

# **Teaching and Examination Regulations**

## **Masterprogramme in Law and Politics of International Security Faculty of Law**

**Academic year 2018-2019**

A. Faculty section

B1. Programme specific section - general provisions

B2. Programme specific section – content of programme

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## **Section A: Faculty section**

### **1. General provisions**

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

1. These Regulations apply to anyone enrolled for the programme, irrespective of the academic year in which the student was first enrolled for the programme.
2. These Regulations enter into force with effect from 1 September 2018.
3. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations is only permitted to concern an academic year already in progress if this does not demonstrably damage the interests of students.

#### **Article 1.2 Definitions**

The following definitions are used in these Regulations:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| a. EC (European Credit)   | an EC credit with a workload of 28 hours of study;  |
| b. examination:           | the final examination of the Master's programme;  |
| c. semester:              | the first (September - January) or second half (February - August) of an academic year;   |
| d. educational component: | a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW;   |
| e. period:                | a part of a semester;   |
| f. programme:             | the totality and cohesion of the course components, teaching activities/methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature;   |
| g. thesis:                | a component comprising research into the literature and/or contributing to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;   |
| h. SAP/SLcMVU:            | the Student Information System;   |
| i. study guide:           | the guide for the study programme that provides further details of the provisions and other information specific to that programme. The study guide (or course catalogue) is available electronically at: <a href="https://www.vu.nl/en/study-guide/">https://www.vu.nl/en/study-guide/</a> ;                 |
| j. workload:              | the workload of the unit of study to which an interim examination applies, expressed in terms of credits = EC credits (ECTS = European Credit and Transfer Accumulation System). The workload for 1 year (1,680 hours) is 60 EC credits;  |
| k. academic year:         | the period beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August of the following calendar year;   |
| l. interim examination:   | an assessment of the student's knowledge, understanding and skills relating to a course component. The assessment is expressed in terms of a final mark. An interim examination may consist of one or more partial examinations. A resit always covers the same material as the original interim examination; |
| m. University:            | Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;   |
| n. subject                | see educational component   |

o. WHW:	the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act ( <i>Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek</i> );
p. OLC	Programme committee;
q. FGV	Faculty joint assembly – assembly of the faculty student council and faculty staff council;
r. CvB	the Executive Board of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
s. examiner:	lecturer authorized by the Examination Board to assess an examination, constituent examination or practical;
t. working day:	Monday to Friday, except for public holidays or days designated as holidays by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;
u. Canvas	electronic system intended for the sharing of educational information.

The other terms have the meanings ascribed to them by the WHW.

## 2. Study programme structure

### Article 2.1 Structure of academic year and educational components

1. The study programme will be offered in a year divided into two semesters.
2. Every semester consists of three consecutive periods of eight, eight and four weeks.
3. An educational component comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof.
4. By way of exception to paragraph 3, Section B may stipulate that a unit of study comprises 3 EC or a multiple thereof. The Faculty Board requests permission from the Executive Board .

## 3. Assessment and Examination

### Article 3.1 Signing up for education and interim examinations

1. Every student must sign up to participate in the educational components of the programme, the examinations and resits. The procedure for signing up is described in an annex to the Student Charter.
2. Signing up may only take place in the designated periods.

### Article 3.2 Type of examination

1. At the student's request, the Examinations Board may permit a different form of interim examination than that stipulated in the course catalogue. If applicable, more detailed regulations on this are included in the Rules and Guidelines for the Examinations Board.
2. In an educational component is no longer offered in the academic year following its termination, at least one opportunity will be provided to sit the interim examination(s) or parts thereof and a transitional arrangement will be included in the programme-specific section for the subsequent period.

### Article 3.3 Oral interim examinations

An oral assessment is public unless the Examinations Board or examiner determines otherwise in an exceptional case.

