

# Education and Examination Regulations 2024-2025

## Degree Programme / Programme: Philosophy (research) / Philosophy

### Clause 2.1 – Requirements for admission to the programme

1. Consideration for admission to the degree programme **Philosophy** (research) requires a Dutch or foreign diploma that demonstrates knowledge, understanding and skills at the level of a university Bachelor's degree and that shows its holder has the following specific knowledge, understanding, and skills:
  - knowledge of and insight into the field of philosophy and its history;
  - understanding and appreciation of philosophical standards of argumentative rigor and interpretive acuity;
  - intellectual curiosity and motivation for further research;
  - skills pertaining to:
    - understanding and analysing the claims and arguments made in philosophical texts (both classic texts and contemporary research publications);
    - independently identifying and investigating research problems in philosophy; and
    - expressing oneself effectively and cogently in written and spoken English.
2. The degree programme Philosophy (research) consists of one programme: **Philosophy**. The admission requirements for this programme are described in paragraph 1.
3. Students will be selected on the basis of an assessment of the following core competencies:
  - motivation and talent (also on the basis of GPA and student progress monitoring);
  - level of required knowledge and the mastery of methods and techniques used in the subject area;
  - general high level of professional and intellectual ability;
  - command of the language(s) used in the programme.

This information is used to consider whether the student concerned is in a position to complete successfully the Master's programme within the nominal time period.

### Clause 3.1 – Aim of the programme

1. The programme aims to provide:
  - a. a cohesive curriculum that enables students to acquire advanced knowledge of key concepts, debates, methods and texts that are relevant for philosophical research and publication in the field of philosophy and its history, as well as more specialised knowledge of and insight into the same for a chosen area of specialisation;
  - b. structured opportunities and regular feedback that enable students to develop their ability to express themselves clearly and cogently and to participate in professional philosophical discussions at an advanced academic level, both in writing and speaking;
  - c. integration of students into a research community within which they can learn to see the relevance of different theoretical and interpretive positions and to critically assess them on the basis of an independent analysis of the arguments and an informed understanding of the textual support for the claims;
  - d. structured opportunities to develop an awareness of a variety of philosophical approaches and research projects (internationally, nationally, among the programme's research staff, and with interdisciplinary collaborators) and to position their own philosophical approaches with respect to these approaches;
  - e. training and support for the development of a career path, including an understanding of what is required for a successful academic career, how to apply for grants, and what employment opportunities exist, outside academia, for putting to use the skills and knowledge acquired in the programme.
2. Exit qualifications: The graduates:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- a. have comprehensive knowledge of central debates, methods and texts relevant for philosophical research and publication in the field of Philosophy and its history, such that students can position themselves in an informed and independent manner

- regarding a variety of philosophical approaches;
- b. can identify, formulate, investigate, and propose solutions to research problems in philosophy;
- c. have advanced knowledge and understanding of a chosen area of specialisation – theoretical philosophy, practical philosophy, or history of philosophy;
- d. can understand and analyse the claims and arguments made in philosophical texts (both classic texts and contemporary research publications) and, particularly in their area of specialisation, can develop an independent critical assessment of them;
- e. have a advanced level of expertise in the chosen area of specialisation that enables them to complete a sustained research project that makes an independent contribution to an important philosophical research problem.

*Application of knowledge and understanding*

- f. can relate their own research focus, approach, and specialisation to research being done in other related fields both within and outside the field of philosophy;
- g. have a solid understanding of and experience with the role of philosophical research in interdisciplinary collaborations.

*Making judgements*

- h. have a mature and professional appreciation of philosophical standards of argumentative rigor and interpretive acuity;
- i. an awareness and understanding of the current academic research (infra)structure in the field in the national and international contexts that are relevant, given their envisioned career path(s) and area(s) of specialisation;
- j. have an understanding of the societal relevance of philosophical research, in general, and of research in their area(s) of specialisation, in particular;
- k. have an understanding and appreciation of the requirements and significance of academic integrity, and an academic track record that reflects this.

*Communications skills*

- l. are able to express themselves effectively and cogently in writing in academic English, specifically to write papers that are – in form, style, and orientation – suitable for publication in journals or collections of scholarly essays;
- m. are able to express themselves effectively and cogently in speaking, both in formal presentations (e.g., in class or at conferences) and in the seminar discussions and question-and-answer sessions central to professional philosophical research;
- n. are able to communicate (in writing and orally) their knowledge and understanding of philosophical texts and research results to a non- specialist audience.

*Learning skills.*

- o. the professional attitude required to work independently and take initiative in acquiring the requisite knowledge and in carrying out research;
- p. a willingness and ability to respond in a professional and constructive way to criticisms of their written work and oral presentations, and to critically assess the academic contributions of others in a professional, constructive and respectful way;
- q. an understanding of how their qualifications – critical analysis, research methods, writing and presentation skills – can be put to use effectively inside or outside an academic career.

**Clause 3.2 – Attendance mode**

The programme is taught full-time.

**Clause 3.3 – Language in which the programme is taught**

The programme is taught in English: 100% of the courses for the degree programme is taught in English. Appendix 3 provides the reasoning behind the programme’s language policy.

### Clause 3.6.1 – Composition of the study programmes

The study programme includes the following components, having the specified credit load:

Core curriculum	Courses	Required	30 EC
Topics Seminars	Courses	Restricted choice	20 EC
Electives	Courses	Choice	15 EC
Interdisciplinary Research Area	Course	Restricted choice	5 EC
Research School	Courses	Required	10 EC
Individual component	Tutorial	Required	10 EC
Research project	Thesis	Required	30 EC

Students who complete 30 EC at a university abroad are required to earn a minimum of 5 EC (rather than the standard requirement of 10 EC) that meet the conditions for the Research School Seminar. The same is true of the Tutorial requirement.

The components with “Across the Border” are as follows:

Core curriculum	Courses	Required	25 EC
Topics Seminars	Courses	Restricted choice	10 EC
Electives	Course	Choice	10 EC
Interdisciplinary Research Area	Course	Restricted choice	5 EC
Research School	Courses	Required	5 EC
Individual component - Tutorial	Tutorial	Required	5 EC
Study abroad	Courses	Choice	30 EC
Research project	Thesis	Required	30 EC

### Clause 4.6 – Evaluation of quality of the education

1. The Director of Studies is responsible for monitoring the quality of the courses and teaching. To this end the Director of Studies will ensure that quality assurance involves evaluating courses and an evaluation at curriculum level. In ensuring the quality of courses the Director of Studies will draw on the advice and suggestions for improvement of the curriculum committees on promoting and safeguarding the quality of the course.
2. The courses and teaching in the degree programme will be evaluated using one or more of the following means:
  - a. course evaluation: at the end of the course, the participating students are asked to evaluate the course through the digital survey system;
  - b. evaluation at curriculum level: through curriculum dialogues (in Dutch *onderwijsgesprekken*)
  - c. by means of the National Student Survey (*Nationale Studenten Enquête – NSE*) the students will be asked for their opinion on all aspects of the courses, teaching and the facilities.
3. Students who have participated in courses offered by the Faculty of Humanities will be informed of the results of the course evaluations.

## Appendix 1 – Composition degree programme

Curriculum Programme: Philosophy (120 EC)

### Core curriculum (30 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
FRRMV19001	Core Seminar 1	10	1-2
FRRMV19002	Core Seminar 2	10	3-4
FRRMV16005	Research Colloquium Year 1	5	Year
FRRMV17001	Research Colloquium Year 2	5	Year

### Electives – Restricted Choice (20 EC)

Students complete at least four “Topics Seminars”. The courses are offered biannually on an alternating basis.

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
FRRMV16008	Topics in Metaphysics	5	1
FRRMV16009	Topics in the Philosophy of Human Rights	5	1
FRRMV16010	Topics in Early Modern Philosophy	5	1
FRRMV16011	Topics in Epistemology and Philosophy of Science	5	2
FRRMV16012	Topics in Hellenistic Philosophy	5	2
FRRMV16013	Topics in Moral Psychology	5	2
FRRMV22001	Topics in Ethics of Technology	5	2
FRRMV22001	Topics in Philosophy of Action ( <i>even years</i> )	5	3

The following courses, offered in uneven-numbered years (*next offered in 2025-2026*):

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
FRRMV17002	Topics in Philosophy of Plato and Aristotle	5	1
FRRMV17003	Topics in Philosophy of Language and Logic	5	1
FRRMV17004	Topics in Social and Political Philosophy	5	1
FRRMV17005	Topics in Ethical Theory	5	2
FRRMV17006	Topics in German Idealism	5	2
FRRMV17007	Topics in Philosophy of Mind	5	2
FRRMV22002	Topics in Ethics of Technology	5	2

### Electives (15 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
FRRMV16015	20th-Century German Philosophy	5	4
FRRMV16019	Teaching Internship in Philosophy	5-10	1 2 3 4
FRRMV16018	Research Internship in Philosophy	5-10	1 2 3 4
WBMV05003	Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence	7,5	1 3
WBMV13005	Logic and Computation	7,5	1
AEMV16007	Sustainable world	5	2
AEMV16005	Medical Ethics and Philosophy of Medicine	5	2
AEMV16006	Economic Ethics	5	2

Subject to prior approval by the program coordinator and the Board of Examiners, students may

also select MA-level courses from a related graduate programme at Utrecht University or another university in the Netherlands or abroad.

Interdisciplinary Research Area - Restricted Choice (5 EC)

Students complete at least 5 EC from the following courses:

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
FRRMV16014	History and Philosophy of Objectivity	5	3
ECRMITT	Think Tank Institutions	5	3
FRRMV16017	Digital Ethics	5	3

Research School (10 EC)

Students fulfil this requirement by completing 10 EC of courses from the course offerings of RMA programmes that participate in the Netherlands Research School in Philosophy (OZSW) or the National Research School in Classical Studies (OIKOS). Note that Topics Seminars beyond the required 20 EC can be counted towards satisfying the "Research School Seminar" Requirement. Students who complete 30 EC at a university abroad are required to earn a minimum of 5 EC (rather than the standard requirement of 10 EC) that meet the conditions for the Research School Seminar.

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
OFRM14001	Research School Seminar Year 1	5	1 2 3 4
OFRM14002	Research School Seminar Year 2	5	1 2 3 4

Individual component - Tutorial (10 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
FRRMV17009	Tutorial 1	5-10	1 2 3 4
FRRMV17010	Tutorial 2	5-10	1 2 3 4

Students who complete 30 EC at a university abroad are required to earn a minimum of 5 EC (rather than the standard requirement of 10 EC) that meet the conditions for the Tutorial requirement.

Research Project (30 EC)

Course code	Course title	EC	Block
FRRMV17008	Master Thesis Research Master	30	Year

### **Appendix 3 – Language policy**

Academic research is an international playing field, and the field of Philosophy is no exception. Within this international context, English is the universal choice for communication about research in this field. Moreover, a substantial part of the (Research) Master's students come in with a Bachelor diploma from outside the Netherlands, so the programme has an international classroom in which English is used for all levels of communication. Our teaching staff is not only strongly internationally oriented but also internationally trained. This setting constitutes a natural preparation for the future career of our graduates in the Netherlands or abroad, whether inside or outside of academia.

## **Appendix 2 – Transitional provisions**

There are no transitional provisions for students who started before 2020-2021. These students should contact the study advisor if they have questions about their study programme.

Students who started in the academic years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 need to complete the education programme as described in the EER-attachment for their academic year. If certain components of the programme are not offered in the current academic year 2024-2025, the following transitional provisions will apply.

It is possible to make the transition from the exam programme of an earlier cohort to the programme of the current academic year (2023-2024). If the student chooses to do so, they must comply to all regulations of the exam programme of the current academic year and must request approval from the Board of Examiners. Please contact your study advisor if you are considering this.

The new compulsory courses are equivalent to the old courses (see below), unless stated otherwise. If a student has completed the old course, the new equivalent course can't be taken as well.

The elective courses do not require transitional provisions. If you did not pass one or more electives, you can choose from the current courses. Make sure that you choose a course that does not have a major overlap with already completed courses (see below).

### **Transitional provisions for students who started in 2020-2021 (cohort 2020), 2021-2022 (cohort 2021), 2022-2023 (cohort 2022) or 2023-2024 (cohort 2023) (Exam Programme [PH-WIRM-17])**

No transitional provisions are included for cohorts 2020, 2021 and 2022.

If you still need to complete one or more electives, choose from the courses offered in the current academic year (2024-2025). Make sure that you choose a course that does not have a major overlap with already completed courses and tutorials.