

Rules and Guidelines of the Examination Board for the Research Master programme in Philosophy and Economics 2023-2024

Section 1 General provisions

Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations

These regulations apply to the 2023-2024 academic year and govern the examinations and examination of the Research Master in Philosophy and Economics and are applicable to all students that are enrolled in this programme.

Article 1.2 Definitions

Unless stated otherwise, the definitions used in the Course and Examination Regulations for the programme will also be used in the present Rules and Guidelines.

Article 1.3 The Examination Board

1. The duties of the Examination Board are stipulated in Sections 7.11, 7.12, 7.12b and 7.12c of the Act.
2. The Examination Board appoints an executive committee consisting of at least two persons who are charged with the day-to-day business of the Board.
3. Requests submitted to the Examination Board should be sent by email or by post and should have the relevant documents attached. The Examination Board will give its decision within three weeks of receipt of a request and will inform the student of its decision by email.

Section 2 Examiners and quality assurance

Article 2.1 Examiners

1. Prior to the start of a course the Programme Director will propose to the Examination Board the teacher(s) under whose responsibility the course will be given. The Examination Board then takes a decision about the appointment as examiner of the suggested teacher(s) for the course in question.
2. The Examination Board verifies that the examiners meet the set expertise requirements.
3. The Examination Board may set binding guidelines and assessment standards for interim and final examinations.
4. On request, the examiners will provide the Examination Board with information about the examinations and the corresponding results.
5. The Examination Board may revoke the appointment of an examiner if it has serious reason to do so.

Article 2.2 Quality assurance of the examinations and Research Master Examination

1. The Programme Director, in consultation with the Examination Board, draws up a test plan for the programme. This plan will include a systematic description of all the tests.
2. The Examination Board draws up a protocol for the production and supervision of examinations and for marking and administering the results. Examiners follow the directives set out in this protocol.
3. The Examination Board is responsible for the evaluation of the examinations.
4. The Examination Board will inform the Programme Director about the results of these examinations.

Section 3 Discipline during lectures and examinations

Article 3.1 Discipline during lectures and other education activities

These provisions apply to the lectures and other education activities provided by the Erasmus School of Philosophy and to the rooms.

1. Entering a classroom after a lecture has started is prohibited without the consent of the person teaching.
2. Discipline during the lecture.
 - a. The distracting use of electronic communication devices during the lecture is prohibited.
 - b. The distracting consumption of food or beverages during the lecture is prohibited.
 - c. Recording and distributing lectures and lecture material without the knowledge or consent of the lecturer is prohibited.
 - d. The lecturer giving the lecture may have the person who is disrupting the lecture removed from the classroom.
3. Discipline in the buildings of the EUR.
 - a. The distracting use of electronic communication devices is prohibited.
 - b. The distracting consumption of food or beverages is prohibited.
 - c. The person responsible for the building in question may have the person causing the disruption removed from the premises.
4. The Dean of the Erasmus School of Philosophy may impose measures on anyone who is repeatedly guilty of disrupting the proper course of affairs during lectures or in classrooms, pursuant to the procedure laid down in the [Regulations relating to the maintenance of order in EUR buildings and on EUR sites and relating to the efficient or legal use of EUR facilities](#).

Article 3.2 Disciplinary rules for examinations

1. For all rules regarding registration for exams, order during written exams, order rules about exams, see the [Order Rules for written exams](#).

Section 4 Fraud and sanctions

Article 4.1 Fraud

1. The term fraud is understood to mean any acts or omissions on the part of a student that make it impossible for the examiner and the Examination Board to form an accurate opinion of the student's acquired knowledge, insight and skills (or those of his fellow students).
2. The student must avoid any possible appearance of fraud in connection to himself during the examination and if the student is in any doubt about this he should immediately report to the invigilator.
3. The following shall in any event be deemed to be fraud:
 - a. obtaining knowledge concerning the questions or assignments in a certain examination prior to that examination;
 - b. assuming someone else's identity or being represented by someone else during an examination;
 - c. consulting or having within reach information sources (e.g. books, syllabi, personal paper, notes written on skin or on fabric, calculators that can be programmed, mobile telephones and smartphones), the use of which is not explicitly permitted during an examination by virtue of Article 3.4, paragraph 4 of these Regulations. Mobile telephones, smartphones, etc. should be switched off and remain off during examinations;
 - d. copying from or exchanging any information whatsoever with fellow students,

