

Rules and Regulations for the research master Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience 2026-2027

Rules and Regulations for the research master Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience 2026-2027, as referred to in Article 7.12b, paragraph 1, sub b, of the Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, WHW)

These Rules and Regulations have been determined by the Board of Examiners of the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, Maastricht University, on 25 June 2026.

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RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE RESEARCH MASTER COGNITIVE AND CLINICAL NEUROSCIENCE

Article 1 Scope of the Rules and Regulations

1. These Rules and Regulations (R&R) apply to the education, exams and examination for the research master Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience – hereafter referred to as ‘research master’ – of the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience (FPN).
2. The R&R apply to all students who are registered for the study programme in the academic year 2026-2027.
3. For cases regarding exams not covered by these R&R, “The Rules of Procedure for (Course) Exams at Maastricht University (<https://intranet.maastrichtuniversity.nl/en/fpn-students/exams-tests-grades/exam-procedure>) apply.
4. The R&R are annually reviewed and revised if necessary and enacted by the Board of Examiners.

Article 2 Definitions

The definitions contained in the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) and in Article 1.2 of the Education and Examination Regulations (EER) of the research master apply.

Article 3 Board of Examiners

1. The Board of Examiners (hereafter the Board) sees to the execution of the R&R for the research master’s examination and its components, considering the WHW and the EER concerning the organisation and scope of the exams of the research master of FPN.
2. The Board will appoint examiners to conduct the exams.
3. In exceptional cases, the Board can annul decisions taken by the examiners, when, e.g., a student has not complied with the requirements for a part of the exam that the student has taken.

Article 3.1 Appointment and composition of the Board of Examiners

1. The dean of FPN installs the Board and appoints its members based on their expertise in the field of the degree programme.
2. The Board is led by the chair(s).
3. The composition of the Board is such that it reflects the programmes at FPN as well as possible.
4. At least one member is an external member, who is not involved in education in the FPN programmes.
5. The Board is supported by the secretaries.

Article 3.2 Working method of the Board of Examiners

1. The Board meets monthly in a plenary session.
2. The chairs and secretaries oversee the daily management and they meet weekly to discuss non-standard requests, appeals, the topics and the agenda of the plenary meeting, and any other relevant business.
3. The Board meetings are closed to the public due to the confidentiality of matters discussed.

4. If a request or complaint submitted to the Board involves an examiner who is a member of the Board, the respective examiner will abstain from deciding on the matter as stated in Article 7.12b, paragraph 4, WHW.
5. The Board may delegate clearly defined duties (e.g. to committees or subcommittees).
6. The secretaries to the Board take standard decisions based on the EER, the R&R and/or the jurisprudence of the Board. Non-standard requests are discussed during the weekly meetings with the chair(s).
7. Only complete and correctly submitted requests and complaints will be processed.
8. The Board decides upon a request or complaint within 20 working days after submission. In special circumstances, this term can be extended by another 20 working days.

Article 4 Examiners

1. The Board appoints examiners. Examiner qualifications vary depending on the type of examination/educational component, resulting in distinct categories. All categories require a master's degree, with some requiring a PhD. Most categories also require a University Teaching Qualification (UTQ) or completion of specific UTQ workshops. Alternatively, examiners can be appointed temporarily while pursuing the UTQ qualification.
2. For the master's thesis research project, first assessors must hold a PhD.
3. For the master's thesis research project, second assessors must hold a PhD, be a PhD student, or be a lecturer who has completed the UTQ workshop "Supervision of Research and Writing Assignments". After acting as a second assessor twice and completing the workshop, PhD students and lecturers can also qualify as first assessors.
4. In principle examiners must belong to the academic staff of the FPN. Upon request, the Board can also appoint other experts (i.e. non-academic staff) at FPN or experts from outside FPN as examiner.
5. If experts from outside FPN are appointed in the context of clinical components as examiner, they are required to be psychologists with at least a master's degree in psychology and have, in principle, at least three years of work experience in the clinical field.
6. For the master's thesis research project, whether internal or external, the research project coordinator of the relevant specialisation is responsible for ensuring that the supervisors/assessors meet the appointment requirements set by the Board.
7. For external research projects outside UM the external supervisor must hold a PhD or demonstrate a track record showing experience in conducting research and writing scientific papers. If neither condition is met, two internal supervisors must be appointed. The external supervisor still acts as assessor of the practical part (the 'research project') and informs the internal assessor about the student's performance and grade. In this case, the internal supervisor handles administration and keeps a copy of this appraisal for two years after the conclusion of the practical part. The requirements for the other/second assessor are equal to those of an internal research project.
8. In case of a clinical internship, its coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the supervisors/assessors meet the appointment requirements set by the Board. Students wishing to receive the BAPD must contact one of the staff members listed on Student Intranet: <https://intranet.maastrichtuniversity.nl/en/fpn-students/masters-thesis-internships/clinical-internship/supervision-clinical-internship>.
9. The Board may decide to withdraw an appointment as examiner if the examiner fails to adhere to laws and/or the R&R of the Board, or if the assessment skills of the examiner (e.g., to construct an exam, to examine, and/or to grade an exam) have proven to be of insufficient

quality.

