Rules and Guidelines Examination Board FGB 2018-2019

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The following definitions are used in these Rules and Guidelines:

examination: the final examination of the Bachelor’s programme;
interim examination: an assessment of the student’s knowledge, understanding, and skills relating to a course component. The assessment is expressed in terms of a final mark. An interim examination may consist of one or more partial examinations. A resit always covers the same material as the original interim examination;

1. Scope of application
The Rules and Guidelines as referred to in Article 7.12b, third paragraph, of the Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek) are adopted by the Examination Board and further clarified as the Rules and Guidelines of the Examination Board FGB.
These Rules and Guidelines apply to the (interim) examinations in the degree programmes ¹ of Human Movement Sciences, Pedagogical Sciences, and Psychology of the Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences and are in line with the Teaching and Examination Regulations of these degree programmes as adopted by the Faculty Board.

¹ Ba BW, Ba PSY, Ba PW, Ba PA2, pmc HMS, pmc PW, Ma HMS, Ma MPS, Ma PSY, Ma PW, RM HMS, RM CDP, RM CNP, RM GBH, RM SP.
These regulations apply to anyone following a degree programme in this academic year, irrespective of when he/she started the degree programme.

2. General
   1. The terms described in the Teaching and Examination Regulations for these degree programmes also apply to these Guidelines. The other terms are defined by the Higher Education and Research Act.
   2. In the event that any provision in these Guidelines conflicts with a provision in the Teaching and Examination Regulations, that applies to the relevant degree programme, the provisions of the Teaching and Examination Regulations takes precedence.

3. Composition of the Examination Board
   1. The composition of the Examination Board FGB and a detailed categorization of duties within the Board is laid down in the Internal Rules of the Examination Board FGB.
      Members of the Executive Board and persons otherwise bearing financial responsibility within the institution may not take a seat on the Examination Board.
      An overview of current members of the Examination Board for the FGB can be found on VUnet.
   2. Before a member is appointed, the Faculty Board (FB) discusses the proposed appointment with the Examination Board.
   3. A member of the Examination Board is appointed for a period of three years and is eligible for reappointment.
   4. The members of the Examination Board are appointed by the Faculty Board.
   5. If necessary, a chair will appoint another member, not being an external member, to represent him/her during his/her absence.
   6. The FB is responsible for guaranteeing that the Examination Board operates in a manner that is independent and expert.

4. Duties of the Examination Board
   The duties of the Examination Board are regulated by law. These include drawing up rules for the performance of duties and responsibilities, and taking measures with regard to:
   • maintaining and assuring the quality of all the examinations and final degree assessments;
   • granting permission to students to complete a free study programme with an examination that leads to the award of a degree;
   • granting exemptions for one or more examinations;
   • extending the limited period of validity of an examination or exemption if a student submits a reasoned request to that effect. The Examination Board can decide to permit an extension of validity only after the individual making the request has successfully completed a supplementary examination on the relevant subject matter;
   • granting permission to sit an exam in a different form;
   • issuing a statement of result(s) attained to persons who have successfully completed one or more examination(s) but are not eligible for a degree certificate;
   • taking appropriate measures in the event of academic misconduct;
   • determining guidelines and instructions to assess and determine the results of examinations and final degrees assessments within the framework of the Teaching and Examination Regulations;
   • appointing examiners to conduct (interim) examinations and determine the results;
   • determining in an objective and expert manner whether or not a student meets the conditions set in the Teaching and Examination Regulation relating to the knowledge,
insight and skills necessary to be awarded a degree;
• granting a degree certificate, including a diploma supplement, as proof that the student has successfully completed his/her final degree assessment;
• preparing an annual report of its activities.

5. A) Working method of the Examination Board
1. The working methods of the Examination Board are provided in the Internal Rules for the Examination Board for the FGB.
   In any event, the Central Examination Board FGB shall meet four times a year.
   As a rule, the Examination Sub-boards meet once a month or when the chair in question deems it necessary.
   The meeting schedule is published in a timely fashion.
   The meetings are not held in public.
2. The FB has added an official secretary to the Examination Board. The official secretary is not a member of the Examination Board. The Official Secretariat is part of the Education Office.
3. In the event of a request or complaint involving a member of the Examination Board, this shall be dealt with in the absence of the member concerned.
4. A request or complaint must in any case include a justification of the request or a description of the complaint. A request or complaint must be submitted no later than five working days before the meeting.
5. The Examination Board will make a decision within thirty working days after receiving the request or complaint. The Examination Board may postpone this decision and will inform the interested parties of this in writing.
6. Students must submit a written request or complaint in accordance with the procedure described on VUnet.

