

Teaching and Examination Regulations 2021-2022

for the Master of Philosophy
at Erasmus School of Philosophy
at Erasmus University Rotterdam

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Introduction

These Programme Regulations contain the Course and Examination Regulations (CER) for the Master of Philosophy at Erasmus University Rotterdam. These Regulations were laid down by the Dean of Erasmus School of Philosophy, following the advice of the Examination Board (=Examencommissie), and have been approved by the Faculty Council (=Faculteitsraad) and the Programme Committee (=Opleidingscommissie).

Course and Examination Regulations for the full-time Master of Philosophy

Introduction

The Course and Examination Regulations contain the specific rights and obligations of students following the Master of Philosophy programme. The rights and obligations of all students are detailed in the university Students' Charter; please see <https://www.eur.nl/en/education/practical-matters>.

These Regulations were adopted by the Dean of the Erasmus School of Philosophy on August 30th, 2021 with the consent of the Faculty Council on June 28th, 2021 and the Programme Committee on June 17th, 2021 and following the recommendation of the Examination Board on July 15th, 2021.

Section 1 General provisions

Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations

These Regulations apply to the 2021-2022 academic year and govern the teaching, interim and final examination of the master in Philosophy and pertain to all students that are enrolled in that programme. The programme is offered by Erasmus School of Philosophy.

Article 1.2 Definitions

- a. the Act: the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW);
- b. student: a person enrolled at the university for the purpose of taking a programme and/or sitting interim and final examinations of that programme in accordance with Section 7.34 of the Act;
- c. Faculty: the Erasmus School of Philosophy of Erasmus University Rotterdam;
- d. a credit: 28 hours of study, see the Act, Section 7.4, first subsection;
- e. programme: the programme referred to in Article 1.1 of these Regulations;
- f. course: a unit of study as referred to in Section 7.3 of the Act;
- g. block: an academic period of max. ten weeks;
- h. master year: an academic period consisting of six blocks;
- i. examination: an assessment of the student's knowledge, insight and/or skills that concludes a course;
- j. skills training: training as referred to in Section 7.13, subsection 2, of the Act, in one of the following forms: producing an assignment or paper, doing an internship, or participating in an education activity aimed at acquiring certain skills;
- k. master examination: the examination that concludes the master in Philosophy;
- l. diploma supplement: the annex to the master degree certificate explaining the nature and content of the programme;
- m. master thesis: final thesis for the master examination;
- n. supervisor: a lecturer who acts as the student's first supervisor;
- o. advisor: a lecturer who acts as the student's second examiner;
- p. component: a part of the programme consisting of a course or the master thesis;
- q. Course and Examination Regulations: the rules of the master in Philosophy

as referred to in Section 7.3 of the Act and adopted by the Dean of the Faculty;
r. Rules and Guidelines: Rules and Guidelines of the Examination Board for the master in Philosophy (as referred to in Section 7.12b., subsection 1b, of the Act) and adopted by the Examination Board;
s. s/he: to be understood in a gender-neutral sense.

Article 1.3 The Examination Board

1. The Dean appoints an Examination Board for the Faculty's programmes and is responsible for ensuring that the independence and expertise of that Examination Board is sufficiently guaranteed.
2. The Dean appoints the chair and the members of the Examination Board on the basis of their expertise in the programmes offered by the Faculty.
3. Before the appointment of a new member the Dean will consult the current members of the Examination Board.

Article 1.4 Evaluation of the programme

1. The Programme Director is responsible for ensuring the evaluation of the programme.
2. The Programme Director will inform the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee of the method and frequency of the evaluation of the components of the curriculum.
3. The Programme Director will inform the Programme Committee of the outcomes of the evaluation, the amendments made as a result of this and the effect of the actual amendments.

