

Faculty of Economics and Business

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Rules and Regulations of the Board of  
Examiners

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Regulations for Grading Assignments and  
Partial Examinations

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**Colophon**

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# I Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners

## Rules and Regulations, as referred to in Article 7.12b, first and third Paragraph of the Higher Education and Research Act, for all degree programmes and Pre-MSc programmes offered by the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB).

The Board of Examiners of the afore-mentioned programmes, hereafter the Board of Examiners, having regard to Article 7.12.b, first and third Paragraphs of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) HAS DECIDED to determine the Rules and Regulations listed below:

### Article 1. Definitions

The following definitions<sup>1</sup> apply to these Rules and Regulations:

OER: the Teaching and Examination Regulations (TER) for the degree programme(s) listed in the preamble.

Examinee:	a person taking an exam or examination.
Examination:	research into the knowledge, insight and skills of the student with regard to a unit of study as well as the assessment of the results of the research. An examination can consist of several parts. The results of these parts together determine the examination result.
Unit or course:	unit of education as stated in Article 7.3 of the WHW.
ECTS credit (EC):	international unit expressing student work load of courses; according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, one ECTS credit point (EC) equals 28 hours of study.
Exam sitting:	a part of an examination taking place at a location and time determined by the Faculty.
Final assessment:	the whole of investigations into the knowledge, insight and skills of the student with regard to the degree programme, within the meaning of Article 7.3 of the Higher Education and Research Act.
Student:	a person registered at the university for the purpose of taking courses and/or taking the exams or examinations of the programme.
Examiner:	the person who is appointed as such by the Board of Examiners per Article 7.12 of the Higher Education and Research Act.
ProgRESS WWW:	digital enrolment registration and grade registration programme of the University of Groningen.
Nestor:	digital learning environment of the University of Groningen.
WHW:	the Higher Education and Research Act (de Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek).
FEB, Faculty:	Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Groningen.
RUG:	Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (University of Groningen).
Board of Examiners:	the independent body charged with tasks and competences per Articles 7.11 and 7.12 of the WHW.

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<sup>1</sup> These definitions also apply to the Regulations Grading Assignments and Partial Examinations and the Regulations Overlapping Examinations.

## **Article 2. The daily duties of the Board of Examiners**

1. The Executive Committee of the Board of Examiners consists of at least three members including the chairman of the Board of Examiners and the secretary/ies of the Board of Examiners. The Board of Examiners can appoint an additional member for the Executive Committee from among its members. The Executive Committee is charged with the day-to-day business of the Board of Examiners.
2. The daily duties of the Board of Examiners are amongst others:
  - a. decisions concerning approval of educational units as per Article 7.3.d of the WHW,
  - b. decisions concerning regulations that deviate from the applicable regulations taken at the request of the student,
  - c. decisions concerning exemptions,
  - d. preparations of the determination of the examination results,
  - e. taking measures in the event a breach of the order during an examination as per Article 9 and in case of fraud as per Article 10.
3. The Executive Committee of the Board of Examiners is accountable to the Board of Examiners.
4. There is a register of mandates for all mandates granted by the Board of Examiners.

## **Article 3. Setting examinations**

1. The Board of Examiners appoints one or more examiners for each examination.
2. Each examination comprises research to be carried out by the examiner into the knowledge, understanding and skills of the student and the assessment of the results of that research.
3. In the case that one and the same examination is set and assessed by more than one examiner, whether or not at the same time, the Board of Examiners will ensure that the examiners assess according to the same criteria. To this end, the assessment criteria will be set out in writing by the examiners concerned in advance. If necessary, the Board of Examiners will appoint one of the examiners to be the lead examiner.
4. The Board of Examiners will get the Faculty Student Administration Office to determine whether students have complied with the conditions for admission to the examination.

## **Article 4. Determining the result of a final assessment**

The Board of Examiners will determine the result of a final assessment.

## **Article 5. Determining the result of an examination**

The examiner appointed by the Board of Examiners determines the result of the examination. Determining the assessment of knowledge and skills is reserved to the examiner.

## **Article 6. Oral examination**

With the permission of the examinees an examiner can decide that a certain examination can be jointly taken as an oral examination.

## Article 7. Registration for and participation in examinations

1. Students who have registered for one or more courses will be enrolled by the faculty into the corresponding examinations in week 5 of the relevant half-semester. This exam enrolment only takes place if the student, at the start of the teaching period in question, satisfies the entrance requirements of these courses. The faculty sends the students an overview of all examinations in which they are enrolled.
2. In week 5 of each half-semester students must check their exam enrolment in ProgRESS WWW. They can, then still, enroll for exams, provided they were entitled to take part in the corresponding courses.
3. **Cancelled**
4. The enrolment into an (re-sit) exam can be cancelled in week 5 of the relevant half semester. In case the cancellation concerns the first examination of the course, the student will not be enrolled into the second examination (re-sit) by the faculty. Students can enroll themselves into the re-sit exam during the fifth week of the relevant half-semester.
5. Deviating time limits hold for re-sits after the second block of the second semester, which will be determined and communicated timely by the educational office.
6. If it appears afterwards that a student was not entitled to take part in the exam sitting, the result of the relevant part of the examination will be declared invalid, unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise at the written request of the student.
7. If students do not comply with the enrolment procedure for examinations as set out above, they will be deemed not to have sat the exam, unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise at the written request of the student concerned.

