

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

2021-2022

Master Theology | Groningen
CROHO 60264

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Disclaimer:

Although every care has been taken to translate the texts of the Dutch regulations accurately, the original text in Dutch is binding in any case of contradiction or difference in interpretation.

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PART 1 – GENERAL

Section 1 - General Provisions

Article 1.1 – Applicability of the Regulations

1. These Regulations apply to the initial Master's degree programmes provided at the Protestant Theological University (PThU). The Regulations set out the applicable procedures, rights and obligations with regard to teaching, examinations and final assessments.
Part 1 (General) of these Regulations contains provisions that apply to all university degree programmes, insofar as the provisions of Part 2 do not explicitly deviate from this;
Part 2 (Programme-specific) contains specific provisions for each degree programme.
2. Furthermore, these Regulations apply to the course-based and self-study education that the University offers in the context of the bridging programme ('Pre-Master's programme; see also Article 9.2 of these Regulations), insofar as the nature of this education does not preclude this.
3. The Teaching and Examination Regulations are established or amended by the University's Executive Board after the Board of Examiners has issued its advice and the Programme Committee or the University Council respectively have approved or advised on them.

Article 1.2 – Definitions

1. In these Regulations, the following definitions apply:
 - a. Examination Appeals Board (CoBeX): the board as referred to in Article 5.9 of the University Board Regulations;
 - b. Course: a unit of study consisting of a coherent programme of lectures, research, practical exercises, preparation time, study time or a combination of these, concluded with an examination that counts as a final assessment component;
 - c. ECTS: European Credit Transfer System; unit in which the study load of a course unit is expressed; one credit is equivalent to an ECTS credit; an ECTS credit is equal to 28 hours of study;
 - d. EEA: European Economic Area. All countries of the European Union, Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland belong to the EEA;
 - e. Final assessment: the final assessment for the Master's degree programme consisting of final assessment components; once all these components have been passed, the requirements of the entire Master's degree programme have been satisfied;
 - f. Board of Examiners: the body that determines objectively and expertly whether a student meets the conditions set by the Teaching and Examination Regulations with regard to the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to obtain a degree. The Board of Examiners appoints the examiners and monitors the quality of the examinations and final assessments (in accordance with Article 5.8 of the University Board Regulations and Article 7.12 of the Higher Education and Research Act). In these Teaching and Examination Regulations, the Board of Examiners refers to the Board of Examiners of the PThU Master's degree programmes;
 - g. Final assessment component: the examinations for the units of study for the Master's degree programme, within the meaning of Article 7.10 of the Act;
 - h. Examiner: the person appointed by the Board of Examiners to conduct examinations and determine the result thereof. If several lecturers are involved in a final assessment component, the coordinating lecturer is the point of contact on behalf of the team;
 - i. Course catalogue: database with course descriptions, which is generally accessible via the website, setting out the details for each course such as study load in ECTS, content, form, learning objectives, any applicable entry requirements and the method of examination;
 - j. Programme Committee: consultative and advisory body for the Executive Board (pursuant to Article 5.6 of the university's administrative regulations). In these

- Teaching and Examination Regulations, Programme Committee refers to the PThU Master's Programme Committee;
- k. Osiris Student: the part of the Osiris student information system that students have access to with a view to registering for courses, viewing results, managing their address details, etc.
 - l. Semester: part of the academic year, starting on 1 September 2021 and ending on 4 February 2022, or starting on 7 February 2022 and ending on 31 August 2022;
 - m. Student: a person registered at the university for the purpose of taking a degree programme and/or examinations and a final assessment;
 - n. Studentnet: the private part of the university's website where specific information about the degree programme and study-related matters is described;
 - o. Examination: an examination into the knowledge, understanding, attitude and skills of the examinee in relation to a specific course or part thereof, as well as the assessment of the results of that examination. As well as written examinations, this also includes all other forms of testing (papers, essays, reflection reports, assignments, presentations, etc.). An examination can be made up of partial examinations (partial tests);
 - p. Thesis or Master's thesis: Master's thesis;
 - q. Admissions Board: the board charged with assessing a student's admissibility to one of the Master's programmes provided by the university;
 - r. University: the Protestant Theological University;
 - s. Language of instruction: the language in which the programme is taught and the language in which the examinations and tests are set;
 - t. Pass/fail: these terms are equivalent to 'pass'/'fail' as used in the Act;
 - u. The Act: the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (WHW).
2. The other terms will have the meaning that the Act ascribes to them.
3. Where in these Teaching and Examination Regulations reference is made to he/him this shall also mean she/her.

Section 2 – The Structure of the Degree Programmes

Article 2.1 – The degree programmes

1. The following Master's degree programmes are provided at the university's Groningen site:
 - a. Theology (Dutch: Master Verdieping) (60 ECTS);
 - b. Ministry (Dutch: Master Predikantschap) (180 ECTS).
2. The following Master's degree programme is provided at the university's Amsterdam site:
 - a. Congregational Ministry (Dutch: Master Gemeentepredikant) (180 ECTS).

Article 2.2 – Objective of the degree programmes

The degree programmes aim to educate students scientifically by imparting knowledge, understanding, skills and attitude aspects in the field of the relevant programme and thereby prepare them for their further (study) career.

Article 2.3 – Degree programme variants (full-time/part-time)

1. The degree programme referred to in Article 2.1 has both full-time and part-time variants.

Article 2.4 Language of instruction

1. The following programmes are, in principle, provided in Dutch:
 - a. Ministry;
 - b. Congregational Ministry
2. The following programme is, in principle, provided in English:
 - a. Theology

3. The English language may be used for certain course units if the nature of the teaching or the origins of the students or lecturers give a reason for doing so. This is especially the case in the Ministry programme (Groningen, Article 2.1(1b)) insofar as these students are taught together with the Master of Theology students (Article 2.1(1a)). When determining the language of instruction, the PThU Code of Conduct for Language of Instruction adopted by the Executive Board will apply.

Article 2.5 – English, German and Dutch language requirements

1. Sufficient proficiency in English is required for participation in the course and tests and/or examinations for the programme as referred to in Article 2.1(1a), as set out in the programme-specific part of the relevant degree programme.
2. For participation in courses and tests and/or examinations for the degree programmes referred to in Article 2.1(1b) and Article 2.1(2):
 - a. student presumed to have sufficient proficiency in English;
 - b. sufficient proficiency in Dutch is required.
3. Students are presumed to have a passive command of German for participation in the course and examinations for the degree programmes as referred to in Article 2.1(1b) and Article 2.1(2).
4. If a student apparently has insufficient command of German, the lecturer may prescribe alternative study material in Dutch or English.

Article 2.6 – Evaluation method

The teaching is evaluated through internal and external quality cycles, in accordance with the "Kwaliteitsbeleid onderwijs Protestantse Theologische Universiteit (PThU)" (i.e. the PThU Education Quality Policy), as published on the university's website.

Section 3 - Admission

Article 3.1 – Entry requirements

1. Persons who meet the entry requirements set by or pursuant to the Act and the quality entry requirements set by the Executive Board will be admitted to the appropriate degree programmes.
2. The entry requirements set by or pursuant to the Act as referred to in paragraph 1 are:
 - a. possession of a university Bachelor's degree, or
 - b. knowledge, understanding and skills at the level of a university Bachelor's degree.
3. The requirement referred to in paragraph 2b is met by a person:
 - a. who possesses a University of Applied Sciences Bachelor's degree in Theology and has successfully completed the determined bridging programme, or
 - b. who is in possession of a degree certificate from a study programme at a higher education institution abroad – with the exception of the EEA and Switzerland – which the Admissions Board has determined equivalent to a university Bachelor's degree as referred to in paragraph 2a and obtained a minimum score of 79/80 (TOEFL Internet Based Test) or 6.0 (IELTS) for the English language test or a similar result for a comparable test.
4. The quality entry requirements for the Master's programmes are listed in the appendix to the relevant programme-specific part of these Regulations.

Article 3.2 – Admission procedure and registration

1. The degree programme Admissions Board is responsible for admissions to the degree programme. The procedure followed by the Admissions Board is laid down in the PThU Admissions Board Regulations.
2. With a view to admission to the degree programme, the Admissions Board determines whether the candidate meets the admission requirements as referred to in Article 3.1. In its consideration, the committee takes into account the candidate's knowledge of the teaching language.
3. Students who do not meet the entry requirements as referred to in Article 3.1 are not admitted until they demonstrably meet these requirements. To enable students to meet the entry requirement as referred to in Article 3.1(2b) and the quality entry requirements, the University offers a bridging programme, which is included in the programme-specific part of these Regulations.
4. Admission is granted subject to the candidate meeting the requirements referred to in Article 3.1, as evidenced by certificates of the courses he has completed by the start date of the relevant degree programme.
5. An application to be admitted to the degree programme must be submitted to the Admissions Board before 1 May (enrolment as from 1 September). In special cases, the Admissions Board may consider an application submitted after this closing date.
6. The candidate will receive an admission decision. It is possible to appeal against the decision to the Examination Appeals Board, insofar as it is not a decision of general application (as determined in Article 4(c) and (d) of the Examinations Appeals Board Rules of Procedure).
7. The admission decision includes any conditions attached to admission.
8. An admission decision only applies to the degree programme for which it was issued, under the conditions set out in the decision. The Admissions Board determines whether these conditions have been met, but may also delegate this.
9. Unless the Rector decides otherwise at the request of the Admissions Board, registration for the degree programmes can take place on 1 September only.

Section 4 – Courses, Examinations and Final Assessment

Article 4.1 - Available Courses

1. The available courses consists of the compulsory final assessment components as included in the appendices to the programme-specific parts of these Regulations and the elective components.
2. At the start of the academic year at the latest, a course description will be included in the Course Catalogue for each component of the degree programme stating, at least, the study load in ECTS, content, form, learning objectives, any applicable entry requirements, any applicable compulsory attendance, the weighting of any partial examinations and the method of examination (tests).
3. A course description also provides differentiated insight into how the study load of the course and its components is calculated.

Article 4.2 – Registration for final assessment components

1. Students must register for each course separately via Osiris Student.
2. Only students who are registered for a course are entitled to supervision by the lecturer(s) concerned and to admission to the lectures, the lecture-related activities, and the digital educational environment and the examinations and/or resits for the relevant course.
3. Registration is to take place in good time, during the designated registration periods prior to the relevant lecture period. The University will inform students of the registration deadlines in good time.
4. If special circumstances as referred to in Article 7.51(2) of the Act give reason to do so, the Student Affairs Office may, in consultation with the Study Advisor, if

necessary, register a student for a course outside the registration periods referred to in the preceding paragraph.

