Education and Examination Regulations for the bachelor's programme in Biomedical Sciences 2026-2027, of Maastricht University's Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences for students who commenced the programme since 1 September 2016, as referred to in Article 7.13 of the Higher Education and Research Act.

These rules have been adopted by the Dean of the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences after acquired advice/consent from the Education Programme Committee (Opleidingscommissie) and after acquired advice/consent from the Faculty Council, Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences (Faculteitsraad) on June 9, 2026.

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Section 1 General provisions

Article 1.1 Applicability of the regulations

1. These regulations apply to the education, exams and final examination of the Biomedical Sciences bachelor's programme, hereinafter referred to as the programme.
2. The programme is provided by Maastricht University's Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences, hereinafter referred to as the Faculty.
3. The regulations apply to all students who are registered for the programme in the 2026-2027 academic year and replace in principle all previous rules.
4. The replacement of the former regulations may not disadvantage student(s) involved. In cases where the new regulations disadvantage students, the Board of Examiners will find a solution.
5. Contrary to the content of paragraph 1.1. 3. and 1.1.4., the bachelor programme and the associated exam components however still apply as specified in the regulations corresponding to the academic year students entered the Biomedical Sciences bachelor.
6. These regulations are determined annually by the Board of the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences upon advice/consent of the Education Programme Committee and upon the advice/consent of the Faculty Council Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences.
7. These regulations also apply to students from other programmes, faculties, or institutions of higher education, insofar as they follow components of the programme to which these Education and Examination Regulations apply.
8. For components of the programme that students follow at another degree programme, faculty, or institution of higher education, the Education and Examination Regulations for the other programme, faculty or institution apply to the component in question.

Article 1.2 Definition of Terms

In these regulations the following definitions apply:

a. academic year: the period from 1 September of a calendar year up to and including 31 August of the following calendar year;
b. the Act: the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (*Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek*, WHW);
c. Board of Admissions: the board responsible for judging the admissibility of the candidate to the programme;
d. Board of Examiners: the board for the programme as referred to in Section 7.12 of the Act;
e. competence: a collection of knowledge, skills and attitudes developed by students during the programme; the competences are spread over four domains as described in the curriculum map
f. course: a study unit of the programme within the meaning of the Act;
g. course assessment plan: document describing the assessment processes, procedures and activities of the course;
h. course coordinator: an examiner who is responsible for the organisation, implementation, and assessment of the education within a particular course;
i. course exam: a component of the final examination as referred to in Section 7.10 of the Act. An exam may consist of several components;
j. course year: year 1, year 2, or year 3 of the programme;
k. credit: a unit expressed in ECTS (European credit transfer and accumulation system) credits, with one credit equalling 28 hours of study;
l. Disability support (DS): the central point at UM where students with a disability and/or chronic illness can apply for facilities or support;
m. Education Programme Committee: the representation and advisory body that carries out the duties described in Article 9.18 and 9.38c of the Act;
n. examiner: the person designated by the Board of Examiners who is responsible under Section 7.12c of the Act for administering exams and determining the results of such exams;
o. Faculty Board: the Faculty Board as referred to in Section 9.12 of the Act;
p. final examination: the collection of results of all exams and its components, as referred to Section 7.3 of the Act;
q. internship: several weeks stay in a research group to perform a research project that will result in a thesis;

r. Longitudinal track/line/trajectory: a course structure that extends throughout multiple blocks integrating content and learning objectives across various periods of instruction.
s. mentor: person who supervises the assembling of the portfolio by the student and who provides guidance and advice in relation to the student's competence and career development; the mentor in agreement with the shadow mentor will perform the final assessment of each student on professional development;
t. portfolio team: the portfolio and mentor coordinator act as additional examiners to formally assess professional development if there is a disagreement between the mentor and the shadow mentor, or if the student disagrees with the assessment of the mentors;
u. portfolio: the tool used to monitor and assess a student's learning process and competence development;
v. programme: the bachelor's programme referred to in Article 1.1 of these regulations, consisting of a coherent whole of study units;
w. registration: record if the requirements for a specific examination component have been met or record for enrolment into educational activity
x. Rules and Regulations: the provisions to be laid down by the Board of Examiners with the aim of guaranteeing the quality of the assessment and the final examination as referred to in Section 7.12b of the Act;
y. skills training: an activity aimed at achieving specific skills as referred to in the Act, including:
   - writing a bachelor's thesis
   - writing a paper, creating a technological design, or another written assignment
   - performing a research assignment
   - participating in fieldwork or a field trip
   - completing an internship
   - performing laboratory tests
   - participating in practical training sessions
   - participating in tutorial group sessions
   - participating in project groups
   - participating in journal clubs
z. shadow mentor: person, who independently reads the portfolio of a student and discusses the assessment with the mentor (4-eye-principle);
aa. student: an individual who is registered at Maastricht University for education and/or to take the exams and the final examination of the programme;
bb. Student Portal: the electronic learning environment for the programme, which includes and refers to further details about programme-specific provisions and information, such as CanVas, student intranet, FHML web;
cc. UM: Maastricht University;

The other terms have the meaning assigned to them by the Act.

Section 2 Admission

Article 2.1 Admission requirements

1. Persons who have a Dutch pre-university education diploma as referred to in Section 7.24 of the Act or have been exempted from this requirement under the Act are eligible for admission to the programme. More information about the admission requirements such as prior qualifications and language requirements can be found on the UM website (Education – Bachelor's – Biomedical Sciences – Admission requirements).

Article 2.2 Colloquium Doctum (Entrance examination)

1. The admissions test referred to in Article 7.29 of the Act is performed by the Colloquium Doctum and Special Admissions Board for Biomedical Sciences.
2. The admissions test consists of the components English language, physics, chemistry, mathematics, and biology.
3. The Colloquium Doctum and Special Admissions Board for Biomedical Sciences can grant an exemption for components of the test if, in the Board's judgement, the candidate has demonstrated that the student meets substantively similar requirements.

4. The rules and procedures regarding the admissions test will be included in regulations concerning admission requirements to the Maastricht Biomedical Sciences programme which can be found on the UM website.

Article 2.3 Previous education for students with non-Dutch diplomas

1. Subject to the third paragraph of this article, students who have a diploma which, pursuant to Article 7.28(2) of the Act, has been designated by ministerial regulation as at least equivalent to the diploma for pre-university education are exempted from the previous education requirements.
2. Subject to the third paragraph of this article, students who have a diploma, which, in the judgment of the Colloquium Doctum and Special Admissions Board for Biomedical Sciences, is at least equivalent to the diploma for pre-university education may be exempted by the Executive Board from the previous education requirements.
3. Students who have received an exemption from the previous education requirements pursuant to the first and second paragraph cannot be admitted to the programme until, in the assessment of the Colloquium Doctum and Special Admissions Board for Biomedical Sciences, requirements substantively similar to the further previous education requirements (profiles) have been met.
4. The rules and procedures regarding the assessment referred to in the third paragraph will be included in regulations concerning admission requirements to the Maastricht Biomedical Sciences programme which can be found on the UM website.

Article 2.4 Language requirement for non-Dutch diplomas

Holders of a non- Dutch diploma may only register, if they have met the requirement concerning a sufficient command of English by passing one of the following language proficiency tests before the programme begins:

a. Academic IELTS: 6.0
b. TOEFL iBT: 80
c. TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition Test: 80
d. TOEIC listening and reading: 670; speaking and writing: 290
e. Cambridge First B2: Grade B (scale 173-175) or, Grade C (scale 169-172)
f. TOEFL Paper-delivered Test: Reading: 20-30; Listening: 20-30; Writing: 20-30 *(We recommend taking one of the other tests listed above, as speaking skills are not assessed in this TOEFL test)*
g. or similar accredited certification if they are exempt from the language proficiency tests requirement referred to under a (see Appendix 2).

Section 3 Content and structure of the programme

Article 3.1 Aim of the programme

1. The aim of the programme is to provide the student with:

- knowledge, skills, and understanding in the area of Biomedical Sciences and the attainment of the exit qualifications referred to in paragraph 2. The overarching aims are further detailed in Intended Learning Outcomes for the competence domains Biomedical Expert, Communicator and Collaborator, Investigator and Scholar, and Professional and Organizer;
- an academic education within the framework of the specific UM teaching philosophy. This includes developing competences (knowledge, skills, and attitudes) in relation to:
  - academic thinking, behaviour, teamwork, and scientific communication
  - the use of relevant academic tools
  - the use of specific knowledge of a field in a broader academic, philosophical, and social/cultural context
  - professional behavioural standards that apply during the study and within academia
- further development of the student's specific choice for a particular field of science within Biomedical Sciences;
- the possibility to prepare for a range of master's programmes;

- the preparation for the student's further academic career.

2. Graduates of the programme must have attained the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding
The student has knowledge and understanding of the:
- biological, mechanistic, and etiological basis of human or animal health and illness;
- broad methodological basis for biomedical research (from laboratory techniques to the use of model systems, statistics and epidemiology);
- translation of clinical problems into both fundamental and clinically related biomedical research, and of results of biomedical research (both human and animal) into relevant applications in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of illness;
- contextual position of the field of biomedical sciences as such, i.e., from an epistemological, historical, ethical, and/or social perspective.

Application of knowledge and understanding
The student can:
- apply qualitative, quantitative, and statistical techniques in biomedical research;
- gather data and analyse them qualitatively and quantitatively;
- use the relevant computer software;
- define a specific biomedical question, develop hypotheses and formulate explanations;
- under supervision, formulate and implement a scientific research plan for a project/internship.

Making judgements
The student:
- can read, understand and critically evaluate biomedical professional literature;
- can assess the value of the biomedical data that has been gathered and evaluate its applicability;
- is, to a certain extent, capable of evaluating whether biomedical laboratory techniques or clinical and other research models are suitable for and applicable to a problem;
- can form a judgement on biomedical questions based on a consideration of the relevant social, clinical, scientific, and ethical aspects;
- can establish connections between biomedical issues and adjacent fields of study (e.g. medicine, biology, pharmaceutical sciences);
- understands the historical and philosophical perspectives of the sciences, particularly biomedical sciences.

Communication
The student can:
- communicate with fellow specialists and non-specialists both orally and in writing in English;
- make a substantive contribution to a scientific discussion;
- form a reasoned opinion and defend it;
- operate both individually and as part of a group and work on multidisciplinary topics;
- provide peer feedback.

Learning skills
The student:
- can independently and effectively acquire knowledge and understanding of previously unfamiliar biomedical issues;
- can operate at an academic working and thinking level; can and wants to develop this level further;
- understands the need for and is able to keep up to date with relevant developments in the field;
- can and is inclined to find scientific explanations;
- is capable of multidisciplinary thinking and can establish links;
- can reflect on its own development and academic career to make well-considered choices for a follow-up programme;
- can reflect on its own actions and deal with peer and other feedback.

3. The programme’s educational activities are based on core values and norms laid down in the Maastricht University Rules of Conduct and the principles of research integrity and the ensuing guidelines for good research practices as laid down in the Netherlands Code of

Conduct for Research integrity (see UM website). Participants of the programme (staff and students) are expected to operate within the principles.

Article 3.2 Form of the programme

This is a full-time programme.
The programme commences once a year in September.

Article 3.3 Language of instruction as referred to Appendix 3

1. The programme is taught in English.
2. The course exams are held in English.
3. The use of dictionaries is not permitted during exams.

Article 3.4 Communication and announcement of decisions

1. The Faculty Board, the Board of Examiners and the examiners use the Student Portal, and/or UM mail account for communications relating to teaching and exams.
2. The Faculty Board, the Board of Examiners and the examiners use the Student Portal and/or UM mail account to announce decisions.
3. The student must regularly check its UM mail account, the Faculty website, Student Portal and Intranet. Information disseminated via e-mail, Student Portal and Intranet is assumed to be known.

Article 3.5 Study load

The programme has a study load of 180 ECTS credits, with one credit equalling 28 hours of study. Each course year has a study load of 60 ECTS.

Article 3.6 Content of the programme

The bachelor's programme consists of the components listed in Appendix 1 and has a major-minor structure**.** Appendix 1 forms part of these regulations.
More detailed information on the curriculum content and assessment can be found in the respective course description in the Student Portal. Curriculum content is either taught in separate courses or in course overarching longitudinal tracks.

Article 3.7 Major

1. The programme includes a major with a study load of 150 ECTS. The components designated in Appendix 1 under (a) are compulsory for the major.
2. Part of the major is offered as compulsory electives, in which the student can choose from the elective course components stated in Appendix 1 under (b).
3. The major includes the performance of an internship, concluding with an individual bachelor's thesis (total of 16 weeks available).

Article 3.8 Minor

1. Within the framework of the third year of the programme (semester 5), the student may choose a minor from among the subjects offered within the B-BMS programme (designated in Appendix 1b) or by the Faculty.
   The list of minors offered is set on an annual basis and published on the Student Portal/Intranet.
2. A student who has successfully completed the "Educatieve minor" with a study load of 40 ECTS qualifies to work as a teacher of Biology in junior general secondary education and the first three years of senior general secondary education and pre-university education.
3. In addition to paragraph 1 students may – subject solely to prior approval of the Board of Examiners and the Board of Examiners of the other programme – choose to take minors provided by another UM faculty, another Dutch university, or a foreign university.

4. The Board of Examiners may withhold the approval referred to in paragraph 3 if, in its opinion, the proposed elective is in terms of content too similar to components taken previously or to be taken by the student and would result in duplication.
5. The minor must have a total study load of at least 30 ECTS. If the chosen minor has a study load of more than 30 ECTS, these credits will also be noted on the list of examination components, but will not count towards the study load referred to in Article 3.5.
6. All practical details are set out in the document 'Rules and Requirements minors' year 3 BMS-study year'. This document can be found on the Student Portal/intranet.

Article 3.9 Flexible programme and flexible bachelor

1. A student registered for the programme may, under certain conditions, formulate an educational programme of its own that deviates from the educational programme stated in Article 3.6. The composition of such a programme requires prior approval by the Board of Examiners.
2. The flexible programme must have a study load of 180 ECTS.
3. The Board of Examiners will decide whether to grant permission for the student's proposal within four weeks of receiving the proposal.

Article 3.10 Honours programme

1. The programme includes an honours programme offered by FHML or MARBLE+ (open to UM students who meet the specific criteria). The composition of these programmes, including the study load, is published on the UM website.
2. Each year, a number of students are selected on the Faculty Board's behalf to participate in the honours programme. The selection procedure is published on the Student Portal/intranet.
3. No ECTS for obtaining the bachelor degree in Biomedical Sciences are allocated to the Honours Programme. A certificate will be added to the diploma if the honours programme has been followed successfully, see Article 6.4.

Article 3.11 Combining the programme with pregnancy and care tasks

1. With regard to pregnancy and/or childcare (and/or other care tasks initially limited to family members in the first line), the Board of Examiners may set up a custom programme for bachelor students upon their written request.
2. The request of the student in question referred to in paragraph 1 should be accompanied by a specific proposal for a programme that has been prepared in consultation with the study advisor.
3. The Board of Examiners BMS strives to make a decision as soon as possible but no later than 2 months after submission of the request.

Article 3.12 The final examination

1. The final examination consists of the components of the 3 course years as listed in Appendix 1.

Article 3.13 Extracurricular education

Extracurricular education does not form part of the final examination for the bachelor's programme and is not included on the list of examination components for this final examination. The full Regulations on Extracurricular Education can be found on the Student Portal.

Section 4 Education

Article 4.1 Composition

1. The education is competence-based and the educational outcomes are defined in four competence domains: Biomedical Expert, Investigator and Scholar, Communicator and Collaborator, and Professional and Organizer. For these four competence domains, the

student gathers relevant information and feedback on its competence development in an electronic portfolio.
2. For the programme components, courses and longitudinal tracks are provided with a study load as stated in Appendix 1.
3. The education will be provided in the form of tutorial group meetings, study groups, practical training sessions, lectures, individual supervision, workshops, or otherwise.
4. The programme takes 40 weeks per year.

Article 4.2 Prior knowledge; course year entrance requirements

1. Students can only progress to the next course year if they meet the entrance requirements for that course year at the start of the year. See Article 5.3 for the relevant entrance requirements.

Article 4.3 Course registration

Students may only partake in a course if they are registered by the applicable deadline.

Article 4.4 Attendance and active participation

1. Each student is expected to attend and actively participate in all components of the programme for which the student has been registered.
2. Attendance and sufficient participation is part of the Professional and Organizer competence and is either assessed within the longitudinal tracks of this competence, or as indicated in course assessment plans.
3. Students who have been granted top-class athlete status may qualify for an adjusted attendance and participation requirement.
4. Students who have a medical impairment may qualify for an adjusted attendance and participation requirement pursuant to the recommendation of the Disability Support and/or study advisor.

Article 4.5 Partaking in courses and priority rules

1. Subject to the Board of Examiners' permission, students of other scientific programmes provided by Maastricht University and other research universities may, in principle, also access the courses from the bachelor's programme listed in Appendix 1 under (b) provided there are sufficient resources such as available rooms and lecturers. Access is limited to students who have been admitted to the second course year of their study programme in accordance with the applicable Education and Examination Regulations.
2. Partaking in courses with a limited capacity is based on pre-determined and published admission criteria and priority rules, on the understanding that the students registered for the programme will be given priority for those courses that are a compulsory part of their programme.

Section 5 Assessment

Article 5.1 General

1. For each examination component of the programme, the student will be tested for academic training and the extent to which the student has sufficiently achieved the stated intended learning objectives.
2. The assessment plans for the courses and the competence domains for the longitudinal tracks describe the achievements required to pass and the criteria on which these are assessed. The assessment plans are published on the Student Portal.
3. The Rules of Procedure for (Course) Exams describe the procedures and logistics of (course) exams; assessments must be carried out in accordance with these regulations. The regulations can be found on the Student Portal/intranet.

Article 5.2 Marks and Ratings

1. Marks are awarded on a scale of 1 to 10 up to one decimal place accurately.
2. To pass a course or other exam component, the participant must receive a final mark of '5.5' or higher.
3. Notwithstanding the rules in article 5.2.2, the participant must at least receive a final mark of 6.0 for the internship/thesis/defence to pass.
4. Ratings are expressed as Good, Pass, or Fail.
5. If ratings are used, the final assessment for the relevant exam component is a pass if the student receives at least a Pass rating.

Article 5.3 Access to education and exams

1. If the student has successfully passed all assessment activities (i.e. obtained 60 credits of course year 1), the student may participate unconditionally in all assessment activities and exams of course year 2.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, students, who have obtained at least 43 credits of the assessment activities in course year 1 of which 31 credits have to come from the B- and I-competences, 6 credits from the P- competence, and 6 credits from the C-competence of the first year (as detailed in Appendix 1), may also participate in all assessment activities and exams of the second course year. They have to repeat failed exams of the first year in parallel to year 2 activities and have to either repeat or remediate failed P- and C-sub competences as detailed in the assessment and remediation plans.
   The programme is not responsible for scheduling these parallel activities in an optimal way but will facilitate where possible.
3. Students who have obtained less than 43 credits of the assessment activities in the first course year at the start of any academic year cannot access the education and exams for the second and third course years of the programme for the entire duration of that academic year.
4. Students who successfully passed all assessment activities (i.e. obtained the full 120 credits for both the first and second course year are admitted unconditionally to all assessment activities and exams of the third year.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 4, students who have obtained all 60 credits of the assessment activities of the first year, and at least 43 credits of the assessment activities of the 2nd year of which 31 credits have to come from the B- and I-competences, 6 credits from the P- competence and 6 credits from the C-competence (as detailed in Appendix 1) are conditionally admitted to assessment activities and exams of the third year. They also have to repeat failed exams of the second course year in parallel and have to repeat or remediate failed P- and C-sub competences (as detailed in the assessment and remediation plans). The programme is not responsible for scheduling these parallel activities in an optimal way but will facilitate where possible.
   In case students need to participate in an exam of the competences B or I from second year courses of semester 3 and they are following a minor outside the UM, it is the students' own responsibility to return to Maastricht for the exams. No other time frames than the regular, scheduled exams nor other exam possibilities are offered.
6. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 5, only students, who have acquired the full credits for P- and C-competences of the first and second year, that is 20 ECTS for C, 20 ECTS for P and a total of 20 ECTS for I, can begin their internship and thesis.
7. Students who have obtained fewer credits of the assessment activities than the required total of credits as mentioned in paragraph 5 above at the start of any academic year, cannot access the assessment and exams for the third course year of the programme for the entire duration of that academic year.
8. Students may only take part in the education and exams if they are registered by the applicable deadline.

Article 5.4 Scheduling and frequency of course exams

1. Students can take exams of the B- and I-competence twice per academic year on dates to be determined by the faculty board: once during or directly after the course period and once as a scheduled resit in the designated period of the academic year. The time periods in which the exams can be taken are published on FHML web and/or Intranet.

2. If a student passes to the higher course year, in case of failed courses the student can register for two successive exam options as detailed in paragraph 1 for the failed course examination(s) in the next study year.
3. If a student is not admissible to a higher course year the student is obliged to repeat failed courses and re-participate in all obligatory course B- or I-components of the course examination before being admitted to the end of course examination of those courses.
4. If a student is obliged to repeat a course, assignments and obligatory components of the course exam, which were passed within that course will lose their validity unless the Board of Examiners states otherwise.
5. The times and frequency of course exams for the longitudinal tracks or components thereof are stated in the relevant assessment plans. The plans also state how and when students can resit/ remediate these exam components.
6. If a student is not admissible to a higher course year and has to remediate failed C- and P-competences, the assessment plans and the remediation requirements of the year in which the remediation takes place apply (as stipulated in art 1.1, part 3).
7. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may decide to conduct course exams at a time other than those specified in paragraphs 1 and 2.

Article 5.5 Form of the exams

1. The exam format depends on the knowledge and skills to be assessed and will be announced via the assessment plans or no later than at the start of the course.
2. In consultation with the Board of Examiners, the examiner may decide that due to the small number of students an originally written course exam can have a different form for the resit.
3. Pursuant to the recommendation of the SSC-Disability Support and/or study advisor, the Board of Examiners will give students with a disability the opportunity to take exams in a manner that accommodates their specific disability as much as possible. The Board of Examiners will seek expert advice where necessary before reaching a decision.

Article 5.6 Oral exams

1. Oral exams are conducted on an individual basis unless the Board of Examiners has stipulated otherwise.
2. Oral exams are administered by two examiners unless the Board of Examiners has stipulated otherwise.
3. Oral examinations are public unless the student has objections against the public nature or the Board of Examiners or the relevant examiner has stipulated otherwise in exceptional cases.

Article 5.7 Assessments in exceptional cases

1. A student can submit a request to the Board of Examiners for an individual assessment. This request may be granted if not granting an individual assessment would result in an unacceptable study delay.
2. The following criteria apply to the granting of an individual assessment for the final component of the programme:
   - If, to pass the final bachelor's examination, a student only needs at most one component from year 2 or 3 in the 3rd course year;
   - It must be the final study result to be obtained;
   - The study delay, in case the individual assessment is not granted, must be at least one semester;
   - The student must have taken part in the last two regular exam opportunities for the exam for which the student is requesting another assessment.
3. Requests for exceptional assessments must be submitted with supporting documents to the Board of Examiners as soon as possible.

Article 5.8 Written assignments and bachelor's thesis

1. The programme management draws up guidelines for written assignments. The guidelines for writing reports and the guidelines for writing a bachelor's thesis can be found on the Student Portal.

2. The bachelor's thesis must be written individually.
3. The bachelor's thesis will be assessed by at least two examiners (the first supervisor and a second examiner). In addition to the assessment of the written thesis, the two examiners will assess an oral bachelor thesis' defence. This oral defence will include a short presentation by the student, followed by questions from the examiners.
4. The student will undertake one thesis supervised and assessed by the Faculty over the course of the programme.

Article 5.9 Internship

1. The programme management lays down the requirements that internships must meet in terms of nature and content in the form of internship regulations. These regulations are published on the Student Portal. The internship coordinator decides on behalf of the programme management whether a proposed internship meets the requirements.
2. The Board of Examiners appoints an examiner as the supervisor for each internship and the related thesis.
3. The student will undertake no more than one internship supervised by the Faculty over the course of the programme.

Article 5.10 Determination and announcement of exam results

1. In the Rules and Regulations, the Board of Examiners determines the standards for assessing each exam component. These standards are included in the assessment plans.
2. The examiner determines the result of a written exam and provides the Board of Examiners with the necessary information to officially notify the student of the result within 15 working days of the date on which the exam was taken.
3. The period stipulated in paragraph 5.10.2 may be extended if the Board of Examiners considers it necessary to investigate the exam result further.
4. The examiner determines the results of oral exams and provides the student and the educational organisation/the Board of Examiners secretary's office with evidence of the result at the latest the next day the exam is taken. If several students take the same exam after each other on different days, this period can be extended by a maximum of five working days.
5. For all other forms of exams, the Board of Examiners specifies in advance how the result will be determined and what the applicable time period is.

Article 5.11 Right of inspection

1. Within 10 working days after notification of the result of a written exam, including a computer-based exam, a student can inspect their individual assessed work.
2. Within the period referred to in paragraph 5.11.1, the student in question may inspect the questions and assignments for the written exam and the standards on which the assessment was based.
3. Participants will be informed of how to exercise their right of inspection when they are notified of the result of a written exam, with due observance of paragraph 5.11.1.

Article 5.12 Registration of exam components

1. Students will receive a registration for the courses corresponding to the competence domains Biomedical Expert and Investigator and Scholar and, as a result, the credits for these courses once they have met all requirements that apply to the courses.
   The requirements always include a pass in the course exams.
   Any additional requirements for registration of the courses are stated in the corresponding assessment plans.
2. Students will receive a registration for components of the competence domains Communicator and Collaborator, and Professional and Organizer and the credits for these components once they have met the criteria with regard to academic progress and competence development. These criteria are set out in the relevant assessment plans.
3. The registration of the domains Communicator and Collaborator, and Professional and Organizer is determined within the following time periods: 12 months after the start of the

bachelor's programme (portfolio year 1), 24 months after the start of the bachelor's programme (portfolio year 2), and at the end of the bachelor's programme (portfolio year 3).
4. Compensation rules apply to the B-competence in the first course year; these rules are set out in the Rules and Regulations.
   Compensation is not possible in the second and third course years.

Article 5.13 Invalidation of exams

If an exam involves irregularities that make it impossible to accurately assess the candidate's knowledge, insight, and skills, the Board of Examiners may declare the exam invalid for both the examinee and/or a group of examinees.

Article 5.14 Period of validity

1. In principle, a pass mark for a course exam is valid for an unlimited period.
2. Contrary to paragraph 5.14.1, the Board of Examiners may require the student to take an additional or replacement exam or assignment for an exam or other examination component that was passed more than 6 years ago if the student's knowledge or insight that was examined is demonstrably outdated or the skills that were examined are demonstrably outdated.
3. If exceptional circumstances apply as referred to in Article 7.51 paragraph two of the Act, the period of 6 years in paragraph one will be extended by the duration of the financial support the student receives from the profiling fund.

Article 5.15 Retention period for exams/final examination

1. The exercises, including answer keys/response models, the elaborations/answers, and the assessed work for assignments/exams will be retained in paper or digital format for two years after the exam/final examination result is determined.
2. The final theses awarded a pass mark and the evaluation of these will be retained for at least seven years after the evaluation.
3. The diploma and accompanying list of marks will be retained for 30 years.

Article 5.16 Exemption

1. The Board of Examiners may, at a student's request and having heard the relevant examiner, grant the student an exemption from taking an exam if the student demonstrates in writing to the Board of Examiners' satisfaction that the student has previously:
   - either passed an exam for a university or higher professional education programme that was similar in terms of content and level, or
   - demonstrated sufficient knowledge and skills relevant to the exam in question, either through work or professional experience.
2. A maximum of 60 ECTS for the programme may be granted on the basis of exemptions.
3. The bachelor's thesis is excluded from this exemption option.
4. To qualify for an exemption, students must submit a written request to the Board of Examiners at least six weeks before the start date of the relevant course.
5. The Board of Examiners will not grant an exemption based on exams outside the programme passed by a student during a period in which the student was barred by the Board of Examiners from taking exams for the programme due to fraud.
6. The same period of validity applies to exemptions as to exam results.

Article 5.17 Fraud

1. 'Fraud' including 'plagiarism', means an act or omission by a student that makes it entirely or partly impossible to properly assess its knowledge, insight, and skills. The term fraud also refers to attempted fraud.
2. The term plagiarism is used to refer to the presentation of ideas or words from one's own or someone else's sources without correctly acknowledging the source.
3. If the Board of Examiners establishes that a student has engaged in fraud with respect to an exam or exam component, the Board of Examiners can take appropriate measures.

4. In serious cases of fraud, the Board of Examiners can propose to the Executive Board of Maastricht University that the student(s) concerned be permanently deregistered from the programme.
5. The Rules and Regulations include further provisions (General FHML Regulation for Fraud and Irregularities) about what constitutes fraud and what disciplinary measures the Board of Examiners may impose. These regulations are available on the Intranet at the start of the academic year.

Article 5.18 Unsuitability (Iudicium Abeundi)

1. In exceptional cases and after careful consideration of the interests involved, the Board of Examiners or the dean/the faculty board may ask the executive board to terminate or, as the case may be, refuse the enrolment of a student in a programme, if that student, through its behaviour or opinions ventured, has demonstrated its unsuitability for the practice of one or more professions for which he is trained by the programme he follows, or, as the case may be, for the practical preparation for the practice of the profession.
2. The dean/the Faculty Board, the Board of Examiners, and the Executive Board will reach a decision in accordance with the Iudicium Abeundi Protocol adopted by the Dutch Federation of University Medical Centres.
3. The relevant clauses of Maastricht University's Enrolment Provisions apply.

Section 6 Final Examination

Article 6.1 Final examination

1. The Board of Examiners determines the result and date of the final examination and issues the certificate as referred to in Article 6.3 as soon as the student has satisfied the exam requirements of the programme.
2. Prior to determining the result of the final examination, the Board of Examiners may conduct its own investigation into the student's knowledge in relation to one or more components or aspects of the programme if and insofar as the results of the relevant exam give reason to do this.
3. To pass the final examination, the student must obtain a registration for all components.
4. To pass the final examination and receive the certificate, the student must also have been registered for the programme during the period that the exams were taken, the student was supervised or the student's work was assessed.
5. A certificate may only be issued after it has been shown that the student has satisfied all obligations, including the payment of the tuition fees.
6. The last day of the month in which the student satisfied all the examination obligations will be considered the final examination date (date of graduation).
7. Students who have passed the required final examination and who are entitled to the issuance of a certificate may, stating reasons, ask the Board of Examiners to refrain from doing so for the time being. This request must be submitted at least one month before the final assignment is returned or the final exam is taken.
   The Board of Examiners will in any event grant the request and for a period to be determined by the Faculty if the student:
   - is selected by the Faculty for a double degree, an extracurricular internship or an extracurricular exchange, or
   - holds or will hold a board position for which at least nine months of financial support is awarded from the profiling fund, or holds or will hold an 'INKOM' board position.

   The Board of Examiners may also grant the request if refusal would result in extreme unfairness because of the fact that the student concerned could not have taken the automatic graduation into account in its study plan.

Article 6.2 Degree

Students who have passed all required exams for the bachelor's programme will be awarded the degree 'Bachelor of Science'.

Article 6.3 Certificate and statements

1. The Board of Examiners issues a certificate as evidence that the participant has passed the final examination, once it has been stated by or on behalf of the UM's Executive Board that the procedural requirements for receiving the certificate have been met. The certificate is based on the model adopted by the UM's Executive Board. One certificate will be issued per degree programme, even if the student completes several programmes.
2. The pass certificate for the final examination states:
    a. the name of the institution;
    b. the name of the programme;
    c. the of the final examination components;
    d. the degree awarded;
    e. the date on which the programme was last accredited or underwent the new programme assessment.
3. In accordance with Article 6.1, paragraph 7, students who are entitled to the issuance of a certificate may ask the Board of Examiners to refrain from doing so for the time being, stating reasons.
4. The certificate is signed by the Chair of the Board of Examiners or its appointed deputy and the dean of the Faculty or its appointed deputy.
5. The certificate is awarded in public unless the Board of Examiners determines otherwise in exceptional cases.
6. The certificate includes a list of examination components.
7. The Board of Examiners includes a diploma supplement as referred to in Section 7.11(4) of the Act with the certificate. This diploma supplement is based on the model adopted by UM's Executive Board; it complies with the agreed European standard format.
8. The Board of Examiners may award the '*cum laude*' designation in accordance with the provisions of the Rules and Regulations.
9. If the "Educatieve minor" has been completed the limited second-degree teaching qualification in Biology will be stated on the certificate and in the diploma supplement.
10. A participant who has passed more than one exam and who cannot be issued a certificate will, upon request, receive a statement issued by the Board of Examiners listing the exams the student has passed.

Article 6.4 Honours Programme certificate

1. If the honours programme as referred to in Article 3.10 is successfully completed, a separate certificate indicating this will be issued in addition to the one referred to in Article 6.3. The certificate is based on the model adopted by UM's the Executive Board.
2. To obtain this certificate, students must pass the honours programme components in addition to meeting the requirements for the final examination of the regular bachelor's programme.

Article 6.5 Right of appeal

Students may lodge an appeal against a decision by the examiner and/or the Board of Examiners with UM Complaint Service Point within six weeks of being notified of the decision.
The appeal must be signed, must include a date and the name and address of the party lodging the appeal, must indicate the grounds for the appeal and, if possible, must include a copy of the decision being appealed.

Section 7 Study advice and guidance

Article 7.1 Academic progress administration

The Faculty registers the students' individual course results and makes these available via the Student Portal.

Article 7.2 Study guidance

1. The faculty will provide for the introduction and study guidance for students registered for the programme, which also includes orientating them regarding possible study paths in and outside the study programme.
2. The study guidance includes:
   a. an introduction during the first week of the first semester of the first academic year;
   b. assignment of a mentor for the entire bachelor's programme;
   c. group and individual advice on possible study paths in and outside the programme, partly with a view to opportunities for immediately entering the labour market after obtaining the bachelor's diploma;
   d. group and individual advice on study skills, study planning and choices of continuing study paths;
   e. offering referrals and help if the student experiences problems during the study.

Article 7.3 Non-binding study advice in the first year

1. All students will be issued non-binding study advice by or on behalf of the Faculty Board regarding the continuation of their studies at the end of their first year of registration in the programme.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, the Faculty Board may issue a student a non-binding study advice as long as the student has not passed the exams associated with the courses of study in the first academic year.

Article 7.4 Studying with a disability and/or chronic disease

1. Upon request, students with a disability and/or chronic illness are offered the opportunity to take exams and assessments or teaching and learning activities in a manner adapted as optimal as possible to their disability and/or chronic illness. These adjustments shall be reasonably tailored to the student's disability and/or chronic illness but may not alter the quality or difficulty of an educational component or assessment programme. All intended learning outcomes must be covered by the adapted (assessment) provision. Based on the advice of Disability Support (DS) and, if applicable, any additional information, the Board of Examiners decides on adaptations in assessment. Based on the advice of DS and the subsequent binding advice of the head of the Education Office, the Board of Examiners decides on adjustments in education.
   If the Board of Examiners deviates from the advice of DS, this deviation is motivated.

Section 8 Transitional and final causes

Article 8.1 Amendments

1. Amendments to these regulations may be adopted in a separate decision by the Faculty Board, after a recommendation/ consent from the Education Programme Committee and after consent from or consultation with the Faculty Council.
2. Any amendments to these regulations will be applied in the current academic year unless the student will reasonably be harmed as a result.
3. In addition, amendments may not affect, to the students' detriment, any other decision regarding a student that has been taken by the Board of Examiners pursuant to these regulations.

Article 8.2 Notice

2. The Faculty Board will ensure proper notice of these regulations, the Rules and Regulations adopted by the Board of Examiners, and any amendments to these documents. As a minimum, the notice will include the full text on a website that is accessible to all registered students.

Article 8.3 Evaluation

The Faculty Board will ensure that the education of the programme is regularly evaluated, assessing at least – for the purpose of monitoring and if necessary adapting the student workload – the amount of time students need to complete their duties as set out therein.

Article 8.4 Unforeseen cases/Safety net scheme

1. In situations that are not provided for or clearly provided for in these regulations, a decision will be taken by or on behalf of the Faculty Board, following consultation with the Board of Examiners.
2. The Board of Examiners may deviate from the adopted regulations in the student's favour in individual cases in which application of the Education and Examination Regulations, excepting the study advice rules, would lead to a manifestly unreasonable outcome.

Article 8.5 Coming into force

These regulations will come into force on 1 September 2026 and apply to the academic year 2026-2027.

Appendix 1 Curriculum: Major and minor components

a. Compulsory components of the Major (Article 2.2.1)
Course year 1 **(total of 60 credits)**:

Competence domain Biomedical Expert (28 ECTS)

course BBS1001 The LEGO bricks of life	7 ECTS
course BBS1002 Homeostasis and organ systems	7 ECTS
course BBS1004 Brain, behaviour and movement	7 ECTS
course BBS1005 Human genetics, reproduction and prenatal development	7 ECTS

Competence domain Investigator and Scholar (12 ECTS)

course BBS1003 Introduction to statistical methods for data analysis	5 ECTS
course BBS1006 Data Science and Machine Learning for Biomedical Science	5 ECTS
course BBS 1008 Philosophy in Action I	2 ECTS

Competence domain Communicator and Collaborator (10 ECTS)