## Article 8. Other than regular examination

1. The following regulations apply exclusively to courses offered by FEB.
2. A student can request to be granted an *other than regular examination* from the Board of Examiners.
3. Such a request can be granted, if a student due to special circumstances failed to pass the examination concerned and not granting an *other than regular examination* will result in an unacceptable study delay.
4. A request for an *other than regular examination* will only be dealt with if it is accompanied by an approved programme or an approved course package in ProgRESS WWW.
5. An *other than regular examination* is neither open to a course that has already been passed, nor to the *Bachelor's Thesis, Research Paper Pre-MSc, Master's Thesis* and *Master final project*.
6. In view of the nature, substance and execution of exams of the courses *IC AIS Comprehensive Design* and *Audit & Assurance II* of the Executive Master of Accountancy it is not possible to offer these in another than regular manner.
7. An *other than regular examination* can only be granted once per student per programme.
8. If a student in the first semester, but before 1 January, of any academic year satisfies the requirements of an *other than regular examination*, then she/he must submit the request for such an examination no later than 1 January of the same academic year. If the request is granted the other than regular examination must take place no later than 31 January of the same academic year.
9. If a student satisfies the requirements of an *other than regular examination* after 1 January then she/he must submit a request for such an examination no later than 1 August of the same academic year. The request will not be dealt with before 1 February of the same academic year. If the request is granted then the other than regular examination must take place no later than 31 August of the same academic year.
10. For the granting of an *other than regular examination* the following criteria apply:
  - a. it must concern the last examination to be achieved to conclude the student's approved education programme,
  - b. the final project of the programme must have been completed successfully,

- c. the study delay in case of not granting an *other than regular examination* is more than 140 calendar days (20 weeks), and this delay is calculated from the date of receipt of a valid request up to and including the day of the first examination of the examination period in which the course is examined for which the other than regular examination is requested,
- d. the examinee must have taken part in the last two regular examinations of the course for which she/he is requesting an *other than regular examination*, and she/he must have at least scored the grades 4 and 5 for those examinations.

## Article 9. Maintaining order during exam sittings

1. At least one examiner shall be present in the examination hall for the entire exam sitting. The examiner is responsible for the course of events, prior to, during and after the exam sitting. The Board of Examiners will ensure that invigilators are appointed to supervise exam sittings; these invigilators will ensure that the examination proceeds in good order. The examiner is in charge of the invigilators: The invigilator receives instructions from the examiner about her/his duties and the course of events during the examination.
2. In principle, only those students who are registered for an exam sitting in accordance with the prescribed procedure (see Article 7) can sit an exam.
3. **Cancelled**
4. Students must be in the exam hall in good time. No student may leave the hall within the first 30 minutes from the start of any examination. During this 30-minute period, students who arrive late may still be admitted to the exam. Once a participant has left the examination hall, no further students may be admitted to the exam sitting.
5. Examinees must obey the instructions of the Board of Examiners or the examiner that are published before the start of the exam sitting, as well as instructions given during or immediately after the exam sitting.
6. If the order of the examination session is about to be disturbed and an examinee ignores one or more of the instructions as referred to in Article 9.5, the examiner may exclude the examinee from further participation in this exam sitting. Exclusion means that no result will be given for that examination. If an examinee has been excluded from further participation in the exam sitting, the examiner will submit a written report to the Board of Examiners on the event and reasons that led the examiner to decide on exclusion.
7. During the exam sitting, all question-and-answer sheets as well as all jotting paper must remain inside the examination hall and be handed in at the end of the sitting, unless the examiner decides otherwise. It is not permitted to copy the question-and-answer sheets or the jotting paper during the exam.
8. No items other than the following may be on the table in the exam hall and within reach of the student: -proof of registration for the exam sitting, -a student card, -the examination paper, -an answer sheet or score form, -any jotting paper provided by the faculty, -writing utensils, -a calculator (see sub 10 of this article 8), and -reference materials subject to prior permission. In open-book examinations, students are permitted to consult books prescribed by the examiner.
9. Mobile telephones and such like electronic means of communication, including carriers of content information must be switched off during the examination and may not be within reach of students, unless the examiner has decided otherwise as indicated on the front page of the examination paper.
10. During the examination, only calculators approved by the Board of Examiners may be used: *Casio fx-82ES*, *Casio fx-82ES Plus*, *Casio fx-82MS*, *Casio fx-82EX*, *Casio fx-85ES*, *Casio fx-85ES Plus*, *Casio fx-85MS*, *Casio fx-85EX*, unless the examiner has announced on the cover page of the examination sheet and has informed students beforehand by means of Nestor that students may also use other types of calculators<sup>2</sup>. The examiner determines if the use of a certain category of calculator is permitted or excluded. The examiner can also prohibit the presence of a calculator on the table and within reach at any time, if this is explicitly indicated on the cover page. Presence on

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<sup>2</sup> Categories of calculators: *programmable/non-programmable, graphic/non-graphic*

the table or within reach of a calculator, contrary to the instructions on the cover page, is considered fraud and will be punished as such.