Article 4.3 – Attendance requirement

1. If a student is absent for more than 20% of the contact hours of a course without valid reason, the examiner may set a suitable alternative assignment at their discretion and depending on the importance of the contact hours for the assessment. This must be stated in advance in the course description included in the Course Catalogue.
2. If a student is absent for more than 30% of the contact hours of a course without valid reason, the examiner may, at his discretion and depending on the importance of the contact hours for the assessment, exclude him from the remaining lectures, assignments and (partial) examinations for the course. This must be stated in advance in the course description included in the Course Catalogue.
3. Due to the specific nature of the course in relation to the assessment, 100% attendance is compulsory for the following course components:
 - a. Master of Congregational Ministry (Amsterdam) and Master of Ministry (Groningen), the following courses:
 - The two training courses relating to 'Theological Existence'
 - The training courses relating to the six thematic fields
 - The training relating to 'Master's thesis I'
 - The supervision meetings relating to the six thematic fields
 - b. Master of Theology (Groningen): none.

If a student is absent during contact hours of one of these courses without valid reason, the examiner may - at his discretion and depending on the importance of the contact hours for the assessment - give him a suitable alternative assignment or exclude him from participation in the remaining lectures, assignments and (partial) examinations for the course; or suspend the final assessment of this component until a subsequent training course has been completed.

4. In paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, 'valid reason' means that:

- a. there are demonstrable special circumstances as referred to in Article 7.51(2) of the Act, and
- b. the student has reported this to the examiner without delay.

If there is 'valid reason', the examiner may interpret the alternative assignment referred to in paragraph 1 differently, in favour of the student, or turn the exclusion referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 into an alternative assignment or (in paragraph 3) suspension until the training has been completed.

Article 4.4 – Form of examinations

1. Courses are concluded with an examination.
2. a. If an examination consists of two or more partial examinations, as a rule, at least one partial examination is written;
b. In principle, no partial examinations are taken in the thematic fields with a view to interim summative assessment.
3. The form of the examination corresponds with the course objectives.
4. Oral examinations are taken in the presence of at least one other examiner, unless a complete audio recording of the examination is made. The audio recording and the interview report are archived in the test file at the University.
5. Unless the Board of Examiners has decided otherwise, only one oral examination is conducted at once.
6. With the exception of the thesis defence, oral examinations are not public, unless the Board of Examiners has determined otherwise or the student has successfully lodged an appeal against this with the Board of Examiners.
7. Before the start of the academic year, the manner in which the examination will take place will be published for each course in the course description included in the Course Catalogue. Examination requirements are known at the start of the course.

- Only in exceptional cases are lecturers allowed to deviate from the form of the examination – per student group or examination moment – without prejudice to the provisions of paragraphs 2 to 6 above with regard to the form.
8. In principle, the Board of Examiners offers students with a disability the opportunity to take examinations in a manner that is adapted to their individual handicap (see also Article 6.1). The Board of Examiners may seek expert advice before making a decision on this.
 9. In exceptional cases, the Board of Examiners may allow individual students to take an examination in a way other than set out in the Course Catalogue. This permission is granted at the request of the student and following consultation with the examiner(s) concerned.
 10. Within the framework of the provisions in these Regulations with regard to examinations and the form of examinations, the Rules and Guidelines laid down by the Board of Examiners as referred to in Article 7.12b of the Act also apply.

Article 4.5a – Registration for examinations and resits (Master's degree programmes)

1. A maximum of two opportunities applies to each (partial) examination i.e. (1) the regular (partial) exam and (2) one resit, subject to the provisions of paragraphs 7 and 8. The provisions of Article 4.7(4) apply to these two opportunities.
2. At the student's request, the Board of Examiners may, on the grounds of exceptional circumstances as referred to in Article 7.51(2) of the Act, decide to deviate from the provisions of paragraph 1 by granting a third examination opportunity. The student must report the aforementioned circumstances to the examiner and the Study Advisor without delay.
 3. If a student does not participate in the regular examination, without the permission of the Board of Examiners as referred to in paragraph 2, his right to the first opportunity will lapse; the right to a resit remains in effect however, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 4.7(4).
4. A resit has the same substantive requirements as the regular examination. For deviations from the form of resit examinations, see Article 4.4(7-9).
5. Students who have registered for a course do not have to register separately for the regular (partial) examination. The final oral examination is excluded from this provision, in accordance with the provisions of the programme-specific part of these Regulations, Article 10.1(2).
6. Students register for the resit by contacting the examiner no later than two weeks before the relevant resit period. For a resit in August, the registration period is no later than one week after receipt of the examination results for period 4.
7. If a student chooses to take a regular examination (first opportunity) in August for a course consisting of a literature package, the Master's thesis, the oral final examination, or a course that is followed in self-study, he will not be eligible to take a resit. The provisions of 4.7 (4 and 5) apply here in full.
8. For the 'Theological Existence' final assessment components, the six thematic fields and 'Master's thesis I', the number of examination opportunities is limited to one per academic year insofar as re-taking a course, training or internship is required for a resit, such at the discretion of the examiner(s). The examiners include this aspect in their communication of the study results to the students.

Article 4.5b – Registration for examinations and resits (Pre-Master)

1. There is a maximum of two opportunities for each (partial) examination: a first opportunity and a resit. The provisions of Article 4.7(4) apply to these two opportunities.
2. At the student's request, the Board of Examiners may decide to deviate from the provisions of paragraph 1 on the grounds of exceptional circumstances as referred to in Article 7.51(2) of the Act. The student must report these circumstances without delay to the examiner and the Study Advisor of the Pre-Master's programme.

3. The same substantive requirements apply for the resit as for the first opportunity. For deviations from the form for resits, see Article 4.4(7-9).
4. Students must register no later than three weeks before the relevant examination, in the manner communicated by the University.

Article 4.6 – Sequence of examinations

1. a. Final assessment components can be taken once the entry requirements have been met. The entry requirements are set out in the programme-specific part of these Regulations.
b. In addition, specific entry requirements can be set in the seminars (electives) and in the Pre-Master's programmes. These are listed in the course descriptions included in the Course Catalogue.
2. An entry requirement is understood to mean:
 - a. a final assessment component, or a part of the study programme consisting of several final assessment components, which must have been completed with a satisfactory result; or
 - b. a final assessment component or part of a course in which the student must have participated.
3. The Board of Examiners may decide to deviate from the established entry requirements on the grounds of compelling circumstances.

Article 4.7 – Examination frequency and periods

1. Unless otherwise stipulated in the programme-specific part of these Regulations, an opportunity to take examinations is given three times within an academic year on set dates for each component.
2. a. The dates on which the examinations or resits will take place are published in the timetables – except for courses consisting of literature packages and (for students following a transition programme) final oral examinations. Place and time will be published at the start of the course, at the latest.
b. Examination opportunities are in principle taken on the dates shown in the timetable. The third opportunity is reserved for taking a third examination opportunity, as stipulated in Art. 4.5A(2) and Art. 4.5b(2).
3. In principle, the predetermined dates will not be deviated from unless:
 - a. Permission has been granted by the Board of Examiners;
 - b. Student(s) and lecturer agree in good consultation and by mutual consent to arrange a second or third examination opportunity, or a first examination opportunity after re-registration (as referred to in paragraph 5), earlier than the scheduled time. In case of deviation from the scheduled date, the examination moment must be planned in such a way that sufficient time remains between the various examination opportunities.
4. An examination to conclude a course must be taken at the end of the academic year at the latest.
5. If the term referred to in paragraph 4 has been exceeded, the student must re-register for the course. In that case, the following applies:
 - a. the examination requirements apply that apply at the time of re-registration, unless the Board of Examiners allows otherwise as a result of a curriculum change or on the grounds of a motivated request from the student;
 - b. the examiner, at the request of the student and in principle on educational grounds, decides whether previously sufficiently completed components (partial tests) must be taken again and to what extent the attendance obligation applies to this student.

Article 4.8 – Assessment and right of inspection

1. The result of a (partial) examination will be announced to the student and to the Student Affairs Office within 10 working days after taking or submitting the (partial) examination. This period can be extended by 10 working days if special circumstances

- give reason to do so. The examiner will immediately inform the student and the Student Affairs Office of any such extension referred to in the previous sentence.
2. a. Marks are awarded on a scale of 1 to 10 with no more than one decimal place;
b. Contrary to paragraph a., the thematic fields do not work with decimal points but with whole and half points (...; 5; 5.5; 6; 6.5; 7; 7.5; ...);
c. The final assessment of a course is pass or fail:
- 5.5 or higher: pass,
- lower than 5.5: fail.
 3. For partial examinations, the boundary between pass and fail as defined in paragraph 2c applies. If all partial examinations must be passed in order to pass the course, this will be stated in advance in the course description included in the Course Catalogue.
 4. In addition to numerical results, the following ratings are also used:
 - a student who is registered for a course and has not participated in any test component will receive an ND (Did Not Participate, in Dutch; ND=Niet Deelgenomen);
 - b. the student who is registered for a course but has not participated in all test components will be given an NVD (Fail, in Dutch: NVD = Niet VolDaan);
 - c. if the student has passed a component, but does not receive a mark for it, the student can be awarded a V (Pass, in Dutch: V = Voldaan) as a result;
 - d. a student who has been granted an exemption by the Board of Examiners will receive a VR (Exemption, in Dutch: VR = Vrijstelling);
 - e. if fraud has been detected by the Board of Examiners, the student may be given a FR (Fraud, in Dutch: FR = Fraude) as result.
 5. Study results obtained at an institution abroad are generally shown in the study progress overview with the designation V (Pass).
 6. Once a course has been completed with a satisfactory result, resits are only possible with approval from the Board of Examiners. Resits of successfully completed courses are not permitted for the following final assessment components:
 - a. Theological Existence
 - b. The six thematic fields.
 7. If a resit is taken, only the last obtained result counts as the result for the examination.
 8. For at least six weeks after the announcement of the result of a written examination, the student may inspect his assessed work on request. At his request, he will also be provided with a copy of that work.
 9. During the period referred to in paragraph eight, any interested party can take cognizance of the questions and assignments in the examination concerned, as well as of the standards on which the assessment was based.
 10. Students are entitled to feedback on assignments and examinations they have completed.
 11. If a dispute arises between the student and examiner concerned about the assessment of an examination, the student has the right to submit a request for revision of the decision to the Examination Appeals Board. To this end, he shall submit a written request to the secretary of the said Board. The Examination Appeals Board Rules of Procedure apply to the handling of such requests.

