

# **Education and Examination Regulations**

## **Crop Biotechnology and Engineering**

**2026-2027**

**Master of Science**

**Venlo, April 2026**

**Faculty of Science and Engineering**

***MSc Crop Biotechnology and Engineering***

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## Section 1 General Provisions

### ARTICLE 1.1 APPLICABILITY OF THE REGULATIONS

These regulations apply to the education, exams and examinations of the joint Master of Science programme in Crop Biotechnology and Engineering (CBE), hereinafter referred to as: 'the programme' and to all students who are registered within the programme.

The programme is provided by Maastricht University's Faculty of Science and Engineering (FSE) and by Radboud University's Faculty of Science (FoS). Since Maastricht University is the coordinating institution, the quality assurance of education follows the model of UM's Faculty of Science and Engineering. hereinafter referred to as: 'the faculty'.

The regulations were adopted by the Deans' Council after advice and consent of the CBE Educational Programme Committee and in consultation with and after consent from the UM FSE and RU FoS Faculty Councils. These regulations apply to all students enrolled in the academic year of 2026-2027.

These regulations also apply to students from other programmes, faculties or institutions of higher education, insofar as they follow components of the programmes to which these Education and Examination Regulations apply.

For components of the programmes 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 DEFINITIONS

In these regulations, the following definitions apply:

- |           |                            |   |
|-----------|----------------------------|---|
| <b>a.</b> | academic advisor           | Staff teaching in the CBE programme with research experience in the relevant field that provides content-specific advice to students on matters pertaining to elective course choice based on student interest and desired career steps. Each student is assigned to an academic advisor upon entry to the programme; |
| <b>b.</b> | academic year              | the period from 1 September of a calendar year up to and including 31 August of the following calendar year.  |
| <b>c.</b> | (the) Act                  | the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act [ <i>Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek</i> ];   |
| <b>d.</b> | assessment                 | a component of the course examination as defined in the syllabus;   |
| <b>e.</b> | assignment                 | part of the course examination, e.g. written exam, multiple choice exam, oral exam, portfolio;  |
| <b>f.</b> | board of Admission         | the board responsible for assessment of admissibility of a candidate to one of the programmes;  |
| <b>g.</b> | board of Examiners         | the board referred to in Article 7.12 of the Act;   |
| <b>h.</b> | Learning Management System | web-based learning management system (LMS). It is used by Maastricht University and Radboud University, coordinators, tutors, examiners, and students to access and manage online course learning materials and assessment;   |
| <b>i.</b> | course coordinator         | by the programme appointed staff member who is responsible for the design and practical execution of a module;  |

<b>j.</b>	course examination	examination of the student's knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes, including the assessments thereof as referred to in Article 7.10 of the Act (in Dutch <i>tentamen</i> ). The aggregate result of all assessments in a module. Must be passed to complete the module. Constitutes one component of a degree programme;
<b>k.</b>	course	a programme component or study unit of the programme within the meaning of Article 7.3 of the Act;
<b>l.</b>	credit	a unit expressed in European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) credits, with one credit equalling 28 hours of study;
<b>m.</b>	Deans' Council	Council with Deans' of the Faculty of Science and Engineering (UM) and Faculty of Science (RU)
<b>n.</b>	Disability Support (DS)	the central point at UM where students with a disability and/or chronic illness can apply for facilities or support;
<b>o.</b>	educational programme committee	the representation and advisory body that carries out the duties described in Articles 9.18 and 9.38c of the Act;
<b>p.</b>	elective	part of the programme that is the result of individual choice of the student and part of the final examination;
<b>q.</b>	exam	a component of the course examination as defined in the syllabus;
<b>r.</b>	examiner	the person designated by the Board of Examiners to construct and administer exams and to determine the results of such exams as referred to in Article 7.12c of the Act;
<b>s.</b>	extracurricular education	courses and/or other educational activities for which credits may be obtained that are not part of the programme;
<b>t.</b>	faculty Board	the Faculty Board, referred to in Article 9.12 of the Act;
<b>u.</b>	faculty Council	the Faculty Council referred to in Article 9.37 of the Act;
<b>v.</b>	final examination	the aggregate result of all module examinations that must be passed to complete the final examination (in Dutch <i>examen</i> ) of the degree programme as referred to in Article 7.10 of the Act;
<b>w.</b>	intranet	internal website for the CBE programme containing information about the programme (study related information, forms, rules and regulation documents, advice, support and guidance);
<b>x.</b>	master thesis	an individually and independently written thesis, related to a specific domain, that concludes the programme. This is the concluding course and is part of the final examination;
<b>y.</b>	office of student affairs	a team of administrative staff providing services related to education, including but not limited to course registration, grades publication and education;
<b>z.</b>	oral exam	a component of the examination administered orally, either individually or in a group;
<b>aa.</b>	pre-master's programme	a tailor-made individual programme of 30 credits offered by the Faculty of Science and Engineering for the purpose of eligibility for admission based on the previous education of the applicant;
<b>bb.</b>	programme director	the person responsible for the operational management of the programme;
<b>cc.</b>	programme	the master's programmes referred to in article 1.1 of these regulations, consisting of a coherent whole of study units;

