

Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management  
Erasmus University Rotterdam

**Teaching and Examination Regulations**  
**Master in Health Economics, Policy & Law**

**Academic year 2019-2020**

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# Teaching and Examination Regulations

## 1 General

### Article 1.1 Applicability of the regulations

These regulations are applicable to the study programme and examinations of the master programme in Health Economics, Policy & Law (HEPL), for all students enrolled in the academic year 2019-2020, offered by the Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management, hereinafter referred to as the School.

These regulations are also applicable to the ESHPM courses offered within the context of the European master in Health Economics and Management (Eu-HEM).

Where necessary, interim rules related to pending changes to the curriculum are appended to these Teaching and Examination Regulations. These rules do not include individual arrangements that are handled by the Examination Board. The master programme HEPL is legally bound by the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek - WHW).

### Article 1.2 Aims of the study programme

The master HEPL programme is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and conceptual knowledge to understand the complexities of health care systems. The programme focuses on the contribution of the disciplines of economics, policy sciences and law to the analysis and explanation of health policy. This multidisciplinary focus ensures that HEPL-graduates understand the economic, political and legal context of international health policy issues. The central issues that the programme addresses include the types of questions these disciplines deal with, the conceptual frameworks, methodological tools and research methods these disciplines use, how these disciplines complement each other in order to provide a more complete understanding of the nature and causes of health policy problems, and which solutions these various disciplines propose for current health policy problems. This multidisciplinary approach is also applied to international comparative analyses of health care systems and reform initiatives.

The master HEPL programme has a clear international orientation. HEPL graduates understand, for example, how different health care systems combine efficiency and equity in health care, in terms of outcomes and policy measures, the impact of European and global developments on the future of national health care systems, the effect of international organisations and treaties on domestic health policies.

Holders of the master HEPL degree who graduate from Erasmus University are able to:

1. understand the complexities of health care systems and to apply conceptual knowledge from the fields of economics, policy sciences and law to the analysis of everyday health policy issues that arise within different health care systems around the World.
  - The student is able to classify different types of health care systems, to describe how these systems function in terms of organising and financing health care, and to explain their implications for efficiency and equity in health care.
  - The student is able to apply methods of economic analysis to investigate the comparative performance of health systems and health technologies, and to utilise such analysis to infer implications for policy.
  - The student is able to classify different modes of governance in health care, to distinguish changes in arrangements associated with health care system reforms, and to deduce the political and institutional conditions required to make successful development of systems possible.
  - The student has knowledge of the international legal framework concerning the right to health care and is able to utilise this knowledge to examine contemporary problems and dilemmas national health care systems face with respect to access to health care.
2. apply multiple perspectives to health care issues
  - The student is able to analyse problems from the multidisciplinary perspectives of economics, governance and law.
  - The student is able to interpret problems from different role perspectives, as for instance that of a policy maker, an insurer, a researcher/consultant, a health care provider or a patient.
  - The student is able to appraise problems on a national level in relation to international perspectives, as for instance under different health care systems or legal arrangements
  - The student recognises her/his role and perspective in different problem contexts and is motivated to identify possible alternative roles and perspectives and to contrast these with her/his own.

3. design and carry out research
  - The student has a problem-oriented attitude to research questions.
  - The student is able to identify a solution-oriented approach to research questions.
  - The student has research skills: she/he is able to formulate a research question, choose an appropriate research design, carry out the necessary activities to gather data and interpret and analyse the results and to report on her/his findings in an academic manner
  - The student is able to organise her/his (research) activities.
4. communicate
  - The student is able to make oral presentations at master level.
  - The student is able to make written presentations writing at master level.
  - The student is able to point out and talk about problems arising within a (group) project.
5. reflect
  - The student is able to assess her/his level of competence and is motivated to update missing competences.
  - The student has a critical attitude towards her/his role and discipline. The student is able to appraise the implications and limitations of her/his research design and results, and their relevance and contribution to current knowledge.

The programme offers a specialisation in Health Economics, in association with the Health Economics group of the Erasmus School of Economics (ESE). This specialisation provides students with advanced concepts and tools of economic analysis relating to health care, including the analysis of the particular functioning of health care markets and the economic evaluation of health care programmes and interventions.