Article 4.9 – Validity

1. Passed final assessment components generally remain valid indefinitely.
2. Contrary to the provisions of paragraph 1, the Board of Examiners may limit the period of validity of specific final assessment components if a student's knowledge, understanding or skills are demonstrably outdated.
3. If the validity of final assessment components is limited by the Board of Examiners, the validity of exemptions granted for these final assessment components (or parts thereof) will be limited in the same way.

Article 4.10 – Exemptions

1. At a student's request, the Board of Examiners, having discussed the matter with the examiner in question, may grant exemption from an examination or part thereof, upon stating the grounds for such a decision and on condition that the student:
 - a. either has completed a component of a university Master's degree programme corresponding in terms of content, scope and level; or
 - b. can demonstrate through relevant work or professional experience that they have sufficient knowledge and skills in terms of content, level and time investment with regard to the learning outcomes of the course concerned.
2. The following additional provisions apply to the decision whether or not to grant exemptions in the Master of Ministry and Master of Congregational Ministry degree programmes:
 - a. In principle, no exemption is granted for the 'Theological Existence' component.
 - b. The Board of Examiners may grant partial exemption for a thematic field, provided that:
 - the remaining course continues to form a coherent whole that is practicable and feasible;
 - in its decision, the Board of Examiners takes into account a recommendation from the coordinator of the relevant thematic field;
 - the student follows at least two thematic fields in full.
 - c. The Board of Examiners may grant an exemption for an entire thematic field, provided that:
 - the student, as is evident from his prior education, supplemented with relevant internship/work experience, meets the learning objectives of the relevant thematic field;
 - as a result, the student will not incur any gaps with regard to the educational requirements as provided in ordinance 13-1 (church order Protestant Church in the Netherlands);
 - the Board of Examiners sought advice from the coordinator of the relevant thematic field in advance;
 - the student follows at least two thematic fields in full.
 - d. No exemption is granted for the 'Master's thesis II' component, except on the grounds of a successfully defended theological dissertation.
 - e. If a student has completed an accredited university Master's programme in Theology of 60 ECTS, he will, in principle, be granted an exemption for:
 - two courses in the basic semester (2 x 6 ECTS), but not 'Theological Existence'
 - the elective courses (30 ECTS)
 - 'Master's thesis I' (15 ECTS), with the exception of the related training.
 However, if the student chooses to specialise in a research group other than the specialisation of his previous study programme, no exemption will be granted for 'Master's thesis I'
 - f. If a student has completed a university Master's programme in Theology worth 120 ECTS the exemption framework set out in paragraph 2e, at least, will apply. The Board of Examiners may, if previous qualifications provide grounds for such, grant additional exemptions, but not for the components 'Theological Existence' and 'Master's thesis II'.
 - g. If the previous qualifications were obtained abroad, the Board of Examiners will decide whether the standard can be considered comparable to a Dutch, accredited university Master's programme.
3. The following additional provisions apply to the decision whether or not to grant exemptions in the Master of Theology degree programme (60 ECTS):
 - a. No exemption is granted for the 'Master's thesis II' component, except on the grounds of a successfully defended theological dissertation.
 - b. If a student has completed a university Master's degree in Theology elsewhere, he will, in principle, be granted exemptions for a maximum of 15 ECTS.

- c. If the previous qualifications were obtained abroad, the Board of Examiners will decide whether the standard can be considered comparable to a Dutch, accredited university Master's programme.
4. A request for exemption must be submitted to the Board of Examiners in writing, accompanied by the relevant documentation and reasoned.
5. If necessary, the Board of Examiners determines how previously granted exemptions relating to a former Master's degree programme should be translated into exemptions in the new programme. The Board will endeavour to determine equivalent exemptions in terms of content and credits.
6. Previously granted exemptions from the preparatory components of the old thesis track (method course, specialisation course, literature study) are translated into exemption for the component 'Master's thesis I' (based on specialisation within the same department). If the student had an exemption for 10 ECTS literature study, 5 ECTS of this can be included in the elective courses.

Article 4.11 – Final oral examination

1. The Master's degree programmes provided at the University are, in principle, concluded with a final oral examination.
2. In principle, this final oral examination is the public defence of the Master's thesis (the 'Master's thesis II' final assessment component). In the Ministry and Congregational Ministry degree programmes, this may be deviated from in the following cases:
 - a. Students who, on the basis of a transitional arrangement, conclude their curriculum with one of the thematic fields, elective courses, or a 'Vision of church office (final interview)', as set out in the examination programmes in Appendix 2;
 - b. Students who, on the basis of an individual examination programme determined by the Board of Examiners, conclude their curriculum with a final assessment component other than 'Master's thesis II';
 - c. Students who participate in the Research Programme and on that basis do their thesis at the end of the fourth semester (full-time) and complete the Master's programme with one of the thematic fields (see Research Programme appendix).
3. It is possible to deviate from the public nature of the Master's thesis to be defended if, on the grounds of a transitional arrangement, students complete their Master's thesis more than two months before the scheduled thesis week shown in the examination programmes in Appendix 2, or on the grounds of an individual examination programme, determined by the Board of Examiners.

Article 4.12 – Examination

1. The final assessment will have been completed as soon as the student has successfully completed all the required course units.
2. Contrary to paragraph 1, the Board of Examiners may itself conduct an examination into the student's knowledge, understanding and skills with regard to one or more components or competencies of the degree programme, as referred to in Article 7.10(2) of the Act.
3. When the Board of Examiners has determined the result of the final assessment, the student will receive a certificate and a diploma supplement, including a list of marks. A graduation statement can be issued in advance of the certificate being awarded. Further provisions regarding the award of the certificate and/or the graduation statement are included in the programme-specific part of these Regulations.

Article 4.13 – Degree

1. Students who have satisfied all the requirements of the final assessment will be awarded the degree of 'Master of Arts' by the Executive Board.
2. The degree awarded will be noted on the degree certificate.

Article 4.14 – Honours

1. The following honours predicates may be awarded:

- a. 'Cum laude'
 - b. 'Bene meritum'
 - c. 'Pass'
2. The following standards apply for the award by the Board of Examiners of the honours predicates referred to in paragraphs 1a and 1b:
 - a. The weighted average mark of all examinations for course units assessed with a numerical result is at least an 8.0; and the course unit Thesis has been assessed with at least an 8.5.
 - b. the weighted average mark of all examinations for course units assessed with a numerical result is at least a 7.5; and the course unit Thesis has been assessed with at least an 8.0.
 3. With regard to the 'Cum laude' honours predicate, the Board of Examiners cannot make exceptions for exceptional performance apart from the standards referred to in paragraph 2.
 4. The 'Cum laude' honours predicate will not be awarded if:
 - a. The student workloads of the exemptions from the examination programme in ECTS is more than 20% of the total number of ECTS to be obtained from the examination programme determined for the degree programme concerned;
 - b. The student needed more than the two examination opportunities for any course unit, as referred to in Article 4.5a paragraph 1, to obtain a pass for that course unit, except in the event of force majeure as referred to in Article 7.51(2) of the Act;
 - c. The duration of registration, from the date of registration for the degree programme concerned, up to and including the date on which the student has successfully completed all course units, is longer than the nominal study duration for that degree programme plus two months per nominal study year.
 5. If awarded, the 'Cum laude' honours predicate is noted on the certificate and the diploma supplement. The 'Bene meritum' honours predicate is noted on the diploma supplement.

Article 4.15 – Fraud

1. The PThU Fraud Regulations for Master's and Pre-Master's degree programmes, established by the Board of Examiners, apply to the degree programmes referred to in Article 1.1, paragraphs 1 and 2.
2. The regulations referred to in the preceding paragraph are included as an appendix in the programme-specific part of these Regulations.

Section 5 – Study Progress and Study Support

Article 5.1 – Study progress

1. The number of ECTS allocated to a final assessment component for each course is laid down in the examination programme of the relevant degree programme included in the programme-specific part of these Regulations. It is also stated in the course descriptions included in the Course Catalogue.
2. If a pass is obtained for a final assessment component, the number of ECTS allocated to that final assessment component will be regarded as having been obtained.
3. The study results achieved are registered by the Student Affairs Office.
4. The student can access their registered study results via Osiris Student. The student must report any inaccuracies and/or incomplete information to the Student Affairs Office immediately.
5. The study progress is determined annually, at least, based on the number of ECTS obtained. At least annually, the student will receive a request from the Student Affairs Office to check the study progress overview for correctness and completeness.

Article 5.2 – Study support

1. For information about regulations and provisions, exemptions or the study route to be followed, and about submitting requests to the Board of Examiners and making a study plan, the student can contact the Study Advisor.
2. If the study progress gives reason for such, the student will be invited for a meeting with the Study Advisor.

Section 6 – Disability and Personal Circumstances

Article 6.1 – Adjustments for students with a disability

1. On the grounds of a written request to that effect to the Board of Examiners, submitted following consultation with the Study Advisor, a student with a disability will be eligible for adjustments to the examinations and practicals, as well as non-physical adjustments in the education. These adjustments are tailored to the individual student's disability as much as possible but may not alter the quality or difficulty of a subject or examination programme. The facilities to be provided may, for example, consist of: a form or duration of the examinations and/or practicals tailored to the individual situation, or the provision of practical aids.
2. The request referred to in paragraph 1 is submitted via the Study Advisor and is accompanied by a recent recommendation from the Study Advisor. The recommendation is based on a statement from a doctor or psychologist. In the case of dyslexia, a statement from a BIG, NIP or NVO registered testing agency will suffice without a recommendation from the Study Advisor. If possible, the statement will include an estimate of the extent to which study progress is being hindered.
3. A statement as referred to in paragraph 2 is valid for one year. In the event of a chronic condition, the statement is deemed to have been issued for the duration of the student's uninterrupted registration in the degree programme to which the adjustment referred to in the first paragraph relates.
4. Decisions on requests for adjustments regarding the physical educational facilities are made by the Executive Board.

Article 6.2 - Other personal circumstances

If, due to personal circumstances, a student is unable to fully participate in the regular study programme then, in consultation with his Study Advisor, he can submit a written, reasoned request to the Board of Examiners for permission to conduct a (partial) literature study for the course(s) concerned. The Board of Examiners determines a programme for the applicant in accordance with the applicable examination programme and taking into account the learning outcomes of the degree programme concerned.

Section 7 - Judicium Abeundi

Article 7.1 – Applicability of the Regulations

Within the Master's degree programmes, as referred to in Article 2.1, a judicium abeundi (unsuitability) can be pronounced.

