

Teaching and Examination Regulations

Masterprogramme in Bioinformatics and System Biology (Joint Degree)

Faculty of Science

Academic year 2018-2019

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Section B1: Programme specific – general provisions

6. General programme information and characteristics

Article 6.1 Study programme information

1.	The programme Bioinformatics and System Biology CROHO number 65020 is offered on a full-time basis.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 i)
1a	The programme is offered in partnership with the University of Amsterdam and leads to a joint degree.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 b)
1b	The language of instruction is English	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 b)
2.	A unit of study comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof. The units listed below have a different size: N.A.	

Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment

1.	The programme uses the teaching formats as specified in the Study Guide.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 x)
2.	The modes of assessment used per educational component are specified in the Study Guide.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 l)

7. Further admission requirements

Article 7.1 Intake date(s)

1.	The programme starts on September 1.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (9.38 b)
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Article 7.2 Admission requirements

1.	Admission to the Master's programme is possible for an applicant who has obtained a Bachelor's degree obtained at an institution of academic higher education, which demonstrates the following knowledge, understanding and skills: a) A student, who has obtained a Bachelor's degree in Biology, Biomedical Sciences, (Bio/Medicinal) Chemistry, Computer Sciences, Engineering, Health Sciences, (Bio)Informatics, Mathematics, Medical (Natural) Sciences, Medicine, Pharmaceutical Sciences or Physics from the University of Amsterdam (UvA) or from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) may enter the programme.	Partly legal provision & ordinance CvB, see appendix 3. Admission requirements excepted from participation in WHW
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<p>b) Candidates possessing an equivalent (as compared to the programmes mentioned in section a BSc degree from a Dutch University may enter the programme provided that the student has obtained sufficient knowledge in the fields of Biology and Mathematics. An intake may be part of the admission procedure.</p> <p>c) Without prejudice to the provisions of sections a and b the Examinations Board may, after asking advice of the programme director, decide whether a candidate whose academic Bachelor does not meet aforementioned entry requirements is eligible for admission. An interview may be part of the intake procedure.</p> <p>d) When the programme commences, the candidate must have fully completed the Bachelor's programme allowing admission to this Master's programme.</p>	
<p>2. The Admissions Board will investigate whether the applicant meets the admission requirements.</p>	Legal provision
<p>3. In addition to the requirements referred to in the first paragraph, the Admissions Board can also assess requests for admission in terms of (at least two of) the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. talent and motivation; b. level of relevant knowledge and understanding; c. proficiency in methods and techniques; d. academic attitude and critical thinking; e. proficiency in the language(s) of instruction 	Partly legal provision & ordinance CvB, see appendix 3. Admission requirements excepted from participation in WHW

[Article 7.3 English language requirement for English-language Master's programmes](#)

<p>1. The proficiency requirement in English as the language of instruction can be met if no longer than two years before the start of the programme, the applicant has successfully completed one of the following examinations with at least the scores indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IELTS: 6.5 - TOEFL paper based test: 580 - TOEFL internet based test: 92 - Cambridge Advanced English: A, B or C. 	Landelijke gedragscode Internationale studenten
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[Article 7.4 Pre-Master's programme](#)

<p>1. Students with a Bachelor's degree in a field that corresponds to a sufficient extent with the subject area covered by the Master's programme can request admission to the pre-Master's programme, to be assessed by the Admissions Board.</p>	advies OLC; instemming FGV (9.38 b)
<p>2. A successfully completed pre-Master's programme serves as proof of admission to the specified Master's programme in the subsequent academic year.</p>	advies OLC; instemming FGV (9.38 b)

8. Interim examinations and results

Article 8.1 Sequence of interim examinations

1. Students may participate in interim examinations [or practical exercises] of the components below only if they have passed the interim examination or examinations for the components mentioned hereinafter:	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 h, s & t)
N.A.	