B) Criteria
To reach its decision, the Examination Board uses the following criteria, and weighs the interest of one criterion against the other in case of conflict:
1. preservation of the quality and selection requirements of an exam;
2. efficiency requirements, which are expressed in efforts to prevent unnecessary time loss for students, as well as (too much) extra workload for lecturers, in preparing for (interim) examinations;
3. leniency for students who have fallen behind in their studies due to circumstances through no fault of their own.
   The assessment shall take into account that the efforts of the organization are not disproportionate.

6. A) Registration for interim examinations
1. Registration for written interim examinations is subject to rules and regulations. The Examination Board can set specific additional rules with regard to the organization and procedures associated with administering (interim) examinations.
2. Signing up after the deadline is not possible. A student who is not able to register before the deadline due to special, personal circumstances may submit an appeal on the basis of the hardship clause.
3. At least two months prior to the examination being sat, the week is given in which the written interim examinations are planned. Only two weeks before the examination time and date are final.
B) Inability to sit interim examinations due to illness or other circumstances
   1. A student should as soon as possible report to the academic adviser if he/she is unable to sit an interim examination due to long-term illness or special circumstances.
   2. In the event of long-term illness or special circumstances which severely hinder academic progress, a request can be submitted to the Examination Board for alternative opportunity (or opportunities) to sit the interim examinations. Circumstances without long-term consequences for academic progress, such as a short-term illness, are no ground for special arrangements.

7. Questions and assignments, course content, and duration of exams
   1. The questions and assignments of the interim examination shall not exceed the course content that was made known in advance. The main points of the course content are announced prior to the start of the programme component, in which students are prepared for the interim examination in question. The exact scope of the course content is published no later than one month before the interim examination is administered.
   2. When resitting an interim examination in the following academic year, the student in question will resit the interim examination on the course content set for that following academic year, unless the Examination Board determines otherwise on the examiner's request.
   3. The length of each interim examination is such that the student can reasonably be expected to answer the questions in the time given. Written interim examinations usually last 2 hours and 15 minutes.
   4. The examiner in question provides students with the opportunity to acquaint themselves with a written sample interim examination and the model answer sheet with the marking standards used to assess the examination.
   5. The (interim) examinations will be administered in the language of tuition, unless the lecturer has indicated otherwise at the start of the course. Exception: the substantive subjects of the Bachelor's programme in Psychology (Dutch variant) are partly taught in English, but the interim examination is held in Dutch.
   6. At the student's request, the Examination Board may decide that a language other than the one used for tuition, in which both the examiner and the student are sufficiently knowledgeable, can be used. This request must be submitted before registering for the course in question.
   7. The literature set for a particular unit of study may be worded in a different language than the language of tuition.
   8. Students of Dutch-language Bachelor's programmes whose mother tongue is not Dutch are allowed to use a dictionary during written exams in their first year of enrolment. A request for this use must be submitted to the Examination Board in good time.
   9. For written, scheduled exams students are entitled to resit satisfactory (sub)results. The procedure is described in the study manual for the subject in question. Regarding research reports, internship reports, final papers and theses, the options to redo them or to improve on them are listed in the respective manuals. The options to retake or improve on other assignments or papers are indicated in the study manual of the subject in question.
   10. The Examination Board monitors the quality of examinations and final degree assessments.
8. Completing interim examinations in other ways
   1. The manner and form, in which a course is assessed, is stipulated in the online study guide on www.vu.nl/studiegids.
   2. At an examiner’s request, the Examination Board may permit a different form of interim examination than stipulated in the study guide.
   3. At the student’s request, the Examination Board may permit a different form of interim examination than stipulated in the study guide. The assessment shall take into account that the efforts of the organization are not disproportionate.
   4. In the case of a unit of study that is no longer offered at least one opportunity will be provided to sit the interim examination(s) or parts thereof and a transitional arrangement will be included in the Teaching and Examination Regulations, in the academic year following its termination.

9. Oral interim examinations
   1. Unless otherwise specified by the Teaching and Examination Regulation for the relevant educational unit, no more than one student will be examined orally at the same time.
   2. The Examination Board or the examiner may, in exceptional cases, decide that an oral examination is not conducted in public.
   3. 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.
   4. An oral examination will be taken in the presence of a second examiner, unless the Examination Board decided otherwise.