Section 2 Prior Education

Article 2.1 Admission

1. A student may be admitted to the master of Philosophy if he has obtained:
 - a) a degree of bachelor in Philosophy; or
 - b) a degree of bachelor in Philosophy of a Specific Discipline; or
 - c) a total of 60 EC for courses in philosophy within the programme of a Bachelor degree obtained in another discipline than philosophy.
2. The Examination Board decides on the admission as specified in paragraph 1 of this Article.
3. An exception to the criteria as specified in paragraph 1 applies for students who follow the 'Sustainability Transitions' specialization track. A student may be admitted to this track if he has obtained:
 - a. a degree of bachelor in any discipline;
 - b. language requirements as referred to in article 2.2, below.

Article 2.2 Language requirements

1. In addition to the requirements of Article 2.1, the student must have a sufficient command of English to take the programme and to sit the examinations. The student will have fulfilled this requirement if he:
 - a. has graduated, in English, from one of the programmes specified in Article 2.1 of these Regulations, or
 - b. has finished 60 ec of courses in English in his bachelor programme; -, or if - has obtained at least 7.0/10 as a final grade for English in high school (VWO

- or equivalent), or if
 - is a native speaker, or if
 - can demonstrate his proficiency in English in a writing sample.
2. Because of the conditions created by the Corona crisis, exceptions to the requirements of 2.2 apply, as specified in article 2.3

Article 2.3 Conditional admission related to corona measures

1. During the academic year 2021-2022, a student may exceptionally be admitted to the master of Philosophy if:
 - a) s/he has obtained at least 162 EC in the bachelor in Philosophy; or
 - b) s/he has obtained at least 162 EC in the bachelor in Philosophy of a Specific Discipline; or
 - c) s/he has obtained at least 162 EC of a bachelor degree in another discipline than philosophy including a total of 60 EC (minor excluded) for courses in philosophy belonging to the main programme itself;
and:
 - d) s/he has obtained and delivered to the examination board a written statement by her/his supervisor in the Ba-programme that progress on the bachelor thesis or other type of graduation project for the bachelor programme has been finalised to an extent that at least 50 % of the work in research and writing has been done.
 - e) If the bachelor degree is not obtained before 31 August 2022, the possibility to follow master-level courses and master-level examinations will be terminated.
2. The Examination Board decides on the admission as specified in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Section 3 Content and structure of the programme

Article 3.1 Programme objective

The objective of the programme is to contribute to the student's academic education by teaching him knowledge, insights and skills in the field of Philosophy that will allow him to enter the job market at master degree level and continue his subsequent academic education in the field of Philosophy. The objective of the programme is specified in the intended learning outcomes, see Appendix 1.

Article 3.2 Programme structure

The programme is offered in fulltime and as a part-time programme. The student should start the master programme (fulltime or part-time) at the beginning (September) of the academic year.

Article 3.3 Language in which the programme is taught

1. The programme is taught in English and the examinations will be held in that language.
2. When writing essays, papers and the master thesis, use of literature in Dutch, German, English and French is permitted. If any literature is used in a language other than the languages listed above, the lecturer's or supervisor's prior consent is required.
3. Written examinations must be in English.
4. If the student wants to sit the examination in a language other than English, he must submit a request to the ExaminationBoard.

Article 3.4 Study load

The fulltime programme consists of one academic year and has a study load of 60 EC. The part-time programme consists of two academic years and has a study load of 30 EC per year.

Article 3.5 The programme

1. The components of the programme are determined by the Dean of the Faculty.
2. The master year(s) consist(s) of six blocks; Article 3.6 provides a list of courses and Article 3.7 explains how to make a selection from that list.

