

# **Rules and Regulations**

**Bachelor of Science Programme**

**Circular Engineering**

**2026-2027**

**Maastricht, 29 August 2026**

**Faculty of Science and Engineering**

*BSc Circular Engineering*

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## Section 1 General Provisions

### ARTICLE 1.1 APPLICABILITY OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. These rules and regulations apply to the education, exams and examination for the full-time Bachelor's programme in Circular Engineering of the Maastricht University, Faculty of Science and Engineering, as further defined in the Education and Examination Regulations, hereinafter referred to as EER.
2. The rules and regulations apply to all students who are registered for the Bachelor's programme and to students from other programmes, faculties or institutions of higher education as well as contract students, insofar as they follow components of the programme to which these rules and regulations apply.
3. The rules and regulations are each year adjusted and enacted by the Board of Examiners, in consultation with the programme management.

### ARTICLE 1.2 DEFINITIONS

The definitions used in these rules and regulations are the same as those used in the EER, with the following changes/additions:

- |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Academic staff       | Staff members at the level of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor or Full Professor and lecturers (docent) with a PhD degree.                                                                                                              |
| • Assessment committee | Committee tasked with providing expert advice on assessment                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| • Assessment plan      | Plan describing the assessment of a component                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| • CE                   | Circular Engineering                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| • Exam component       | Part of the exam of a component/course. This can also be a practical or an assignment.                                                                                                                                                          |
| • Force majeure        | events and associated consequences that are abnormal, beyond the control of the student, and where the student had no way of preventing the negative consequences nor were the events and consequences within the sphere of risk of the student |
| • Student portal       | The electronic environment for providing information to students including intranet and Canvas                                                                                                                                                  |
| • Teaching team        | All persons involved in teaching the component                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

### ARTICLE 1.3 APPOINTMENT AND COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

1. The Dean installs the Board of Examiners and appoints its members on the basis of their expertise in the field of the programme. At least one member is a lecturer in the programme.
2. The Board of Examiners contains one member who is not actively involved in the Circular Engineering Bachelor programme.
3. The Board of Examiners appoints a chair from among its members. An external member cannot be the chair.

#### **ARTICLE 1.4 BOARD OF EXAMINERS: DECISION PROCESS**

1. The Board of Examiners approves decisions on the basis of a majority vote.. In the event of a tie, the (acting) chair's vote will be the deciding vote, provided that there are at least three members involved in the discussion.
2. If a conflict of interest might arise if a member of the Board of Examiners is also an examiner in an inquiry into fraud or into an exam, that member will recuse themselves from that inquiry and abstain from voting.
3. If a conflict of interest might arise for a member of the Board of Examiners, if granting a request to a student would have a negative effect for that member, that member will abstain from voting.
4. The Board of Examiners can delegate decision powers to individual members.

#### **ARTICLE 1.5 EXAMINERS**

1. The Board of Examiners appoints at least one responsible examiner per component for administering exams, assessments and/or practicals. This examiner provides the Board of Examiners with the information requested.
2. Examiners must have a University Teaching Qualification (UTQ), unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise.
3. The examiners are responsible for the following tasks:
  - a. defining the assessment plan (see Article 1.7);
  - b. preparing the exam, assessment and/or practical;
  - c. assessing and determining the results of exams, assessments and/or practicals taken by students;
  - d. providing the administration office with all the necessary information to award the exam, assessment and/or practical results;
  - e. determining the time(s) and place(s) for exam/assessment inspection by the student of the assessment of written exams or the notes of oral exams.
4. The examiner can, without losing their full responsibility, have other members of the teaching team perform tasks belonging to an examination component.
5. When performing the tasks for the relevant components as stipulated in paragraph 3, the examiners and members of the teaching teams must observe the Act, the regulations contained within or arising from the EER, and the present Rules and Regulations.
6. The examiners are responsible for providing study information including information on the form of the exam, assessment and/or practical to the students, through the Student Portal in a timely fashion, and at the start of a study component.
7. Examiners are obliged to report fraud or a suspicion of fraud to the Board of Examiners.
8. The Board of Examiners can revoke the appointment of an examiner at any time.

#### **ARTICLE 1.6 ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

The Assessment Committee provides examiners with expert advice on assessment, checks the quality of exams and assessments and checks constructive alignment of courses/components and their assessment. The Assessment Committee reports to the Board of Examiners in all matters regarding quality of assessment.

#### **ARTICLE 1.7 ASSESSMENT PLAN**

The assessment of each course is described in an assessment plan. This plan describes the intended learning outcomes of each course in terms of Dublin descriptors and how they are aligned with the examination. It also describes the assessment procedure for the regular exam and the resit and how the final grade of a course is calculated. If the assessment is different from or additional to a written exam, the assessment plan also indicates how fraud is prevented and detected. Each year the assessment plan needs to be submitted to the Assessment Committee. Minor changes will be approved by the Assessment Committee, major changes by the Director of

Studies and the Chair of the Board of Examiners with advice from the Assessment Committee and the Chair of the Programme Committee. In expediting circumstances, the Board of Examiners can approve changes without consulting others.