11. Invigilators have to check whether or not calculators present, are of the prescribed type.
12. Making contact with fellow-students is prohibited for the entire duration of the exam.
13. In case an invigilator or an examiner finds that the examinee acts contrary to Article 9.8 and/or Article 9.9 and/or Article 9.10 and/or Article 9.12 then this violation will be reported in writing by the examiner to the Board of Examiners. For the purpose of the report the examination has made available a model report. With reference to the report of the examiner, the Board of Examiners can exclude the student from the examination and also deem the behavior of the student to be fraudulent and punish accordingly.
14. When fraud during the examination is suspected the student will be informed of this suspicion. The examiner may search items belonging to the student with a view to proving fraud. These items are seized if as a result of this investigation proof of fraud is found.
15. Prior to a decision to exclude a student from an examination and/or to impose sanctions the Board of Examiners grants leave to the student to inspect the examiner's report and the Board of Examiners grants an opportunity to the student to rebut the allegation.
16. Examiners and invigilators are authorized and required to determine the identity of the persons in the examination hall, in the first place on the basis of a student card. They must ensure that the identity corresponds with the name on the proof of registration and on the examination sheet. If a student cannot also identify himself by means of a valid identification, then the examination will be declared invalid unless, upon the written request of a student, the Board of Examiners decides otherwise.
17. Temporarily leaving the exam hall is only permitted under supervision and only in case of medical necessity, as evidenced by a doctor's certificate submitted to the study advisor in advance. Leaving the exam hall due to a medical necessity is, in any case, subject to prior approval by the examiner of the examination.
18. In exceptional circumstances the examiner can deviate from the provisions of Article 9. 1 up to and including Article 9.17.

#### **Article 9A. maintaining order during online exam sittings**

Article 9A applies to online exam sittings that determine the *exam grade* as defined in the Regulations for Grading Assignments and Partial Exams (RGA&PE). This article does not apply to assignments that determine the *assignment grade* defined in the RGA&PE.

1. **Cancelled.**
2. The examinee must accomplish an online exam sitting autonomously, without any consultation with others.
3. An online exam sitting has a maximum duration of two hours for examinees not having a provision for extra time and a maximum duration of two hours and twenty minutes for examinees with a provision '*extra time*'. The Board of Examiners may grant an examiner exemption of the stipulations of this sub 3 of article 9A.
4. In principle, only students who are registered for an exam in accordance with the prescribed procedure (see article 7) can participate in an online exam sitting and/or an online exam assignment.
5. An examinee must report his or her presence on the online platform before the start of the online exam sitting. The examiner may refuse an examinee reporting late access to the exam questions and/or assignments.
6. An online exam sitting takes place under the supervision of an examiner.
7. During an online exam sitting the examiner of the course supervises the examinees participating in the exam. The examiner is responsible for the course of events, prior to, during and after the online exam sitting. The Board of Examiners will ensure that invigilators are appointed to monitor online exam sittings; these invigilators will ensure that the examination proceeds in good order. The

examiner is in charge of the invigilators: The invigilators receive instructions from the examiner about their duties and the course of events during the examination. For every forty examinees at least one invigilator or examiner must be monitoring the exam sitting.

