



university of
 groningen

Faculty of Arts

Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER)

Part B: Master's degree programme in

International Relations

Croho 60819

Specialization

- **International Humanitarian Action (NOHA)**

for academic year 2016-2017

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Section 1 General provisions

Article 1.1 – Applicability

These regulations comprise three parts – Part A, Part B and an additional Part C.

- **Part A** contains general provisions which apply to the teaching, examinations and final assessments of the Master's degree programmes provided by the Faculty of Arts of the University of Groningen, hereinafter referred to as **the Faculty**.
- **Part B** contains degree programme-specific provisions which apply to the Joint Master's degree programme in International Relations, specialization International Humanitarian Action, CROHO 60819, hereinafter referred to as **the degree programme**, as provided by the Faculty of Arts of the University of Groningen.
- **Part C** contains the **Study and Examination Regulations** of the Joint Master's Programme in International Humanitarian Action as jointly established under the framework of the "Consortium Agreement for the Establishment of a Joint Master's Degree Programme in International Humanitarian Action", hereinafter referred to as the **Consortium Agreement**, to which the University of Groningen is signatory, and which applies to the aforementioned degree programme of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Groningen. Additional agreements and amendments concluded under the framework of the Consortium Agreement, including related bilateral agreements, are considered part and parcel of the Consortium Agreement in these regulations.

Due to the specific joint nature of this degree programme, the following order of precedence applies for students registered for the degree programme at the University of Groningen, insofar stipulations may contradict each other:

- The Dutch Higher Education Research Act (WHW) takes precedence over
- The Consortium Agreement, which takes precedence over
- Part C of these regulations, which takes precedence over
- Part B of these regulations, which takes precedence over
- Part A of these regulations.

Article 1.2 – Definitions

Due to the specific joint nature of the degree programme, the following definitions in article 1.2 of Part A of these regulations shall be read and understood as follows:

- b. **Student**: a person registered at the University of Groningen for the purpose of taking course units and/or examinations leading to the conferral of a university degree. Students from partner universities who study at the University of Groningen as part of the Consortium Agreement shall have the same rights as students in the preceding definition.
- f. **ECTS credit point**: a credit point within the meaning of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act. The student workload of each course unit is expressed in ECTS credit points, whereby 1 ECTS is equivalent to a student workload of 28 hours for courses taught at the University of Groningen in accordance with article 7.4 of the Act. ECTS credit points awarded by other partner universities under the Consortium Agreement shall represent a student workload equivalent to what the respective national legislation stipulates.
- m. **Semester**: part of the academic year, either starting on 1 September and ending on a date to be determined by the NOHA Master's Board of Directors as mandated through the Consortium Agreement by the Board of the University, or starting on a date determined by the NOHA Master's Board of Directors as mandated through the Consortium Agreement by the Board of the University and ending on 31 August.
- o. **Board of Examiners**: an independent body with the duties and powers as stated in articles 7.11, 7.12, 7.12b, 7.12c of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act, including assessing whether the requirements of the final assessment have been met. The Board of Examiners at the University of Groningen has delegated authority from the NOHA Master's Board of Directors, which functions as the joint Board of Examiners on Consortium level, to make decisions in relation to the implementation of assessment standards, the Teaching and Examination Regulations in place at the University of Groningen, and other related issues under the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act, insofar as they regard situations within the sphere of the University of Groningen and do not have direct bearing upon the wider cooperation within the consortium. Concerning matters that have wider implications for the consortium, the NOHA Board of Examiners at the University of Groningen is required to at least consult or otherwise pass the matter on to the NOHA Master's Board of Directors at Consortium level.

- p. **Admissions Board:** the board that has decision-making powers in matters concerning admission to the degree programme on behalf of the Faculty Board. As the Consortium Agreement stipulates that admission to the degree programme is at the discretion of the NOHA Master's Board of Directors, the Admissions Board at the University of Groningen, appointed by the Faculty Board, functions as the local Selection Committee, representing and answering to the NOHA Master's Board of Directors in agreement with the Study and Examination Regulations in Part C of these regulations.