<b>dd.</b>	project	integrated course in which education takes place in the form of research using previously attained knowledge and skills;
<b>ee.</b>	RU	Radboud University;
<b>ff.</b>	semester	part of an academic year, either starting in August/September or starting in January. Exact starting and ending dates are set every year in the official Academic Calander of UM;
<b>gg.</b>	skills training	practical exercise as part of a module intended to develop certain skills as referred to in Article 7.13(2)(d) of the Act, in one of the following (not limited) forms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• carrying out research in a group during a project;</li> <li>• writing a paper, writing a research-project proposal or performing another written assignment;</li> <li>• performing a research assignment;</li> <li>• participating in field work, a field trip, or an excursion;</li> <li>• peer-review exam of a research proposal, a presentation, or a research paper;</li> <li>• research portfolio;</li> <li>• participating in an activity intended to develop certain skills;</li> </ul>
<b>hh.</b>	student portal	the portal to the digital environment of Maastricht University and Radboud University which can be used by students for administrative purposes e.g. course registration, and by the programme for communication to students, for which a username and password are provided to all students upon enrolment at Maastricht University and Radboud University;
<b>ii.</b>	student	a person who is registered at the university for education and/or to take exams and the examination of the programme;
<b>jj.</b>	Student counsellor	the point of contact for students, providing personalised advice and guidance with regard to: study planning, study progress, problems with study, and study delays; taking electives at another programme or university; taking a dual master; approval of study plans submitted to the Board of Examiners; non-study matters like illness or personal problems; facilities for students with a disability; university resources;
<b>kk.</b>	syllabus	a paper or electronic document outlining the content and intended learning outcomes of a course, describing methods of education and examination of that course and prescribing particular regulations and guidelines applicable to that particular course;
<b>ll.</b>	UM	Maastricht University.

The other terms in these Education and Examination Regulations have the meaning given to them by the Act.

## Section 2 Admission

### ARTICLE 2.1 ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

Persons who meet the requirements referred to in article 2.2 are eligible for admission to the programme.

### ARTICLE 2.2 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission to the programme, applicants must fulfil the following requirements:

#### Previous education:

- proof of having obtained a bachelor's degree in one of the following disciplines: biology, biotechnology or engineering

OR

- proof of having obtained a bachelor's degree in a related discipline, with a clear and distinct interest in biology, biotechnology and/or engineering complemented by sufficient mathematical background as evidenced by the bachelor diploma, grade transcript and personal motivation.

#### Additional requirements:

- proof of having completed at least 9 credits of **mathematics** containing courses at the bachelor's level;
- **and,**
- proof of having completed at least 9 credits of **engineering** courses at the bachelor's level;
- **and/or**
- proof of having completed at least 9 credits of **(plant) biology** at the bachelor's level courses.

Students from the UM Bachelor programme Sustainable Bioscience, concentration *Agricultural Systems* and the RU Bachelor programme Biology are admissible to this programme based on their core education.

### ARTICLE 2.3 LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT WITH NON-DUTCH DIPLOMAS

1. Holders of a non-Dutch diploma can only register if they have met the minimum English language requirement as listed below.
2. The requirement referred to in paragraph 1 is met if the person concerned:
  - has completed bachelor's or master's study programme where the native language (of instruction) is English (e.g. Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States);
  - has obtained an International or European Baccalaureate, a US high school diploma or UK GCE A-levels, or can demonstrate sufficient proficiency in English, for example through English taught courses, internships or work experience in an English environment, or can submit one of the following language test certificates.
    - IELTS (6.5)
    - TOEFL Paper-based test (575)
    - TOEFL Internet test (90)

- TOEIC listening and reading (720) and speaking and writing (310)
3. Cambridge [Advanced (CAE) Grade C (scale 180-184), First Certificate in English (FCE) Grade A (scale 180-184), First Certificate in English (FCE) Grade B (scale 176-179) or similar accredited certification English native speakers and persons holding a bachelor's diploma issued in a country in which English is the official language of communication and instruction and/or who have obtained their bachelor's degree at a programme in which the language of communication, instruction, and assessment was completely in English, are exempt from the language requirement.
  4. The Board of Admission may grant exemption from the IELTS or TOEFL test requirement if sufficient proficiency of the English language can be determined otherwise.

#### **ARTICLE 2.4 BOARD OF ADMISSION**

1. The Board of Admission for the programme is responsible for assessing eligibility for admission and issuing the certificate of admission to the respective programmes.
2. The programme established a board of admission consisting of
  - Two members appointed from the academic staff (one from UM and one from RU), with one member acting as chair.
  - The Admission Officer, a supporting staff member responsible for all administration and handling of admissions requests.
3. The Deans' Council appoints the members of the Board of Admission.