#### **ARTICLE 1.8 COMMUNICATION**

1. The Student Portal (including Canvas and UM Intranet), email through UM addresses, and formal letters are the only official forms of communication with students.
2. All course/component information, including course descriptions and exam methods, will be available on the Student Portal two weeks prior to the start of each block (cf. Article 1.5.6).
3. Changes to the course/component information will be posted as announcements in the Student Portal in a timely fashion.
4. Students must regularly check and maintain the Student Portal, UM Intranet and their UM email account. Links given in the Student Portal and UM Intranet to web pages outside the Student Portal do not count as information postings. Forwarding an email to another email address does not count as maintaining the UM email.

### **Section 2 Exams/grading, overall assessment**

#### **ARTICLE 2.1 ASSESSMENTS**

1. Assessments of the components (including skills training, projects and internships) shall be in accordance with section 5 of the EER.
2. The assessment is communicated to students through Student Portal (see Article 1.7).
3. At the start of each component, the students are informed (through the Student Portal and/or email) of the assessment criteria, insofar as these are not contained within or arise from the EER or the present rules and regulations
4. Each exam of a component may contain one item covering material from a previous component, that is not part of the course itself (i.e. a review question). The points earned may be worth a maximum of 10% of the grade.
5. For regular courses, bonus assignments can be given with a maximum of 10% of the grade.
6. Assignments for which a group grade is given, outside projects can be given with a maximum of 30% of the grade.
7. Assessment of components can be non-linear. E.g.: a minimal grade for an exam can be required to obtain an overall passing grade for the component, despite the weighted average of the exam and assignments being a passing grade.

#### **ARTICLE 2.2 GRADING**

Examiners are instructed to grade in accordance with the Dutch grading system (cf. EER article 5.2).

#### **ARTICLE 2.3 BACHELOR'S EXAMINATION**

1. After all examination components have been administered, the results of the examination will be determined by the Board of Examiners.
2. To pass the bachelor examination, the student must:
  - a. Receive a grade of 5.50/10 or higher (before rounding) for all exams/assessments.
  - b. Receive a grade of 5.50/10 or higher (before rounding) for the bachelor's thesis.
3. If a student has studied for a period longer than six years or when doubts are raised by examiners or project coordinators whether the student has achieved certain intended learning outcomes, the Board of Examiners can launch an investigation into whether the

student has mastered all intended learning outcomes, and if not, deny finalizing examination.

#### **ARTICLE 2.4 RESITS**

1. For each written exam there is a resit opportunity.
2. For students that have not been able to participate in the regular examination of exam types other than written exams due to force majeure (Article 3.7 is applicable), the Board of Examiners can grant a replacement opportunity.
3. For projects there are separate regulations, which are included in Article 5.6 of the Project Regulations.
4. In case of a resit the highest grade obtained counts.
5. Once a student successfully passes an exam they cannot re-sit the exam.
6. For resitting separate sub-tests (i.e. written / oral exams) and assignments within a failed exam the following guidelines hold:
  - a. Sub-tests and assignments that were passed within an exam, which was not passed, will lose their validity at the end of the academic year in which they were passed. (See Article 5.10 of the EER)
  - b. The examiner decides upon content and form of the resit, replacement or repair opportunity.
  - c. Only a single resit, replacement or repair opportunity can be offered per academic year, withstanding Article 5.7 of the EER.
  - d. In case subtests/assignments are offered as a resit separately, passed sub-tests and assignments (i.e. 5.50/10 or higher) cannot be resit.
  - e. When computing the grade for the full exam, the highest graded valid opportunity of each sub-test / assignment is taken into account.
  - f. A repair opportunity should always be offered for failed subtests and assignments for which at least a 40% score is obtained, and the student has an overall failing grade. Such an opportunity can be offered in a different way than the original one.
  - g. An examiner can decide to unconditionally offer a single repair opportunity per academic year in an approved assessment plan.
  - h. Resits, replacement and repair opportunities are not offered for bonus assignments.
  - i. The examiner can choose to limit the maximum grade of a repair opportunity. If nothing is specified, the default is that the maximum grade that can be obtained for a repair opportunity is 5.5/10.

#### **ARTICLE 2.5 ASSESSMENT IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES**

1. The assessment in exceptional cases as meant in Article 5.7 of the EER will take place in the last week of the academic year at the latest.
2. Requests for this assessment must be filed by the student to the Board of Examiners within two weeks after becoming eligible for making such request, but no later than the first of July. Given this deadline, it is also possible that the student makes a conditional request in case the student expects to become eligible but has not received their results for all study components yet.
3. Withstanding the minimal requirements in Article 5.7 of the EER, students must argue in their request that they have a reasonable chance of passing this assessment without retaking the course (or have scored a 5 at the last opportunity), and argue that they have taken all possible efforts to pass the component at hand. This involves showing that both exam opportunities have been fully made, including showing that a fair attempt has been made for all exam components such as assignments, essays, etc; or show force majeure for all missed exam components.
4. Components that are offered outside the programme are not eligible for this assessment, and students that are from a different programme are not eligible for this assessment.
5. Assessment in exceptional cases does not apply to projects.
6. Assessment in exceptional cases is only offered once per program.

7. Assessment in exceptional cases does not apply if the delay is caused by invalidation or exclusion of exam (results) due to fraud either directly or indirectly.
8. Assessment in exceptional cases does not apply for premasters, nor for the propaedeutic phase.

