

**Master of Science Programme  
Public Policy and Human Development**

**Education and Examination Regulations (EER)**

Academic Year                      2025 - 2026

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Institute for Societal Policy & Innovation Research (INSPIRE)

School of Business and Economics

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## SECTION 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Article 1.1 Applicability of the regulations

These regulations apply to the education, examinations and exam of the Master of Science Programme in Public Policy & Human Development of the SBE at Maastricht University, hereinafter to be referred to as: 'the programme', and to all students who have a valid registration for the programme in academic year 2025-2026.

These regulations also apply to students from other programmes, faculties or institutions of higher education (e.g., UNU), insofar as they follow components of the programme to which these Education and Examination Regulations (EER) apply, unless stated otherwise in this EER.

For components of the study programme that students follow at another degree programme, faculty or institution of higher education (e.g., the UNU), the Education and Examination Regulations for the other programme, faculty or institution apply to the component in question, unless specifically stated in this EER.

The programme is provided by Maastricht University's School of Business and Economics, hereinafter to be referred to as: 'the faculty'.

The regulations were adopted by the SBE Board after advice from the Board of Examiners, advice and consent from the Educational Programme Committee [*opleidingscommissie*] and after advice and consent from the SBE Council. The regulations will take effect on 01 September 2025 for the 2025/26 academic year. For students who started before 01 September 2025, but are required to complete a component of their study in AY 2025/26, this EER is applicable, and Transition Regulations apply for those students who are expected to comply with regulations that deviate from those they started under. These Transition Regulations are mentioned under the changed articles and under Appendix B following the criteria mentioned in Section 9.

### Article 1.2 Definitions

In the EER, the following definitions apply:

**Academic calendar:** the schematic overview of the academic year, including the education periods and examination periods within the academic year.

**Academic minor:** study programme in which students take preparatory courses within a University of Applied Sciences (for this MSc-EER Zuyd Hogeschool, Breda University of Applied Sciences (BUAs) and Fontys. Where successful completion of the courses together with a letter of recommendations (if applicable) of the educational institute provide direct access to specified MSc study programmes, as established in Article 2.4 of this MSc-EER.

**Academic year:** the period from September of a calendar year up to and including August of the following calendar year.

**(The) Act (or the abbreviation WHW):** the Dutch Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, Stb. 1992, 593).

**Assessor:** a person appointed by the Board of Examiners to provide an independent evaluation of examinations, supporting the assessment process and contributing to the determination of results, when applicable by providing an independent grade.

**Assignment:** A task or piece of work allocated to a student or a group of students as part of an educational unit, for example but not limited to (group) papers and (group) presentations.

**Attendance:** Physical presence during any teaching activity in educational units. This can be a partial requirement of an educational unit: if stated in the syllabus the minimum number of lectures and/or tutorials a student must attend and which can be a condition to pass the educational unit;

**Board of Admissions:** the board responsible for the assessment of admissibility of prospective students to the programme.

**Board of Examiners:** the examination board referred to in Articles 7.12, 7.12a and 7.12b of the Act/WHW. In this EER the Board of Examiners refers to the SBE Board of Examiners.

**Canvas:** an online platform encompassing UM's learning management system in which each educational unit within the curriculum has a dedicated site with regards to communication, content information, testing, assignment submissions, originality checks and discussion boards.

**Certificate:** the official document that will be issued once the student has fulfilled all exam requirements and which is used to prove that the student has graduated.

**Course:** an educational unit within the meaning of Article 7.3 of the Act/WHW.

**Course assignment:** an assignment that may be part of the examination of a course. Students may be eligible to take a course assignment if they do not fulfil the attendance and/or participation requirements.

**Course coordinator:** the examiner responsible for developing the content of an educational unit and who gives guidance to the tutors of the educational unit, resolves problems in the organisation of and coordinates all tasks related to the education and examination and/or assessment of the educational unit.

**Course examination:** an assessment of an educational unit of the examination as referred to in Article 7.10 of the Act/WHW.

**Cum Laude:** a degree awarded to students who have shown exceptional performance in the Master's study programme and have met the Cum Laude requirements, which are stated in this EER (Article 7.3). Cum Laude

is, amongst others, based on the Grade Point Average (GPA). When a student is awarded with a Cum Laude classification, this will be stated on the student's certificate. .

**Digital examination:** examination conducted in a digital format taken on a computer.

**Disability Support (DS):** the central point at UM where students with a disability and/or chronic illness can apply for facilities or support.

**ECTS credit:** a unit expressed in European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits, with one credit equalling 28 hours of study referred to in Article 7.4 of the Act/WHW.

**Education period:** a temporal unit as defined in the academic calendar, equal to the duration of the educational units and subsequent examination of an educational unit.

**Educational Programme Committee [opleidingscommissie]:** the representation and advisory body that carries out the duties described in Article 9.18 of the Act/WHW.

**Educational unit:** a coherent part of the study programme that a student completes by fulfilling all requirements of that part, including an examination and for which the student receives the corresponding ECTS credits (see article 7.3 paragraph 2 WHW).

**Ethics officer:** a staff member designated to assess thesis research designs that involve vulnerable populations for ethical implications and authorise to require necessary adjustments to proposed research prior to implementation to protect the rights and interests of research participants.

**Exam [examen]:** the overall assessment or the final exam of the Master's study programme referred to in Article 7.3 paragraph 3 and Article 7.10 paragraph 2 of the Act/WHW.

**Examination [tentamen]:** an assessment of an educational unit or units of the exam as referred to in Article 7.3 paragraph 3 and Article 7.10 paragraph 1 of the Act/WHW in a written, oral or digital format.

**Examiner:** the person designated by the Board of Examiners to administer examinations and to determine the results of such examinations.

**Extracurricular internship:** an internship outside of the programme and not part of the academic transcript.

**FASoS:** abbreviation for Faculty of Arts and Social Science

**Fraud:** actions and/or omissions by a student, intended or not, which make it impossible in whole or in part to properly evaluate their knowledge, understanding and skills or creating the opportunity for other to commit fraud or plagiarism.

**GPA:** abbreviation for Grade Point Average, the weighted average score of all final numerical grades of the educational units registered within the Master's study programme, that are stated on the Master's curricular (final) transcript and the numerical grades as explained in Article 7.4. The weighting is based on the attempted ECTS credits of these educational units. The GPA is calculated and rounded down to two decimal points.

**Irregularity:** any act or omission by a student in violation of the rules, guidelines and instructions relating to (the completion of) educational units and or examinations. This includes, among others, fraud and plagiarism.

**Maastricht University (UM):** an institution of higher education according to Article 1.8 paragraph 1 of the Act/WHW.

**Master Thesis:** an independently written and individually assessed essay by the student on a particular subject of policy relevance; rigorously analytical and resulting in an original, evidence-based contribution to academic knowledge.

**MSc-EER:** abbreviation for Master of Science Education and Examination Regulations.

**Office of Student Affairs:** a team of administrative staff providing services relating to admission, enrolment, education; thesis administration, and general assistance.

**Oral examination:** an oral assessment of a component or components of the educational unit as referred to in Article 7.3 paragraph 3 and Article 7.10 paragraph 1 of the Act/WHW.

**Plagiarism:** plagiarism means the presentation of ideas or words from one's own or someone else's sources without proper acknowledgment of the sources. Plagiarism is considered to be fraud.

**Practical:** a practical exercise as referred to in Article 7.13(2)(d) of the Act/WHW, in one of the following forms:

- writing a thesis;
- writing a paper, creating a technological design, or performing another written assignment;
- performing a research assignment;
- participating in field work or a field trip;
- participating in an activity intended to develop certain skills;

**Pre-approved free elective track:** a specialisation composed of a combination of courses from two or more specialisations that has been pre-approved by the Board of Examiners.

**Programme:** the master's programme referred to in article 1.1 of these regulations and referred to in Article 7.3 of the Act/WHW, consisting of a coherent whole of educational units comprising a total number of at least 60.0 ECTS credits.

**Programme Board:** the board responsible for the overall design and implementation of the programme, composed by the programme director and the education coordinator.

**Resit:** the second opportunity in an academic year for the examination of a course or educational unit or parts thereof, and any other sit that is needed to pass the educational unit, after prior failing.