### Article 3.4 Determining and announcing results

1. The examiner determines the result of a written interim examination as soon as possible, but at the latest within ten working days. By way of departure from that stipulated in the first sentence, the marking deadline for these [and final assignments] is no longer than twenty working days. The examiner will then immediately ensure that the marks are registered and also ensures that the student is immediately notified of the mark, taking due account of the applicable confidentiality standards.
2. The examiner determines the result (i.e. mark) of an oral examination as soon as the examination has finished and informs the student accordingly. The third sentence of the first paragraph applies.
3. In the case of alternative forms of oral or written examinations, the Examinations Board determines in advance how and by what deadline the student will be informed of the results.

### Article 3.5 Examination opportunities

1. a. Per academic year, two opportunities to take examinations per educational component will be offered.  
b. The options for retaking practical components, work placements and theses are detailed in the relevant work placement manual, teaching regulations or graduation regulations.
2. The most recent mark will apply in the event of a resit. A retake is allowed for both passed and failed units of study.
3. The resit for a (partial) interim examination must not take place within ten working days of the announcement of the result of the (partial) examination being resat.
4. The Examination Board offers student on request an extra opportunity to take an examination outside the regular occasions or at an date. Herewith the following requirements will be attached :
  - a. The student passed all but one of the examinations necessary to meet the degree requirements and
  - b. The student did take part on the occasions in relating year of study and
  - c. Taking part on the next regular examination opportunity is leading to disproportionately study delay.

The extra opportunity can only be offered for educational components that are examined with a scheduled written exam, paper or take home examination. Educational components that are examined (partly) otherwise are not included. Due to the construction of these educational components it is not possible re-sit these examinations on an alternative date.

Requests for an additional examination opportunity must be submitted to the Examination Board no later than 1 July.

### Article 3.6 Marks

1. Marks are given on a scale from 1 to 10 with no more than one decimal point.
2. The final marks are given in whole or half points.
3. Final marks between 5 and 6 will be rounded off to whole marks: between 0.1 - 0.4 rounded down; between 0.5 - 0.9 rounded up. To pass a course, a 6 or higher is required.
4. The Examination Board can allow to use symbols rather than numbers, for example; v(oldaan), g(oed), n(iet)v(ol)d(aan), etc.

### Article 3.7 Exemption

1. At the written request of the student, the Examination Board may exempt the student from taking one or more examination components, if the student:
  - a. has passed a course component of a university or higher professional education programme that is equivalent in terms of content and level;

- b. has demonstrated through his/her work and/or professional experience that he/she has sufficient knowledge and skills with regard to the relevant course component.
2. If a student wishes to meet the requirements of a specific examination by studying at a different faculty or university, prior approval from the Examinations Board is required.

#### Article 3.8 Validity period for results

1. The validity period of interim examinations passed and exemption from interim examinations is unlimited, unless otherwise specified in Section B.
2. The validity period of a partial examination is limited to the academic year in which it was sat or until the end of the unit of study concerned, as stipulated for the relevant unit of study in Section B.

#### Article 3.9 Right of inspection and post-examination discussion

1. For at least twenty working days after the announcement of the results of a written examination, the student can, on request, inspect his/her assessed work, the questions and assignments set, as well as the standards applied for marking.
2. Within twenty working days after the announcement of the results of a written examination there will be an post-examination discussion. Place, date and specified time will be announced at least 10 working days before the post-examination discussion.
3. The post-examination discussion is collective, unless otherwise decided by the examiner. The examiner can decide that the individual post-examination discussion will be done by email. If a student is unable to attend the collective discussion due to compelling personal circumstances, the examiner will allow an individual post-examination discussion on request.
4. The student can inspect his/her assessed work as well as the standards applied for marking, if available. On request the examiner will explain the marking.
5. The student can be issued with a copy of the marked work at his/her request after the post-examination discussion date, regardless whether the student was at the post examination discussion.
6. Regarding article 3.9 the examiner may add restrictions to the right of inspection. These restrictions have to be announced at least ten days before the post-examination discussion.