Article 5 Flexible programme

1. Students who wish to follow a flexible programme as referred to in Article 7.3j WHW and Article 3.9 EER must submit a motivated request to the Board at least six weeks before the start of the academic year.
2. The request must clearly substantiate why the regular curriculum as stipulated in Article 3.9 EER does not meet the student's needs to compose a customised flexible programme and how the proposed flexible programme addresses these needs.
3. The Board will determine whether the flexible programme will lead to the required level of knowledge and skills to receive the degree of Master of Science in Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience. The degree will not include any specialisation.
4. The flexible programme must be coherent in content and must have a study load of 120 ECTS credits.
5. The flexible programme should at any rate contain the following educational components: the Research proposal (1 ECTS credit), the Master's thesis research project (35 ECTS credits), the Master's thesis oral inquiry (0 ECTS credits) and the Master's thesis (14 ECTS credits).
6. If the flexible programme contains both a master's thesis research project and clinical internship, it should at any rate contain the following educational components: the Research proposal (1 ECTS credit), the Research proposal minor's thesis (1 ECTS credit), the Master's thesis research project (19 ECTS credits), the Clinical internship (15 ECTS credits), Clinical activities report (0 ECTS credits), the Master's thesis oral inquiry (0 ECTS credits), the Minor's thesis (4 ECTS credits) and the Master's thesis (10 ECTS credits).
7. Depending on the flexible programme and without prejudice to paragraph 5 of this Article, the student may be allowed to write a Minor's thesis of 4 ECTS credits in combination with a Master's thesis of 10 ECTS credits instead of a Master's thesis of 14 ECTS credits.

Article 6 Grades, guessing correction and rounding

1. The minimum number of points that are needed to obtain a passing grade and/or the weighing of exam components will be provided by the course coordinator in the course manual and/or on Canvas.
2. Within the same academic year, exam questions are not identical across different exams (i.e., the initial exam and the resit). Overlap with exam questions of the previous academic year should be at most 50%.
3. Close-ended exam questions, such as multiple-choice questions, will be corrected for guessing.
4. The final grade and contributing grades will be rounded off to one decimal place. The second decimal figure is decisive, e.g., a 5.86 will be rounded off to 5.9, a 5.85 will be rounded off to 5.9, a 5.84 will be rounded off to 5.8 and a 5.95 will be rounded off to 6.0.
5. If the final grade is composed of contributing grades or partial grades, the final grade may differ depending on the combination of partial grades. Please refer to appendix 3 for a breakdown of all common combinations and the final grades awarded.

Article 7 Proof of having passed a course/module

When Articles 7.1-7.4 refer to attendance, Article 8 applies unless more specific, deviating stipulations on attendance are included in Articles 7.1-7.4.

Article 7.1 Proof of having passed a core Courses

A student can have a core course registered as passed if the following requirements have been met:

- a. A minimum of 70% attendance at the meetings. A student who arrives after the official start time of the meeting or leaves before the end time of the meeting may be considered as absent.
- b. If a student has not met the attendance obligation but has still taken an exam, the exam grade will be declared invalid;
- c. A core course is passed when the final grade, calculated from all assessment components, is at least a rounded 6.0 (see Article 6 for rounding regulations).

Article 7.2 Proof of having passed and skills and practical training

A student can have a skills or practical training registered as passed if the following requirements have been met:

- a. Attendance of 100% of the skills or practical training sessions, unless specified otherwise in the course manual. A student who arrives after the official start time of the meeting or leaves before the end time of the meeting may be considered as absent.
- b. If a student has not met the attendance obligation but has not missed more than one meeting, the student can apply to the course coordinator for a compensatory assignment, unless specified otherwise in the course manual;
- c. Timely and sufficient completion of the required assignments. This requires at least a sufficient grade for the final assessment(s). A practical training is passed when the final grade, calculated from all assessment components, is at least a rounded 6.0 (see Article 6 for rounding regulations) or, in case of a pass/fail assessment, a pass has been obtained.

Article 7.3 Proof of having passed a workshops

A student can have a workshop registered as passed if the following requirements have been met:

- a. Attendance of a minimum of 85% of the group meetings. A student who arrives after the official start time of the workshop or leaves before the end of the meeting may be considered as absent.
- b. If a student has not met the attendance obligation but has not missed more than one more meeting than allowed, the student will be able to apply for a compensatory assignment.
- c. Timely and satisfactory completion of the required assignments.

