

Education and Examination Regulations

2026-2027

Bachelor Brain Science

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

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EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS BACHELOR BRAIN SCIENCE 2026-2027

SECTION 1 GENERAL CONDITIONS

Education and Examination Regulations (EER) for the 2026/2027 academic year for the Bachelor's Brain Science study programme at the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, as meant in Article 7.13 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (WHW).

Article 1.1 Scope of the regulations

1. These regulations apply to the education, exams and examination for the Bachelor's Brain Science study programme, hereinafter referred to as the study programme.
2. The study programme is offered by the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences and the Faculty of Science and Engineering. The Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience is the anchor faculty for the study programme, hereinafter to be referred to as 'the Faculty' or 'FPN'.
3. The regulations have been established by the BrainS Board, following advice/consent from the Educational Programme Committee Brain Science and the FPN Faculty Council.
4. These regulations will take effect on 1 September 2026 for the 2026/2027 academic year.
5. These regulations also apply to students from other programmes, faculties or institutions of higher education, insofar as they follow components of the programme to which these Education and Examination Regulations (EER) apply.
6. For components of the programme that students follow at another degree programme, faculty or institution of higher education, the Education and Examination Regulations (EER) for the other programme, faculty or institution apply to the component in question.

Article 1.2 Definitions

In these regulations the following is understood to be:

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| a. Academic year: | the period for 1 September of a calendar year up to and including 31 August of the following calendar year; |
| b. Bachelor: | course years 1 through 3 of the study programme; |
| c. Binding Study Advice: | the advice as meant by Article 7.8b of the Act resulting in a rejection, the so-called negative binding study advice; |
| d. Board of Admissions | the board responsible for judging the admissibility of the candidate to the study programme; |
| e. Board of Appeal: | the board of appeal for examinations as meant in Article 7.60 of the Act; |
| f. Board of Examiners: | the board for the bachelor programme Brain Science as meant by Article 7.12 of the Act; |
| g. BrainS Board: | the Board of the Brain Science programme as meant by Article 9.12 of the Act; |
| h. Canvas: | a web-based learning management system. It is used by Maastricht University, coordinators, tutors, examiners, and students to access and manage online course learning materials and assessment; |
| i. Course/module: | a study unit of the study programme as meant by Article 7.3 of the Act; |
| j. Course Coordinator, alternatively Practical Training Coordinator: | an examiner who is responsible for the content of a certain course, or alternatively, responsible for the practical training in a certain course; |
| k. Course year: | year 1, year 2 or year 3 of the bachelor's programme; |
| l. Credit: | a unit expressed in ECTS credits, with one study 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. Educational Programme Committee Brain Science: | the representation and advisory board for the bachelor programme Brain Science that carries out the duties described in Article 9.18 and 9.38c of the Act; |

- o. Exam: a component as part of the examination as meant by Article 7.10 of the Act;
- p. Examination: the final examination for the bachelor's study programme;
- q. Examiner: the person appointed by the Board of Examiners, who is responsible for assessing student performance;
- r. Faculty Council: the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience as meant in Article 9.37 of the Act;
- s. Student intranet: the internal website for the Faculty's programmes containing information about the programme (study related information, forms, rules and regulation documents, advice, support and guidance);
- t. Practical Training: a module that provides practical exercise, as meant by Article 7.13, paragraph 2, sub d of the Act;
- u. Propaedeutic phase: the first period of the programme with a study load of 60 credits, that coincides with the first course year of the bachelor. The propaedeutic phase has no final examination;
- v. Rules and Regulations: the rules determined by the Board of Examiners regarding the routine and procedures during exams and regulations regarding the evaluation of those who take the exam and regarding the determination of the results of exams and examinations as meant by Article 7.12b paragraph 1, sub b of the Act;
- w. Student: a person who is registered at Maastricht University, for the purpose of attending the courses and/or taking the exams and the examination of the study programme;
- x. Student portal: the portal to the digital environment of Maastricht University which can be used by students for administrative purposes e.g. course registration, and by the programme for communication to students, for which a username and password are provided to all students upon enrolment at Maastricht University;
- y. Study programme: the bachelor's study programme as mentioned by Article 1.1, consisting of a coherent set of programme components;
- z. Student Support Fund: provides financial support to students who incur study delay through extraordinary circumstances such as family issues (force majeure), being a member of a committee or consultative body or by playing sport at a high level;
- aa. TestVision: a software programme for digital exams;
- bb. The Act: the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek, WHW);
- cc. Tutorial Group Meeting: a practical exercise, as meant by Article 7.13, paragraph 2, sub d of the Act;
- dd. UM: Maastricht University.

Other notations are to be understood in accordance with the meaning assigned to them by the Act.

SECTION 2 ADMISSION

Article 2.1 Admission procedure

The bachelor's programme in Brain Science is a programme with restricted intake. A limited number of students who meet the admission requirements will be offered a place in the study programme. A selection will be made amongst the candidates who qualify for admission. More information about the admission procedure can be found on the UM website ([Education – Bachelor's – Brain Science – Admission requirements](#)) and in [the Regulations on selection for bachelor's programmes at Maastricht University with restricted intake](#).

Article 2.2 Admission requirements

Persons who:

- a. have a Dutch pre-university education diploma as referred to in Section 7.24 of the Act, or
- b. have been exempted from this requirement under the Act, or
- c. have a research university (propaedeutic) diploma, or
- d. have a university of applied sciences (propaedeutic) diploma, or
- e. have a non-Dutch diploma equivalent to the Dutch VWO diploma

are eligible for admission to the programme. More information about the admission requirements such as prior qualifications and language requirements can be found on the UM website ([Education – Bachelor's – Brain Science – Admission requirements](#)).

Article 2.3 Board of Admissions

1. Judgement about admissibility and the issuing of the certificate of admission for the study programme is assigned to the Board of Admissions. This board consists of:
 - a chair appointed from among the academic staff;
 - at least one member appointed from among the academic personnel who oversees the education within the study programme.
2. The appointment is made by the BrainS Board.
3. The Board of Admissions determines how deficiencies in previous education will have to be fulfilled.

Article 2.4 Language requirements for non-Dutch diplomas

1. Holders of a non-Dutch diploma can only register if they have met the minimum English language requirement corresponding to IELTS (International English Language Testing System) with a score of at least 6.0.
2. The requirement referred to under (1) is met if the person concerned has obtained one of the following diplomas or certificates:
 - A secondary education diploma issued in an EU/EEA country where the person concerned has followed English up to and including the final year;
 - A diploma issued in a non-EU/EEA country that is at least equivalent to a VWO diploma and where English is the official language of instruction in education;
 - A completed bachelor's or master's study programme where the language of instruction is English;
 - An International or European Baccalaureate, a US high school diploma or UK GCE A-levels, or Can demonstrate sufficient proficiency in English, for example through English taught courses, internships or work experience in an English environment, or can submit one of the following language test certificates:
 - IELTS 6.0
 - TOEFL iBT: 80
 - TOEIC listening and reading: 670; speaking and writing: 290
 - Cambridge First B2: Grade B (scale 173-175) or Grade C (scale 169-172)
 - TOEFL Paper-delivered Test: Reading: 20-30; Listening: 20-30; Writing: 20-30

Article 2.5 Colloquium Doctum

1. A person who does not meet the prerequisites referred to in Articles 2.1 and 2.2 can take part in an entrance examination (Colloquium Doctum), in accordance with Article 7.29 of the Act.
2. The entrance exam, as referred to in Article 7.29 of the Act, relates to the following subjects and levels:
 - Pre-university (VWO) level English
 - Pre-university (VWO) level Mathematics (A or B)
 - Pre-university (VWO) level Biology
 - Pre-university (VWO) level Chemistry
 - Pre-university (VWO) level Physics
3. Rules regarding the procedure have been laid down on the UM website ([Education – Bachelor's – Brain Science – Admission requirements](#)).

SECTION 3 CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

Article 3.1 Purpose of the study programme

Competence Domain	Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)
A. Brain Scientist A BSc Brain Science Graduate has transdisciplinary knowledge, insights and skills in formally describing, modelling, and analysing relationships between phenomena in the brain unfolding at a broad range of spatial and temporal scales that are ordinarily considered in different (sub)disciplines of brain research.	A BSc Brain Science graduate:
	1.1 Has basic-level knowledge of science philosophy. Understands the empirical cycle and the transdisciplinary approach to doing research.
	1.2 Has foundational knowledge of selected topics in psychology, biology, and computational science and conceptually integrates these to form basic transdisciplinary views on brain function.
	1.3 Understands the relationships among and between processes at the molecular, cellular, network and whole-brain levels.
	1.4 Is able to collect data in disciplinary and transdisciplinary experiments with selected data acquisition methods covered in the curriculum.
	1.5 Is able to correctly analyse data, by using appropriate statistical and other data science tools.
	1.6 Is able to mathematically express (hypothetical) mechanisms underlying relations among datasets collected within and between different levels of brain function.
	1.7 Is able to code mathematically expressed relations and mechanisms in computational models, and to simulate these models numerically.
	1.8 Is able to consult scientific sources and to (critically) interpret (one's own) empirical or simulation results against findings described therein.
	1.9 Is able to contribute to the translation of knowledge and insights into practical applications or products (e.g. computer code) and to evaluate their usefulness against stated goals.
	1.10 Is able to form a substantiated (critical) opinion about scientific claims and applications in the field of Brain Science from scientific, societal and ethical perspectives.
B. Science Communicator A BSc Brain Science Graduate has the capacities and skills required to communicate science effectively to the scientific community and the general public.	A BSc Brain Science graduate:
	2.1 Is able to accurately describe, discuss, and present scientific results in brain research and their theoretical or applied implications to the scientific community.
	2.2 Is able to explain and present complex scientific insights to the general public in an understandable manner, considering the audience's background as well as relevant societal and ethical aspects.
C. Professional A BSc Brain Science Graduate has a professional attitude, the social skills to work effectively in a team, and the ability within the team to function as a bridge-builder.	2.3 Is able to write academically at the Bachelor level.
	A BSc Brain Science graduate:
	3.1 Has the necessary problem-solving and organisational skills to conduct academic research.
	3.2 Works in accordance with the principles of scientific integrity and ethical standards in a professional setting.
	3.3 Is able to receive and provide constructive feedback.
D. Lifelong Learner A BSc Brain Science Graduate is prepared for lifelong learning in a constantly evolving labour market.	3.4 Has the communication, cross-cultural and collaborative skills required to work together effectively in international teams. Is able to catalyse dialogue among disciplinary researchers within these teams to promote cooperation and thereby functions as a bridge builder.
	A BSc Brain Science graduate:
	4.1 Is able to use personal reflection about the evolving state of Brain Science to set up learning goals and to pursue a personal learning path with a high degree of autonomy.
	4.2 Is able to extract ideas, concepts, hypotheses and theories from a large body of new information, and is able to acquire new soft and hard skills with a high degree of autonomy.

Article 3.2 Organisation of the study programme

The study programme is offered on a full-time basis. The programme commences once a year in September.

Article 3.3 Language of instruction

The education and assessment in the study programme are conducted in English in accordance with [Appendix 1](#).

Article 3.4 Communication and announcement of decisions

1. The BrainS Board, the Board of Examiners and the examiners may use electronic communication tools like the student portal, the digital learning environment (Canvas), e-mail via UM-account and/or student intranet for communications relating to the programme and exams.
2. The BrainS Board, the Board of Examiners and the examiners are allowed to use the student portal, the digital learning environment (Canvas), e-mail via UM-account and/or student intranet to announce decisions.
3. The student must regularly check the student portal, the digital learning environment (Canvas), e-mail via UM-account and student intranet. Information disseminated via these channels will be assumed to be known.

Article 3.5 Study load

The study programme has a study load of 180 credits (ECTS). Each course year has a study load of 60 credits. Each credit equals 28 hours of study load.

Article 3.6 Composition

The programme consists of the following parts and accompanying credits:

2026-2027 Overview bachelor Brain Science Year 1 ECTS: 60 credits				
Period	Module			
Period 1	Introduction to Brain Science (3 credits) Genes, Proteins and Evolution (4 credits) <i>Practical:</i> Practical for Genes, Proteins and Evolution (0,5 credits)	Linear Algebra and Calculus (6 credits)	Programming I (5 credits)	Writing & Presenting I (1,5 credits) Mentor-guided Portfolio-building (2 credits) Research Participation (Credits shared with project periods Year 1 and 2)
Period 2	Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience (4 credits) Cellular Interactions and Metabolism (4 credits) <i>Practical:</i> Cellular Interactions and Metabolism (0,5 credits)			
Period 3	Neuroanatomy (2,5 credits) Project year 1 (5 credits)			
Period 4	Principles of Perception (4 credits) Brain Cells (4 credits) Advanced Calculus and Dynamical Systems (3 credits)			
Period 5	The Motor System (4 credits) Learning and Memory (4 credits) Probability Theory (3 credits)			
Period 6	Continued from period 3: Project year 1			

2026-2027 Overview bachelor Brain Science Year 2 ECTS: 60 credits		
Period	Module	
Period 1	Ethics in Brain Science (4 credits) Computational Science of Networks (4,5 credits) Machine Learning (3 credits)	Programming II (5 credits) Writing & Presenting II (1 credit)
Period 2	Neuro-modulators of Perception & Psychopathology (4 credits) Cellular and Systems Mechanisms of Memory (4,5 credits) Advanced Statistics (3 credits)	Research Participation (Credits shared with project periods Year 1 and 2) Mentor-guided Portfolio-building (2 credits)
Period 3	Project year 2 (5 credits) (<i>continues in period 6</i>) Behavioural Research Methods (2 credits)	
Period 4	Computational Neurobiology of Movement and Reinforcement (4 credits) Memory disorders and Treatment (4 credits) Biophysical Modelling (3 credits)	
Period 5	From Neurons and Networks to Perception (4 credits) Drug and BCI Treatment of Movement Disorders (4 credits) Measuring and Manipulating Brain Activity (3 credits)	
Period 6	<i>Continued from period 3:</i> Project year 2	

2026-2027 Overview bachelor Brain Science Year 3 ECTS: 60 credits		
Period	Module	
Period 1, 2 and 3	Electives / Minors (30 credits)	Mentor-guided Portfolio-building (1 credit)
Period 4	A Transdisciplinary View on Computational Modelling (4 credits) Current Trends and Critical Reading in Brain Science (4 credits)	
Period 5 and 6	Bachelor Thesis (21 credits)	

Article 3.7 Elective courses

In the third year of the study programme as referred to in Article 3.6, the student may fulfil the electives referred to in Article 3.6 by selecting one of the options described in Articles 3.7.1 to 3.7.3. The elective phase of the bachelor's programme comprises 30 credits, as referred to in Article 3.6. Courses that fall outside the elective options described in Articles 3.7.1 to 3.7.3 may not be followed as part of the programme, shall not be recognised as examination components, and shall not yield credits within the programme.

Article 3.7.1 Electives within the Faculties of FPN, FHML and FSE

- a. Within the Faculties of FPN and FSE, the elective component may consist of a pre-determined selection of courses offered by these faculties. Within FHML, this component is referred to as minor courses.
- b. The list of available elective courses (FPN/FSE) and minor courses (FHML) is established annually and may differ from year to year.
- c. If a predetermined selection of courses under this article comprises more than 30 ECTS, no more than 30 ECTS shall count toward the study load referred to in Article 3.6.
- d. Students are referred to the student intranet for the exact course offering and detailed registration procedures.

Article 3.7.2 Minor or predetermined course package

- a. During periods 1, 2 and 3 of the third year of the study programme, the student may pursue a minor or another predetermined course package comprising at least 30 credits at another UM faculty or another Dutch research university. Minors or another predetermined course package of less than 30 ECTS are not allowed.
- b. If a minor or a predetermined course package under this article comprises more than 30 ECTS, no more than 30 ECTS shall count toward the study load referred to in Article 3.6.
- c. Approval from the Board of Examiners must be requested and obtained prior to commencing the minor or predetermined course package.

Article 3.7.3 Electives abroad

- a. The student may choose to follow elective courses comprising at least 30 credits offered by a foreign partner university, subject to prior approval from the Board of Examiners.
- b. The FPN International Relations Office, in consultation with the Board of Examiners, assesses and determines which courses qualify for recognition within the study abroad framework.
- c. If electives abroad under this article comprises more than 30 ECTS, no more than 30 ECTS shall count toward the study load referred to in Article 3.6.
- d. Elective courses undertaken abroad are subject to the provisions laid down in the Implementation regulation exchange programme and electives abroad included in [Appendix 2](#).

Article 3.8 Extracurricular internship

The programme does not provide administrative, academic, or financial support for extracurricular internships. Students who choose to undertake an internship outside the formal study programme are responsible for arranging all aspects independently, including but not limited to approval, supervision, insurance, and contractual agreements with external organizations.

Article 3.9 Flexible programme

A motivated request for approval of a flexible programme as referred to in Article 7.3j of the WHW is to be submitted to the Board of Examiners in written form. Reference is made to the applicable provisions in the Rules and Regulations for the study programme.

Article 3.10 The Bachelor's examination

The Bachelor's examination consists of the following parts:

4. the education parts of course year 1 as named in Article 3.6;
5. the education parts of course year 2 as named in Article 3.6;
6. the education parts of course year 3 as named in Article 3.6;
7. the practical training and accompanying assignments pertaining to the parts as meant under paragraphs 1, 2 and 3;
8. the (tutorial group) meetings pertaining to the parts as meant under paragraphs 1-4.

SECTION 4 EDUCATION

Article 4.1 Courses/modules

1. For the study programme, courses/modules are given with the study load stated in Article 3.6.
2. The courses/modules for which the student is registered are visible in the timetable which can be accessed via the student portal. The exam schedule is available on the student intranet.

Article 4.2 Prior knowledge; entrance requirements

The following regulations apply with regard to entrance requirements:

1. To be admitted to or to receive approval to take electives abroad, the following requirements have to be met:
 - a. bachelor year 1 has to be completed (60 credits) and
 - b. all courses/modules of period 1, 2, and 3 of year 2 have to be passed.

Reference is made to [Appendix 2](#). If these requirements are not met, the relevant courses completed at a foreign institution cannot be recognized or incorporated into the Bachelor's Brain Science curriculum listed in Article 3.6.

2. Students who have not yet obtained at least 100 credits (including all 60 credits from the first bachelor year) are required to contact the study adviser before commencing the bachelor's thesis project and the bachelor's thesis. Students may only proceed to the oral inquiry of the bachelor's thesis once at least 100 credits have been obtained, including all 60 credits from the first bachelor year. If these requirements are not met, the student is not eligible to participate in the oral inquiry. Any oral inquiry conducted in violation of these requirements shall not be recorded as passed and the Bachelor's Thesis Project shall not be completed or recorded.

Article 4.3 Course/module registration and deregistration

The student may participate in a course/module after the student is registered in a timely manner (for the full course, including connected practicals) through the student portal. Information and any applicable deadlines regarding (de)registration of courses/modules can be found on the student intranet.

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 learning objectives.
2. The course manual describes the requirements students must fulfil to pass the course and the criteria on which the student is assessed.
3. The Rules of Procedure for Exams describe the exam procedure. The Rules of Procedure for Exams can be found on the student intranet.

Article 5.2 Grades

1. Grades are awarded on a numeric scale of 1.0 to 10.0 up to one decimal place accurately or qualified as a pass/fail in accordance with this Article;
2. An exception to this is the bachelor's thesis, for the bachelor's thesis the final grade will be rounded off to the nearest whole or half number.
3. A pass/fail is awarded as follows:
 - Pass: ≥ 5.5 on a scale of 1.0 to 10.0; performance at least meets the minimum criteria.
 - Fail: < 5.5 on a scale of 1.0 to 10.0; performance below the minimum criteria.
4. A course or assessment is passed when a grade of 5.5 or higher is obtained or when a Pass is awarded.
5. Notwithstanding the rules in paragraph 4, the student must at least receive a final mark of 6.0 for the bachelor's thesis to pass.
6. The result no grade (NG) will be assigned when a student:
 - has booked the exam, but has not attended the exam/not signed in to TestVision for the specific exam, or
 - has failed to submit a paper before the deadline or when the paper does not comply to the requirements provided by the course coordinator.

Article 5.3 Sequencing of examination components

1. In their first course year, students are only admitted to examination components of the first bachelor year. Students who are in their second course year are only admitted to examination components of the first and second bachelor year. Students, who are in their third and subsequent course years, are admitted to all examination components of the bachelor.
2. In accordance with Article 7.30, paragraph 3 of the Act, the Board of Examiners can admit a student to exam components other than those meant in Article 5.3 paragraph 1.
3. If a student deviates from the sequence as described in Article 5.3 paragraph 1, without permission from the Board of Examiners, the result of the component in question can be declared invalid.

Article 5.4 Periods and frequency of exams

1. Exams can be taken twice a year, one regular exam and one resit, at times determined by the BrainS Board: i.e. once during or immediately following the period in which the relevant course/module was offered (regular exam) and once during the academic year (resit). The specific dates and times of exams are listed on the student intranet.
2. In special cases, the Board of Examiners can decide that an exam can be taken at a time different to that set in accordance with the previous paragraph.