Article 3.6 Course selection per block

- * Block 1
 - * - Classical Texts, Contemporary Challenges (5 EC)
 - * - Confronting Unsustainability (5 EC; only for the 'Sustainability Transitions' specialisation track)
- * Blocks 2-4
 - * - Master thesis tutorial group (2.5 EC)
 - * - Mentor groups From Theory to Practice (5 EC)
 - * Cluster 1: Representation: Democracy, Science, and Culture
 - * - Representation, The People and Contemporary Democracy (5 EC)
 - * - Social Choice Theory and Political Representation (5 EC)
 - * - War and Politics (5 EC)
 - * - From Representation to Mediation (5 EC)
 - * Cluster 2: Environment, Life, and Technology
 - * - Life, Power and Global Technologies (5 EC)
 - * - Industrial Epidemics (5 EC)
 - * - Transhumanism (5 EC)
 - * - Philosophy of Technoscience (5 EC)
 - * - Extra option 1: Architecture and Philosophy (TU Delft, 5 EC)
 - * Cluster 3: Subjectivity and Response-Ability
 - * - Descartes and the Cartesian Legacy (5 EC)
 - * - What the Subject is Not (5 EC)
 - * - A Brain with Hands and Legs (5 EC)
 - * - The Principle and Function of Reason (5 EC)
 - * Cluster 4: The Politics of Inequality: Wealth, Capitalism, Exploitation
 - * - Welfare and Corporation (5 EC)
 - * - Capitalism and Freedom (5 EC)
 - * - Roots of Racism (5 EC)
 - * - Justice in the Economics and Politics of Wealth (5 EC)
- * Block 5
 - * - Workshop From Theory to Practice (2.5 EC)
- * Block 6
 - * - Completion of the master thesis (15 EC)

Article 3.7 Composition of the master programme 'Philosophy Now'

1. The student chooses two of the four course clusters or a curriculum without a cluster.

2. Each cluster consists of four courses, of which two are optional.
3. In total, students take six courses (30 EC) within the cluster program.
4. Moreover, all master students follow the following courses:
 - a. The course 'Master Thesis Tutorial Group'; during this course, the students start with the preparation and writing of the draft of the thesis; this course concludes with an oral presentation in Block 3 on the progress of the research.
 - b. The course 'Classical Texts, Contemporary Challenges'
 - c. The mentor group 'From Theory to Practice'
 - d. The workshop 'From Theory to Practice'
5. With the exception of the course at TU Delft mentioned under Article 3.6, the student may use no more than 5 EC for a (philosophical or non-philosophical) subsidiary subject at an institute of academic education, on the condition that, when choosing a subject cluster, he meets the requirements listed in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.
 - a. The Examination Board's prior approval is required for the inclusion of a subsidiary subject.
6. The Examination Board's prior approval is required for courses followed in international exchange programmes.
7. The student is allowed to follow courses from all four clusters, but the Examination Board's prior approval is required for deviation from the cluster programme.
8. From the modules offered in the specialization track 'Sustainability Transitions' (see 3.8) students can choose to follow either the 'Theory of Sustainable Transitions'-course or all four courses together.

Article 3.8 Optional specialization track 'Sustainability Transitions'

1. As an alternative to the programme set out under 3.7, students can choose to follow the 'Sustainability Transitions' specialization track offered in collaboration with members of other EUR Schools and Institutes, including faculty from DRIFT/DIT. (For admission criteria, see: 2.1.3.).
2. The composition of this track follows the composition of the programme as set out under 3.7, with the following exceptions:
 - a. Instead of 'Classical Texts, Contemporary Challenges', students follow a course 'Confronting Unsustainability' in block 1 (5 EC);
 - b. Students do not choose between clusters, but choose three courses within 'Environment, Life, Technology' (cluster 2, 15 EC);
 - c. Students follow a separate cluster 'Sustainability Transitions' consisting of three modules:
 - 'Theory of Sustainable Transitions' (5 EC)
 - 'Practice of Sustainable Transitions' (5 EC)
 - 'Methods of Sustainable Transitions' (5 EC)
3. For the master thesis (15 EC) during block 6, students will be supervised by authorized faculty members of DRIFT/DIT.

Article 3.9 Approval of the master programme

1. The student should submit a proposal for the composition of his master programme to the Examination Board two weeks before March 1 of the relevant master year. The forms are available on Myeur.nl.
2. The proposal should contain the elements required for a full master programme with a study load of 60 EC listed in Article 3.7 of these

Regulations, and should also mention the subject of the master thesis, the intended supervisor (first supervisor) and advisor (second supervisor).

3. If the Examination Board does not approve the proposal for the master programme, the student will be notified in writing and informed of the reasons.