**SBE:** abbreviation for School of Business and Economics, a faculty of Maastricht University.

**SBE Board:** the Faculty Board referred to in Article 9.12 of the Act/WHW.

**SBE Council:** the faculty council of the SBE referred to in Article 9.37 of the Act/WHW.

**Semester:** a temporal unit of the academic year, starting 1 September and ending 31 January, or starting 1 February and ending 31 August.

**Specialisation:** a combination of educational units that students choose during their Master's study programme that allows them to specialise within a subdomain of their study programme.

**Specialisation coordinators:** the instructor(s) responsible for developing the content of a specialisation and the alignment of the educational units, and who give(s) guidance to the course coordinators of the educational units that compose the specialisation.

**Student:** a person who is registered at the university for education and/or to take examinations and the exam of the programme.

**Student Intranet:** a web-based environment complementary to this EER, in which students can access and exchange information regarding their studies at Maastricht University and for which a username and password are provided to the student upon enrolment at Maastricht University.

**Student Portal:** the portal to the digital personal environment of students enrolled at Maastricht University which can be used by the student for administrative purposes, e.g., course registration, for which a username and password are provided to the student upon enrolment at Maastricht University.

**Study advisor:** a staff member who supports students on a variety of personal and academic related topics, such as personal development, current study programme and planning, and plans for the future.

**Summa cum Laude:** a degree awarded with the classification Summa Cum Laude (passed with the highest distinction) by the Board of Examiners based on the fact that the student has shown highly exceptional performance in the Master's study programme and has met the Summa Cum Laude requirements, which are stated in this EER. Summa Cum Laude is, amongst others, based on the Grade Point Average (GPA). When a student is awarded with a Summa Cum laude classification, this will be stated on the student's certificate.

**Syllabus:** a document outlining the goals and content of a particular educational unit, describing methods of education and examination of the educational unit concerned and prescribing particular regulations and guidelines applicable to that educational unit.

**Thesis coordinator:** a qualified academic staff member appointed as examiner by the Board of Examiners to coordinate the thesis educational unit, including advice on the regulations, coordination of the thesis method track, vetting of supervisors, ethics officer, and graders, coordination and oversight of the ethics review process, ensuring appropriate short and long-term storage of thesis research data, in accordance with research ethics, transparency and replication principles, ' , and maintenance of grading standards across theses and assessors;

**Thesis supervisor:** a qualified academic or practitioner, chosen by the student and approved by the thesis coordinator, to guide and supervise the academic development of the thesis proposal and written thesis.

**Transcript:** An official document, attached to a certificate, listing the results achieved by a student for the educational units of a study programme. The curricular transcript lists the educational units registered within the Master's study programme, which count towards the successful completion of the Master's exam.

**Tutor:** a person guiding students in tutorial meetings towards the course learning goals and providing students with relevant feedback on performance during tutorials.

**United Nations University:** an institution of higher education according to the UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/225;

**UM:** abbreviation of Maastricht University.

**UM Executive Board:** the Board of Maastricht University as referred to Article 9.2 and 9.3 of the Act/WHW.

**UM website:** a web-based environment with information of Maastricht University, accessible by anyone visiting the website: [www.maastrichtuniversity.nl](http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl).

**UNU:** abbreviation of United Nations University.

**Written examinations:** a written assessment of a component or components of the examination(s) as referred to in Article 7.3 paragraph 3 and Article 7.10 paragraph 1 of the Act/WHW. Written examinations can include digital examinations.

**WHW:** abbreviation of Wet Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk onderzoek / Dutch Higher Education and Scientific Research Act/WHW: see (the) Act.

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

## **SECTION 2      ADMISSION**

### **Article 2.1      Application Deadline**

The application deadline regarding the programme will be announced on the UM website for each admission cycle. All the admission requirements must be fulfilled before the deadline as announced on the UM website.

### **Article 2.2      Eligibility for General Admission**

The specific prerequisites for enrolment in the programme of the SBE at UM are made available on the UM website.

Applicants who meet the requirements below are eligible for admission to the programme and may be issued a letter of acceptance.

1. In order to be eligible for admission applicants have to:
  - a. submit the completed enrolment application form via Studielink; and
  - b. submit a copy of a valid passport or ID-card; and
  - c. a CV; and
  - d. two recommendation letters; and
  - e. submit a passport photo; and
  - f. meet the prerequisites regarding the payment details and tuition fee; and
  - g. Provide proof (degree(s) and lists of grades) of having obtained a University of Applied Sciences or a University Bachelor of arts or of scientific education degree or an equivalent degree that provides the knowledge, understanding, and skills on the level of a Dutch University Bachelor's degree of Applied Sciences or a University Bachelor of scientific education. To assess if the Bachelor's degree of the student is equivalent to a Dutch University Bachelor's degree, the Nuffic comparison tool for education systems on [www.nuffic.nl](http://www.nuffic.nl) will be used by the Board of Admissions. If the Bachelor's degree is not included in these education systems, Nuffic will assess the degree separately. The verdict of Nuffic is final. In addition to the requirements mentioned above, applicants are assessed on the basis of the following specific requirements:
    - a. having completed a University of Applied Sciences or a University Bachelor of arts or of scientific education degree or an equivalent degree that provides the knowledge, understanding, and skills on the level of a Dutch University Bachelor's degree of Applied Sciences or a University Bachelor of scientific education that substantially covers topics on economics, political sciences, public administration, and/or law.
    - b. at the least one course in a bachelor or in a master programme on mathematics and statistics as evidenced by prior education or evidence (assessed through documents required in 2.b through 2.e) on the analytical capacity of the student to catch up with basic mathematics and statistics;
    - c. an essay on a topic prescribed by the Board of Admissions. This essay is submitted to a plagiarism check. Plagiarism leads to an automatic rejection of the application; and
    - d. a letter of motivation which also needs to include how this programme builds upon the applicant's previously gained knowledge and/or experience concerning public policy, what the applicant can bring to the programme, and what the applicant expects to gain from completing this programme. Relevant professional experience in the field of public policy positively counts as evidence of the expertise that the student built in the field.

### **Article 2.3      Language requirement**

1. Applicants can only register if the requirement for adequate command of the English language is met, meaning providing proof of having at least a minimum level equivalent to a 6.5 IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score.
2. The requirement referred to under paragraph 1 is met if the applicant is in possession and provides proof thereof to the Board of Admissions, of one of the following diplomas or certificates:
  - a. a Dutch pre-university education (VWO) diploma; or
  - b. a secondary education diploma issued in an (EU/EEA) country as mentioned in the Nuffic diploma list for applicants who have followed English up to and including the last year (as published on the UM-website); or
  - c. a diploma from a completed Pre-master, Bachelor's or Master's degree programme in which English was the sole language of instruction; or
  - d. an international or European Baccalaureate, a US high school diploma or UK GCE A levels.

3. The requirement referred to under paragraph 1 of this Article is met if the applicant can demonstrate in another way that they meet the language requirement, by means of the following language tests:
  - Academic IELTS: 6.5 points; or
  - TOEFL IBT Traditional & Paper Edition: 90 points; or
  - TOEFL IBT Home Edition: 90 points; or
  - TOEIC Listening and Reading: 929 points and Speaking and Writing: 358 points; or
  - Cambridge English First (FCE) – Grade B: 176-179 points; or
  - Cambridge English First (FCE) – Grade C: 180-184 points.
4. The Board of Admissions can reject an application or set additional requirements (for example, schedule an on-line talk with the applicant) if there are reasonable doubts about the English language proficiency of the applicant.

#### **Article 2.4 Direct Admission**

1. Applicants who have been awarded one of the following Degree of Bachelor of Science offered by Maastricht University will be directly admitted to the programme:
  - a. Econometrics and Operations Research (SBE);
  - b. Economics and Business Economics, Economics (SBE);
  - c. Economics and Business Economics, Economics and Management of Information (SBE);
  - d. Economics and Business Economics, Emerging Markets (SBE);
  - e. Economics and Business Economics, International Business Economics (SBE);
  - f. International Business, No specialisation (SBE);
  - g. International Business, Emerging Markets (SBE); and
  - h. Global Studies (FASoS).
2. Applicants who have been awarded one of the following Academic Minors and fulfil the requirements mentioned below, will be directly admitted to the programme:
  - a. Provide proof of having obtained a (University of Applied Sciences) Bachelor's Degree and provide a transcript of exam subjects and grades; and
  - b. Provide proof of having successfully completed the pre-master Strategic Business Management and Marketing (SBM) at Breda University of Applied Sciences; or
  - c. Provide proof of having successfully completed the academic minor at Fontys; or
  - d. Provide proof of having successfully completed an academic minor or the minor ICT at Hogeschool Zuyd; and submit a positive recommendation by Hogeschool Zuyd, to be received at the end of the programme of the University of Applied Sciences, and if this recommendation is approved by the Board of Admission. If a student does not receive a positive recommendation or if the recommendation is not approved, they can only be admitted based on admission by the Board of Admissions as indicated in article 2.2 and 2.3.