Article 5.5 Extra exam option for last outstanding course

1. If the graduation date as defined in Article 6.1 (see section 6 'Examination') would be delayed by more than 6 months because of failing one compulsory core course (with the exception of elective courses, skills training, practical trainings or other educational units) in period 4, 5 or 6, the student can submit a request to the Board of Examiners to participate in an extra exam opportunity (for that failed course) if the student meets the following conditions:
 - a. The student's graduation date, as defined in Article 6.1, must be delayed by more than 6 months, exclusively due to the fact that the student has failed a compulsory course in period 4, 5 or 6;

- b. The student must have participated in all exam opportunities for the course, both regular exam(s) and resit(s) in previous and current academic years. An exception to this paragraph b is only possible in one of two cases:
 - the student decided not to make use of an exam opportunity because of a study plan that was set up together with a study adviser at FPN and the student kept to this study plan, or;
 - because of proven personal circumstances as defined in Article 7 under 10 that prevented taking the exam/resit opportunity.
 - c. The student has never made use of the opportunity of an extra exam before (as described by Article 5.5).
 - d. It should be the student's last compulsory core course in order to pass the examination requirements in Article 6.1. This implies the student is at least a third-year bachelor student who already passed all bachelor core courses except the failed core course of period 4, 5 or 6.
 - e. The student must have passed all other examination requirements as mentioned in Article 6.1.
 - f. Requests for the extra exam opportunity for a period 4, 5 or 6 course have to be submitted to the Board of Examiners. The deadline for the request will be communicated via the student intranet.
2. The extra exam will be offered in August of the same academic year at the latest.
 3. The student needs to have an active registration, including payment of tuition fee for the academic year the extra exam takes place in.

Article 5.6 Exam registration and deregistration

The student may take a course/module exam after the student is timely registered through the student portal. The student who is registered for a course is automatically registered for the first exam. Resits may have to be registered for by the student. Information and any applicable deadlines regarding (de)registration of exams and resits can be found on the student intranet.

Article 5.7 Format of exams

1. As a rule, exams are in written format using either paper-and-pencil or computer-based assessments. A written exam may consist of open-ended questions, multiple-choice questions, true–false questions, or a combination of these, and may also take the form of an individual paper, research article, essay, or portfolio. Exams may also include other forms of assessment, such as a presentation or participation.
2. The Board of Examiners can, in special circumstances, allow a different from standard exam format or a change in the weighing of exam parts of a course and will establish the conditions under which this will take place.
3. In case the attendance requirement has not been met, the grade of the exam will be declared invalid. Reference is made to the applicable provisions in the Rules and Regulations.
4. The Rules of Procedures for Exams describe how and under which conditions the written exams are taken.
5. If an examiner wants to use a different exam format than stated in the nominal plans or communicated to the students, the examiner must ask permission from the Board of Examiners at least four weeks before the starting date of the course/module.
6. 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 programme director/ 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.
7. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may grant a student permission for an oral exam. For this purpose, a written request must be submitted to the Board of Examiners.

Article 5.8 Written papers and assignments

The Board of Examiners can draw up guidelines for papers and assignments. These guidelines will be included in the manual pertaining to the relevant part of the curriculum.

Article 5.9 Attendance

1. The Board of Examiners establishes the minimum percentage of attendance in tutorial, exercise and practical group meetings in the Rules and Regulations, and determines how the actual attendance of each student is registered.
2. If attendance has been met in a given academic year, this will be valid for the remainder of the study, even if the exam is not passed in that year.

Article 5.10 Determination and publishing results

1. The Board of Examiners determines the norms for the exam of each part of the examination.
2. Official final exam results will be published on the student portal within fifteen (15) working days after the exam date, unless decided otherwise by the BrainS Board. An exception is made for the exams of period 2: the two-week Christmas Holiday period, which falls within the grading period of the exams of period 2, is not included in the count of working days.
3. When the result of a written exam is announced, it will be indicated on Canvas how the student can review the exam and file an appeal as referred to in Article 6.4.
4. With respect to an exam that has been administered in a different way than in writing, the Board of Examiners determines the way and period in which the result will be announced.

Article 5.11 Exam inspection

1. Within ten working days after the publication of exam results, as referred to in Article 5.10 paragraph 2, the examiner will offer students the opportunity to inspect their assessed work. Students who wish to participate in the inspection must register in advance according to the procedure communicated by the examiner.
2. Within the period referred to in Article 5.11 paragraph 1, students who registered for the exam inspection may review their own assessed work and the standards or answer keys used in the assessment.
3. During the exam inspection students are not allowed to have communication devices and/or other electronic devices at their disposal, neither to take the exam and answer key outside the room where the inspection takes place nor to copy these documents in any form.

Article 5.12 Proof of having passed courses/modules

1. Once a student has fulfilled all the requirements as described in the assessment plan of the module this will count as proof of having passed the relevant course/module. The proof will be obtained after an examiner has declared that the requirements for the assessment of the course/module have been complied with. A condition for obtaining proof of having passed a part is that the student has complied with the admission requirements for the relevant part of the examination. The Board of Examiners can revoke the decision of the examiner if the admission requirements have not been complied with.
2. In case the examiner mentioned in paragraph 1 doubts whether the requirements for passing the part have been met, the examiner will submit the case to the Board of Examiners to come to a decision.

Article 5.13 Period of validity

1. As a rule, the period of validity of examination components is unlimited. 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.
2. If exceptional circumstances apply as referred to in Article 7.51 paragraph 2 of the Act, the period of six years in paragraph one will be extended by the duration of the financial support the student receives from the Student Support Fund.
3. Passed sub-exams and assignments within a failed course remain valid beyond the academic year, unless the course manual states otherwise.

Article 5.14 Retention period of exams

1. Assignments, results and assessments of written exams will be saved two years after the exam results have been determined.
2. Theses and the assessment of theses will be saved at least seven years after the thesis has been assessed.
3. The diploma and the list of examination components will be saved 30 years.

Article 5.15 Exemptions

1. The Board of Examiners can, at the request of the student and having heard the relevant examiners, grant the student an exemption from taking an exam or other assessment, if the student provides satisfactory written proof that the student:
 - a. has already successfully completed a similar part at a university, which is equivalent in content and level;
 - b. possesses sufficient knowledge and skill in relation to the relevant exam by way of work, or professional experience.
2. The same period of validity applies to exemptions as to exam (see Article 5.13).
3. The following restrictions regarding exemptions apply:
 - a. In the study programme, a maximum of 30 credits may be exempted with the exception of the bachelor's thesis.
 - b. The Board of Examiners will not grant any exemption based on exams passed by a student outside the programme during the period in which the student was barred from taking exams for the programme by the Board of Examiners because of fraud.

Article 5.16 Grade point average (GPA)

The grade point average (GPA) equals the weighted average of all numerical grades. Weighting is based on the number of credits of the courses/modules; these credits are listed on the result sheet provided with the diploma.

Article 5.17 Fraud

1. 'Fraud', including 'plagiarism', is defined as acts or omissions by a student which make it impossible in whole or in part to properly evaluate the student's knowledge, understanding and skills.
2. 'Plagiarism' is defined as the presentation of ideas or phrasing/passages from one's own or someone else's sources without proper acknowledgment of the sources, including 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 thus passing them off as their own.
3. The term 'fraud' is also understood to include attempted fraud.
4. If the Board of Examiners determines that a student has engaged in fraud with respect to an exam or exam component, the Board of Examiners can take appropriate measures.
5. In case of fraud/plagiarism in group assignments, the whole group is in principle responsible for the fraud/plagiarism. In case of fraud/plagiarism in group assignments the measures may differ per individual student if there is evidence of unequal contribution of these individuals to the committed fraud/plagiarism.
6. Repeat offences of fraud are, either within the faculty or at another UM faculty, considered an aggravating circumstance.
7. In serious cases of fraud, the Board of Examiners can propose to UM's Executive Board that the student(s) concerned be permanently expelled from the programme.
8. The Rules and Regulations further detail what is understood as fraud and what measures can be imposed by the Board of Examiners.

Article 5.18 Invalid exam

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

Article 5.19 Unsuitability (Judicium Abeundi)

1. In exceptional circumstances and after carefully weighing the interests at stake, the Board of Examiners and the BrainS Board may request the Executive Board to terminate or deny a student's registration for a programme if, through the student's conduct or statements, the student shows that the student is unsuitable to practice one or more professions for which the programme the student is enrolled in, is training the student for, or is unsuitable for the practical preparation for the profession. The BrainS Board, the Board of Examiners and the Executive Board will reach a decision in accordance with the Judicium 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 6 EXAMINATION

Article 6.1 Examination

1. The Board of Examiners determines the result and the date of the examination and issues the diploma as meant in Article 6.3 as soon as the student has fulfilled all the requirements for the examination programme.
2. Prior to determining the result of the examination, the Board of Examiners may conduct their own investigation of the student's knowledge regarding one or more components or aspects of the study programme, if and insofar as the results of the relevant tests give reason to do this.
3. To pass the examination, the student must have passed all components as defined in Article 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, the student was supervised or work of the student was assessed.
5. A certificate may only be issued after it has been shown that the student has satisfied all the obligations, including paying the tuition fees.
6. The last day of the month in which the student fulfilled all the examination requirements will be considered the examination date (graduation date).
7. Students who have passed the 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 exam is taken.
The Board of Examiners in any event grants the request if the student has held/will hold a board position for which a financial support from the Student Support Fund was/will be granted for at least nine months or a Student Introduction Committee ('INKOM') board position.

Article 6.2 Degree

The student who has passed the examination successfully will be awarded the degree of "Bachelor of Science" and will receive the diploma associated with the Bachelor's examination as proof of this.

Article 6.3 Diploma and statements

1. As proof that the examination was successfully completed, the Board of Examiners issues a diploma, after it has been stated by or on behalf of UM's Executive Board that the procedural requirements for receiving the diploma have been met. The diploma is based on the model that UM's Executive Board has adopted.
2. The diploma issued as a result of having passed the examination successfully will contain:
 - a. the name of the institution;
 - b. the name of the study programme;
 - c. the degree awarded;
 - d. the date on which the programme was most recently accredited or was subjected to the new programme exam.
3. Students who are entitled to a diploma may, stating reasons, ask the Board of Examiners not to issue this yet.
4. The diploma will be signed by the Chair of the Board of Examiners and the Dean of the FPN Faculty.
5. The diploma is awarded in public, unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise, in special cases.
6. The certificate includes a list of the examination components, the 'List of Exam Subjects'.
7. The Board of Examiners includes a 'Diploma Supplement' as referred to in Article 7.11 paragraph 4 of the Act. This diploma supplement is based on the model adopted by UM's Executive Board, which is in compliance with the agreed European standard format.
8. The Board of Examiners can award the diploma with the qualifications of 'Cum Laude' or 'Summa Cum Laude' in accordance with the Rules and Regulations for the Bachelor's Examination.
9. Students who have passed more than one exam and who cannot be issued a certificate will upon request, receive a statement issued by the Board of Examiners which at least indicates the exams that they passed.