Article 7.4 Proof of having passed colloquia

A student can have the colloquium series registered as passed if the following requirements have been met:

- a. Registered attendance at a minimum of 8 colloquia.
- b. If a student has not met the attendance obligation but has not missed more than one colloquium, the student will be able to apply for a compensatory assignment.
- c. timely and satisfactory completion of the required assignments.

Article 8 Attendance obligation

1. Where attendance of at least 85% or 70% of meetings is mandatory, the table below applies:

Total of meeting	85% Mandatory meetings	70% Mandatory meetings
10	9	7
9	8	7
8	7	6
7	6	5
6	100%	5
5	100%	4
4 or fewer	100%	100%

2. A 100% attendance obligation applies to skills and practical training sessions, unless specified otherwise in the course manual.
3. Attendance is registered by the tutor.
4. If a student has not met the attendance requirements, the course will not be registered as passed.
5. If the attendance requirements have been met in a given academic year, this will remain valid for the remainder of the study, even if the exam is not passed in that year.
6. Individual attendance arrangements based on personal circumstances are only valid if the exam is passed in the same academic year.

Article 9 Grade point average

1. A weighted grade point average (GPA) is calculated across all parts of the examination which are assessed on a ten-point rating scale except for the electives. Scores will be weighted according to the number of course credits (see also Article 3.6 EER).
2. An insufficient grade will be included in the GPA.
3. On a provisional transcript, an exam that has not been taken will not be included in the GPA.
4. On a final transcript, a GPA will only be registered when at least 120 credits have been obtained for courses/modules as stated in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 10 Degree completion with distinction

Degree completion “with distinction” is attached to the research master’s examination if each of the following requirements has been met:

- a. a weighted grade point average (GPA) of at least 8.50 for all components of the research master’s examination that are assessed on a ten-point scale except for electives (see article 11, paragraph 7, R&R).
- b. no exam or exam component may be passed as a resit;
- c. in case of a No Grade (NG) for the first exam opportunity, the second exam opportunity will not be considered a resit;
- d. weighting of course grades occurs according to the ECTS credits obtained in each course (see also Article 3.6 EER);
- e. master’s thesis: a score of at least 8.0 or, where applicable, the proportional average of the scores for the master’s thesis and the minor’s thesis is at least 8.0;
- f. in the calculation of the overall GPA, thesis grades are weighted as follows: the master’s thesis is equivalent to 14 ECTS credits; for students writing both a master’s and a minor’s thesis, the master’s thesis is equivalent to 10 ECTS credits and the minor’s thesis to 4 ECTS credits;
- g. all courses/modules, except the internship and master’s thesis, need to be passed within two

years after the student started the research master. The Board can, in exceptional circumstances, deviate from this; and

- h. a student whom the Board has found guilty of fraudulent acts within the meaning of Articles 17 and 18 and therefore had an exam result declared invalid shall not be eligible for the attribution of “with distinction”.

Article 11 Electives

1. Electives can be regular courses offered by the UM or another university at the master’s level or higher. The content of elective courses should have a link to the research master’s goals. In questionable cases, the Board will decide. Course content should not duplicate or extensively overlap with previously taken courses, as judged by the Board.
2. Review electives: Students can design their own elective in the form of a scientific review, provided that it meets established criteria, as judged by the research master’s Electives Coordinator. These criteria include:
 - a. supervision and assessment by a faculty member,
 - b. a minimum study load of 84 hours (3 ECTS credits),
 - c. assessment based on a written paper,
 - d. content linked to the goals of the research master.
 - e. A student may not register for more than one review elective.
3. Research electives: Students may apply for a research elective offered in the first year of the research master. These unpaid research assistant positions entail a minimum study load of 84 hours (3 ECTS credits) and are supervised and assessed by a faculty member. If selected, a student may register for no more than one research elective. Students taking a research elective must complete it before they start a research project.
4. Applications to register for electives, including review and research electives, must be submitted 6 weeks in advance of their starting date to the research master’s Electives coordinator.
5. Admission to an elective course can be denied if the student does not have the prerequisite background knowledge.
6. By notifying the Board, a student can cancel enrolment in an elective course anytime up to and including the second meeting of a course of at least 4 meetings, or up to and including the first meeting of a shorter course, or during the first week of a review or research elective.
7. For elective courses in which a grade is given, this grade will appear on the transcript, but will not be included in the weighted average score (GPA).

Article 12 Exemptions

1. Requests for exemption from an examination component, as provided for under the WHW, will only be processed if:
 - a. the request submitted to the Board at least 20 working days before the start of the relevant course or module;
 - b. the requestor is enrolled at FPN, has fulfilled their financial requirements and has met the admission requirements of the programme; and
 - c. the request was accompanied by official written proof in English or Dutch; only official certified translations in English or Dutch will be accepted.
2. The number of ECTS credits of the course that serves as the basis of the exemption must be equal to or greater than the number of ECTS credits of the course to be exempted.