4. If a student wants to change the proposal for his master programme while he is taking that programme, he requires the Examination Board's approval once again (please also see Article 6.1 of the Rules and Guidelines).

Article 3.11 Exceptions

In all cases in which students wish to deviate from the examination programme, permission must be requested from the Examination Board in advance in a reasoned request.

Section 4 Courses

Article 4.1 Enrolment

A student may only participate in a course if he or she has registered in time via OSIRIS.

Article 4.2 Attendance and best efforts obligation

1. Every student is expected to participate actively in the courses in which he is enrolled.
2. In addition to the general requirement that the student actively participates in the programme, supplementary requirements are described per component in the course profile in the online study guide or OSIRIS.

Section 5 Testing

Article 5.1 General

1. Every component of the programme is followed by an examination, unless this component is assessed in a different way, e.g. by attendance and participation requirements.
2. The Examination Board appoints one or more examiners for each examination. Students, student assistants or tutors may not be appointed as examiners. The appointment of the examiners is announced in the course profiles in the Course guide.
3. The examiners appointed by the Examination Board are responsible for the content of the examinations and determine the results of the examinations (please also see Article 2.1 of the Rules and Guidelines).
4. The course description states the objectives and learning outcomes of the course in question as well as the intended methods of assessment (please also see Article 5 of the Rules and Guidelines).

Article 5.2 Structure of the examinations

1. The course assessment is arranged as mentioned in the course profile in the Course guide and OSIRIS.
2. Examinations may be held either as written or oral tests.
3. Only one student at a time may be examined if the examination is an oral test, unless the Examination Board has decided otherwise.

4. Oral examinations are public, unless the Examination Board or the examiner in question has decided otherwise, or if the student objects.
5. On request of the student or the examiner, the Examination Board may allow the examination to be taken by a method that is different from procedure stated in the provisions of the first paragraph. For the assessment of the master thesis, please also see Article 6.1 of the Rules and Guidelines for the assessment of the master thesis.

Article 5.3 Examinations and resits: number and completion terms

1. All examinations can be taken at least twice per academic year.
2. The student may take no more than two resits during the programme.
3. The examination for a single course may consist of several sub-examinations or assignments.
4. Examinations that are not administered as a central written session (e.g. written assignments) should be taken within a term of six months of completing the course. The examinations are based on the prescribed literature for the most recent lecture cycle.
5. A resit should be taken in the same academic year as the first examination.
6. The Examination Board may, in exceptional cases, permit deviation from the provisions of the paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of this Article to the benefit of the candidate.

Article 5.4 Examinations: times

1. Examinations administered as central written tests are announced in the month of August prior to the academic year in question.
2. Examinations administered as oral tests are held at a time determined by the examiner, and if possible in agreement with the student.
3. Changes to the scheduled examination times may only be made in the event of force majeure.
4. If the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) issues a weather warning (code red) for the whole country or specifically for the Rijnmond region due to extreme weather conditions, the Dean shall, after consulting the Student Administration, decide which of the written examinations planned for the relevant period should be cancelled. Any such cancellation will be announced on the homepage of the EUR, on timetables.eur.nl and on the Facebook page of ESSC.
5. Following such a cancellation, the Dean will set new dates for the cancelled examinations as soon as possible in consultation with the examiners concerned. The new dates should preferably be within two weeks of the original examination dates. The new examination dates will be published on timetables.eur.nl.
6. Similar regulations and provisions as mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 5 of this Article apply if by order of the Dutch government, of local authorities or of governmental institutes, students are kept from attending a scheduled examination for other reasons.

Article 5.5 Notification and registration of the examination results

1. The examiner will produce his final assessment of the examination within 15 working days of the day on which the relevant examination was held.
2. Immediately after an oral examination, the examiner will make an assessment of the examination and issue the student with a written statement regarding the assessment.
3. The registered details, with the exception of details on awarded degree certificates, will not be disclosed to parties other than the candidate, the

Examination Board, the Executive Board, the Board of Appeal for Examinations and the study advisor. Deviations from this provision are only permitted with the student's consent.