Article 8.2 Validity period for results

1. The validity period of the interim examinations and exemptions from interim examinations below, is in principle not limited, unless dictated by major changes in the contents of the course.	Advice OLC; approval FGV (7.13 k)
2. A student may request the Examination Board to extend the validity of an exam. If the exam shows that a student's knowledge is insufficient or outdated, or if the student's skills and insights evaluated in the exam are demonstrably outdated, the Examination Board may impose a supplementary examination, impose a replacement examination or refuse to extend the period of validity.	Legal provision
3. In situations where a limited period of validity applies, the period of validity of examinations may be extended in the event of extenuating circumstances as stipulated in WHW Article 7.51, paragraph 2, with at least the period of allocated financial assistance specified in WHW Article 7.15, paragraph 1.	Legal provision

Article 8.3. Degree

Degree Students who have successfully completed their Master's final Examination are awarded a Master of Science degree. The degree awarded is stated on the diploma. If it is a joint degree, this will also be stated on the diploma.	Legal provision
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Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme

9. Programme objectives, specializations and exit qualifications

Article 9.1 Workload

1. The programme has a workload of 120 EC.	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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Article 9.2 Specializations

The programme has the following specializations: Bioinformatics Systems Biology	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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Article 9.3 Programme objective

<p>The programme aims at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> teaching students to conduct empirical research to develop their practical skills, knowledge and insights into bioinformatics and systems biology; enabling students to perform research in various application fields of bioinformatics and systems biology; teaching key techniques and formalisms, while providing sufficient options for differentiation; teaching student the technical skills of programming and modelling, all applied to problems in molecular biology and genomics; providing a student-oriented education that is of high, internationally recognised quality; providing a feasible study programme to a heterogeneously composed student population in an inspiring academic learning environment of two universities. 	Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
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Article 9.4 Exit qualifications

<p>1. At all events, a graduate of the study programme will have [between brackets the most associated Dublin descriptor(s)]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> both a solid academic basic as well as specialist knowledge and understanding in the field of bioinformatics and systems biology and in one or more sub-areas of bioinformatics and systems biology, and related fields such as biophysics, biochemistry, mathematic modelling and cell biology [Knowledge and understanding]; acquired profound knowledge, insight and practical experience in at least one specialist area of bioinformatics or systems biology [Knowledge and understanding, Applying knowledge and understanding]; knowledge and understanding of the iterative process i.e. the relation between model, experiment and reality, of systems biology [Knowledge and understanding, Making judgements]; the ability to access and use international professional literature and master current scientific research developments and has knowledge of current scientific developments within relevant subdomains of bioinformatics and systems biology [Knowledge and understanding]; 	Approval OLC (7.13 c)
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability to get acquainted with a field of study and acquire specialist knowledge, understanding and skills in a short period of time [Making judgements]; • insight of the applications of bioinformatics and systems biology in general and specific specialisations in particular and is able to apply this knowledge in new and continuously changing practical situations, also in broader, multidisciplinary contexts [Applying knowledge and understanding]; • capability of writing research or project proposals on the basis of realistic problem descriptions or to write a critical essay based on literature within a specialised field of study and one's opinion [Knowledge and understanding, Applying knowledge and understanding, Making judgements]; • the ability to independently set up and implement experiments contributing to a line of research [Applying of knowledge and understanding, Learning skills]; • the skills to analyse and interpret biological patterns and processes in both a qualitative and quantitative sense and make inferences based on these scientific results [Applying knowledge and understanding]; • the skills to present research projects and results both orally and written in English, at various scales and levels of abstraction, and communicate these to specialist and non-specialist audiences [Communication]; • an attitude that enables critical reflection and discussion [Making judgements, Learning skills]; • the ability to successfully fulfill a position in society requiring an academic qualification as an independently operating professional that has a good knowledge base and attitude towards a biological approach to relevant societal issues [Learning skills]; • the ability to continue his/her career either as a researcher able to pursue a PhD degree at the best universities, as a scientist in research institutes worldwide, or as a research-skilled professional in organisations of government, civil society or business and industry [Applying knowledge and understanding, Making judgements]. 	
<p>2. Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 1, a graduate who has chosen to do the minor Tesla as mentioned in article 4.4, obtains the exit qualifications as listed in the appendix.</p>	<p>Approval OLC (7.13 b)</p>