### **Article 1.3 Definitions**

In the regulations, the following words shall have the following meanings:

- a. *academic year*: the academic year runs from 1 September to the following 31 August (inclusive);
- b. *Admission Committee*: The Committee, established by the Executive Board of the School to make decisions about the admission of applicants to the master programme;

- c. *bachelor*: the bachelor programme of Health Sciences, offered by the Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management;
- d. *course*: a specific examination part to which an exam is connected;
- e. *Canvas*: web based application at Erasmus University which contains information about the content of courses and describes the examination parts including the requirements concerning examination;
- f. *course coordinator*: the person who is responsible for the management of a course in the master programme;
- g. *course guide*: the document which describes the programme of studies and states the forms of examinations and their weighing;
- h. *director of education*: the person who is responsible for the general management of all study programmes provided by the School;
- i. *EC*: abbreviation of credit points as defined by the “European Credit Transfer System”. One EC represents 28 hours of study;
- j. *exam*: the total assessment of the performance of the student on separate examination parts of the master programme, as referred to in Article 7.10 of the law; the aforesaid;
- k. *Examination Board*: the board referred to in Article 7.12 of the law for the quality assurance of the examinations of the study programme;
- l. *examination part*: a study unit of the master programme, within the meaning of the law;
- m. *examiner*: a person, as referred to in Article 7.12 of the law, who is designated by the Examination Board to administer examinations;
- n. *hbo*: abbreviation of ‘hoger beroepsonderwijs’ (professional education/university of applied sciences);
- o. *OSC*: the Education Service Center of the School that is responsible for the administrative procedures of the programme;
- p. *the School*: the School of Health Policy & Management;
- q. *the law*: the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek - WHW);
- r. *master*: the master programme of Health Economics, Policy & Law (HEPL) of the School;
- s. *practical*: a practical exercise, as referred to in Article 7.13 of the law, in one of the following forms:
  - writing a thesis,
  - writing a paper or essay,
  - carrying out a research assignment,

- taking part in a study visit,
  - carrying out a practical assignment,
  - taking part in another study activity aimed at the attainment of certain skills;
- t. *pre-master programme*: especially designed programme for Dutch speaking students with an hbo-bachelor or a university-bachelor degree, aimed at removing any deficiencies before entering the master programme;
- u. *programme director*: the person who is responsible for the management of the master programme;
- v. *Rules and Regulations*: the rules, guidelines and instructions of the Examination Board with regard to the examinations and exams, as referred to in Article 7.12, paragraph 4 of the law. The Rules and Regulations are added to the Teaching and Examination Regulations;
- w. *student*: a person who is enrolled at the university in order to pursue the master programme and to take the exams and examinations of the study programme;
- x. *vwo*: abbreviation of 'voorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs' (pre-university education).

#### Article 1.4 Degree

1. Whoever has successfully passed all the examination parts of the master programme will obtain:
  - a. the degree of Master of Science in Health Economics, Policy & Law, in the event of passing the examination parts of the multidisciplinary programme unit Health Economics, Policy & Law, as referred to in Article 3.3;
  - b. the degree of Master of Science in Health Economics, Policy & law, in the event of passing the examination parts of the monodisciplinary (economics) programme unit Health Economics, as referred to in Article 3.3;
2. The obtained degree will be inscribed on the master certificate.

## **Article 1.5 Language**

1. The teaching for the master programme is entirely in English. Derogations from this are not permitted.
2. The practicals, exams and examinations for the master programme are held in English. Derogations from this are not permitted.

## **Article 1.6 Participation in educational activities**

1. Students are supposed to actively participate in every educational activity that the School offers irrespective of whether the activities are compulsory or not. This concerns not only lectures and working groups but also the making of course evaluations.
2. Participation in educational activities is compulsory when it concerns a practical for which participation in the corresponding practical exercise is necessary for taking the examination.
3. The course book for each course states:
  - a. for which educational activities participation is compulsory because it concerns a practical as outlined above;
  - b. which educational activities are directly linked to the learning goals and therefore part of the examination;
  - c. which assessment criteria are used for the above mentioned educational activities.
4. All courses are evaluated at the end of the course.