4. In the online statement of the assessment of an examination, the student is informed of the right of inspection (see Article 5.7 of these regulations) and of the possibility of appeal to the Examination Appeals Board (see part III of these Study Regulations).

Article 5.6 Validity

1. The validity of the examination results is indefinite.
2. Partial results (results for the part of an examination) remain valid only in the academic year in which they have been obtained.

Article 5.7 Right of inspection

1. For a period of 30 days following the publication of the result of a written examination, a student may inspect the assessed work following a request.
2. During the period specified in the first paragraph, the student can ask for clarification of the criteria used for assessing the examination (please also see Article 5.3 of the Rules and Guidelines).

Article 5.8 Reviews

1. A review of an oral examination may be held between the student and the examiner on the student's or the examiner's initiative shortly after the announcement of the results of the examination.
2. The lecturer should announce the date of a collective review in good time. The student may only request an individual review if he attended the collective review or if he was hindered from attending the collective review by circumstances beyond his control.

Article 5.9 Period of retention

1. The questions, answers and the assessed work of the written examinations are retained (either on paper or by digital means) for a period of two years following the assessment.
2. The master thesis and its assessment are retained for a period of seven years following the assessment (digitally).

Article 5.10 Exemption

1. At a student's request and after having consulted the relevant examiner, the Examination Board can grant the student exemption from a course or other part of the programme, provided that the student has completed a component which is of equivalent content and level, as part of a university or professional higher education programme, before he started the master programme.
2. An exemption can only apply to an entire course and not to a part of a course.

Article 5.11 Compensation

Examinations for the master programme resulting in an unsatisfactory mark are not eligible for compensation.

Article 5.12 Additional course load

The course lecturers may, after obtaining the approval of the Examination Board, increase the study load of their master courses from 5 to 6 EC by means of, for example, additional literature or a (more substantial) essay to tailor the elective courses to the wishes of external students, on the condition that the adapted course is not made mandatory. Students taking the master in Philosophy at Erasmus University Rotterdam may also attend such intensified courses, on condition that the credit allocation remains unaltered for the other master courses.

Section 6 The Master Examination

Article 6.1 The master examination

1. After the student has (a) achieved a pass for all components of the programme that are concluded with an examination, (b) has completed all the components of the programme for which no examination needs to be sat, and (c) has defended his master thesis at the concluding examination, the Examination Board will announce the results of the examination.
2. The Examination Board validates the results of the examination.
3. To have passed the master examination and to be awarded the degree certificate, the student must have been enrolled in the programme when he sat the examinations.
4. The date of the master examination is the date on the degree certificate (see Article 7.1 of the Rules and Guidelines for the examination day).
5. A student who has successfully fulfilled the programme's requirements under the first paragraph of this Article and is entitled to be awarded a certificate may request the Examination Board to delay the award of the certificate. This request to delay the award of the certificate should be submitted within two weeks of the student being notified of the results of the master examination. In his request the student should indicate when he wishes to receive the certificate (see Article 7.1 of the Rules and Guidelines for information on the examination day).

Article 6.2 The degree

1. A student who has passed the master examination will be conferred the degree 'Master of Arts in Philosophy' (MA in Philosophy).
2. The degree conferred is stated on the certificate of the master examination.

Article 6.3 The degree certificate

1. As proof that the student has successfully completed all the requirements of the master examination, a certificate is awarded by the Examination Board.
2. The Examination Board will attach the list of marks and the diploma supplement to the certificate; the diploma supplement provides information on the nature and content of the completed programme which is also geared towards persons and institutions outside the Netherlands.

Section 7 Supervision and advice

Article 7.1 Study progress administration

1. The examiner registers the individual study results of students and provides access to these results via OSIRIS.

2. The results of examinations for which results were already previously obtained will not be included in the calculation of the student's progress.
3. At the student's request and in agreement with the supervisor of the final research project, the Examination Board will award a number of EC to determine the progress made in the programme.
4. A certified student progress file can be obtained from Student Administration.