10. Inspection and reflective discussion
    1. If the student was unable to inspect his/her marked work at the designated place and time through no fault of his/her own, an alternative option will be offered.
    2. Students who have attended the collective reflective discussion, or who were unable to attend through no fault of their own, can submit a request for an individual reflective discussion to the relevant examiner. The reflective discussion will take place at a time and location to be determined by the examiner.
    3. Assessment will take place in such a way that examinees can see how their examination results were arrived at.
    4. If a student intends to appeal against the way in which his/her mark was assessed, he/she can be issued with a copy of the marked work at his/her request.

11. Quality assurance
    1. Quality is assured in accordance with the provisions of the Guide for Examination Boards.
    2. The Examination Board uses the ‘Framework assessment policy’ to ensure the quality of the exams.

12. A) Procedure for written degree components/interim examinations
    The Regulation for Shared Examination rooms applies to all exams:
B) Procedure for practicals

1. The practical supervisor or the supervisor of the research group ensures that for the practical experiments assistants are appointed where necessary to monitor the proper running of the practical or research activity.

2. At the request of the examiner or the Examination Board, students are obliged to produce identification by means of valid proof of registration.

3. Students are obliged to immediately follow the instructions of the practical supervisor given before or during the practical.

4. Any student who fails to comply with the provisions laid down by or pursuant to Paragraphs 2 or 3 may be excluded from further participation in the practical by or on behalf of the Examination Board. Exclusion means that no result will be determined. Before the Examination Board decides on exclusion, the student in question will be given the opportunity to be heard.

13. Graduation

1. The Examination Board will determine the result of the final degree assessment if it establishes that the student has passed all of the educational units in the programme. The final degree assessment takes place on the date on which the final examination has been successfully taken.

2. A degree certificate will only be issued once the Executive Board has certified that the student has met all procedural requirements, including payment of tuition fees.

3. The student may ask the Examination Board not to proceed with issuing the degree certificate. Any such request must be submitted within two weeks after the student is informed of the intended graduation date or meets the requirements for graduation. The Examination Board allows graduation to be postponed provided the graduation date falls within the nominal duration of the programme plus one year. The Examination Board may decide differently in exceptional cases.

14. Free programme

1. Subject to certain conditions, the student has the option of compiling a study programme of his/her own choice which deviates from the study programmes prescribed by the degree programme.

2. The composition of such a programme requires the prior approval of the Examination Board that has the greatest jurisdiction over the programme components.

3. The free programme is compiled by the student from educational units offered at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam or another institution of higher education and must at least have the same scope (breadth and depth) as a regular Bachelor’s programme. The student must ensure that the proposed study programme enables him/her to proceed to at least one Master’s programme. In doing so, he/she makes is not obliged to take the relevant Master’s programme.

15. Iudicia

1. A student who has performed excellently may be awarded the designation ‘cum laude’.

2. Cum laude Bachelor’s programme
   A classification of ‘cum laude’ is awarded if all of the following conditions have been met:
   
   a. the unrounded weighted average of all exam sections excluding the Bachelor research project (Bb BW), the Bachelor thesis (Bb PSY/Bb PW) must be at least 8.0; marks achieved for extracurricular subjects and
exemptions are not included in calculating the weighted average.

b. the rounded final mark for the Bachelor research project (Ba BW), the Bachelor thesis (Ba PSY/Ba PW) is at least 8.0.

c. no more than two components were passed with a rounded final mark lower than 7.0.

d. all marks were obtained without resitting an exam.

e. all marks were obtained within a period equal to the nominal length of studies of the degree programme, plus one year.

f. exemptions shall not exceed 20% of the nominal credits to be obtained.

g. no sanctions for academic misconduct or plagiarism were imposed on the student during the degree programme.

3. Cum laude Master’s programme

For Master’s students, the requirements of Paragraph 2 apply, with the exception of 2a, b and c:

a. the unrounded weighted average of all exam sections excluding the Master Research Project (Ma HMS/Ma MPS), the Master thesis and Master internship (Ma PSY/Ma PW) the Research Project RM or the Minor and Major projects (RM HMS), Master’s thesis (RM CDP, RM CNP) Research Project II + III (RM SP) must be at least 8.0; marks obtained for extracurricular subjects and exemptions are not included in calculating the weighted average.

b. the rounded final mark for the Master Research Project (Ma HMS/Ma MPS), the Master thesis and Master internship (Ma PSY/Ma PW) the Research Project RM or the Minor and Major projects (RM HMS), Master’s thesis (RM CDP, RM CNP) Research Project II + III (RM SP) must be at least 8.0.

c. no components were passed with a rounded final mark lower than 7.0.

4. Hardship clause

Students who do not fully meet the requirements for a cum laude classification may request the Examination Board to nevertheless award that designation on the grounds of special circumstances.