## **2 Admission to the master programme**

### **Article 2.1 Admission requirements**

Admitted to the master programme are, conditional upon the required proficiency in English as specified in Article 2.2 and proficiency in mathematics as specified in Article 2.4:

1. Those who have obtained a Bachelor or Master of Science degree at a Dutch university in
  - Public Health;
  - Economics;
  - Health Sciences;
  - Health and Society;
  - Medicine;
  - Law;
  - Pharmacy;

Or students with a bachelor or master degree related to one of the main disciplines; Health Sciences, Economics, Policy or Law. Such to be determined by the Admission Board.

2. Those who have a positive decision (admission statement) granted by the Admission Board, on behalf of the Executive Board of Erasmus University Rotterdam and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, for the duration of the academic year.

### **Article 2.2 Admission Statement**

Those who have obtained a certificate of the pre-master programme, HEPL-variety, especially designed by the School for graduated hbo-bachelors and graduated university-bachelors, for the purpose of removing any deficiencies before entering the master programme. In addition, those with a relevant degree must have proven that they meet the eligibility criteria for written and spoken English, as specified in Article 2.3 and sufficient proficiency in mathematics as specified in Article 2.4.

### Article 2.3 Required proficiency in English

1. Proficiency in English, to be proven by:
  - a Level Statement of Language & Training Centre Erasmus university (valid for 1 year) with a minimum level of B2.2 *or*
  - a IELTS score minimum of 6.5 on all components *or*
  - a iBT TOEFL score minimum of 90 *or*
  - an International Baccalaureate "English A: Language & Literature higher level" received in the Netherlands *or*
  - Cambridge First Certificate (FCE) grade of A and B *or*
  - Cambridge Advanced (CAE) grade C *or*
  - Anglia exam, only with additional speaking test (C1 of C2 level).
2. Exempted from the requirements in Article 2.3.1 are those who:
  - a. hold the nationality of one of the following countries: Australia, Canada (with the exception of Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, UK or the USA, or completed a bachelor or master programme at a Dutch university (of applied sciences), or completed the ESHPM pre-master programme, or
  - b. completed a university bachelor's or master's programme fully taught in English in one of the following countries: The Netherlands, Australia, Canada (with the exception of Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, the UK or the USA.

### Article 2.4 Required proficiency in Mathematics

To the master are admitted those who have proven to have sufficient proficiency in mathematics.

Proficient are those with:

- a VWO diploma with mathematics A, B or equivalent or research methods in previous education, to be assessed by the Admission Board or
- a VWO mathematics certificate, to be assessed by the Admission Board

### 3 Composition of the master programme

#### Article 3.1

The study programme is offered full-time (one year).

#### Article 3.2 Study load of the study programme

1. The study programme has a study load of 60 EC (1680 hours of study).
2. The study load is expressed in whole EC.

#### Article 3.3 Composition of the study programme

1. The master programme Health Economics, Policy & Law and the specialisation Health Economics consists of the following compulsory courses:

Block	Course	EC	Health Economics, Policy & Law	Health Economics
1	Economics and Financing of Health Care Systems	5	√	√
	Advanced Research Methods	5	√	
	Quantitative Methods for Applied Economics	4		√
2	Economics of Health and Health Care	5	√	√
	Health Technology Assessment	5	√	√
3	International Health Law	5	√	
	Comparative Health Policy	5	√	
	Research Topics in Health Economics	5		√
	Public Health Economics	5		√
4/5/6	Thesis	20	√	
4/5/6	Thesis	16		√

In block 4 and 5 students of the HEPL programme must choose elective course with a total minimum of 10 EC and students in the HE specialisation choose elective courses with a minimum of 15 EC. Within the HEPL/HE programme the following courses are offered.