10. Curriculum structure

Article 10.1 Composition of the programme

<p>1. The programme comprises at least a package of compulsory components and an individual Master's thesis or academic internship.</p>	<p>Ordinance CvB, see appendix 3</p>
<p>2. Additionally the programme can offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practical exercises - Electives 	<p>Advice OLC; (7.13 a)</p>
<p>3. Educational components are categorized as specialized (400), research oriented (500) and highly specialized (600) level.</p>	<p>Ordinance CvB, see appendix 3</p>

Article 10.2 Compulsory educational components

A detailed description per educational component can be found in the Study Guide.

Educational component	course code	nr of EC	level	
Fundamentals of Bioinformatics	X_405052	6	400	
Introduction to Systems Biology	X_428565	6	400	
First internship (Major)	XM_405027	42	400	
Second internship (Minor)	XM_405032	18	400	
Biosystems Data Analysis	XMU_437001	6	400	
<i>Compulsory Courses Bioinformatics Major</i>				
Structural Bioinformatics	X_405019	6	400	
Algorithms in Sequence Analysis	X_405050	6	400	
Bioinformatics for Translational Medicin	X_405092	6	400	
<i>Compulsory Courses Systems Biology Major</i>				
Basic Models of Biological Networks	X_418154	6	400	
Systems Biology in Practice	XMU_418157	6	400	
<i>Compulsory Optional Courses Systems Biol Ma</i>				
Advanced Modeling in Systems Biology	X_418155	6	500	
Statistics with R	X_418156	6	400	
Synthetic Biology and Biomedicine	XMU_418125	6	500	
<i>Compulsory Optional (Alternative) Course</i>				
Writing a Grant Proposal	X_400594	6	500	
Literature Review (UvA)	XMU_0007	6	0	
<i>Optional Courses</i>				
Data Mining Techniques	X_400108	6	500	
Machine Learning	X_400154	6	300	
Signal Transd. in Health and Disease	X_432535	6	500	
<i>Conversion courses</i>				
Inleiding programmeren (Python)	X_401096	6	100	

Article 10.3 Elective educational components

1. The student can take one or more of the following electives without prior consent from the Examination Board:				Advice OLC; (7.13 a)
Name of educational component	course code	nr of EC	level	

Algorithms in Sequence Analysis	X_405050 (VU)	6	400
Structural Bioinformatics	X_405019 (VU)	6	400
Bioinformatics for Translational Medicine	X_405092 (VU)	6	400
Systems Biology in Practice	XMU_418157 (UvA)	6	400
Basic Models of Biological Networks	X_418154 (VU)	6	400
Statistics with R	X_418156 (VU)	6	400
Advanced Modeling in Systems Biology	X_418155 (VU)	6	500
Signal Transduction in Health and Disease	X_432535 (VU)	6	600
Machine Learning	X_400154 (VU)	6	300
Data Mining Techniques	X_400108 (VU)	6	500

1. The student can choose to participate in the minor Tesla, offered at the UvA.
 - a. The Minor Tesla consists of 30 EC. The minor must be combined with a research programme, comprising at least 90 EC of the general compulsory components (courses, research project and literature study) in order to meet the general requirements of the programme. The minor consist of a course component and a project-based component. This project-based component has to be supervised by a Faculty examiner and is subject to prior approval of the Examinations Board. Because it is a multidisciplinary minor an examiner from the research programme has to be appointed as a second assessor. Further information on this minor can be found at <http://www.student.uva.nl>
 - b. Students have to go through a separate intake procedure for admission to the minor Tesla.
 - c. Students first have to finish at least 60 EC of the compulsory part of the programme (60 EC) before starting the minor.
 - d. It is not permitted to take the obligatory research part of the programme and the minor simultaneously.
 - e. The student can participate in the minor Tesla without prior approval of the Examinations Board when following the programme as described below