Article 7.2 Student counselling

Student counselling consists of:

- * individual advice on the composition of the master programme (please see Article 3.7 of the present Course and Examination Regulations);
- * individual advice about study skills, study schedules and choosing a subsequent pathway;
- * offering help in the event of difficulties during the student's time on the programme and, if necessary, referring the student to other persons or authorities.

Article 7.3 Studying with a functional impairment

1. Students with a functional impairment are offered the opportunity to adapt their study (as far as is reasonably possible) to the restrictions determined by the specific impairment involved. These adaptations will be aligned as far as possible to the student's individual functional impairment, but should not affect the quality or level of the programme.
2. Students should submit a request to the Examination Board, accompanied by a statement from an authorised agency.

Section 8 Transitional and final provisions

Article 8.1 Special clause

In cases that these regulations do not provide for unambiguously, or have a manifestly unreasonable outcome, a decision will be taken by or on behalf of the Dean, after consultation of the Examination Board.

Article 8.2 Amendments

1. Modifications of this regulation will be determined separately by the Dean, after having taken notice of the advice of the Examination Board, the Programme Committee and the Faculty Council; and after the approval of the Programme Committee and the Faculty Council relating to the sections of the Course and Examination Regulations (CER) for which those bodies have the right of consent, all in accordance with the law.
2. In Article 7.13 paragraph 2 of the law it is determined which sections the CER should at least contain. Article 9.18 paragraph 1a of the law determines for which sections of the CER (as determined in Article 7.13 paragraph 2) the Programme Committee has the right of consent. Article 9.38 paragraph b determines for which sections of the CER (as determined in Article 7.13 paragraph 2) the Faculty Council has the right of consent; on account of the general regulation in Article 9.37 paragraph 2 of the law the Faculty Council is allowed to give advice about the other sections of the CER.
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 Dean is responsible for the publication of these Regulations and any amendments.

Article 8.4 Effective date

These Regulations will come into effect on 1 September 2021.

Appendix 1: Intended learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding:

- a. To possess a thorough knowledge of systematic philosophy, the history of philosophy, and recent developments in contemporary philosophy, that deepens and surpasses the knowledge acquired in the bachelor.
- b. To have a thorough understanding of specific interrelated developments in the history of thought, in contemporary philosophy and in the application of philosophical methods and arguments to contemporary societal challenges.
- c. To possess a thorough knowledge of the chosen field of specialization (clusters and/or specialization track).

Putting knowledge and understanding into practice:

- a. The ability to interpret and reflect on complex philosophical problems.
- b. The ability to situate the acquired knowledge in a broader, multi-disciplinary context.
- c. The ability to develop a philosophical approach to contemporary challenges in the natural, social, political, anthropological and/or scientific domain.
- d. The ability to communicate their philosophical approach to professionals outside the university and/or to the general public.

Skills and communication:

- a. To be able to study, analyse and assess complex philosophical texts in a critical way, and to present the result verbally (presentation) and in writing (essay).
- b. To be able to give a presentation, to defend the (preliminary) results of the master thesis before an audience of fellow-students, and to write the definite version.
- c. To be able to present the conclusions of the master thesis (as well as the underlying motives, knowledge and considerations) before an audience of specialists and non-specialists; and to be able to defend the master thesis during the examination.
- d. Specifically for students in the 'Sustainability Transitions' specialisation track: to be able to explain and present a philosophical approach to a specific sustainability issue before, and to collaborate with, an audience of specialists and non-specialists; and to be able to defend this approach during the master thesis examination.

Attitude and judgmental capabilities:

- a. To develop a critical academic attitude in the field of contemporary philosophy, paying attention to the highest standards of philosophical rigor and creativity.
- b. The willingness to abstain from premature 'solutions' and to ask probing and unorthodox questions.
- c. Receptive to the societal relevance of philosophical questions and prepared to interpret the studied literature from this particular perspective, with due consideration of the social and moral responsibilities involved.

Learning skills:

To be able to complete a subsequent academic study independently and/or to subsequently pursue an academic career, based on the aforementioned intended

learning outcomes.