, the literature, the study load etc. to the BoE;
 - d. the student will submit additional information to the BoE upon request.
2. If the BoE approves components from other UM faculties in the examination of the programme, the results will be transferred to the examination of the programme at the student's request.
3. If the BoE approves of electives taken from other universities in the examination of the programme, the results of these electives will be acknowledged if the following requirements are met:
 - a. results must be provided to the BoE through clear, original written notices issued by the university concerned. In addition to information about the university, these notices should preferably include the following information: subject code and name; subject level; subject study load; and exam date and result;
 - b. incorporation will only be possible if there has been a sufficient assessment. A mere statement that the subject was 'taken' or words to that effect are not enough;
 - c. a result that constitutes a pass in the country concerned will also be considered a pass here, and a fail in a foreign country will also be considered a fail here;

- d. the faculty registers the approved and passed credits, also indicating the university where they were obtained; neither course names nor results of individual courses are registered;
 - e. if the study load at the other university is not expressed in ECTS credits but in other units, the BoE will convert the study load into ECTS credits. The conversion will be based on the study load for a full year of study or a full programme in relation to a study load of 60 ECTS for a year at UM or 180 ECTS for a three-year bachelor's programme; or in relation to the 60 ECTS for a one-year master's programme, respective to the 120 ECTS for a two-year master's programme.
4. Insofar as the EER and any appendix do not address matters relating to incorporation of components attained elsewhere, the BoE will decide on the matter.

Part IV. Study results

Article 21 Cum Laude

Further provisions in Article 6.3 sub 8 BA/BSc GS/MA EER

1. The bachelor's or master's examination is awarded the designation 'Cum Laude' if the student has given evidence of exceptional skills during exams of the programme.
2. By exceptional skills (as referred to in paragraph 1) is meant that:
 - a. all exams are passed without any resit, and
 - b. the unrounded and weighted average mark achieved is eight or higher, in addition to which no mark is lower than six, and
 - c. the bachelor's or master's thesis is graded with eight or higher.
3. If a student does not pass every module exam (including the final work) in the first sitting, the passing result will be registered as a resit, which makes a Cum Laude graduation impossible.

Article 22 Grade Point Average (GPA)

Further provisions in Article 6.4 BA/BSc GS/MA EER

Basic principles:

1. the weighted average score (GPA) is calculated over all modules that are listed as part of the programme and are marked with a Dutch grade on a scale of 1,0 to 10,0;
2. a module of the programme for which a failing grade is obtained (so for which no credits are listed on the Student Portal) is included in the GPA;
3. if more than one grade is listed for a programme module, the highest grade is taken into account for the calculation;
4. modules that are not marked with a Dutch grade on a scale of 1,0 to 10,0 are not included in the GPA calculation.

Calculation of the GPA:

$$\frac{\sum (\text{Grade} * \text{number of credits for the programme modules in which the student participated})}{\text{Total number of credits for the programme modules in which the student participated}}$$

Specification:

1. Results of modules that are not graded with a Dutch grade on a scale of 1,0 to 10,0, are not included in the GPA.
2. Results of modules taken outside UM are not included in the GPA.
3. Results of modules that are not listed under the degree programme (e.g. from other programmes of UM) are not included in the GPA.

4. If a student takes a voluntary language course at the UM language centre the results of this language training will be listed under the programme 'extracurricular courses' and therefore are not included in the programme GPA.