#### **ARTICLE 2.6 EXEMPTION FROM EXAMS/ASSESSMENTS**

1. A request for exemption must be submitted in writing with the reason stated to the Board of Examiners. A request must be accompanied with as much written information and evidence regarding the relevant study programme/course elsewhere or work experience such that the Board of Examiners can judge whether the full components have been obtained at, at least, the same level.
2. The Board of Examiners may consult the relevant examiners before making their decision regarding the request.
3. Exemptions cannot be granted for components for which already a result has been issued, irrespective of whether this is a passing, an NG or a failing grade; nor can exemptions be issued for components where the student has been sanctioned for fraud.

#### **ARTICLE 2.7 EXAM RESULTS: AMENDMENT**

Examiners may amend grades once by 0.5 grade points. In special cases, the Board of Examiners may approve additional or larger amendments of the results of an exam determined by one or more examiners.

#### **ARTICLE 2.8 EXAM INSPECTION**

1. The student has, in accordance with Article 5.9 of the EER the right to inspect their evaluated work. The examiner can choose either to:
  - a. organize a collective inspection hour or
  - b. have the students request an appointment within 10 working days after the announcement of the exam results.
2. In the case of a collective inspection hour, there must be room for interaction. In case of a pressing ground for not being able to attend the collective inspection hour (e.g. overlapping classes or pressing medical appointments, but NOT work or holiday), an individual appointment can be requested within the timeframe as stipulated under paragraph 1.b. Collective inspection hours are announced at least 5 days in advance on the Student Portal.

#### **ARTICLE 2.9 GPA**

The GPA is computed as the weighted average score over all exams that are listed as part of the programme and have been originally marked with a Dutch grade on a ten-point scale, taking into account that:

1. an exam for which a failing grade is obtained is also included in the GPA, although no credits are listed on the Student Portal;
2. if more than one grade is listed for an exam, the highest grade is taken into account for the calculation;
3. The GPA computed in the system is in three significant digits and rounded downwards. In each case the GPA is converted to or compared with fewer significant digits, the GPA is rounded downwards;
4. extracurricular courses are not included in the GPA.

## ARTICLE 2.10 CERTIFICATE

1. Students shall be awarded a certificate/diploma for all examinations that they complete successfully, as stipulated in the Higher Education and Research Act.
2. The following predicates may be added to the certificate by the Board of Examiners:
  - a. "cum laude", if the student has received a minimum grade of 6.5 for all exams of the bachelor's overall assessment (included in the GPA computation) at each first exam opportunity, has received a minimum grade of 7.8 for the thesis at first opportunity and has a GPA of 8.00 or higher, and if the overall exams within the programme together represent a minimum of 120 ECTS.
  - b. "summa cum laude", if the student has received a minimum grade of 6.5 for all exams of the bachelor's overall assessment (included in the GPA computation) at each first exam opportunity, has received a minimum grade of 8.8 for the thesis at first opportunity and has a GPA of 9.00 or higher, and if the overall exams within the programme together represent a minimum of 120 ECTS.

As a leniency arrangement, a single grade less than 6.5 for a course at first opportunity (not for the thesis) can be compensated by having a GPA that is at least 0.50 higher than the requirement. This cannot be used to compensate multiple grades less than 6.5, nor failing grades at first opportunity.

3. These predicates can, in special cases, also be awarded at the discretion of the Board of Examiners.
4. Students who committed fraud and/or plagiarism and whose exam, or part thereof, is declared invalid or who have been excluded from exams, are excluded from the (Summa) Cum Laude predicates.
5. First exam opportunity in sub 2 means that all exams must be taken in the academic year of enrolment that corresponds to the course/component year of the exam, and that no earlier exam result exists. The thesis must be defended at the first bachelor conference.

## ARTICLE 2.11 ASSESSMENT BY COMMITTEES

For components that are in principle graded by committees on basis of consensus the following holds if consensus within the committee is not possible:

1. If there is consensus amongst the examiners, that consensus determines the grade.
2. If the grade of the examiners differs by no more than 1 grade point, the average of the grade determines the grade of the component.
3. If the grade of the examiners differs by more than 1 grade point, the median of the grade determines the grade of the component. For this, at least three examiners must be part of the committee. If this is not yet the case, the examiner(s) must contact the Board of Examiners to add an additional examiner to the committee.

## ARTICLE 2.12 ELECTIVES

Withstanding Articles 3.8, 3.10 and 5.3 of the EER,

1. Electives not following the default programme are subject to approval by this Board of Examiners
2. the Board of Examiners will take into account when considering requests for electives
  - a. whether the proposed elective plan is feasible
  - b. whether the proposed electives contribute to the learning goals/qualifications of the programme
  - c. the level of the proposed electives
  - d. whether the proposed electives overlap with other components
  - e. the study progress of the student
  - f. the motivation letter.

3. The Board of Examiners only determines whether it will recognize the credits taken elsewhere and whether the student is allowed to take components outside the programme, not whether the receiving program will accept the student.
4. The deadline for requests for electives are:
  - a. for electives in the fall semester: May 9th of the preceding academic year.
  - b. or electives in the spring semester: November 1st of the academic year.
5. The Board of Examiners can put requests on hold or conditionally approve them, when students do not (yet) meet the requirement as stated in Articles 3.10 and 5.3 of the EER. If an elective is conditionally approved and the student does not meet the requirements before the start of the academic year or the date at which they must definitively register for the elective - whichever comes first - the student must cancel the registration.

