

Education and Examination Regulations 2026-2027

Master Forensic Psychology

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

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EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS MASTER FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY 2026-2027

SECTION 1 GENERAL CONDITIONS

Education and Examination Regulations (EER) for the 2026/2027 academic year for the Forensic Psychology Master's 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 of the full-time study programme of the Master Forensic Psychology, hereinafter referred to as the study programme.
2. The study programme is offered by the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience (hereinafter: 'the Faculty' or 'FPN').
3. The regulations have been established by the FPN Faculty Board, following advice/consent from the FPN Educational Programme Committee 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 apply.

Article 1.2 Definitions

In these regulations the following is understood to be:

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| a. | Academic year: | the period from 1 September of a calendar year up to and including 31 August of the following calendar year; |
| b. | Board of Admissions: | the board responsible for judging the admissibility of the candidate to the programme; |
| c. | Board of Examiners: | the board as meant by article 7.12 of the Act; |
| d. | Canvas: | 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; |
| e. | Course Coordinator: | an examiner who is responsible for the content of a certain course, workshop, skills lab, or other part of the study programme; |
| f. | Course/module: | a study unit of the study programme as meant by Article 7.3 of the Act; |
| g. | Credit: | a unit expressed in ECTS credits, with one study credit equalling 28 hours of study; |
| h. | Disability Support (DS): | the central point at UM where students with a disability and/or chronic illness can apply for facilities or support; |
| i. | Educational Programme Committee: | the representation and advisory board that carries out the duties described in Article 9.18 and 9.38c of the Act; |
| j. | Exam: | a component as part of the examination as meant by article 7.10 of the Act; |
| k. | Examination: | the final examination for the master's programme; |
| l. | Examiner: | the person designated by the Board of Examiners to administer exams and to determine the results of such exams; |
| m. | Faculty Board: | the Board of the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience of Maastricht University as meant by Article 9.12 of the Act; |
| n. | Faculty Council: | the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience as meant in Article 9.37 of the Act; |
| o. | Practical training: | a module that provides practical exercise, as meant by Article 7.13, paragraph 2, sub d of the Act; |

p.	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;
q.	Student:	the 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;
r.	Student intranet:	the internal website for FPN programmes containing information about the programme (study related information, forms, rules and regulation documents, advice, support and guidance);
s.	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;
t.	Study programme:	the master's study programme referred to in Article 1.1 of these regulations, consisting of a coherent set of programme components;
u.	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;
v.	TestVision:	a software programme for digital exams;
w.	The Act:	the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek, WHW);
x.	Tutorial group meeting:	a practical exercise, as meant by article 7.13 paragraph 2, sub d of the Act;
y.	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

Persons who meet the requirements referred to in Article 2.2 and Article 2.3 are eligible for admission to the study programme.

Article 2.2 Admission requirements

1. The following persons are eligible for admission to the study programme: persons who have obtained a Bachelor's degree in Psychology or Mental Health Science from one of the Dutch universities or a university Bachelor's diploma from an equivalent programme that meets similar achievement levels (obtained before the start of the study programme). The Bachelor's programme should include the following subjects relevant for the Master's programme:
 - basic training in clinical interviewing skills;
 - basic training in psychological assessment;
 - basic training in research methodology and statistical analysis;
 - basic training in psychopathology.
2. The maximum number of students who can be registered for the programme is 24.
3. The Board of Admissions assesses which students will be admitted to the programme. The admission and selection procedure aims to meet specific objectives to achieve the desired quality and success rate of students entering the programme. In principle, students are admitted to the study programme based on their knowledge and skill level, attitude and motivation relevant to the successful completion of a programme that embraces the scientist-practitioner model. The intention of the selection procedure is to optimise the chances that students will be able to complete the Master's programme within the time stipulated.

Students who are still enrolled in a relevant Bachelor's programme must upload the official grades transcript of their bachelor's programme before their application will be considered.

If the applicant meets the formal requirements and the requested portfolio is complete, the Board of Admissions makes a first selection on the basis of the following information:

- written motivation for the Master Forensic Psychology;
- curriculum vitae;
- academic background, including academic performance;
- referent information.

Selected students will be invited for an interview with the Board of Admissions. On the basis of the interview and an evaluation of all available information, the Board of Admissions judges the knowledge and skills level, attitude and motivation relevant to the study programme that embraces the scientist-practitioner model. The Board applies the following selection criteria:

- motivation and ability to acquire knowledge in the area of forensic psychology;
- motivation and ability to critically analyse the scientific research base in specific forensic domain;
- attitude and communication skills necessary for a future career in forensic settings;
- motivation and ability to further scientific and clinical developments in the forensic field;
- openness to learning within an international student environment;
- excellent command of the English language.