Article 7.2 – Demonstration of unsuitability

1. Pursuant to the provisions of Article 7.42a of the Act, the Executive Board may, in specific cases, terminate or refuse a student's registration for the degree programmes referred to in Article 7.1 if that student has, by their conduct or words, demonstrated that they are not suitable to practice one or more of the professions for which the programme provides training or that they are unsuitable for the practical preparation for professional practice.
2. If a student is suspected of being unsuitable, as set out in the first paragraph, an investigation will be initiated and the student will be informed of such immediately.

The Board of Examiners or the Rector will only deliver an opinion after careful consideration of the interests involved and after the student concerned has been given the opportunity to be heard.

3. Unsuitability to practice one or more professions for which the programme provides training is particularly demonstrated by:
 - a. Any act or omission contrary to the care he should take in his capacity as a student with regard to:
 1. The person with whom he/she performs managerial service within the educational situation (for example during an internship or work experience) as a professional or semi-professional, a confidential advisor, a colleague and working in the church in general;
 2. Close relations of the person referred to under 3a(1).
 - b. Any act or omission in that capacity, other than referred to under a, contrary to the interests of proper practice of the profession for which the programme provides training.

Article 7.3 – Judicium Abeundi procedure

The procedure for terminating or refusing registration due to evidence of unsuitability for the professions for which the programme provides training is regulated in the separate Judicium Abeundi Regulations, which are included as an appendix in the programme-specific part of these Teaching and Examination Regulations.

PART 2 - PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC

Paragraph 8 – Master Theology (Groningen)

Article 8.1 - Specific Learning Outcomes

Without prejudice to the conditions of article 2.2, specific “learning outcomes” have been determined for this curriculum (see Appendix 1 of these regulations).

Article 8.2 – Curriculum

1. The objective of the master programme is academic specialisation within a specific profile of choice. The student, then, has to choose one of the profiles offered (Ethics of Dignity, Living Texts, Missional Communities, Thinking God Interculturally).
2. (*Cancelled.*)
3. In the Master Programme, the student takes a 5 ECTS course at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of the University of Groningen (RUG). This course has to be in line with the chosen profile and will be selected in consultation with the supervisor.
4. The composition and organisation of the curriculum are explained in further detail in Appendix 2.
5. Subject to the approval of the EC, a student may take one or more components of the programme at other universities in the Netherlands or abroad.

Article 8.3 – Master’s thesis

1. As part of the curriculum, students write a master’s thesis within the field of the chosen profile (see article 8.2, sub 1 and 2) and the associated theological research group (Sources, Beliefs, or Practices).
2. If a student wishes to switch from one research area (Sources, Beliefs, Practices) to another during the programme, he must (again) follow the disciplinary components of 'Master's thesis I' in the research group to which he is transferring. In derogation from this, the EC may, having heard the advice of the thesis supervisor, allow the missing disciplinary knowledge and skills of 'Master's thesis I' to be compensated through tutorials.
3. Regarding the supervision, writing, completion and the evaluation of the master’s thesis, the terms in Appendix 3 are applicable.

Paragraph 9 – Admission

Article 9.1 – Admission requirements

1. Admitted to the Master Theology programme are those who:
 - a. have fulfilled the regulatory and qualitative admission requirements, in conformity with article 3.1 of these regulations and further detailed in Appendix 4; and
 - b. possess an admission decision issued by the Admission Committee; and
 - c. meet the conditions set out therein, at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.
2. Students with a diploma
 - a. Bachelor Theology (Joint Degree) of the PThU and VU Amsterdam, graduation route “Theologie – Klassiek” (Classical Theology) (offered from September 2020);
or
 - b. Bachelor Theology (Joint Degree) of the PThU and VU Amsterdam, graduation route Theology “Godgeleerdheid (GG)” (offered until September 2020); or
 - c. Bachelor Theology, including the PThU-trajectory, of the University of Groningen;
or
 - d. Bachelor Theology of an accredited university of which the Executive Board of the PThU has ruled that, at 1 September 2021, it is to be considered equal to the other bachelor diplomas listed above;

are regarded to meet the requirements mentioned sub 1a and are consequently admitted to the programme.

3. Students with a diploma

- a. Bachelor Theology Plus of the PThU; or
- b. Bachelor Theology (Joint Degree) of the PThU and VU Amsterdam, graduation route "Geloof en Samenleving" (Faith and Society) (offered from September 2020); or
- c. Bachelor Theology (Joint Degree) of the PThU and VU Amsterdam, graduation route General Theology "Algemene Godgeleerdheid (AGG)" (offered until September 2020);

are regarded to meet the requirements mentioned sub 1a and are consequently admitted to the Master Theology programme with the exemption of the profile Living Texts, sub-route Old Testament/New Testament, as mentioned in article 8.2, sub 1.

Article 9.2 – Bridging programme

1. The university offers a bridging programme in order to meet the admission requirement as mentioned in article 3.1 sub 2b and the qualitative admission requirements.
2. The Admission Committee decides, in light of the prior education and experience of the candidate, and in line with the demands delineated in article 9.1 sub 1, whether the student needs to complete the bridging programme or components of it.
3. The components of the bridging programme and the corresponding study load in ECTS, are mentioned in Appendix 4.
4. The bridging programme can be followed partly through the regular courses of the bachelor curricula mentioned in article 9.1, sub 2a and sub 3c. Alternatively, the components of the bridging programme may be followed through the courses offered by the PThU as a self-study package including a test, or, in the case of Hebrew and Greek, as classroom courses.
5. The university communicates the admissions procedure for the bridging programme via the website, including the applicable rates of expenses. Registered candidates receive further practical and substantive information on the courses via a digital education environment.
6. After successfully completing the components of the programme, the candidate receives a written overview of the results obtained per component.

Paragraph 10 – Final oral exam and certification

Article 10.1 – Final oral exam ("concluding discourse")

1. The programme of the Master Theology is concluded with the final oral examination ("final interview"), as referred to in Article 4.11 of these regulations.
2. Other than what is stated in article 4.5a sub 5, the student is required to apply for the aforementioned concluding examination separately. The university announces the related procedure and demands via Student-net. The application must be submitted at least 20 working days before the desired graduation date – as discussed beforehand with the chief examiner (thesis supervisor) – with the Student Office.
3. Taking part in the concluding examination is only possible when all other components of the exam programme have been completed with a passing grade, or if applicable with a "satisfactory"; with the exception of parts for which the EC has granted an exemption.

Article 10.2 – Diploma ceremony

The student receives the diploma and degree supplement directly after successfully completing the final oral exam, as mentioned in article 4.12 sub 3.

Paragraph 11 – Concluding conditions

Article 11.1 - Changes

1. Any change of these regulations may only be effectuated in the current academic year if student interests are not unreasonably infringed upon.
2. A change must not influence any other decision of the EC regarding a particular student to the detriment of this student.
3. Changes that are necessary in order to render these regulations in accordance with Dutch laws and regulations, or with international laws and regulations, are excepted from what is stated sub 1 and sub 2.

Article 11.2 – Other conditions

1. In cases in which these regulations or the examination policy are disproportionately to the detriment of the student, the EC can take individual measures.
2. The Rector will come to a decision on all cases not covered or only partly covered by these Regulations.

Article 11.3. – Publication

1. The Executive Board ensures that these Regulations are suitably published, as are interim changes.
2. Any interested party may consult the TER and the Regulations as mentioned sub 1 on the university's website.

Article 11.4 – Date of taking effect

These Regulations take effect on September 1, 2021.

Thus enacted by decision of the Executive Board of the Protestant Theological University, after consultation of the Examination Committee Master programmes, and with the approval of the Curriculum Committee Master programmes and the University Council, on July 8, 2021.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Learning Outcomes of the programme

The competence profile is organised as follows:

- I The hermeneutic core competence (please see 1 below)
 - II The academic competences (please see 2-3 below)
1. Hermeneutic competence. The ability to read, interpret, understand and express texts, traditions, stories and practices in their contexts and interactions in a methodical, reflecting and renewing manner, and at the same time have oneself be read, interpreted, understood and expressed.
 2. Academic competence. The ability to practice the theological discipline independently, in an academic manner using sources and relevant knowledge from other academic areas and rendering account for one's own interpretations, thus contributing to the development of the protestant practice of theology.
 3. Disciplinary competence. The ability to conduct academic research in one of the theological research areas (Sources, Beliefs, Practices) and make original contributions to them.

Appendix 2: The examination programme

FULL TIME PROGRAMME

The programme lasts one year and consists of 60 ECTS and consists of the following components:

- Two interdisciplinary courses 10 ECTS (2 x 5)
- Two profile courses (PThU) 15 ECTS (2 x 7,5)
- One profile course (RUG) 5 ECTS
- Master's Thesis I 15 ECTS
- Master's Thesis II 15 ECTS

This programme is filled in with courses belonging to one of the trajectories described below.

The interdisciplinary courses are of introductory nature and focus on intercultural and hermeneutical approaches. The profile courses together form a coherent package of PThU-courses and one course that is followed at the faculty GG & GW of the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RUG).

After these units, the thesis-trajectory follows, which begins with methodological deepening and closes with the writing of a master's thesis in one of the three theological research areas, in conjunction with the profile of choice.

The thesis supervisor may, in light of the chosen thesis subject, attach further entrance requirements to the desired specialisation. This applies especially to the mastering of specific languages necessary for independent consultation and study of the sources (e.g. Hebrew and Greek for biblical studies).