Block	Course	EC	Health Economics, Policy & Law	Health Economics <sup>1</sup>
4	Competition in Health Care Markets	5	√	√
	Global Health Economics	5	√	√
	Measurement of Patient Preferences using Discrete Choice Experiments	5	√	√
	Health Care Ethics	5	√	
	Advanced Health Economic Modelling	5	√	√
5	Behavioural Decision Making in Health ** 2	5	√	√
	Governing Healthy Cities	5	√	
	Health, Economic Development & Policy**	5	√	√
	Pharmaceutical Pricing And Market Access**	5	√	√

Students of the HE specialisation must choose all of their electives from the list of courses that are offered within the programme. In exceptional circumstances, HEPL students may ask the Examination Board for permission to replace one course with one or more courses from outside the HEPL programme. A requirement is that the content of outside courses is related to HEPL, such to be determined by the Examination Board.

2. The further descriptions of the examination parts referred to in paragraph 1, including obligatory practicals, as stated in the most recent version of the study guide of the School, the course books of the study programme and the HEPL-master thesis manual, constitute an integral part of these Teaching and Examination Regulations, without prejudice to the other provisions set out in these regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> HE Students choose at least one course (5 cr) from the courses with \*\*

<sup>2</sup> New name. For Eu-Hem students this course will go by its old name: Advanced Economic Evaluation.

#### **Article 3.4 Exemption from obligatory practicals**

1. In exceptional cases, the Examination Board can grant exemption from the obligation to take part in practicals. In that case, the Examination Board can decide that the practicals should be carried out in another way, to be determined by the Examination Board.
2. A request for exemption from the obligation to take part in practical exercises, as referred to in paragraph 1, should be submitted by the student in writing, with reasons and supported by documentation, to the Examination Board at least four weeks before the scheduled commencement of the practical exercise for which exemption is requested. In exceptional cases, the Examination Board may permit derogation from the period stated in the last sentence.

## 4 Taking examinations

### Article 4.1 Time periods and frequency of examinations

1. The opportunity to take compulsory examinations belonging to the examination parts referred to in Article 3.3 is given twice per academic year. For the course Thesis (20/16 EC), the rules regarding the examination are stipulated in the HEPL master thesis manual.
2. When an examination part is tested in more than one way, the re-sit (i) also includes different examinations that can be taken separately, or (ii) is composed as one single examination that comprises all of the course learning goals and counts for 100%. In both cases, the highest overall mark at course level applies.
3. In exceptional cases, at the request of the student or the examiner, the Examination Board can decide to permit derogations from the provisions set out in paragraph 1.
4. In derogation from the provisions set out in paragraph 1, the opportunity to take a written examination belonging to an examination part for which the instruction is the last to be taught in a specific academic year, is given twice more in the subsequent academic year.
5. The student has a free choice in the number of times that he/she wishes to take a written examination, taken into account art. 7.1.1. If the material to be studied for an examination has changed, the new material must be studied.
6. Without prejudice to applicable regulations regarding a period free of examinations, and with due observance of the other provisions set out in these regulations, and of the Rules and Regulations established by the Examination Board, the programme director establishes an examination schedule before the start of the academic year. In the event of urgent exceptional circumstances, the course coordinator can, with the approval of the programme director, change the examination schedule during the academic year, provided that the change is announced in good time, and no later than 35 days prior to the exam.
7. In exceptional cases, at the request of the student, the Examination board may decide that an extra opportunity to take an examination will be offered, in derogation from the examination schedule.

## **Article 4.2 Form of the examinations**

1. The examinations of the master programme are taken in written form, oral form and/or by means of a practical, unless the Examination Board has decided otherwise.
2. The elaborations on the form and weighing of the examinations as referred to in paragraph 1 are determined in the study guide. Alterations during the academic year are possible only with approval of the Examination Board.
3. Physically or sensorially handicapped students are offered the opportunity to take the examinations in a manner adapted as far as possible to their individual handicap. A request for granting special provisions should be submitted by the student in writing, giving reasons and supported by documentation with respect to his or her handicap(s), to the Examination Board as soon as possible after the beginning of the academic year, but at least four weeks before the examination. The Examination Board will decide within 15 days after receipt of the request and will, if necessary, obtain expert advice before making a decision.
4. In exceptional cases the Examination Board may, at the request of the student, decide to derogate from the provisions set out in paragraph 1 and 2.