#### **Article 2.5 Board of Admissions**

1. The Board of Admissions for the programme is responsible for assessing eligibility for admission and issuing the letter of acceptance to the programme. The Board of Admissions consists of:
  - a. a member who acts as Chair, appointed from among academic staff who are responsible for the programme curriculum;
  - b. one to two members appointed from the other academic staff.
2. A member of the Office of Student Affairs for the programme in reference is appointed as an adviser to the Board, as a Secretary.
3. The dean appoints the members of the Board of Admissions after consulting with the Programme Board.

### **SECTION 3 CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME**

#### **Article 3.1 Aim of the programme**

1. The programme intends to:
  - provide the student with academic education within the specific educational concept and profile of Maastricht University;
  - provide the student with specialized knowledge, skills, and insights in the field of public policy and human development and test student on their knowledge, understanding, and participation by means of the examinations;
  - prepare the student for professional and/or scientific work in the field of public policy and human development.



2. A graduate of the programme is able to:

**1. Understand, use and assess leading theories and concepts in the field of public policy and human development**

- 1.1 Explain and argue for the relevance of public policy for human development.
- 1.2 Recognize and apply public policy and human development as a multidisciplinary field of study drawing primarily from economics, political science, sociology, international relations, public administration and law.
- 1.3 Identify, classify and explain the role of actors and institutions involved in the public policy process and their influence on developmental outcomes.
- 1.4 Comprehend and interpret key conceptual frameworks relevant to at least one of the following areas: global governance, innovation, migration, and social protection
- 1.5 Identify and analyse different actors' preferences for public policy in the context of human development regarding at least one of the following areas: global governance, innovation, migration, and social protection.
- 1.6 Understand and explain the relationship between institutional failures and policy responses.

**2. Analyse and evaluate public policies and provide recommendations for policy design**

- 2.1 Explain the translation of theory and concepts into measurement options relevant to at least one of the following areas: global governance, innovation, migration, and social protection.
- 2.2 Analyse research results and translate those results into policy recommendations.
- 2.3 Appraise, negotiate and recommend policy options relating to at least one of the following areas: global governance, innovation, migration, and social protection.

**3. Understand, assess and apply public policy research methods**

- 3.1 Explain the characteristics of evidence-based policy and its rationale.
- 3.2 Understand and assess the quality of different research designs.
- 3.3 Understand different methodologies and identify the appropriate methods for a particular policy research question.
- 3.4 Understand and differentiate causality from correlations and use appropriate tools to identify the causal effects in policy-relevant research.
- 3.5 Recognize and explain the data requirements that are appropriate in different research contexts.
- 3.6 Compare, select and apply different quantitative and qualitative methodologies to public policy research problems.

**4. Undertake analytical and independent research on public policy and human development**

- 4.1 Appraise, evaluate, and address ethical challenges that arise in research on public policy-related social challenges.
- 4.2 Identify and formulate relevant and feasible research questions for policy-relevant research.
- 4.3 Undertake independent research, select relevant concepts and theories, and present findings in original academic output using a critical analytical approach.
- 4.4 Express, written and orally, a critical analysis on a policy topic.

**5. Constructively work in multicultural and multidisciplinary teams**

- 5.1 Reflect on own contributions to and performance within multicultural teams, e.g., through seeking feedback.
- 5.2 Create and foster a safe and effective team environment (e.g., respectfully contribute to team discussions, encourage knowledge sharing, facilitate discussion with a clear conclusion/summary), taking into account diverse backgrounds, talents, and values
- 5.3 Contribute to a productive atmosphere, encourage knowledge sharing, and facilitate discussion with a clear conclusion/summary, when taking up different roles in collaborative learning.
- 5.4 Deliver informed feedback in a meaningful and responsible way, respond to received feedback recognizing the relevance & transfer to new settings/contexts (feedback cycle).

3. The programme includes the four specialisations listed below as well as the option to follow a pre-approved free elective track. Students select in November the specialisation they would like to follow.
  - Global Governance for Development
  - Governance of Innovation
  - Migration Studies
  - Social Protection Policy
4. A pre-approved free elective track which combines courses from the above specialisations. A pre-approved free elective track is determined by the Board of Examiners who determine that the combinations offered ensure that the students attain the programme learning outcomes mentioned in article 3.1.2 of this EER. A list of pre-approved free elective tracks, approved by the BoE, is available on the Student Portal/Canvas and presented during the specialisation launch. Students are required to discuss their choice with the programme director and must submit a motivation letter together with their specialisation registration by the deadline stated in Student Portal/ Canvas.

**Article 3.2 Form of the programme**

This is a full-time programme (see study load in article 3.5). The programme commences once a year in September. The Programme requires personal attendance, i.e., physical presence in the facilities where the academic activities are held, for all components except the Master Thesis, unless explicitly noted or exempted within an individual course syllabus or by decision of the UNU Board of Examiners.

### Article 3.3 Language of instruction

The language of instruction is English. The justification of English as a language of instruction is provided in Appendix A.

### Article 3.4 Communications and announcement of decisions

1. The programme uses digital institutional communication channels (such as My UM, the UM webmail account, Student Portal/Canvas and/or other UM/SBE channels) to inform students of or to communicate about the study programmes, exam(ination)s, (to announce) decisions and/or other topics related to the UM or SBE.
2. Students must regularly check the digital institutional communication channels throughout the entire academic year. It is the students' own responsibility to inform themselves by checking these channels. Information disseminated via the (digital) communication channels is assumed to be known.

### Article 3.5 Study load

1. The programme has a study load of 60 ECTS credits. One academic year has a workload of 1,680 hours per academic year which corresponds with the 60.0 ECTS credits per academic year. One ECTS credit equals a workload of approximately 28 hours (Article 7.4 of the act/WHW).
2. This study load requires personal attendance for all educational units defined under article 3.6, except most of the components of the Master Thesis, unless explicitly exempted by decision of the Board of Examiners.

### Article 3.6 Content

The programme includes the following educational units and related study load. In **bold** and without brackets are the courses organised by Maastricht University (that fall under this EER, UM rules). Other courses are organised by United Nations University (UNU) and become part of the programme as decided by the Board of Examiners, given proof by the Board of Admissions and Exams of UNU that the student fulfilled the necessary requirements and that the learning objectives of the courses were achieved.

1. Core Courses (Content classes), 16 ECTS credits in total:  
(MPP4301 Public Policy, 4 ECTS credits)  
(MPP4302 Public Economics, 4 ECTS credits)  
**MPP4504 Public Policy Analysis, 8 ECTS credits**
2. **Research & Analysis Skills (Applied research), 12 ECTS credits in total:**  
**SKL4106 Methods for Policy Analysis, 6 ECTS credits**  
(SKL4205 Advanced Methods for Policy-Relevant Research and Analysis, 6 ECTS credits)
3. Specialisation Courses (Content classes), 16 ECTS credits in total:
  - a. 2 courses from an elective specialisation track, 8 ECTS credits each; *or*
  - b. one of the pre-approved elective tracks consisting of 2 courses from two different specialisations, 8 ECTS credits each.

The name of the specialisations with the corresponding courses are mentioned below:

Specialisation	Specialisation course 1 (Period 4)	Specialisation course 2 (Period 5)
Global Governance for Development	(Global Governance and Human Development) [GGD4401]	<b>Governing Global Challenges [GGD4502]</b>
Governance of Innovation	(Innovation and Innovation Policy from a System Perspective: Global and Local Perspectives) ([GOI4401]	(Innovation for Twin Transitions) [GOI4502]
Migration Studies	<b>Migration Studies: Concepts, Theories and Trends [MGR4401]</b>	<b>Migration Effects, Policy and Governance [MGR4502]</b>
Social Protection Policy	<b>Social Protection: From Justification to Intervention [SPP4401]</b>	(SPP4502] Sustainable Social Protection: Governance & Finance)

4. Pre-approved free electives
  - o The combinations of the pre-approved free elective specialisations are made available to students on the Canvas as per Article 3.1.