Students will choose one of the following profiles:

Living texts (variant Old Testament, New Testament, or Church History)

Understanding Bible and Christian Tradition	5 ECTS
Communities with Impact	5 ECTS
One profile course, related to the subject of this profile, to be followed at the RUG. Which specific course(s) qualify, will be announced at the PThU website.	5 ECTS
The Hebrew Bible in Context	7,5 ECTS
Translating the Bible	7,5 ECTS
Master's Thesis I	15 ECTS
Master's Thesis II	15 ECTS

Ethics of Dignity (variant Ethics)

Understanding Bible and Christian Tradition	5 ECTS
Cross-Cultural Communication of the Gospel	5 ECTS
One profile course, related to the subject of this profile, to be followed at the RUG. Which specific course(s) qualify, will be announced at the PThU website.	5 ECTS
Ethics of Dignity	7,5 ECTS
Christian Social Service in Europe	7,5 ECTS
Master's Thesis I	15 ECTS
Master's Thesis II	15 ECTS

Ethics of Dignity (variant Care/Practical theology)

Communities with impact	5 ECTS
Cross-Cultural Communication of the Gospel	5 ECTS
One profile course, related to the subject of this profile, to be followed at the RUG. Which specific course(s) qualify, will be announced at the PThU website.	5 ECTS
Ethics of Dignity	7,5 ECTS
Christian Social Service in Europe	7,5 ECTS
Master's Thesis I	15 ECTS
Master's Thesis II	15 ECTS

Missional Communities

Communities with Impact	5 ECTS
Cross-Cultural Communication of the Gospel	5 ECTS
One profile course, related to the subject of this profile, to be followed at the RUG. Which specific course(s) qualify, will be announced at the PThU website.	5 ECTS
New Ecclesial Communities	7,5 ECTS
The Spirit as Guide	7,5 ECTS
Master's Thesis I	15 ECTS
Master's Thesis II	15 ECTS

Thinking God Interculturally (variant Intercultural theology or variant Doctrinal theology)

Understanding Bible and Christian Tradition	5 ECTS
Cross-Cultural Communication of the Gospel	5 ECTS
One profile course, related to the subject of this profile, to be followed at the RUG. Which specific course(s) qualify, will be announced at the PThU website.	5 ECTS
Theology of Interreligious Encounter and Witness	7,5 ECTS
The Spirit as Guide	7,5 ECTS
Master's Thesis I	15 ECTS
Master's Thesis II	15 ECTS

PART TIME PROGRAMME

It is also possible to follow the programme in part time. The study load remains 60 ECTS, but the programme will take two years (nominally). The contents and composition of the curriculum, as well as the various trajectories available for choice, are the same.

Through the website, the university will provide further information about the design and scheduling of the part time programme.

Appendix 3: Regulations regarding the Master's thesis

Scope of the Master's thesis

A Master's thesis must be written in order to pass the Master's final assessment. The scope of the thesis is 15 ECTS.

The required length of the Master's thesis is 15,000 to 25,000 words, excluding any appendices i.e. parts that do not normally belong to the thesis file. The supervisor may give permission for a longer or shorter Master's thesis (= number of words) depending on the nature of the research. The student may also be allowed to do (part of) the thesis research in the form of a publication (peer-reviewed) or an alternative form, without prejudice to the requirements set for the degree and without prejudice to the assessment responsibilities as stipulated in these regulations.

Language

The Master's thesis is written in Dutch, English or German. By agreement, the thesis may also be written in another language.

The thesis stage

The thesis stage consists of two modules, which can be followed simultaneously or consecutively (this usually corresponds with full-time and part-time respectively):

- *Master's thesis I* (15 ECTS): in which students in working groups learn to set up a major theological research project and to start conducting it:
 - In the *disciplinary* working groups, students examine the theoretical state of affairs of the theological discipline of their choice (Sources, Beliefs, Practices); they become proficient in the disciplinary methods of research, and they discuss draft chapters of the thesis in the making. The disciplinary working group is led by a lecturer from the relevant discipline.
 - In the *multidisciplinary* working group, they explore the general aspects of research (designing the research question; theological positioning as a scientific researcher; valorisation; research ethics; writing and presenting academic research). The multidisciplinary working group is jointly led by the various lecturers of the disciplinary working groups.
 - The meetings of the disciplinary and multidisciplinary working groups are held alternately and coincide with the thesis research that the student is conducting (see below).
 - In the three-year Master's degree programmes, *Master's thesis I* includes a short training course. During this, (a) students present the results of their thesis research to each other and give each other feedback; and (b) within the framework of the integral learning pathway, they make connections between the thesis track on the one hand and the entire curriculum and future professional field on the other.
 - For all disciplinary working groups, *Master's thesis I* is assessed on the basis of a research proposal, possibly elaborated into a first draft chapter, and another draft chapter shaping the student's own theological approach to the research project. The lecturer-supervisor of the disciplinary working groups provides formative feedback on the research design and, having heard this feedback, the thesis supervisor may or may not approve the research design (see below). The lecturer-supervisor also gives an evaluation of the student's development in the working groups, which indirectly counts in the final assessment of the thesis. After hearing the opinion disciplinary lecturer-supervisor, the thesis supervisor makes the summative final assessment of *Master's thesis I* (see below), which for this component is: pass/fail.
- *Master's thesis II* (15 ECTS): during which the student conducts his/her thesis research under the individual supervision of the thesis supervisor. Upon completion of *Master's thesis I* and approval of the thesis by the thesis supervisor and assessor

(see below), the thesis defence will take place and subsequently the final assessment.

Assessment is based on the completed Master's thesis and its defence in the final interview. The preceding process is also taken into account (feedback from *Master's thesis I*, independence, ownership, planning, etc.). The assessment uses the basis for assessment as established by the Examination Board for Master's degree programmes.

Master's thesis I and *Master's thesis II* start simultaneously. *Master's thesis I* ends with the two-day training course. For the rest, with regard to the scheduling and rotation of the working groups, the deadline for submitting the thesis, the assessment and the public thesis defences, the following schedule is leading:

Week	Morning	Afternoon
1	Multidisciplinary: From issue to question, positioning	Disciplinary working group
2	Disciplinary working group	Disciplinary working group
3	Multidisciplinary: social relevance, valorisation, research ethics	Disciplinary working group
4	Disciplinary working group	Disciplinary working group
10	Multidisciplinary: academic writing	Disciplinary working group
11	Disciplinary working group	Disciplinary working group
17 (day 1 training)	Multidisciplinary: academic presentation for a wider theological audience; giving and receiving feedback	Thesis integration, theological existence
17 (day 2 training)	Disciplinary working group	Thesis integration, theological existence
18	MASTER'S THESIS SUBMISSION DEADLINE	
19	(assessment time, preparation final interview)	
(20)	(assessment time, preparation final interview)	
20 or 21	PUBLIC THESIS DEFENCE (certificate presentation)	

Resits

If at the time of the deadline (time to be determined in the timetable) the student has not yet submitted his/her Master's thesis or has not yet submitted it in its entirety, or if the thesis has been assessed as unsatisfactory (subject to limited adjustments to be made before the thesis defence in week 21), the student proceeds to the resit moment that has been included in the timetable for this purpose.

Supervision and responsibility

The following lecturers, at least, are involved in *Master's thesis I*: the lecturer-supervisor of the disciplinary working group and the joint lecturer-supervisors of the multidisciplinary working group.

The following lecturers, at least, are involved in *Master's thesis II*: the 'supervisor' and the 'assessor'. A 'second supervisor' may be added in some cases.

- The supervisor is the contact person for the student throughout the thesis process and is primarily responsible for supervision and coaching of the project. The student is entitled to multiple meetings with the supervisor. The supervisor chairs the thesis defence and assesses the Master's thesis together with the assessor and a second supervisor if applicable.
- In addition, in mutual consultation between the student and the supervisor, an assessor who is an expert in the field of the thesis or in a specific sub-area thereof is also involved in the process. The assessor's task is (a) to co-assess the Master's thesis at the end of the process, and (b) to participate in the thesis discussion. In principle, the assessor is not involved in the supervision.
- If the subject requires additional expertise, a second supervisor can be involved in the process in mutual agreement between the student and the supervisor. The task of the second supervisor is (a) to be additionally involved during the supervision phase, in consultation with the supervisor primarily responsible, (b) to co-assess the Master's thesis at the end of the process, and (c) to participate in the thesis discussion. In principle, it is not the task of the second supervisor to co-approve the Master's thesis design, unless otherwise agreed in advance.

Further guidelines for students, supervisor(s) and assessor regarding planning and supervision can be found in the PThU Master's Thesis Supervision Guide (Amsterdam or Groningen version). Further guidelines on writing the thesis can be found in *Master's Thesis Writing Guide* (Amsterdam/Groningen). These documents can be found on Intranet and Studentnet.

Structure of the Master's thesis and agreements regarding supervision

Clear agreements are made regarding the structure of the Master's thesis and about the supervision. The procedure is as follows:

1. Orientation phase

Well before the actual start of *Master's thesis I*, the student should have one or more exploratory meetings with the supervisor about the choice of subject and the feasibility of her/his plans.

2. Structure of the Master's thesis

As part of the *Master's thesis I* working groups, the student will write a 'Master's thesis outline', which the lecturer-supervisor will feedback on and must subsequently be approved by the thesis supervisor, and which should contain the following elements:

1. A description of the subject, the thesis research question/problem of (including any sub-problems or sub-questions), the aim and relevance of the subject and the method;
2. A rough indication of the expected result of the thesis;
3. A provisional division of the chapters;
4. A schedule of the activities, including at least the following components:
 - Target dates for the various parts/chapters of the thesis,
 - The deadline for thesis completion (in accordance with the timetable),
 - Frequency of supervision meetings, in addition to the working groups;
5. A preliminary bibliography

3. Frequency of supervision appointments

During the thesis process, the student is entitled to a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 meetings with the supervisor.

4. Elaboration guidelines

In principle, the instructions of the Writing Guide Master's Thesis (Amsterdam/Groningen) serve as a guideline for elaborating and reporting the study. If the field of research so warrants, the supervisor will provide additional instructions regarding the style and general structure of the Master's thesis.

The supervisor may allow a different form of elaboration and/or reporting (such as an article that is submitted to a scientific journal, a proposal for follow-up research, or otherwise). Additional requirements may be attached to the chosen form to guarantee that the research and reporting as a whole meets all requirements for the Master's thesis. If the thesis research is offered to a scientific journal or comparable publication platform, the assessment of the thesis process will, in principle, be reserved to the supervisor(s) and assessor, regardless of any acceptance/rejection by the editors of the chosen journal.

5. Dispute Mediation

Should any problems arise during the supervision between those involved, the student can request mediation from the chair holder of the research group concerned.

If the dispute is with that same professor, the student can contact the Chair of the Board of Examiners. If the complaint concerns the Chair, another member of the Board of Examiners is appointed as mediator.

For disputes regarding grading, the student can make use of the standard appeal procedure.

Learning objectives and assessment of Master's thesis

General aim of the thesis process:

After completing the Master's thesis, the student is able to independently write a scientific dissertation based on source, empirical and/or literature research he/she has conducted into a problem that he/she has formulated.

This general objective is further elaborated and tailored in separate objectives, which are included in the course descriptions in the Course Catalogue.

Assessment

The specific criteria for the assessment of the Master's thesis and its weighting have been determined on the assessment basis defined by the Board of Examiners, which is added to these Regulations.

Once the Master's thesis has been assessed and qualified as 'passed' by the supervisor, and the second supervisor if applicable, the thesis is submitted to the assessor for assessment. The assessor may suggest improvements for the thesis as a whole and, independently of the supervisor(s), will determine his provisional mark for the Master's thesis (except for part 5: Process and method; see the Assessment Basis).

Both the supervisor(s) and the assessor will provide feedback on the submitted material within 10 working days.

The thesis discussion is only scheduled if the supervisor(s) and the assessor all qualify the work as 'passed' and the 'conditions for approval' have been met (see the Assessment Basis). If there is no consensus between the supervisor(s) and the assessor regarding the approval of the thesis, they will submit the matter to the Board of Examiners, together with a copy of the manuscript and their written position. The Board of Examiners subsequently decides, possibly after seeking advice from a lecturer who has not yet been involved in the thesis process, whether the thesis is assessed as 'passed' and the thesis defence can be scheduled (provided that the 'conditions for approval' are also met, see the Assessment Basis).

The public thesis defence is part of the assessment of the Master's thesis (maximum increase or decrease of half a point compared to the provisional mark; see the Assessment Basis). The final mark is determined in a meeting of supervisor(s) and assessor after the thesis discussion.

Thesis defence

The thesis defence lasts approximately 60 minutes and includes an opening, a short presentation of the thesis research by the student, and a defence of the thesis based on questions from the supervisor(s) and assessor. Afterwards, after private deliberation by the supervisor(s) and the assessor, the final mark is announced.

In principle, the thesis defence is a public meeting. Possible exceptions are defined in Article 4.11(3) of the Teaching and Examination Regulations.

Thesis and graduation

In principle, the thesis defence is the end of the degree programme and the final part of the examination programme (cf. Article 4.11(2) of the Teaching and Examination Regulations).

The university publishes the requirements for graduation, and how students can meet them, via Studentnet/Intranet among other means.

Archiving and library

For all Master's degree programmes, students are required to submit a digital version of their thesis to the Student Affairs Office prior to the thesis discussion and final assessment. The Master's thesis will be included in the student's file afterwards. The thesis will also be included in the digital collections of the library for an indefinite period and thus made available for reproduction. The PThU reserves the right to publish the title and summary and/or make it available externally. Every Master's thesis is listed in the PThU annual report.

Master's Thesis Assessment Form

(version EC-20200825-EN)

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Student number: _____

Title master's thesis: _____

Supervisor: _____

Second supervisor (if applicable): _____

Evaluator: _____

Research area (to be completed by supervisor):

Sources

Beliefs

Practices

Programme (to be completed by supervisor):

Master Theology ('Master Verdieping', PThU Groningen), full time

Master Theology ('Master Verdieping', PThU Groningen), part time

CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL

To be completed by supervisor:

Language/spelling and layout are in order

Annotation and bibliography have been carried out correctly and consistently

Signed declaration sheet submitted

Thesis size is within the limit (exceptions are possible only after explicit permission of the supervisor, in which case he/she adds a brief explanation at the end of this form, under 'General/summative remarks')

The plagiarism check (Turnitin, Ephorus, SimCheck) has not revealed any problems

Approved data management plan submitted

PROCEDURE

Step 1

Each teacher completes sections 1-5 (supervisor) or 1-4 (second supervisor, evaluator) individually. The second supervisor (if applicable) and the evaluator take over the score of section 5 from the supervisor.

Indicate in each section which column of the matrix applies, fill in the precise score, and account for this score under 'Explanation'.

NB. Sections 1-4 must *all* be passes (5.5 or higher) and cannot be compensated by each other. For section 5 the student needs to score *at least* 5.0. (A minor fail in this section is thus permitted, provided it is compensated in the other sections.)

Step 2

Each teacher converts the points into a provisional grade by dividing the total number of points by 5. After the teachers have discussed their assessments and justifications, they can make adjustments to their scoring.

Step 3

The individual grades are evenly averaged into a 'Provisional grade'.

Step 4

The thesis defence will only take place if:

- (a) all examiners have awarded a pass (5.5 or higher); and
- (b) all 'Conditions for approval' (see above) have been met.

If one or both conditions have not been met, the work submitted is assessed as a fail. This is passed on to the Office of Student Affairs and to the student. The student is entitled to feedback on the assessment (and, on request, to inspection of the assessment forms), with a view to re-examination. (See further the Supervision Guide.)

If both conditions have been met, the thesis defence will take place. The final grade is then determined on the basis of (a) the provisional grade and (b) the assessment of the thesis defence. All the teachers involved will sign the form. The date of signing *must* be the date of the thesis defence.

PROVISIONAL ASSESSMENT (PRIOR TO THE THESIS DEFENCE)

1. General: scientific quality, critical judgement, (self-)critical way of thinking

Evaluation matrix:

< 5.5	5.5 – 6	6 - 7	7 – 8	> 8
The student is not able to conduct (self-)critical research.	The student is able to conduct scientific theological research at a basic level.	The student is able to apply theological knowledge to the problem area in the thesis.	<p>The student exhibits critical judgement and creativity in research of complex material.</p> <p>The student is able to engage his/her own theological positions and premises in a critical dialogue with both the thesis subject and the academic debate.</p>	<p>The student is able to conduct autonomous, self-directed follow-on research and contribute to the academic development of the theological discipline.</p> <p>The thesis is written in an international language and for an international scientific audience.</p>

Score: _____

Explanation/remarks: _____

2. Research question

Evaluation matrix:

< 5.5	5.5 - 6	6 - 7	7 - 8	> 8
<p>The formulation of the research question is not clear and not sufficiently demarcated.</p>	<p>In formulating the research question the student makes it clear why the research is a theological research.</p> <p>The research question is clear, short and answerable. Sub-questions have been properly developed.</p>	<p>The formulation of the research question shows a sound analysis of the theological problem.</p>	<p>The formulation of the research question is innovative in its contribution to the formation of (theological) theory.</p> <p>The research is original in its concept and approach.</p>	<p>In the final chapter ('conclusion and discussion') the student reflects critically on his/her own formulation of the theological research question in dialogue with the scientific field.</p> <p>The student is able to engage in a debate over the relevance of the research for the discipline, science and society.</p>

Score: _____

Explanation/remarks: _____

3. Method and use of sources

Evaluation matrix:

< 5,5	5,5 – 6	6 - 7	7 - 8	> 8
<p>The methodological justification does not meet the requirements set.</p> <p>No primary sources are consulted, or sources are used incorrectly.</p>	<p>The research strategy meets the quality requirements of the (theological) discipline.</p> <p>The necessary sources are used correctly.</p> <p>There is an adequate data management plan.</p> <p>There is a correctly represented bibliography.</p>	<p>The justification of the research strategy and use of sources shows that the student is able to address the complexity of conducting academic theological research.</p>	<p>In answering the theological research question the student shows the ability to argue on the basis of a scientifically sound analysis and interpretation of primary sources and/or empirical research data.</p> <p>The student uses a cross-disciplinary approach.</p>	<p>In discussing the justification of the methodology and the research results the student not only does justice to the (theological) scientific debate, but also contributes to the development of this debate.</p>

Score: _____

Explanation/remarks: _____

4. Argumentation and conclusions

Evaluation matrix:

< 5.5	5.5 - 6	6 - 7	7 - 8	> 8
<p>The argumentation is faulty and/or does not support the conclusions.</p> <p>The conclusions do not provide a convincing answer to the question asked.</p>	<p>The conclusions are related to the theological research question and follow from the argument.</p>	<p>The argumentation is clearly and effectively formulated and (theo)logically constructed.</p>	<p>The argumentation is innovative and shows theological creativity.</p>	<p>The conclusions form a contribution to the scientific debate.</p> <p>The manner of arguing shows that the student is able to occupy a valuable position in the scientific theological field.</p>

Score: _____

Explanation/remarks: _____

5. Process and working method

To be completed by the supervisor, the second supervisor (if applicable) and the evaluator take over this score.

Evaluation matrix:

< 5.5	5.5 – 6	6 - 7	7 - 8	> 8
<p>The student has adopted a dependent attitude towards the supervisor(s) of his master's thesis.</p>	<p>The student felt responsible for the project but required considerable guidance and feedback to bring the project to an adequate conclusion.</p> <p>The style of writing and use of language are appropriate to the academic discourse.</p>	<p>The thesis was completed according to plan and within the prescribed period.</p>	<p>The student owned the thesis project and has always taken the initiative in making arrangements with the supervisor.</p> <p>The coaching sessions could always discuss draft texts that the student had thoroughly prepared.</p> <p>The thesis is well readable and well written.</p>	<p>The student has demonstrated the capacity for constructively and independently weighing and assimilating (substantive and process-related) feedback.</p>

Score: _____

Explanation/remarks: _____

PROVISIONAL GRADES

Provisional grade supervisor: _____

Provisional grade 2nd supervisor (if applicable): _____

Provisional grade evaluator: _____

} **Provisional average grade:** _____

FINAL ASSESSMENT (AFTER THE THESIS DEFENCE)

Valuation of the thesis defence

After the thesis defence, the examiners consult on the quality of the final discussion and on this basis may decide – in collegial agreement – to raise or lower the provisional grade by a maximum of 0.5 point. (The final grade cannot be raised above 10.)

Evaluation matrix:

- 0.5	0	+ 0,5
The quality of the defence falls below the requirements for the thesis.	<p>The student is capable of clearly and unambiguously conveying the knowledge, motives and arguments underlying the conclusions.</p> <p>The student is capable of constructively addressing critical questions and formulating an adequate response without further preparation.</p>	The student shows that he/she can engage on an equal footing with the examiners on the research subject and research results.

Adaptation of the provisional average grade: _____

Explanation/remarks: _____

General/summative remarks on the assessment:

FINAL GRADE

Final grade (being the provisional average grade, plus or minus the valuation of the thesis defence):

SIGNATURES

Date: _____

Supervisor:

Second supervisor:
(if applicable)

Evaluator:

Appendix 4: Admission requirements and bridging programme

Students will only be admitted to the Master Theology programme after fulfilment of the admission requirements, as stated in article 3.1 and further detailed in article 9.1 of these regulations. The educational background must at least be approved by the government and consequently be in line with the Act on Higher Education and Academic Research.

An active command of English is required, this in consideration of the prescribed literature in these languages. In principle, the language of instruction in the Master Theology is English.

Graduation trajectories may stipulate specific admission requirements. Depending on the choice of the specialization, knowledge of both classical languages and/or Hebrew may be obligatory.

Admissible to the programme are those who are in the possession of a degree mentioned in article 9.1 sub 2-3 in those stated conditions, or those who meet the admission requirements for the programme that are listed below.

For the Master Theology programme the following admission requirements apply:

1. Admission is requested on the basis of a Dutch academic (university) bachelor's degree

A. The qualitative admission requirements, being: the possession of knowledge, insight and skills on the level of an academic (university) bachelor degree regarding the following components:

- Biblical Studies 6 ECTS
- Systematic Theology 6 ECTS
- Practical Theology 6 ECTS

If the applicant requesting admission has completed the courses of Biblical Studies, Systematical theology and Practical theology within the programme on the grounds of which the application is requested, but the study load is less than for those mentioned above, the admission committee decides on the grounds of the advice given by a professor of OT respectively a professor of NT or a professor of Systematical Theology or a professor of Practical Theology, whether or not there is sufficient knowledge of the disciplines of Bible studies, systematical theology or practical theology to grant admission to the programme.

B. The qualitative admission requirements which have been established for the profile Living Texts (sub-route Old Testament/New Testament), in addition to the requirements mentioned under A:

- Hebrew 15 ECTS
- Greek 15 ECTS

If the applicant requesting admission specifically for this profile has successfully completed the courses in Hebrew, Greek and NT Greek within the programme on the grounds of which the application is requested, but the study load is less than for those mentioned above, then the admission committee decides on the grounds of the advice given by a professor of OT respectively a professor of NT, whether or not there is sufficient knowledge of Hebrew and/or Greek and NT Greek to grant the applicant admission to the Master programme, specifically the profile Living Texts.

2. Admission is requested on the basis of an academic (university) bachelor's degree obtained outside the Netherlands

A. The admission requirement set by law, being: the possession of an academic (university) bachelor's degree. Foreign diplomas on the basis of which admission is requested, will be subjected to an assessment based on independent sources, in order to establish whether its level is equivalent to a Dutch academic (university) bachelor degree. (This procedure also applies to diplomas and/or certificates submitted to comply with requirements B, C, D below.)

B. The qualitative admission requirements, being: the possession of knowledge, insight and skills on the level of an academic (university) bachelor degree regarding the following components:

- Biblical Studies 6 ECTS
- Systematic Theology 6 ECTS
- Practical Theology 6 ECTS

If the applicant requesting admission has completed the courses of Biblical Studies, Systematical theology and Practical theology within the programme on the grounds of which the application is requested, but the study load is less than for those mentioned above, the admission committee decides on the grounds of the advice given by a professor of OT respectively a professor of NT or a professor of Systematical Theology or a professor of Practical Theology, whether or not there is sufficient knowledge of the disciplines of Bible studies, systematical theology or practical theology to grant admission to the programme.

C. The qualitative admission requirements which have been established for the profile Living Texts (sub-route Old Testament/New Testament), in addition to the requirements mentioned under B:

- Hebrew 15 ECTS
- Greek 15 ECTS

If the applicant requesting admission specifically for this profile has successfully completed the courses in Hebrew, Greek and NT Greek within the programme on the grounds of which the application is requested, but the study load is less than for those mentioned above, then the admission committee decides on the grounds of the advice given by a professor of OT respectively a professor of NT, whether or not there is sufficient knowledge of Hebrew and/or Greek and NT Greek to grant the applicant admission to the Master programme, specifically the profile Living Texts.

D. A score of at least 79/80 (TOEFL Internet Based Test) or 6.0 (IELTS), or any equivalent result in another English language test or exam.

Exempted from this requirement are:

- native speakers who attended their secondary education in a country where English is the only official language, and who are also citizen of a country where English is the only official language; or
- those who have completed an academic (university) bachelor programme in one of the following countries: Canada, United States of America, United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand or Australia, or any other country where English is the only official language.

3. Admission is requested on the basis of a bachelor's or master's degree of tertiary education (Dutch: 'hoger beroepsonderwijs [hbo]') in Theology

A. The admission requirement set by law and the qualitative admission requirements, being:

- the possession of a bachelor's or masters degree of tertiary education in theology; and
- the possession of knowledge, insight and skills on the level of an academic (university) bachelor degree regarding the following components:

- Biblical Studies 6 ECTS
- Systematic Theology 6 ECTS
- Practical Theology 6 ECTS

B. The qualitative admission requirements which have been established for the profile Living Texts (sub-route Old Testament/New Testament), in addition to the requirements mentioned under A:

- Hebrew 15 ECTS
- Greek 15 ECTS

Admission requirements and bridging programme

Students who wish to register for the Master Theology programme, but whose previous education is not sufficient to fulfil the admission requirements as described above, may participate in a bridging programme, as stated in article 9.2. In this way, they can eliminate the deficiencies in their previous education. The following courses are offered:

- Hebrew 15 ECTS
- Greek 15 ECTS
- Biblical Studies 6 ECTS
- Systematic Theology 6 ECTS
- Practical Theology 6 ECTS

[Please note that these courses are taught in Dutch.]

The bridging programme can be followed via the regular courses of the bachelor curricula in which the PThU participates (Bachelor Theology – Joint Degree, PThU/VU Amsterdam; Bachelor Theology, University of Groningen).

As an alternative, all courses except Hebrew and Greek are also available as a self-study package with a test. Hebrew and Greek are taught as classroom courses, in Amsterdam. Education in the field of academic skills is part of the programme as a whole.

Appendix 5: Judicium Abeundi

Amended and enacted by the Executive Board of the Protestant Theological University on 24 April 2014.

Chapter 1 – Procedure for the rejection and termination of registration on account of evidence of unsuitability *within* an educational setting

Article 1 – reporting reprehensible student conduct or utterance

1. If the student's conduct or utterances demonstrate unsuitability, within an educational setting, for the profession for which education prepares, the examiner concerned reports this in writing to the president of the EC within a period of five days.
2. The written report of reprehensible conduct or utterances contains at least the name of the student in question, a description of the conduct or utterance, supported by the reasons why the examiner considers the conduct or utterance reprehensible, the educational component during which the conduct or utterance occurred, and includes time, place and circumstances as accurately as possible.
3. On receipt of the report of reprehensible conduct as intended sub 1 the EC establishes if the report is admissible. A decision about admissibility is conveyed to the person who has submitted the report by the EC or the rector within five days.
4. If the EC establishes that the report is not admissible, the report is destroyed and no statement will be included in the student file.
5. Before deciding to declare the report inadmissible, the EC grants the examiner five working days to complete missing components of the report.

Article 2 – the EC's treatment of reports of reprehensible conduct or utterance

1. When the EC decides to take up the matter, it establishes the category pertaining to the reprehensible conduct or utterance of the report.
2. By reprehensible conduct is understood:
 - a. Significant examination fraud;
 - b. Conduct that leads to significant inconvenience within the university;
 - c. Conduct that is punishable within or outside of the university;
 - d. Conduct or utterance demonstrating unsuitability for the profession for which education prepares.
3. If the EC establishes significant examination fraud, the procedure described in the Fraud Regulations is followed.
4. If the EC establishes conduct that leads to significant inconvenience within the university, the report is forwarded to the Executive Board, requesting the Board to make a decision on the basis of Chapter 6 of the Student Regulations.
5. If the EC establishes conduct to be punishable within the university or outside, the report is forwarded to the Executive Board, requesting the Board to deal with the matter, so as to determine if the matter should be reported to the police.
6. If the EC establishes that the conduct or utterance does not fall in any of the categories as intended sub 3, 4 or 5, the report is dealt with by the EC itself.
7. As soon as the EC has decided to deal with the report, the student concerned is informed of this decision. The EC grants the student the possibility to be heard, either in person or in writing.
8. The EC considers if the nature and extent of the student's conduct or utterance justify taking appropriate measures.
9. If the conduct or utterance is excessive, such that the safety or physical and/or mental health or physical and/or mental integrity of others in the educational setting is at risk, the EC may decide to propose to the Executive Board that the student should be expelled (a *judicium abeundi*).
10. The proposal to the Executive Board is made within ten working days after the EC's decision.

Article 3 – Judicium abeundi (binding verdict to leave)

1. The EC writes a motivated proposal to the Executive Board for pronouncing a judicium abeundi for the student concerned.
2. The written report of reprehensible conduct or utterances contains at least the name of the student in question, a description of the conduct or utterance, supported by the reasons why the examiner considers the conduct or utterance reprehensible, the educational component during which the conduct or utterance occurred, and includes time, place and circumstances as accurately as possible.
3. The Executive Board decides on the proposal of the EC within four weeks after receipt of the proposal.
4. The Executive Board either decides to pronounce a judicium abeundi, on account of which registration for the curriculum is terminated without delay or the person who requests admission is not admitted, or to reject the proposal of the EC.
5. If the Executive Board decides to reject the proposal of the EC, it informs the EC and the student concerned or the person who requested admission without delay.
6. After rejection of the proposal of the EC the file concerning the report of reprehensible conduct is sent back to the EC. The EC then decides if measures other than the judicium abeundi should be taken. Their motivated decision is announced to the student in writing.
7. If the Executive Board decides to pronounce a judicium abeundi as intended sub 4, it announces its motivated decision in writing to the student. A copy of the Executive Board's decision is sent to the president of the EC.
8. The (former) student concerned cannot be registered for the curriculum in question again, unless he qualifies as no longer unsuitable, such to be determined at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Article 4 – the student's objection and appeal to the judicium abeundi decision

1. If a student does not agree with the decision to terminate the registration of the curriculum, he may object to this decision with the Executive Board within six weeks after the decision was announced.
2. The procedure for dealing with the objection of the student is in accordance with the Objection Regulations for Controversies with the Executive Board, under the proviso that the duties of the Advisory Controversies Committee are dealt with by the Judicium Abeundi Advisory Controversies Committee. The committee's advice is announced in writing and contains a report of the hearing.
3. The Executive Board makes a decision within ten weeks after receipt of the objection.
4. If the decision concerning the objection deviates from the Committee's advice, the decision contains the reasons for such a deviation and the Committee's advice is added to the decision as an enclosure.
5. The decision is announced to the appellant.
6. If the appellant feels that the decision relating to his objection has not been dealt with satisfactorily, he may appeal to the Board of Appeals for Tertiary Education.
7. If the appeal leads to a verdict by the Board of Appeals for Tertiary Education that forces the Executive Board to repeal its decision to terminate registration for the curriculum, the Executive Board returns the file concerning the conduct or utterance that was considered reprehensible by the EC to the EC. The EC then decides if measures other than pronouncing the judicium abeundi are appropriate. The EC makes a decision with respect to other measures within a period of ten working days.

Chapter 2 – Procedure for the rejection and termination of registration on account of evidence of unsuitability *outside of an educational setting*

Article 1 – reporting reprehensible conduct or utterance of a student or a person requesting admission

1. If the conduct or utterances of the student or person requesting admission *outside of an educational setting* has shown his unsuitability for the profession for which education prepares, the examiner concerned and/or the Admission Committee reports this in writing to the rector within a period of five working days after the facts have become known.
2. If at the start of working in a trainee situation a statement of proper conduct is not available, the trainee coordinator reports this without delay to the rector. The sole fact that such a statement is not available leads to an immediate admissibility of the reported fact.
3. The written report of reprehensible conduct or utterance contains at least the name of the person in question, a description of the conduct or utterance, supported by the reasons why the examiner or the Admission Committee considers the conduct or utterance reprehensible, and includes time, place and circumstances as accurately as possible.
4. On receipt of the report of reprehensible conduct as intended sub 1 the rector establishes if the report is admissible. A decision about admissibility is conveyed to the person who has submitted the report within five days.
5. If the rector establishes that the report is not admissible, the report is destroyed and no statement will be included in the student file.
6. Before deciding to declare the report inadmissible, the rector grants the examiner or Admission Committee five working days to complete missing components of the report.

Article 2 – dealing with reports of reprehensible conduct or utterance by the rector

In dealing with the matter, the rector determines the category pertaining to the reprehensible conduct or utterance of the report.

1. By reprehensible conduct is understood:
 - a. Conduct that is punishable within or outside of the university;
 - b. Conduct or utterance demonstrating unsuitability for the profession for which education prepares.
2. If the rector establishes conduct to be punishable within or outside of the university, the report is forwarded to the Executive Board, requesting the Board to deal with the matter, so as to determine if the matter should be reported to the police.
3. If the rector determines that the conduct or utterance does not fall in any of the categories as intended sub 2, the report is dealt with by the rector personally.
4. After the rector's decision to deal with the matter, the person to which the report pertains is informed of this decision without delay. The rector grants the person concerned an opportunity to be heard, either in person or in writing.
5. The rector considers if nature and extent of the conduct or utterance of the person concerned justify taking appropriate measures.
6. If the conduct or utterance is excessive, such that the safety of physical and/or mental health or physical and/or mental integrity of others in the educational environment are at risk, the rector may decide to propose to the Executive Board that the student should be expelled (a *judicium abeundi*).
7. The proposal to the Executive Board is made within ten working days after the rector's decision.

Article 3 – *Judicium abeundi* (binding verdict to leave)

1. The rector writes a motivated proposal to the Executive Board for pronouncing a *judicium abeundi* for the student or person requesting admission concerned.

2. The written report of reprehensible conduct or utterances contains at least the name of the student in question, a description of the conduct or utterance, supported by the reasons why the examiner considers the conduct or utterance reprehensible, the educational component during which the conduct or utterance occurred, and includes time, place and circumstances as accurately as possible.
3. The Executive Board decides on the rector's proposal within four weeks after receipt of the proposal.
4. The Executive Board either decides to pronounce a *judicium abeundi*, on account of which registration for the curriculum is terminated without delay or the person who requests admission is not admitted, or to reject the rector's proposal.
5. If the Executive Board decides to reject the rector's proposal, it informs the student concerned or the person who requested admission without delay.
6. After rejection of the rector's proposal the Executive Board then decides if
7. measures other than the *judicium abeundi* should be taken. Its motivated decision is announced to the student in writing.
8. If the Executive Board decides to pronounce a *judicium abeundi* as intended sub 4, it announces its motivated decision in writing to the student.
9. The (former) student concerned cannot be registered for the curriculum in question again, unless he qualifies as no longer unsuitable, such to be determined at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Article 4 - objection and appeal to the *judicium abeundi* decision

Article 4 of Chapter 1 relating to objection and appeal of a decision by the Executive Board to terminate registration on the basis of conduct or utterances within the educational setting is analogously applicable.

Appendix 6: Fraud Regulations

Article 1 – General Regulations

- 1.1 The Fraud Regulations (from here: regulations) apply to the initial (pre-)master programmes established in the Protestant Theological University (PThU)
- 1.2 The regulations are enacted by the Examination Committee Master Programmes PThU (from here: EC); in accordance with what has been determined in the Act on Higher Education and Academic Research (WHW in Dutch), article 7.12b, sub 2 and 3.
- 1.3 Where these regulations mention he/him, she/her are supposed to be included.

Article 2 – Fraud

- 2.1 By fraud is understood any action or negligence of a student that purports to obstruct arriving at a correct assessment of his knowledge, insight and skills, either in whole or in part.
- 2.2 The following types of conduct will at any rate be considered as fraud. This expressly does not exclude other types of conduct which may be characterised as fraud. It concerns:
 - a. not following the instructions of the examiner or the invigilator assigned by him;
 - b. acting contrary to the instructions of the test or these regulations;
 - c. having at one's disposal during a test books, syllabi, notes or other documents or articles such as electronic devices for communication of which consultation or use has not been expressly allowed.
 - d. having with him in any way any type of communication device (N.B. the mere fact that these devices can be consulted suffices for the establishment of fraud);
 - e. during a test or exam copying from fellow students or exchanging any information with them, whether in the examination room or outside;
 - f. to exchange the question and/or answering forms or to exchange them with others;
 - g. obtaining questions or assignments of the test or exam in question prior to the test or exam;
 - h. making changes in the results of the test or exam after the time has elapsed and/or after the papers have been handed in;
 - i. to assume someone else's identity during a test or exam or to have another person instead of the student take the test or exam;
 - j. manipulation or incorrect presentation of research results in carrying out (graduation) research, with the intention to mislead, e.g. by 1) distorting research data, making them up or rendering them irresponsibly selectively; 2) purposely distorting and rendering points of view, interpretations and conclusions of others;
 - k. facilitating fraud of fellow students or encouraging them to fraud;
 - l. registering for or taking part in a test for which the student has been banned by the EC on the basis of fraud.
- 2.3 By fraud is also understood the submission of false documents in requesting exemptions within the curriculum, requesting diplomas or registering for a test.

Article 3 – Plagiarism

- 3.1 Plagiarism is a type of fraud.
- 3.2 The following is listed as plagiarism under all circumstances. This expressly does not exclude other facts or acts that may be considered as plagiarism. It concerns:
 - a. using or copying texts, data or thoughts of others without full and correct reference to sources;

- b. not indicating clearly in the text, e.g. by quotation marks or a particular layout, that text has been copied literally from another author, even if correct source references have been included;
 - c. paraphrasing the content of texts of others without sufficient source references;
 - d. adopting work of fellow students and passing them on as one's own work;
 - e. submitting assignments obtained from a commercial institution or written by someone else (whether on a paid or non-paid basis).
- 3.3 Examiners are always obliged to check papers, essays and mastertheses for plagiarism, at least by using the designated detection programme (i.e. submitting papers via Ephorus/Turnitin/SimCheck...).
- 3.4 By submitting his text the student gives permission to include the text in the database of the detection programme concerned.

Article 4 – Procedure

- 4.1 In principle the following applies to all types of testing, even if the rules have been written for a specific type of testing in first instance.
- 4.2 If an examiner or invigilator assigned by him establishes or strongly suspects fraud, he files a written report of what has happened and makes this available to the EC. If applicable he adds material as evidence.
- 4.3 The EC informs the student in writing of the notification and the report in question.
- 4.4 In case of the aforementioned establishment or strong suspicion of fraud, the student is given the opportunity to finish the test. However, the student is not allowed to take part in resits for the same test during the period when the fraud procedure applies.
- 4.5 The EC hears the student on the alleged fraud within two weeks after the fraud has been reported to the EC. The student may be supported by an intercessor.
- 4.6 The EC may hear additional persons who are able to provide relevant information on the alleged fraud.
- 4.7 The EC may assign a subcommittee with the hearing of the student concerned and the additional persons.
- 4.8 The EC decides within four weeks on the basis of the documentation and if possible on the information that the student has provided during the hearing, if fraud has been committed.
- 4.9 The EC may exceed the aforementioned terms by maximally four weeks. If the EC resorts to this right, the student in question is informed in writing.
- 4.10 If the EC has arrived at the conclusion that fraud has been established, it imposes one or more sanctions.
- 4.11 Recidivist behaviour justifies a more far-reaching type of sanction than would otherwise have been imposed.
- 4.12 The EC may decide to give the student a serious warning.
- 4.13 The EC may sanction the established fraud by declaring the test to which the fraud applies void.
- 4.14 The EC may moreover exclude the student from one or more tests, for a period of maximally one year.
- 4.15 Apart from imposing one or more of the sanctions mentioned in 4.12, 4.13, and 4.14, the EC may impose an extra study assignment in the field of academic research skills of up to 5 ECTS.
- 4.16 The EC does not grant the student an exemption on the basis of a test taken at another institution of university education during the period when the student was excluded from taking part in a comparable test at the PThU.
- 4.17 The EC establishes on the basis of type, seriousness, scale and/or degree of [malinient] of the fraudulent act(s) if serious fraud is at stake. Indications for establishing serious fraud are:
- a. recidive of fraud;

- b. forms of fraud with implications that exceed the sphere of the fraudulent student, especially in the sense of article 2.2 sub k above;
 - c. the types of fraudulent conduct delineated above in articles 2.2 sub i, 2.2 sub j, 2.2 sub l, 2.3, and 3.2 sub e;
 - d. forms of fraud associated with the committing of criminal offences that may give cause to the filing of a complaint with the competent authorities.
- 4.18 The EC may:
- a. if fraud or serious fraud is established, propose to the Committee on Scientific Practice to exclude the student from participation in the Research Programme of the PThU;
 - b. if serious fraud is established, propose to the Executive Board to terminate the registration of the student definitely.
- 4.19 If plagiarism is discovered in any submitted work, the EC may decide to examine other work submitted before by the same student(s) as well.
- 4.20 The EC informs the student in writing within two weeks after having made its decision.
- 4.21 The student may appeal the decision of the EC with the Board of Appeal for the Examinations, taking into consideration the regulations that apply to this Board.
- 4.22 In special cases, in which these regulations relating to fraud do not provide, the EC decides, taking into consideration the principles of a proper procedure.
- 4.23 These regulations come into effect on September 1, 2021, with simultaneous withdrawal of earlier versions. These regulations may be referred to as 'Fraud Regulations (Pre-)Master Programmes PThU 20210901' (Dutch: 'Regeling Fraude (pre-)masteropleidingen PThU 20210901').

*Enacted by the Examination Committee Master Programmes PThU on June 29, 2021.
Version: 20210901.*



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