Scientific communication I including Endnote (BBS1027)	4 ECTS
Presenting I (BBS1028)	1 ECTS
Diversity I (BBS1029)	1 ECTS
Communication and cooperation (MSFforms) I (BBS1023)	4 ECTS

Competence domain Professional and Organizer (10 ECTS)

Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) Intro dissection hall Independent laboratory training	Laboratory practice I (BBS1042)	2 ECTS
Practical skills (exam) (BBS1043)		1 ECTS
Calculation test (BBS1044)		1 ECTS
Professional behaviour (MSF forms) I (BBS1035)		3 ECTS
Career development Personal reflection on competencies	Professional development I (BBS1039)	3 ECTS

Course year 2 (**total of 60 credits**)

Competence domain Biomedical Expert (*29 ECTS*)

compulsory components:

course BBS2001 Threats and defence mechanisms	6 ECTS
course BBS2002 From Cradle to grave: development, ageing & disease	6 ECTS

compulsory elective components:

One out of BBS2041 and 2042	6 ECTS
course BBS2041 Human intermediary metabolism	
course BBS2042 Cell signalling	
One out of BBS2051 and BBS2052	6 ECTS
course BBS2051 Biorhythms in homeostasis	
course BBS2052 Neuromuscular control of movement	
One out of BBS2061, 2062 and 2063	5 ECTS
course BBS2061 Systems biology	
course BBS2062 Allometry	
course BBS2063 (Epi)genomics in society – From personal DNA to public impact	

Competence domain Investigator and Scholar (*11 ECTS*)

course BBS2003 Non-invasive techniques in biomedical research	5 ECTS
course BBS2007 Statistics: regression analysis, ANOVA, logistic regression, repeated measurements	3 ECTS
course BBS2008 Philosophy in Action II	3 ECTS

Competence domain Communicator and Collaborator (*10 ECTS*)

Scientific Writing II (BBS2018)	3 ECTS
Presenting II (BBS2019)	2 ECTS
Diversity II (BBS2017)	1 ECTS
Communication and Cooperation (MSF forms) II (BBS2012)	4 ECTS

Competence domain Professional and Organizer (*10 ECTS*)

Laboratory Practice II (BBS2030)	2 ECTS
Professional behaviour (MSF forms)II (BBS2031)	4 ECTS
Career development Mentoring } Professional development II (BBS2032)	4 ECTS

Course year 3 (**total of 30 credits**);

a. Competency domain Investigator and Scholar:

Course BBS3007 Philosophy in Action III	1 ECTS
Course BBS3009 From molecules to medicine: Biomedical research skills	6 ECTS

Competency domain Professional and Organizer:

Career development Personal reflection on competencies } Professional development III (BBS3051)	1 ECTS

Integrated Competencies Biomedical Sciences:

Internship (BBS3005) Thesis (BBS3006) Defence (BBS3008)	22 ECTS

b. Minor (Article 3.8) (30 credits)

1) The minor in the BMS bachelor programme is a cohesive set of two 8-weeks courses and one 4 weeks course. In period 1 and 2 students can choose a minor course that suit their interests and goals. In period 3 there is one course for all students (30 ECTS in total).

a) Period 1:

BBS3013 Diet, nutrition and health	12 ECTS
BBS3014 Immune responses in health and disease	12 ECTS
BBS3015 Neurosciences and control	12 ECTS
BBS3016 Pharmacological interventions	12 ECTS

b) Period 2

BBS3023 Physical activity and health	12 ECTS
BBS3024 Infection and immunity	12 ECTS
BBS3025 Omics technologies and their analysis	12 ECTS
BBS3026 Environmental sustainability and human health	12 ECTS

c) Period 3:

BBS3003 Critical review of biomedical intervention	6 ECTS

2) “Educatieve minor” (only taught in Dutch) 40 ECTS
3) Students can choose other courses amounting to 30 credits as a minor, subject to the Board of Examiners' approval.

Appendix 2 Language requirement for non-Dutch diplomas; exemption

Holders of one of the following diplomas will be exempted from the language proficiency test (English) referred to in Article 2.5, paragraph a:

- a diploma issued in an EU/EEA country which is at least equivalent to a diploma of pre-university education;
- a diploma issued in a non-EU/EEA country which is at least equivalent to a diploma of pre-university education and in which country English is the official language of communication and instruction (UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand or United States).

Appendix 3 to the EER 2026/2027: language of instruction

For an **English only** programme:

Bachelor Biomedical Sciences

The choice for the language of instruction of the programme is in line with the Executive Board Code of conduct 'voertaal' adopted on 06/03/2018, in accordance with the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) art. 7.2.

Because of the specific educational nature and profile of the bachelor programme in Biomedical Sciences, teaching and examinations are conducted in English. This guarantees the quality of education, because:

- The content of the programme has an international orientation and focus. Literature and study books are in English, there is no relevant literature only in Dutch. Moreover, international exchange of students in a minor or during the bachelor thesis work, will be facilitated by English proficiency.

- The academic community is internationally oriented and the staff is international. A considerable part of the teaching staff is non-Dutch.

- The labour market demand is internationally oriented (English speaking) alumni. Many students proceed with a master which is very often taught in English. After finishing a master, a large part of the graduates gets a PhD-position. English is the lingua franca of science and many of the research groups host international researchers making English the language of daily communication as well. That part of graduates that is not employed as a PhD, finds jobs at Biomedical companies. These companies often host foreign employees, resulting in English as a common language. Working in an international context not only requires language proficiency, but also necessitates a feeling of cultural differences. An English taught programme allows the intake of a diverse student population, and creates a natural setting to develop awareness of diversity and to train the kind of skills needed to cope with it.