3. The Board makes a substantiated decision within 20 working days after having received the request, with the option to extend this period by a further 20 working days. The student will be informed about the decision in writing.

Article 13 Resits

1. The following resit arrangements as stipulated in Articles 13.1-3.4 apply to students who, in the first instance, have not passed a course, module, educational component or a component thereof of the research master's examination.
2. If a student passed an assessment, the student cannot resit that component.
3. If a student has not met the attendance obligation, the resit grade will be declared invalid.

Article 13.1 Core courses resits

1. The student who failed a course exam or received a No Grade (NG) will have one opportunity per academic year to resit that course exam.
2. If a student failed the resit, the highest failed grade will be recorded.
3. If the student fails both the initial course exam or practical training and the resit in one academic year, two resit opportunities will be offered in each following academic year.

Article 13.2 Workshops, skills training, and colloquia resits

Students who failed an assignment or a task will have to complete a resit in the same academic year.

Article 13.3 Written assignment resits

1. Each written assignment, including the research proposal related to the master's thesis and the clinical activities report, may be resat once per academic year.
2. A resit will consist of rewriting the originally submitted assignment.
3. If the written assignment was not submitted before the deadline of the first sit, the student will receive a No Grade (NG). The student is allowed a resit but is not entitled to feedback.
4. If the first-sit assignment did not comply with all submission guidelines, the student will receive a failing grade. The student is allowed a resit but is not entitled to feedback.
5. In the case of a failed master's thesis, the resit may take place in the following academic year, depending on the original submission date. In such cases, the student must re-register for the programme in the new academic year.

Article 13.4 Internship

In case the student has failed the research project or clinical internship, the student needs to submit a request for a resit to the Board.

Article 14 Extra exam or alternative format of exam

1. In exceptional cases, the Board may decide to grant a student an alternative and/or an extra exam opportunity in addition to the regular exam and resit.

2. However, this arrangement may only be approved once and only in case of one (i.e. the final) outstanding exam.
3. The request will only be considered in case of exceptional demonstrable personal circumstances of a student, which would cause disproportionate study delay.
4. The Board may take into consideration whether the student has used all previous exam opportunities and has attended the exam inspections.
5. Special personal circumstances of the student in question that can be considered are:
 - a. handicap or (chronic) illness;
 - b. pregnancy or given birth, also for the student's partner;
 - c. special family circumstances (that necessitate for example informal care);
 - d. top sport status as awarded by the UM/Limburg Sport;
 - e. membership of the board of student organization of some size with full jurisdiction, a study programme committee, the education board, the faculty board, the faculty council or the university council;
 - f. administrative or social activities that in the opinion of the institutional management are also in the interest of the institution or of the education that the student follows;
 - g. poor studiability of the programme.
6. If the Board grants a student an oral exam as alternative format, the following conditions apply:
 - a. during an oral exam, only one person is assessed;
 - b. an oral exam is administered by at least two examiners;
 - c. an oral exam takes place in person and on site.

Article 15 **Appeal procedure**

1. An appeal against a decision as stated in Article 7.61 WHW, including but not limited to decisions on grades and decisions of the Board, must be submitted to the [Complaints Service Point](#) (CPS).
2. An appeal must be submitted within 6 weeks after publication of the decision.
3. Subsequently, the appeal will be forwarded to the Board of Appeal for Examinations (CBE) who will ultimately take the decision.
4. The appeal must be signed, dated and include:
 - a. the name and address of the appellant,
 - b. the grounds for the appeal; and
 - c. a copy of the decision being appealed.

Article 16 **Non-regular exam inspection**

1. Students who, for valid reasons, were unable to attend the regular exam inspection can request a non-regular exam inspection within two weeks after the regular exam inspection.
2. Requests to the Board must:
 - a. state the reasons for missing the regular exam inspection; and
 - b. include evidence on why the exam inspection was missed.
3. Requests will be processed within 20 working days.

Article 17 **Fraud**

This Article elaborates, in accordance with Article 7.12b, paragraph 3 of the WHW, how the Board acts under Article 7.12b, paragraph 2, of the WHW, and in relation to Article 5.16 EER.