## 5. Master Thesis (Applied research), 16 ECTS

The aim of the Master Thesis, the learning goals, assessment criteria, assignments/thesis deadlines, procedures and requirements are described in the Master Thesis syllabus, available on the Student Portal/Canvas.

### 5. Outline of the Programme

2025 - 2026	Semester 1	1a	Public Policy (MPP4301)	Methods for Policy Analysis (SKL4106)
		1b	Public Economics (MPP4302)	
		2	Public Policy Analysis (MPP4504)	Advanced Methods for Policy-Relevant Research and Analysis (SKL4205)
	Semester 2	3	Thesis track	Thesis track
		4	Specialisation Course 1	
		5	Specialisation Course 2	
		6	Thesis track	

### Article 3.7 The Exam

The exam consists of all course examinations for the core courses, research and analysis skills, specialisation courses, and Master Thesis identified in article 3.6.

## SECTION 4 EDUCATION

### Article 4.1 Courses, composition, actual design

1. For the programme educational units, courses are given with the study load stated in article 3.5 and 3.6.
2. The education is given in the form of classes, study or tutorial groups, practical training, lectures, individual supervision, assigned study tasks, or equivalent tasks.

### Article 4.2 Course registration

1. Students are informed on the registration procedure they must follow to have a correct and timely course registration, amongst others by publication on the Student Portal/Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to check in time whether they have a valid registration.
2. Each student is automatically registered for the core courses, research and analysis skills, and Master Thesis in their first academic year in the programme. Each student may participate in specialisation courses after they have registered for such courses in a timely manner through Qualtrics.
3. Students may request a course change for specialisation courses to the Board of Examiners via e-mail at least four weeks before the start of the course the request relates to.
4. Students may re-take courses after their first academic year if they did not receive a succeeding grade and if they registered for such courses in a timely manner.

### Article 4.3 Attendance, participation and course assignment

1. Each student should attend and participate actively in the courses for which they have registered. Attendance of and participation in educational activities may be part of an examination when announced along with its assessment requirements in the syllabus. If attendance and/or participation requirement is not met, a course assignment may be part of the examination as a resit, provided the corresponding assessment rules are included in the syllabus. Moreover, the syllabus of each respective course specifies attendance requirements to students.
2. In exceptional cases (see Article 9.4), the Board of Examiners may, at the student's request, exempt the student from the obligation to attend and participate. The Board of Examiners assesses if the examination and evaluation of the envisaged skills may still be performed if the participation percentage is lower, with or without additional requirements being imposed.

### Article 4.4 Practicals

All courses include a practical in accordance with the given specifications regarding the nature and scope of the student's activities. A practical represents an exercise where the student can apply the concepts learned to a concrete case that represents reality.

## **SECTION 5      ASSESSMENT**

### **Article 5.1      General**

1. During a course, the student will be tested for academic training and the extent to which the student has sufficiently achieved the stated intended learning outcomes.
2. The syllabus states the intended learning outcomes the student must achieve in order to pass the course and the criteria against which the student is assessed.
3. Examinations will be conducted, assessed and graded by examiners appointed by the Board of Examiners and by trained academic staff acting under the examiner's responsibility.
4. Examinations will be conducted in oral form, in writing or otherwise (e.g., videos) as announced in the syllabus, without prejudice to the Board of Examiners competence to determine the form otherwise and in exceptional cases. The Rules and regulations and the Rules of Procedure for Examinations of UM describe the assessment procedure. These documents are available on the Student Portal/Canvas.

### **Article 5.2      Rules of Procedure for Examinations**

1. In the rules of procedure for examinations which can be found on the Student Portal/Canvas and Student Intranet, the Board of Examiners lays down the rules and guidelines regarding proper conduct with regard to examination and regarding the procedural aspects of examination, including non-compliance with these rules.
2. If students are suspected to have violated the rules of procedure for examinations in an examination or part(s) thereof, the Board of Examiners will investigate this and decide whether an irregularity (including fraud and plagiarism) is established and if so, which sanction will be imposed as described in article 6.7, of this EER.

### **Article 5.3      Scheduling and frequency of the examinations**

1. Students can take examinations twice per academic year on dates determined by the SBE Board: once during or directly after the education period (first sit for the examination) and once during a resit period of the academic year (resit option). The syllabus states the dates on which the examinations can be taken.
2. The first sit is the first opportunity within an academic year for students to take an examination for a course or specific educational unit(s).
3. A resit of an examination entails, in principle, the second opportunity within an academic year for students to take an examination facilitated for any educational unit or their components, unless explicitly excluded in the syllabus if paragraph a of this Article applies.
  - a) A resit opportunity may only be excluded if, due to their nature, certain components of an educational unit and/or its examination(s) can only be assessed within the relevant education period (e.g., participation, software labs, presentation).
  - b) If the examination for a course consists of partial assignments, the examiner can decide (and state in the syllabus) to offer a resit for each specific assignment or one combined resit for all. No resit has to be offered for a participation grade. In case individual resits for each part are offered, students who are eligible for a resit are entitled to resit each part that they have not yet passed.
  - c) Consequently, the format of the resit for an educational unit or its components may differ from that of the first sit examination(s). The highest result attained determines the final grade.
  - d) Students may take a resit when the final grade in the course is below 5.5. In addition, an examiner may indicate in the syllabus that, due to the nature of the educational unit(s) assessed, a resit of specific educational unit(s) must be taken when the grade of those educational units are below 5.5, regardless of the final grade in the course. The examiner decides, based on the nature of the course, to offer a resit for the educational unit(s) that students have not passed or one combined resit for all educational unit(s) in the course.
4. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may decide that an examination is taken at another time or in another location.
5. If the first submission of the Master Thesis proposal is deemed insufficient, students are offered a chance to resit this educational unit within six (6) weeks.
6. If the evaluation of the Master thesis or the defence thereof results in an insufficient or a No Grade (NG), a student gets the opportunity to hand-in and defend a revision of this Master thesis within three (3) months after the deadline as described in the Master Thesis syllabus (a resit).
7. Passed partial requirements (components) of an educational unit that were not passed will lose their validity after the academic year in which they were passed, except for the Master Thesis for which passed

partial requirements (components) will remain valid for resit opportunities offered in the following academic year.

#### **Article 5.4 Registration for examinations**

1. Students are automatically registered for the first sit of the examination for each of the courses in which they have a valid registration.
2. Students have to register for the resit in a timely manner. Students are informed of the registration deadlines and the procedure they must obey in order to have a correct and timely registration for examinations, amongst others by publication on the Student Portal/Canvas by the Student Affairs Office. It is the students' own responsibility to check in time whether they have valid registrations.
3. Students may participate in a resit in accordance with the article 5.3.3.

#### **Article 5.5 Extra examination opportunity**

1. A student can submit a request to the Board of Examiners for an extra examination opportunity.
2. This request may be granted if the student has not passed the examination in question due to personal circumstances (see article 9.5) and if a lack of granting an individual assessment would result in an unacceptable study delay.
3. The following criteria apply to the granting of an individual assessment for the final educational unit of the programme:
  - a. It must concern the last non-thesis study result to be obtained to graduate within the Master's study programme. The master thesis itself is not eligible.
  - b. The student has participated in at least the regularly planned first sit and resit examination, unless the student can demonstrate personal circumstances (see article 9.5) which have prohibited the student from participating in the regularly planned first sit and/or resit examination); and
  - c. The study delay in case the individual assessment is not granted must be at least three months.
  - d. This extra examination opportunity can only be requested once per student.