8. Examinees must obey the instructions of the Board of Examiners and/or the examiner that are published before the start of the online exam sitting, as well as instructions given during or immediately after the online exam sitting.
9. If the order of the online exam sitting is about to be disturbed and an examinee ignores one or more of the instructions as referred to in Article 9A sub 8, the examiner may exclude the examinee from further participation in this online exam sitting. Exclusion means that no result will be given for that examination. If an examinee has been excluded from further participation in the online exam sitting, the examiner will submit a written report to the Board of Examiners on the event and reasons that led the examiner to decide on exclusion.
10. During the online exam sitting, every examinee participating, must at any moment be available for checks on prohibited actions and must for that purpose at all time during the online exam sitting, maintain contact with the system on which the online exam sitting is executed. If, during the online exam sitting an invigilator or examiner observes that a student is not in connected to the system on which the online exam sitting is executed, the examiner may conclude that the examinee has in conflict with this article, evaded supervision. An examiner does not need to distinguish between evasion of supervision by the examinee on the one hand, and the disturbed supervision due to technical inadequacies on the other hand.
11. During the online exam sitting, reference material may be consulted, unless the examiner has determined otherwise. Apart from the mentioned reference material, no items other than the following may be on the table than: a desktop- or laptop computer, a student card, jotting paper, writing utensils and a calculator.
12. Communication with persons other than examiners or invigilators, be it verbally or in any other way, is strictly prohibited during the entire duration of the online exam sitting. The examiner and invigilators shall actively monitor compliance of the injunction on communication.
- 13. Cancelled.**
- 14. Cancelled.**
- 15. Cancelled.**
- 16. Cancelled.**
- 17. Cancelled.**
18. If, after having executed the interview mentioned in sub 15 of this article, the examiner questions the authenticity of the work claimed by the examinee and handed in in the context of the online exam assignment, the examiner shall inform the Board of Examiners about these doubts. The Board of Examiners will subsequently investigate the authenticity of the work and if required will contact the examinee for that purpose. The examiner shall refrain from assessing the work until instructed by the Board of Examiners.
19. In case an invigilator or an examiner finds that the examinee acts or has acted contrary to Article 9A sub 10 and/or Article 9A sub 11 and/or Article 9A sub 12 then this violation will be reported in writing by the examiner to the Board of Examiners. In his or her report, the examiner argues why he/she suspects the examinee having violated one or more rules of this article 9A. With reference to the report of the examiner, the Board of Examiners can exclude the student from the examination and also deem the behaviour of the student to be fraudulent and punish accordingly. During this procedure, the work of the examinee will not be assessed.
20. When fraud during the online exam sitting or in relation to an online exam assignment is suspected, the student will be informed of this suspicion. The examiner may for the purpose of collecting evidence of illegal acts, register the activities of examinees.
21. Prior to a decision to exclude an examinee from an examination and/or to impose sanctions the Board of Examiners grants leave to the examinee to inspect the examiner's report and the Board of Examiners grants an opportunity to the examinee to rebut the allegation.



22. Examiners and invigilators are authorized and required to determine the identity of each and every examinee taking part in the online examination, in the first place on the basis of a student card. They must ensure that the identity corresponds with the name on the proof of registration and on the examination sheet. If an examinee cannot, on first request, identify him- or herself by means of a valid identification, then the examination will be declared invalid unless, upon the written request of a student, the Board of Examiners decides otherwise.
23. During an online exam sitting, temporarily evading supervision for any reason is prohibited.
24. In exceptional circumstances the examiner can deviate from the provisions of Article 9A. 1 up to and including Article 9A.23.

## **Article 10. Fraud and/or Plagiarism**

1. Fraud is taken to mean an act or omission by a student that fully or partly impedes the determination of a correct assessment of her/his or of fellow student(s) knowledge, understanding and skills. Fraud is also taken to mean falsifying or omitting data with the view to influencing the outcome of research (data fraud).
2. Plagiarism<sup>3</sup> is taken to mean: copying the work of oneself or another person without correct reference to the source. If copying work results in complete or partial impediment to the determination of a correct assessment of knowledge, understanding and skills then this shall be taken to be fraud.
3. The Board of Examiners takes measures to prevent fraudulent activities.
4. If the Board of Examiners classifies a document as plagiarism, then the Board of Examiners shall also declare this document to be invalid.
5. In case of fraud by a student, the Board of Examiners may deny this student the right, for a period of no more than a year, to take part in one or more designated examinations. Substitute examinations taken and passed elsewhere during the period of the ban shall not be recognized. In case of serious fraud, the Board of Examiners, may request the University Board to preemptorily terminate the fraudster's registration in the degree programme.
6. In the case of fraud found by the examiner of the course in question, the examiner shall submit a report of the fraud to the Board of Examiners. This report must at least detail the manner in which the fraud was found and the reasons why the examiner defines the act or omission as fraud.
7. If a suspicion of fraud is alleged by another than the examiner of the course in question, then the secretary of the Board of Examiners must examine whether there is fraud or not. The secretary reports her/his findings to the Executive Committee of the Board of Examiners.
8. In case of alleged fraud as stated by the examiner of the course in question, the Secretary of the Board of Examiners on behalf of the Executive Board shall decide on the basis of the allegation of fraud reported by the examiner, whether or not the student is to be accused of fraud.
9. In case the allegation of fraud is made by another than the examiner of the course in question the Executive Board of the Board of Examiners decides, based on the allegation of fraud expressed in a report by the secretary of the Board of Examiners whether or not the student is to be accused of fraud.
10. If a student is accused by the Board of Examiners of having committed fraud then the student in question shall be immediately informed of the charge. In its charge the Board of Examiners shall

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<sup>3</sup> Examples of plagiarism are:

- using texts of others without reference to the source,
- copying the structure of texts written by others or using other people's ideas without reference to the source,
- not clearly indicating that sections of the text are literal or virtually literal quotations,
- submitting the same or similar texts for different assignments.

deal with the nature of and the reasons for the charge. Also, the charge will be accompanied by the report on the basis of which the charge is levied.