#### **ARTICLE 2.13 EXTRACURRICULAR COMPONENTS**

1. Only the components that fit the nominal study of 180 ECTS are curricular.
2. Whether or not to allow extracurricular components is a decision of the education management. If extracurricular components are allowed and taken, it should be made clear to the Board of Examiners beforehand that they will be extracurricular.
3. In case it has not been indicated what the extracurricular components are, and the student has more than 180 ECTS, the chronologically, first components obtained that constitute a valid program are considered the curricular components, the other component(s) the extracurricular ones. If a component can be removed from the program (last first) and while resulting in a valid programme of at least 180 ECTS, that component is considered extracurricular. Failed courses are always included in the GPA calculation (see Article 6.4 of the EER).

### **Section 3 Procedures**

#### **ARTICLE 3.1 EXAMS**

1. Students must register in time for their education, exams and re-sits. If they miss the deadline, they cannot participate in the exam. If exceptional circumstances prevented registering, they are eligible for dispensation from the registration deadline. See also Article 3.7 on Hardship.
2. Students must adhere to the booking instructions for registering and adhere to the booking deadlines.
3. Students can only sit a single exam at a time.
4. In principle all exams (including the thesis defence) are onsite.
5. The programme shall ensure that there is at least one invigilator present during written exams.
6. During written exams, the rules specified by "the Rules of Procedure for Examinations" / "Rules of Procedure for Course Examinations at Maastricht University" apply, in addition to these Rules and Regulations.
7. A student who is denied entrance to the exam (location) will not be awarded any results for the exam in question and therefore receives an NG.
8. The student must follow any instructions given by the Board of Examiners, the examiner and the invigilator at all times.
9. The check whether a student is admissible to the exam, may be performed afterwards. If in that case the student turns out to be inadmissible, the exam is invalidated and remains ungraded.
10. Students will not be admitted to the exam location after the official start of the exam. As soon as a student has left the exam location, they will not be allowed to re-enter the exam location.

11. Students may only participate in an exam if they can provide a valid and undamaged proof of identity (UM card, passport, driver's license), which must be placed on the table so that it is clearly visible. If a student cannot provide proof of identity during the exam, the student can be refused entry and the Board of Examiners will be informed who may declare the student's exam null and void (i.e. label NG).
12. Instructions on how to fill in answer forms of the exam are given on the answer forms or in the exam booklet, or beforehand on student portal. The forms cannot be processed if students ignore these instructions, use different writing devices than instructed, change the details printed on the forms or make notes elsewhere on the answer form. The consequences of not following the instructions are entirely the student's own responsibility. If students suspect that there are inaccuracies, they are to indicate this to the examiner, if present, and otherwise state this on the exam.
13. Students may not use red pens nor pencils for writing text, and must ensure that exams are scannable which also means that they may not attach stickers to exams and may not tear pages.
14. Unless the Board of Examiners has specified elsewhere, the student may not bring any aids into the exam hall and/or use these during the exam. A student who has written permission from the Board of Examiners to use aids must inform the examiner or invigilator present before the start of each exam and must always be able to provide a copy of this document. As an exception to this rule are the aids that are specifically mentioned on the cover sheet and a blue or black pen.
15. Maastricht University is expressly exempt from any liability regarding damage to or loss of aids that have been confiscated.
16. In the event of irregularities and/or fraud, the invigilator informs the student and reports the irregularities and/or fraud in written form. The Board of Examiners will be informed after the exam of any irregularities and violations that took place before, during or after the exam. The Board of Examiners may decide to take further sanctions and/or measures.
17. In the event of irregularities that hinder further proper examining, the invigilator is authorised to confiscate the exam materials including any answer forms and exclude the student from further participation in the exam. The Board of Examiners will be informed after the exam of any irregularities and violations that took place before, during or after the exam. The Board of Examiners may decide to take further sanctions and/or measures.
18. The exam and answer form must be handed in by the official end of the exam or as indicated by the invigilator. Refusal to comply is considered fraud and will, apart from possible sanctions, render the student ineligible for (summa) cum laude predicates. After students have handed in their answer form, they must leave the exam location as quickly and quietly as possible.
19. If the collective testing facilities are used, the rules specified by "the Rules of Procedure for Examinations" / "Rules of Procedure for Course Examinations at Maastricht University" apply, which may be more restrictive.

#### **ARTICLE 3.2 QUOTING AND COPYING CODE**

1. Unless it is clearly specified to the contrary in the assignment/project, it is not allowed to use source code from others (including code generated by artificial intelligence), other sources, or one's own source code from other components.
2. In the case it was explicitly permitted to use code from other sources, one must both
  - a. Indicate using block marking that the code was copied, ensuring that this block marking can be clearly distinguished from other block markings;
  - b. add clearly and unambiguously in the report and/or in the accompanying submission notes which parts of the code contain copied parts and indicate the source as well as the percentage of the code in the file that was copied, such that the examiner is aware that this is not the students work and can decide not to award credit for it.
3. In case that software packages or libraries have been used in a project or in thesis research, these must be clearly indicated in the report or thesis.

