

**Education and Examination Regulations for the Master of Science programme in BioMedical Sciences 2025-2026 of the School of Life Sciences, transnationale Universiteit Limburg, in accordance with Article 7.13 of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act: *Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk onderzoek, WHW*.**

“These rules have been adopted by the Dean of the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences after acquired advice/consent from the Education Programme Committee (Opleidingscommissie) and after acquired advice/consent from the Faculty Council, Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences (Faculteitsraad) on June 17, 2025.”

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## **Section 1 General provisions**

### **Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations**

1. These regulations apply to the education and exams and final examination of the Master's programme Biomedical Sciences (MBS). The programme is provided by the School of Life Sciences, Transnationale Universiteit Limburg, entrance Maastricht and governed by Dutch law and regulations. The Master of Science programme in BioMedical Sciences, entrance Hasselt and governed by Flemish law and regulations, is regulated by separate Education and Examination Rules.
2. The regulations apply to all students who are registered for the programme in the 2025-2026 academic year and replace in principle all previous rules.
3. The replacement of the former regulations may not disadvantage student(s) involved. In cases where the new regulations disadvantage students, the Board of Examiners will find a solution.
4. Contrary to the content of Article 1.1.2 and Article 1.1.3, the master programme and associated exam components however still apply as specified in the regulations corresponding to the academic year students entered the BioMedical Sciences Master.
5. These regulations are adopted annually by the Board of the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences upon advice/consent of the Education Programme Committee and upon advice/consent of the Faculty Council, Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences.

### **Article 1.2 Definition of Terms**

In these regulations, the following definitions apply:

- a. academic year: the period from 1 September of a calendar year up to and including 31 August of the following calendar year;
- b. the Act: the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act [*Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (WHW)*];
- c. administration: record if the requirements for a specific exam component have been met;
- d. Board of Admission: the board responsible for judging the admissibility of the candidate to the programme;
- e. Board of Examiners: the board for the programme as referred to in Article 7.12 of the Act;
- f. career skills: skills, biomedical expertise and attitudes developed by students during the programme; the career skills track is divided over four career skills as described in the curriculum map of this programme;
- g. course: a unit of the programme within the meaning of the Act;
- h. course assessment plan: document describing the assessment processes, procedures and activities of the course;
- i. course coordinator: an examiner who is responsible for the organisation, implementation and assessment of the education within a particular course;
- j. course exam: a component of the final examination as referred to in Section 7.10 of the Act. An exam may consist of several components;
- k. course year: year 1 or year 2 of the programme;
- l. credit: a unit expressed in ECTS (European credit transfer and accumulation system) credits, with one credit equalling 28 hours of study;
- m. Disability support (DS): the central point at UM where students with a disability and/or chronic illness can apply for facilities or support;
- n. Education Programme Committee: the representation and advisory body that carries out the duties described in Article 9.18 and 9.38c of the Act;
- o. examiner: the person designated by the Board of Examiners who is responsible under Section 7.12c of the Act for administering exams and determining the results of such exams;
- p. Faculty Board: the Faculty Board referred to in Article 9.12 of the Act;
- q. final examination: the collection of results of all exams and its components, as referred to Section 7.3 of the Act;
- r. internship: workplace learning experience in which a research and/or development is performed that will result in a thesis;
- s. mentor: the person who supports the student while assembling the portfolio and who provides guidance and advice in relation to the student's competence development. The mentor and a shadow mentor gives an assessment advice to the mentor coordinator;
- t. mentor coordinator: the person which holds final responsibility for the organisation, implementation and assessment of the student's personal and career skills development based on the mentor