Section 2 Admission

Article 2.1 – Entry requirements

Due to the specific joint nature of the degree programme, article 2.1 of Part A of these regulations shall be read and understood in its entirety as follows:

1. The regular entry requirements for the degree programme are set out in article 3.2 and 3.3 of Part C of these regulations, concerning Admission Criteria and Language Qualification Requirements.
2. Students who have followed the Admission Procedure successfully as stipulated by article 3.5 and 3.6 in Part C of these regulations and who have the University of Groningen included in their Mobility Plan as described in article 5.3 of Part C of these regulations shall be admitted to the degree programme as provided by the University of Groningen in accordance with their Mobility Plan.
3. Admission entitles students to register for the course as defined by their Mobility Plan described in article 5.3 of Part C of these regulations.

Article 2.3 – Admissions Board

Due to the specific joint nature of the degree programme, the first clause of article 2.3 of Part A of these regulations shall be read and understood as follows:

1. The NOHA Master's Board of Directors shall have the power to decide on behalf of the Faculty Board in matters concerning admission to the degree programme. The Admissions Board appointed by the Faculty Board shall function as the local Selection Committee as meant by article 3.4 of Part C of these regulations.

Article 2.5 – Entrance examination: times

Due to the specific joint nature of the degree programme, the first and fourth clause of article 2.5 of Part A of these regulations shall be read and understood respectively as follows:

1. The entrance examination for the degree programme shall be in accordance with article 3.5 of Part C of these regulations.
4. The NOHA Master's Board of Directors shall decide on the application. Admission shall be on condition that the candidate has satisfied the requirements set out in article 3.2 and 3.3 of Part C of these regulations, concerning knowledge and skills by the starting date of the degree programme at the latest, supported by certificates from the degree programmes followed. The written admission decision shall include information for the student about the possibility of an appeal to the Board of Appeal for Examinations.

Section 3 Content and structure of the degree programme

Article 3.1 – Student workload

1. The degree programme has a student workload of 90 ECTS, whereby one credit is the equivalent of 28 hours of study for course units followed at the University of Groningen.
2. The student workload is expressed in whole ECTS credit points.

Article 3.2 – Programme Learning Outcomes of the degree programme

Ma International Relations - International Humanitarian Action

| Programme Learning Outcomes (Eindkwalificaties) | EQF-LLL | | | Dublin | | | | |
|--|-----------|--------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | Knowledge | Skills | Responsibility & autonomy | Knowledge & understanding | Applying knowl. & understanding | Making Judgements | Communication | Learning skills |
| 1a. Has demonstrated a sound understanding of political and legal contexts that determine HA. | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 1b. Has demonstrated a sound understanding of the main issues and challenges related to anthropology, public health and management that humanitarian workers are confronted with in the field. | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 2a. Has demonstrated the capability to analyse the logic of own and others' judgements, weighing their personal and social implications in order to prevent foreseeable harm by humanitarian interventions. | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |
| 3a. Has demonstrated the ability to assess complex humanitarian crises in a systematic way and to formulate adequate and ethically sound recommendations for humanitarian action in accordance with the Humanitarian Principles. | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| 4a. Has justified and applied methodology and scientific methods correctly in HA research. | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| 4b. Has demonstrated the ability to conduct and complete a medium-length research project on Master-level, while positioning one's own research findings in the broader context of humanitarian action. | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| 5a. Has demonstrated the ability to apply interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding of humanitarian action to problems emerging in practical situations and the ability to come up with possible solutions. | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| 6a. Has demonstrated the ability to translate in practical terms humanitarian principles and values to policies, strategies and programme management. | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| 7a. Has demonstrated a thorough understanding of the diversity of actors and stakeholders in the humanitarian system and the importance of coordination between them on different levels. | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 8a. Has demonstrated responsibility and capacity to be accountable and transparent of own decisions as well as communicative skills to listen and convey own ideas in a structured, intelligible way while adapting the means and the message to the characteristics of beneficiaries and stakeholders in a multi-cultural humanitarian setting. | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| 9a. Has shown teamwork and leadership skills by actively contributing to team building, a balanced distribution of work, and fostering a good atmosphere and cohesion in group projects. | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| 9b. Has demonstrated the ability to communicate humanitarian expertise as well as research findings and their limits to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously. | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| 10a. Has demonstrated the ability to apply humanitarian principles and values and professional codes of conduct. | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| 11a. Has demonstrated the ability to carefully assess the relevant factors for the decision making, such as operative context, possible effects and risks. | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |
| 11b. Has demonstrated the ability to act on the decisions made. | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| 12a. Has demonstrated the ability to manage dilemmas making use of sound informed judgements, listening to peers and involved actors and respect to humanitarian values and principles and take responsibility for decisions made. | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| 13a. Has demonstrated a clear understanding of personal security risks in humanitarian fieldwork, including possible coping mechanisms for oneself. | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| 13b. Has shown an ability to assist others in coping with security risks. | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| 14a. Has cross-cultural cooperative skills by showing awareness of cultural and gender diversity and possessing tools to act accordingly. | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| 15a. Has adopted a reflective practice analysing personal learning goals and ways to achieve them. | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ |
| 15b. Has gained an open attitude towards acquiring new knowledge about developments in the humanitarian action area. | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ |

See appendix 1 for the *Matrix of realized learning outcomes / course units* in the degree programme.