1. The Board may impose one or several disciplinary measures set down in Article 19 if it establishes that a student, in any exam or exam component or otherwise, has committed fraud, including, but not limited to:
 - a. has had any unauthorised aids/devices, resources, text, software – including artificial intelligence software such as ChatGPT – or notes at the student's disposal, or has used aids, devices and/or communication devices that were not explicitly allowed, or that were explicitly forbidden in the exam instructions and/or Rules of Procedures for (course) Exams;
 - b. has communicated or tried to communicate with another student, without permission from an invigilator, the head invigilator, an exam coordinator, an examiner, or a Board member;
 - c. has copied or attempted to copy from another student, or has provided the opportunity to copy;
 - d. has collaborated on a graded assignment, paper or practical, whereas this was not explicitly allowed;
 - e. has posed as someone else or let someone else pose as the student;
 - f. has misled, or at least attempted to mislead or provided the opportunity to mislead an invigilator, the head invigilator, an exam coordinator, an examiner, a corrector or the Board relating to the examination, any exams or exam components, registration or grading;
 - g. has used an obfuscation method in submitted work that is likely to have the effect that plagiarism checking tools do not work optimally;
 - h. has disregarded the instructions of the invigilator the head invigilator, an exam coordinator or the instructions for the exam or exam component such that an unfair advantage might have been obtained;
 - i. has performed actions or omissions, which make it impossible in whole or in part to properly evaluate the student's knowledge, understanding and skills.
 - j. has falsified the information on mandatory attendance, participation or effort obligation; or had someone else falsify that information; or has signed off on attendance, participation or effort obligations when it was not or not fully met;
 - k. has falsified exam results;
 - l. has falsely obtained, or attempted to obtain, access to an exam;
 - m. has facilitated another student to engage in fraud;
 - n. has fabricated and/or falsified survey or interview answers or research data;
 - o. has breached or attempted to breach the security measures around exams.
2. During the exam inspection, students may not have communication devices and/or other electronic devices at their disposal, remove the exam and answer key from the inspection room or reproduce these documents in any form.
3. During the exam inspection, students may not make any modifications to the exam.
4. During virtual exam inspections, screenshots or recordings are prohibited.
5. The Board may impose one or several disciplinary measures as set out in Article 19 if it establishes that a student did not adhere to the exam inspection rules above.

Article 18 Plagiarism

The Board may impose one or several disciplinary measures as set out in Article 19 if it establishes that a student has committed plagiarism in any exam or exam component or otherwise, including, but not limited to:

- a. using or copying the student's personal or other people's work (including programming code), data, ideas or other materials without adequate source attribution;

- b. presenting the structure or central body of thought from others without adequate source attribution and thus passing it off as the student's own;
- c. failing to clearly indicate in the work (including programming code), for example via quotation marks or a certain layout, that verbatim or nearly verbatim quotes have been used;
- d. paraphrasing the content of the student's own or other people's work without adequate source attribution;
- e. copying video, audio or exam material, software and programming codes from others without adequate source attribution and thus passing them off as the student's own;
- f. copying work from other students and thus passing it off as the student's own;
- g. submitting work that has previously been submitted for a different component/module, or is similar to work previously submitted by oneself or by others, unless explicitly allowed;
- h. submitting work acquired from or produced by a third party and thus passing them off as the student's own;
- i. in all these provisions "others" and "third party" do not only refer to people but also to generative artificial intelligence (e.g. ChatGPT). If the use of artificial intelligence is allowed and/or does not have to be disclosed for a specific use, this is explicitly mentioned in the exam instructions, course manual and/or Rules of Procedures for (course) Exams.

Article 19 Measures in case of fraud and/or plagiarism

1. In the cases referred to in Articles 17 and 18 the Board can declare the results of the relevant exam or part in question invalid, as well as impose the following disciplinary measures:
 - a. a reprimand;
 - b. cancellation of the attendance of the course;
 - c. exclusion from the resit in the academic year in which fraud or plagiarism was committed;
 - d. exclusion from participation or further participation in one or more exams in the programme for a period of at most one year;
 - e. in serious cases of fraud, the Board can propose to the UM's Executive Board that the student(s) concerned be permanently deregistered from the programme.
2. Repeat offenses of fraud and/or plagiarism, either within the faculty or at another UM faculty, may result in more severe sanctions. For this reason, UM Boards of Examiners can inform each other if fraud and/or plagiarism has been established in an exam or exam component at another Faculty.
3. Before the Board imposes an appropriate disciplinary measure, or makes a proposal to the Executive Board, the student in question is given the opportunity to be heard.
4. If fraud and/or plagiarism is established, this will be included in the student's dossier.
5. If the investigation of the Board concludes that the student concerned did not commit fraud or plagiarism, no disciplinary measures will be imposed, the student's name will be removed from all related correspondence and the correspondence will not be included in the student's dossier.
6. The Board will not grant exemptions on the grounds of study results obtained elsewhere, while the student was excluded from participating in the programme's exams because fraud and/or plagiarism was committed.
7. A student who was excluded from participation in exams, or whose exam was declared invalid for a component/module due to fraud and/or plagiarism, is not eligible for an extra exam opportunity for those components/modules.
8. In case of fraud and/or plagiarism in group assignments, all group members are, in principle, deemed jointly responsible for the submitted work. All students involved may therefore be

subject to corrective measures regarding the assessment. Where it is established that certain students played a more substantial role in the fraud and/or plagiarism, additional measures may be imposed on those students.

9. If the Board suspects that a student has committed fraud and/or plagiarism in any way in any exam, exam component or otherwise, the Board shall be entitled to start an inquiry procedure in accordance with Article 7.12b of the WHW.
 - a. If the Board invites the student for a hearing, the student may be accompanied by an adviser, provided that the Board is informed of the adviser's attendance in advance.
 - b. If the Board established that a student has committed fraud and/or plagiarism, the Board will declare the relevant exam/assessment and/or attendance registration null and void (label 0.0) and may impose one or several disciplinary measures set down in the present Article.
 - c. The Board will inform the student concerned, the examiner and the Education Office of the measures taken and the reason for it.

Article 20 Irregularity

1. If the Board established that one or more exam components or an entire exam have not been taken in the prescribed manner or if an exam component has not been conducted properly, the Board may declare the exam or the relevant component(s) invalid.
2. This applies even if the student is not accountable for the irregularity.
3. The board must act in the event of an established irregularity to secure its legal duty as stated in Article 7.12b, paragraph 1, sub a, of the WHW.

Article 21 Amendments

1. Amendments to these R&R are determined by the Board, if necessary, in a separate decision.
2. Amendments will only be made if it may reasonably be assumed that the interests of the students will not be harmed as a result.

Article 22 Hardship clause

The Board is authorised to deviate from these regulations in individual cases if strict adherence to these regulations would result in inequitable circumstances for the student.

Article 23 Implementation and date of taking effect

1. The Board will decide in all cases that have not been foreseen by the R&R
2. These R&R take effect in the academic year 2026-2027.

Enacted by the FPN Board of Examiners at its meeting of 25 June 2026.

APPENDIX 1 REGULATIONS FOR THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL, RESEARCH PROJECT AND MASTER'S THESIS

Article 1 Research proposal

1. A research proposal is an independently written proposal concerning research that the student intends to conduct during the student's research project.
2. The research proposal consists of the following parts:
 - a brief theoretical background of the research;
 - the question posed by the research;
 - a description of the research plan;
 - a description of the research methods that will be applied;
 - a description of the techniques that will be used for processing and analysing the data;
 - a description of how ethical permission for the study will be or has been obtained;
 - a reference list;
 - a timetable.
3. Guidelines for the format and length of the research proposal can be found on FPN Student Intranet.
4. The research proposal is assessed by two assessors:
 - a. In case of an internal research project (conducted at the faculty): two academic staff members of the faculty (the first supervisor and the second assessor).
 - b. In case of an external research project (conducted outside the faculty): the faculty supervisor and the external supervisor from the institution where the research project takes place.
5. If the research proposal is judged to be **insufficient**, the regulation about resits for written assignments in Article 13.3 R&R applies.
6. The research proposal must be submitted within 8 weeks of commencing the research project.
7. The research proposal will be assessed as Pass/Fail **and can be resubmitted once**.
8. For the number of credits of an approved research proposal related to the master's thesis, see Article 3.6 EER.
9. Before the student can commence research activities, formal permission for the study must have been obtained from the Ethics Review Committee Psychology and Neuroscience (ERCPN).
10. For research conducted at an external institution, ethical approval must be obtained in accordance with the procedures of the host institution. The faculty supervisor is responsible for verifying that appropriate ethical approval has been granted before the student commences research activities.

Article 2 Research project

1. A student is required to conduct a research project and write master's thesis as part of the study programme.
2. During the research project, the student conducts a scientific research project as an orientation into the research field of psychologists.
3. If applicable, the clinical internship, the clinical activities report (CAR) and minor's thesis can be done before, after, or together with the research project.
4. In case of a research project conducted as part of a team of students, each student must

formulate and investigate a unique research question.

5. The student must file an application for the research project at least one month before the start of the research project by means of a research project application form submitted via Collent. The Board of Examiners checks whether the student has complied with the requirements in Article 4.2, paragraph 1, EER.
6. Certain research projects may require that certain practical or skills training(s) have been completed.
7. If a student has failed to apply for the research project, the student is not eligible to start said research project. If a student has started the research project without applying, the research project will be considered invalid.
8. A research project agreement is drawn up for the research project, in which specific arrangements are set out between the supervisors and the student. Subsequently, it will be checked whether a student has fulfilled the requirements listed in paragraph 4. The signed agreement must be sent via email to the Education Office within two weeks after the research project starts.
9. The student will be supervised during the research project by a first and second supervisor:
 - a. In case of an internal research project (conducted at the faculty): two academic staff members of the faculty are the supervisors.
 - b. In case of an external research project (conducted outside the faculty): a supervisor from the external institution is the first supervisor and a supervisor from the faculty is the second supervisor. The faculty supervisor serves as the primary contact person between the student and the external institution.
10. The practical part of the research project is assessed by the first supervisor via Collent.
11. The final grade to pass the practical part of the research project must be at least 6.0.
12. For the number of ECTS credits of a satisfactory completion of the research project, see Article 3.6 EER.