Article 2.3 Language requirement with non-Dutch diplomas

1. Persons with a non-Dutch diploma may 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 6.5.
2. The requirement referred to under (1) is met if the person concerned has obtained one of the following diplomas or certificates:
 - a. A completed bachelor's or master's study programme where the language of instruction is English;
 - b. An International or European Baccalaureate, a US high school diploma or UK GCE A-levels; or can demonstrate sufficient proficiency in English, for example through English taught courses,

internships or work experience in an English environment, or can submit one of the following language test certificates:

- IELTS: 6.5
- TOEFL iBT: 90
- TOEIC listening and reading: 720; speaking and writing: 310
- Cambridge Advanced C1: Grade C (scale 180-184); First: Grade A (scale 180-184); First B2: Grade B (scale 176-179)
- TOEFL Paper-delivered Test: Reading: 20-30; Listening: 20-30; Writing: 20-30

A copy of the official exam results is required.

Article 2.4 Capacity limitations

1. The Dean proposes the maximum number of students to be admitted to the study programme.
2. The Board of Admissions ranks the applications submitted by the eligible candidates as meant in Article 2.1.
3. The Board of Admissions grants the requests for admission in accordance with the ranking they have established.

Article 2.5 Board of Admissions

1. The Board of Admissions of the study programme is delegated the authority to make judgements concerning admission to the programme and to supply proof of such admission.
2. The Board of Admissions consists of:
 - a. A chair appointed from among the academic staff;
 - b. At least one member appointed from the academic staff who oversees the education within the study programme.
3. The Dean appoints the members of the Board of Admissions.

Article 2.6 Times of review for admission

1. A request for admission to the study programme must be submitted to the Board of Admissions before the applicable deadlines, as indicated on the UM website.
2. The Board of Admissions will reject any request for admission that is incomplete at the time of the closing date mentioned on the UM website.
3. The Board of Admissions will not consider any application materials received after this closing date on the UM website.
4. The Board of Admissions strives to decide on the request for admission within 8 weeks after the closing dates mentioned on the UM website provided the application is complete.

SECTION 3 CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Article 3.1 Purpose of the study programme

1. The purpose of the study programme is:
 - to provide an academic education within the context of the specific educational concept and profile of Maastricht University;
 - to provide in-depth knowledge and understanding of the student's specific academic field of choice;
 - to enable the acquisition of specialised knowledge, skills and insight in the field of Forensic Psychology;
 - to enable the student to prepare for a career in the field of forensic psychology.
2. There are sufficient elements in the study programme to enhance the further development of the academic formation of the student, in particular with regard to:
 - thinking and acting independently and scientifically;
 - communicating scientifically in English;
 - applying specialised scientific knowledge in a broader context.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) of the Forensic Master's Programme	
Level	Content/Orientation
Dublin descriptors	ILOs based on domain-specific reference framework and EFPA
Knowledge and understanding	ILO 1: Knowledge of theories, processes, interventions, instruments and assessment methods in the field of forensic psychology.
Applying knowledge and understanding	ILO 2: Ability to apply theories, interventions, instruments and assessment methods to practices in the field of forensic psychology.
	ILO 3: Ability to write an original and feasible research question and proposal on a forensic psychological topic.
	ILO 4: Ability to design and conduct sound scientific research in the field of forensic psychology (incl. the selection and application of appropriate research methods and statistics).
Making judgments	ILO 5: Ability to critically judge research questions and experimental designs, taking into account the ethical responsibilities in research.
	ILO 6: Ability to critically analyse, assess, evaluate, interpret, and synthesize research methods, research data, theories and publications in the field of forensic psychology.
	ILO 7: Ability to relate findings to the existing literature and formulate realistic judgements on the implications and importance of research output.
Communication	ILO 8: Ability to effectively communicate in English – in writing and orally (group discussions and presentations) – on topics in forensic psychology.
	ILO 9: Ability to write scientific reports in the form of a practical report, Master's thesis and/or scientific publication according to the scientific standards of forensic psychology.
	ILO 10: Ability to communicate scientific theories and empirical findings in an understandable way to both professionals (experts and non-experts) and to lay people (incl. clients).
	ILO 11: Ability to communicate forensic psychological knowledge effectively to professionals from other disciplines, notably legal professionals and clinically trained mental health professionals.
Learning skills	ILO 12: Ability to reflect on one's own professional behaviour (incl. ethical standards) and development as they apply to forensic psychology (including specific best practice ethics standards for forensic psychologists).
	ILO 13: Ability to work in a research setting and/or in an applied/forensic-clinical setting.
	ILO 14: Ability to work in a multidisciplinary team.
	ILO 15: Ability to read, understand, integrate and critically reflect on research papers, professional reports and new developments in forensic psychology.