- advice;
  - u. portfolio: the tool used to monitor and assess a student's learning process and personal and career skills development;
  - v. programme: the master's programme referred to in Article 1.1 of these regulations, consisting of a coherent whole of study units;
  - w. Rules and Regulations: the provisions to be laid down by the Board of Examiners with the aim of guaranteeing the quality of the assessment and the final examination as referred to in Section 7.12b of the Act;
  - x. shadow mentor: person, who independently reads the portfolio of a student and discusses the assessment with the mentor (4-eye-principle);
  - y. skills training: an activity aimed at achieving certain skills as referred to in the Act, including:
    - writing a thesis;
    - writing a paper, producing technical design or another written assignment;
    - performing a research assignment;
    - participating in field work or a field trip;
    - completing an internship;
    - conducting scientific experiments;
    - participating in practical training sessions;
    - participating in tutorial group sessions;
    - participating in project groups;
    - participating in journal clubs;
  - z. student: an individual who is registered at Maastricht University for education and/or to take exams and the final examination of the programme;
  - aa. Student Portal: the electronic learning environment for the programme, which includes and refers to further details about programme-specific provisions and information, such as CanVas, student intranet, FHML web;
  - bb. UM: Maastricht University.
- The other terms have the meaning given to them by the Act.

## **Section 2 Admission**

### **Article 2.1 Admission**

Persons who meet the requirements referred to in Article 2.3 are eligible for admission to the programme.

### **Article 2.2 Board of Admission**

1. The Dean of the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences has given the responsibilities of the admission to the Board of Admission to oversee the applications for the master programmes.
2. The Board of Admission decides whether the candidate is qualified for admission or additional requirements apply.

### **Article 2.3 Admission requirements**

1. The following persons are eligible for admission to the programme:
  - those who have the bachelor's degree of Science in Biomedical Sciences of Maastricht University;
  - those who have a relevant bachelor's degree from a Dutch university;
  - those who have a relevant bachelor's degree from an EEA university (note: in case of doubt, the applicant may be asked to pass a GRE-test); those who have a relevant bachelor's degree from a non-EEA university (note: in this case the applicant always needs to pass a GRE-test);
  - those who have a relevant university master's degree.

Relevant university domains are among others: Biology, Biochemistry, Biomedical Sciences, Biomedical Technology, Health Sciences (Biology and Health), Life Sciences, (Veterinary) Medicine, University College (depending on courses followed, > 50% biology).
2. Persons with a relevant bachelor's degree from a University of Applied Sciences are eligible for

admission if:

- they have completed a thesis and have obtained at least 12 ECTS in academic writing, Statistics and/or methodology (note: in case of doubt, they need to pass a GRE-test);
  - they have completed the university track of Hogeschool Zuyd.
- Relevant non-university domains are among others: Biological and Medical Laboratory Research, Biotechnology, Applied Sciences (Science & Life), Biometry

3. Students with a bachelor's degree that is not mentioned in Article 2.3.1 and Article 2.3.2 cannot be admitted to the programme unless, in the assessment of the Board of Admissions for Biomedical Sciences, requirements substantively similar to the further previous education requirements (profiles) have been met.

More information about the admission requirements such as prior qualifications and language requirements can be found on the UM website (Education – Master's – Biomedical Sciences – Admission requirements).

#### **Article 2.4 Language requirement with non-Dutch diplomas**

1. Holders of a non-Dutch diploma may only register if they have met the minimum English language requirement corresponding to IELTS with a score of at least 6.5.
2. The requirement referred to under Article 2.4.1 is met if the person concerned has obtained on of the following diplomas or certificates:
  - completed a bachelor's or master's study programme where the language of instruction is English;
  - obtained an International or European Baccalaureate, a US high school diploma or UK GCE A-levels;
  - completed a bachelor's or master's study programme where the language of instruction is NOT English, however, the applicant is able to demonstrate sufficient proficiency in English, for example by English taught courses, internships or work experience in an English environment.
3. Persons who do not meet any of the criteria in Article 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 can be eligible for admission by submitting on of the following language proficiency tests:
  - IELTS (6.5);
  - TOEFL Paper-based test (575);
  - TOEFL Internet test (90);
  - TOEIC listening and reading (720) and speaking and writing (310);
  - Cambridge [Advanced (CAE) Grade C (scale 180-184), First Certificate in English (FCE) Grade A (scale 180-184), First Certificate in English (FCE) Grade B (scale 176-179)];
  - or similar accredited certification.