Article 3 Master's thesis

1. A master's thesis is an independently written report on the research that has been conducted during the master's thesis research project.
2. Guidelines for the format and length of the master's thesis can be found on FPN Student Intranet.
3. The master's thesis is assessed on several criteria as explained on Student FPN Intranet. To pass, the final grade for the thesis, based on these criteria, must be at least 6.0.
4. The master's thesis is assessed by two assessors: the first and second supervisor as established in Article 2, paragraph 7 of this Appendix.
5. The student can only submit the final version of the master's thesis after the successful completion of the research proposal and the master's thesis oral inquiry.
6. The student must submit the final version of the master's thesis via Collent.
7. Assessment forms must be completed by both assessors via Collent within 15 working days after submission.
8. Prior to submitting the final version of the master's thesis, the student must complete a master's thesis oral inquiry. The oral inquiry is conducted by two assessors, including at least one of the supervisors, and takes the form of an academic discussion on the research conducted and the contents of the draft master's thesis and/or research proposal.

- a. The oral inquiry can only be conducted after the successful completion of the research proposal.
 - b. The oral inquiry is evaluated with a pass/fail assessment.
 - c. The oral inquiry can be redone once per academic year in case of a fail.
 - d. If the student fails both oral inquiries, two resit opportunities will be offered in each following academic year.
9. The master's thesis is graded by averaging the scores given by the first and second supervisor. Both grades must be at least 6.0 and must not differ by more than 2.0 points. If either grade is lower than 6.0, the student must submit a resit version of the master's thesis, which will be assessed by both assessors. If the difference between the two grades exceeds 2.0 points, the assessors will discuss the grading and agree on a final grade based on their exchanged arguments.
10. If the master's thesis is awarded an insufficient grade, the relevant resit article of the R&R applies.
11. For the number of ECTS credits of a satisfactory assessment of the master's thesis, see Article 3.6 EER.

APPENDIX 2 REGULATIONS FOR THE CLINICAL INTERNSHIP AND MINOR'S THESIS

Article 1 Clinical internship

1. Students following either the Clinical Psychology or the Neuropsychology specialisation may complete a clinical internship of 13 weeks or the equivalent of 520 hours (including writing the clinical activities report).
2. The student applies for the clinical internship at least one month before the start of the internship by means of a clinical internship notification form. The Board checks whether the student has complied with the requirements in Article 4.2, paragraph 2 of the EER.
3. A clinical internship agreement is drawn up for the internship in which arrangements are set out between the external institution where the internship takes place, the clinical internship coordinator from the faculty and the student. The signed agreement must be sent to the Education Office via email within two weeks after the internship starts.
4. If a student has failed to apply for the clinical internship, the student is not eligible to start the internship. If a student has started the internship without applying, it will be considered invalid.
5. The student will be supervised during the clinical internship by a supervisor from the faculty and a supervisor from the external institution where the internship takes place (external supervisor). The task of the external supervisor is to guide and monitor the student's clinical activities, and to facilitate the clinical research project. The supervisor from the faculty advises the student concerning the conduct and reporting of research for the minor's thesis (see Article 2 of this appendix) and is the contact person for the external institution where the internship takes place.
6. The internship is registered as having been completed successfully when the supervisor from the faculty has approved the student's clinical activities report and the external supervisor rated the internship performance as sufficient via Collent. The clinical internship is appraised as Pass/Fail.

Article 2 Clinical activities report

1. A clinical activities report is an independently written report on the clinical work that has been conducted during the clinical internship.
2. The clinical activities report is an individually written paper.
3. The clinical activities report is assessed on the following aspects: Overview of the local mental health services, including internship activities; Regulations of the Dutch health care system, including ethics for psychologists; SWOT analyses and 3 case reports.
4. To pass, the final grade for the report, based on the above-mentioned aspects, needs to be at least 6.0.
5. The student needs to submit the final version of the clinical activities report via Collent. Assessment forms must be completed and signed by the supervisor within 15 working days.
6. The clinical activities report is graded by a faculty supervisor who is qualified to do this (see Article 4, paragraph 8, R&R).
7. If the clinical activities report is awarded an insufficient grade, Article 12 R&R applies.
8. For the number of ECTS credits assigned to a satisfactory assessment of the clinical activities report, see Article 3.6 EER.