Article 6.5 Right of appeal

Within six weeks after a decision is announced by an examiner or the Board of Examiners a person concerned can file an appeal against this decision with the Complaint Service Point of the UM. The appeal needs to be signed and dated and must include the name and address of the appellant, as well as the grounds for appeal and, if possible, a copy of the decision against which the appeal is lodged.

SECTION 7 STUDY ADVICE

Article 7.1 Study progress administration

1. The Faculty registers the individual study results of the students in such a way that they can be consulted by the students via the student portal.
2. To each student, the Faculty points out at least once a year (preferably in May) to check the student's overview of the study results obtained by the student.

Article 7.2 Study guidance

The Faculty sees to the introduction and study advice and guidance of the students who are enrolled in the study programme.

Article 7.3 Mentoring

A mentor is assigned to each first-year student at the start of the study. In addition to monitoring and guarding a student's well-being, mentoring serves the purposes of stimulating study performance and progress, guiding important choices (project topics, electives, thesis and bachelor's thesis project topic, master choice), and helping to develop a life-long learning attitude. To achieve this, in the first year, the mentor will meet three times individually with their mentor student(s). In the second year, the mentor will meet two times individually with their mentor student(s). In the third year, the mentor will meet one time individually with their mentor student(s).

Article 7.4 Study adviser

Students may consult a study adviser of the Faculty at any time to discuss academic or personal problems. Study advisers are not members of the teaching staff and can provide impartial advice, guidance and referrals, as appropriate, to students seeking solutions for such problems. All conversations with a study adviser are confidential.

Article 7.5 Study advice propaedeutic phase

1. At the end of the first year of enrolment in the propaedeutic phase of the bachelor programme, the Brain Science Binding Study Advice (BSA) Committee will issue on behalf of the BrainS Board a study advice to each student whether the student should continue the study or not.
2. In the first year of enrolment in the propaedeutic phase, the student receives a warning advice twice, once in January and once in May.

Article 7.6 Binding (negative) Study Advice (BSA)

1. If the study advice as stated in Article 7.5 paragraph 1 is negative, the binding study advice will include exclusion to the study programme.
2. The exclusion stated in Article 7.6 paragraph 1, is binding, meaning that the student will not be allowed to register for the study programme for the next four academic years.
3. A BSA will be issued to a student who was enrolled in the first year of study for the study programme and who, at the end of the first year, has not met the norms as stated in Article 7.7.
4. Before the negative study advice is issued, the student has the right to be heard.
5. A study advice will not be issued to a student whose registration ended prior to 1 February. In that case, any re-enrolment to the study programme will be regarded as the first year of registration. The student may make use of this arrangement once only.

Article 7.7 Norms

1. At the end of the first year of enrolment in the bachelor's programme students must have passed at least 70% of the ECTS out of the possible 60 ECTS of the first year of the Bachelor programme, i.e. a minimum of 42 credits.
2. Students who were granted exemptions from the Board of Examiners must by the end of the first year of enrolment have obtained minimally 70% of the first-year bachelor credits, after subtraction of the credits for parts for which exemption was given.

Article 7.8 Procedure

1. At the latest in the months of January and May of the first year of study students who are eligible will be issued a written warning advice.
2. At the end of the first year of registration in the propaedeutic phase of the bachelor's programme, study advice is issued to each student by, or on behalf of, the BrainS Board regarding continuation of the programme.
3. Students have the right to be heard, before a negative study advice is issued. Students will be notified about the hearing in the writing stated in Article 7.8 paragraph 2. Hearings will be held August.
4. The study adviser will be informed which students are eligible for a negative study advice. The study adviser may give advice to the BrainS Board, either invited or uninvited.
5. After a student has been heard, the BrainS Board will determine if a negative study advice will be issued.
6. The decision regarding a BSA will be communicated to the student in writing no later than 31 August.
7. The student has the right to file an appeal against the decision for a negative study advice with the Complaint Service Point of Maastricht University within 6 weeks after the decision is announced.

Article 7.9 Postponement of study advice

1. If it is impossible to issue advice on the student's suitability for the programme due to personal circumstances that occurred in the first year, contrary to Article 7.6, this advice may be postponed to a later moment during the propaedeutic phase. An adapted standard may be used for the student in question.
2. If the advice is postponed, the advice will be issued no later than at the end of the second year of registration in the programme. The postponed advice will be positive if the (adapted) BSA standard is met. The student will receive a negative advice if the student has not achieved the agreed standard.
3. At the student's request, the BrainS Board will take personal circumstances into account when deciding to issue a BSA. This decision will also be based on the student's study behaviour, agreements and/or study plan made with the study adviser, the time at which the personal circumstances were reported and the study results achieved at the end of the first year of study.