Article 3.3 – Master’s specializations

The degree programme has the following specializations:

| No. | Specialisation |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | International Humanitarian Action |

Article 3.4 – Content of the curriculum

1. At the University of Groningen, the following course units, with their student workloads, are taught for the degree programme:

International Humanitarian Action:

| No. | Course unit | Student workload |
|-----|--|------------------|
| 1 | Intensive Programme NOHA | 5 ECTS |
| 2 | Geopolitics in Humanitarian Action | 5 ECTS |
| 3 | International Law in Humanitarian Action | 5 ECTS |
| 4 | Social and Medical Sciences in Humanitarian Action ¹ | 10 ECTS |
| 5 | Management in Humanitarian Action | 5 ECTS |
| 6 | Orientation period (study period at one of the other universities in the network) ² | 30 ECTS |
| 7 | Disaster Analysis and Intervention Design ² | 30 ECTS |
| 8 | MA internship in Humanitarian Action | 10 ECTS |
| 9 | MA thesis in Humanitarian Action | 20 ECTS |

¹ This course unit comprises the joint course units Public Health in Humanitarian Action and Anthropology in Humanitarian Action, with specific attention to Psychology in Humanitarian Action.

² Students choose one of these two options.

2. All course units are listed in the online course catalogue OCASYS.
3. The modes of instruction and assessment for the course units listed above are set out in the syllabus of each individual course unit and the assessment plan of the degree programme.

Article 3.5 – Practical exercises

With regard to the following course units at the University of Groningen, successful participation in the activities of the course unit comprises active participation in 80% of the seminars, and passing the relevant examination:

| No. | Course unit |
|-----|--|
| 1 | Intensive Programme NOHA |
| 2 | Geopolitics in Humanitarian Action |
| 3 | International Law in Humanitarian Action |
| 4 | Social and Medical Sciences in Humanitarian Action |
| 5 | Management in Humanitarian Action |
| 7 | Disaster Analysis and Intervention Design |
| 8 | MA internship in Humanitarian Action |
| 9 | MA thesis in Humanitarian Action |

Article 3.6 – Course units completed elsewhere

Due to the specific joint nature of the degree programme and in conformity with the Consortium Agreement and the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act, article 3.4 of Part A of these regulations shall be read and understood in its entirety as follows:

1. A Joint Master’s degree can only be awarded by the University of Groningen if at least a substantial part of the course units of the degree programme were followed at the University of Groningen.
2. A substantial part of the course units as meant in the previous clause is considered:
 - 30 ECTS of the degree programme followed at the University of Groningen and
 - the thesis jointly supervised with the University of Groningen.

Section 4 Tests and examinations of the degree programme

Article 4.1 – General

1. In principle, the language of instruction and assessment for the components of the degree programme taught at the University of Groningen shall be English.
2. The results of tests and examinations are given as pass or fail, in numbers on a scale of 1 to 10, expressed as 5.5 or more for a pass and less than 5.5 for a fail.
3. The results of tests and examinations achieved at the partner universities under the Consortium Agreement shall be converted, and vice versa, in accordance with the conversion table in article 7.4 of Part C of these regulations.
4. A thesis is considered to be passed if it is awarded a non-rounded-off mark of at least 6.0.