- either inside or outside the examination room, during the examination; giving another person the opportunity to commit fraud will also be deemed fraud;
- e. exchanging or swapping the issued question papers or answer papers with other students;
 - f. making any changes to previously submitted examination answers during a subsequent inspection;
 - g. committing plagiarism, which shall be taken here to mean the copying of a passage containing more than a few words from his own or someone else's work, either literally or in translation, in an individual or group assignment, project, thesis or any other type of text that is part of an examination, without indicating this by quotation marks, even if a bibliographically traceable and correct source reference is included. Providing other students with the opportunity to commit plagiarism is also deemed to be fraud;
 - h. ghostwriting: have someone (or something, such as generative AI) else write or edit, wholly or in part, text that forms part of an exam or thesis, without permission from the examiner;
 - i. taking the examination without being entitled to do so;
 - j. making it partially or completely impossible, by means of misleading acts, omissions or in any other way, for the examiner and the Examination Board to form an accurate assessment of the student's knowledge, insight and skills.
4. Academic achievements in writing may only be evaluated in credits once. Students are not permitted to submit a previously written thesis, assignment or any other form of text written in connection with the student's present or previous programme at or outside the Faculty a second time in the same course or a different course without first consulting the examiner and obtaining his approval (with respect to the part for which the text is submitted a second time or is intended to result in credits a second time) or to use any part of a previously produced project, either in amended form or otherwise, when writing a thesis, assignment or other project for the purpose of obtaining credits for it a second time, without prior consultation with the examiner and obtaining his approval.
 5. Students have an obligation to provide clear and scrupulous source references. They also have an obligation to be completely transparent at all times with respect to re-using their own previous work.
 6. If a written examination is not taken under the supervision of an invigilator, such as an assignment or thesis, the examiner must carry out a plagiarism check.

Article 4.2 Sanctions

1. Students who act in breach of the rules specified in Articles 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 4.1 of these Regulations or give reason to do so are guilty of fraud.
2. If fraud is established or there is a grave suspicion of fraud during an examination, the invigilator or examiner must inform the student without delay. The invigilator or examiner must note this down on the work to be submitted by the student, and must take possession of any documentary evidence. The student will be given the opportunity to finish the examination and to hand in his work.
3. The invigilator must report the suspected or established fraud to the Department for Exam Administration on a standard report form immediately after the examination has finished. Any documentary evidence must be submitted together with this report. If the student refused to hand over any such documentary evidence, the invigilator must state this on the form. The Department for Exam Registration must send the report form filled in by the invigilator, together with any documentary evidence, to the Examination Board immediately after the end of the examination period.
4. If plagiarism is established after an individual or group project, assignment or thesis has been submitted, or if there are grave suspicions of plagiarism (e.g. by using a plagiarism detection tool), the examiner must report this to the

- examination board as soon as possible, also providing evidence.
5. The examination board investigates the case, and gives the student the opportunity to react to the suspicion; the student is given one week to respond.
 6. Depending on the gravity of the fraud committed and taking any previous instances of fraud by the same student into account, the Examination Board may impose sanctions on the student, including the following:
 - a. a reprimand;
 - b. invalidation of the relevant individual or group project or assignment;
 - c. invalidation of the relevant examination;
 - d. invalidation of the relevant thesis;
 - e. exclusion from the relevant examination for a period not exceeding one year;
 - f. exclusion from one or more examination periods;
 - g. exclusion from thesis evaluation for a period not exceeding one year;
 - h. a combination of the aforementioned measures;
 - i. a proposal submitted to the Executive Board to permanently terminate the student's enrolment in the programme.
 7. If fraud or plagiarism is established with respect to a group project, this will be imputed equally to each member of the group. The onus of proving the contrary lies with each member of the group.