#### **Article 5.6 Form of the examinations**

1. Examinations are taken in the manner stated in the syllabus, and can be, and are not limited, to the following types:
  - a. Attendance, participation and course assignment (Attendance at and participation in educational activities may be part of an examination when announced along with its assessment norms in the syllabus. A course assignment may be part of the examination, provided the corresponding assessment norms are included in the syllabus);
  - b. Oral assignment (e.g., individual oral examinations and oral group presentations);
  - c. Written assignment, including in-person or take-home examinations or digital examinations;
  - d. Submission of data or analyses, including computer-based analysis;
  - e. Performance of practical analytical tasks, including programming, coding, data.
2. The examination for a course can consist of multiple parts. The syllabus specifies the weight of each partial grade. Students who have not successfully completed a course (article 5.3.3) are entitled to a resit opportunity (article 5.3.1), subject to timely registration as specified in article 5.4.2.
3. Examinations may be assessed and checked for plagiarism, fraud and other irregularities.

#### **Article 5.7 Special examination arrangements**

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

#### **Article 5.8 Written examinations**

1. The Board of Examiners may draw up general guidelines for formulating written examinations. The guidelines (including more detailed rules on the format, content, time schedule and assessment) are adapted to each course by the responsible examiner and are communicated to students in the syllabus or examination.
2. The Master Thesis coordinator shall draw up specific guidelines for the Master Thesis, which are included in the Master Thesis syllabus.
3. The Master Thesis will be assessed by at least two examiners.

#### **Article 5.9 Oral examinations**

1. The Board of Examiners may decide that oral examinations are open to public. For every oral examination an assessment norm is determined and made available by the examiner within a reasonable period before the examination takes place. An oral examination is given by an examiner in the presence of an assessor (second examiner) and taken by one student at a time, unless the Board of Examiners has decided otherwise.
2. An oral examination will be assessed and graded by one examiner and a second assessor appointed by the Board of Examiners. The examiner must provide the student with a written statement of this assessment stating the grade, including the filled-out assessment norm (rubric) and written feedback.

#### **Article 5.10 Location of the examination**

In principle, examinations are held at the UM or UNU-MERIT location(s) as published on Student Portal/Canvas or at a location approved by the Board of Examiners to safeguard the quality of examinations. Unless communicated otherwise by the Board of Examiners on Student Portal/Canvas, no examination will be offered at a location that is not defined as a UM or UNU-MERIT location on Student Portal/Canvas, such as examinations in foreign countries.

#### **Article 5.11 Grades**

1. Grades are awarded on a scale of 0 to 10, where 1 is the lowest grade and 10 the highest grade. The grade 0 is used at the discretion of the Board of Examiners. Final grades (i.e., the weighted average of partial grades of a course) are awarded up to at most one decimal place. Partial grades (i.e., grades assigned to individual assessment educational units of a course) are never rounded.
2. The student must receive a final grade of 5.5 or higher prior to rounding to pass the course.
3. For the purpose of the Maastricht University transcript, the grading of courses offered under the UNU rules will be converted to the grading for Maastricht University (Dutch grading scale). The grade scales for Maastricht University transcripts and United Nations University transcripts together with the conversions are shown in the table below.

Numerical Scale of UM	Numerical Scale of UNU
8.9–10.0	90–100%
8.3–8.8	85–89%
7.7–8.2	80–84%
7.4–7.6	77–79%
7.0–7.3	73–76%
6.6–6.9	70–72%
6.3–6.5	67–69%
5.8–6.2	63–66%
5.5–5.7	60–62%
1.0–5.4	0–59%

4. The grading scale from 0 to 10 or Pass/Fail, is to be interpreted as below.

10.0	Outstanding
9.0	Very Good
8.0	Good
7.0	More than satisfactory
6.0	Satisfactory
5.5	Pass
5.0	Almost satisfactory
4.0	Unsatisfactory
3.0	Very unsatisfactory
2.0	Poor
1.0	Very poor
0.0	Used at the discretion of the Board of Examiners
Pass	≥5.5; performance at least meets the minimum criteria
Fail	<5.5; performance below the minimum criteria.
'No grade'	Inability to determine result (see Article 5.12)

**Disclaimer:** Rights can only be derived from final results as published on the Student Portal. Note that the explanation of the marks in the table above is only used to explain the valuation of the mark and is not a grading in itself (e.g., if an examiner indicates "Good" for an examination, this does not automatically mean the examination is graded with an 8.0).

#### **Article 5.12 No Grade**

A "No Grade" is assigned when there is inability to determine a grade. More specifically, instances which warrant a No Grade (NG) include, but are not limited to:

- a student has not actually taken the examination for which they were registered;
- a student fails to submit the examination before the deadline;
- a student has completed an examination that cannot be assessed (e.g. a corrupted file, an incomplete examination document, et cetera).
- a student has committed an irregularity (including fraud and plagiarism) as defined in Chapter Article 6.6 of this MSc-EER, in which case the Board of Examiners may grade the examination with a No Grade as a sanction as indicated in Article 8.2 paragraphs 4 of this MSc-EER.

#### **Article 5.13 Validation and announcement of examination result**

- The Board of Examiners validates the standards for assessing each examination within an educational unit. For non-oral course examination, the examiner determines the result within 15 working days of the date on which the examination was taken and publishes the provisional grades on Canvas.
- For oral course examination, the examiner determines the result within 24 working hours after it has been taken and publishes the provisional grades on Canvas. If more than one student takes the same examination after each other, this period may be extended by up to five (5) working days.
- Within 10 working days of the date on which the results of an examination are announced in Student Portal/Canvas, the student should be given the opportunity to inspect the examination as per article 6.2.
- After an examination inspection has occurred, the examiner provides the Office of Student Affairs with the necessary information to apprise the student of the final course grades.
- The Office of Student Affairs publishes the final course grades on the Student Portal/Canvas within 5 working days of the date that the examiner hands in the final results of an examination.

### **SECTION 6 EXAMINATION**

#### **Article 6.1 Comments procedure**

Comments and complaints regarding open and/or closed questions of examinations shall be submitted by students to the examiner within five (5) working days of the examination in order for them to be reviewed. The comments procedure allows students to submit comments regarding written examinations with the aim of filtering out inaccuracies prior to the start of the grading process. Comments and complaints submitted after this period has expired may be considered at the discretion of the examiner.

#### **Article 6.2 Right of inspection**

1. Within ten (10) working days of the date on which the result of an examination, including a computer-based examination, is announced on the Student Portal/Canvas, students may, upon request, inspect their evaluated work.
2. The examiner should provide the opportunity and information regarding the inspection date, time and location in the syllabus published on Student Portal/Canvas no later than 5 calendar days before the date of inspection.
3. If the student in question demonstrates that they will be or were prevented from attending an inspection at the specified location and time due to personal circumstances beyond their control (see article 9.5), they will be offered another opportunity, if possible within the period specified in paragraph one of this article. The student must have reported the inability with due rapidity to the course coordinator.

#### **Article 6.3      Period of validity**

1. Examinations that have been passed are valid for an unlimited period. However, the Board of Examiners may require the student to take an additional or replacement examination (or examination component) that was passed more than two years ago if the student's knowledge that was examined is demonstrably outdated or the skills that were examined are demonstrably outdated.
2. If personal circumstances apply as referred to in article 9.5, the period of two years in subsection one will be extended by the duration of the financial support a student receives from the profiling fund.
3. Passed partial requirements (components) of an educational unit that were not passed will lose their validity after the academic year in which they were passed, except for the Master Thesis for which passed partial requirements (components) will remain valid for resit opportunities offered in the following academic year. If these resits also result in an insufficient grade, or if the student fails to hand-in and defend a revision within this time frame, the student has to write a Master thesis on a new subject, unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise based on proven personal circumstances. Personal circumstances that may qualify as a precondition are listed in article 9.5.

The Board of Examiners in consultation with the course coordinator may extend the period of validity mentioned under article 6.3.3.

#### **Article 6.4      Retention period for examination results**

1. The examinations, results and the assessed work of written digital and physically written examinations have to be filed for two (2) years after the examination result is determined.
2. The Master thesis and the assessment thereof must be filed for at least seven (7) years after the Master thesis grade is determined.