Article 4.2 – Board of Examiners and examiners

Due to the specific joint nature of the degree programme, the first, second and fifth clause of article 4.2 of Part A of these regulations shall be read and understood as follows:

1. The Board of Examiners is the independent body that determines whether individual students have the knowledge, understanding and skills required to be awarded the degree. In the degree programme, the NOHA Master's Board of Directors functions as the joint Board of Examiners of the Consortium in accordance with article 4.1 of Part C of these regulations, and the Board of Examiners at the University of Groningen ('Examencommissie') functions as the local examination board as defined by article 4.2 of Part C of these regulations.
2. The Faculty Board shall appoint the members of local examination board, the Board of Examiners at the University of Groningen, on the basis of their expertise in the field of the degree programme.
5. The Board of Examiners at the University of Groningen shall appoint examiners to set examinations and determine results concerning assessments taking place at the University of Groningen. The Board of Examiners at the University of Groningen shall automatically accept and recognise examiners of partner universities to set examinations and determine results as regards assessments at the partner universities under the Consortium Agreement and in agreement with the procedures and rules in force at the partner universities concerning the appointment of examiners.

Article 4.10 – Assessment of placement or research assignment

Due to the specific joint nature of the degree programme, article 4.10 of Part A of these regulations shall be read and understood in its entirety as follows:

1. An internship plan comprising a list of the characteristics of the placement and a plan of activities must be drawn up before the placement commences. This plan must be approved by the supervisor of the internship providing organisation and the supervisor of the degree programme.
2. The final assessment of the placement shall be by the supervisor from the degree programme after taking into account the assessment by the supervisor from the internship providing institution and the self-evaluation report by the student.

Article 4.11 – Thesis

Due to the specific joint nature of the degree programme, the first, second, sixth and eighth clause of article 4.11 of Part A of these regulations shall be read and understood as follows:

1. A thesis of the degree programme can only be used for the degree programme. A thesis based on one written within a different degree programme than the Joint Master's Degree Programme in International Humanitarian Action as established under the Consortium Agreement is not accepted.
2. The thesis shall be written in English unless the supervisors and the student jointly agree to use a different language that all involved understand and are proficient in. In case the student and supervisors involved wish to use a different language than English for the thesis, written approval by the Board of Examiners at the University of Groningen is required.
6. The thesis shall be assessed in accordance with the first clause of article 9 of Part C of these regulations. In the event that the two supervisors are unable to come to a joint assessment, the Board of Examiners shall appoint a third assessor.
8. More detailed regulations on the design, content, time frame and assessment of the thesis can be found in the Master Thesis Guide compiled by the Consortium and functioning as a Master's thesis protocol, which is included as an Appendix to these Teaching and Examination Regulations. This Appendix forms an integral part of these regulations.

Article 4.11a – Ethics Clearance

1. Complementing the second clause of article 9 of Part C of these regulations, student research projects conducted for the degree programme are required to be in line with the Research Ethics Rules and Guidelines of the degree programme.
2. Master thesis research projects are subject to the ethics clearance procedure and approval by the Ethics Committee of the degree programme and shall be provided with a written declaration of having complied with the Research Ethics Rules and Guidelines upon completion.

Section 5 Final assessment of the degree programme

Article 5.1 – Degree certificate application

Due to the specific joint nature of the degree programme, the second clause of article 5.1 of Part A of these regulations shall be read and understood as follows:

2. Students who have passed all the examinations for the degree programme, or have satisfied the requirements for all parts of the programme approved by the Board of Examiners, in accordance with article 10.1 of Part C of these regulations, shall apply for the certificate no later than four weeks after doing so in those cases where the University of Groningen is the issuing university of the joint degree award on behalf of the partner university under the Consortium Agreement. The examination date entered on the certificate by the Board of Examiners is the date on which the student is deemed by the Board to have satisfied the final assessment requirements.

In addition, the following clause shall be read and understood as the fourth clause of article 5.1 of Part A of these regulations:

4. Students who have passed all the examinations for the degree programme, or have satisfied the requirements for all parts of the programme approved by the Board of Examiners, in accordance with article 10.1 of Part C of these regulations, shall follow the graduation procedure of the partner university that issues the joint degree award in those cases where the University of Groningen is not the issuing university of the joint degree award but the university on whose behalf the partner university shall issue the joint degree award under the Consortium Agreement. In case the latter situation applies, the student shall ensure, supported by the degree programme, that he or she shall be correctly registered at the University of Groningen for the purpose of taking course units and/or examinations leading to the conferral of a university degree, as required by the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act.

Article 5.3 – Degree certificate

Due to the specific joint nature of the degree programme, the first and second clause of article 5.3 of Part A of these regulations shall be read and understood as follows:

1. In those cases where the University of Groningen is the university issuing the joint degree award, students shall receive a certificate issued by the Board of Examiners as proof that they have passed the final assessment.
2. In those cases where the University of Groningen is the university issuing the joint degree award, the Board of Examiners shall issue an International Diploma Supplement with each degree certificate.