### **Section 3 Content and structure of the programme**

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

1. The programme is intended to provide the student with
  - Specialised knowledge, skills and understanding in the field of Biomedical Sciences and attainment of the exit qualifications referred to in Article 3.1.2;
  - Preparation for a professional career in the field of Biomedical Sciences.
2. A graduate of the programme is capable to:
  - Identify biomedical challenges and evaluate scientific approaches.
  - Apply advanced Lab & Data Sciences principles and approaches
  - Critically analyse knowledge related to one of the six specialisations which provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying ideas, often within a research context
  - Integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgments with incomplete or limited information, but that include reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments
  - Understand safety regulations regarding biological agents, wild type and genetically modified organisms

- Apply their knowledge and understanding, and problem solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field of study
  - Understand ethical issues related to translational research
  - Apply the learning skills which allow them to continue to study in a manner that is largely self-directed or autonomous.
  - Create and manage a research project independently in a research environment
  - Communicate scientific innovative ideas, orally and in writing in academic and non-academic settings
3. The programme comprises six thematic specialisations,
    - The specialisation Genetics and Genomics;
    - The specialisation Inflammation and Pathophysiology;
    - The specialisation Nutrition, Physical activity and Metabolism;
    - The specialisation Regenerative Medicine;
    - The specialisation Biomedical Imaging;
    - The specialisation Neuromodulation.
  4. The programme's educational activities are based on core values and norms laid down in the Maastricht University Rules of Conduct and the principles of research integrity and the ensuing guidelines for good research practices as laid down in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research integrity (see UM website). Participants of the programme (staff and students) are expected to operate within the principles.

### **Article 3.2 Form of the programme**

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

### **Article 3.3 Language of instruction as referred to in Appendix 2**

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

### **Article 3.4 Communication and announcement of decisions**

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

### **Article 3.5 Study load**

The programme has a study load of 120 credits (ECTS), with one credit equalling 28 hours of study. Each course year has a study load of 60 credits.

### **Article 3.6 Content of the programme**

The master's programme consists of the components listed in Appendix 1. Appendix 1 forms part of these regulations.  
More detailed information on the curriculum content and assessment can be found in the respective course description in Student Portal and in the assessment plans.

### **Article 3.7 Flexible programme and flexible master's**

1. A student registered for the programme may, under certain conditions, formulate an educational programme of its own that deviates from the educational programme stated in Article 3.6. The composition of such a programme requires prior permission by the Board of Examiners.

2. The flexible programme must have a study load of 120 credits.
3. The Board of Examiners will decide whether to grant permission for the student's proposal within four weeks after it receives the proposal.
4. In granting the permission, the Board of Examiners will indicate which programme offered by the faculty will include the programme formulated by the student for purposes of the Education and Examination Regulations.

#### **Article 3.8 Double degree programme**

1. FHML offers a double degree programme in cooperation with selected Japanese Universities. A double degree agreement allows students to obtain the respective Japanese master's degree in addition to the Biomedical Sciences degree at Maastricht University. The guiding principle of the double degree is that students must meet the graduation requirements of both programmes through mutual recognition of credits.
2. The double degree programme is only accessible to students already matriculated at FHML or the partner university and who have been admitted to the respective double degree programme by the Dean of FHML or by a designated official of the partner university.
3. Due to limited positions, passing a selection procedure can be required for participation in a double degree programme. Additional information about the application procedure will be provided to students that have expressed interest in the programme.
4. Students who are eligible for participation in a double degree programme will be informed about this prior to the course registration deadline of the relevant year.
5. Students are subject to the Examination Regulations of the degree programme of the partner university at which they are studying at that time.
6. Students registered at FHML will have to meet its graduation requirements during their enrolment in the FHML programme and complete all the additional requirements and courses of the partner university.

#### **Article 3.9 Combining the programme with pregnancy and care tasks**

1. With regard to pregnancy and/or childcare (and/or other care tasks initially limited to family members in the first line), the Board of Examiners may set up a custom programme for master students upon their written request.
2. The request referred to in Article 3.9.1 should be accompanied by a specific proposal for a programme that has been prepared in consultation with the study adviser.
3. The Board of Examiners BMS strives to make a decision as soon as possible but no later than 2 months after submission of the request.

#### **Article 3.10 The final examination**

1. The final examination consists of the components of the 2 course years as listed in Appendix 1.

#### **Article 3.11 Extracurricular education**

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

### **Section 4 Education**

#### **Article 4.1 Composition**

1. For the programme components, courses and longitudinal tracks are provided with a study load as stated in Appendix 1.
2. The education is in principle given in the form of tutorial group meetings, journal clubs, study groups, practicals, lectures, individual supervision or otherwise.
3. The education programme includes 40 weeks per course year.

#### **Article 4.2      Prior knowledge; course (year) entrance requirements**

1. If the student has obtained 60 credits of course year 1 the student may participate unconditionally in all teaching activities and exams of the second course year.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 4.2.1, students, who have obtained at least 50 credits in course year 1 may also participate in all teaching activities and exams of the second course year. The 50 ECTS required should at least incorporate the ECTS allocated to course MBS1005. They must repeat failed exams (regular and resit possibility) of the first year in parallel to year 2 activities. The particular conditions are specified in the Rules and Regulations. In case a student cannot start the internship in year 2, the student should inform the supervisor of the internship as soon as reasonably possible.
3. For some teaching activities there are entrance requirements. For instance, having passed the Biosafety course is required for practical trainings that include laboratory practice in ML labs. More information about entrance requirements can be found in the assessment plans.

#### **Article 4.3      Attendance and active participation**

1. Each student is expected to 100% attend and actively participate in all mandatory educational activities of the programme for which the student has registered.
2. Assessment of attendance and active participation of the tutorial groups is incorporated in the evaluation of professional behaviour within the portfolio, or for other group activities as indicated in course assessment plans.
3. Students who have been granted top-class athlete status may qualify for an adjusted attendance and participation requirement.
4. Students who have a medical impairment may qualify for an adjusted attendance and participation requirement pursuant to the recommendation of the SSC-Disability Support and/or study adviser.
5. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may, at the student's request, interpret this attendance and participation requirement differently if the exam and assessment of the required skills may, in its opinion, also be performed if the attendance and active participation requirements are not met, with or without additional requirements being imposed.

### **Section 5 Assessment**

#### **Article 5.1      General**

1. For each exam component of the programme, it is assessed whether the student has achieved the stated objectives/learning outcomes to a sufficient extent.
2. The conditions students must meet to pass exam components and the criteria on which this is assessed are set out in the assessment plans for each course. The assessment plans are published on the Student Portal.
3. The Rules of Procedure for (Course) Exams describe the procedures and logistics of (course) exams; Assessments must be carried out in accordance with these regulations. The regulations can be found on the Intranet.

#### **Article 5.2      Marks**

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

### **Article 5.3      Scheduling and frequency of course exams**

1. Students can take course exams and other exam components twice per academic year. The dates are determined by the faculty, once during or directly after the block/course period (first sit for the exam) and once during the academic year (resit option). The time periods and dates on which the exams and exam components can be taken are published on the FHMLweb and/or Intranet.
2. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may decide to conduct course exams at a time other than those specified in Article 5.3.1. The Board of Examiners maintains the right to organise additional resit dates.

### **Article 5.4      Form of the exams**

1. The exam format depends on the knowledge and skills to be assessed, and will be announced via the assessment plans or no later than at the start of the course.
2. In consultation with the Board of Examiners, the examiner may decide that due to the small number of students or due to the nature and content of a course, an originally written course exam can be taken as an oral exam or can include one or more written essays, which students may or may not have to present and defend orally.
3. Pursuant to the recommendation of the SSC-Disability Support and/or study adviser, the Board of Examiners will give students with a disability the opportunity to take exams in a manner that accommodates their specific disability as much as possible. The Board of Examiners will seek expert advice where necessary before reaching a decision.

### **Article 5.5      Oral exams**

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

### **Article 5.6      Assessments in exceptional cases**

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

### **Article 5.7      Written assignments and master's thesis**

1. The programme management draws up guidelines for written assignments and master thesis. The guidelines can be found on the Student Portal.
2. The master's thesis must be written individually by the student.
3. The master's thesis/final project will be assessed by at least two examiners (the first supervisor and a second examiner). In addition to the assessment of the written thesis, the two examiners will assess an oral Master thesis' defence. This oral inquiry will include a short presentation by the student, followed by questions from the examiners.
4. The student will write one thesis supervised and assessed by the Faculty over the course of the programme.

#### **Article 5.8 Internship**

1. The programme management lays down the requirements that internships must meet in terms of nature and content in the form of internship regulations. These regulations are published on the Student Portal. The internship coordinator decides on behalf of the programme management whether a proposed internship meets the requirements.
2. The Board of Examiners appoints an examiner as the supervisor for each internship and the related thesis.
3. The student will undertake one internship supervised and assessed by the Faculty over the course of the programme.

#### **Article 5.9 Determination and announcement of exam result**

1. In the Rules and Regulations, the Board of Examiners determines the standards for assessing each exam component. These standards are included in the assessment plans.
2. The examiner determines the result of a written exam and provides the Board of Examiners with the necessary information to officially notify the student of the result within 15 working days of the date on which the exam was taken.
3. The period stipulated in Article 5.9.2, may be extended if the Board of Examiners considers it necessary to investigate the exam result further.
4. The examiner determines the results of oral exams and provides the student and the educational organisation/the Board of Examiners secretary's office with evidence of the result at the latest the next day the exam is taken. If several students take the same exam after each other on different days, this period can be extended by a maximum of five working days.
5. For all other forms of exams, the Board of Examiners specifies in advance how the result will be determined and what the applicable time period is.

#### **Article 5.10 Right of inspection**

1. Within 10 working days after notification of the result of a written exam, including a computer-based exam, is announced, a student can inspect their individual assessed work.
2. Within the period referred to in Article 5.10.1, the student in question has the right to inspect the questions and assignments for the written exam and the standards on which the assessment was based.
3. Students will be informed of how to exercise their right of inspection when they are notified of the result of a written exam, with due observance of Article 5.10.1.

#### **Article 5.11 Registration of courses**

Students will receive a registration for the courses corresponding to and, as a result, the credits for these courses once they have met all requirements that apply to the courses.

The requirements always include a pass in the course exams.

Any additional requirements for administration of the courses are stated in the corresponding assessment plans.

#### **Article 5.12 Invalidation of exams**

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

#### **Article 5.13 Period of validity**

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

#### **Article 5.14 Retention period for exams/final examination**

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

#### **Article 5.15 Exemption**

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

#### **Article 5.16 Fraud**

1. 'Fraud' including 'plagiarism', means an act or omission by a student that makes it entirely or partly impossible to properly assess its knowledge, insight, and skills. The term fraud also refers to attempted fraud.
2. The term plagiarism is used to refer to the presentation of ideas or words from one's own or someone else's sources without correctly acknowledging the source.
3. If the Board of Examiners establishes that a student has committed fraud during an exam or exam component, the Board can take appropriate measures.
4. In serious cases of fraud, the Board of Examiners can propose to the Executive Board of Maastricht University that the student(s) concerned be permanently deregistered from the programme.
5. The Rules and Regulations include further provisions (General FHML Regulation for Fraud and Irregularities) about what constitutes fraud and what disciplinary measures the Board of Examiners may impose. These regulations are available on the Intranet at the start of the academic year.

#### **Article 5.17 Unsuitability (Iudicium Abeundi)**

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

## **Section 6 Final Examination**

### **Article 6.1 Final examination**

1. The Board of Examiners determines the result and date of the final examination and issues the certificate as referred to in Article 6.3 as soon as the student has satisfied the exam requirements of the programme.
2. Prior to determining the result of the final examination, the Board of Examiners may conduct their own investigation into the student's knowledge and competences in relation to one or more components or aspects of the programme if and insofar as the results of the relevant exams give reason to do this.
3. To pass the final examination, the student must pass all components as mentioned in art.3.6.
4. To pass the examination and receive the certificate, the student must also have been registered for the programme during the period that the exams were taken.
5. A certificate may only be issued after it has been shown that the student has satisfied all the obligations, including paying the fees.
6. The last day of the month in which the student satisfied all the examination obligations will be considered the examination date (graduation date).
7. Students who have passed the final examination and who are entitled to the issuance of a certificate may, stating reasons, ask the Board of Examiners not to do this yet. This request must be submitted at least one month before the final assignment is turned in or the final test is taken.  
The Board of Examiners in any event grants the request:
  - if the student is selected by the faculty for a double degree, an extracurricular internship or an extracurricular exchange, or
  - if the student has held/will hold a board position of at least nine months or a Student Introduction Committee ('INKOM') board position.The Board of Examiners may also grant the request if refusal would result in an exceptional case of extreme unfairness because the student concerned could not have taken the automatic graduation into account when the student was planning its study.

### **Article 6.2 Degree**

Students who have passed the examination will be awarded the degree 'Master of Science'.

### **Article 6.3 Certificate and statements**

1. The Board of Examiners issues a certificate as evidence that the student has passed the final examination, once it has been declared 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. One certificate will be issued per programme, even if the participant completes several programmes.
2. The certificate that the examination has been passed also indicates:
  - a. the name of the institution;
  - b. the name of the programme;
  - c. the components of the final examination;
  - d. the degree awarded;
  - e. the date on which the programme was most recently accredited or was subjected to the new programme test.
3. In accordance with Article 6.1.7, students who are entitled to be issued with a certificate may ask the Board of Examiners to refrain from doing so for the time being, stating reasons.
4. The certificate is signed by the chair of the Board of Examiners and the dean of the Faculty or its appointed deputy.
5. The certificate is publicly issued, except where the Board of Examiners determines otherwise in exceptional cases.
6. The certificate is accompanied by a list of the exam components.
7. The Board of Examiners includes a diploma supplement as referred to in Article 7.11(4) of the Act with the certificate. This diploma supplement is based on the model adopted by the Executive Board of UM; it complies with the agreed European standard format.
8. The Board of Examiners may award the '*cum laude*' designation in accordance with the provisions in the Rules and Regulations.

9. A student who has passed more than one exam and who cannot be issued a certificate will, upon request, receive a statement issued by the Board of Examiners listing the exams the student has passed.

#### **Article 6.4 Right of appeal**

Students may lodge an appeal against a decision by the examiner and/or the Board of Examiners with UM Complaint Service Point within six weeks of being notified of the decision.

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

### **Section 7 Study advice and guidance**

#### **Article 7.1 Study progress administration**

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

#### **Article 7.2 Study guidance**

The faculty will provide for the introduction a study guidance for students registered for the programme.

1. The study guidance includes:
  - a. an introduction during the first week of the first semester of the first academic year;
  - b. assignment of a mentor for the entire master's programme;
  - c. group and individual advice on possible study paths in and outside the programme, partly with a view to the professional options after the master's programme and opportunities for immediately entering the labour market after obtaining the master's diploma;
  - d. group and individual advice on study skills, study planning and choices of continuing study paths;
  - e. offering referrals and help if the student experiences problems during the study.

#### **Article 7.3 Studying with a disability and/or chronic disease**

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

### **Section 8 Transitional and final causes**

#### **Article 8.1 Amendments**

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

## **Article 8.2 Notice**

1. The Faculty 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.

## **Article 8.3 Evaluation**

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

## **Article 8.4 Unforeseen cases/Safety net scheme**

1. In cases not covered or not clearly covered by these regulations, decisions are taken by or on behalf of the Faculty Board, after it has consulted with the Board of Examiners.
2. In individual cases in which application of the Education and Examination Regulations would lead to manifestly unreasonable results, the Board of Examiners can deviate from the stated regulations in the student's favour.

## **Article 8.5 Coming into force**

These Regulations will come into force on 1 September 2025 and will apply to the academic year 2025-2026.

## **Appendix 1 Curriculum**

### **Year 1:**

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Lab & Data Sciences: basic principles (MBS1001) (10 ECTS)

Lab & Data Sciences: advanced approaches (MBS1002) (10 ECTS)

Biosafety (MBS1103) (1 ECTS)

#### **A choice of one out of the six specialisations**

##### *Specialisation Genetics and Genomics:*

- Advanced principles of genetics and genomics (MBS1101) (10 ECTS)
- Clinical and applied genetics and genomics (MBS1102) (10 ECTS)

##### *Specialisation Inflammation and Pathophysiology:*

- Pathophysiology of disease (MBS1201) (10 ECTS)
- Engineering the immune system, Treatment of disease (MBS1202, MBS1212) (10 ECTS)

##### *Specialisation Nutrition, Physical activity and Metabolism:*

- Nutrition, physical activity and metabolism; fundamental aspects (MBS1301) (10 ECTS)
- Lifestyle interventions and metabolism; a translational perspective (MBS1302) (10 ECTS)

##### *Specialisation Regenerative Medicine:*

- Science and technology of regenerative therapeutics (MBS1401) (10 ECTS)
- Translating therapies into the clinic and onto the market (MBS1402) (10 ECTS)

##### *Specialisation Biomedical Imaging:*

- Pre-clinical imaging (MBS1501) (10 ECTS)
- Clinical Imaging (MBS1502) (10 ECTS)

##### *Specialisation Neuromodulation:*

- Invasive Neuromodulation (MBS1601) (10 ECTS)
- Non-invasive Neuromodulation (MBS1602) (10 ECTS)

Designing scientific research (MBS1005) (10 ECTS)

#### **Longitudinal tracks**

Ethics in Biomedical Sciences I (MBS1004) (1 ECTS)

Advancing Biomedical Innovations I (MBS1008) (3 ECTS)

Mentoring/Portfolio I (MBS1009) (3 ECTS)

Career skills I (MBS1010) (2 ECTS)

### **Year 2:**

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#### **Longitudinal tracks**

Ethics in Biomedical Sciences II (MBS2001) (1 ECTS)

Internship and thesis (MBS2004, MBS2104, MBS2204) (50 ECTS)

Advancing Biomedical Innovations II (MBS2005) (3 ECTS)

Mentoring/Portfolio II (MBS2006) (4 ECTS)

Career Skills II (MBS2007) (2 ECTS)

## **Appendix 2 Language of instruction**

For an **English only** programme:  
**Master Biomedical Sciences**

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

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

- The content of the programme has an international orientation and focus. Literature and study books are in English, there is no relevant literature only in Dutch. Moreover, international exchange of students in the master research project, will be facilitated by English proficiency.
- The academic community is internationally oriented and the staff is international. A considerable part of the teaching staff is non-Dutch.
- The labour market demand is internationally oriented (English speaking) alumni. After finishing a master, a large part of the graduates gets a PhD-position. English is the lingua franca of science and many of the research groups host international researchers making English the language of daily communication as well. That part of graduates that is not employed as a PhD, finds jobs at Biomedical companies. These companies often host foreign employees, resulting in English as a common language. Working in an international context not only requires language proficiency, but also necessitates a feeling of cultural differences. An English taught programme allows the intake of a culturally diverse student population, and creates a natural setting to develop intercultural awareness and to train the kind of skills needed to cope with diversity.