#### **Article 6.5      Exemption**

1. The Board of Examiners may, at a student's request and having heard the relevant examiner, grant the student an exemption from the educational unit and/or taking an examination if they demonstrate that they previously:
  - either passed an examination for a university or higher professional education programme that was similar in terms of content and level or
  - gained sufficient knowledge and skills relevant to the examination concerned, either through work or professional experience.
2. Students may request an exemption to the Board of Examiners via e-mail at least (4) four weeks prior to the start of the course the request relates to, except for the first courses of the programme where the request may be submitted up to (2) two weeks before the start of the course requested.
3. An exemption may only pertain to an entire course and not an educational unit thereof.
4. At most 8 of the ECTS credits for the programme may be earned based on the exemptions granted.
5. No exemption can be granted for the Master Thesis or specialisation courses.
6. The Board of Examiners will not grant any exemption based on examinations passed by a student outside the programme during the period in which the student was barred by the Board of Examiners from taking examinations for the programme because of fraud.
7. The same period of validity applies to exemptions as to examination results.

#### **Article 6.6      Irregularities (including Fraud and Plagiarism)**

1. An irregularity is an act and/or omission by a student in violation of the rules, guidelines and instructions relating to (the completion of) educational units and/or examinations. This includes, among others, fraud and plagiarism.
2. Fraud, including 'plagiarism', means actions or omissions by a student, intended or not, which make it impossible in whole or in part to properly evaluate their knowledge, understanding and skills or creating the opportunity to commit fraud or plagiarism.

**Fraud** includes but is not limited to a student:

- having any unauthorised aids, texts or notes, or unauthorised electronic aids and/or communication devices at their disposal during an examination;



- having communicated or tried to communicate with fellow students during an examination, either verbally or through gesture, without permission from an exam supervisor, examiner, or a member of the Board of Examiners;
- having copied or tried to copy fellow students' (examination) answers, or having given another student the opportunity to copy their own answers;
- having posed as someone else or having themselves represented by someone else at the examination;
- having deliberately misled or tried to mislead an exam supervisor/invigilator, an examiner, a corrector or the Board of Examiners with respect to the exam(ination), or having deliberately provided an opportunity for them to be misled;
- having collaborated on a graded assignment, paper or practical, whereas this was not explicitly allowed (i.e. collusion);
- submitting work or assignments acquired from or written by a third party (whether or not for payment) and/or (partially) generated by artificial intelligence software, such as ChatGPT.

3. Plagiarism means the presentation of ideas or words from one's own or someone else's sources without proper acknowledgment of the sources. **Plagiarism is considered to be fraud.**

**Plagiarism** includes but is not limited to a student:

- using or copying their personal or other people's texts, data, ideas or thoughts without adequate reference to the source;
- presenting the structure or central body of thought from others without adequate reference to the source and thus passing it off as their own;
- not clearly indicating literal or almost literal quotations in the text, for example via quotation marks or an appropriate layout;
- paraphrasing the content of their own or other people's texts without adequate reference to the source;
- copying video, audio or test material, software and programme codes from others without adequate reference to the source and thus passing them off as their own;
- copying work from fellow students and thus passing it off as their own;
- submitting work or assignments acquired from or written by a third party (whether or not for payment) and/or (partially) generated by artificial intelligence software, such as ChatGPT, and passing them off as their own.

## **Article 6.7 Measures/sanctions in case of Irregularities, Fraud and Plagiarism**

1a. If the Board of Examiners determines that a student has committed an irregularity in any examination or part(s) of, the Board of Examiners may take appropriate measures and/or impose sanctions as per paragraph 4 and 5 of this Article.

1b. In departure of Article 1 section 5 of the UM Regulation of Fraud and Irregularities of any academic year, as published on the UM website, if the Board of Examiners determines that an irregularity has been established in a group assignment, it will take appropriate measures and/or impose sanctions for students involved in the group assignment as per paragraph 4 and 5 of this Article.

2. The Board of Examiners may only (decide to) impose measures/sanctions if an irregularity indeed could be established and after having given the student the opportunity to put forward their views on the matter during a hearing.

3. If an irregularity has been established and, if applicable, a sanction has been imposed, the Board of Examiners will include the decision in the student's file. The decision can be taken into account in any future event of this nature, and this might lead to a more severe sanction.

4. When an irregularity, as defined in Article 6.6 of this EER has been established, the Board of Examiners may decide to impose any of the following measure/sanctions, referred to in Article 7.12b of the Act/WHW, or a combination thereof upon the student:

- a. a reprimand/official warning; and/or
- b. declare an examination (or components thereof) invalid; and/or
- c. exclusion from participation or further participation of one or more examinations or exams at the SBE for a period of time to be determined by the Board of Examiners, with a maximum period of one year.
- d. In serious cases of an irregularity or if a student is found guilty of repetition of an irregularity, the Board of Examiners can propose to the UM Executive Board that the student(s) concerned should be permanently deregistered from the study programme.

## **Article 6.8 Invalid examination**

If an examination (or components thereof) involve(s) circumstances that make it impossible to accurately assess the student's knowledge, insight and skills, the Board of Examiners may give an official warning to and/or may

declare an examination (or components thereof) invalid for the student and/or a group of students. After an examination (or components thereof) has/have been declared invalid, the Board of Examiners must inform the student(s) of the consequences and, if applicable, of another opportunity to take a new examination (or components thereof).

#### **Article 6.9      Unsuitability (*Iudicium Abeundi*)**

1. In exceptional cases and after careful consideration of the interests involved, the Board of Examiners and/or the dean/ SBE Board may ask the UM's Executive Board 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 unsuitability for the practice of one or more professions for which the student is trained by the programme, or, as the case may be, for the practical preparation for the practice of the profession. The dean/ SBE Board, the Board of Examiners, and the UM's Executive Board will reach a decision in accordance with the *Iudicium Abeundi* Protocol adopted by the Dutch Federation of University Medical Centres on 1 November 2010.
2. The relevant clauses of Maastricht University's Enrolment Provisions apply.

### **SECTION 7      EXAM**

#### **Article 7.1      Exam**

1. The Board of Examiners determines the result and date of the exam and issues the certificate as referred to in article 7.3 as soon as the student has satisfied the requirements for the exam, unless otherwise requested by the student and approved by the Board of Examiners as per paragraph 7 of this article.
2. Prior to determining the result of the exam, the Board of Examiners may conduct their own investigation of the student's knowledge regarding one or more educational units or aspects of the programme.
3. To pass the exam, the student must successfully complete or receive an exemption for each educational unit enumerated in article 3.6.
4. To pass the exam and receive the certificate, the student must also have been registered for the programme during the period that the tests were taken.
5. A certificate may only be issued after it has been shown that the student has satisfied all the obligations, including paying the fees.
6. The last day of the month in which the student satisfied all the exam obligations will be considered the exam date (graduation date).
7. Students who have passed the exam and who are entitled to the issuance of a certificate may, stating reasons, ask the Board of Examiners not to do so yet.
8. The request mentioned in paragraph 7 of this article must be submitted ultimately two weeks before fulfilling the last examination requirement of the programme.
9. The Board of Examiners in any event grants the request if:
  - the student is participating in an extracurricular internship, or
  - 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.The Board of Examiners may also grant the request in other circumstances and when compelling reasons are provided by the student.

#### **Article 7.2      Degree**

Students who have successfully completed the exam will be awarded the degree 'Master of Science in Public Policy & Human Development.'

### **Article 7.3 Certificate and statements**

1. As proof that the exam(ination) was passed, the Board of Examiners issues a certificate, after it has been stated by (or on behalf of) UM's Executive Board that the procedural requirements for receiving the certificate have been met. The certificate is based on the model that UM's Executive Board has adopted.
2. The certificate that the exam has been passed also indicates:
  - a. the name of the institution;
  - b. the name of the programme;
  - c. the name of the specialisation (unless the student followed a free elective track)
  - d. the examination components;
  - e. the degree awarded;
  - f. the date on which the programme was most recently accredited.
3. Students who are entitled to the issuance of a certificate may, stating valid reasons, ask the Board of Examiners to postpone the issuing of the certificate in accordance with article 7.1.7.
4. The certificate is signed by the chair of the Board of Examiners and the faculty dean.
5. The certificate includes a list of the examination components.
6. 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 UM's Executive Board, which is in compliance with the agreed European standard format.
7. The Board of Examiners may award the '*Cum Laude*' (distinction) if the candidate:
  - a. obtained a weighted and not rounded average numerical score (GPA) of at least 8.00 for all final grades within the Master's exam and no grade below 7.0; did not fail, obtain a 'no grade' (NG) designation, or resit any examinations;
  - b. obtained a grade of at least 8.0 for the Master thesis; and
  - c. was not found guilty of committing irregularities as described in article 6.6.
  - d. A reasoned request can be submitted to the Board of Examiners to grant a Cum Laude in spite of an obtained 'no grade' or participation in a resit due to personal circumstances as defined in Article 9.5.
8. The Board of Examiners may award the '*Summa Cum Laude*' (the highest distinction) if the candidate:
  - a. obtained a weighted and not rounded average numerical score (GPA) of at least 9.00 for all final grades within the Master's exam and no grade below 7.0;
  - b. did not resit examinations or failed or obtained 'no grade' (NG);
  - c. obtained a grade of at least 9.0 for the Master thesis; and
  - d. was not found guilty of committing irregularities as described in article 6.6.
  - e. A reasoned request can be submitted to the Board of Examiners to grant a Summa Cum Laude in spite of an obtained 'no grade' or participation in a resit due to personal circumstances as defined in Article 9.5.
9. Students who have passed at least one examination and who cannot be issued a certificate will, upon request, receive a statement issued by the Board of Examiners for the examinations that they have passed.