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 is conducted in English, in accordance with [Appendix 1](#).

Article 3.4 Communication and announcement of decisions

1. The Faculty 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 Faculty 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 two-year study programme has a total study load of 120 European credits (60 credits each academic year), with each credit equalling 28 hours of study load.

Article 3.6 Composition of the Curriculum

2026-2027 OVERVIEW MASTER FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY YEAR 1 ECTS: 60 CREDITS			
Period	Module		
Period 1	Interrogation & Interviewing (4 credits)	Psychology of Eyewitness Testimony (4 credits)	Assessment Skills Lab I (4 credits)
Period 2	Forensic Neuro-psychology (3 credits)	Thinking Like an Expert (4 credits)	Assessment Skills Lab II (4 credits)
Period 3	Applied Statistics for Forensic Psychologists (4 credits)		
Period 4	Criminal Law (4 credits)	Therapy Skills Lab (4 credits) Forensic Assessment in Child Custody and Child Abuse Cases (2 credits)	Distorted Symptom Presentations (3 credits) <i>Practical Training:</i> Distorted Symptom Presentations
Period 5	Psychotic Disorders (4 credits) Expert Witness Skills Lab (4 credits)	Young Offenders (4 credits) Sex Offenders (4 credits)	
Period 6			

2026-2027 OVERVIEW MASTER FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY YEAR 2 ECTS: 60 CREDITS	
Period	Module
Period 1-6	Research Proposal Writing (1 credit) Research Proposal (2 credits) Master's Thesis Research Project Graded (10 credits)* Master's Thesis Research Project Ungraded (15 credits) * Master's Thesis (10 credits) Master's Thesis Oral Inquiry Professional Reflections & Observations – Forensic Psychology (PRO-F) (2 credits) Clinical Internship (16 credits) Clinical Activities Report (4 credits)

* The assessment of the practical part of the master's thesis research project will be divided in a graded part of 10 credits, and an ungraded part with the remaining credits. The grade will be registered for the graded part of the master's thesis research project and will be included in the GPA (grade point average). The ungraded part of the master's thesis research project will be marked as pass/fail. If the grade of the master's thesis research project is 6.0 or higher, the ungraded part of the master's thesis research project will be marked as 'pass', if the grade is 5.5 or lower, it will be marked as 'fail'.

Article 3.7 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 (see Article 3.6) are responsible for arranging all aspects independently, including but not limited to approval, supervision, insurance, and contractual agreements with external organizations.

Article 3.8 The forensic psychology master's examination

The examination consists of the following parts:

1. the core courses, skills labs, workshops and practical trainings pertaining to the study programme;
2. the tutorial group meetings pertaining to the courses as meant under paragraph 1;
3. the research proposal, the master's thesis research project, the oral inquiry, and the master's thesis;
4. the clinical internship and the clinical activities report.

Article 3.9 Flexible programme

A motivated request for approval of a flexible programme as referred to in Article 7.3j of the Act 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.

SECTION 4 EDUCATION

Article 4.1 Courses, composition, actual design

1. For the programme, courses/modules are offered with the study load stated in Article 3.6.
2. The courses/modules for which the student is registered are visible under 'My Courses' in the student portal. The exam schedule is available on the student intranet.

Article 4.2 Entrance requirements

1. The master's thesis research project and the clinical internship cannot be started until at least 60 credits have been obtained during the programme.
2. If a student deviates from the sequencing as described under paragraph 1 without permission from the Board of Examiners, the result of the part in question can be declared invalid.

Article 4.3 Course registration and deregistration

The student may participate in a course/module after the student is registered on time (for the full course) through the student portal. Information and possible 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 development and the extent to which the student has sufficiently achieved the stated learning objectives.
2. The course manual describes the requirements that 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 Procedures for Exams can be found on 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 master's thesis, for this component the final grade will be rounded off to the nearest whole or half number.
3. A Pass/Fail is awarded as follows:
 - Pass: ≥ 6.0 on a scale of 1.0 to 10.0; performance at least meets the minimum criteria.
 - Fail: < 6.0 on a scale of 1.0 to 10.0; performance below the minimum criteria.
4. A course exam or assessment is passed when a numeric grade of 6.0 or higher is obtained or when a Pass is awarded.
5. 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 Periods and frequency of exams

1. Exams can be taken twice a year, one regular exam and one re-sit, as determined by the Faculty 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). On the student intranet dates and times are listed, on which the exams can be taken.
2. In special cases, the Board of Examiners may decide to grant a student an extra exam opportunity in addition to the regular exam and resit as set in accordance with the previous paragraph.

Article 5.4 Exam registration and deregistration

The student may take an exam for a course/module 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 possible deadlines regarding (de)registration of exams and resits can be found on the student intranet.

Article 5.5 Format of exams

1. As a rule, exams are in written format using either paper-and-pencil assessments or computer-based assessments. A written exam can consist of open- and closed-ended questions, an individual paper, a research article, an essay, or a report. 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 exam format or another way of weighing examination 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 for the study programme.
4. The Rules of Procedures for Exams describe how and under which conditions the written exams are taken.
5. The Board of Examiners has the authority to permit a different exam format in special cases. 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 start 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.
7. 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 adaptations in education.
If the Board of Examiners deviates from the advice of DS, this deviation must be motivated.
8. 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 5.6 Written assignments and master's thesis

1. The Board of Examiners can draw up guidelines for written assignments and the master's thesis. These guidelines will be included in the manual pertaining to the relevant part of the curriculum.
2. The master's thesis must be written by the student individually.
3. The master's thesis/final project will be assessed by the two supervisors. In addition to the assessment of the written thesis, two assessors, including at least one of the thesis supervisors, will assess an oral master's thesis' inquiry regarding the content of the thesis. The oral inquiry takes the form of an academic discussion, in which the student's ability to explain, reason about, and reflect on their work and choices are evaluated.
4. Over the course of the programme, the student will write one thesis, supervised and assessed by at least one supervisor from the Faculty.

Article 5.7 Master's thesis research project/clinical internship

Article 5.7.1 Master's thesis research project

1. The Board of Examiners determines the requirements regarding the nature and content of a master's thesis research project in the internship regulations.
2. The master's thesis research project regulations are set out in Appendix 1 in the Rules and Regulations of the study programme.
3. Students are required to comply with the guidelines for the master's thesis research project. These guidelines are available on student intranet.
4. A student can do a master's thesis research project only once during the study programme.
5. During the master's thesis research project, the student will be supervised by a supervisor from the Faculty. In case of an external master's thesis research project, the student will also be supervised by a supervisor at the external organisation.

Article 5.7.2 Clinical internship

1. The Board of Examiners determines the criteria regarding the nature and content of the clinical internship in the clinical internship regulations.
2. The clinical internship regulations are set out in Appendix 2 in the Rules and Regulations for the study programme.
3. Students are required to comply with the guidelines for the clinical internship. These guidelines are available on student intranet.
4. A student can do a clinical internship only once during the study programme.
5. During the clinical internship the student will be supervised by a supervisor at the clinical placement and a supervisor from the Faculty.

Article 5.8 Attendance in tutorial group meetings

1. The Board of Examiners lays down the minimum of tutorial and practical group meetings a student is required to attend in the Rules and Regulations for the study programme and determines how the actual attendance of each student in the education 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 5.9 Determining and publishing results

1. The Board of Examiners determines the norms for the exam of each part of the examination.
2. Official final examination results will be published on the student portal within fifteen (15) working days after the exam date, unless decided otherwise by the FPN 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 5.10 Exam inspection

1. Within ten (10) working days after the publication of exam results, as referred to in Article 5.9 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 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 5.11 Proof of having passed courses/modules

Once a student has taken part in a sufficient number of tutorial group meetings and has successfully completed the exam and any specifically associated practical training, this will count as proof of having passed the relevant course. The proof will be obtained after an examiner has declared that the requirements for that part of the examination 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.

Article 5.12 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 5.13 Retention period of exams

1. Assignments, results and assessments of written exams will be saved 2 years after the exam results have been determined.
2. Theses and the assessment of theses will be saved at least 7 years after the thesis has been assessed.
3. The diploma and the list of examination components will be saved 30 years.

Article 5.14 Exemption

1. The Board of Examiners can, at the request of a student, and having heard the relevant examiner(s), grant the student 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 that is equivalent in content and level, or
 - 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 examination results (reference is made to Article 5.12).
 3. The following restrictions regarding exemptions apply:
 - a. In the study programme, a maximum of 20 credits may be exempted. Only core courses, practical training, skills labs, and workshop may be exempted.
 - 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 5.15 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 5.16 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 offenses 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 for the study programme further detail what is understood as fraud and what measures can be imposed by the Board of Examiners.