4. Do not share your solutions with others nor post them on the internet. If you do, your actions could be considered facilitating fraud and as such fraud in itself (see Article 3.4(1) and Article 3.4(2)).

### **ARTICLE 3.3 USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

1. According to the 'FSE policy framework for the use of generative AI in education' the use of generative artificial intelligence including, but not limited to GPT-x, ChatGPT (Plus) and BARD, in education and examination is allowed, unless the course syllabus states otherwise.
2. By executing this policy, course coordinators have the following options:
  - I. Generative AI is allowed
  - II. Generative AI is allowed only where specified
  - III. Generative AI is not allowed for assessed work
3. For each component of the course examination, the coordinator must select one of the options from paragraph 2. This information must be explicitly stated in the course materials, including requirements for disclosing generative AI use (transparency statement).

### **ARTICLE 3.4 FRAUD INCLUDING PLAGIARISM AND FABRICATING AND/OR FALSIFYING RESEARCH DATA**

In this article - which is related to Article 5.14 of the EER - it is, in accordance with Article 7.12b(3) of the Act explained, how the Board of Examiners acts under Article 7.12b(2) of the Act.

1. The Board of Examiners may impose one of the disciplinary measures set down in paragraph 7 of this article if it establishes that one or more students, in any exam or exam component have committed fraud, including:
  - a. have had any aids/devices, resources, text, software or notes at their disposal, or has used aids and/or (communication) devices that were not explicitly allowed, or that were explicitly forbidden in the exam instructions and/or Rules of Procedures for Exams;
  - b. have communicated or tried to communicate with another student without permission from an invigilator, examiner, or Board of Examiners member;
  - c. have copied or attempted to copy from another student, or have provided the opportunity to copy;
  - d. have collaborated on a graded assignment, paper or practical, whereas this was not explicitly allowed;
  - e. have posed as someone else or let someone else pose as them;
  - f. have misled, or at least attempted to mislead or provided the opportunity to mislead an invigilator, an examiner, a corrector or the Board of Examiners with respect to the exam;
  - g. have used an obfuscation method in submitted work that is likely to have the effect that plagiarism checking tools do not work optimally;
  - h. have disregarded the instructions of the invigilator or the instructions for the exam (component) such that an unfair advantage might have been obtained;
  - i. have performed actions or omissions which make it impossible in whole or in part to properly evaluate their knowledge, understanding and/or skills.
2. The Board of Examiners may impose one of the disciplinary measures set down in paragraph 7 of this article if it establishes that one or more students have committed fraud, including:

- a. have falsified the information on mandatory attendance, participation or effort obligation; or had someone else falsify that information; or has signed off on attendance, participation or effort obligation when it was not (fully) met;
  - b. have falsified exam results;
  - c. have falsely obtained, or attempted to, access to an exam;
  - d. have mislead an examiner relating to exam (components), registration, or grading;
  - e. have facilitated other students to engage in fraud;
  - f. have fabricated and/or falsified survey or interview answers or research data;
  - g. have breached or attempted to breach the security measures around exams.
3. The Board of Examiners may impose one of the disciplinary measures set down in paragraph 7 of this article if it establishes that one or more students have committed plagiarism in any exam, part or component, including:
  - a. using or copying their personal or others' texts (including code), data, ideas, other materials or thoughts without adequate reference to the source;
  - b. presenting the structure or central body of thought from others without adequate reference to the source and thus passing it off as their own;
  - c. not clearly indicating in the text (including code), for example via quotation marks or a certain layout, that verbatim or nearly verbatim quotes have been used;
  - d. paraphrasing the content of their own or others' texts without adequate reference to the source;
  - e. copying video, audio or test material, software and program codes from others without adequate reference to the source and thus passing them off as their own;
  - f. copying work from other students and thus passing it off as their own;
  - g. submitting a text that has been previously been submitted for an different component/module, or is similar to a text that has been previously been submitted by oneself or by others, unless explicitly allowed;
  - h. submitting work or assignments acquired from or written by a third party (whether or not for payment) and thus passing them off as their own;

where in all of these provisions "others" and "third party" does not only refer to people but also to generative artificial intelligence such as GPT-x, ChatGPT (Plus) or BARD. If the use of artificial intelligence is allowed and/or does not have to be disclosed for a specific use, this is explicitly mentioned in the course materials.
4. 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. Also, students are not allowed to make any modifications to the exam. When the exam inspection is virtually, it is not allowed to make screenshots or record the inspection. The Board of Examiners may impose one of the disciplinary measures set down in paragraph 7 of this article if it establishes that a student did not adhere to these rules.
5. In case of fraud / plagiarism in group assignments, all students in the group are in principle responsible for fraud / plagiarism. If it is unambiguously clear that only specific students have committed fraud, only the students in question will receive punitive sanctions, but all are subject to corrective sanctions.
6. In the event that the Board of Examiners suspects that a student has committed fraud in any way, the Board of Examiners shall be entitled to start the following procedure: the (acting) chair of the Board of Examiners opens an inquiry into the established facts, and may call in an expert to do so. After this inquiry has been closed, but within 15 working days after fraud has been reported to the Board of Examiners by the examiner(s), the chair will inform the members of the Board of Examiners, and invite the student and the examiner(s) the opportunity to each state their case. Students may have an adviser accompany them. If the Board of Examiners establishes that a student has committed fraud, the Board will declare the relevant exams/assessment and/or attendance registration null and void (label NG) and can impose a measure as set down in paragraph 7. The Board of Examiners will inform the student involved, the examiner and Office of Student Affairs regarding this measure and the reason on which this measure is based. This procedure shall take place in accordance with Article 7.12b of the Act.