11. Before the Board of Examiners decides to impose sanctions as per Article 10.4, the Board shall give the student an opportunity to rebut the allegation. It is up to the Board of Examiners to decide whether or not this rebuttal is to take place in writing.
12. Students are at all times responsible for the work to which they claim (co-)authorship. At the same time a student is at all times responsible for the work that is submitted in her/his name or on behalf of her/him. If a work is written by a team all members of the group are liable in case of fraud. In exceptional circumstances the Board of Examiners can deviate from this.
13. If fraud is detected after a (partial) grade or a final grade is determined then the Board of Examiners is authorized to declare this grade void. This authority lapses after one year after the discovery but no later than the award of the diploma.

### **Article 11. Questions and assignments**

1. The questions and assignments of the examination will be confined to the sources on which the examination is based and must be published in advance. The precise scope of the materials and the method of examination are published at the start of the programme that prepares for the examination.
2. An examiner must record the results of a part of an examination (examination session) or a partial examination.
3. The Board of Examiners shall ensure that examination papers shall be stored for at least 5 years and that individual work, and presentation papers are stored for at least 3 years.

### **Article 12. Examination results and review sessions**

In addition to what is set out in the Teaching and Examination Regulations with regard to examinations, the following also applies:

1. Publication of the written results is no later than 10 working days after the day of the examination. The examiner will ensure that the examination results are handed in to the Faculty Student Administration Office by 10 a.m. on the morning of the day that the marking period of publication of the examination results expires. Subsequently, the Faculty Student Administration Office will ensure that they are processed and the results published that same day.
2. If it is foreseeable that examiners will exceed the marking period due to circumstances beyond their control, then this will be stated on the examination sheet. A new date for the results will also then be given. The programme director will be asked for permission to exceed the marking period before the examination is taken.
3. The awarded grade is considered definitive once 6 weeks have passed after the exam, except in the case of new facts or circumstances.
4. After publication of the examination results via Progress WWW, the date and place for inspection must be stated in Nestor by the examiner. Students have the right if they so wish to an oral explanation of the results.
5. If an examination is taken more than once, then the highest grade counts.
6. Once a student takes the exam, she/he must hand in the answer form and will be awarded a grade by the faculty. Requests from students not to assess their submitted work will thus not be granted.

### **Article 13. Additional regulations concerning approval of the Bachelor's study programme**

1. A request for approval of the student's study programme for the Bachelor's degree programme must be submitted by the examinee to the Board of Examiners at least 6 weeks before the start of the Bachelor's Thesis.
2. The Board of Examiners will make its decision within 4 weeks after receipt of the request concerning the programme as stated in Article 13.1. The student will be notified of the decision of the Board of Examiners within 2 weeks of that decision via ProgRESS WWW.
3. Approval is valid as long as the courses in the programme in terms of name and code are offered, but in any case, up to and including the last day of the academic year subsequent to the one in which approval was granted.

#### **Article 14. Additional regulations concerning approval of the Master's study programme**

1. A request for approval of the study programme for the Master's degree programme must be submitted by the examinee to the Board of Examiners at least 2 months before the start of the Master's thesis.
2. The Board of Examiners will take its decision within 4 weeks after receipt of the request concerning the programme as stated in Article 14.1. The student will be sent written confirmation of the decision of the Board of Examiners via ProgRESS WWW within 2 weeks of that decision.
3. Approval is valid as long as the courses in the programme in terms of name and code are offered, but in any case, up to and including the last day of the academic year subsequent to the one in which approval was granted.

#### **Article 15. Certificate, diploma supplement, and declaration of examinations taken**

1. The student shall receive a certificate and a diploma supplement by the Board of Examiners as proof of successfully passing the examination. The certificate and the diploma supplement shall be signed by the Chair and the Secretary of the Board of Examiners. The degree ceremony is open to the public, unless the Board stipulates otherwise.
2. The diploma supplement will state which units the final assessment comprises.
3. Students who have passed more than one examination and who are not eligible for a degree certificate may request to be presented with a document stating the examinations they have passed.
4. Bachelor's examinees will be issued with a Bachelor's degree certificate, accompanied by a diploma supplement.
5. Master's examinees will be issued with a Master's degree certificate, accompanied by a diploma supplement.

#### **Article 16. Theses BSc, MSc and Pre-MSc Research papers**

##### **Article 16.1 Introduction**

1. These regulations comprise general rules that apply to all theses of the bachelor and master degree programmes, and the research papers of the pre-MSc programmes of the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Groningen
2. These regulations will be further detailed and complemented in a *Manual on Theses* and an *Assessment Form for Theses*. Both the *Manual on Theses* and the *Assessment Form for Theses* may vary per programme.
3. The Manual referred to in article 16.1 sub 2 includes in any case further information about the requirements in respect of admission, the registration procedure, the topic, the form and structure

and the learning outcomes of the thesis or research paper as well as information about supervision and the assessment procedure.

4. The form referred to in sub 2 is a list of assessment aspects that are explicitly used in the determination of the final grade.
5. The documents referred to in sub 2 are determined each academic year and made available via the Student Support Desk or for students of the EMFC (Executive Master of Finance and Control), via the office of the programme.

#### **Article 16.2 Assessment Procedure Bachelor's Thesis and Pre-MSc Research Paper**

1. For the assessment of the Bachelor's Thesis and the Pre-MSc Research Paper the assessment form as determined by the programme is used.
2. The assessment aspects that are part of the assessment form under sub 1 are expressed in the final grade. Each and every programmes can further accentuate and refine these assessment aspects.
3. An oral defense and/or presentation may be part of the assessment.
4. A Bachelor's Thesis and the Pre-MSc Research Paper can be integrated into a skills course or a seminar.
5. The grade for the Bachelor's thesis and the pre-master research paper is determined by two examiners on the basis of the final project that is submitted on or before a pre-determined date and based on pre-determined assessments aspects. (See sub 2)
6. Before arriving at a joint assessment about the grade to be awarded, the examiners assess the final project independently of each other.
7. If appointed as examiner for the Bachelor's programmes, the supervisor can also function as examiner.
8. If the paper is not assessed by an examiner who also functioned as the supervising lecturer, then the assessment of the criterion the 'process' will be formed by both examiners on the basis of a brief report from the supervising lecturer. This report can be submitted by the supervisor either in writing or orally. The assessment in respect of the process as recorded on the assessment form must be a reflection of the report by the supervisor.
9. Except situations described in article 16.2 sub 10 the examinee shall receive within 10 working days after final date under Article 16.2 sub 5 a copy of the completed assessment form in the form of a grade. The text per rubric must justify the awarded grade adequately. In case the thesis is assessed as being insufficient the justification of the grades must give the student adequate information so as to be able to improve the thesis.
10. In case of a different assessment by the two examiners one of the two examiners shall be replaced by an independent third examiner, who will be approached for that purpose by the course coordinator or the programme director. The independent third examiner determines, based both on the paper and the assessments with which one of the examiners mentioned under article 16.2 sub 5 she/he will give a joint assessment of the work. Both shall, within 20 working days after the final date as per article 16.2 sub 5, arrive at a unanimous assessment and shall set the grade. The examinee shall be informed of this grade without any delay.
11. If the final thesis is qualified as a *fail*, then the student in question will have one opportunity to carry out reparation in a time frame set by the programme. The repaired final project is to be awarded a grade not higher than a 6.
12. Within 10 working days after the end date for the reparation under article 16.2 sub 11 the student receives a copy of the completed assessment form showing the assessment for each assessment rubric and the assessment of the repaired thesis. The text per rubric must sufficiently justify the awarded grade.
13. Also, in case of a different assessment by the two examiners in respect of the reparation, one of the two examiners shall be replaced by an independent third examiner, who will be approached for that purpose by the course coordinator or the programme director. The independent third examiner determines, based both on the paper and the assessments with which one of the examiners mentioned under article 16.2 sub 5 she/he will give a joint assessment of the work. Both shall, within 20 working days after the final date as per article 16.2 sub 5, arrive at a unanimous

assessment and shall set the grade. The examinee shall be informed of this grade without any delay.

14. Should the final thesis even after reparation still be insufficient, then the student must re-register for a Bachelor's Thesis or Pre-MSc research paper.

### **Article 16.3 Assessment Procedure Master's Thesis**

1. For the assessment of the Master's Thesis, the Assessment Form Master Thesis is used.
2. The assessment criteria that are part of the form as mentioned in article 16.3 sub 1 should be expressed in a well-balanced manner in the final grade. Each and every programme can further accentuate and refine these assessment criteria and if needed they can add weighing factors.
3. If the student writes the thesis externally, the supervisor assigned by the faculty or programme can ask the supervisor in the company or the organization for advice on the criterion 'process of the practical execution of the research'.
4. An oral defense is part of the assessment.
5. The grade for the Master's thesis is determined by two examiners on the basis of the final project that is submitted on or before a pre-determined date and based on pre-determined assessments aspects. (see sub 2)
6. Before arriving at a joint assessment about the grade to be awarded, the examiners assess the final project independently of each other.
7. If appointed as examiner for the Master's programmes, the supervisor can also function as examiner.
8. If the paper is not assessed by an examiner who also functioned as the supervising lecturer, then the assessment of the criterion the 'process' will be formed by both examiners on the basis of a brief report from the supervising lecturer. This report can be submitted by the supervisor either in writing or orally. The assessment in respect of the process as recorded on the assessment form must be a reflection of the report by the supervisor.
9. If the student writes the thesis externally, the first examiner can ask the supervisor in the company or the organization for advice on the criterion 'process of the practical execution of the research'.
10. If the examiners are of the opinion that the submitted final paper after a defense could be eligible for a sufficient grade then the examinee will be granted an opportunity to explain and defend the final thesis. If, however, the examiners are of the opinion that the thesis is not eligible for a sufficient grade, they will then assess the thesis without an oral explanation or defense by the examinee.
11. In case of an oral defense; this is to take place no later than 15 working days after the final date referred to in Article 16.3 sub 5, unless otherwise agreed due to urgent reasons. Both examiners are to be present at the defense. At the request of the student or examiner an external supervisor can also attend the oral defense, but the latter only has an advisory role in respect of the assessment.
12. After the defense it is determined whether the thesis is to be assessed as sufficient or insufficient and the grade is determined by both examiners.
13. With the exception of situations in which examiners assess the work differently the examinee shall receive within 15 working days after the final date a copy of the completed assessment form including the assessment per assessment rubric and the assessment of the thesis in the form of a grade. The text per rubric must justify the awarded grade adequately. In case the thesis is assessed as being insufficient the justification of the grade must give the student sufficient information so as to improve the thesis.
14. In case of a different assessment by the two examiners one of the two examiners shall be replaced by an independent third examiner, who will be approached for that purpose by the course coordinator or the programme director. The independent third examiner determines, based both on the paper and the assessments with which one of the examiners mentioned under article 16.3 sub 5 she/he will give a joint assessment of the work. Both shall, within 20 working days after the final

date as per article 16.3 sub 5, arrive at a unanimous assessment and shall set the grade. The examinee shall be informed of this grade without any delay.

15. If the final thesis is qualified as a *fail* then the student in question will have one opportunity to carry out reparation in a time frame set by the programme. The definitive determination of the grade takes place at the end of this period. At the request of the student, she/he is permitted to orally defend this reparation. The reparation will be assessed with a grade not higher than a 6.
16. After the determination of the grade for the reparation, the student immediately receives a copy of the completed assessment form including the assessment per assessment rubric. The text per rubric must sufficiently justify the awarded grade.
17. In case of a different assessment by the two examiners in respect of the reparation, one of the two examiners shall be replaced by an independent third examiner, who will be approached for that purpose by the course coordinator or the programme director. The independent third examiner determines, based both on the paper and the assessments with which one of the examiners mentioned under article 16.3 sub 5 she/he will give a joint assessment of the work. Both shall, within 20 working days after the final date as per article 16.3 sub 5, arrive at a unanimous assessment and shall set the grade. The examinee shall be informed of this grade without any delay.
18. Should the final thesis even after reparation still be insufficient, then the student must re-register for a Master's Thesis.

#### **Article 16.4 Public Domain**

1. The thesis to be assessed is open to the public, because research and assessment must be verifiable. Therefore, the thesis must not contain confidential data. As and when necessary, use may be made of one or more confidential appendices with additional data, which will be made available to both examiners. The thesis must, however, be readable on its own and must be considered as a complete thesis even without confidential appendices.
2. Only in case of compelling arguments, which are to be assessed by the Examinations Board, can the confidentiality of a thesis be accepted without additional requirements. Such theses are only confidentially available for inspection by the supervisor, examiners, the programme director, the programme coordinator and where necessary the Board of Examiners and/or accreditation committee. The assessment by the Board of Examiners in respect of confidentiality must take place in advance on the basis of the research proposal.

#### **Article 17. Right of appeal**

1. A decision taken by an examiner or the Board of Examiners may be appealed against before the university's Board of Appeal for the Examinations of the University of Groningen (via <http://student.portal.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/regelingen-klachtinspraak/klachten-bezwaar-beroep/cbe>).
2. If an appeal is lodged against a decision taken by an examiner, the appellant should lodge a formal appeal stating the reasons for the appeal with the Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights (CLRS) of the University of Groningen within 6 weeks of the decision.
3. If the interests of the appellant require an immediately enforceable decision, a request for a provisional ruling stating the reasons may be submitted to the chair of the Board of Appeal for the Examinations of the University of Groningen.

### **Article 18. Amendments to the rules and regulations**

No amendments shall be made that apply to the current academic year, unless it can be assumed that the interests of students will not be harmed.

### **Article 19. Final provisions**

In case of divergences of interpretation between the Dutch language version and the English language version of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners the Dutch language version shall prevail.

### **Article 20. Date of commencement**

These Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners will take effect on 1 September 2020.  
As decreed by the Board of Examiners: August 25., 2020.

## **II Regulations for Grading Assignments and Partial Exams**

### **Article 1. Definition of Assessment**

1. The test of a course may comprise an exam sitting component and an assignment component.
2. The assignment component may consist of several sub-assignments. On the basis of the sub-assignments one single assignment grade is calculated.
3. The exam (sitting) component may consist of several partial examinations. On the basis of the partial examinations one single exam grade is calculated.
4. In conformity with Article 9.3 of the TER Bachelor programmes respectively Article 6.3 of the TER Master programmes students are given the opportunity to take the exam component (exam sitting) twice per year.

### **Article 2. Definition Assignments Component**

An assignment component is defined in this regulation as: all of the (group) assignments, (group) presentations, homework assignments, cases, practicals and similar activities including presentations and interaction conditions (both individually and as a group) of participants of the (group) assignments, (group) presentations, homework assignments, practicals and similar activities.

### **Article 3. Definition of Exam (sitting) Component**

In these regulations the exam (sitting) component is defined as the whole of the individual testing of knowledge, understanding and skills of the student at a time and location determined by the Faculty under direct supervision of an examiner.

### **Article 4. Assignment Grade**

If various assignments are assessed in a course, then one joint grade rounded off to one decimal shall be calculated. This will be the assignment grade.

### **Article 5. Exam Grade**

If, various partial exams are assessed in a course, then one joint grade will be calculated, rounded off to one decimal. This will then be the exam grade.

### **Article 6. Minimum Requirements Results**

Examiners may set minimum requirements to be obtained for the assignment grade and the exam grade.

### **Article 7. Weighting Coefficients Exam Grade and Assignment Grade**

The weighting coefficients of the exam grade and the assignments grade may vary per course and are set by the examiner of the relevant course.

### **Article 8. Calculation of Final Grade**



The final grade for a course is calculated as the weighted average of the assignment grade and the exam grade and is expressed as an integer. The final grade is exclusively calculated on the basis of an exam grade and/or assignment grade. If, per Article 6, minimum requirements are set for the assignment grade and/or exam grade and a minimum requirement is not satisfied, then the final grade will be determined as the minimum of the weighted average (as mentioned in the first sentence of this regulation) and a 5. In case the minimum requirement is not met, the final grade is therefore a 5 or less.

#### **Article 9. Registration Final Grade**

1. If a student has participated in at least one (partial) exam or one (sub-)assignment, then a final grade must be registered for this student for the relevant course.
2. For a student who has taken part in all compulsory components of the tests of a course, a final grade is registered within 10 working days after the first possibility of the last test.
3. For a student who has taken part in at least one, but not all compulsory components of the tests, a final grade will be registered within 10 working days after the last re-sit possibility of all tests.

#### **Article 10. Archiving Results**

1. Only the final grade of a course is sent to the Faculty Student Administration and this must be done by the examiner responsible for the course.
2. The examiner of a course is responsible for the archiving of the assignment grade and the exam grade.

#### **Article 11. Validity Assignment Grade and Exam Grade**

The assignment grade and the examination grade remain valid as long as the course is examined in the same manner, including the weighting coefficients, unless a change is announced in advance by the examiner herself/himself or on her/his behalf. Any change of the duration of the validity of assignment and examination grade must be made known to the students either in writing or digitally no later than at the start of the course.

#### **Article 12. Validity of Exam Grades**

The grade of a partial exam is only valid in the (half) semester in which the course is offered. The Board of Examiners can permit the examiner of a course to extend the duration of the validity of the grade of a test.

#### **Article 13. Validity of Grades of Sub-assignments**

The grade of a sub-assignment is only valid in the (half) semester the course is offered. The Board of Examiners can allow the examiner of a course to extend the validity duration of the grade of a sub-assignment.

#### **Article 14. The Assignment Grade that counts for more than 25% in the Final Grade**

In case the assignment grade counts for more than 25% in determining the final grade the following applies:

- a. the exam grade as defined in Article 5 must at least be 5.0,
- b. if the assignment grade is less than 5.5 or if it does not comply with the minimum requirement as per Article 6, then a reparation assignment within the block of the course shall be offered once enabling the student to convert the insufficient grade into a grade not higher than 5.5. or to comply with the minimum requirement laid down in Article 6.

#### **Article 15. Assignment Grades that count for 25% or less in the Final Grade**

If the assignment grade as defined in Article 4 counts for no more than 25% when determining the final grade, no reparation opportunity need to be offered in the relevant semester block. If minimal requirements are set for the assignment grade Article 14.b applies.

#### **Article 16. Form of Exams and Re-sit Exams**

If the exam component per Article 1 is taken in the form of several partial exams then the Faculty is not held to setting several partial exams for the re-sit examination.

#### **Article 17. Re-sit Sub-assignments or Reparation Partial Exam**

For partial exams no reparation possibility as per Article 14.b of these Regulations need to be offered.

#### **Article 18. Results as Entry Requirements for Exams and Assignments**

Unless otherwise stated in the FEB TER, the following applies:

1. An assignment grade may not be an entry requirement for participation in (partial) exams.
2. A (partial) exam grade may not be an entry requirement for participating in assignments.

#### **Article 19. Publication of Assessment Criteria**

The assessment criteria for assignment, the manner in which the assessment counts towards the final grade of the course and the re-sit opportunities must be announced to the students involved in writing or digitally and no later than at the start of the course.

#### **Article 20. Final Provisions**

In case of divergences of interpretation between the Dutch language version and the English language version of these Regulations, the Dutch language version shall prevail.