Article 5.17 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 5.18 Unsuitability (Judicium Abeundi)

1. In exceptional circumstances and after carefully weighing the interests at stake, the Board of Examiners and the Dean/Faculty 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 Dean/Faculty 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 grants the diploma as meant in Article 6.3 as soon as the student has fulfilled all the requirements of the examination programme.
2. Before determining the result of the examination, the Board of Examiners can decide to examine the student's knowledge with respect to one or more parts of the study programme, should the results of the relevant exam give reason for this.
3. To pass the examination, the student must have passed all exam components as defined in Article 3.6 or an exemption has been granted.
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 to postpone the issuance. 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 shall in any case grant this request if the student has held/will hold a board position for which financial support from the "Student Support Fund" was/will be granted for at least nine months, or if the student holds 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 "Master of Science" and will receive the diploma belonging to the Forensic Psychology Master'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 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 exam components.
7. An English diploma supplement will be issued with the diploma 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 qualification of 'Cum Laude' in accordance with the Rules and Regulations for the Forensic Psychology Master'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 6.4 Right of appeal

Within 6 weeks after a decision has been 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 needs to 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 GUIDANCE

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. The Faculty reminds each student 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 have been enrolled in the study programme.

Article 7.2 Study mentoring

The Faculty organises an introductory programme and assigns a faculty mentor to each student enrolled in the study programme. The mentor guides the learning process and supervises the personal growth of the student. Close monitoring of student performance and progress will help ensure that students complete the study programme on schedule.

Article 7.3 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.

SECTION 8 TRANSITIONAL AND CONCLUDING CONDITIONS

Article 8.1 Amendments

1. Amendments in these regulations will be determined by special decision of the FPN Faculty Board following advice/consent from the FPN Educational Programme Committee and the FPN Faculty Council.
2. An amendment in these regulations does not apply to the current academic year, unless the interests of the students are not adversely affected by it.
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 based on the original regulations.

Article 8.2 Publication

1. The Faculty Board sees to the proper publication of this Education and Examination regulation, of the Rules and Regulations which have been determined by the Board of Examiners, and also of any changes in these, by, for example, placing a notice on the UM website, the student portal of student intranet.
2. Interested persons can obtain a copy of the documents referred to in paragraph 1 from the education office.

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 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. The Board of Examiners decides on behalf of the Faculty Board in cases that have not been foreseen by these Regulations.
2. The Board of Examiners is authorised among others:
 - to deviate from these Education and Examination Regulations in individual cases, if strict adherence to these regulations would result in inequitable consequences for the student;
 - to take personal circumstances into account when deciding in accordance with the Rules and Regulations for this study programme.

Such deviations are motivated by the Board of Examiners.

Article 8.5 Date of coming into effect

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

Adopted by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience on May 12, 2026.

APPENDIX TO THE EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS MASTER FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

Appendix 1 Accountability for the language of instruction

The choice for the language of instruction of the **Master Forensic Psychology** is in line with the UM Code of Conduct on language in accordance with the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) art. 7.2. Because of the specific educational nature and profile of the **Master Forensic Psychology**, 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.**

Forensic Psychology is a highly specialized discipline. International collaboration and cooperation are essential to combine expertise within the field. By offering the master's programme in English, international exchange and education is facilitated, exposure to different legal and forensic mental health systems during master courses and internships is facilitated and the Dutch forensic field will benefit from future graduates with international experience.

- **The academic community (including the programme's teaching staff) is internationally oriented.**

The Faculty has naturally grown into an international and diverse community. The international community facilitates the quality of the education and research at our faculty. By offering education in English, we can recruit high quality staff on an international level, and thus be more selective regarding our quality standards for staff members.

The Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience also fosters internationalisation and diversity within the programme. This enables the students to obtain competencies related to communicating with people from various backgrounds and learn about inclusiveness in an international classroom. Offering English education facilitates more diversity within the student population and thus within the Problem Based Learning tutorial groups (PBL). Moreover, given the increasing importance of international research experience in scientific and career development, Students are also encouraged to pursue a challenging internship outside the Netherlands. Staff members can help the students to locate international research groups via their own extensive networks of colleagues throughout the world.

- **The student intake and current population is internationally diverse, and English is the common language.**

In 2025/2026, the students enrolled in the master's programme represented 15 nationalities.