7. In the cases referred to in paragraphs 1 to 6 the Board of Examiners can declare the results of the relevant exam or part in question and/or the attendance registration invalid, as well as impose the following disciplinary measures:
  - a. a reprimand;
  - b. exclusion from participation or further participation in one or more exams in the programme for a period of at most one year;
  - c. in serious cases of fraud, the Board of Examiners can propose to the UM's Executive Board that the student(s) concerned be permanently deregistered from the programme.
8. Repeat offenses of fraud are considered an aggravating circumstance and may result in more severe sanctions. This also includes fraud in components/modules that were taken at other faculties or institutions of higher education. For this reason, UM Boards of Examiners can inform each other if fraud and/or plagiarism has been established in an exam (component) at another faculty.
9. Before the Board of Examiners imposes an appropriate disciplinary measure, or makes a proposal to the Executive Board, the student in question is given the opportunity to be heard.
10. If fraud is established, this is included in the student's dossier and, if applicable for the programme in question, a notice of unprofessional behaviour will be drawn up.
11. If, after investigation, it is ultimately determined that the student concerned did not commit fraud, the names will be removed from the correspondence about the alleged fraud and the correspondence will not be included in the student's dossier.
12. The Board of Examiners does not grant exemptions on the grounds of study results obtained elsewhere while the student was excluded from participating in the programme's exams because fraud was committed.
13. A student who was excluded from participation in exams, or whose exam was declared invalid for a component/module due to fraud, is not eligible for assessment in exceptional cases for those components/modules.

### **ARTICLE 3.5 IRREGULARITY**

If, according to the Board of Examiners, one or more exam components or an entire exam have not been taken in the prescribed manner or if an exam component has not been conducted properly, the Board of Examiners can declare the exam or the relevant component(s) invalid, even in cases when the student is not accountable, in order to secure its legal duty as stated in Article 7.12b (1)(a) of the Act.

### **ARTICLE 3.6 PARTICIPATION**

1. Events that are considered practicals as defined in Article 7.13(2)(t) of the Act, including tutorials, may require active participation. Students are assessed for this element of the practical (assignments) in terms of pass/fail.
2. For participation in an on-line setting, it is required that students are visible on camera, such that participation can be verified.

### **ARTICLE 3.7 HARDSHIP**

In cases where the application of the regulations would lead to manifestly unreasonable results (Article 8.3(2) of the EER), due to personal circumstances, the following applies:

1. The Board of Examiners decides whether circumstances are hardship or not. When students make a request for hardship the student must properly motivate this request and provide proof for the circumstances that have occurred. The request must be filed as soon as possible, but no later than two weeks after the event occurred.
  - a. Without proper proof the claim cannot be taken into consideration. To be clear: An email claiming illness is not considered proof.

- b. If it is possible to avoid a problem from occurring by e.g. requesting to reschedule a meeting, the student is obliged to do so.
- 2. For the Board of Examiners to take a hardship request into consideration, the student must show force majeure for all opportunities. Examples that might be considered as hardship:
  - a. Acute medical care that made it impossible to participate and there was no alternative available.
  - b. Death of a family member in the first degree that made it impossible to participate and there was no alternative available.
- 3. Examples that are not considered hardship:
  - a. Plannable medical care
  - b. Seeking medical care, available in the Netherlands, abroad
  - c. Motivation
  - d. Study delay or financial issues
  - e. Exchange
  - f. Consequences of fraud
- 4. In cases of personal circumstances students are obliged to be proactive and seek help from the study advisor and actively try to mitigate the possible effects.
- 5. Written exams are organised twice per year, which does not imply that the student has the right to have two exam attempts per year. As such, the choice of not taking the first opportunity is to be avoided and bears additional risk.

#### **ARTICLE 3.8 REGISTRATION FOR STUDENTS THAT ARE NOT STUDENTS OF THE PROGRAMME**

- 1. Students that are not students of the programme, i.e. not students of the Bachelor of Science in Circular Engineering, must have received clearance on the prerequisites before the registration deadline and as such, apply for that ultimately six weeks before the registration deadline.
- 2. The registration of students that are not students of the programme is subject to approval by the Board of Examiners of the programme.
- 3. Students not of the programme are not admissible to design projects.
- 4. Withstanding Article 4.2 of the EER, for students that are not of the programme, an additional requirement for following year 1 courses is that they are admissible to the programme.
- 5. There is a limited capacity for students that are not students of the programme.

### **Section 4 Closing provisions**

#### **ARTICLE 4.1 AMENDMENTS**

- 1. Amendments to these rules and regulations shall be determined by the Board of Examiners by means of a separate decision.
- 2. Amendments will in principle not be made to the current academic year, unless it may reasonably be assumed that the interests of the students are not harmed as a result, or when they are necessary to ensure the quality of the exams.