Section 5: Examinations: Content and assessment

Article 5.1 Content of the examinations

1. Changes to the topics of the examination during the course must be within the previously announced intended learning outcomes.
2. The student may lodge an appeal against changes in the topics of the examination during a course with the Examination Board.
3. The questions and assignments of the examination will cover the topics of the course in a balanced way, with due regard to the learning objectives of the course in question.
4. The questions and assignments of an examination must be clear and unambiguous, and phrased so that the student will know how extensive and detailed the answers must be.

Article 5.2 Assessment standards

1. Written examinations will be assessed on the basis of clear standards which are preferably incorporated into model answers.
2. In the event an examination is arranged by more than one examiner and the result of the examination is assessed by several examiners, those examiners must ensure that the assessment is based on the same standards. If necessary, the Examination Board will assign final responsibility for the examination assessment to a single examiner.

Article 5.3 Marks

1. An examination result of 5.5 or higher will qualify as a passing mark.
2. Marks with more than one decimal place will be rounded up or down accordingly to a mark with one decimal place.
3. Alphanumerical results will be given in the following cases:
 - students who are registered for an examination but who have not actually sat it will be awarded an NS (No Show);
 - students who are enrolled for a course but did not take a certain examination component will be awarded an NC (Not Completed) for the relevant examination component;
 - students who completed a component but did not receive a mark for it may be

- awarded a C (Completed);
 - students who have been granted exemption by the Examination Board will be awarded an EX (Exempted);
4. If a student has not enrolled and thus is not eligible to take an examination, any grade given for the relevant examination will be declared null and void.

Section 6 The research master thesis

Article 6.1 The Research Master thesis

1. The Research Master thesis is written by the student in observation of the “Thesis Milestones”.
2. The student submits a proposal to the Examination Board for the subject of the thesis and the intended supervisor. At the same time, the student, in agreement with the intended supervisor (first examiner), proposes an advisor (second examiner). The Examinations Board approves the subject of the thesis and the intended examiners, and notifies the student, the supervisor, the advisor and the Programme Director.
3. The thesis should contain no more than 20,000 words (including footnotes, but excluding bibliography and appendices). Approval of the Examination Board is necessary for theses that exceed this wordcount.
4. Once the supervisor has approved the thesis, it is submitted to the advisor for advice, at least twenty working days before the final submission date fixed by the Examination Board. (Please see Article 7.1 of these Regulations for the examination day.) In the advice formal and/or material shortcomings are discussed and suggestions for remedying these shortcomings are given.
5. The advisor sends his advice to the supervisor. The supervisor can ask the advisor to provide a clarification of his advice and then sends the advice to the student. The supervisor can provide the advice with additional explanation.
6. After the student has incorporated the advice in his thesis, the student sends the thesis to the supervisor and the advisor.
7. The advisor fills in a thesis evaluation form, including his mark for the thesis and forwards the evaluation form to the supervisor. The supervisor fills in an evaluation form as well, including his preliminary mark for the thesis, and forwards both evaluation forms to the Examination Board.
8. The total preliminary mark for the thesis consists of the average of the preliminary marks of the supervisor and the advisor, unless one of the two assessors gives an insufficient mark; in that case the insufficient mark is the final mark.
9. The supervision is complete once the student has incorporated the advisor’s recommendations and once that incorporation has been approved by the supervisor. The supervisor informs the Examination Board that the thesis may be assessed by the graduation committee.
10. A graduation committee, which is appointed by the Examination Board, assesses the thesis. The committee consists of at least three members (and preferably no more): the supervisor (first examiner), the advisor (second examiner) and a third member. The committee discusses the thesis and gives the final mark.
11. The final mark for the thesis is determined in deliberation (after the student’s defence) by the graduation committee on the basis of (i) the thesis (ii) the defence (iii) the thesis process, (iv) the milestones process (as part of the thesis process).
12. The supervisor writes a report of the assessment by the graduation committee that, once approved by the other committee members, is communicated to the Examination Board.
13. In case the student has had to revise the thesis because the advisor has initially deemed the thesis to be insufficient, this revision will be considered as a resit.