### **Article 7.4 Grade point average (GPA)**

The diploma supplement referred to in article 7.3.6 indicates the final grade point average (GPA), to provide a reflection of the student's academic performance. The GPA is calculated when the student has obtained all ECTS and the final GPA is rounded down to two (2) decimal points (e.g., GPA 6.40).

### **Article 7.5 Honours programme certificate**

Students who have participated in the UM honours programme PremiUM will receive a statement from UM.

### **Article 7.6 Right of appeal**

Within six weeks after the decision by an examiner and/or the Board of Examiners is announced, the student may appeal this decision to UM's Complaints Service Point.

The appeal must be signed; must include a date, the name, and address of the party lodging the appeal; must indicate the grounds for the appeal; and, if possible, must include a copy of the decision being appealed. More information regarding the appeal procedure and the requirements is stated in the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Appeal for Examinations (published on the UM website) and on the Student Intranet.

## **SECTION 8      STUDY GUIDANCE**

### **Article 8.1      Study progress administration**

The faculty records the students' individual study results and makes them available through MyUM.

### **Article 8.2      Study guidance**

1. The programme provides study guidance for students registered for the programme.
2. The study guidance may include:
  - providing access to a study advisor;
  - providing access to an academic advisor and/or mentor;
  - offering referrals and help if the student experiences problems during the study.

## **SECTION 9      AMENDMENTS AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 9.1      Amendments**

1. No amendments will be made that apply to the current academic year, unless the proposed amendments in all fairness do not affect the students' interests.
2. Amendments to these EER are laid down by a separate decision of the SBE Board and will be published on the Student Intranet.
3. Amendments will not negatively affect a decision, regarding a student, made under the existing regulations, by the Board of Examiners.

### **Article 9.2      Notice**

1. The Programme Board 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 Faculty website and Student Portal/Canvas.
2. Any interested party may obtain a copy of the documents referred to in paragraph 1 of this article from the Office of Student Affairs.

### **Article 9.3      Evaluation**

The SBE Board will ensure that the education of the programme is regularly evaluated through the use of different evaluation methods such as: course evaluations, focus groups with students, internal audits every three years organized by SBE, working groups composed by key staff members, and an advisory board that meets every year.

### **Article 9.4      Unforeseen circumstances**

In cases not covered or not clearly covered by these regulations, decisions on exceptional circumstances are made by or on behalf of the SBE Board, after it has consulted with the Board of Examiners.

### **Article 9.5      Hardship**

1. The Board of Examiners is authorised to deviate from the EER in individual cases if strict adherence to these regulations would result in inequitable circumstances for the student.
2. The Board of Examiners will take the following personal circumstances into account when deciding:
  - a. Illness of the student concerned;
  - b. Physical, sensory or other impairments of the student concerned;
  - c. Pregnancy of the student concerned;
  - d. Special family circumstances;
  - e. The status of a top-class sportsman or sportswoman (Topsport Limburg or NOC\*NSF statement required) (see paragraph 3);
  - f. Administrative activities as referred to in Article 2.1(1) under (e), (f) and (g) of the Implementation Decree for the Act 2008 (Uitvoeringsbesluit 2008 of the Act/WHW), and
  - g. Other personal circumstances, not mentioned in paragraphs a to f, that, if not taken into account by the Board of Examiners, would lead to manifestly unreasonable results.
3. Students who have been recognised as top athletes by the NOC\*NSF or the Olympic Service Office are advised to make sure their status is recognised by the UM by checking the UM website. The top athletes recognised by the UM are advised to contact Student & Career Counselling with regard to their dual career as student and top athlete and develop a suitable planning for their study programme. The Student and Career Counsellors can also provide information about the rights top level athletes have at SBE. More information can be found on the UM website.

**Article 9.6      Force Majeure**

If unforeseen and exceptional circumstances, occurred beyond the student's and/or UM's control and which are solely a result of force majeure; such as situations of crisis or war, humanitarian problems, geopolitical factors/tensions, the outbreak and control of contagious diseases (such as epidemics/pandemics), etc., hinder students from being able to fulfil (the) exam and/or other requirements stated in this EER, the Board of Examiners, the Faculty Board and/or the UM Executive Board may deviate from the EER and may decide to prescribe and/or provide (an) appropriate alternative(s).

**Article 9.6      Effective date**

This Regulation will come into force on 01 September 2025 and will apply to the academic year 2025/26.

Adopted by the SBE Board on 01 May 2025.

## **APPENDIX A JUSTIFICATION OF ENGLISH AS 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) Article 7.2.

Given the specific educational nature and profile of the MSc Public Policy & Human Development and because a mandatory part of the programme is provided by the United Nations University, teaching and examinations are conducted in English. English as the language of instruction and examination is necessary given the nature of the programme and contributes to the quality of education:

1. The content of the programme has an international orientation and focus, as is appropriate for a study with a focus on human development.
2. The student intake and current population is internationally diverse, with approximately 80% of student being non-Dutch and the vast majority of UN member states having been represented among the applicants in the past five years.
3. The academic community is internationally oriented and the staff is highly international. As a programme co-taught with the United Nations University, the instructors represent many world regions. Key staff in the programme hail from Argentina, Canada, China, Ghana, Germany, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America, with several dozen countries represented among the group of instructors.
4. The labour market demand is internationally oriented, and career trajectories in the field of public policy and human development often include international collaboration between international organizations, governments, private businesses, and the civil society. English is the most common language for these interactions and is a key UN language. Students must be able to grasp and express nuances in English to navigate complex subject matter in cross-cultural, international work environments.

## **APPENDIX B    TRANSITION REGULATIONS**

### **Article 1. Applicability**

The Transition Regulations incorporated in the text of the Education and Examination Regulations apply to students who commenced their Master's programme in the academic year of the cohort corresponding to the EERs.

The Transition Regulations remain in force for those students only, and do not apply to students who commenced their Master's programme in a later academic year. Students are expected to find out about possible modifications to the EERs and how these modifications could affect them. Students may contact the Office of Student Affairs with any questions.

### **Article 2. Modifications**

In cases not provided for by the transition regulations, students may submit a request to the Programme Board for an adapted programme. The Programme Board will make a decision about the request after discussing it with the Board of Examiners.

## **APPENDIX B.1. TRANSITION REGULATION: THESIS TRACK**

All registered participants from previous cohorts with a thesis requirement pending are subject to comply with the components, deadlines, and assessment components available in the EERs and master thesis Manual of the academic year they submit their thesis as per the Appendix B.2 of the EER of 2021/2022.

## **APPENDIX B.2. TRANSITION REGULATION: SPECIALISATION FOREIGN POLICY & DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIALISATION REGIONAL INTEGRATION & MULTI LEVEL GOVERNANCE**

After August 2025, all registered participants from previous cohorts who have not yet successfully completed courses part of the specialisations on Foreign Policy and Development and Regional Integration and Multi level Governance must select another complete specialisation or a (pre-approved) free elective track.

For questions about the courses, students may contact the specialisation coordinators.

For general questions about the programme and how to continue with the degree, students may contact the study advisor.