#### **ARTICLE 4.2 ENTRY INTO FORCE**

These rules and regulations shall enter into force as of 1 September 2026 and hold for an academic year or until new Rules and Regulations are published, whichever comes first.

## Section 5 Project regulations

*Project regulations for the Bachelor's programme in Circular Engineering of the Faculty of Science and Engineering at Maastricht University, approved by the Board of Examiners.*

### ARTICLE 5.1 APPLICABILITY OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

These rules and regulations apply to the projects of the Bachelor's programme in Circular Engineering, as further defined in the Education and Examination Regulations, hereinafter referred to as EER. These rules and regulations apply only for a project, not for group assignments within a course.

### ARTICLE 5.2 DEFINITIONS

The definitions stated in Article 1.2 of the EER and in Article 1.2 of these Rules and Regulations apply. In addition, the following definitions apply:

- a. *project*: an education component, as defined in Article 7.13(2)(t) of the Act, where students work in small groups on complex and challenging assignments in order to develop a variety of skills. A project concludes the semesters of year 1 and 2. They are usually group projects, but individual projects may also occur.
- b. *project group*: a small group of students that jointly work on a project. Project groups can also consist of a single member.
- c. *project coordinator*: the person responsible for the management of a project period as a whole;
- d. *project supervisor*: the person(s) responsible for the management and supervision of a project group.
- e. *project manual*: the main study resource for the project. The project manual contains the project assignment.
- f. *project meeting*: an educational activity, as defined in Article 7.13(2)(t) of the Act. Three types of meetings take place during projects:
  - Milestone meetings mark important milestones during the project, incl. project introductions and formal assessment.
  - Progress meetings as regular meetings between the project group and their supervisor(s).
  - Team meetings as *ad hoc* meetings, scheduled by and between members of the project group.
- g. *assignment*: part of the course examination, e.g. team report; presentation, peer assessment.

### ARTICLE 5.3 ORGANIZATION

1. Three professionals supervise the projects: two members of the programme's teaching staff (a project coordinator and internal supervisor) and one member of the research group or company (an external supervisor). However, the role of internal and external supervisor can be combined if a member of the teaching staff offers a project related to their field of research.
  - a) The project coordinator is responsible for:
    - i. collecting and (co-responsible for) defining the nature and scope of the design projects to the required educational level, and available time and resources

- collecting the choice forms and allocating students to teams and projects, taking into account the preferred order of execution
  - overall administration
  - organization of milestone meetings
  - assessment of the design projects
- b) The internal supervisor is responsible for:
    - i. coaching of a project group both at process level as well as content level
    - ii. referring students to qualified people within the organization
    - iii. grading of the project report and presentation
  - c) The external supervisor is responsible for:
    - i. defining the nature and scope of the design project to fit the available time and resources
    - ii. providing relevant background information
    - iii. providing a company or lab tour, a working space and facilities to execute the design project
    - iv. referring students to qualified people within the organization
2. Projects are group work and all students are expected to actively participate. Students whose behaviour is still detrimental after receiving a formal warning can be expelled from the project and receive an NG. They are not allowed to take a project resit.

#### **ARTICLE 5.4 ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

As specified in the project manual, project meetings can be mandatory, requiring on-campus attendance and participation. Missing a meeting means failure to be present during part of or the complete meeting, inadequate participation or inadequately completing the assignments. For project meetings, the project supervisor(s) or project coordinator decides whether a student missed it or not. The consequence of missing mandatory meetings is specified in the project manual.

#### **ARTICLE 5.5 PROJECT GRADE**

1. The project group is graded by means of a team report, team presentation and individual / peer assessment, unless stated otherwise in the project manual.
2. Failure to hand-in or participate in an assignment results in a NG for the course.
3. Assessment requirements will be listed in the project manual or on the Student Portal.
4. The project grade is on a scale from 1 to 10.
5. The grades of the team report and presentation are shared among its team members. The project examiners may deviate (positively or negatively) from the group grade and issue an individual grade for students, if participation and cooperation within a group has not been homogeneous.
6. The team report and presentation are assessed by the internal supervisor.
7. The internal supervisor can choose to use peer assessment for adjusting individual grades.

#### **ARTICLE 5.6 RESITS**

The resit is a repair opportunity. Repair opportunities can be individual or on a group level, where changes will be permitted to the composition of the original project group. Students who were expelled from the project or did not receive a grade in the current academic year are not allowed to take the project resit. A repair opportunity will only be offered if the grade is 4.0 or more (hence an NG is ineligible for a resit) to ensure that a student has obtained sufficient practical training.

If students fail the team report, an additional assignment has to be completed involving an extension or adaptation to the project within one month after the original deadline. This is to be executed without additional coaching and evaluated on the aspects that were unsatisfactory using the same report evaluation form. Student(s) will receive the resit assignment from the examiners

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within 5 working days after publication of the grade. If students fail the team presentation, they need to present a second time within one month after the original deadline and incorporate the feedback received. They are assessed using the same presentation evaluation form. Finally, in exceptional cases if students fail the individual / peer review assessment, they need to redo the entire project as it is impossible to assess performance any other way.