Specialisation Bioinformatics	Programme with Minor Tesla
Compulsory Courses	36 EC
<i>Algorithms in Sequence Analysis</i>	6 EC
<i>Bioinformatics for Translational Medicine</i>	6 EC
<i>Biosystems Data Analysis</i>	6 EC
<i>Introduction to Systems Biology</i>	6 EC
<i>Fundamentals of Bioinformatics</i>	6 EC
<i>Structural Bioinformatics</i>	6 EC
Elective courses	18 EC
Research Project ¹	30 EC
Literature Review or Seminar Series and Writing a Research Proposal	6 EC
Components Minor Tesla	30 EC
Total Study Load	120 EC

Specialisation Systems Biology	Programme with Minor Tesla
Compulsory Courses	36 EC
<i>Basic Models of Biological Networks</i>	6 EC
<i>Biosystems Data Analysis</i>	6 EC
<i>Introduction to Systems Biology</i>	6 EC
<i>Fundamentals of Bioinformatics</i>	6 EC
<i>Systems Biology in Practice</i>	6 EC
<i>Advanced Modelling in Systems Biology or Statistics with R</i>	6 EC
Elective courses	18 EC
Research Project ¹	30 EC

Literature Review or Seminar Series and Writing a Research Proposal	6 EC	
Components Minor Tesla	30 EC	
Total Study Load	120 EC	
<i>¹One research programmes of 30 EC each. It is not permitted to participate in both iGEM project and minor Tesla during the Master's programme.</i>		
2. If the student wishes to take a different educational component than listed, advance permission must be obtained in writing from the Examinations Board.		Advice OLC; (7.13 a)

Article 10.4 Participation in practical exercise

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student are expected to participate actively in all degree components for which they are registered. 2. In addition to the general requirement regarding active participation, the study guide details additional requirements for each degree component, including attendance requirements. 3. At the start of each degree component, a specification will be made available which details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The final attainment levels of the degree component; - The study guidelines for passing the degree component; - The way in which the final attainment levels are assessed; - The regulations for examinations and resits; - The guidance provided by lecturers during scheduled hours and otherwise; - Component attendance requirements; - The provision of feedback to the student on assignments and reports submitted, and presentations given during the degree component. 4. If a student is prevented by force majeure from attending a required degree component, then the student must send written notification of his or her absence to the examiner and the study advisor as soon as possible. The examiner may, after consultation with the study advisor, give the student an alternative assignment. 5. Absence from degree components with required attendance is only allowed in the case of force majeure. 6. In the event of inadequate participation, either qualitative or quantitative, the examiner may exclude the student from further participation in the degree component or a part of the degree component. The details of the student's inadequate participation must be recorded in advance and approved by the Director of Studies. 	Approval OLC (7.13 d)
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11. Evaluation and transitional provisions

Article 11.1 Evaluation of the education

1. The education provided in this programme is evaluated in accordance with the faculty evaluation plan.	Approval OLC (7.13 a1)
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Article 11.2 Transitional provisions

By way of departure from the Teaching and Examination Regulations currently in force, the following transitional provisions apply for students who started the programme under a previous set of Teaching and Examination Regulations: N.A.	Advice OLC (7.13 a)
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Advice and approval by the Programme Committee, on (date) January 25th 2018

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly, on (date) June 26th 2018

Adopted by the board of the Faculty of Science on June 26th 2018

Appendix I**Overview of articles that must be included in the OER**

Based on Section 7.13, paragraph 2, of the WHW and other Sections of the Act.

Section A: Faculty section

2. Study programme structure	
Article 2.1 Structure of academic year and educational components	7.13 paragraph 2 sub e
3. Assessment and Examination	
Article 3.2 Type of examination	7.13 paragraph 2 sub h, l, j
Article 3.3 Oral interim examinations	7.13 paragraph 2 sub l, n
Article 3.4 Determining and announcing results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub o
Article 3.5 Examination opportunities	7.13 paragraph 2 sub h, j
Article 3.7 Exemption	7.13 paragraph 2 sub r
Article 3.8 Validity period for results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub k
Article 3.9 Right of inspection and post-examination discussion	7.13 paragraph 2 sub p, q
4. Academic student counselling and study progress	
Article 4.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling	7.13 paragraph 2 sub u
Article 4.2 Adaptations for students with a disability	7.13 paragraph 2 sub m

Section B1: Programme specific – general provisions

6. General programme information and characteristics	
Article 6.1 Study programme information	7.13 paragraph 2 sub i, r
Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment	7.13 paragraph 2 sub l, x
[option:] Article 6.3 Academic student counselling	7.13 paragraph 2 sub u
7. Further admission requirements	
Article 7.2 Admission requirements	7.30b paragraph 2
8. Interim examinations and results	
Article 8.1 Sequence of interim examinations	7.13 paragraph 2 sub h, s, t
[option 1:] Article 8.2 Validity period for results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub k
[option 2:] Article 8.2 Validity period for results	7.13 paragraph 2 sub k

Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme

9. Programme objectives, specializations and exit qualifications	
Article 9.1 Workload	7.13 paragraph 2 sub g
Article 9.2 Specializations	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
Article 9.3 Programme objective	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
Article 9.4 Exit qualifications	7.13 paragraph 2 sub b, c
10. Curriculum structure	
Article 10.1 Composition of the programme	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
Article 10.2 Compulsory educational components	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
[Optional] Article 10.3 Elective educational components	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a
[Optional] Article 10.4 Practical exercise	7.13 paragraph 2 sub d
Article 10.5 Participation in practical exercise	7.13 paragraph 2 sub d
11. Evaluation and transitional provisions	
Article 11.1 Evaluation of the education	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a1
Article 11.2 Transitional provisions	7.13 paragraph 2 sub a

Appendix II

Table of right of advice and right of approval by the OLC and FGV
(translation to English at a later stage)

Onderwerpen Onderwijs – en Examenregeling (OER) 7.13 paragraph 2 WHW	FGV		OpIC	
	I	A	I	A

a. de inhoud van de opleiding en van de daaraan verbonden examens				
a1. de wijze waarop het onderwijs in de desbetreffende opleiding wordt geëvalueerd				
b. de inhoud van de afstudeerrichtingen binnen een opleiding				
c. de kwaliteiten op het gebied van kennis, inzicht en vaardigheden die een student zich bij beëindiging van de opleiding moet hebben verworven				
d. waar nodig, de inrichting van praktische oefeningen				
e. de studielast van de opleiding en van elk van de daarvan deel uitmakende onderwijseenheden				
f. de nadere regels, bedoeld in de Articleen 7.8b, zesde paragraaf, en 7.9, vijfde paragraaf (<i>BSA</i>)				
g. ten aanzien van welke masteropleidingen toepassing is gegeven aan Article 7.4a, achtste paragraaf (<i>verhoogde studielast</i>)				
h. het aantal en de volgtijdelijkheid van de tentamens alsmede de momenten waarop deze afgelegd kunnen worden				
i. de voltijdse, deeltijdse of duale inrichting van de opleiding				
j. waar nodig, de volgorde waarin, de tijdvakken waarbinnen en het aantal malen per studiejaar dat de gelegenheid wordt geboden tot het afleggen van de tentamens en examens				
k. waar nodig, de geldigheidsduur van met goed gevolg afgelegde tentamens, behoudens de bevoegdheid van de examencommissie die geldigheidsduur te verlengen				
l. of de tentamens mondeling, schriftelijk of op een andere wijze worden afgelegd, behoudens de bevoegdheid van de examencommissie in bijzondere gevallen anders te bepalen				
m. de wijze waarop studenten met een handicap of chronische ziekte redelijkerwijs in de gelegenheid worden gesteld de tentamens af te leggen				
n. de openbaarheid van mondeling af te nemen tentamens, behoudens de bevoegdheid van de examencommissie in bijzondere gevallen anders te bepalen				
o. de termijn waarbinnen de uitslag van een tentamen bekend wordt gemaakt alsmede of en op welke wijze van deze termijn kan worden afgeweken				
p. de wijze waarop en de termijn gedurende welke degene die een schriftelijk tentamen heeft afgelegd, inzage verkrijgt in zijn beoordeelde werk				
q. de wijze waarop en de termijn gedurende welke kennis genomen kan worden van vragen en opdrachten, gesteld of gegeven in het kader van een schriftelijk afgenomen tentamen en van de normen aan de hand waarvan de beoordeling heeft plaatsgevonden				
r. de gronden waarop de examencommissie voor eerder met goed gevolg afgelegde tentamens of examens in het hoger onderwijs, dan wel voor buiten het hoger onderwijs opgedane kennis of vaardigheden, vrijstelling kan verlenen van het afleggen van een of meer tentamens				
s. waar nodig, dat het met goed gevolg afgelegd hebben van tentamens voorwaarde is voor de toelating tot het afleggen van andere tentamens				
t. waar nodig, de verplichting tot het deelnemen aan praktische oefeningen met het oog op de toelating tot het afleggen van het desbetreffende tentamen, behoudens de bevoegdheid van de examencommissie vrijstelling van die verplichting te verlenen, al dan niet onder oplegging van vervangende eisen				
u. de bewaking van studievoortgang en de individuele studiebegeleiding				
v. indien van toepassing: de wijze waarop de selectie van studenten voor een speciaal traject binnen een opleiding, bedoeld in Article 7.9b, plaatsvindt (<i>excellentietraject binnen een opleiding</i>)				
x. de feitelijke vormgeving van het onderwijs				
<i>alle overige onderwerpen die in de OER zijn geregeld maar die niet als zodanig zijn genoemd in art. 7.13 WHW onder a t/m x.</i>				

De lettering komt overeen met de lettering van Article 7.13 paragraaf 2 WHW

Appendix III

Ordinances VU CvB and Binding Guidelines (richtlijn)

Section A, article:	Concerns:	CvB ordinance / guideline
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2.1.1, 2.1.2	Year planning two semesters 8-8-4 (uniforme jaarkalender VU-UvA)	29-9-2008 (period 2009-2015) 22-05-2014 (periode 2016-2025)
2.1.3, 2.1.4	Educational components	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
3.1	Compulsory signing up	CvB ordinance 30-09-2010, prior consent USR.
3.4.1	Determination and publication of the results (1) Grading deadline exams 10 workdays (2) Theses 20 workdays	(1) Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017 (2) Quality demand 11 from the VU assessment policy, CvB ordinance 15-05-2012
3.5.1	Two possibilities to take examinations per year	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
3.5.2	Retake: most recent grade is valid. A pass can be retaken	Taken from the UvA guidelines, as part of the harmonization, CvB ordinance 24-02-2014
3.5.4	Extra retake last year	Included in (prior) model OER 16-17 following a request from committee O&O and adopted by CvB op 27-10-2015
3.6	Grades	CvB ordinance 30-09-2010, with University council's consent. As a result of harmonization UvA, the guideline: 5.5 is a pass, has been added. CvB ordinance 24-02-2014.
Section B1, article:	Concerns:	CvB ordinance / guideline
7.2.1	Admission criteria; at least WO Bachelor's degree	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
7.2.3	Additional admission criteria; type of criteria	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
Section B1, article:	Concerns:	CvB ordinance / guideline
10.1	Composition programme	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017
10.2	Categorization of components	Richtlijn Bachelor en Masteronderwijs, revised on 6 June 2017