#### **ARTICLE 2.5 ADMISSION PROCEDURE**

1. The applicant is required to provide the requested documentation through which academic performance and eligibility are assessed. The applicants must also write a personal statement, in which they motivate their choice for the programme;
2. The Board of Admission reviews all required information, as mentioned in paragraph 1, and decides whether an eligible applicant will be evaluated or will be directly admitted;
3. After the interview, the Board of Admission makes an overall assessment of the complete file of the applicant and decides on the admission of the student to the programme;
4. The candidate will be admitted subject to the condition that, by the relevant start date for the programme, they will have satisfied the requirements stated in article 2.2 & 2.3 regarding knowledge, skills and attitudes, as evidenced by the required certificates.

#### **ARTICLE 2.6 PREMASTER**

1. Applicants having a Bachelor of Science degree in one of the fields of science listed in Appendix B from a Dutch HBO study or equivalent may have the possibility to meet the requirements as referred to in article 2.2 or may qualify after successfully completing a tailored premaster.
2. Eligibility to enter the premaster is decided upon by the Board of Admission.
3. The premaster is composed of key components taken from bachelor's programmes within the Faculty of Science and Engineering (UM) or Faculty of Science (RU) together worth typically 30 credits, but not more than 60 credits, and decided upon by the Board of Admission together with the Programme Director.
4. The premaster must be successfully completed within 12 months of the start of the academic year that follows the admission decision being communicated to the applicant.
5. Applicants who undertake the premaster and successfully complete the programme defined in article 2.6.3 shall be admitted to the programme at the next applicable start date. The programme reserves the right to deny any applicant entrance to the programme if, following completion of the premaster programme, the conditions of article 6.14 are, in the view of the programme director, likely to apply to this candidate. This decision shall be communicated to the Deans' Council.

## Section 3 Bodies in the programme

### Article 3.1 Responsibilities

- 1.** The programme is responsible for the design, content, coherence and organisation of education and assessments in accordance with these Education and Examination Regulations.
- 2.** The Board of Examiners is an independent body as referred to in Article 7.12 of the Act and is responsible for safeguarding the quality and integrity of assessment and examinations within the study programme and takes decisions in individual student cases within the framework of the WHW and these Regulations.
- 3.** The Educational Programme Committee is a representative body as referred to in Article 9.18 of the Act and is responsible for advising on improvements for the quality of the programme.
- 4.** The programme and the Board of Examiners consult on a regular basis and have bi-annual meetings to discuss the quality of assessment and examinations, reflect on the board of examiners' annual report and discuss relevant development. This consultation is aimed at exchanging feedback and improving the quality of the programme and its assessment.
- 5.** The programme and the Educational Programme Committee consult on a regular basis and have bi-annual meetings to discuss the quality of education, reflect on the Educational Programme Committee's annual report and discuss relevant developments.
- 6.** The Board of Examiners establishes its own Rules & Regulations concerning its working methods with regard to the tasks mentioned in paragraph 2 and decision-making procedures.
- 7.** The programme provides the Board of Examiners with necessary information, services, support and facilitates professionalisation of members.

## Section 4 Content and Structure

### ARTICLE 4.1 AIM OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme has five overall aims of the degree programme. Within each broad aim, the more specific intended learning outcomes describe how students realise the intended learning outcomes in the context of the aims of the programme.

<b>AIMS OF THE DEGREE</b>	<b>INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME</b>
<b>AIM 1.</b> <b>Students have academic and technical knowledge in the fields of crop biotechnology and engineering</b>	<b>1.1 CORE KNOWLEDGE</b> Students are able to describe and use their knowledge of the underlying fields of plant biology, biotechnology and engineering in the context of the programme.
	<b>1.2 CROP BIOTECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING KNOWLEDGE</b> Students are able to demonstrate interdisciplinary knowledge of plant biology, biotechnology and engineering for crop breeding and cultivation strategies, employing key technologies in plant production systems.
	<b>1.3 ACADEMIC AND ENGINEERING KNOWLEDGE</b> Students are able to comprehend (new or emerging) concepts, theories, methods and techniques in the field of crop biotechnology and engineering.
<b>AIM 2.</b> <b>Students can apply their knowledge and understanding and problem-solving abilities in new environments within broader contexts</b>	<b>2.1 PROBLEM SOLVING</b> Students are able to identify, formulate, analyse and suggest possible solutions to complex problems in the field of crop biotechnology and engineering, using (new or emerging) concepts, theories, methods and techniques in the field of crop biotechnology and engineering.
	<b>2.2 CONDUCT RESEARCH</b> Students are able to develop new scientific knowledge within the field of crop biotechnology and engineering, using the appropriate expertise, design strategy, materials, infrastructure and experimental designs.
	<b>2.3 ENGINEERING</b> Students are able to apply their knowledge and skills for the engineering of crops and their growing conditions, for different applications. They are able to assess the workings, opportunities and limitations of the required technologies and techniques.
	<b>2.4 APPLICATION AT THE SYSTEMS LEVEL</b> Students are able to apply their knowledge and skills to design and optimize plant production systems and assess their potential for sustainable agrifood and biobased solutions.