#### **ARTICLE 5.7    HARDSHIP**

The Board of Examiners can excuse students from the participation in project meetings in individual cases due to personal circumstances and can offer repair opportunities for the project as a whole. The student must in such cases prove force majeure for all mandatory meeting that the student missed, see also Article 3.7 of the Rules and Regulations. Deviation from the group grade is possible in such cases. The Board of Examiners can also grant resits for projects in special circumstances. Since the project is an onsite group activity, students must be within commuting distance from Maastricht during each project activity.

## Section 6 Thesis regulations

*Thesis regulations for the Bachelor's programme in Circular Engineering of Maastricht University, approved by the Board of Examiners.*

### ARTICLE 6.1 APPLICABILITY OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

This section describes the rules and regulations specific to the Bachelor's thesis for the Bachelor's programme in Circular Engineering, withstanding the Education and Examination Regulations, hereinafter referred to as EERs.

### ARTICLE 6.2 THESIS EXAMINER: APPOINTMENT

The Board of Examiners shall appoint two thesis examiners for every student, in consultation with the student and the proposed thesis examiners. One of these thesis examiners takes the role of thesis supervisor. The thesis examiners must be members of the academic staff of the programme and CE and must hold a doctoral degree in a field relevant for the objectives of the programme and adhere to the conditions in Article 1.5. The Board of Examiners can appoint, under conditions, a postdoctoral researcher as a second examiner as part of a training programme.

### ARTICLE 6.3 THESIS PLAN

1. Before the student starts his/her/their thesis, the student has to set up a written thesis plan, using the appropriate form, in consultation with and consent from the thesis examiners. The use of the most recent form provided by the Board of Examiners is mandatory.
2. The student must adhere to the deadline for the submission of the thesis plan.
3. The thesis plan needs approval of the Board of Examiners before the thesis work can start.
4. The student must qualify according to the requirements in Article 5.3 of the EER at the time of submission of the plan. The Board of Examiners can decide to grant conditional approval in case there is a reasonable expectancy that the student will qualify within 3 weeks from the deadline.
5. In principle there should be no confidentiality agreement covering the thesis or thesis work, and any confidentiality agreement that might be there in very exceptional circumstances, is subject to approval by the legal department, the program director and the Board of Examiners, and must be signed by an authorized person.

### ARTICLE 6.4 THESIS EXAMINERS: TASKS

The thesis examiners are responsible for checking the validity of the thesis plan, ensuring it is aligned with the objectives of the programme and establishing that the required academic level is obtained. The examiners are responsible for composing an ad hoc assessment committee as described in Article 6.7, grading the thesis, and for filling out an assessment form. The examiners are also responsible for conducting a plagiarism check on the final version of the thesis.

### ARTICLE 6.5 THESIS SUPERVISOR: TASKS

The thesis supervisor is responsible for advising the student while she/he/they is working on the thesis about thesis activities and products and for establishing that the required academic level is obtained. If the thesis is conducted as an internship at an external organisation, the thesis supervisor needs to maintain contact with the daily supervisor at the internship organisation. Supervision cannot be done by a third party.

## **ARTICLE 6.6 THESIS MANUSCRIPT**

The requirements for the thesis manuscript are published on student portal. The thesis is an individual work.

## **ARTICLE 6.7 THESIS ASSESSMENT**

1. The Bachelor's thesis must be presented at the Bachelor's Conference. This withstanding, if the examiners determine that the thesis is of insufficient quality, incomplete or not according to instructions, they can refuse a student access to the Bachelor's conference and as a consequence an NG will be awarded. Access to the Bachelor's conference does not imply a passing grade.
2. There will be no individual thesis presentation outside this conference without permission of the Board of Examiners.
3. The student must be physically present at this Bachelor Conference.
4. After the presentation the final grade of the thesis will be determined. The assessment of the thesis must be done by an ad hoc committee, which consists of at least the thesis examiners. If the thesis is conducted in an external collaboration, the assessment committee also includes the daily supervisor from the internship organisation.
5. Grading is done by the examiners on the basis of consensus reached in the ad hoc assessment committee (See Article 2.11 of the Rules and Regulations) at the thesis conference, unless is decided otherwise by the Board of Examiners. The assessment form is handed in by the examiners to the education office within 5 working days after grading.

## **ARTICLE 6.8 START OF THESIS AFTER APPROVAL OF THESIS PLAN**

1. The student must wait until the Board of Examiners has approved the written thesis plan as referred to in Article 6.3 before starting the thesis. A thesis plan must be approved by the thesis examiners before it is offered to the Board of Examiners. The Board of Examiners assesses the plan on the formal requirements and on the basis of the academic level of the research proposal, feasibility and whether it is in line with the learning goals of the programme (if applicable, after seeking advice from staff members with relevant expertise). The deadlines for submitting the bachelor thesis plan are communicated on Student Portal.
2. If a student has started without prior approval of the Board of Examiners, the thesis research can be nullified and the student will have to start a new thesis on another topic in the semester thereafter.
3. During periods where the student is suspended from all exams due to fraud, the thesis is put on hold and there shall be no thesis supervision during said period.

## **ARTICLE 6.9 RESIT**

Students are required to present at the regular Bachelor's conference indicated on the thesis plan. If a student fails to do so, the result of that conference is NG and the student gets one opportunity to defend his/her/their work at the resit Bachelor's conference in the same semester. If the student does not participate at and/or does not pass any of those two conferences, the student must select a new topic with associated examiners and submit a new thesis plan.