Section 7 Examination day and the distinction

Article 7.1 The examination day

1. The Examination Board annually stipulates a graduation day in September. In addition, there are two days for exceptional graduation that can be specified in January and/or May.
2. The examination may only be held if the student has submitted the following items 20 working days prior to the intended date of the examination day mentioned in the previous paragraph:
 - four paper copies and a PDF copy of the approved master thesis and the PDF copy of a 100-word summary, which are both to be filed with the university thesis repository;
 - the announcement made by the supervisor and advisor that the thesis is finished for the purpose of applying for the examination.
3. After the examination, the thesis supervisor will be given an opportunity to briefly address the student in question, after which the Dean of the Faculty or his deputy presents the certificate to the student.

Article 7.2 The distinction

1. One single distinction may be mentioned on the statement of the results of the Research Master examination: 'with honours' ('Cum Laude').
2. This distinction is conferred if:
 - a. the weighted average of the final marks for the components of the programme is 8.25 or higher and the final mark for none of these courses is lower than 7.5;
 - b. the mark for the master thesis is 8, 25 or higher;
 - c. the granted exemptions (please see Article 5.10 of the Course and Examination Regulations) do not exceed 20% of the overall course load of 120 credits;
 - d. the student has not been the subject of a sanction due to fraud or plagiarism.
 - e. the effective enrolment for the Research Master programme has not exceeded a period of 36 months.
3. The Examination Board can confer the distinction to students who have not fulfilled the criteria mentioned under clause 2 on special grounds.

Section 8 Transitional and final provisions

Article 8.1 Special clause

In cases where these regulations, do not provide unambiguously, or manifestly have an unreasonable outcome, a decision will be taken by the Examination Board.

Article 8.2 Amendments

1. Amendments to these Regulations will be laid down by the Examination Board.
2. Amendments to these regulations have no effect in the ongoing academic year, unless such amendments will not unreasonably prejudice the interests of students.
3. No amendment may disadvantage a student by influencing a decision that was already taken previously in accordance these Regulations.
4. The provisions of Article 8.1 also apply to questions that might arise from differences between the current Regulations and previous versions.

Article 8.3 Publication

The Examination Board is responsible for the publication of these Regulations, as well as for any amendments.

Article 8.4 Effective date

These regulations will come into effect on 1 September 2023.

The appeal procedure

A student may lodge an appeal against any decision of an examiner (e.g. regarding assessments) or the Examination Board with the Board of Appeal for Examinations (CBE) of Erasmus University. In urgent cases, the chair of the CBE may be requested to impose a provisional measure.

The appeal may be lodged by an interested party, i.e. the person whose interests are directly involved in a decision. The appeal should be lodged within six weeks of the announcement of the contested decision. If the appeal is lodged against an overdue decision, it should be submitted within a reasonable term.

The appeal should be submitted to the CBE in writing and addressed to the secretary of that Board. The appeal may also be lodged through the EUR Facility of Protection of Rights where all notices of objection and appeals may be submitted online.

Before an appeal is handled by the CBE, a term for settlement will be put into effect, during which the Examination Board or examiner investigates whether the claimant's appeal may be settled (formal settlement attempt). During this term, parties may explain their positions in more detail, and the decision of the CBE will be carefully scrutinized.

The CBE assumes that the claimant has first been in touch with the examiner in question or the Examination Board in an attempt to reach an agreement (substantive settlement attempt). It should be noted that the term of six weeks for submitting a notice of appeal to the CBE will continue without interruption. With that in mind, a provisional notice of appeal may be submitted.

The interested party may submit an appeal to the Appeals Tribunal for Higher Education PO Box 636, 2501 CN the Hague, The Netherlands against the decision of the Board of Appeal for Examinations within six weeks. This appeal is not possible, however, if the decision of the Board of Appeal for Examinations pertains to a decision that contains:

- * the assessment of the student's knowledge or skills that was or were the subject of the examination in this matter or tested in any other way (Article 8.4, under e of the Dutch General Administrative Law Act (Awb));
- * the establishment of the questions, assessment standards or more detailed rules for that examination or test (Article 8.4, under e of the Dutch General Administrative Law Act (Awb)).