## **APPENDIX B.3. TRANSITION REGULATION: RESEARCH & ANALYSIS SKILLS: RESEARCH DESIGN, INTRODUCTORY DATA SCIENCE & STATISTICS, AND REGRESSION ANALYSIS**

After August 2025, all registered participants from previous cohorts who have not yet completed the course(s) SKL4403 Research Design, SKL4102 Introductory Data Science & Statistics, and/or SKL4204 Regression Analysis must take SKL 4106 Methods for Policy Analysis and/or SKL4205 Advanced Methods for Policy-Relevant Research and Analysis.

Credits earned for Research Design (3 ECTS), Introductory Data Science & Statistics (3 ECTS), and Regression Analysis (6 ECTS) are no longer valid as per the transition regulations first published in Appendix B of the EER of 2023-2024.

For questions about the courses, students may contact the course coordinators.

For general questions about the programme and how to continue with the degree, students may contact the study advisor.

## **APPENDIX B.4. TRANSITION REGULATION: SPECIALISATION SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND PUBLIC POLICY**

After August 2025, all registered participants from previous cohorts who have not yet successfully completed courses part of the specialisations on Social Entrepreneurship and Public Policy must select another complete specialisation or a (pre-approved) free elective track.

For questions about the courses, students may contact the specialisation coordinator.

For general questions about the programme and how to continue with the degree, students may contact the study advisor.

## **APPENDIX B.5. TRANSITION REGULATION: SPECIALISATION COURSES**

This transition regulation takes effect on 1 September 2025 and applies until 1 September 2027. This transition regulation outlines how participants of the programme who were enrolled before September 2025 and have not yet successfully completed courses that are part of their specialisation (with the exception of Risk and Vulnerability as per Appendix B.6) may complete their ECTS credit obligations given changes to the composition of these courses.

In academic year 2025 – 2026, the composition of the specialisations will be amended from 4x4ECTS courses to 2x8ECTS courses. Participants who have not yet completed the course(s) in their specialisations before 2025-26 have the possibility to retake each course during academic year 2025-2026 or choose an exam only option. During academic year 2026-2027 students who have not yet completed courses from this specialisation cannot retake the course(s) and are given an exam only opportunity. From academic year 2027-2028 participants who have not yet completed their specialisation must take (a) replacement course(s) (see Table below). Alternatively, students can take a course from a different specialisation to create a free elective track. The free elective track must be approved by the Board of Examiners. Students must submit a request to the BoE no later than 4 weeks before the course is scheduled to start.

For questions about the courses, participants may contact the specialisation coordinator.

For general questions about the programme and how to continue with the degree, participants may contact the study advisor.

Academic year 2024-2025 and earlier	Academic year 2025-2026	Academic year 2026-2027	Academic year 2027-2028 and later
(GPO4105 Global Governance and Human Development)	Repeat education or examination only for GPO4105	Examination only for GPO4105	Replace with the new course GGD4401 (spec. course 1)*
<b>GTD4206 The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization</b>	Repeat education or examination only for GTD4206	Examination only for GTD4206	Replace with the new course GGD4401 (spec. course 1)*
<b>GPO4307 Governance of Peacebuilding and Development</b>	Repeat education or examination only for GPO4307	Examination only for GPO4307	Replace with the new course <b>GGD4502</b> (spec. course 2)*
(GPO4408 Global Governance of Planetary Challenges)	Repeat education or examination only for GPO4408	Examination only for GPO4408	Replace with the new course <b>GGD4502</b> (spec. course 2)*
(GID4105 Innovation and Innovation Policy from a System Perspective)	Repeat education or examination only for GID4105	Examination only for GID4105	Replace with the new course GOI4401 (spec. course 1)*
(GID4206 Local Knowledge, Systems and Policy)	Repeat education or examination only for GID4206	Examination only for GID4206	Replace with the new course GOI4401 (spec. course 1)*
(GID4307 Managing the Fourth Industrial Revolution)	Repeat education or examination only for GID4307	Examination only for GID4307	Replace with the new course GOI4502 (spec. course 2)*
(GID4408 Innovation for Sustainability)	Repeat education or examination only for GID4408	Examination only for GID4408	Replace with the new course GOI4502 (spec. course 2)*
<b>MGR4105 Introduction to Migration Studies</b>	Repeat education or examination only for MGR4105	Examination only for MGR4105	Replace with the new course <b>MGR4401</b> (spec. course 1)*
<b>MGR4206 Migration and Remittance Effects</b>	Repeat education or examination only for MGR4206	Examination only for MGR4206	Replace with the new course <b>MGR4502</b> (spec. course 2)*
<b>MGR4309 The Migration Lifecycle: Journeys, Integration, Return</b>	Repeat education or examination only for MGR4309	Examination only for MGR4309	Replace with the new course <b>MGR4401</b> (spec. course 1)*
<b>MGR4408 Comparative Migration Policy</b>	Repeat education or examination only for MGR4408	Examination only for MGR4408	Replace with the new course <b>MGR4502</b> (spec. course 2)*
<b>SPP4205 The Global Social Challenge: Beyond Poverty and Inequality</b>	Repeat education or examination only for SPP4205	Examination only for SPP4205	Replace with the new course <b>SPP4401</b> (spec. course 1)*



<b>5SPP4206 Understanding Social Protection</b>	Repeat education or examination only for SPP4206	Examination only for SPP4206	Replace with the new course <b>SPP4401</b> (spec. course 1)*
(SPP4408 Quantitative Techniques for Social Protection Policy Design)	Repeat education or examination only for SPP4408	Examination only for SPP4408	Replace with the new course SPP4502 (spec. course 2)*
<b>SPF4105 Financing Social Protection</b>	Repeat education or examination only for SPF4105	Examination only for SPF4105	Replace with the new course SPP4502 (spec. course 2)*

\*If students replace one course of Academic year 2024-2025 or earlier with one new course in academic year 2027-2028 or later, this means the student will graduate with more than 60.0 ECTS credits. If students need to replace two courses of academic year 2024-2025 with the same new course in academic year 2027-2028 or later, they only need to successfully complete the new course once and will graduate with the regular 60.0 ECTS credits.

## APPENDIX B.6. TRANSITION REGULATION: SPECIALISATION RISK AND VULNERABILITY

This transition regulation takes effect on 1 September 2025 and applies until 1 September 2027. This transition regulation outlines how participants of the programme who were enrolled before September 2025 and have not yet successfully completed courses that are part of the specialisation on Risk and Vulnerability may complete their ECTS credit obligations given changes to the composition of these courses.

In academic year 2025 – 2026 the specialisation on Risk and Vulnerability will no longer be offered as part of the programme. Participants who have not yet completed the course(s) on of the specialisation before 2025-26 have the possibility to retake each course or choose an exam only option during academic year 2025-2026. During academic year 2026 – 2027 students who have not yet completed courses from this specialisation cannot retake the course(s) and are given an exam only opportunity. During subsequent academic years participants who have not yet completed the specialisation must take courses from another specialisation as a free elective track or select a different specialisation.

For questions about the courses, participants may contact the specialisation coordinator.

For general questions about the programme and how to continue with the degree, participants may contact the study advisor.

Academic year 2024-2025 and earlier	Academic year 2025-2026	Academic year 2026-2027	Academic year 2027-2028 and later
(RSK4105 Risk and Vulnerability Assessment)	Repeat education or examination only for RSK4105	Examination only for RSK4105	Successfully complete a GGD, GOI, MGR or SPP course of 8 ECTS* to create a free elective**
(RSK4206 Building Resilience and Adaptive Governance)	Repeat education or examination only for RSK4206	Examination only for RSK4206	
<b>RSK4307 Risk Management in Crisis Situations</b>	Repeat education or examination only for RSK4307	Examination only for RSK4307	OR Successfully complete both GGD, GOI, MGR or SPP courses to replace the entire specialisation
<b>RSK4409 Behavioural Insights for Policy Design in Risky and Vulnerable Situations</b>	Repeat education or examination only for RSK4409	Examination only for RSK4409	

\*If students replace one course of Academic year 2024-2025 or earlier with one new course in academic year 2027-2028 or later, this means the student will graduate with more than 60.0 ECTS credits. If students replace two courses of academic year 2024-2025 with one new course in academic year 2027-2028 or later, they only need to successfully complete the new course once and will graduate with the regular 60.0 ECTS credits.

\*\*The free elective track must be approved by the Board of Examiners. Students must submit a request to the BoE no later than 4 weeks before the course is scheduled to start.