### 4. Academic student counselling and study progress

#### Article 4.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling

1. The faculty board is responsible for the correct registration of the students' study results. After the assessment of an educational component has been registered, every student has the right to inspect the result for that component and also has a list of the results achieved at his/her disposal in VU.net.
2. Enrolled students are eligible for academic student counselling. Academic student counselling is in any case provided by:
  - a. The Student General Counselling Service
  - b. Student psychologists
  - c. Faculty academic advisors

#### Article 4.2 Adaptations for students with a disability

1. A student with a disability can, at the moment of submission to VU.net, or at a later instance, submit a request to qualify for special adaptations with regard to teaching, practical training and interim examinations. These adaptations will accommodate the student's individual disability as much as possible, but may not alter the quality or degree of difficulty of a unit of study or an examination. In all cases, the student must fulfil the exit qualifications for the study programme.

2. The request referred to in the first paragraph must be accompanied by a statement from a doctor or psychologist. If possible, an estimate should be given of the potential impact on the student's study progress. In case of a chronic disability a single (one time) request suffices.
3. Students who have been diagnosed with dyslexia must provide a statement from a BIG, NIP or NVO registered professional who is qualified to conduct psychological evaluation.
4. The faculty board, or the responsible person on behalf of the faculty board, decides on the adaptations concerning the teaching facilities and logistics. The Examinations Board will rule on requests for adaptations with regard to examinations.evaluation.
5. In the event of a positive decision in response to a request as referred to in paragraph 1, the student will make an appointment with the study adviser to discuss the details of the provisions.
6. A request for adaptations will be refused if it would place a disproportionate burden on the organization or the resources of the faculty or university were it upheld.
7. If the disability justifies an extension of the interim examination time, the Examinations Board will issue a statement testifying to this entitlement to an extension. If a disability justifies other measures to be taken, the academic adviser can take the necessary measures.
8. The decision as referred to in paragraph 5 may specify a limited validity of the special adaptations.

## 5. Hardship clause

### Article 5.1 Hardship clause

In instances not regulated by the Teaching and Examination Regulations or in the event of demonstrable extreme unreasonableness and unfairness, the faculty board responsible for the study programme will decide, unless the matter concerned is the responsibility of the Examinations Board.



## Section B1: Programme specific – general provisions

### 6. General programme information and characteristics

#### Article 6.1 Study programme information

1. The programme Law and Politics of International Security CROHO number 60685 is offered on a full-time basis.
2. The language of instruction is English.

#### Article 6.2 Teaching formats used and modes of assessment

1. The programme uses the teaching formats as specified in the Study Guide.
2. The modes of assessment used per educational component are specified in the Study Guide.

### 7. Further admission requirements

#### Article 7.1 Intake date(s)

The programme starts on September 1.

#### Article 7.2 Admission requirements

1. Applicants must have a Bachelor's or equivalent degree in Law, Social Sciences or Liberal Arts, and a basic knowledge of international law or international relations theory (the Admissions Board will also take into account the average grades of the applicants).
2. Applicants who do not meet the abovementioned requirement(s) are also encouraged to apply, provided that they have a sound academic background and considerable experience in the field of Law, Social Sciences or Liberal Arts.
3. The Admissions Board will investigate whether the applicant meets the admission requirements.
4. Candidates will be selected in the following way:  
The LPIS Admissions Board will make a **merit based** selection of students.  
For their application, candidates must submit:
  - a. Transcript
  - b. CV
  - c. Motivation letter
  - d. Letters of recommendation
  - e. Proof of academic writing
  - f. Proof of proficiency English (article 3.3)
5. In addition to the requirements referred to in the first and fourth paragraph, the Board will also assess requests for admission in terms of the following criteria:
  - a. Academic excellence (as evidenced by overall grade average, CV, recommendations, and writing sample).
  - b. Motivation and fit with the program (as evidenced by motivation letter, (optional) courses and extracurricular activities).
  - c. Diversity of the cohort.
6. When the programme commences, the candidate must have fully completed the Bachelor's programme allowing admission to this Master's programme.

7. The certificate of admission relates exclusively to the academic year following the academic year in which the application for the certificate was submitted, unless the Admissions Board decides otherwise.

#### Article 7.3 English language requirement for English-language Master's programmes

1. The proficiency requirement in English as the language of instruction can be met if no longer than two years before the start of the programme, the applicant has successfully completed one of the following examinations with at least the scores indicated:
  - a. IELTS: 6.5
  - b. TOEFL paper based test: 580
  - c. TOEFL internet based test: 92
  - d. Cambridge Advanced English: A, B or C
2. Exemption is granted from the examination in English referred to in the first paragraph to students who, within two years before the start of the programme:
  - a. met the requirements of the VU test in English language proficiency TOEFL ITP, with at least the scores specified in paragraph 1, or
  - b. had previous education in secondary or tertiary education in an English-speaking country as listed on the VU website, or
  - c. have an English-language 'international baccalaureate' diploma or
  - d. have an English-language diploma of a Bachelor or Master degree programme which has been accredited by the NVAO in the Netherlands.

### 8. Examinations and results

#### Article 8.1 Validity period for results

If the exam shows that a student's knowledge is insufficient or outdated, or if the student's skills evaluated in the exam are demonstrably outdated, the Examination Board may impose a supplementary or replacement examination for a course for which an examination was passed more than 4 years ago.

## Section B2: Programme specific – content of programme

### 9. Programme objectives, specializations and exit qualifications

#### Article 9.1 Workload

The programme has a workload of 60 EC

#### Article 9.2 Specializations

The programme has no specializations

#### Article 9.3 Programme objective

1. The programme's objectives are as follows:
  - a. to prepare the student to practice professionally in the field of Law and Politics of International Security;

- b. to teach the student specialized knowledge, skills and understanding in the field of Law and Politics of International Security;
  - c. to prepare the student for academic work in the field of Law and Politics of International Security.
2. The degree programme also promotes the academic education of the student, in particular with reference to:
  - a. independent, academic thought processes and performance;
  - b. communicating at an academic level;
  - c. applying specialist academic knowledge in a wider and/or philosophical and social context.
3. The degree programme focuses attention on the student's personal development, promotes his or her awareness of social responsibility and develops skills of expression.

#### Article 9.4 Exit qualifications

1. Objectives of the programme
 

The general objective of the Master programme is to impart to the student the knowledge, skills, insight and attitude required to operate as an independent professional within the field of international security, to cooperate with others and to conduct academic research. The overall aim of the programme is to train students to acquire a high academic and intellectual level and to take an interdisciplinary approach to matters of international security. Students should have a thorough understanding of the core concepts of the disciplines of international law and international relations, which are relevant to studying problems of international security. They are expected to have an in-depth understanding of the interplay between international conflict and security law and international politics. Students should be able to reach an academic level of intellectual analysis and have the skills to autonomously conduct research. They should be able to use their intellectual and analytical skills in a professional environment.
2. Final Attainment Levels
 

The student graduating with a Master's degree will have the following knowledge and understanding:

  - a. International conflict and security law, including jus ad bellum, jus in bello and jus post bellum;
  - b. Contemporary theories of international security, as developed in political science (especially IR theory);
  - c. The nature and development of contemporary armed conflicts;
  - d. The overlaps and differences between the legal and political science approaches to international security;
  - e. The interrelationship between international law and international politics in the area of international security;
  - f. The difficulties involved in the application of 'traditional' legal and political science concepts to contemporary armed conflicts.
3. Being capable of:
  - a. Identify and apply theoretical approaches from international law and political science;
  - b. Identify the differences and overlaps between the various methodologies used in law and political science;
  - c. Independently set up a legal and political arguments in the area of international conflict and security law;
  - d. Independently apply research methods and interpret results;
  - e. Independently set up, carry out and report the result of research projects;
  - f. Critically reflect on research results and relating those results to theoretical debates within the selected domains.

## 4. Show evidence of:

The student graduating with a Master's degree will have a critical, creative and innovative attitude with regard to:

- a. The way in which problems in the area of international conflict and security are framed in academic, legal and policy debates;
- b. The existing legal framework in the field of international conflict and security;
- c. Existing policy solutions in the field of international conflict and security;
- d. Existing scientific theories in the area of international security;
- e. Academic research as well as research results.

## 10. Curriculum structure

### Article 10.1 Composition of the programme

1. The programme comprises at least a package of compulsory components and an individual Master's thesis and/or academic internship.
2. Additionally the programme can offer:
  - a. Optional courses
3. Educational components are categorized as specialized (400), research oriented (500) and highly specialized (600) level.

### Article 10.2 Compulsory educational components

Educational component	Course code	EC	Level
International Humanitarian Law	R_Int.hum.l	6	500
Security Studies	R_SecStud	6	500
Theories and Approaches to War and Collective Security	R_TAWCS	12	500
Politics of International Law	R_PoIL	6	500
Master's Thesis	R_MthLPIS	18	600
Two (2) optional courses totaling <i>at least</i> 12 EC <b>see article 10.3</b>			

### Article 10.3 Elective educational components

The student can take one or more of the following electives without prior consent from the Examination Board:

Educational component	Course code	EC	Level
Corporations, Conflict and International Crimes	R_CorIC	6	500
Human Rights Protection in Europe	R_Hum.ri.pro	6	400
International Criminal Courts and Tribunals	R_Int.cr.c.t	6	500
International Law Clinic	R_IntLCLin	12	500
Atrocity Actors; Perpetrators, Bystanders and Victims	R_Perp.bysta	6	500
Philosophy of International Law and Migration	R_Phil.int.l	6	500
Public International Law	R_Pub.int.l	6	600
Selected issues in: International Security	SSIIS_O	6	500
Terrorism & Security	R_TerrSec	6	500
Theories and Approaches in International Relations	S_TAIR	6	400

A detailed description per educational component can be found in the Study Guide.

If the student wishes to take a different course than the subjects of study listed, advance permission must be obtained in writing from the Examinations Board and the Programme Board. Permission is discretionary and granted only in exceptional cases.

#### Article 10.4 Extra-curricular components

Educational component	Course code	EC	Level
Amsterdam Law Forum	R_ALF	6	600
Capita Selecta Law and Politics of International Security (possibly not offered in 18-19)	R_CSLPIS3	3 or 6	500

#### Article 10.5 Access to subsequent programmes of professional study leading to qualification as a lawyer or a member of the judiciary

1. If the combination of a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Law entitles the graduate to enter the subsequent programmes of professional study leading to qualification as a lawyer or a member of the judiciary the Examinations Board will mention this on the Master's degree diploma supplement.
2. To enable the Examinations Board to assess a graduate's qualification for an annotation as mentioned in paragraph 1, students who didn't obtain their Bachelor's degree in Law at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, have to hand in a certified written statement of the Examinations Board of the Bachelor's degree programme stating the requirements which still need to be fulfilled to qualify for the annotation in principle. The requirements mentioned in the statement need to be met by taking components at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. The Examinations Board defines which components (Bachelor's or Master's components of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam degree programmes) are required to qualify for the annotation. The certified written statement of the Examination Board of the Bachelor's degree programme needs to be handed in at the admission's application to the Law and Politics of International Security Master's degree programme.

## 11. Evaluation and transitional provisions

### Article 11.1 Evaluation of the education

The education provided in this programme is evaluated in accordance with the faculty evaluation plan in particular article 5.2.

Advice and approval by the Programme Committee, on 8 maart 2018.

Approved by the Faculty Joint Assembly, on 14 June 2018.

Adopted by the board of the Faculty of Law on 14 June 2018.

**Appendix I Name changes**

<b>New curriculum (2018-2019)</b>	<b>Old curriculum (2017-2018)</b>
Corporations, Conflict and International Crimes	Corporations and International Crimes
Atrocity Actors; Perpetrators, Bystanders and Victims	Perpetrators and Bystanders