5. Transitional arrangement

The Guidelines as described here apply to students who were first enrolled in the degree programme in September 2016 or later. Students who commenced the degree programme at an earlier date are subject to the cum laude regulation applicable in the year they first enrolled.

16. Degree certificate and statement

1. The Examination Board grants a degree certificate as proof that the student has passed his/her final degree assessment. The Examination Board adds a diploma supplement to the degree certificate that provides information on the nature and content of the completed degree programme. The diploma supplement is drawn up in Dutch or English and complies with the European format.

2. Those who have passed one or more than one examination(s) but who are not entitled to a degree certificate as referred to in paragraph 1 may, upon request, receive a statement issued by the relevant Examination Board which lists the examinations passed, specifying the educational units concerned, the number of credits thus obtained and when the examination results were achieved.
17. Exemption and substitution
   1. A request for an exemption from an examination, or a request to substitute an
      examination, must be submitted no later than six weeks before the start of the
      relevant component using the form designated for this purpose on VUnet.
   2. After consulting the relevant examiner, the Examination Board can grant exemption
      from an examination or practical based on the following:
      a. a successfully completed examination or practical exercise in higher
         education in the Netherlands or elsewhere, which corresponds in terms of
         content, level, and study load with the component from which an exemption
         is being requested;
      b. knowledge and/or skills of similar content, level, and scope gained outside
         higher education.
   3. Students wishing to meet the requirements of certain exams by studying at another
      faculty or university, in the Netherlands or abroad, must request permission from
      the Examination Board beforehand.
   4. A satisfactory result obtained at a university abroad is registered as ‘pass’.
   5. Students can request the Examination Board to be exempt from participating in
      practical work (practical). The Examination Board will determine, in consultation
      with the examiner, which substitute requirements the student must meet.
      At all times, the student must comply with the final attainment targets of the
      programme.

18. Marks
   1. Marks are given on a scale from 1 to 10 with no more than 1 decimal point.
   2. The final marks are given in whole or half points.
   3. Final marks between 5 and 6 will be rounded off to whole marks: between 0.1 - 0.4
      rounded down; between 0.5 - 0.9 rounded up. To pass a course, a 6 or higher is
      required.
   4. Final grades potentially composed of multiple sub-grades, with a rough score higher
      or equal to 4.75 and lower than 5.5 will be rounded up or down to 5.0. Final grades
      with a rough score higher than or equal to 5.5 and lower than 6.25 will be rounded
      up or down to 6.0
   5. For assessment the grades have the following meaning:
      10 Excellent
      9 Very Good
      8 Good
      7 Satisfactory
      6 Sufficient
      5 Below sufficient
      4 Insufficient
      3 Very Insufficient
      2 Poor
      1 Very Poor
   6. Symbols may be used rather than numbers (e.g. Good – Sufficient – Insufficient (G, V,
      OV) or Pass–Fail (VD, NVD).

19. Academic misconduct and plagiarism in (interim) examinations
   1. Academic misconduct and plagiarism are defined as any act or omission by a student
      that partially or entirely precludes an accurate assessment of his knowledge,
      understanding and skills, or those of another student, as well as the wrongful
      participation in an exam.
2. In any event, academic misconduct includes:
   a. Being in possession of aids or resources (pre-programmed calculator, mobile phone, books, syllabi, notes, smart watch, smart glasses etc.) which are not expressly permitted during the examination;
   b. Copying from or exchanging information with another student during the examination; any person offering the opportunity for others to copy is complicit in academic misconduct.
   c. Assuming someone else’s identity during the exam;
   d. Allowing someone else to assume your identity during the exam;
   e. Obtaining details of exam questions before the date or time at which that exam is scheduled to take place;
   f. Changing, extending, or amending a section of the exam after it has been submitted for final assessment;
   g. Continuing to work on the exam after the exam time has ended. It goes without saying that this does not apply to students who have been given written permission for extra time.

3. Plagiarism, using or copying other people’s texts, data or ideas without a complete and correct acknowledgment of sources, includes:
   a. Not showing clearly in the text, for example through the use of quotation marks or a particular layout, that text is being cited directly from another author, even where correct referencing has been included;
   b. Paraphrasing or translating someone else’s texts without proper referencing;
   c. Copying another student’s work and trying to pass it off as original work;
   d. Including illustrations, digital, or audio-visual files (whether edited or not) without citing the author, and file location, or without citing the file location if no author can be identified.

4. Recylicng original work
   a. Submitting texts that have previously been submitted for earlier assignments (or similar texts) for separate exam components constitutes plagiarism, unless this is expressly permitted in the course or by the lecturer;
   b. Copying or partly copying from previous original work without attribution in the source reference is prohibited;
   c. Not showing clearly in the text, for example through the use of quotation marks or a particular layout, that text is being cited directly from previous original work, even where correct referencing has been included, is prohibited.

5. Academic misconduct in preparing assingments
   a. An assignment is understood to mean any written, audio-visual or digital product submitted by the student for assessment, in order to complete a component of the programme of study;
   b. Submitting assignments acquired from commercial institutions or that have been written by someone else, whether or not in exchange for payment;
   c. If one of the authors of a joint assignment commits plagiarism, the co-authors are complicit to the plagiarism.

6. Electronic detection software programs may be used to detect plagiarism in texts. When submitting a text, the student implicitly consents to the text being entered into the database of the detection program concerned.
20. Procedures and penalties for (suspected) academic misconduct
   1. If the examiner ascertains, or has good reason to suppose, that academic misconduct or plagiarism has taken place, s/he must report this to the Examination Board in writing immediately. The examiner will inform the student(s) of this report in writing.
   2. The Examination Board will then invite the student to respond in writing and/or to a hearing about the alleged plagiarism or other form of academic misconduct, and render a decision based on the documentary evidence and, if possible, the information provided by the student during the hearing. Further information may be required from the examiner.
   3. On suspicion of plagiarism in an assignment, the Examination Board can decide to examine assignments previously submitted by the same student for plagiarism. This investigation can result in previously awarded assessments or sub-assessments being retroactively declared invalid.
   4. If the Examination Board is convinced that academic misconduct has been committed, a sanction will be imposed.
   5. With due regard to the principles of legal fairness and proportionality, the Examination Board can issue an official warning, award the mark 0 for the (interim) examination or assignment to which the academic misconduct relates or declare the (interim) examination or assignment to be invalid and may also exclude the student from the following relevant examination. Furthermore, the student is excluded from the classification ‘cum laude’ and an official reprimand is included in the student’s file. Finally, the student is obliged to demonstrate that he/she is aware of the rules regarding plagiarism. The student can demonstrate this by obtaining or re-obtaining a certificate for Master’s students through the website https://www.indiana.edu/~istd.
   6. In the event of serious or repeated academic misconduct, the Examination Board may exclude the student from participating in one or more exams for a maximum of one year.
   7. If very serious academic misconduct has been identified, the Examination Board can advise the Executive Board (through the Faculty Board) that the student’s registration should be terminated permanently.
   8. The Examination Board grants no exemption based on exams which, during the period in which the student is debarred from sitting exams, are held in another faculty or other university.
   9. In urgent cases relating to academic misconduct which are not covered by these Rules and Guidelines, the Examination Board will make a decision with due regard to the principles of an appropriate procedure.

21. Irregularities
   If the Examination Board concludes that one or more exam components, or an entire exam, were not completed in the prescribed manner or that an exam component or exam was not held in the proper manner, the board can declare the exam, or the relevant part thereof, invalid.
22. Retention periods

1. Research Project II + III (RM SP), Bachelor theses and Bachelor Research project reports (Ba BW), Bachelor theses (Ba PSY/Ba PW), Master Research projects reports (Ma HMS/Ma MPS), Master thesis and -internship (Ma PSY/Ma PW), the Research Project RM or the Minor and Major projects (RM HMS), Master’s thesis (RM CDP, RM CNP) Research Projects II + III (RM SP) are retained for at least 7 years.

2. Examination assignments are retained for at least seven years, with effect from the 1 January immediately after they were drawn up. Exam question answers, including assignments and other written materials for which a full or partial examination mark has been awarded, are retained for a period of at least two years.

For the purposes of programme re-accreditation, an arbitrary selection of work is retained for seven years.

In relation to the remainder, the Examination Board follows the terms stipulated in the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam’s list of retention periods.

23. Annual report

By 1 December, the Examination Board will compile a report on its activities during the previous academic year. The Examination Board will send the Annual Report to the Faculty Board. On request, the Annual Report or parts of it can be made available to interested parties.

24. Amendments to these Rules and Guidelines

No amendments are made that apply to the current academic year, unless there is a reasonable expectation that this will not infringe the interests of the students.

25. Unforeseen circumstances / hardship clause

1. In any circumstances not covered by these Rules and Guidelines, or in circumstances where the provisions in this regulation are unreasonable or unfair to the student, the decisions of the Examination Board will be final.

2. Students can appeal against decisions by the Examination Board with the Examination Appeals Board, within six weeks after the decision is rendered.

26. Date of commencement

These Rules and Guidelines take effect as of 1 September 2018.

Adopted by the Examination Board FGB on 4 September 2018.