More information about appeal procedures is available on the CBE-EUR's website.

Appendix 1: Curriculum Research Master

The ReMA Philosophy and Economics comprises a demanding programme that introduces students from a variety of backgrounds to all key aspects of the philosophy of economics. It prepares for PhD study in philosophy, but also economics, as well as roles in the private and public sector. The curriculum is research-led, with mandatory courses being taught by resident and visiting professors from the Erasmus Institute for Philosophy and Economics (EIPE). The curriculum comprises 120 EC which is divided as follows:

Mandatory courses in the philosophy of economics (55 EC)

- ReMA1 (7.5 EC) Methodology of Economics (Clarke)
- ReMA2 (7.5 EC) Rationality and Choice (Heilmann)
- ReMA3 (7.5 EC) Ethics and Economics (Binder)
- ReMA4 (7.5 EC) History of Economic Thought (Backhouse)

- ReMA5 (7.5 EC) Research topics in philosophy of economics: New Developments in Economics (Vromen)
- ReMA6 (3.75 EC) Research topics in philosophy of economics: Practice & Distributive Justice (Voorhoeve)
- ReMA7 (3.75 EC): Research topics in philosophy of economics: The Philosophy and Economics of Jan Tinbergen (Dekker & Peden)

Two courses from the MA Philosophy, picked from the following list of four:

- MA1 (5 EC) Social Choice Theory and Political Representation (Wintein)
- MA2 (5 EC) Welfare and Cooperation (Vromen)
- MA3 (5 EC) Justice in Economics (Binder)
- MA4 (5 EC) Capitalism and Freedom (Vrousalis)

Elective courses in philosophy (20 EC)

Students can take elective courses in philosophy from a large variety of courses, such as those offered in the MA Philosophy, and courses offered at the Dutch Research School of Philosophy (OZSW). Permission can also be granted to take elective courses in economics.

Research in the philosophy of economics (45 EC)

The ReMA benefits from the unique research environment offered by the Erasmus Institute for Philosophy and Economics (EIPE). ReMA students are trained in interdisciplinary research skills in the following modules:

- ReMA8 (3.75 EC): Academic Skills course (Wintein (coordination), Binder, Clarke, Heilmann)
- ReMA9 (7.5 EC): EIPE Research- and PhD seminars (Vrousalis (coordination))
- ReMA10 (3.75 EC): PhD proposal / Policy Report
- ReMA11 (30 EC) Thesis & Milestones

Appendix 2: Intended learning outcomes

Students who successfully complete the *Research Master in Philosophy and Economics*:

i. Formal aims

- a. have a mastery of the methodology and style of philosophical research within the analytic tradition
- b. are trained in academic writing
- c. have expertise in arguing clearly and convincingly for/against a position and to reach conclusions involving answers to the important research questions
- d. have the expertise to apply their knowledge and skills in new and multidisciplinary contexts
- e. are able to report their research for specialists and non-specialists
- f. are capable of writing and speaking in the English language on their research
- g. are trained in information search, in data documentation and archiving

ii. Substantive aims

- a. have a detailed knowledge of the contemporary debate in the field of philosophy and economics, as defined by the four subjects:
 - aa. Methodology of Economics
 - bb. Ethical Aspects of Economics
 - cc. Rationality and Choice
 - dd. History of Economic Thought
- b. have an overview of important issues in general analytic philosophy/philosophy of economics
- c. have an overview of important developments in society and the (social) sciences related to their area of specialisation.

iii. Curricular aims

- a. have expertise in formulating original and innovative research problems based on a solid understanding of the state of the art in their area of specialisation
- b. have the skills required for further study in a largely self-directed or autonomous manner
- c. have a general work attitude required for membership in a research team, and for participation in a research network in their own area of research
- d. have a strong international orientation in their work and interest
- e. have the faculty of critical and independent thinking to analyse societal problems