## **Article 4.3 Oral examinations**

1. No more than one person will be given an oral examination at a time, unless the Examination Board has decided otherwise.
2. An oral examination is taken in public, unless in an exceptional case the Examination Board or the examiner concerned has decided otherwise, or the student has objected to this.

## **Article 4.4 Quality examination**

In accordance with the law, the examination board takes necessary measures to guarantee the quality of the tests and the exam including the organization and procedures concerning the tests and the exam. The examination board can declare a test of an individual student or a group of students invalid if the test, or organization or procedures concerning the test, does not meet the quality requirements.

## **5 Result of examinations**

### **Article 5.1 Determining and announcing results of examinations**

1. The examiner determines the result of a examination and publishes the result of the test in Osiris within four weeks following the date of the test. Students can find the results on Osiris Student.
2. In circumstances where the final grade for a course based on different examinations supplementary to the provisions in paragraph 1 of this article, then the grade for an interim test must be available to the student prior to the commencement of subsequent interim tests and the final test within the same course.
3. If the re-sit of the course takes place within a period of 4 weeks following the regular exam, then a shortened marking period will be applicable. The results of the test must in that case have been announced by the examiner at least one week before the re-sit.

### **Article 5.2 Period of validity**

1. The validity of the results of passed course is unlimited. The Examination Board can restrict the validity period if, in its opinion, the knowledge, insight and skills assessed in the test are obsolete.
2. If a course consists of more than one test, and the course has not been passed, the term of validity of the obtained results in the separate tests are limited to the end of the academic year.
3. At the request of the student and on the advice of the study advisor, the Examination Board can extend the period of validity due to exceptional personal circumstances of the student, provided the content of the test is still applicable to the course content.
4. The Examination Board can impose, with respect to an examination part taken and passed more than three years previously, an additional or alternative examination, before the student is admitted to take the exam concerned.



### **Article 5.3 Right of inspection**

- 1a. Within a period of thirty calendar days after the results of an examination, but at least before the re-sit takes place, students get an opportunity to review their exam and the way it was examined with the examiner. The location and time of this review will be determined by the examiner and is to be announced at the start of the course. The examiner may determine students are only allowed into the review meeting if they have registered for it.
- 1b. If a course is tested in several ways, then, supplementary to article 5.3.1.a, the stipulation for interim tests is that the examiner offers the possibility of subsequent discussion of questions and the norms, at least before the following interim and/or final test of the course concerned takes place.

## **6 Exemptions**

### **Article 6.1 Exemption from examinations**

In principle, no exemptions are allowed for examinations as referred to in article 3.3. Only in exceptional cases at the request of the student and as judged by the Examination Board (paragraph 2 of the Rules and Regulations), can an exemption be allowed from the examinations as referred to in article 3.3.

## 7 Result of the master exam

### Article 7.1 The result of the exam and active conferral of a degree

1. A master degree is obtained if all examination parts, as referred to in Article 3.3, are completed with a grade of 5.5 or higher (art. 7.10a WHW). Exam results are expressed in whole numbers and one decimal on a scale from 1 to 10, in which a score of 5.5 or higher is counted as a sufficient result. If a student has registered for a test, but has not participated in the test, 'NO' will be registered instead of a result. If an examination for one and the same examination part is taken twice or more, the highest result achieved counts.
2.
  - a. In the event that one examination part, excluding the master thesis, is completed with a grade of 5.0 or more, but less than 5.5, a master degree can be obtained if all other examination parts are completed with a grade of 5.5 or higher and if the unweighted average of the grades of all examination parts, excluding the master thesis, is at least 6.0 (not rounded off).
  - b. In the event that an examination part is tested in more than one way, the grade at course level is the weighted average of all partial results.
  - c. The defense of the master thesis may be held at the moment that: the student has met the conditions set forth in the course book of the master thesis with regard to the terms which are set for defense.
3. After all the examination parts of the master's exam have been passed, the Examination Board determines the result of the exam and reaches out the master degree.

## **8 Requests, decisions and appeals**

### **Article 8.1 Requests and decisions**

Requests to the Examination Board on behalf of these regulations must be submitted in writing, with reasons given and accompanied by relevant documents and must be issued as soon as possible but at least within four weeks or the time frame specified in the Rules and Regulations of the Examination Board. For more information: see paragraph 8 of the Rules and Regulations.

### **Article 8.2 Appeals**

A student who objects to a decision of the Examination Board (e.g. assessments), the dean and the Admission Committee may lodge an appeal with the Examinations Appeal Board (CBE) of Erasmus University Rotterdam. In urgent cases, the chair of the CBE can be requested to make provisions. For more information: see paragraph 9 of the Rules and Regulations.

## 9 Study counseling

### Article 9.1 Study counseling, advice and personal circumstances

1. The School is responsible, without prejudice to the respective provisions of the Executive Board, for recording the study results in such a way that each student can be given an overview of the results that he/she has obtained in relation to the study and exam programme of the study programme.
2. The director of education is responsible for the study counseling of students who are enrolled for the study programme, partly in order to assist their orientation towards possible study paths within and outside the study programme.
3. Students who may reasonably expect a delay in their studies due to personal circumstances, are required to report these to one of the School's study counselors within four weeks of their occurrence, or – if the nature of the circumstances is such that the student or his or her representative are not in a position to do so – as soon as possible. Sickness, handicap or pregnancy of the student are considered personal circumstances, as well as special family circumstances, membership of the University Council, the ESHPM Council, the board of the Faculty Association, or circumstances as mentioned in Article 2.1 Uitvoeringsbesluit WHW.

## **10 Final and implementation provisions**

### **Article 10.1 Hardship clause**

1. If application of the rules of the Teaching and Examination Regulations concerning admission results in unreasonable or unfair situations with respect to the student or a group of students, the student or group of students concerned may submit a written and reasoned request for derogation from the said rules to the Admission Committee, and the Admission Committee can decide to derogate from these rules in favour of the student or group of students.
2. If application of the other rules of the Teaching and Examination Regulations results in unreasonable or unfair situations with respect to the student or a group of students, the student or group of students concerned may submit a written and reasoned request for derogation from the said rules to the Examination Board, and the Examination Board can decide to derogate from these rules in favour of the student or group of students.

### **Article 10.2 Amendments**

1. Amendments to this document can be made in special circumstances by the vice-Dean of ESHPM following discussion with the programme committee and approval by the faculty council.
2. No amendments will be made that are applicable to the current academic year, unless the interests of the students are, within reason, not thereby prejudiced.
3. Moreover, amendments must not influence, to the detriment of the students, any other decision which has been taken with respect to a student by the Examination Board by virtue of these regulations.

### **Article 10.3 Announcement**

1. The Executive Board of the School is responsible for an appropriate announcement of these regulations, of the Rules and Regulations established by the Examination Board, and of amendments to these documents.

2. Interested parties may access the documents listed in paragraph 1 of this article by requesting them from Education Support or directly via ESHPM's website.

#### **Article 10.4 Entry into force**

These regulations enter into force on 1 September 2019.

Established by the Vice-Dean of the School – mandated by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences – on 31 August 2019 after approval by the ESHPM Council on 15 July 2019.

## Appendix

### **Transition regulation academic year 2019-2020 for students of cohort 2016-2017 or earlier.**

The contents of the Health Care Governance course (curriculum 2016-2017 or earlier) has changed per academic year 2017-2018. Also, the course name Health Care Governance will change into Comparative Health Policy. For EuHEM students the course name will change per academic year 2019-2020.

### **Students who did not pass the course Health Care Governance...**

#### **...and passed the elective course Health Politics & Policy (2016-2017 or earlier)**

HEPL students who did not pass the course Health Care Governance in academic year 2016-2017 or earlier, but did pass the elective course HPP may choose an additional elective from the list of electives offered in the HEPL programme.

#### **...and did not pass the elective course Health Politics & Policy (2016-2017 or earlier)**

HEPL students who did not pass the course Health Care Governance in academic year 2016-2017 or earlier, and did not pass the elective course Health Politics & Policy may take the Comparative Health Policy course. And have to choose another elective from the list of electives offered in the HEPL programme.