Article 7.10 Personal circumstances

1. Personal circumstances which will be taken into consideration when issuing a study advice are:
 - a. illness of the student in question;
 - b. physical, perceptual or any other dysfunction of the student in question;
 - c. pregnancy of the student in question;
 - d. special family circumstances;
 - e. administrative activities as referred to in Article 2.1, paragraph 1 under e, f and g of the Executive Order of the WHW 2008.
 - f. participation in top-level sport;
 - g. circumstances other than those referred to in subparagraphs a to f which, if they were not to be honoured by the BrainS Board, would result in excessive unfairness.
2. Students who, as a result of personal circumstances, can reasonably expect study delay, should notify this promptly to the study adviser to limit study delay as a consequence of the circumstances in question, and to set up an individual study plan when needed as judged by the study adviser. The notification is considered timely when it is reported within 4 weeks after the circumstances were revealed. If circumstances are such, that the student or the student's representative does not have the opportunity to report them within 4 weeks, the question whether or not notification was reported in time will be assessed in light of the circumstances.

Article 7.11 Hardship clause

In special cases, the BrainS Board may, in favour of the student, deviate from the determined rules on the study advice, when application of the above-mentioned regulations would lead to extreme inequity.

SECTION 8 TRANSITIONAL AND CONCLUDING CONDITIONS

Article 8.1 Amendments

1. Amendments in these regulations will be determined by special decision of the BrainS Board following advice/consent from the Educational Programme Committee Brain Science and the Faculty Council.
2. An amendment in these regulations will not apply to the academic year in which it occurs, unless the interests of the students are not adversely affected by such a change.
3. Furthermore, an amendment cannot be to the detriment of students by affecting any other decision that has been taken by the Board of Examiners on the basis of the original regulations.

Article 8.2 Publication

1. The Brains 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 UM website, student intranet or student portal.
2. Any interested party may obtain a copy of the documents referred to in the first paragraph from the education office.

Article 8.3 Evaluation

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

Article 8.4 Unforeseen cases / Hardship clause

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

Article 8.5 Date of taking effect

These regulations will come into force on 1 September 2026 and will be effective for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Adopted by the BrainS Board on May 11, 2026.

APPENDICES TO THE EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS BACHELOR BRAIN SCIENCE

Appendix 1 Accountability for the language of instruction

The choice for the language of instruction of the Bachelor in Brain Science is in line with the UM Code of Conduct on language, in accordance with the WHW art. 7.2. Because of the specific educational nature and profile of the Bachelor in Brain Science, teaching and examinations are conducted in English. This guarantees the quality of education, because:

- **The labour market demands internationally oriented (English speaking) alumni. Therefore, the content of the programme has an international orientation and focus.**

The regional labour market of UM (positioned within the Euregion) goes beyond borders, and many large companies in this region are international. The bachelor's programme fulfils the international and domain-specific requirements specified for a bachelor's programme in Brain Science, and offers students up-to-date knowledge, methods and skills that will allow them to continue studying in a master's programme. Moreover, with the use of the English language, the programme prepares the students for a national and international master's programmes and labour markets. Furthermore, the bachelor's programme is research-oriented within the field of Brain Science. Brain Science is an international discipline, implying that most scientific literature is in English.

- **The student intake and current population is internationally diverse and Dutch and English are the common languages.**

In 2025/2026, students enrolled in our bachelor's programme represented 16 nationalities.

Appendix 2 Implementation regulation exchange programme and electives abroad

1. Recognition

Courses, obtained as part of an exchange programme as established by the BrainS Board, may be registered as part of the examination requirements of the study programme for which the student is enrolled.

2. Eligibility

- a. Students, who want to take the year 3 electives abroad, must do this in the context of the exchange programme of the study programme, with one of its exchange partners.
- b. Electives at non-partner institutions are not permitted.

3. Period and duration

- a. Electives abroad are taken during the regular elective period in year 3 (period 1-3).
- b. The maximum duration of an elective period abroad is one (1) semester.

4. Integration on the study programme

A study completed in the context of the exchange programme is part of the study programme at the UM.

5. Selection procedure

- a. The selection procedure for electives at a partner university abroad is done by the FPN International Relations Office (IRO).
- b. The selection takes place in year 2 of the study programme (winter).
- c. Students are selected on a provisional basis.
- d. For participation in the selection, students need to have passed all first-year educational requirements at the time of the registration deadline.
- e. Allocation is done based on the students' preferred university choices.
- f. If the number of applicants for a university exceeds the number of places, places will be allocated by drawing lots (computer-based).
- g. For more information about the selection procedure and deadlines, please refer to the [student intranet](#).

6. Conditions for approval of courses

- a. To get approval from the Board of Examiners to take electives abroad students need to be selected for the exchange programme, and students must have fulfilled all first-year educational requirements and all second-year courses of periods 1, 2 and 3 prior to the elective abroad period.
- b. For more information about the requirements for electives abroad, please refer to the Elective information on [Electives Abroad Bachelor Brain Science](#).
- c. With regard to the level and content applicable to the examination of the programme concerned certain conditions apply. The decision to whether a course will be considered as part of the programme will be determined by the Board of Examiners after consultation with the programme director and will only be possible with the approval of the Board of Examiners.
- d. The detailed criteria for determining whether a course is eligible for approval are further specified in the Board of Examiner's Rules and Regulations.

7. Processing of results

- a. The bachelor diploma cannot be issued before the ECTS obtained abroad have been processed, based on an official grade transcript from the host university.
- b. Regarding the processing of results certain conditions apply.
- c. The detailed criteria for determining how results obtained abroad are converted, recognised, and registered are further elaborated in the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners.

8. Final provisions

- a. The Board of Examiners will decide on matters regarding registration of courses followed elsewhere, as far as they have not been addressed in the Education and Examination Regulations and in this Appendix.
- b. For detailed requirements and procedures, students should consult the student intranet.