Article 3 Minor's thesis

1. All students who elect to follow a clinical internship are required to write a minor's thesis.

2. The minor's thesis is an independently written research report, based on a clinical topic relevant to the clinical setting where the clinical internship is conducted.
3. The research proposal of the Minor's thesis must be submitted to and approved by the clinical internship supervisor of the faculty before the research activities commence.
4. Guidelines for the format and length of the research proposal can be found on FPN Student Intranet.
5. Before the student can commence research activities, formal permission for the study must have been obtained from the Ethics Review Committee Psychology and Neuroscience (ERCPN).
6. For research conducted at an external institution, ethical approval must be obtained in accordance with the procedures of the host institution. The faculty supervisor is responsible for verifying that appropriate ethical approval has been granted before the student commences research activities.
7. The minor's thesis is assessed on the following aspects: the clinical research question, scientific content, argumentation and form. The final grade given by the UM supervisor for the minor's thesis needs to be at least 6.0.
8. The student needs to submit the final version of the minor's thesis via Collent. Assessment forms must be completed by the supervisor via Collent within 15 working days.
9. If the minor's thesis is awarded insufficient grades, Article 13.3 R&R applies.
10. The minor's thesis is graded by the clinical internship supervisor/assessor at Maastricht University.
11. At least two weeks before submitting the minor's thesis, and taking the UM supervisor's availability into account, the student arranges a meeting with the UM supervisor. During this meeting, the student's writing process and the contents of the minor's thesis will be discussed.

APPENDIX 3 REGULATIONS FOR PARTIAL GRADES

In the course manual, the course planning group describes the different components of which the course assessment is composed, how they are weighed in determining the final grade, and what the resit for each of these assessment components entails. The tables below show how the final course grade is communicated to the Exam Administration and students in different situations.

Situation A: All partial grades must be sufficient

For this example, we use three components (A, B and C), all of which must be sufficient and carry equal weight

A	B	C	Weighted average	Final grade
6.0	7.0	8.0	7.0	7.0
P	7.0	8.0	7.5	7.5
6.0	4.5	8.0	6.2	4.5
6.0	F	8.0	7.0	5.0
NG	4.5	8.0	6.3	4.5
NG	F	8.0	8.0	5.0
NG	F	4.5	4.5	4.5
NG	7.0	8.0	7.5	NG
NG	P	8.0	8.0	NG
0.0	7.0	8.0	7.5	0.0

Having received three sufficient grades, the final grade is the weighted average

Having one pass assessment and two sufficient grades, the final grade is the weighted average of the two grades.

Having received one or more insufficient grades, the final grade is equal to the lowest grade: in this example 4.5.

Having received one or more fails in combination with sufficient grades, the final grade is 5.0.

Having received one or more insufficient grades, the final grade is equal to the lowest grade: in this example 4.5.

Having received one or more fails in combination with sufficient grades, the final grade is 5.0.

Having received one or more fails in combination with insufficient grades, the final grade is equal to the lowest grade: in this example 4.5.

Having received one or more NGs in combination with sufficient grades, the final grade is NG.

Having received one or more NGs in combination with a pass and a sufficient grade, the final grade is NG.

The Board having detected fraud in at least one component, the final grade is 0.0.

Colour explanations

If all partial grades are sufficient (≥ 6.0 or pass), the final grade is the weighted average.

If at least one partial grade is insufficient (< 6.0 or fail), the lowest grade will be the final grade or a 5.0 in case of a fail.

If at least one partial grade is NG and the other partial results are sufficient, NG is given.

Situation B: Partial grades do not have to be sufficient, as long as the final grade is

For this example, we use three components (A, B and C), all of which carry equal weight, but they do not have to be sufficient, as long as the final grade is.

A	B	C	Weighted average	Final grade
6.0	7.0	8.0	7.0	7.0
P	7.0	8.0	7.5	7.5
5.0	6.0	8.0	6.3	6.3
2.0	6.0	8.0	5.3	2.0
6.0	F	8.0	7.0	5.0
1.6	F	8.0	4.8	1.6
NG	F	8.0	8.0	5.0
NG	1.6	8.0	4.8	1.6
NG	5.0	8.0	6.5	NG
NG	7.0	8.0	7.5	NG
NG	P	8.0	8.0	NG

The weighted grade is sufficient.

The weighted grade is sufficient.

The weighted grade is sufficient, as the insufficient partial grade is compensated.

The weighted grade is insufficient (being 5.3) and the final grade is equal to the lowest grade: in this example 2.0).

Having received one or more fails in combination with sufficient grades, the final grade is 5.0.

Having received one or more fails in combination with insufficient grades, the final grade is equal to the lowest grade: in this example 1.6.

Having received one or more fails in combination with sufficient grades, the final grade is 5.0.

The weighted grade is insufficient (being 4.8) and the final grade is equal to the lowest grade: in this example 1.6.

Having received at least one NG in combination with a sufficient weighted grade, the final grade is NG is given.

Having received at least one NG in combination with a sufficient weighted grade, the final grade is NG is given.

Having received at least one NG in combination with a sufficient weighted grade, the final grade is NG is given.

0.0	7.0	8.0	7.5	0.0
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The Board having detected fraud in at least one component, the final grade is 0.0.

Colour explanations

If the weighted average is sufficient (≥ 6.0 or pass), the final grade is the weighted average

If the weighted average is insufficient (< 6.0 or fail), the lowest grade will be the final grade or a 5.0 in case of a fail

If at least one partial grade is NG and the weighted grade is sufficient, an NG is given