<b>AIMS OF THE DEGREE</b>	<b>INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME</b>
<b>AIM 3.</b> <b>Students have the ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgments with incomplete or limited information that include reflection on relevant scientific, social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments</b>	<b>3.1 CRITICAL THINKING</b> Students are able to demonstrate a scientific and inquiring attitude to the generation and examination of knowledge. They are able to evaluate lines of reasoning to analyse and/or solve problems.
	<b>3.2 JUDGEMENT</b> Students are capable of reasoning, reflecting, forming judgements and sustaining arguments in complex crop biotechnology and engineering contexts.
	<b>3.3 CONTEXTUAL AWARENESS</b> Students are able to discuss the impact and scope of research and technologies in the field of crop biotechnology and engineering. They are able to recognize and evaluate the various societal contexts of the problems studied.
	<b>3.4 ETHICS</b> Students are able to analyse ethical issues in academic and social environments in relation to their professional activities and to oversee the implications of their decisions and their work.
<b>AIM 4.</b> <b>Students can communicate their conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to an audience of specialists and non-specialists clearly and unambiguously</b>	<b>4.1 COMMUNICATION</b> Students are able to communicate the results of their learning, thinking and decision-making to professionals and a non-specialised audience, at a local and (inter)national level.
	<b>4.2 TEAMWORK</b> Students are able to collaborate effectively and appropriately with people from different academic and socio-cultural backgrounds on solving problems and accomplishing tasks and take on different roles within a team.
	<b>4.3 FEEDBACK</b> Students are able to perform and communicate peer evaluations in the context of teamwork.
<b>AIM 5.</b> <b>Students have the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous</b>	<b>5.1 INNOVATIVE ATTITUDE</b> Students are able to demonstrate a creative and innovative attitude in their professional development.
	<b>5.2 EFFECTIVE LEARNING</b> Students are able to develop an effective learning strategy, including prioritisation of tasks, dealing with available resources and meeting (external) requirements.
	<b>5.3 LIFE-LONG DEVELOPMENT</b> Students are able to critically reflect on their own activities and conclusions and steer their learning process to meet their ambitions and goals.

#### **ARTICLE 4.2 TIMELINE**

The programme is full-time and commences once a year at the beginning of the academic year. The programme is 120 credits and two years long.

#### **ARTICLE 4.3 LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION**

All teaching, education, examinations and communication of the programme are in English in accordance with Appendix C.

#### **ARTICLE 4.4 COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISIONS**

1. All official education-related communication (policy, content, examination) will proceed via available communication tools: Student Portal, Intranet, regular email and LMS.

- Students carry the responsibility to stay updated on course-related communication by regularly checking their university email, LMS, Intranet and Student Portal. Any information disseminated via these communication lines will be assumed to be known.

#### **ARTICLE 4.5 STUDY LOAD**

Each course year at the programme has a study load of 60 credits (120 credits total).

#### **ARTICLE 4.6 CONTENT**

The programme includes the following components and related study loads, which are specified in Appendix A:

6 mandatory courses	6 x 6 credits = 36 credits
2 mandatory projects	2 x 6 credits = 12 credits
2 programme elective courses	2 x 6 credits = 12 credits
Elective courses taken in Year 2	12 credits
1 Master thesis research	47 credits
1 research portfolio	1 x credits

#### **ARTICLE 4.7 ELECTIVES COURSES**

- Each student chooses the elective components with a total study load as referred to in article 4.6.
- Students can choose freely components given by the Faculty of Science and Engineering of UM or by the Faculty of Science of RU.
- In exceptional cases, the student may - subject to prior approval by the Board of Examiners and the other programme - choose to take components given by another UM/RU faculty, another Dutch university or a foreign university.
- To attain the certificate for the examination for the programme, the student must have obtained at least 12 credits of electives in year 2 of the educational programme through components provided by the programme.
- Taking an alternative elective course requires written consent of the receiving coordinators and student counsellor and must be submitted for approval to the Board of Examiners at least 20 working days before the start of the course.

#### **ARTICLE 4.8 FLEXIBLE PROGRAMME AND FLEXIBLE MASTER'S**

- A student registered for the programme may, under exceptional conditions, formulate an educational programme that deviates from the educational programme stated in article 4.6. The programme must include exams.
- Any alternative programme requires a clearly written motivation by the student, a detailed listing of alternative courses (including course numbers & descriptions) as well as convincing evidence that these are compatible with the programme ILO's as defined in article 4.1.2. The flexible programme must have a minimum study load of 120 credits.
- Any alternative programme requires written consent of the receiving coordinators and student counsellor and must be submitted for approval to the Board of Examiners before implementation.
- The Board of Examiners will decide whether to grant permission for the student's proposal within 15 working days after receiving the proposal.

#### **ARTICLE 4.9 THE FINAL EXAMINATION**

The final examination consists of the components as listed in article 4.6, totalling 120 credits.

## Section 5 Education

### ARTICLE 5.1 COURSES; COMPOSITION AND FORMAT

1. For the programme components, courses are given with the study load stated in article 4.6.
2. Education is provided in the form of classes, tutorial groups, skills training, lectures, individual supervision, group work, journal clubs, writing assignments, oral presentations or otherwise.

### ARTICLE 5.2 PRIOR KNOWLEDGE; MASTER THESIS RESEARCH ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students are granted entrance to the Master Thesis Research project, provided the six mandatory courses are completed successfully (36 credits), both projects are completed successfully (12 credits) and enough elective courses are completed to accrue the credits listed in 5.2.2.
2. The Master Thesis Research project comprises 4 weeks of Master Thesis proposal writing and research planning, 24 weeks of execution, and 3 weeks for defence, assessment written thesis report and final assessment practical work; in total comprising 31 weeks of Master Thesis research. With a minimum of 60 credits a student is allowed to start Master Thesis proposal writing. Of these 60 credits, 54 credits must correspond to the registered year one courses. Master thesis research can only be started upon completing 66 credits.
3. Attendance in courses during the Master thesis period requires explicit permission from the Board of Examiners. The thesis deadlines and therefore graduation will be adjusted in accordance with the master thesis research delay.

### ARTICLE 5.3 COURSE AND EXAM REGISTRATION

1. Registration deadlines are communicated in the academic calendar.
2. Students must make their elective choice before the registration deadline.
3. In case a student fails to comply with the course registration deadline, registration and participation cannot be guaranteed.
4. Students will be registered for the first sit and the resit (if applicable) of a course examination.
5. Besides being registered, a student must comply with the conditions specified in the syllabus to be eligible for a resit.
6. It is the responsibility of the students to verify in time whether they have a valid registration for the course and the (resit) exam.
7. In case a student has no valid registration for the course and/or the (resit) course examination, the student is not allowed to take the (resit) course examination.
8. With a valid motivation and prior notice from the student, the Board of Examiners may grant a student to miss the first sit of an exam without forfeiting the right to a resit.
9. Once a student passes an exam, the student cannot resit that exam, unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise.

### ARTICLE 5.4 ATTENDANCE AND BEST-EFFORTS OBLIGATION

1. Attendance and participation in a course (element) can be part of a course examination as specified in the Rules and Regulations.
2. Attendance at and participation in the course examination first sit and resit (if applicable) and other components of the course exam is mandatory.

#### **ARTICLE 5.5 SKILLS TRAINING AND PROJECT PERIOD**

1. The compulsory and elective courses may include skills trainings.
2. Skills trainings and project meetings are mandatory. In addition, each student is expected to participate actively (as defined in the syllabus) in execution of educational tasks within the project and cooperate with the group to complete the project successfully.
3. Students who have not met the requirements in article 5.5.2 and/or students whose absence or inactivity during the course has been marked as inexcusable by the course coordinator and/or students that have a substandard contribution to the group work will not receive a pass for the skills training or project concerned.

## Section 6 Exams and Assessments

### ARTICLE 6.1 GENERAL

1. During a course, the student will be assessed for (progress in) academic competence and the extent to which the student has achieved the stated learning objectives.
2. The syllabus (or equivalent document such as an assessment plan) describes the achievements the student must make to pass the course and the criteria by which the student is assessed.
3. The form and weighting of the assessments are announced in the syllabus prior to the start of the module. The form and weighting of the assessments cannot be changed after announcement.
4. The Board of Examiners determines the guidelines for assessment in each type of module.
5. The Rules of Procedure for (Course) Examinations at Maastricht University describe the rules of procedures for on-site examinations.

### ARTICLE 6.2 GRADES

1. Final grades are awarded on a scale of 1 to 10 in accordance with table 1. Final Grades are rounded to 1 decimal or can be awarded a pass/fail.
2. In case a student cannot be appraised, a 'No Grade' (NG) will be assigned.
3. The student must receive a final overall grade of at least 5.50 or higher before rounding to pass the course.
4. A label NG (No Grade) is assigned because of plagiarism or academic dishonesty; or when an assessment is incomplete, and no grade can be assigned. An NG automatically constitutes a failure, and no credits are awarded.

*Table 1. Interpretation of the Dutch grading system*

10.0	Surpasses expectation
9.0	Outstanding
8.0	Very good
7.0	Good
6.0	Sufficient
5.5	Sufficient
5.0	Insufficient
4.0	Insufficient
3.0	Insufficient
2.0	Insufficient
1.0	Insufficient
Pass	≥5.5; performance meets the minimum criteria
Fail	<5.5; performance below the minimum criteria
'No grade' (NG)	It constitutes a fail and no credits are awarded

### **ARTICLE 6.3 SCHEDULING AND FREQUENCY OF THE EXAMS AND ASSESSMENTS**

1. Students can take a course exam twice per academic year: once during or directly after the course period (first sit for the exam) and once during the remainder of the academic year (resit option).
2. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may decide that an exam can be taken at another time than stipulated in paragraph 1.
3. A second opportunity to take a resit may be granted by the Board of Examiners under special conditions.

### **ARTICLE 6.4 EXAM FORMAT**

1. The exam format and criteria for exams are announced by the examiner at the start of the course and published in the syllabus.
2. Each course contains at least two exams or modes of assessment at two different moments. A resit can follow a different form than the exam(s) that is (/are) part of a course.
3. At the student's request, the Board of Examiners may allow students to take the exam or the resit in a manner other than that stipulated in the course manual and on the student portal.
4. 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 any additional information, if requested, the Board of Examiners decides on adaptations in assessment. If the Board of Examiners deviates from the advice of DS, this deviation is motivated.

### **ARTICLE 6.5 ORAL EXAMS AND ASSESSMENTS**

1. Oral exams are taken on an individual basis and always in the presence of a witness. Deviation from this principle requires the approval of the Board of Examiners.
2. A thesis defence is held by the examiner in the presence of a second examiner (and the general public, if requested). Deviation from this principle requires the approval of the Board of Examiners.
3. All oral assessments that are not thesis defences (e.g. group and project presentations) can be taken individually or in groups in the presence of an optional second examiner.

### **ARTICLE 6.6 WRITTEN ASSESSMENTS**

1. Students will be provided guidelines for written assessments and the Master thesis. The guidelines will be included in the course manuals.
2. The Master thesis assessments will be evaluated by at least two UM examiners.
3. All written forms of assessment are individual except where otherwise communicated.

### **ARTICLE 6.7 DETERMINATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF COURSE EXAM RESULT**

1. The Board of Examiners determines the standards for assessing exams. The standards are specified in the document 'Rules and Regulations'.

2. The examiner determines the result of a written final exam within 15 working days following the date on which it was taken and provides the Office of Student Affairs with the necessary information to appraise the student of the result before this deadline.
3. The examiner determines the result of a final oral exam immediately after it is taken and communicates the result to the student. If more than one student takes the same exam in succession, the assessment and grading period may be extended by up to five working days.
4. The examiner determines the result of any other forms of assessment taken during the course period (before the final exam week), within 10 working days.
5. Examiners must share all assessment results with students individually.

#### **ARTICLE 6.8 RIGHT OF INSPECTION**

1. Students may inspect their assessments within 10 working days of the announcement of the assessment result. At the time of the result announcement, students will be informed of the inspection of the exam and filing of an appeal as referred to in article 9.5.
2. Within the given period, as stated in paragraph 1, a student will be given an alternative opportunity to exercise the right of inspection, provided that the student has provided timely notice regarding the inability to exercise this right in the first instance (due to circumstances beyond the student's control).
3. Within the period referred to in paragraph 1, quality control stakeholders (e.g. the Assessment Committee) may, upon request, inspect the questions and assignments for the written exam and, if possible, the standards based on which it was assessed.

#### **ARTICLE 6.9 PERIOD OF VALIDITY**

1. Course examinations which have been passed are valid for an unlimited period
2. Contrary to the above, the Board of Examiners may require the student to take an additional or replacement exam or exam component for an exam which was passed more than 6 years ago. This applies if either the course content was changed and/or the skills that were examined are demonstrably outdated.
3. If exceptional circumstances apply as referred to in Article 7.51 (2) of the Act, the period of 6 years in paragraph 1 will be extended by the duration of the financial support the student receives from the profiling fund.
4. If a student fails a course, all exams or forms of assessment which were part of the course, will lose their validity after the academic year in which they were passed unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise.

#### **ARTICLE 6.10 RETENTION PERIOD FOR EXAMS**

1. The exercises, answers, completed assessment forms, and the evaluated work of all graded components will be retained in paper or digital form for at least two years after the exam/examination result is determined.
2. The final projects/theses and the evaluation of these will be archived for at least seven years after the evaluation.

#### **ARTICLE 6.11 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 a course examination.
2. Exemption applies to maximally 12 credits within any programme.
3. The Master's two mandatory projects and the master thesis are excluded from this exemption option.
4. The same period of validity applies to exemptions as to exam results.

#### **ARTICLE 6.12 FRAUD**

1. The Rules and Regulations include further provisions about what constitutes fraud and which disciplinary measures the Board of Examiners can impose.
2. 'Fraud', including 'plagiarism', means actions or omissions by a student which make it impossible in whole or in part to properly evaluate their knowledge, understanding and skills. Allowing and/or enabling other students to engage in fraud is also considered fraud under these regulations.
3. 'Plagiarism' refers to the use and presentation of ideas or words from one's own (autoplagerism) or someone else's sources without proper acknowledgement of the sources.
4. If the Board of Examiners determines that a student has engaged in fraudulent behaviour with respect to an exam or exam component, the Board of Examiners will take appropriate measures.
5. In serious cases of fraud, the Board of Examiners can propose to UM's Executive Board that the student(s) concerned be permanently deregistered from the programme.

#### **ARTICLE 6.13 AN INVALID EXAM**

1. 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 either the examinee or a group of examinees.
2. Any change to an existing exam after the exam took place, should be communicated to the Board of Examiners.

#### **ARTICLE 6.14 UNSUITABILITY (IUDICIUM ABEUNDI)**

1. In exceptional cases and after careful consideration of the interests involved, the Board of Examiners or the Faculty Board may ask the Executive Board of UM to terminate or, as the case may be, refuse the enrolment of a student in a programme, if that student, through their behaviour or opinions ventured, has demonstrated their unsuitability for the practice of one or more professions for which they are trained by the programme they follow, or, as the case may be, for the skill preparation for the practice of the profession.
2. The relevant clauses of UM's Enrolment Provisions apply.

## Section 7 Master's Programme Final Examination

### ARTICLE 7.1 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 7.3 as soon as the student has satisfied the requirements for the examination programme.
2. Prior to determining the result of the final examination, the Board of Examiners may conduct their own investigation of the student's knowledge regarding one or more components or aspects of the programme.
3. To pass the final examination, the student must fulfil all requirements of the programme.
4. To pass the final examination and receive the graduation certificate, the student must also have been registered for the programme during the period in which the exams were taken.
5. A certificate may only be issued after it has been shown that the student has satisfied all the obligations, including payment of tuition fees.
6. The last day of the month in which the student satisfied all the final examination obligations will be considered the final graduation date.
7. Students who have passed the final examination and who are entitled to the issuance of a graduation certificate may ask the Board of Examiners for a reasoned postponement. This request must be submitted at least one month before the last course exam is submitted or the final examination is taken.
8. The Board of Examiners will grant such a request without objections:
  - if the student is selected by the faculty for a double degree, an extracurricular internship or an extracurricular exchange, or
  - if the student 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.
9. The Board of Examiners may also grant an exceptional request if its refusal would result in case of unfairness, because of the fact that the student concerned could not have taken the automatic graduation into account when they were planning their study.

### ARTICLE 7.2 DEGREE

Students who have passed the final examination will be awarded the degree Master of Science (M.Sc.).

### ARTICLE 7.3 DIPLOMAS AND TRANSCRIPTS

1. As proof that the final examination was passed, the Board of Examiners issues a diploma. The diploma is based on the model that UM's Executive Board has adopted. A diploma will be issued for every programme the student successfully completes.
2. The diploma also indicates:
  - a. the name of the institutions RU and UM;
  - b. the name of the programme;
  - c. the final examination components;
  - d. the degree awarded;
  - e. the date on which the programme was most recently accredited or was subjected to the new programme test.
3. The diploma is signed by the chair of the Board of Examiners and the Deans' Council of the Faculty.
4. The diploma is awarded in public, unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise.

5. The Board of Examiners includes a diploma supplement as referred to in Article 7.11(4) of the Act with the certificate. This diploma supplement is based on the model adopted by the Executive Board, which is in compliance with the agreed European standard format.
6. The Board of Examiners will award the 'cum laude' or 'summa cum laude' designation in accordance with the provisions in the programme Rules and Regulations.
7. Students who have passed more than one course and who cannot be issued a diploma will upon request receive a transcript issued by the Board of Examiners, which at least indicates the courses that they passed.

#### **ARTICLE 7.4 GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)**

1. The diploma supplement referred to in article 7.3 indicates the final grade point average (GPA), to provide a reflection of the student's academic performance.
2. The GPA equals the weighted average of all final numerical grades on the student's transcript, whereby weighting is based on the credits of the modules on the transcript, considering that:
  - a) Exempted modules are not part of the GPA calculation;
  - b) An exam for which a failing grade is obtained is also included in the GPA, although no credits are listed on the Student Portal;
  - c) If more than one grade is listed for a course examination, the highest grade is considered for the calculation.
3. The weighted average score (GPA) after rounding to one decimal determines the distinction.

## Section 8 Study Guidance

### ARTICLE 8.1 STUDY PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

1. The Office of Student Affairs registers the students' individual course results and makes these available via the Student Portal.
2. Upon request, a student is provided with an overview of the study results obtained thus far.

### ARTICLE 8.2 STUDY GUIDANCE

1. Students registered for the programme will be provided with an introduction as well as academic and study guidance.
2. Guidance includes:
  - An introduction week before the start of the first academic year;
  - Academic advising (by appointed academic advisors): group and individual academic advising on possible study paths in- and outside the programme, partly with a view to the professional options after the master's programme;
  - Study advising (by Student counsellor): on matters pertaining to the study plan, study changes and academic growth and relevant non-study related issues.
3. A student is requested to consult the Student Disability Office/Student Advisory Office or student counsellor of any personal circumstances that may affect study progress as soon as possible. In such cases, prior proof of consultation is a prerequisite for further communication with the Board of Examiners with regards to curriculum changes.

## Section 9 Transitional and Final Provisions

### ARTICLE 9.1 AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to these regulations may be adopted in a separate decision by the Deans' Council, after advice and consent from the Educational Programme Committees and after advice and consent from the Faculty Council.
2. An amendment in these regulations will not pertain to the current academic year, unless the interests of the students will reasonably be harmed as a result.
3. In addition, amendments may not affect, to the students' detriment, a decision regarding a student that has been taken by the Board of Examiners pursuant to these regulations.

### ARTICLE 9.2 NOTICE

1. The Deans' Council ensures that proper notice is given of these regulations, the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Examiners, and any changes to these documents, by, for example, placing such notice on the UM and RU websites, or in Student Portal.
2. Any interested party may obtain a copy of the documents referred to in 8.2.1 from the Office of Student Affairs or the Secretary of the Board of Examiners.

### ARTICLE 9.3 EVALUATION

The Deans' Council will ensure that the education of the programme is regularly evaluated, assessing at least the student workload.

### ARTICLE 9.4 UNFORESEEN CASES/SAFETY NET SCHEME

1. In cases not covered or not exhaustively covered by these regulations, decisions are taken by or on behalf of the Deans' Council, after it has consulted with the Board of Examiners.
2. In individual exceptional cases in which application of the rules specified in this document would lead to manifestly unreasonable treatment / results or serious unfairness, the Board of Examiners (on behalf of the Deans' Council) can deviate from the stated regulations in the student's favour.

### ARTICLE 9.5 RIGHT OF APPEAL

Within six weeks after the day of any (exam) decision by the examiner and/or the Board of Examiners is announced, the student may appeal this decision to the Complaints Service Point of UM.

The appeal must be signed, must include a date and the name and address of the party filing the appeal, must indicate the grounds for the appeal and, if possible, must include a copy of the decision being appealed.

### ARTICLE 9.6 EFFECTIVE DATE

This Regulation will come into force on 1 September 2026 and will be valid for the academic year 2026/2027.

Adopted by the Deans' Council on 1 September 2026.

## Appendices of the Education and Examination Regulations

### APPENDIX A GENERAL OVERVIEW AND COURSES OF THE CURRICULUM

For the CBE Programme students must complete the following curriculum (including in parallel a portfolio assignment):

Table 1: General overview

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
Year 1	Mandatory Courses	Mandatory Courses	Project	Mandatory and programme elective courses		Project
Year 2	Elective Courses	Master Thesis research project				

Table 2: Courses in the CBE programme

Y <sub>1</sub>	P <sub>1</sub>	Mandatory courses 4x 6 credits	Farming Systems	Plant Biology (for engineering BSc)* or Engineering (for biology-BSc)*	Portfolio Credits 1
	P <sub>2</sub>		Envirogenetics	Plant Production Engineering	
	P <sub>3</sub>	Project 6 credits	Entrepreneurship		
	P <sub>4</sub>	Mandatory and elective courses 4x 6 credits	Crop Biotechnology	Bioinformatics or Circular Engineering	
			Autonomous Crop Growth Systems	Metabolomic Engineering or Biosensor Technology	
	P <sub>6</sub>	Project 6 credits	Consumer Traits		
Y <sub>2</sub>		Elective courses 12 credits	RU, UM or free		
		Thesis 47 credits	Master Thesis Research		

\* Students are assigned to one of these courses based on the focus of previous academic study.

Disclaimer: The offering of elective courses is subject to change based on enrolment (student preference) and scheduling limitations.

## **APPENDIX B BACHELOR STUDIES TYPICALLY LEADING TO THE CBE PROGRAMME**

- Biochemistry
- Bioinformatics
- Biology
- Biomedical Engineering
- Biomedical Sciences – Biotechnology
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Data Science
- Engineering (Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Engineering Physics)
- Bioinformatics or Computer Sciences
- Life Sciences and Technology
- Polymer/Material Science and Engineering
- University Colleges or Maastricht Science Programme or relevant Liberal Arts & Sciences/Technology and Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Other bachelor's programmes in a related discipline

## APPENDIX C LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The choice for the language of instruction of the programme is in line with the UM Code of Conduct on language in accordance with the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) art. 7.2.

To prepare students for working in academic and professional communities in which the teams are interdisciplinary and international, the programme is offered in an international classroom setting. Moreover, students are offered many opportunities for learning, research at the Brightlands Campuses, which offer an international ecosystem to address societal challenges by creating high-tech, environmentally sound, business-wise, innovative solutions.

Because of the specific educational nature and profile of the programme, all 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 as it is designed for students who can research the worldwide challenges in the transition to a sustainable and healthy planet.
- To participate in the globalizing research community, home to diverse natural sciences domains and different cultures, it is crucial that students master the English language.
- The programme is characterised by working together across and strengthening the links between disciplines. The programme is also characterised by a connection to stakeholders in industry and society. Offering the programme in English allows students to develop the ability to cooperate and communicate in the required international context.
- Being internationally competent enhances students' chances on both the national and international labour markets. This is endorsed by multiple regional and (inter)national companies.
- The student intake is expected to be internationally diverse, whereby English is the common language.