Article 5.4 – Degree

Due to the specific joint nature of the degree programme, article 5.4 of Part A of these regulations shall be read and understood in its entirety as follows:

1. In those cases where students have satisfied all the requirements of the final assessment and where the University of Groningen is one of the universities awarding the joint degree under the Consortium Agreement, the degree of 'Master of Arts' shall be awarded and be registered on the degree certificate.

Article 5.5 – Honours predicate

1. In case the University of Groningen is responsible for issuing the joint degree award, the Board of Examiners shall determine whether or not the Master's degree certificate shall be awarded an honours predicate in consultation with the partner university involved and in accordance with article 5.5 of Part A of these regulations.
2. In case a partner university is responsible for issuing the joint degree on behalf of the University of Groningen, the regulations at the partner university concerning the awarding of mention of

honours shall apply. The aforementioned can be subject to additional stipulations in a bilateral agreement between the two universities involved.

SECTION 6 TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 6.1 – Amendments

1. Any amendments to part A of these Regulations will, after discussion with and where necessary approval from the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
2. Any amendments to part B of these Regulations will, after the Departmental Board has put its case and after discussion with and where necessary approval from the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
3. Any amendments to these Regulations will not apply to the current academic year, unless it may reasonably be assumed that the amendment in question will not harm the interests of students.
4. In addition, an amendment may not influence any other decision concerning a student taken by the Board of Examiners under these Regulations to the disadvantage of students.

Article 6.2 – Publication

1. The Faculty Board shall duly publish these Regulations, any rules and guidelines formulated by the Board of Examiners, and any amendments to these documents.
2. Copies of the documents referred to in Article 5.2.1 are available from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website via the 'Student Portal'.

Article 6.3 – Date of commencement

These Regulations shall take effect on 1 September 2016.
As decreed by the Faculty Board on 28 June 2016.

Appendix 1. Matrix realised Programme Learning Outcomes / course units MA International Relations – *International Humanitarian Action*

| European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning descriptors for level 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|---|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Knowledge Highly specialised knowledge, some of which is at the forefront of knowledge in a field of work or study, as the basis for original thinking and/or research; critical awareness of knowledge issues in a field and at the interface between different fields. | | | | Skills Specialised problem-solving skills required in research and/or innovation in order to develop new knowledge and procedures and to integrate knowledge from different fields. | | | | | | | | | Competence Manage and transform work or study contexts that are complex, unpredictable and require new strategic approaches; take responsibility for contributing to professional knowledge and practice and/or for reviewing the strategic performance of teams. | | | | | | | | |
| NOHA Programme Learning Outcomes: | 1a. | 1b. | 7a. | 2a. | 3a. | 4a. | 4b. | 5a. | 6a. | 9b. | 11a. | 14a. | 8a. | 9a. | 10a. | 11b. | 12a. | 13a. | 13b. | 15a. | 15b. |
| YEAR 1 semester 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Course unit | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Intensive Programme NOHA | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 2. Geopolitics in Humanitarian Action | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. International Law in Humanitarian Action | ✓ | | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 4. Social and Medical Sciences in Humanitarian Action | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 5. Management in Humanitarian Action | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |

| European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning descriptors for level 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|--|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Knowledge Highly specialised knowledge, some of which is at the forefront of knowledge in a field of work or study, as the basis for original thinking and/or research; critical awareness of knowledge issues in a field and at the interface between different fields. | | | | Skills Specialised problem-solving skills required in research and/or innovation in order to develop new knowledge and procedures and to integrate knowledge from different fields. | | | | | | | | | Competence Manage and transform work or study contexts that are complex, unpredictable and require new strategic approaches; take responsibility for contributing to professional knowledge and practice and/or for reviewing the strategic performance of teams. | | | | | | | | |
| NOHA Programme Learning Outcomes: | 1a. | 1b. | 7a. | 2a. | 3a. | 4a. | 4b. | 5a. | 6a. | 9b. | 11a. | 14a. | 8a. | 9a. | 10a. | 11b. | 12a. | 13a. | 13b. | 15a. | 15b. |
| YEAR 1 semester 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Course unit | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. Disaster Analysis and Intervention Design | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ |
| YEAR 2 semester 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Course unit | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. MA internship in Humanitarian Action | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 9. MA thesis in Humanitarian Action | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |