university of groningen

faculty of religion, culture and society

# 2023-2024

# Student Handbook

# Student Handbook Faculty

# Religion, Culture and Society

# 2023 - 2024

Bachelor programmes
- Theology
- Religious Studies

Tracks of the one-year Master programme Theology and Religious Studies:
- Heritage and Religion
- Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern (incl. Double Degree Master)
- Religion, Conflict and Globalization
- Spiritual Care
- Werk en Zingeving (Work and Meaning)

Master Theology and Religious Studies (research)
Religious Diversity in a Globalised World (Erasmus Mundus)

Master Leraar Voorbereidend Hoger Onderwijs Mens- en Maatschappijwetenschappen: Godsdienst en Levensbeschouwing
(Master Teaching Social Sciences and Humanities in Religion and World View)


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telephone:   +31 (0)50 36 38017
e-mail:      info.rcs@rug.nl
website:     www.rug.nl/rcs

Faculty building opening hours:
        during teaching weeks:

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 8.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Thursday | 8.30 a.m. - 8.00 p.m. |

# CONTENTS

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Faculty Religion, Culture and Society. This student handbook provides general information on the Faculty Religion, Culture and Society. It also contains the necessary information on the objective and structure of the Bachelor's degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies and of the one-year and two-year Master's degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies. The course unit information can be found on the Faculty website in the Ocasys Course Catalogue: http://www.rug.nl/ocasys/rcs. The lecture and examination timetables can also be found on the website: https://www.rug.nl/rcs/education/timetable (via mobile phone: http://rooster.rug.nl/).

The degree programme's most important regulations are included in chapter 18 of the Student Charter (see https://www.rug.nl/about-ug/organization/rules-and-regulations/education/studentenstatuut/ chapter 19 of the Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER) and chapter 20 of the Rules and Regulations (R&R). Registered students are expected to know and observe these regulations. They are decisive and complete. The texts below merely explain these regulations. While they were drawn up with the greatest possible care, no rights can be derived from them.

For extra information on practical matters of all kinds, please turn to the Student Administration Office located in room 004. It is open to students from Tuesday to Thursday between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. or by appointment. You can reach the staff by telephone via +31 50 36 35568 and +31 50 36 38421 or by email: studentoffice.rcs@rug.nl.

Please contact the Faculty study advisors for information about your degree programme or for support in drawing up a study plan and monitoring study progress (studyadvice.rcs@rug.nl). Study advisors hold regular study progress interviews with all students and advise the Board of Examiners on individual student requests. In certain cases study advisors may also refer to external aid providers. For open office hours, please check: http://www.rug.nl/rcs/organization/office-services/study-matters/

## 2. THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES IN GRONINGEN

### 2.1.Profile of the Faculty Religion, Culture and Society
Religion is a significant factor in societies around the world, intersecting with multiple social, political, economic, ecological, cultural, and historical issues. Many people set great store by their religious beliefs, experiences, and groups, and draw strength and structure from them. People may draw on religion to shape how they express themselves in texts, rituals, and art, and religious actors can play significant roles in conflict, violence and peacebuilding. Religion may also be part of how people perceive their health and wellbeing. Within our complex societies, there is an increasing interest in the field of religion, culture, and society. Perhaps now more than ever, we need specialists who can explain the meaning and background of the role that religious actors, institutions, narratives and ideas play in life and society – experts who know the discerning characteristics of different religions and are able to grasp the cultural and social dynamics of religion and religious phenomena. The Faculty Religion, Culture and Society is the University of Groningen's centre of expertise in the field of religion and culture. The Faculty seamlessly integrates teaching and research, training analysts, policy advisors, curators, spiritual carers, theologians and teachers of the future.

The teaching and research profile of the UG Faculty Religion, Culture and Society is defined by its focus on the interrelationship between religion, culture, and society. Developing comprehensive understandings of societies past and present cannot be done without consideration of the interplay between religion and culture. Religion is always part of a culture, and culture in turn can never be fully understood without knowledge of religions. At the Groningen Faculty, education is given from the perspective of the interplay between religion and culture to provide students with a broad overview of the history and content of religions and their meaning for people, culture, and society, past, present and future.

All degree programmes taught at the Faculty are characterized by an open and critical approach. Students are challenged to thematize issues at the interface of religion and culture and to consider the consequences this has for themselves and others.

The Faculty offers Bachelor degree programmes in both *Theology* and *Religious Studies*. Both programmes study religions in their cultural context. Theology focuses on the sources, history and present-day expressions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam both in isolation and in their interactions. In addition, this programme offers course units on subjects such as sociology and philosophy of religion, which focus on the questions posed to theology and religion by today's culture.

Religious Studies explores from a comparative perspective how various major religious traditions worldwide, such as Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, manifest themselves. You will learn to study religious phenomena in Europe and beyond from historical, anthropological, sociological, psychological, philosophical and ethical perspectives. In addition, you will learn to use social-scientific and historical methods in research on religious themes.

The Faculty offers two Master degree programmes: a standard one-year programme in Theology and Religious Studies and a two-year Master's programme in Theology and Religious Studies (Research). The one-year programme comprises five tracks: *Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern*, *Religion, Conflict and Globalization*, *Heritage and Religion*, *Geestelijke Verzorging* and *Werk en Zingeving*. For the master's track Religion, Health and Wellbeing - Ethics and Diversity, in the 2023-2024 academic year there is only the possibility of completing courses.
The Research Master programme offers even more specialization options than the one-year Master degree programme. Both programmes analyse religious themes in relation to their surrounding culture and socio-political dynamics.

Since 1 September 2017, the Faculty has offered the post-Master degree programme in teaching Social Sciences and Humanities in secondary education (LVHO) together with the teacher-training programme of the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences.

See also https://www.rug.nl/rcs/organization/about-the-faculty/

## 2.2 Degree programmes
The Faculty offers the following degree programmes:
- Bachelor degree programme in Theology
- Bachelor degree programme in Religious Studies
- Master degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies (one-year Master programme), including the following five specializations:
    - Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern
    - Religion, Conflict and Globalization
    - Heritage and Religion
    - Religion, Health and Wellbeing (with specialization Ethics and Diversity in dismantling)
    - Geestelijke Verzorging (Spiritual Care)
    - Werk en Zingeving
- Master of Arts in Social Sciences and Humanities in secondary education (LVHO)
- Master in Theology and Religious Studies (Research) (two-year Master programme)
- PhD programme in Theology and Religious Studies

The Research Master and the PhD programme are part of the Graduate School of Religion, Culture and Society (see https://www.rug.nl/research/gradschool-religion-culture-and-society/).

The Faculty will offer three University Minors to UG students from other faculties in the 2023-2024 academic year.
- Religion in the Modern World (2x 15 ECTS)
- Art and Religion (2 x 15 ETCS) in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts
- Anthropology: What it means to be human (2 x 15 ECTS) in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts and Campus Fryslân.

See also:

## 2.3 Vision on education

The Faculty vision on education aims to dovetail closely with the UG educational vision (https://www.rug.nl/about-us/who-are-we/strategic-plan/strategic-goals/education) while also taking into account several specific characteristics of its own students and degree programmes. The degree programmes offered within the Faculty contain course units that cover a wide variety of academic disciplines, each with their own requirements. The curricula are characterized by small-scale teaching, with extensive individual contact between lecturers and students. The Faculty strives for an optimum balance between the requirements set by the various disciplines that shape the degree programmes, the needs and wishes of students and signals from the professional field and the labour market.

### Objectives and learning outcomes

The Faculty aims to prepare its students optimally for the requirements that they will have to meet after they graduate. Therefore, two aspects are distinguished in the design of the curricula for the Faculty's degree programmes: objectives and learning outcomes. Objectives are formulated to explain what the relevant degree programme trains students for. Our degree programmes impart knowledge, theory and practical skills that can be adapted and applied across a variety of fields and professions. Learning outcomes indicate what graduates of a degree programme must know and be able to do in terms of content and level. This includes not only subject-specific *knowledge* but also *understanding* and *skills*. Skills include both generic (general academic) skills and domain-specific (subject-specific) skills. Generic skills include developing an academic attitude, with particular focus on thinking critically and independently as well as learning independently. These aspects are covered by the objectives of the Bachelor degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies (see Chapters 5 and 6 for more information).

### Interrelationship between teaching and research

The Groningen degree programmes are characterized by research-driven teaching. As well as rigorous training in core introductory and foundation level courses, education is based on the lecturers' specific research expertise. Students will acquire understanding, analytical skills, a critical attitude and the ability to independently draw conclusions based on data by discussing new theories and research results in lectures, training research skills and conducting research. During the Bachelor degree programme, students are not only introduced to a variety of research methods but also learn, under supervision, to design and conduct a small-scale research project and report on it in a well-reasoned and academically sound way in the Bachelor thesis. Subsequently, the Master degree programmes provide further training in independent research, content knowledge, writing and analysis, equipping students to pursue careers across various government and civil society sectors, or undertake postgraduate research.

### Suitable, activating modes of instruction and assessment

Modes of instruction and assessment are selected with the goal of realizing the learning outcomes and competences to the highest level possible. This means that a great deal of

attention is paid to developing analytical skills and oral and written skills, for example by holding presentations and writing papers. The focus is always on stimulating students to learn actively and independently. The teaching at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies is thus *student*-centred, which means that the learning process of students is the central focus in the way the teaching is designed.

**Testing and assessment**
The quality of the teaching is inextricably linked to regular and professional assessment, which forms a guarantee that the final level and the learning outcomes of the course units will be achieved. In addition, good assessment forms a firm foundation for judgements about the students' capabilities and thus the selection and advising of students.
The Faculty assessment policy is designed to ensure that all examinations are of a high quality, which means they must be:
a. *valid*, and dovetail with the required learning outcomes of the course units
b. conducted in a *reliable* way
c. *transparent*, i.e. the assessment mode must be specified in advance, along with the learning outcomes to be assessed and the criteria that the lecturer will use, how the various components will be weighted, which valuation standards will be used and how the lecturer will calculate the marks.

**World-class lecturers**
The Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society is home to a cohort of passionate and dedicated lecturers, outstanding in their research fields. All our lecturers undertake training in teaching for higher education, and the Faculty and University provide ongoing support and training for staff in developing new skills, techniques and tools.

## 2.4 Quality assurance of teaching
A high level of teaching is not achieved by high-quality programmes and lecturers alone, but also by students' efforts and motivation. The Faculty does not regard students as customers or consumers of teaching, but rather as active participants in the learning and teaching process. High-quality teaching is impossible without motivated students who prepare thoroughly for their lectures and exams. The Faculty therefore explicitly aims at a *quality culture* based on optimal effort by both lecturers and students, which makes learning and teaching inspiring.

**Internal quality assurance**
The Faculty considers the quality of its degree programmes to be very important, which is why they are regularly evaluated. This is done at several levels, by responsible institutions, students and lecturers. The course unit evaluations by students and lecturers play a central role in this process. Each course unit is in principle evaluated once a year, and the results are used to further improve the teaching. In addition to course unit evaluations, curriculum evaluations are regularly organized to assess the entire teaching programme.
This curriculum evaluation focuses on the coherence and implementation of the entire program.

The Programme Committees (OC) are important bodies that assess the quality of teaching. Committees are made up of an equal number of students and staff representatives. The OCs ensure that the teaching process follows the Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER). In addition, they discuss the course unit, block, year and curriculum monitoring and feedback reports and communicates the outcomes to the Programme Director, who monitors the feedback process on behalf of the Faculty Board. Each course unit appraisal comprises a questionnaire to be filled in by students taking the course unit.

**External quality assurance**
The Faculty's teaching is externally assessed once every six years. In the latest external assessment rounds, the Groningen degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies were assessed positive, also in a comparative national perspective.

## 2.5 Research
The Faculty's academic staff covers a variety of fields and comprises theologians, religious studies specialists, historians, philosophers, sociologists, political scientists, anthropologists and psychologists. The Faculty has an excellent research reputation, both in the Netherlands and abroad. In recent years, international assessments have repeatedly qualified our Faculty as excellent in terms of theology and religious studies research. The Faculty maintains many international contacts with universities abroad (incl. Århus, Berlin, Bern, Bremen, Copenhagen, Córdoba, Coimbra, Frankfurt, Ghent, Göttingen, Helsinki, Argentina, Ghana, India, Israël, Mexico, UK, USA). This is something that you as a student can also benefit from, as during the third year of your Bachelor degree programme you can spend a study period at one of the Faculty's foreign partner universities.

**Centre for Religious Studies (CRS)**
https://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/

The CRS has three research groups, which coincide with the three Faculty departments:
1. Jewish, Christian and Islamic Origins
   https://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/research-departments/jewish-christian-islamic-origins/
2. Comparative Study of Religion
   http://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/comparative-historical-study-of-religion/
3. Christianity and the History of Ideas
   https://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/research-departments/christianity-history-ideas/


Each of these groups focuses on its own long-term research programme. A number of research themes and areas have been allocated to Faculty research networks: the Qumran Institute, the Centre for Religion and Heritage, the Centre for Religion, Conflict and Globalization, and the Centre for Religion, Health and Wellbeing and to the following interdisciplinary partnerships:

- CRASIS: Culture Religion and Society-Interdisciplinary Studies in the Ancient World https://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/crasis/
- Institute of Indian Studies https://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/research-centres/institute-of-indian-studies/

The Faculty organizes regular 'Spotlight' colloquia, where researchers can present their recent research results and new developments to the Faculty-wide research community. These colloquia aim to stimulate collaboration between the various fields and research groups within the Faculty.

## 2.6 Research institutes

**Centre for Religion and Heritage**
https://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/centre-religion-heritage/

**Centre for Religion, Conflict and Globalization**
https://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/research-centres/centre-religion-conflict-globalization/

**Centre for Religion, Health and Wellbeing**
https://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/research-centres/centre-religion-health-wellbeing/

**Institute of Indian Studies**
https://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/research-centres/institute-of-indian-studies/

**Qumran Institute**
http://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/qumran-institute/

# 3. STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S PHASES

## 3.1 Admission to the Bachelor's degree programmes

A Dutch VWO diploma (all profiles), as well as a diploma or a propaedeutic certificate from a university of applied sciences (HBO) grant admission to the Bachelor's degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies. Prospective students who want to study Theology but do not have Greek must choose the programme that integrates Greek into the curriculum. Students over 21 who do not have a VWO diploma, a diploma from a university of applied sciences or a propaedeutic certificate from a university of applied sciences can take the entrance examination (*Colloquium Doctum*). This examination tests your knowledge of Dutch, English and History at VWO level. More information about this procedure is available from the Student Administration Office or via:
Entrance requirements for Theology: http://www.rug.nl/bachelors/theology/admission-and-application
Entrance requirements for Religious Studies: http://www.rug.nl/bachelors/religious-studies/admission-and-application

## 3.2 Starting the Bachelor's degree programmes

### Propaedeutic phase

Students can start a Bachelor's programme on 1 September if they have had a conversation with the study advisor. This applies both to students from outside the University of Groningen and students already enrolled at the University of Groningen ('switchers'). Once students have had this conversation, they can start on 1 November, 1 February and 1 April after consultation with the study advisor.
Students with a prior registration for the same degree programme can still start after 1 September after consultation with the study advisor.

### Post-propaedeutic phase

Starting after 1 September is only possible for students with a prior registration for the same degree programme. In such cases the students can start on 1 November, 1 February or 1 April after consultation with the study advisor. New students who want to start the post-propaedeutic phase may only start on 1 September.

### Pre-Master's programmes

The main starting dates are 1 September and 1 February. It may be possible to start on 1 November or 1 April after consultation with the study advisor. No distinction is made between students from outside the University of Groningen or students already registered at the University of Groningen.

Please contact the study advisors with any questions about starting your programme after 1 September (studyadvice.rcs@rug.nl). Admission requests for the Bachelor's degree programme can be addressed to the Admissions Board, care of K. van den Ende MA (k.van.den.ende@rug.nl).

### 3.3 General structure of the Bachelor's degree programmes

The Bachelor's degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies each consist of a propaedeutic phase of one year and a post-propaedeutic phase of two years. Students who have met all the requirements of the second and third years will receive a Bachelor's degree certificate.

The first and second-year course units in the Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies are mandatory for all. The programme is varied and covers a very wide range of subjects and disciplines. Students can personalize through their choice of subjects for papers or presentations. The Bachelor's degree programme in Theology has different specializations from the first year. Students who did not take the final VWO exam in Greek must follow the programme that includes Greek. In addition, students of Theology can choose course units that are part of the Protestant Theological University (PThU) path as early as the first year, which further prepares them for the *Master Predikantschap* (Master's degree programme in Ministry) (see Chapter 5).

The third year of the programme without Greek of the Bachelor's degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies students can choose broadening and deepening course units. Students follow a broadening University Minor of 15-30 ECTS in the first semester. They also follow a deepening Faculty Minor and write their Bachelor's thesis in the second semester, totalling 30 ECTS. Students can also choose to stay at a foreign university for the Educational Minor or take the Minor in Spiritual Care, which further prepares for the Master programme in Spiritual Care. Students finish the degree programme by writing a Bachelor's thesis. The relevant research for this thesis is embedded in the chosen Faculty Minor.

See the Theology programme: http://www.rug.nl/bachelors/theology/programme
See the Religious Studies programme: http://www.rug.nl/bachelors/religious-studies/programme

### 3.4 Admission to the Master's degree programmes

For all master's tracks, you may not start the program until you have met all requirements of the bachelor's degree, known as the "harde knip'.

**Follow-on Master's specializations**
A Bachelor's degree certificate in Theology or Religious Studies grants immediate admission to the following Master's specializations:
- Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern
- Religion, Conflict and Globalization
- Heritage and Religion
- Werk en Zingeving

Students who apply for any of these specializations must send a summary of their results from the Bachelor's degree programme. More information about the admission procedure and application deadlines can be found on the Faculty website:
https://www.rug.nl/rcs/education/master/

**Master's track Geestelijke Verzorging (Spiritual Care)**
Admission to the Master programme Spiritual Care based on a Bachelor's degree certificate in Theology or Religious Studies requires successful completion of the preparatory Minor in Spiritual Care from the Bachelor's degree programme. Further relevant information can be found in Sections 5.11 and Section 6.9 of the Student Handbook. More information about the admission procedure and application deadlines can be found on the Faculty website:
https://www.rug.nl/masters/spiritual-care/

**Master's specialization in Theology and Religious Studies (Research)**
The two-year Research Master has a selection procedure. More information about this admission procedure and application deadlines can be found on the Faculty website:
https://www.rug.nl/masters/theology-religious-studies-research/

**Master of Arts in Teaching: training secondary school teachers of Religious Studies**
This one-year Master's programme teaches students to transfer that knowledge to secondary school pupils. During this training you combine your knowledge in the fields of Theology and Religious Studies with a teacher-training programme. More information can be found on the Faculty website:
https://www.rug.nl/rcs/education/master/opleiding-leraar-voortgezet-onderwijs-godsdienst-levensbeschouwing

Please contact the study advisors for further information about admission to the various Master's specializations (studyadvice.rcs@rug.nl).

## 3.5 Starting the Master's degree programmes
Students seeking to follow an English-taught Master's specialization can register to start on 1 September. Students re-registering for the English-taught one-year Master's specializations can do so for the starting dates of 1 September or 1 February. The two-year Master's specialization only starts on 1 September.
Students who want to start with the mastertrack Werk en Zingeving or Spiritual Care in full-time or part-time can only register for the starting date of 1 September. Students can re-register for the specialization for the starting dates of 1 September or 1 February.

## 3.6 Master's labels and specializations

**Master's in Theology and Religious Studies (60 ECTS)**
The Faculty has offered a one-year Master's in Theology and Religious Studies with a student workload of 60 ECTS since September 2012. This broad Master's label comprises the following five interdisciplinary specializations, which are closely interlinked with the research of the departments that offer them:
- Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern
- Religion, Conflict and Globalization
- Heritage and Religion
- Spiritual Care
- Werk en Zingeving

The first four specializations are English-taught. They comprise 30 ECTS of course units, a 10 ECTS placement and a 20 ECTS thesis.

Geestelijke Verzorging is a Dutch-taught programme, that is being offered both full-time and part-time. This programme builds on the pre-Master's programme in Geestelijke Verzorging and comprises five course units of 5 ECTS each, a 15 ECTS placement and a 20 ECTS thesis.

Werk en Zingeving is also a primarily Dutch-taught programme and comprises six course units worth 5 ECTS credit points each, a placement worth 10 ECTS credit points, and a thesis worth 20 ECTS credit points. In 2023-2024, for the final year, there will be an opportunity to complete the Religion, Health and Wellbeing - Ethics and Diversity track.

Further information on objectives, learning outcomes and the organization of these specializations can be found in Chapters 7 to 12. Twice a year, in spring and autumn, the Faculty organizes *Master Week*, an information meeting where students can focus on their choice of Master's specialization. During this event, information will also be provided on placement opportunities in the Master's specializations Religion, Conflict and Globalization, Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern, Heritage and Religion, Spiritual Care and Werk en Zingeving.

**Master's in Theology and Religious Studies (Research) (120 ECTS)**
The Faculty offers one 120 ECTS research-oriented specialization under the degree programme Theology and Religious Studies. This Master's programme focuses on research, thus providing sound preparation for the PhD programme. The specialization offers a lot of space for specialization in addition to the three mandatory *course units*.

Further information on the objectives, learning outcomes and organization of this specialization can be found in Chapter 13. The Research Master will also be extensively discussed during the *Master Week* Faculty information meetings in spring and autumn.

## 3.7 ECTS credit points system and student workload
Ocasys lists the number of ECTS credit points for each course unit. This abbreviation stands for European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, a European system for the transfer and accumulation of student workload credit points. The system was developed by the European Commission in 1989 as part of the Erasmus programme for student mobility, in close cooperation with the academic world, including the University of Groningen.

The European System for the transfer and accumulation of credit points is a system that puts students first and is based on student workload to achieve the objectives of a particular programme. These objectives must be specified in terms of learning outcomes. ECTS is based on the understanding that 60 credit points correspond to the student workload of a full-time student during one academic year. The student workload for students of a full-time degree programme in Europe is typically 1500-1800 hours per year, in which case one ECTS credit point corresponds to 25 to 30 working hours.

The Netherlands, and thus the University of Groningen too, uses ECTS both for accumulation and transfer purposes. The application of the ECTS is regulated by law. The

law stipulates that 42 study weeks of 40 hours, i.e. one academic year, corresponds to a student workload of 60 ECTS credit points. This means that 1 ECTS credit point is equivalent to 28 hours of work. An academic Bachelor's degree programme equals 3 years of full-time study, which corresponds to 180 ECTS credit points.

Student workload is the time spent attending lectures, i.e. contact hours, as well as on the preparation and processing of the lecture material, including reading the literature, doing assignments, writing papers and preparing presentations. Also included in the student workload is the preparation time for examinations. The following allocation formula applies to the student workload of literature to be read for lectures and examinations: 1 student workload hour = 5 to 7 pages of literature, depending on the difficulty level, excluding the literature covered in the lectures. Credit points are only awarded after a course unit has been completed with adequate results, i.e. after the required work has been finished and the intended learning outcomes have been attained.

See also: https://www.rug.nl/education/bachelor/nederlandse-studenten/studiekeuze-en-voorlichting/ects-grading-tabel

### 3.8 Year structure
The academic year is divided into two semesters of 21 weeks each. The first semester begins in September and ends in early February, the second semester runs from early February to early July. Each semester comprises two blocks, followed by two examination weeks. There are no lectures during examination weeks.
Each block also contains a lecture-free week, during which the resits from the previous exam period are planned. In blocks 2, 3 and 4 this is the fifth week of the block. There are typically no lectures during that week.

The resits of second-year course units and any examinations of third-year course units from block 4 will take place in weeks 27 and 28, from July 1 to July 12, 2024.

The deadlines for the first and second versions of the Bachelor's theses have been set in advance. Please refer to the syllabi of the BA-3 research course units for these.

The academic year 2023-2024 starts on Monday 4 September 2023.
The academic year calendar for 2023-2024 can be found in Chapter 21.

### Holidays 2023-2024
- Christmas break: Monday 25 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2024
- Good Friday: Friday 29 March 2024
- Easter Monday: Monday 1 April 2024
- King's Day: Friday 27 April 2024
- Liberation Day: Friday 5 May 2024
- Ascension Day: Thursday 9 May 2024
- Whit Monday: Monday 20 May 2024
- Summer Break: week 29 to week 35 (Monday 15 July to Friday 30 August 2024)

As stated in the Student Charter, all students are expected to be available for study-related activities between the first and the last scheduled day of the academic year, i.e. from 4 September 2023 to 12 July 2024. Activities may be scheduled on the days in which participation is mandatory.

## 3.9 Lecture and examination timetable

The lecture and examination timetable of your degree programme can be found on the Faculty website (https://www.rug.nl/rcs/education/timetable) and via http://rooster.rug.nl/ for mobile phones.

The order of the course units listed in this Student Handbook may change in the course of the academic year, which will also have consequences for the timetabling. In addition, it is also possible that a course unit may have to be moved to a different room at the last moment due to the number of students who register for it. Students should therefore regularly check the information on the website and on Brightspace for timetable changes. No legal rights may be derived from any errors in lecture and examination timetables.

## 3.10 Honours College

The University of Groningen has a university-wide Honours College, which challenges talented and motivated students to seek further broadening and deepening of their knowledge by following an extra honours programme. Bachelor's students take an extra 45 ECTS credit points in addition to their regular Bachelor's degree programme of 180 credit points.

**Honours College Bachelor's programme**

The Honours College programme for the Bachelor's phase has a broadening component of 20 ECTS credit points, to be followed at another faculty, and a programme-specific deepening component of 25 ECTS credit points, to be followed within the Faculty. The broadening component consists of two course units of 5 ECTS each, to be followed at another faculty, a personal development component (Pick your own talent) and a skills component (skills). In the summer-winter schools, students work out a current theme related to one of the Honours course units. The knowledge, skills and personal-development components are addressed by approaching this theme from different perspectives and by working in an interdisciplinary constellation.

The deepening course units are taken within the Faculty. The Faculty component of the Honours programme of the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology or Religious Studies is organized as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ba-1 TH Honours | 5 ECTS |
| Ba-2 TH Honours | 10 ECTS |
| Ba-3 TH Honours | 10 ECTS |

The second and third-year Faculty specialization offers a large degree of freedom within a certain framework. Modes of instruction vary from extra lectures to research practicals and tutorials.

- Ba-1: Honours course unit Modern World Views (5 ECTS).
- Ba-2: all students from the same cohort participate in the same research project: Religion and Health. Students will have their own specialization with a student workload of 10 ECTS within this research project, in consultation with the supervising lecturer.
- Ba-3: in the first semester, students follow a 5 ECTS course unit Violent Texts, culminating in a symposium organized by the students concerned, together with people inside and/or outside the Faculty (5 ECTS, block 3-4). This is where students will also present their own contributions.

The Honours College programme starts in the second half of the first year of study, thus lasting a total of 5 semesters. The extra student workload is 25% and amounts to approximately 10-12 hours of extra student workload per week.

A selection procedure takes place at the end of the first semester of the first year of the Bachelor's degree programme. First-year students can apply for a place at the Honours College. Information about the procedure can be found on the Honours College website: http://www.rug.nl/honours. The Faculty organizes an annual information meeting about the Honours College as an initial introduction.

## 3.11 Studying abroad
Studying abroad is an enrichment of the degree programme, stimulates both academic and personal development, contributes to the development of intercultural and language skills, and gives you the opportunity to build an international (academic) network. The degree programme offers the opportunity to study at a foreign university for one semester in the third year of the Bachelor's programme (see Chapters 5 and 6).
The Master's degree programme includes the option of doing a placement and research abroad. It is important that students start making arrangements for a placement or field work abroad in good time in order to avoid study delay as much as possible. Conditions to take into account for placements can be found in Brightspace, under Master's Placement.

Agreements between universities in and outside Europe have made studying abroad an attractive option.
It is necessary, however, to thoroughly plan any stay abroad, preferably one year in advance. Clear agreements will have to be made in advance regarding the course units students intend to follow abroad, and permission must be obtained from the Board of Examiners to avoid successfully completed course units at a foreign university and the associated credit points not being counted towards your degree. This should preferably take place prior to actually following those course units to avoid disappointment, and thus unwanted study delay later. For advice you can contact the study advisor, studyadvice.rcs@rug.nl. Students should also take into account the tight deadlines for registration and application for a scholarship.
Study results obtained abroad are registered with a 'V' for completed (Dutch: Voldaan) in

Progress once the course units followed have been completed successfully.

The steps to be taken prior to travelling abroad are described on My University under Studying abroad:
http://myuniversity.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/rcs/studereninhetbuitenland/. This webpage describes where students can go, which forms to fill out, how to finance a study period abroad and what to do in case of study delay. It also includes information on practical issues such as letting and subletting rooms, visas, insurance, student finance, experiences of others and tips. If you still have any questions, please contact us at internationaloffice.rcs@rug.nl.

For an overview of partner organizations, please check:
https://student.portal.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/rcs/studereninhetbuitenland/orientatie/

## 3.12 Part-time programmes
The Bachelor's degree programme in Theology can also be followed part-time. Religious Studies does not offer a part-time programme. Theology only schedules those course units that are also part of the pre-Master's programme in Spiritual Care on a fixed day of the week. Part-time students are encouraged to promptly contact the study advisors, drs. T.M.L. de Boer or K. van den Ende MA. They can provide further information about timetabling and any additional facilities (accessible via: studyadvise.rcs@rug.nl).

Additional information can be found on: http://www.rug.nl/society-business/increase-your-knowledge/deeltijd/

## 3.13 Information activities
Several information meetings are organized during the academic year. Below is an overview of the standard information events. These are aimed at providing further information about the options in the Bachelor's degree programme, and also devote attention to orientation on further education and the labour market.

Twice a year, in the spring and fall, the faculty also organizes the Master's Week, an informational activity where you can orient yourself to choosing your master's track.

| Information meetings | Period | Notification |
|---|---|---|
| Introduction (firstyear students) | End of August, beginning of September | Invitation by letter |
| Information about PThU-traject (for firstyear Theology students) | September | Announced via e-mail and /or in introductionletter |
| Information Internship | September/October | Announced via schedule, e-mail and newsletter |
| Honours College | January | Invitation by e-mail Announced via posters |
| University minors (for upcoming thirdyear students) | Spring | Announced via website and newsletter |
| Faculty minors (secondyear students) | March | Announced via e-mail |

| Studying abroad (first-and secondyear students) | variable | Announced via e-mail |
|---|---|---|
| Workshop Employability for all students | Twice a Semester | Announced via e-mail and posters |
| Master Information | November en March | Announced via e-mail, posters and website |

For more general information, please visit:
https://www.rug.nl/education/events/

# 4. TEACHING AND EXAMINATIONS

## 4.1 Course unit overview in Ocasys
The descriptions of the course units of the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies can be found in the course catalogue on the Faculty website www.rug.nl/ocasys/rcs. Ocasys gives learning outcomes for each course unit as well as a short description of the content. It also provides additional information on the teaching and examination methods used. The course unit learning outcomes are derived from the learning outcomes of the Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes. The teaching and examination methods are derived from the learning outcomes of the relevant course unit. Ocasys will list any attendance requirements for certain course units. Should there be any difference between Ocasys and the Student Handbook, the information in Ocasys will prevail.

## 4.2 Syllabi
Each course unit syllabus contains additional information on the learning outcomes, teaching content, modes of instruction, modes of assessment and the examination material. It also includes a weekly schedule detailing the preparations for each lecture and the deadlines for any assignments. The syllabus can be found in the relevant Brightspace environment.

## 4.3 Modes of instruction
The course units are offered in one of the following forms:
*Lectures*: Lectures and other activities with a fixed starting time and duration. The literature list is published in advance.
*Practicals*: Practical exercises, training or any other form of practice with a fixed starting time and duration. Full participation in the activities and assignments, i.e. a 80% attendance record, is mandatory. Seminars, progress tests and assignments may form part of the practical.
*Bachelor's or Master's thesis*: A reasoned report of completed academic research.

Each course unit is offered once a year, with the student workload in ECTS credit points fixed in advance.

## 4.4 Testing and assessment
Each course unit is typically awarded a mark. Testing and assessment can take place in a variety of ways. While students mainly take written examinations in the first and second Bachelor's years, written assignments or presentations can also contribute to the final mark for a course unit. During the third Bachelor's year and in the Master's phase testing will predominantly take place through writing and presenting assignments or giving a presentation. Sometimes oral examinations are held. The exam materials include both the literature list and the lecture material, unless a lecturer decides otherwise.

There is one exam opportunity a year for oral and written examinations, at the end of the relevant block. The resit opportunity is in the next block, five to six weeks after the first

exam opportunity. Course units with examinations at the end of the second semester have a resit in July. Oral resits may take the place of examinations that were originally written.

Course units assessed with several partial examinations are considered passed if the average final overall mark is 5.5 or higher and a minimum mark of 5.5 was obtained for each of the individual components. If an assessment has been given a grade below 5.5 you must retake it.
Students must retake the entire course unit in the next academic year if the final overall mark for a course unit is still a fail after the resit. This includes attending lectures and those components that have already been passed.
It is not possible to resit course units that have been passed.
Examinations passed are valid for six years, unless otherwise specified in the Teaching and Examination Regulations.

To ensure an even spread of student workload across the year, it is important that students take and pass their examinations promptly at the first opportunity. Otherwise, they will face a combination of resits and regular examinations in the course of the next block or the second semester.

Papers or assignments are subject to the deadline(s) set by the relevant lecturer in the syllabus or assigned to the relevant course unit in Brightspace. You must keep to these deadlines; this is important for both the progress of the course units and your own study progress. Assignments will usually be presented during tutorials or lecture periods.

Papers that are not submitted before the original deadline will fall under the resit regulations and must be submitted before the second deadline, which falls in the resit period. Papers that are submitted before the original deadline but are awarded a fail mark can be resat/improved and must then be resubmitted before the second deadline, in the resit period of the relevant teaching block. Papers that are not submitted before the resit deadline will not be marked. The student in question will have to write a new paper on a new topic in the next academic year.
Fraud and plagiarism, as described in the Teaching and Examination Regulations of the program, are not permitted. This includes the unauthorized use of AI.

Lecturers must correct examinations within ten working days and assignments within fifteen working days. This means that they have a maximum of ten, respectively fifteen, working days to correct the examination or assignment and submit the results to the Student Administration Office, counting from the day after the examination was taken or the assignment had to be submitted. The correction term for the examinations and resits of first-year students in July is five working days, because the binding (negative) study advice (BSA) is issued in the final week of July (see Section 4.9). It will then take another three days at most before you can see your results in Progress. Collective post-mortem meetings are planned for each examination. Students who wish to discuss their examinations outside those meetings can make an appointment, after they have attended the collective feedback session with their lecturer or the coordinator of the course unit.

## 4.5 Sequential regulations and entry requirements

Certain course units from the Bachelor's degree programme assume prior knowledge from other course units or build on previously taught course units. Such course units have entry requirements, for instance successful completion of a specific first-year course unit to be able to follow a certain second-year course unit. The specific entry requirements for the different course units are listed in the course unit descriptions in Ocasys. The Teaching and Examination Regulations set out these entry requirements in detail.

Third-year course units, i.e. the University Minor and Specialization (the Faculty Minor), may only be started after completion of the propaedeutic phase.
You may start on your Bachelor's thesis once you have successfully earned 60 ECTS in the post-propaedeutic phase. If you are registered for the Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies, you must also have successfully completed the Concepts and Methods II course unit.

## 4.6 Registration for course units

Students must register for the course units they wish to follow through Progress. Progress can be found on the Student Portal (http://studentportal.rug.nl )under the *RUG tools* heading (Marks and Progress registrations) or via: https://progresswww.nl/rug/
Your student number serves as your login name, and the password will be sent to you immediately after registration for a University of Groningen degree programme (see also Chapter 15.7). Answers to most questions can be found via the extensive Help function in Progress.

The registration period for course units closes on **31 August 2023** (except for the propaedeutic phase) for the first semester and on **29 January 2024** for the second semester of the relevant academic year. The obligation to register for the first semester does not extend to first-year students, as they won't yet have an account at the closing date. The Student Administration Office will organize the registration for this group. Students who wish to register for course units at other faculties should do so within the registration period of the relevant faculty. This period may differ from that of our Faculty, so please check this with the relevant faculty in good time.

## 4.7 Registration for examinations

Registration for the course units of choice through Progress leads to automatic registration for the relevant examinations, including any resits if necessary.
Students who are unable to take the resit must de-register through Progress.

## 4.8 Study results

The results course unit of Progress generates a personal overview of your study results. This list of results can be organized is different ways by clicking one of the triangles above the information, and the overview can also be printed. Students who have registered for more than one degree programme should note that where different overviews include the same course unit, the ECTS credits for this course unit will be included too, and thus the

total number of ECTS credit points from all overviews may be higher than the actual number of ECTS.

## 4.9 Binding (negative) Study Advice (BSA) in the Bachelor's phase
The BSA is a system designed to quickly place students in the most suitable degree programme with proper supervision, and retain them. Full-time students must observe the following criterion:
attain at least 45 of 60 ECTS credit points in propaedeutic course units in the first year. Students who do not attain at least 45 of the 60 ECTS in propaedeutic course units will not be allowed to continue the degree programme. If the student fails to earn at least 45 ECTS of the programme during the propaedeutic phase, the student will receive a negative binding study advice (BSA).
This means that they must quit the degree programme and cannot re-register for that degree programme for the next two academic years.
Part-time students will also receive a BSA if they do not attain 20 ECTS credit points in the first academic year.

To support students in meeting these requirements, the Faculty guarantees a feasible timetable, active supervision of students by mentors, lecturers, student assistants and the study advisor, swift correction times for examinations and good accessibility to lecturers and the study advisor.

The Faculty notifies students after each examination period whether they are on the right track for a positive BSA in terms of ECTS attained. Students whose results are worrisome will receive an invitation to an interview with the study advisor to discuss the help and support they need to achieve better results.

Students who have attained 45 or more ECTS credit points after the first study year but have not met all requirements of the propaedeutic phase are admitted to the second year of the degree programme. They must write a study plan for the second year together with the study advisor, giving precedence to the first-year course units still to be completed. Students who still have room within the 30 ECTS of the relevant semester will be allowed to follow second-year course units, provided they meet the entry requirements for that course unit.

Please visit the University of Groningen website for more specific information about, for instance, the BSA and part-time programmes, the BSA and force majeure situations, the BSA and committee grants or the BSA and elite sport:
https://www.rug.nl/education/faq/?tcid=verint_3_7398_7546 . The website also contains more information about the BSA when pursuing two degree programmes and how to appeal against a BSA.

## 4.10 Study progress supervision in the Bachelor's phase
Mentors and study advisors play an important part in study progress supervision during the Bachelor's phase.

**Mentor programme**
The Faculty uses mentors for the study progress supervision of first-year students. These senior students are selected for their study results and their high visibility and accessibility at the Faculty. They receive special training to prepare them for and support them during their mentorship. Each mentor group is supervised by two mentors.
The introduction committee will allocate first-year students to mentor groups during the introduction

**Mentor programme: purpose and content**
The Faculty's introduction and mentor programmes serve five purposes:
- acquainting students with the Faculty and the University
- supervising students at both group and individual levels
- early signalling
- stimulating mutual coaching among students
- presenting a realistic image of:
  • the degree programme
  • study choice
  • studying: combining studying in the strict sense of the word, i.e. having study skills, with being a student and participating in student life
  • required results, also in relation to the BSA
  • options for further study
  • opportunities for study and placement abroad
  • opportunities on the labour market

In eight meetings, at least four of which are during the first semester, the mentors will introduce their students to the Faculty and Groningen student life and will guide and advise them in study matters. In addition, first-year students will have regular opportunities during the first and second semesters to ask their mentors questions or raise issues that can't be addressed during the group sessions. All first-year students can seek the personal advice of their mentors during open office hours. Mentors may refer to the study advisor if necessary.

**Study advisor**
Studying successfully takes time and effort. Students may, at some point, feel doubts about their own abilities, encounter problems planning their studies, or face study delays due to extracurricular issues. In such cases you are advised to contact your study advisor, who can give you information about the degree programme, offer planning support and supervise your study progress, but can also give confidential advice regarding problems of an academic or personal nature. Study advisors can refer students to other aid providers if necessary. Students who face study delays due to demonstrable force majeure can sometimes seek the support of the University of Groningen Graduation Fund, provided they report to the study advisor within four weeks of the occurrence of the force majeure situation.

The study advisor has introductory interviews with all first-year students at the start of the academic year. During these interviews, students can express their expectations of the

degree programme and report any special circumstances. Alongside the study advisor, the BSA Committee is involved in monitoring study progress. This Committee reviews and discusses the exam results of first-year students after each examination period.

At the end of the first semester, all first-year students receive written, non-binding preliminary study advice based on the results achieved up to that point.
All first-year students receive a written binding study advice at the end of the second semester of the first year. This advice is based on study progress, more specifically the number of ECTS credits attained.

## 4.11 Study skills

Recent research has shown that student behaviour in the first three months of their studies is decisive for the rest of their time at university. This makes it very important that students acquire the proper study skills right from the start. For this reason, all first-year Bachelor's students are taught academic writing and presentation skills.

Master's students are further trained in research skills in a course unit on research methods specifically aimed at the Master's specialization they are following.

## 4.12 Illness and special provisions

Students who can't participate in lectures or examinations for a longer or shorter period of time due to illness or other circumstances must inform the study advisor or the Student Administration Office of this as soon as possible. In addition, they must inform the lecturers whose lectures have compulsory attendance about their absence personally.

Students who expect their study delay to exceed four weeks must report this to the study advisor immediately, as they may be eligible for financial support from the Graduation Fund. Students whose study delay exceeds or is going to exceed three months must make an appointment with a student counsellor from the Student Service Centre for a follow-up report. For more information, please refer to Chapter 18 of the University of Groningen Student Charter.

Students with a functional impairment, long-term psychological complaint or dyslexia are eligible for special provisions to follow teaching and take examinations. It is wise to contact the study advisor if there are matters that need to be arranged within the degree programme. Please do so in good time, as some arrangements may take some time to realize. Problems that are not specific to the degree programme, such as financial issues or other matters not pertaining to the degree programme, may be addressed with one of the student counsellors of the Student Service Centre. The address of the Student Service Centre can be found in Chapter 20.

## 4.13 Graduation ceremonies

Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes are concluded with final assessments for the Bachelor's or Master's phase respectively. Students receive a Bachelor's or Master's degree certificate once all the requirements have been met. This means completing and passing all components. Further information on the application procedure for the Bachelor's or Master's degree certificate can be found on My University:
http://student.portal.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/rcs/onderwijszaken/afstuderen

There are two graduation ceremonies per year: on the first Wednesday of October (bachelor and master) and March (master). The certificate can also be presented at another time if desirable. Students are entitled to use the title 'Bachelor of Arts (BA)' or 'Master of Arts (MA)' once the result of the relevant final assessment has been confirmed and the relevant certificate has been presented. The abbreviation of the title is placed after your name.

## 4.14 Predicatesss

The following predicates are in place for both the Bachelor's final assessment and the Master's final assessment:
a.   'Cum laude': the mark for the thesis is at least an 8.0 and the weighted average (not rounded off) of all course units of the examination programme approved by the Board of Examiners, excluding the thesis, is greater than or equal to 8.0.
b.   'Summa cum laude': the mark for the thesis is at least a 9.0 and the weighted average (not rounded off) of all course units of the examination programme approved by the Board of Examiners, excluding the thesis, is greater than or equal to 9.0.

Please see Chapter 18 of the Teaching and Examination Regulations of the Bachelor's degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies and of the Master's degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies.

## 4.15 Information provision

The degree programme communicates with its students via several media, including:
-   E-mail: the account provided by the University of Groningen to every student
-   letters: to the address known to the University of Groningen through Studielink
-   Brightspace via the Student Portal: the electronic learning environment: http://Brightspace.rug.nl
-   Progress: the registration system for course units and examinations
-   Need to know (Student Portal).

Students must check these media regularly to avoid missing important information. Please use the official University of Groningen e-mail account or forward the incoming messages to a private account. Please log in on Brightspace regularly, so that you receive announcements for course units. Keep your personal postal address up to date via Studielink. Your reachability is your responsibility.

A digital edition of the University Paper (UK) appears on http://www.ukrant.nl/.

## 4.16 Student Portal

One example of an important IT application for University of Groningen students is the electronic learning environment the Student Portal, which is used by many lecturers to support their teaching. It is accessible via http://studentportal.rug.nl or http://Brightspace.rug.nl. You will then find links to specific course unit pages on the left-hand side of the screen. Registration on these pages takes place based on your registration in Progress. Brightspace enables you to download study material and syllabuses, complete individual and group assignments, have discussions with your fellow students and lecturers, exchange information and much more. You must register for the relevant course units in Progress to gain access to the Brightspace sections for these course units. You can log in to Brightspace with your University computer account (see Section 15.7 for more information).

## 4.17 Costs of study material

The University of Groningen has a policy on study costs. This scheme was introduced to limit study costs, so that students won't have to spend more than a set amount on course material and study essentials, i.e. the ceiling amount. The ceiling for 2023-2024 has been set at € 904,- per year of study. The guideline for electives is € 15,- per ECTS. Although the Faculty strives to keep costs below this amount, sometimes they cannot avoid exceeding the ceiling. In relevant cases, half of the amount spent above the ceiling can be reclaimed from the Faculty, or another arrangement will be made. Students who reclaim money from the Faculty must be able to present proof of payment.

Information on the policy regarding study costs can also be obtained from https://www.rug.nl/education/bachelor/international-students/financial-matters/, the study advisor or the University of Groningen Student Service Centre.

| Education/training | Celling amount |
|---|---|
| BA-1 (60 ECTS) | €   904,- |
| BA-2 + BA-3 faculty minor  (90 ECTS) | € 1350,- |
| University minor (15 ECTS) | €   225,- |
| University minor (30 ECTS) | €   450,- |
| Honours College (45 ECTS) | €   675,- |
| Master (60 ECTS) incl. pre-Master (60 ECTS), 2-year master | € 1808,- |
| Master (60 ECTS) | €   904,- |

## 4.18 Readers

Students who have registered through Progress for a course unit that uses a reader are required to actually purchase that reader!

## 4.19 Complaints and comments

Students may have comments or complaints about the teaching or the content. Please contact the lecturer of the relevant course unit first. Problems with the organization of the degree programme can be discussed with the programme coordinator and the Programme Committee. The Programme Director will address complaints regarding teaching.

Students who think that the rules set out in the Teaching and Examination Regulations have been misapplied can turn to the Board of Examiners. Students can turn to the Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights if no satisfactory solution is found (see also Chapter 17 of the Student Charter). This body also helps students contest the BSA.

Complaints of a more general nature must be submitted via the complaints form on: https://www.rug.nl/education/laws-regulations-complaints/complaintobjectionappeal?tcid=verint_24_15899_15899

In addition, students have a collective right of complaint. This means that they can submit a written complaint to the Faculty Board if the University fails to meet, fully meet or insufficiently meets its obligations, making it impossible for students to follow their studies without interruption. The collective right of complaint can be exercised by students from the same degree programme who together constitute at least 10 percent of all registered students on this degree programme.

# 5. BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN THEOLOGY

## 5.1 Profile of the University of Groningen Bachelor's degree programme in Theology
The UG Bachelor's degree programme in Theology has a clear profile: to study of the sources and development of Judaism, Christianity and Islam in their mutual interaction. Religion is always studied in a wider context and in interaction with the surrounding culture. This is expressed, for example, in the amount of attention paid to the context of the creation of Islam and the influence of the Hellenistic *Umwelt* on early Christianity. Greek and Hebrew language courses are integral parts of the curriculum. The study of Quranic Arabic is possible. In addition, the programme covers subjects such as sociology, psychology and philosophy of religion, which focus on the questions posed to theology and religion by today's culture. The course units are predominantly Dutch-taught.

## 5.2 Two programmes: including and without Greek
You do not have to have Greek as part of your pre-University (VWO) qualifications to be granted admission to the University of Groningen's Bachelor's degree programme in Theology. If you don't, you will have to follow the programme in which two course units Greek (together 15 ECTS) is integrated.

Students who follow the variant with Greek in the second year have no room for electives in the first semester of the second year since this time is devoted to Greek. Students who do not have to take Greek in the second year may choose an elective course unit in the two blocks of the first semester.
In the third year of the Bachelor's degree programme, you broaden your knowledge by taking a University Minor (15 ECTS) in the first block of the first semester. In the second block you take two Faculty course units (15 ECTS). You may also use the space reserved for a Minor in the first semester for a stay abroad (30 ECTS), a Teacher-training Minor (30 ECTS), or the Minor in Spiritual Care if you wish to prepare for the Faculty Master's degree programme in Religion, Health and Wellbeing/Spiritual Care. In the second semester of the third year you follow one of the three specializations (Origins of Religion, Lived Religion, or The Cultural Impact of Religion). You write your Bachelor's thesis on a topic within your chosen specialization.

## 5.3 Bachelor's degree programme with PThU specialization
Since 1 September 2011, the Faculty has been cooperating closely with the Groningen branch of the Protestant Theological University (PThU), to optimally facilitate students of Theology who wish to follow the PThU Master's degree programme in Ministry immediately after completion of their Bachelor's degree programme. This Bachelor's programme, nevertheless, will also grant access to the Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies.

The result of the cooperation is a unique programme which combines the profile of the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology, with its attention to the dynamic interaction between religion and culture, with the philosophical profile of the PThU. The course units

included in the PThU specialization within the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology study the Christian religion as critically and academically as the Theology course units from the UG Bachelor in Theology, only from within. In Dogmatics, for example, students not only examine what the Christian tradition has said about the relationship between God and people, but also how this affects us today, and what their own position is.

The PThU specialization consists of 45 ECTS credit points for students following the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology as of 1 September 2016. Students follow a course unit with a student workload of 7.5 ECTS credit points during the first and second years of the Bachelor's phase and four course units at the PThU in the first semester of the third year. In addition, the *Theology: Concepts and Methods* course unit in the first block of the first year is organized jointly by lecturers from the Faculty and from the PThU. The PThU course units in the first and second year partially replace course units from the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology.

An information meeting will be organized by the student counsellor of the PThU at the beginning of the academic year for students who are considering following the PThU Minor as part of the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology.

Students following the PThU specialization and thus considering following the degree programme in Ministry in the Dutch Protestant Church (PKN) are advised to annually register in the Prospective Ministers' Register during the Bachelor's phase. Registration indicates, entirely without obligation, a potential interest in following the *Master Predikantschap* (Master's degree programme in Ministry) after completion of the Bachelor's degree programme. Students will be automatically notified of the registration procedure at the beginning of the academic year. https://www.pthu.nl/onderwijs/praktische-informatie/kerkelijk-album/

## 5.4 Objectives and learning outcomes of the Bachelor's degree programme
The degree programme aims to turn students into critical academics with a broad training in the field of theology. Students are prepared for further studies at a Dutch or foreign university or for fulfilling positions in the labour market for which an academic Bachelor's degree certificate is required or desirable and for which an understanding of theology is necessary or useful.
The Bachelor's degree programme in Theology is part of a long academic tradition, which becomes apparent from the demands that are made of students' knowledge of the classical languages Hebrew and Greek and the importance attached in teaching to the analysis of classical texts and the cultural diversity they emanate. At the same time, it allows room for the philosophical pluriformity that exists in present-day society.

If you registered for the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology on 1 September 2023, upon gaining your Bachelor's degree you will have attained the following learning outcomes:

**Knowledge and understanding**

1. Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the theoretical and methodological foundations of theology and can define the position of theology in relation to the social sciences and humanities;
2. Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, including the history of their origins, their texts, and their cultural contexts;
3. Graduates have demonstrated knowledge of Greek and Hebrew to the degree required to read relevant sources;
4. Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the various disciplines within theology:
   a. Biblical Studies
   b. Social Sciences of Religion (including Sociology and Psychology of religion)
   c. the Humanities and Religion (including History, Philosophy, and Ethics of religion)
5. Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the research methods commonly used in the above-mentioned theological disciplines;
6. If graduates completed the University of Groningen Bachelor's degree programme in Theology without PThU course units: Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of a specific (possibly self-selected) discipline or field of study outside theology;
7. If graduates completed the University of Groningen Bachelor's degree programme in Theology with PThU course units: Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of systematic, Biblical, historical, intercultural, and practical theology;
8. Graduates have demonstrated more advanced knowledge and understanding of a specific theme within theology, as demonstrated among other things by a thesis written on the topic.

**Applying knowledge and understanding**

9. Graduates can use their acquired knowledge and understanding to analyse and provide insight into the interconnectedness of religion and culture in various contexts from the four mentioned disciplines;
10. Graduates can use their acquired knowledge and understanding to carry out a scholarly text analysis;
11. Graduates can under supervision use their acquired knowledge and understanding to design and carry out a study of limited scope which requires them to:
    a. Independently collect materials and information, in (electronic) catalogues and (electronic) databases, and assess their validity
    b. Formulate a research question
    c. Determine which relevant disciplinary perspectives, methods and theoretical concepts are most appropriate for the study of an issue
    d. Analyse an issue from different disciplinary perspectives using different methods and theoretical concepts
    e. Draw responsible conclusions from their own research regarding the formulated issue
12. Graduates can apply their acquired knowledge and understanding to specific products that are relevant in professional contexts.

**Forming judgements**

13. Graduates can form sound judgements of their own and other people's research in the field of social, theoretical and ethical theology;
14. Graduates can critically reflect on current scholarly and social debates on the role of religion in society.

**Communication**

15. Graduates can participate in discussions on the state of research within one or more subfields of Theology.
16. Graduates can provide an academically sound, well argued and critical oral report of the state of affairs of research within one or more subfields of theology to an audience of specialists and non-specialists;
17. Graduates can provide an academically sound, well argued and critical written report of the state of affairs of research within one or more subfields of theology to an audience of specialists and non-specialists.

**Learning skills**

18. Graduates possess social and communication skills and can use them in collaborative situations;
19. Graduates can give fellow students constructive feedback and receive feedback from fellow students, and they can adequately process substantiated criticism;
20. Graduates can adequately process instructions and criticism from supervisors
21. Graduates can work independently, including formulate a realistic plan and adhere to the agreed planning and priorities;
22. Graduates can independently gather information about relevant Master's degree programmes and/or relevant professional sectors.

**Alignment with the labour market**

The learning outcomes of the degree programme are in line with the demands of the labour market. Career options include teaching (a limited grade two teaching qualification) or a faith-based job. Professionally, however, the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology should primarily be regarded as generalist training, which derives its value on the labour market from the academic development and the skills described above. Through their specific training in Theology, graduates are qualified to fulfil junior positions in for example those segments of culture, the church or care in which an understanding of religion is relevant.

With a Bachelor's degree certificate in Theology, students can

1. enter one of the following specializations of the University of Groningen Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies:
   - Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern
   - Religion, Conflict and Globalization
   - Heritage and Religion
   - Geestelijke Verzorging
   - Werk en Zingeving

2. gain admission to the Spiritual Care track of the Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies;
3. gain admission to the Master in Theology and Religious Studies (Research), provided the relevant selection criteria are met;
4. gain admission to the three-year Master's degree programme in Ministry or Spiritual Care with ministerial competence at the Protestant Theological University (PThU);
5. gain admission to other Master's degree programmes, with observance of the current entry requirements of these degree programmes;
6. make their academic knowledge relevant in a societal position that requires an academic education at Bachelor's level or where such an education is desirable and where knowledge of Theology is necessary or useful.

## 5.5 Research in teaching and academic skills

The interaction between teaching and research is addressed in every year of the Bachelor's degree programme and in almost all course units in the curriculum. This concerns teaching in which students gain knowledge about current and relevant field-related research, as well as teaching that is dedicated to discussing research or reflecting on it. In addition, students will acquire research skills. Various course units require students to carry out small-scale research or perform an analysis and write a paper about it. The degree programme concludes with a thesis seminar and a thesis. In the thesis course unit, students must carry out supervised research and report on this research in a way that meets the criteria of the relevant field.

The generic academic skills and the domain-specific skills have been integrated in the Bachelor's degree programme as learning pathways.
They are tested through mandatory analytical summaries (KAVVs), research assignments, exegetic assignments and presentations.

## 5.6 Schematic overview of the options in the propaedeutic phase

Students who did not complete a final VWO examination in Greek must follow the programme including Greek. Students who wish to prepare for the three-year *Master Gemeentepredikant* (Master's degree programme in Ministry) in the Dutch Protestant Church (PKN) or *Master Geestelijk Verzorger met ambtsbevoegdheid* (Spiritual Care with ministerial competence) must choose the PThU specialization. The schematic overviews of the different options can be found below. The left column displays the course units of the University of Groningen Bachelor's degree programme in Theology. The course units in the right column are part of the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology with PThU specialization. The PThU course units are displayed in *italics.*

## Bachelor's degree in Theology - full-time (Greek integrated)

**Year: 1**

| Sem | Theology-UG | EC | Theology with PThU-specialization |
|-----|-------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| Ia | Hebrew 1 | 7.5 | Hebrew 1 |
| Ia | Theology: Concepts and Methods | 7.5 | Theology: Concepts and Methods |
| Ib | Hebrew 2 | 7.5 | Hebrew 2 |
| Ib | Hebrew Bible and Ancient Judaism: Texts and Cultural Context | 7.5 | Hebrew Bible and Ancient Judaism: Texts and Cultural Context |
| IIa | Old Testament Exegesis | 7.5 | Old Testament Exegesis |
| IIa | Psychology and Sociology of Religion | 7.5 | *Practical Theology* |
| IIb | New Testament: Text and Cultural Context | 7.5 | New Testament: Text and Cultural Context |
| IIb | Religion and Philosophy | 7.5 | Religion and Philosophy |

## Year 1 Bachelor's degree in Theology - full-time (completed VWO exam in Greek)

**Year: 1**

| Sem | Theology-UG | EC | Theology with PThU-specialization |
|-----|-------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| Ia | Hebrew 1 | 7.5 | Hebrew 1 |
| Ia | Theology: Concepts and Methods | 7.5 | Theology: Concepts and Methods |
| Ib | Hebrew 2 | 7.5 | Hebrew 2 |
| Ib | Hebrew Bible and Ancient Judaism: Texts and Cultural Context | 7.5 | Hebrew Bible and Ancient Judaism: Texts and Cultural Context |
| IIa | Old Testament Exegesis | 7.5 | Old Testament Exegesis |
| IIa | Psychology and Sociology of Religion | 7.5 | *Practical Theology* |
| IIb | New Testament: Text and Cultural Context | 7.5 | New Testament: Text and Cultural Context |
| IIb | Religion and Philosophy | 7.5 | Religion and Philosophy |

The first year begins with an introduction weekend on the island of Schiermonnikoog, where you will meet your fellow students, mentors and several lecturers. The introduction period will continue for two more weeks after your return. Lectures will also start during this period. All course units in the first year are mandatory. Two course units are scheduled for each block, which you will complete during the same block by taking different tests per course unit. There is one resit opportunity for each test component in the next block.

Students who have passed all the course units of the first year will have met all the requirements of the propaedeutic phase. They can then start following second-year course units in the Bachelor's degree programme. Students who earn less than 45 ECTS credit

points cannot continue the degree programme. They will be issued a binding (negative) study advice (BSA). The BSA Committee has the authority to diverge from these rules in certain cases and at the request of the person concerned (see https://www.rug.nl/education/faq/?tcid=verint_3_7398_7398).
Students who have earned at least 45 ECTS credit points from the propaedeutic phase can take examinations in second-year course units, provided that they meet the entry requirements for the relevant course unit. They must, however, write a study plan in consultation with the study advisor.

## 5.7 Bachelor's degree programme
The second year of the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology is structured as follows:

**Study programme Bachelor's degree in Theology - full-time (including Greek)**

**Year: 2**

| Sem | Theology-UG | EC | Theology with PThU-specialization |
|-----|-------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| Ia | Koinè and New Testament Greek 1 | 7.5 | Koinè and New Testament Greek 1 |
| Ia | Christianity from Constantine to the Reformation | 7.5 | Christianity form Constatine to the Reformation |
| Ib | Koinè and New Testament Greek 2 | 7.5 | Koinè and New Testament Greek 2 |
| Ib | Christianity from Reformation to the Present Time | 7.5 | Christianity from Reformation to the Present Time |
| IIa | New Testament Exegesis | 7.5 | New Testament Exegesis |
| IIa | *Optional (1 out of 2):* Religion, Media and Popular Culture Religion and Politics | 7.5 | Psychology and Sociology of Religion |
| IIb | Islam | 7.5 | Islam |
| IIb | Ethics and Secularity | 7.5 | *Dogmatics* |

**Study programme Bachelor's degree in Theology - full-time (completed VWO exam in Greek)**

**Year: 2**

| Sem | Theology-UG | EC | Theology with PThU-traject |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ia | *Choice (1 out of 3):* Rituals in Theory and Practice Quranic Arabic 1 Spirituality and Secular Religion | 7.5 | *Choice (1 out of 3):* Rituals in Theory and Practice Quranic Arabic 1 Spirituality and Secular Religion |
| Ia | Christianity from Constantine to the Reformation | 7.5 | Christianity from Constantine to the Reformation |
| Ib | *Choice (1 out of 3):* The Text Awakens The Sacred Image Quranic Arabic 2 | 7.5 | *Choice (1 out of 3):* The Text Awakens The Sacred Image Quranic Arabic 2 |
| Ib | Christianity from Reformation to the Present Time | 7.5 | Christianity from Reformation to the Present Time |
| IIa | New Testament Exegesis | 7.5 | New Testament Exegesis |
| IIa | *Choice (1 out of 2):* Religion, Media and Popular Culture Religion and Politics | 7.5 | Psychology and Sociology of Religion |
| IIb | Islam | 7.5 | Islam |
| IIb | Ethics and Secularity | 7.5 | *Dogmatics* |

The structure of the third year of the Bachelor's phase is outlined below.

## 5.8 Schematic overview of the programme in the third year

In the third year of the Bachelor's degree programme, you broaden your knowledge by taking a University Minor (15 ECTS) in the first block of the first semester. In the second block you take two Faculty course units (15 ECTS). You may also use the space reserved for a Minor in the first semester for a stay abroad (30 ECTS), a Teacher-training Minor (30 ECTS), or the Minor in Spiritual Care if you wish to prepare for the Faculty Master's degree programme in Spiritual Care. Students who follow the PThU specialization as part of the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology must follow four PThU course units in the first semester of the third year.

In the second semester of the third year you follow one of the three specializations (Origins of Religion, Lived Religion, or The Cultural Impact of Religion). You write your Bachelor's thesis on a topic within your chosen specialization.

# Study programme Bachelor's degree in Theology (including Greek)

**Year: 3**

| Sem | Theology-UG | EC | C/O* | Theology with PThU-traject |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ia | University minor | 15 | C | PThU – *Historical Theology* |
| | *or:* | | | PThU – *Biblical Theology* |
| | *Choice (2 out of 3):* | | | |
| | Quranic Arabic 1 | 7.5 | | |
| | Spirituality and Secular Religion | 7.5 | | |
| | University minor course | 7.5 | | |
| Ib | *Choice (2 out of 4):* | | C | PThU – *Intercultural Theology* |
| | Law and Religion | 7.5 | | PThU – *Theological Ethics* |
| | Religion, Space and Place | 7.5 | | |
| | Quranic Arabic 2 | 7.5 | | |
| | University minor course | 7,5 | | |
| Ia + Ib | Optional: | | | |
| | Study abroad (15-30 ECTS) | | | |
| | Educational minor (30 ECTS) (Dutch taught) | | | |
| | Minor Spiritual Care (22.5 ECTS) (Dutch taught) | | | |
| | Internship (7.5 ECTS) | | | |
| II | Specialization trajectory *(Choice 1 out of 3):* | 15 | C | Specialization trajectory *(Choice 1 out of 3):* |
| | Origins of Religion | | | Origins of Religion |
| | Lived Religion | | | Lived Religion |
| | Cultural Impact of Religion | | | Cultural Impact of Religion |
| II | Bachelor's Thesis Project: | 15 | C | Bachelor's Thesis Project: |
| | Thesis Seminar (5 ECTS) | | | Thesis Seminar (5 ECTS) |
| | Thesis (10 ECTS) | | | Thesis (10 ECTS) |

*\*C= compulsory; O=optional*

## Study programme Bachelor's degree in Theology (completed VWO exam in Greek)

**Year: 3**

| Sem | Theology-UG | EC | C/O* | Theology with PThU-traject |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ia | University minor<br>*or:*<br>*Choice (2 out of 3):*<br>Quranic Arabic 1<br>Spirituality and Secular Religion<br>University minor course | 15<br><br><br>7.5<br>7.5<br>7,5 | C | PThU – *Historical Theology*<br>PThU – *Biblical Theology* |
| Ib | *Choice (2 out of 4):*<br>Law and Religion<br>Religion, Space and Place<br>Quranic Arabic 2<br>University minor course | <br>7.5<br>7.5<br>7.5<br>7,5 | C | PThU – *Intercultural Theology*<br>PThU – *Theological Ethics* |
| Ia + Ib | *Optional:*<br>Study abroad (15-30 ECTS)<br>Educational Minor (30 ECTS) (Dutch taught)<br>Minor Spiritual Care (22.5 ECTS) (Dutch taught)<br>Internship (7.5 ECTS) | | | |
| II | Specialization trajectory *(Choice 1 out of 3):*<br>Origins of Religion<br>Lived Religion<br>Cultural Impact of Religion | 15 | C | Specialization trajectory *(Choice 1 out of 3):*<br>Origins of Religion<br>Lived Religion<br>Cultural Impact of Religion |
| II | Bachelor's thesis project:<br>Thesis Seminar (5 ECTS)<br>Thesis (10 ECTS) | 15 | C | Bachelor's Thesis Project:<br>Thesis Seminar (5 ECTS)<br>Thesis (10 ECTS) |

*\*C=compulsory; O=optional*


## Year 3 - Specialization Origins of Religion

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | EC | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IIa | Crucial Texts in Cultural Context | THB3-CTCC | 7.5 | C |
| IIa | Bachelor Thesis Seminar Origins of Religion | THB3-TSOR | 5 | C |
| IIa/IIb | Bachelor Thesis | THB3BSE10 | 10 | C |
| IIb | The Afterlife of Biblical Texts and Figures | THB3-ABTF | 7.5 | C |

*\*C=compulsory; O=optional*


## Year 3 - Specialization Lived Religion

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | EC | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IIa | Lived Religion: Reading Case Studies | THB3-LRRC | 7.5 | C |
| IIa | Bachelor Thesis Seminar Lived Religion | THB3-TSLR | 5 | C |
| IIa/IIb | Bachelor Thesis | THB3BSE10 | 10 | C |
| IIb | Lived Religion: Academic Debates | THB3-LRAD | 7.5 | C |

*\*C=compulsory; O=optional*

## Year 3 - Specialization Cultural Impact of Religion

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | EC | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IIa | Contested Humanity: Historical, Philosophical and Political Approaches | THB3-HPTA | 7.5 | C |
| IIa | Bachelor Thesis Seminar Impact of Religion | THB3-TSRPH | 5 | C |
| IIa/IIb | Bachelor Thesis | THB3BSE10 | 10 | C |
| IIb | Cultural Impact of Religion: Working with Sources | THB3-CIR | 7.5 | C |

*C=compulsory; O=optional*

## 5.9 The University Minors

Students who follow the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology without PThU specialization may take a 30 ECTS University Minor in their third year. The University Minor is typically followed at another Faculty within the University of Groningen. Students can choose from a fixed range of University Minors, see https://student.portal.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/opleidingen/minor-programmas/aanbod/. The University organizes an annual Minors' market where students can prepare for their choice of University Minor.

Other options are:
- the Faculty Minor in Spiritual Care for students who aim to take the Master's specialization in Spiritual Care next (see Section 5.11).
- The Teacher-training Minor in Religion and Belief (Godsdienst en Levensbeschouwing) leads to a limited grade two teaching qualification.
- a Minor at another university in the Netherlands or abroad, whether or not in preparation for further studies; see http://myuniversity.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/rcs/studereninhetbuitenland/

*N.B. Students who aim to follow a Minor at another university in the Netherlands or abroad or compose their own Minor package must receive the prior approval of the Board of Examiners.*

Students who choose for the programme with the PThU specialization will be taking all course units within the available Minor room at the PThU and will have no room left for electives.

## 5.10 The Faculty Minor

During the final part of your Bachelor's degree programme you will choose one of the following three specializations: *Origins of Religion*, *Lived Religion* or *Cultural Impact of Religion*. The first specialization focuses on the creation, source texts and history of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, the second – social-scientific – specialization is all about how religion is experienced and practised in a wide variety of cultural contexts and how this is studied, whereas the third one, which is cultural-historical and philosophical in nature, discusses the meaning of religion to people and culture in the past and present. Each specialization contains two subject-specific course units as well as the thesis, which you will prepare in a 'thesis seminar' and then write under supervision of your lecturers.

You may start the bachelor thesis if you have obtained 60 credits from the post-propaedeutic phase.
If you have successfully completed the study components of the bachelor's programme, you have met all the requirements of the bachelor's examination.

## 5.11 The Faculty Minor in Spiritual Care

Students who wish to prepare for the Master's programma Religion, Health and Wellbeing - Spiritual Care must follow the 30 ECTS Faculty Minor in Spiritual Care in the third year. The courses of this minor are divided between the first and second semester. In addition, students will follow 7,5 ECTS in one course unit at another faculty during the first semester. During the second semester, students can follow the course unit from the Minor in Spiritual Care as part of the specialization The Cultural Impact of Religion. In that case you will take Philosophy as Art of Living (7.5 ECTS) instead of Contested Humanity: Historical, Philosophical and Political Approaches. For the rest, you take all the course units within this specialization.

Schematically, the third year looks as follows:

**Study year 3 Bachelor's degree in Theology with Minor in Spiritual Care, without PThU specialization**

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | EC | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ia | Spiritual Care | THB3-GV | 7.5 | C |
| Ia | Professional Ethics | THB3-GVPE | 7.5 | C |
| Ib | Trauma , Grieving, Purpose and Wellbeing | THB3-GVTR | 7.5 | C |
| Ib | Optional Modules | | 7.5 | C |
| IIa | Philosophy as the Art of Living | THB3-GVFL | 7.5 | C |
| IIa | Bachelor Thesis seminar Impact of Religion | THB3-TSRPH | 5 | C |
| IIa/IIb | Bachelor Thesis | THB3BSE10 | 10 | C |
| IIb | Cultural Impact of Religion: Working with Sources | THB3-CIR | 7.5 | C |

*C=compulsory; O=optional*

There will be information meetings in November and March for students considering the Masterprogramme Spiritual Care. Further information can be obtained from dr. A. Visser-Nieraeth, Coordinator of Spiritual Care ([a.visser-nieraeth@rug.nl](a.visser-nieraeth@rug.nl)). Spiritual Care has its own Brightspace environment: Agora GV. Students who are following the pre-Master's programme in Spiritual Care and or the Minor in Spiritual Care can register here.

## 5.12 Schematic overview of the part-time programme

The part-time Bachelor's degree programme in Theology has the same structure and content as the full-time Bachelor's degree programme in Theology, but with a formal study duration of six years, i.e. twice as long as the full-time programme. The part-time programme also has a specialization including Greek in the first two years for students who did not graduate from secondary school (VWO) in Greek. It is also possible to follow the course units of the Protestant Theological University (PThU specialization), in the part-time programme.

The Faculty offers no longer separate part-time programmes for all course units of the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology. Please contact the study advisor at an early stage for good planning.

Students seeking to follow the Master's programma Spritual Care after the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology must take the 30 ECTS preparatory Minor in Spiritual Care instead of an University Minor outside the Faculty. See Section 5.11 for the relevant study programme. See Section 5.10 for an explanation of the Faculty Minors.

See also: https://www.rug.nl/bachelors/theology/ or
https://www.rug.nl/bachelors/theology-parttime/

## 5.13 Final paper of the Bachelor's degree programme

The Bachelor's degree programme in Theology will be concluded with a final paper, i.e. the Bachelor's thesis. The final paper will focus on your research skills. The research you will conduct for your Bachelor's thesis is embedded in the specialization that you take in the second semester of your third academic year. The Bachelor's thesis must be awarded a mark of 6.0 or higher (not rounded off).

*Length*
The final paper will have a length of 8,000 to 10,000 words (12-point font, line spacing 1.5, left margin: 4.5 cm). The final paper will earn you 10 ECTS credit points .

*Supervision and assessment*
In the document *Thesis outline* you will formulate your problem statement and research question. Depending on your topic, you will be appointed a primary supervisor and a second assessor from the Bachelor's Thesis Seminar of your specialization. When writing your Bachelor's thesis, you are entitled to four individual meetings with your supervisor. The days and times of these meetings will also be included in your *Thesis outline* document.

Your Bachelor's thesis will be assessed by your primary supervisor and the second assessor based on the relevant criteria (see below).

*Assessment criteria for the Bachelor's thesis*
Your Bachelor's thesis will be assessed on the basis of the following eight criteria:
- Problem analysis and research question
- Operationalization of the research question
- Method, sources, and approach
- Analysis and argumentation
- Conclusion
- Academic language and readability
- Overall coherence of the thesis
- Ability to work independently

The Bachelor's thesis assessment form can be found on the Faculty's student Intranet, under Degree programme information > Thesis procedures and assessment forms . This

form can also be found in the digital environment of the Bachelor's Thesis Seminar of your specialization.

The thesis mark will be determined once you have submitted the final version, and represents the average of the assessments of the two assessors.

*Deadlines*
Please beware of the deadlines for submitting the draft version and the final version. The draft version of the thesis is due by May 31, the final version by June 18, the deadline for the revised version will be set after discussion with the supervisors. This deadline should be before September 1. Due to the Bachelor-before-Master Rule ('harde knip'), it is necessary that you adhere to these deadlines in order to prevent study delay.

*Submission*
Your primary supervisor will send their own signed assessment form, together with the form signed by the second assessor *and* the final version of the thesis, to the Student Administration Office ([studentoffice.rcs@rug.nl](mailto:studentoffice.rcs@rug.nl)). The Student Administration Office will check the plagiarism score, which should be under 20%. If this score is 20% or higher, an investigation as to whether the student has committed plagiarism will be started.

## 5.14 Opportunities after completion of the degree programme
What can you do after obtaining your Bachelor's degree certificate? Generally speaking, there are two options:

**follow a Master's degree programme**
The primary option once you have gained your Bachelor's degree is to continue on to a Master's degree programme. This creates optimal chances on the labour market and allows for further deepening of your academic education through specialization. The Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society offers a one-year regular Master's degree programme, with choice between five different Master's specializations. This one-year Master's programme offers thorough academic training and prepares students for the labour market. A mandatory placement has been included in all specializations to this end. In addition, the Faculty offers a two-year Research Master, which pays attention to the development of the skills required to do independent research.

The Bachelor's degree programme in Theology grants automatic access to four of the five one-year Faculty Master tracks. Additional requirements apply to admission to the Master track Spiritual Care. A separate admission procedure has been designed for the Research Master. An overview of the follow-on opportunities and the entry requirements for the various Faculty Master's degree programme and Master's specializations can be found in Section 7.

Students who completed the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology with the PThU specialization can directly enter the three-year Master's degree programme in Ministry at the PThU, which is also being offered in Groningen. Further information can be found at [https://www.pthu.nl/onderwijs/master/master-predikant/](https://www.pthu.nl/onderwijs/master/master-predikant/)

**find a job after completion of the Bachelor's degree programme**
The second option is to find a job in the labour market, for which academic training at Bachelor's level is required or desired and for which knowledge of theology is necessary or useful.

To offer students an early opportunity of getting acquainted with the follow-on degree programmes and the labour market, the Faculty organizes labour-market orientation workshops and company visits for Bachelor's and Master's students four times a year. In addition, the Faculty organizes two Master's information meetings per year for all Bachelor's students.

Further study and career-related advice and workshops can also be obtained from Career Services, which is located in the I Shop, Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 19. See also
http://www.rug.nl/careerservices/

# 6. BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## 6.1 Profile of the University of Groningen Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies

The Groningen Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies focuses on what are known as the 'world religions': Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. These religions are studied from the perspective of various disciplines, including history, sociology, anthropology, psychology, philosophy and ethics. As a student of Religious Studies you will learn to analyse religious manifestations such as rituals, sacred texts and sacred art from a strongly comparative perspective and a variety of angles, and to place them in their cultural context. In addition, you will study the role of religion in the worlds of politics, media, secular culture and the multicultural city. Teaching and research are closely intertwined. You will learn to conduct social-scientific and historical research into religious themes. This is very relevant in today's society, in which religion is an important cultural, social and political factor worldwide. Academically trained religious scholars are ideally suited to study and interpret the meaning and role of religion in modern society.

## 6.2 Objectives and learning outcomes of the Bachelor's degree programme

The objective of the Groningen Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies is to train students to become autonomous, critical and academically educated professionals in religious studies with the knowledge, skills and attitude required to study religion and ideology in a historical and modern context at an academic level. In addition to a broad orientation, the degree programme also aims to acquaint students with a number of specific, mostly current, religious themes, which they have to be able to analyse and evaluate in a methodically sound manner. In this context, students will develop a critical and self-critical attitude that enables them not only to formulate a nuanced analysis of the complex issues facing a multicultural and multireligious world, but also to assess these issues.

If you registered for the Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies on 1 September 2022, upon gaining your Bachelor's degree certificate you will have attained the following learning outcomes:

**Knowledge and understanding**
1. Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the theoretical and methodological foundations of religious studies and can define the position of religious studies mainly in relation to the social sciences and the humanities;
2. Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, including their respective histories, sources, and interrelatedness with various cultures;
3. Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the disciplines of study within religious studies:
   a. Social Sciences of Religion (including Sociology and Psychology)
   b. the Humanities and Religion (including History, Philosophy, and Ethics)

4. Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the research methods commonly used in the three disciplines within religious studies listed above;
5. Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of a specific (possibly self-selected) discipline or field of study outside religious studies;
6. Graduates have demonstrated more advanced knowledge and understanding of a specific theme within religious studies, as demonstrated among other things by a thesis written on the topic.

**Applying knowledge and understanding**
7. Graduates can use their acquired knowledge and insights to illustrate and analyse the interrelatedness of religion and culture in various contexts from the perspective of the three disciplines mentioned above;
8. Graduates can apply their acquired knowledge and understanding of the three disciplines mentioned above to various themes;
9. Graduates can use their acquired knowledge and understanding to carry out a scholarly text analysis;
10. Graduates can under supervision use their acquired knowledge and understanding to design and carry out a study of limited scope which requires them to
    b. independently collect materials and information, in (electronic) catalogs and (electronic) databases, and assess their validity
    c. determine which relevant disciplinary perspectives, methods and theoretical concepts are most appropriate for the study of a research question
    d. analyse an issue from different disciplinary perspectives and using different methods and theoretical concepts
    e. Use their own research to draw sound conclusions concerning their research question
11. Graduates can apply their acquired knowledge and understanding to develop specific products relevant in professional contexts.

**Forming judgements**
12. Graduates can evaluate and form sound judgements of their own and other people's research in the field of social, theoretical and ethical religious studies;
13. Graduates can critically reflect on current scholarly and social debates regarding the role of religion in society.

**Communication**
14. Graduates are able to participate in discussions on the state of research within one or more subfields of religious studies.
15. Graduates can provide an academically sound, well argued and critical oral report of the state of affairs of research within one or more subfields within religious studies to an audience of specialists and non-specialists;
16. Graduates can provide an academically sound, well argued and critical written report of the state of affairs of research within one or more subfields within religious studies to an audience of specialists and non-specialists.

**Learning skills**

17. Graduates possess social and communication skills and can use them in collaborative situations;
18. Graduates can give fellow students constructive feedback and receive feedback from fellow students, and they can adequately process substantiated criticism;
19. Graduates can adequately process instructions and criticism from supervisors;
20. Graduates can work independently, including formulate a realistic plan and adhere to the agreed planning and priorities;
21. Graduates can independently gather information about relevant Master's degree programmes and/or relevant professional sectors.

**Dovetailing with the labour market**

The learning outcomes of the degree programme are in line with the demands of the labour market. One potential career path is teaching, with a (limited) grade-two teaching qualification. From a professional perspective, however, the Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies should primarily be regarded as a generalist programme that provides added value to the labour market by imparting the academic development and skills described above. Through their specific training in religious studies, graduates are qualified to fulfil junior positions in for example those segments of culture, the church or care in which an understanding of religion is relevant.

With a Bachelor's degree certificate in Religious Studies, you can:

a. continue on to the UG Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies, which has the following tracks:
   - Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern
   - Heritage and Religion
   - Religion, Conflict and Globalization
   - Spiritual Care
b. gain admission to the Spiritual Care track of the UG Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies, provided the relevant admission criteria are met;
c. gain admission to the University of Groningen Master's programme in Theology and Religious Studies (Research), provided the relevant selection criteria are met;
d. gain admission to a Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies at a different university (in the Netherlands);
e. gain admission to other Master's degree programmes, bearing in mind the entry requirements that apply to these programmes;
f. make your academic knowledge relevant in a societal position that requires or prefers academic education at Bachelor's level and where knowledge of Religious Studies is necessary or useful.

## 6.3 Skills

The generic academic skills and the domain-specific skills have been integrated into the various course units of the Bachelor's degree programme as learning pathways. They are tested through mandatory analytical summaries (KAVVs), research assignments, assignments and presentations.

## 6.4 Schematic overview of the propaedeutic phase of the programme

**Study Year 1: Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies (Dutch/English)**

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | EC | C/O* |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|-----|------|
| I | Introduction | | 0 | C |
| Ia | Judaism: History, Sources and Pratices | THB1-JHSP | 7.5 | C |
| Ia | Concepts and Methods 1: Study of Religion | THB1-CM1 | 7.5 | C |
| Ib | Religion in South Asia | THB1-RSA | 7.5 | C |
| Ib | Anthropology of Religion | THB1-AR | 7.5 | C |
| IIa | Christianity: History, Sources and Practices | THB1-CHSP | 7.5 | C |
| IIa | Psychology and Sociology of Religion | THB1-SSR | 7.5 | C |
| IIb | Islam: History, Sources and Practices | THB12-IHSP | 7.5 | C |
| IIb | Religion and Philosophy | THB1-PHILR | 7.5 | C |

*C=compulsory; O=optional*

The first year begins with an introduction weekend on the island of Schiermonnikoog, where you will meet your fellow students, mentors and several lecturers. The introduction period will continue for two more weeks after that. Lectures will also start during this period. All course units in the first year are mandatory. Two course units are scheduled for each block, which you will complete during the same block by taking different tests per course unit. There is one resit opportunity for each test component in the next block.

Students who have passed all the course units of the first year will have met all the requirements of the propaedeutic phase. They can then start following second-year course units in the Bachelor's degree programme. Students who have attained fewer than 45 ECTS credit points cannot continue with the degree programme. They will be issued a binding (negative) study advice (BSA). The BSA Committee has the authority to diverge from these rules in certain cases and at the request of the person concerned (see https://www.rug.nl/education/bachelor/nederlandse-studenten/studiekeuze-en-voorlichting/bsa or: https://www.rug.nl/education/faq/?tcid=verint_3_7398_7398). Students who have attained a minimum of 45 ECTS credit points during the propaedeutic phase may take examinations for second-year course units, provided that they meet any entry requirements for the relevant course units. They must, however, write a study plan in consultation with the study advisor.

## 6.5 Bachelor's degree programme, continued

The study programme for the second year of the Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies is as follows:

**Study Year 2: Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies (Dutch/English)**

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | EC | C/O* |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|-----|------|
| Ia | Concepts and Methods 2: Researching Religion | THB2-CM2 | 7.5 | C |
| Ia | Rituals in Theory and Practice | THB2-RTP | 7.5 | C |
| Ib | The Text Awakens: Reading and Using Religious Texts | THB2-TAW | 7.5 | C |
| Ib | The Sacred Image | THB2-RVA | 7.5 | C |
| IIa | Religion and Politics | THB2-RP | 7.5 | C |
| IIa | Religion, Media and Popular Culture | THB2-RMPC | 7.5 | C |
| IIb | Religion, Diversity and Identity | THB2-RDI | 7.5 | C |
| IIb | Ethics and Secularity | THB2-PRES | 7.5 | C |

*C=compulsory; O=optional*

## 6.6 Schematic overview of the third year

Only students who have a propaedeutic certificate or have completed the propaedeutic phase can follow third-year course units. During the first semester of the third year, students choose a University Minor, i.e. a coherent package of 30 ECTS credit points, outside the Faculty, in addition to the 15 ECTS in Faculty course units offered in the second block of the first semester, and follow the mandatory course units in the second block of the first semester (15 ECTS). Students choose a 30 ECTS Faculty Minor from the specializations offered by their own degree programme in the second semester. The Faculty Minor, and thus the Bachelor's degree programme, is completed with a Bachelor's thesis.
You may start on your Bachelor's thesis once you have successfully earned 60 ECTS in the post-propaedeutic phase, including the Concepts and Methods 2 course unit.

## Study Year 3: Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies (Dutch/English)

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | EC | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ia | University minor<br>*or:*<br>*Choice (2 out of 3):*<br>Quranic Arabic 1<br>Spirituality and Secular Religion<br>University minor course | <br><br><br>THB2-ARA1<br>THB3-SASR | 15<br><br><br>7.5<br>7.5<br>7.5 | C/O |
| Ib | Religion, Space and Place<br>Law and Religion: Anthropological and Sociological Approaches<br>*or:*<br>*Choice (2 out of 4):*<br>Quranic Arabic 2<br>Law and Religion: Anthropological and Sociological Approaches<br>Religion, Space and Place<br>University minor course | THB3-RSP<br>THB3-LRASA<br><br><br>THB2-ARA2<br>THB3-LRASA<br><br>THB3-RSP | 7.5<br>7.5<br><br><br>7.5<br>7.5<br><br>7.5<br>7.5 | C/O |
| Ia+Ib | *Optional:*<br>Study abroad (15-30 ECTS)<br>Educational Minor (30 ECTS) (Dutch taught)<br>Minor Spiritual Care (22.5 ECTS) (Dutch taught)<br>Internship (7.5 ECTS) | | | |
| II | Specialization *(Choice 1 out of 2):*<br>Lived Religion<br>Cultural Impact of Religion | <br>THB3-LRRC<br>THB3-CIR | 7,5 | C/O |
| II | Bachelorthesisproject:<br>Thesis Seminar (5 ECTS)<br>Thesis (10 ECTS) | <br><br>THB3BSE10 | 15 | C |

*\*C=compulsory; O=optional*


## 6.7 The University Minors

The University Minor is typically followed at another Faculty within the University of Groningen. Students can choose from a fixed range of University Minors, see https://student.portal.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/opleidingen/minor-programmas/universitaire-minorpakketten.
The University organizes an annual Minors' market where students can prepare for their choice of University Minor.

Other options include:
- The Faculty Minor in Spiritual Care for students who aim to pursue the Master programme Spiritual Care next (see Section 6.10).
- The Teacher-training Minor in Religion and Belief (Godsdienst en Levensbeschouwing) with a full or limited grade-two teaching qualification.
- Study abroad.
- Internship.

- A Minor or Minor package at another university in the Netherlands or abroad, whether or not in preparation for a follow-on degree programme; see http://myuniversity.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/rcs/studereninhetbuitenland/ .

*N.B. Students who aim to follow a Minor at another university in the Netherlands or abroad or compose their own Minor package must receive prior approval from the Board of Examiners.*

## 6.8 The Faculty Minor

The goal of the third year of the Bachelor's degree programme is to further broaden and deepen your knowledge, understanding and research skills in the field of religious studies, and to help you further prepare for a follow-on degree programme, among other things with a selection of Minor course units in the third year. In the third year you learn to apply your acquired knowledge and skills in research and report on the results in a responsible manner. To be allowed to take third-year course units, you must have successfully completed the propaedeutic phase.

During the final semester of your Bachelor's degree programme you will choose one of the following two specializations: *Lived Religion* or *Cultural Impact of Religion*. The first – social-scientific – specialization is all about how religion is experienced and practised in a wide variety of cultural contexts and how this is studied, whereas the second one, which is cultural-historical and philosophical in nature, discusses the meaning of religion to people and culture in the past and present. Each specialization contains two subject-specific course units as well as the thesis, which will you prepare in a 'thesis seminar' and then write under supervision of your lecturers.

You may start on your Bachelor's thesis once you have successfully earned 60 ECTS in the post-propaedeutic phase, including the Concepts and Methods 2 course unit.

Once you have successfully completed all the course units of the Bachelor's degree programme, you will have met the requirements for the Bachelor's final assessment.

**Study Year 3 Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies, Faculty Minors / Specialization**

**Year 3: Specialization - Lived Religion**

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | EC | C/O* |
|---------|-----------------------------------------|------------|-----|------|
| IIa | Lived Religion: Reading Case Studies | THB3-LRRC | 7.5 | C |
| IIa | Bachelor Thesis Seminar Lived Religion | THB3-TSLR | 5 | C |
| IIa/IIb | Bachelor Thesis | THB3BSE10 | 10 | C |
| IIb | Lived Religion: Academic Debates | THB3-LRAD | 7.5 | C |

*\*C=compulsory; O=optional*

## Year 3: Specialization - Cultural Impact of Religion

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | EC | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IIa | Contested Humanity: Historical, Philosophical and Theological Approaches | THB3-HPTA | 7.5 | C |
| IIa | Bachelor Thesis Seminar Impact of Religion | THB3-TSIR | 5 | C |
| IIa/IIb | Bachelor Thesis | THB3BSE10 | 10 | C |
| IIb | Cultural Impact of Religion: Working with Sources | THB3-CIR | 7.5 | C |

*C=compulsory; O=optional*


## 6.9 The Faculty Minor in Spiritual Care

Students who wish to prepare for the Master's programme in Spiritual Care must take the 30 ECTS Faculty Minor in Spiritual Care in their third year. The course units of this Minor are spread across the first and second semesters. In the first semester, students also have 7.5 ECTS to devote to electives.

For the Minor in Spiritual Care in the second semester you take course units from the specialization in Cultural Impact of Religion and you write a Bachelor's thesis on a topic within this specialization (10 ECTS).

Schematically, the third year looks as follows:

## Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies with Spiritual Care

Year: 3

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | EC | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ia | Spiritual Care | THB3-GV | 7.5 | C |
| Ia | Professional Ethics | THB3-GVPE | 7.5 | C |
| Ib | Trauma , Grieving, Purpose and Wellbeing | THB3-GVTR | 7.5 | C |
| Ib | Optional Minor | | 7.5 | C |
| IIa | Philosophy as the Art of Living | THB3-GVFL | 7.5 | C |
| IIa | Bachelor Thesis seminar Impact of Religion | THB3-TSRPH | 5 | C |
| IIa/IIb | Bachelor Thesis | THB3BSE10 | 10 | C |
| IIb | Cultural Impact of Religion: Working with Sources | THB3-CIR | 7.5 | C |

*C=compulsory; O=optional*

There will be an information meeting in November and March for students considering the Master's programma Religion, Health and Wellbeing - Spiritual Care. Further information can be attained from dr. A. Visser-Nieraeth, Coordinator of Spiritual Care (a.visser-nieraeth@rug.nl). Spiritual Care has its own Brightspace Space: Agora GV. Students who are following the pre-Master's programme in Spiritual Care and/or the Minor in Spiritual Care can be registered here.

## 6.10 Final paper of the bachelor's degree programme

The Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies will be concluded with a final paper, i.e. the Bachelor's thesis. The final paper will focus on your research skills. The research you will conduct for your Bachelor's thesis is embedded in the specialization that you take in

the second semester of your third academic year. The Bachelor's thesis must be awarded a mark of 6.0 or higher (not rounded off).

*Length*
The final paper will have a length of 8,000 to 10,000 words (12-point font, line spacing 1.5, left margin: 4.5 cm). The final paper will earn you 10 ECTS credit points .

*Supervision and assessment*
In the document *Thesis outline* you will formulate your problem statement and research question. Depending on your topic, you will be appointed a primary supervisor and a second assessor from the Bachelor's Thesis Seminar of your specialization. When writing your Bachelor's thesis, you are entitled to four individual meetings with your supervisor. The days and times of these meetings will also be included in your *Thesis outline* document.

Your Bachelor's thesis will be assessed by your primary supervisor and the second assessor based on the relevant criteria (see below).

*Assessment criteria for the Bachelor's thesis*
Your Bachelor's thesis will be assessed on the basis of the following eight criteria:
- Problem analysis and research question
- Operationalization of the research question
- Method, sources and approach
- Analysis and argumentation
- Conclusion
- Academic language and readability
- Overall coherence of the thesis
- Ability to work independently

The Bachelor's thesis assessment form can be found on the Faculty's student Intranet, under Degree programme information > Thesis procedures and assessment forms . This form can also be found in the digital environment of the Bachelor's Thesis Seminar of your specialization.
The thesis mark will be determined once you have submitted the final version, and represents the average of the assessments of the two assessors.

*Deadlines*
Please beware of the deadlines for submitting the draft version and the final version. The draft version of the thesis must be turned in by May 31, the final version by June 18, the deadline for the revised version will be set after discussion with the supervisors. This deadline should be before September 1. Due to the Bachelor-before-Master Rule ('harde knip'), it is necessary that you adhere to these deadlines in order to prevent study delay.

*Submission*
Your primary supervisor will send their own signed assessment form, together with the form signed by the second assessor *and* the final version of the thesis, to the Student Administration Office (studentoffice.rcs@rug.nl). The Student Administration Office will

check the plagiarism score, which should be under 20%. If this score is 20% or higher, an investigation as to whether the student has committed plagiarism will be started.

## 6.11 Opportunities after graduation

What can you do after gaining a Bachelor's degree certificate? Generally speaking, there are two options:

**A Master's degree programme after the Bachelor's degree programme**
The first option once you have gained your Bachelor's degree is to continue on to a Master's degree programme. This optimizes your chances on the labour market and allows for further deepening of your academic education through specialization. The Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society offers a one-year regular Master's degree programme, with a choice between five different Master's specializations. This one-year Master's programme offers thorough academic training and prepares students for the labour market. A mandatory placement is included in all specializations to this end. In addition, the Faculty offers a two-year Research Master, which pays attention to the development of the skills required to do independent research. It is also possible to follow after the one-year Master the one-year Master of Arts in Religious Studies Teaching. Here you follow the part of the teacher training course with course units on Theory of Education, Teaching Methodology and placements at secondary schools.

The Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies grants automatic access to four of the five one-year Master's specializations. A separate admission procedure is in place for the Research Master. An overview of the follow-on opportunities and the entry requirements of the various Faculty Master's degree programmes and Master's specializations can be found in Chapter 7.

**A job after completion of the Bachelor's degree programme**
The second option is to find a job in the labour market, for which academic training at Bachelor's level is required or desired and for which knowledge of Religious Studies is necessary or useful.

To help students explore follow-on degree programmes (including placements) and career opportunities at an early stage, four times a year the Faculty organizes workshops on job market orientation and corporate visits for Bachelor's and Master's students. The Faculty also organizes a Master's Information Event for all Bachelor's students twice a year.

Further study and career-related advice and workshops can also be attained from Career Services, which is located in the I-shop (Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 19). See also http://www.rug.nl/careerservices/.

# 7. THE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## 7.1 The one-year Master's specializations
The Faculty has offered a one-year Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies with a student workload of 60 ECTS since September 2012. This broad Master's label comprises the following five interdisciplinary thematic specializations, which are closely interlinked with the research of the departments that offer the relevant specialization:
- Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern
- Religion, Conflict and Globalization
- Heritage and Religion
- Spiritual Care
- Werk en Zingeving

The first three tracks are offered in English. They include 30 ECTS in course units, a 10 ECTS placement and a 20 ECTS thesis.
Werk en Zingeving follows the same formal coursework structure – 30 ECTS course units, 10 ECTs placement and 20 ECTs thesis - but is predominantly Dutch-taught.

Due to the structure of the programs, you can only enroll in these tracks in September. However, re-enrollment by February 1 is possible.

Spiritual Care is a mostly Dutch-taught track that is offered in both full-time and part-time variants. It builds on the pre-Master's programme in Spiritual Care and comprises five course units of 5 ECTS each, a 15 ECTS placement and a 20 ECTS thesis. Both full-time and part-time students can only commence in September.

Further information on the objectives, learning outcomes and structure of this specialization can be found in Section 7.5.

## 7.2 The two-year Research Master
Under the label 'Theology and Religious Studies (Research)', the Faculty offers one 120 ECTS programme which focuses on research, thus providing sound preparation for a PhD programme. This programme offers significant space for personal study preferences alongside the compulsory course units.

Further information on objectives, learning outcomes and the structure of this programme can be found in Chapter 13. The programme of the Research Master will also be extensively discussed during the *Master Week* information meetings organized by the Faculty in spring and autumn.

### 7.3 The Master of Arts in Religious Studies Teaching

Since 1 September 2017, the Faculty has been offering the post-Master's degree programme in teaching Social Sciences and Humanities in secondary education (LVHO) together with the teacher-training programme of the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences.

### 7.4 Admission to the Master's phase

Starting any Master's specialization requires meeting all the requirements for the Bachelor's degree certificate first.

**One-year Master's specializations**

A Bachelor's degree certificate in Theology or Religious Studies, Arts or Social and Behavioural Sciences grants immediate admission to the following Master's specializations:
- Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern
- Religion, Conflict and Globalization
- Heritage and Religion
- Werk en Zingeving

Further information about the admissions procedure and application deadlines can be found on the Faculty website: https://www. rug.nl/masters/religion-culture

Students who hold a Bachelor's Degree in another discipline can also apply for direct admission to the MA programmes. However, in addition to the above application requirements, they must demonstrate that at least 30ECTs of the courses from their Bachelor programme explicitly focused on one or more of the following disciplines: history, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, psychology or political science and international relations.

**Mastertrack Spiritual Care**

Admission to the MastertrackSpiritual Care based on a Bachelor's degree certificate in Theology or Religious Studies requires successful completion of the preparatory Minor in Spiritual Care from the Bachelor's degree programme. Further relevant information can be found in Sections 5.12 and 6.10. Further information about the admissions procedure and application deadlines can be found on the Faculty website: http://www.rug.nl/masters/spiritual-care/.

**Research Master in Theology and Religious Studies**

The two-year Research Master is a selective Master's programme with a separate admissions procedure. More information about this admissions procedure and application deadlines can be found on the Faculty website: : https://www.rug.nl/masters/theology-religious-studies-research/

**Master of Arts in Religious Studies Teaching**

A Bachelor's degree programme in Theology or Religious Studies and the one-year Master's programme in Theology and Religious Studies ensures no-threshold access to this Master's degree programme. Students with a Bachelor's degree certificate in Arts including History,

Philosophy and Social Sciences are admissible after completing a 30 ECTS pre-Master in course units on religion and philosophy.

More information about this admissions procedure and application deadlines can be found on the Faculty website: https://www.rug.nl/rcs/education/master/opleiding-leraar-voortgezet-onderwijs-godsdienst-levensbeschouwing

Please contact the study advisors for further information about admission to the various Master's specializations (studyadvice.rcs@rug.nl).

## 7.5 Objectives and learning outcomes of the Master's degree programme (60 ECTS)

**Objectives**

The Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies aims to study religion in relation to culture, both in the present and the past. On the one hand, the form that religion takes often emanates from the cultural context in which it is grounded; on the other hand, it can also assume a critical distance towards that cultural context. Against this background, the Master's degree programme offers five tracks, each with its own focus: *Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern*; *Religion, Conflict and Globalization*; *Heritage and Religion; Werk en Zingeving and Spiritual Care.* Although some tracks focus more on the past and others more on the present situation, they all critically investigate the presence of religion in modern society.

The Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies aims to enable you to acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes that you need in order to achieve the following after obtaining your Master's degree certificate:

a. the ability to conduct independent academic research in the field of Theology and Religious Studies, either within or outside the University of Groningen, and possibly to continue this research with a PhD degree;

b. the ability to transfer and apply the knowledge and skills acquired during your degree program to a societal position that requires or prefers an academic education.

The degree programme constitutes an academic basis for positions in the following professional segments or fields:

- policymaking, i.e. positions in government institutions, companies, media, cultural institutions, educational institutions, social organizations, NGOs and diplomacy;
- culture, education and communication, i.e. educational positions in museums, journalism, publishing companies, the travel industry, education;
- spiritual care, for example in a care institution or as an independent spiritual carer;
- academic research in the field of Theology and Religious Studies and related fields.

After completion of the Master's degree programme, students can also progress to the one-year post-Master's degree programme in teaching Social Sciences and Humanities in secondary education (LVHO), which the Faculty is offering in collaboration with the teacher training programme of the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences.

**Learning outcomes of the Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies**

If you registered for the Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies on or 1 September 2022, upon gaining your Master's degree certificate you will have attained the following learning outcomes:

**Knowledge and understanding**
1. Graduates have demonstrated in-depth knowledge and understanding of the most important scholarly debates, theoretical perspectives and relevant methodologies in one subfield (track) of theology and religious studies;
2. Graduates have demonstrated extensive knowledge and understanding of scholarly debates, theoretical perspectives and methodologies in the field of at least one theme within a subfield (track) of theology and religious studies.

**Applying knowledge and understanding**
3. Graduates can independently carry out an academic analysis of source materials and texts in the field of theology and religious studies;
4. Graduates can independently and in sound and scholarly fashion collect and process sources and literature in analogue or digital catalogues and analogue or digital databases in a subfield of theology and religious studies;
5. Graduates can demonstrate familiarity with and application of the research methods prevalent in a subfield (track) of theology and religious studies;
6. Graduates can independently design and implement a research project within a specific subfield (track) of theology and religious studies;
7. Graduates can independently apply knowledge and insights gained to develop specific products relevant in professional contexts.

**Forming judgements**
8. Graduates can weigh historical, methodological, social and ethical concerns in a specific subfield (track) of theology and religious studies in analyses of complex issues and independently form a judgement about the matter;
9. Graduates can reflect critically on current scholarly and social debates regarding the role of religion in society.
10. Graduates can independently form a judgement of their own academic responsibility in a subfield of theology and religious studies;

**Communication**
11. Graduates can participate in discussions on the state of research within one or more subfields of theology and religious studies.
12. Graduates can translate professional insights and the results of their own and other people's academic research orally and in writing for a broad audience of specialists and non-specialists;
13. Graduates can report on their own research in a manner that satisfies current academic standards within the relevant subfield of theology and religious studies.

**Learning skills**
14. Graduates can act socially and communicatively in collaborative relationships.
15. Graduates can give feedback to fellow students in a constructive manner, receive feedback from fellow students and handle well-founded criticism.
16. Graduates can deal adequately with instructions and criticism from supervisors.
17. Graduates can work independently, including making a realistic schedule and adhering to agreed schedules and prioritization.
18. Graduates are capable of independent orientation to relevant professional fields and integration of acquired knowledge and skills in relevant positions or areas of work.

## 7.6 Interrelation between teaching and research

The various Master's tracks are closely related to the research that is being conducted by the various departments in the Faculty. The *Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern* track benefits from the research conducted within the Department of Jewish, Christian and Islamic Origins. Both the teaching and the research focus on the formative phases of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and particularly on their dynamic interactions in the context of the ancient Near East, Graeco-Roman culture and later classical cultures. In addition, the track also benefits from the research conducted by the Qumran Institute and the interfaculty CRASIS network.
https://www.rug.nl/masters/religion-and-pluralism-ancient-modern/

The *Religion, Conflict and Globalization* track benefits from the research conducted within the Department of Comparative Study of Religion, which studies religion in all its forms and manifestations. It combines historical, cultural and social-scientific perspectives on religion as a human phenomenon, thus making a unique contribution to the analysis of the dynamics of globalization and religion in their societal context. In addition, input for the track is also provided by the Centre for Religion, Conflict and Globalization.
https://www.rug.nl/masters/religion-conflict-and-globalization/

The Master's track in *Heritage and Religion* benefits from the research conducted within the Department of Christianity and the History of Ideas.
This research focuses on the lasting influence of Christianity on culture and politics in a variety of contexts, from the Middle Ages down to the present day, drawing on the disciplines of history, art history, philosophy, ethics, politics and law.
In addition, input for this track is also provided by the research network Centre for Religion and Heritage.
https://www.rug.nl/masters/heritage-and-religion/

The Master's tracks in *Spiritual Care* and *Werk en Zingeving* benefits from the psychological and medical-anthropological research conducted within the Department Comparative Study of Religion as well as the cultural-historical and ethical research conducted in the Department of Christianity and the History of Ideas, particularly that on dealing with death. This track receives also input from the Centre for Religion, Health and Wellbeing.
https://www.rug.nl/masters/spiritual-care/
https://www.rug.nl/masters/werk-en-zingeving/

## 7.7 Placements
An internship (10 ECTS credit points) is part of the English-taught Master's tracks and of the Dutch-taught Werk en Zingeving track within the one-year Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies. This practical experience gives students an impression of their options on the labour market and the opportunity to find the type of job or organization that suits them. Placements also allow companies, government departments, media outlets and civil society organisations to become familiar with students of the degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies and thus with the specific combination of knowledge and skills that they have acquired. In addition, a placement helps students build a network within the field and paves the way for a job that suits their training. For this reason, it is Faculty policy for students to find their own placements. Note that this takes a lot of time. It is therefore important to attend the placement information meeting right at the beginning of the academic year. Experience has shown that over 40% of interns are offered a job after their placement.

Placements are also important for the Faculty. They are an opportunity to test the degree programmes using the practices that students encounter and may have to deal with after graduation. Placements can also help the Faculty show the relevance of the degree programmes. For these reasons, the Faculty aims to properly organize and evaluate placements. Placements are supervised by a practical supervisor at the placement host on the one hand and a lecturer from the degree programme on the other. Responsibility for the formal organization, i.e. information, registration and evaluation, for the internships of the English-language tracks lies with the Office for Student Affairs of the Faculty of Arts.
https://www.rug.nl/let/onze-faculteit/organisatie/diensten-en-voorzieningen/bsz

The Master's programme Spiritual Care includes a placement with a student workload of 15 ECTS credit points. Agreements are in place with various placement hosts and the formal organization is the responsibility of the Department Comparative Study of Religion.

## 7.8 Thesis Seminar
Thesis seminars are organized for students who intend to start writing their Master's thesis. While each Master's specialization may have its own working method, the general procedure is as follows: The thesis seminar participants convene every two weeks starting in the first block of the second semester.

In the thesis seminars, students expand the research proposal they wrote for the course unit on research methods. They also discuss and practise specific aspects of writing and planning a thesis at Master's level, as well as the research process. Students give each other feedback in the form of peer reviews. Students must hand in a draft version of their Master's thesis no later than 1 June, a final version no later than 1 July. The deadline for the revised version will be set after discussion with the supervisors. This deadline should be before 1 September.
Participation in the Thesis Seminar is compulsory for all students who intend to write a Master's thesis.

## 7.9 Thesis regulations

**Length of the thesis**
The Master's degree programme is concluded with a thesis. This thesis must focus on your specialization and you must gain a mark of at least 6.0 (not rounded off) for it. There are 20 ECTS credit points available for thesis work. Students cannot offset any thesis work in excess of 20 ECTS credit points against other course units of the 60 ECTS Master's specialization. The thesis must be between 18,000 and 20,000 words in length (12-point font, line spacing: 1.5, left margin: 4.5 cm and right margin: 2.5 cm), excluding any annexes, i.e. sections that are typically not part of the thesis file.

**Forum Scriptorium (for Geestelijke Verzorging and Werk en Zingeving) and Thesis Seminar**
Forum Scriptorium (for Geestelijke Verzorging and Werk en Zingeving) and Thesis Seminar are the digital environments that contain all the relevant information for students who are starting on their thesis, including the thesis regulations and the thesis contract. Other relevant documents, such as tips for the writing process, plagiarism guidelines, etc. are also included there. Forum Scriptorium is a digital environment for the Master's students in Spiritual Care and Werk en Zingeving. The digital environment Thesis Seminar is aimed at students from the English-taught Master's specialization.

**Supervision and final responsibility**
The writing of a Master's thesis takes place under the final responsibility of one of the lecturers involved in teaching the Major, who will also be the primary supervisor. He or she will, possibly in consultation with you, appoint a second assessor who is a specialist in the subject of the thesis or a specific related area. The second assessor must have an appointment as a lecturer at a university, unless the Board of Examiners agrees to make an exception at the request of the student. The second assessor must approve the research question and problem definition, sign the the thesis contract and co-assess the final version of the thesis. The primary supervisor also supervises the thesis process.

**Thesis structure and agreements regarding supervision**
The thesis structure and agreements regarding *supervision* are laid down in a *thesis contract* or *Master's thesis contract* before thesis work starts*.* The procedure is as follows:

**1.  Orientation phase**
Before the actual start of thesis work, students must have one or more preliminary meetings with their primary supervisor about the feasibility of their plans. Students must add concise minutes of their preliminary meeting(s) to the thesis structure document. The primary supervisor decides whether and to what extent the literature studied specifically for this preliminary phase is included in the 20 ECTS credit points for the thesis.

**2. Thesis structure***
The thesis plan must be approved by the primary supervisor and the second assessor, and must include the following:
1.   Description of the subject and problem statement of the thesis

2. General indication of the expected outcome of the thesis
3. Provisional organization of chapters
4. Phasing of the work
5. Annexes:
   - a list of literature consulted in the preliminary phase and during the writing of the first draft
   - a rough list of literature to be used in writing the thesis

**3. Supervision agreements***
In addition, agreements are made regarding supervision, which contain:
1. Preferred date of completion of the thesis
2. Preferred dates of completion of the various components/chapters
3. Agreements on the frequency of supervision interviews.

The agreements on supervision are made by the primary supervisor and the student by mutual consent and are confirmed by filling out a supervision agreement form, which both parties sign. Any changes will also require mutual consent. This thesis contract or Master's thesis contract must be submitted to the Board of Examiners for approval.

In cases of repeated non-compliance by either lecturer or student, the agreements can be declared null and void after consultation with the second assessor and the Programme Coordinator.
At least three to no more than seven meetings must take place between the primary supervisor and the student during supervision.

The original thesis structure document and the supervision agreement form are kept in the student's file at the Student Administration Office. Copies are in the possession of the student, primary supervisor, second assessor and Education Coordinator.
Radical changes to the thesis structure or the supervision agreements must be reapproved by all parties.

* The forms for laying down the thesis structure and the supervision agreements can be found in the Forum Scriptorium digital environment under Thesis Agreements and in the Thesis Seminar digital environment under Course Information.

**Finishing and handing in the final version of the thesis**
You must complete your thesis within the academic year in which you started it. If you fail to complete your thesis within that academic year, you must choose a new topic and a new supervisor. If you are unable to complete your thesis within the set time period due to exceptional or other circumstances, you must apply to the Board of Examiners for a deadline extension. The Board of Examiners will consult your supervisor before reaching a decision. The Board of Examiners can extend your thesis deadline by one semester. No more than two extensions will be granted.

You must submit the draft version of your thesis no later than 1 June, a final version no later than 1 July. The deadline for the revised version will be set after discussion with the supervisors. This deadline should be before 1 September.

You must hand in a digital final version of your thesis (including a summary) to your primary supervisor.

If you wish to apply to the Board of Examiners for a deadline extension, please use Form 6. 'Postponement course examination', see
https://www.rug.nl/rcs/organization/office-and-services/study-matters/examencommissie

## 7.10 Conflict mediation
If problems arise during supervision between the parties involved, students can appoint a mediator who is acceptable to both parties, in consultation with the Programme Coordinator.
For conflicts regarding marking, students can follow the usual appeals procedure as outlined in Article 7.61 of the Higher Education and Academic Research Act (WHW).

## 7.11 Learning outcomes and assessment criteria of the Master's thesis
**Learning outcomes**
After completing a Master's thesis with a student workload of 20 ECTS credit points, you are able to autonomously write an academic paper based on independent sources, empirical and/or literature study and starting from a problem definition that you have compiled yourself.

*Scale*
The Master's thesis has a word limit of between 18,000 and 20,000 words (12-point font; line spacing 1.5; margins set at 4.5 cm). The final paper will earn you 20 ECTS credit points.

*Supervision and assessment*
In the document *Thesis contract*, you will formulate your problem statement and research question. Depending on your topic, you will choose your primary supervisor, who will then find a second assessor. When writing your Master's thesis, you are entitled to a minimum of three and a maximum of seven meetings with your supervisor. The days and times of these meetings will also be included in your *Thesis outline* document.
Your Master's thesis will be assessed by your primary supervisor and the second assessor based on the relevant criteria (see below).

**Assessment criteria**
Your thesis is assessed using an assessment form that includes the following nine criteria:
- Problem analysis and research question
- Operationalization of the research question
- Sources, Method and/or Approach
- Analysis and argumentation
- Conclusion

- Scientific language and readability
- Overall coherence of the thesis
- Independence
- Defence

The thesis mark is determined once you have submitted the final version and defended your thesis. The final mark represents the average of the assessments of the two examiners.

The Master's thesis assessment form can be found on the Faculty's student Intranet, under Degree programme information > Thesis procedures and assessment forms. This form is also included in the digital environments of Forum Scriptorium (Spiritual Care) and the Master's Thesis Seminar.

*Deadlines*
The thesis component is scheduled in the second semester of the first year of the Master's degree programme. You will be guided in writing your Master's thesis during the Master's Thesis Seminar.

The thesis must be completed within the current academic year. If you do not complete your thesis within the academic year in which you started it, you must submit a reasoned request for extension of the completion term to the Board of Examiners. Upon your request, the Board of Examiners may take your personal circumstances into account in its assessment of a request for extension, as well as your study behaviour, any agreements made or study plans drawn up in consultation with the study advisor, and your plan for completing the thesis. The Board of Examiners will consult your supervisor before reaching a decision.

Thesis terms can be extended for a period of up to one semester at a time. No more than two extensions will be granted.

Please be aware of the deadlines for submitting the draft version and the final version. The draft version of the thesis must be submitted no later than 1 June, the final version no later than 1 July. The deadline for the revised version will be set after discussion with the supervisors. This deadline should be before 1 September.

*Submission*
Your primary supervisor will send their own signed assessment form, together with the form signed by the second assessor *and* the final version of the thesis, to the Student Administration Office (studentoffice.rcs@rug.nl). The Student Administration Office will check the plagiarism score, which should be under 20%. If this score is 20% or higher, an investigation into whether you have committed plagiarism will be initiated.

## 7.12 Opportunities after completion of the degree programme

Graduates will have acquired sufficient knowledge and skills to pursue the professions or occupy the positions for which the Master's degree programme concerned has trained them. Relevant professions include teacher with a grade one teaching qualification, spiritual carer, religious consultant or academic researcher. In addition, they may be suitable for other professions, including diplomacy; public policy; culture and the arts; education and

communication that combine sustainable knowledge development, acquisition or processing; a willingness to enter new or uncharted territory, and the assumption of responsibility. This may include positions in government institutions, corporations, media, cultural institutions, social organizations, NGOs and diplomacy.

Information on the more specific options and opportunities after completion of the various Master's specializations can be found in Sections  8.6, 9.5, 10.5, 11.6 and 12.5.

# 8. RELIGION AND PLURALISM: ANCIENT AND MODERN

**See also:** https://www.rug.nl/masters/religion-and-pluralism-ancient-modern/

## 8.1 Entry requirements
A Bachelor's degree in Theology or Religious Studies will grant admission to the Master's track in Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern. You may also be admitted on the basis of a university Bachelor's degree in the Humanities, Arts, Philosophy or Social Sciences (Sociology, Cultural Anthropology, Psychology). In this case you will probably have to complete an 800 to 1000-page reading list in advance.

Students with a university Bachelor's degree in a field other than behavioural and social sciences, the humanities, or theology and religious studies are not required to complete a pre-Master's programme if they:
- have completed a University Minor (Religion in the Modern World, Art and Religion, or Religion and Society) at the University of Groningen Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society;

or
- can demonstrate that they have earned 30 ECTS credit points in the following topics during their previous degree programme: archaeology, ancient history, classical languages, classical philosophy.

Your application for these tracks must include an overview of results gained in the Bachelor's degree programme and an explanation thereof.  More information about the admissions procedure (including application deadlines) can be found on the Faculty website: https://www.rug.nl/masters/religion-and-pluralism-ancient-modern/#!requirements

Students with different qualifications may need to follow a pre-Master's programme. The study advisors (studyadvise.rcs@rug.nl) will be able to tell you more about this.

## 8.2 Profile of the track
Since time immemorial, there has been tension between maintaining solidarity within one's own group and establishing productive relationships with 'outsiders'. In Europe, this tension is very palpable in the relationships between three large monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Partly due to present migration from Islamic countries, questions of political identity and 'belonging' are still strongly linked to religious persuasion. This one-year Master's specialization focuses on the relationships between Jews, Christians and Muslims in the classical world and the question of how these relationships have shaped today's society. Concepts such as 'religion', 'pluralism', and 'tolerance' will be subjected to thorough analysis.

## 8.3 Objectives and learning outcomes of the track
Upon completion of the Master's track in *Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern* you will have achieved the general learning outcomes of the Master's degree programme in

Theology and Religious Studies with regard to the subfield of religion and pluralism. Important themes in this field are the relationship between religion and politics, the content and use of the source texts of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and the tendency within Jewish, Christian and Islamic communities to either tolerate or exclude people.

## 8.4 Schematic overview of the track
The Master's track in Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern is structured as follows.

**Master's Programme Theology and Religious Studies - Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern**

**Year: 1**

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | ECTS | C/O* |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|------|------|
| Ia | The Construction of Religious Identities in Europe: Religious Diversity in the Graeco-Roman World | THMCRIE10 | 10 | C |
| Ia | Texts of Terror | THMTTE5 | 5 | C/O |
| Ib | Interreligious Debates and Otherness in Iberian Societies | THM-IDIS5 | 5 | C/O |
| Ib | New Historical Methods for the Study of Christian Pluralism | THMNHMCP5 | 5 | C |
| Ib | Reception and Re-Use of Authoritative Texts | THMRRATE5 | 5 | C/O |
| II | Dirk Smilde Research Seminar | THMDSRSE10 | 10 | C/O |
| I/II | Placement | THMSTAGE10 | 10 | C |
| I/II | Master Thesis, incl. Thesis Seminar | THMTHRSS20 | 20 | C |

*\*C=compulsory; O=optional*

**Electives** If students want to focus more on issues in the field of religion, pluralism and conflict in the modern world, they may choose course units as electives (max. 15 ECTS) from the MA track Religion, Conflict and Globalization.
Students who wish to use a contemporary theme for their thesis as well are advised to follow the course unit in Social Scientific Research Methods from that Master's specialization instead of New Historical Methods. This requires the approval of the Board of Examiners.

## 8.5 Double Degree programma met Universidad de Córdoba
For interested students there is the possibility to extend the one-year Master's program in Religion and Pluralism with a study at the Universidad de Córdoba and thus obtain a Double Degree. If you want to follow this program, you will study in Groningen in the first semester and in Cordoba in the second semester. You will do your internship and write your thesis in the first semester of the second year. Upon successful completion of this program, you will receive a diploma from both the RUG and Córdoba. For more information about the 'Double Degree' program with Córdoba, see: https://www.rug.nl/masters/ddm-religion-and-pluralism/

## 8.6 Career opportunities
The historical perspective taken in this track will enable you to gain an understanding of contemporary issues such as acculturation; the use of Jewish, Christian and Islamic traditions and their sacred texts in politics and society; and religious violence. The current debate often refers to perceived historical realities. An understanding of the historical

context is essential when assessing such debates and thus contributes to a better understanding of sustainable society.

Trained academics in this field are almost non-existent, and there is a great need to address the issues above through teaching.

**Consulting & Policy**
You are able to provide well-founded advice on interreligious issues and multicultural society. You can use this expertise in an advisory position at cultural organizations, in companies or in the public sector. Your knowledge makes you suited to policy-making positions in this field.

**Media & Journalism**
The current debate often refers to perceived historical realities. Your expertise in the formative periods of Judaism, Christianity and Islam enables you to ask critical questions concerning modern-day claims about these religious traditions. You can use your knowledge and skills as an editor at a publishing company, broadcasting company, newspaper or news and current affairs magazine. You could also work as a freelancer.

**Education**
Once you have completed this Master's track you will have enough knowledge of the subject to become a secondary school teacher in the subject of Religious Studies and Philosophy or Social Studies. You could also opt for a position in higher vocational education, for example teaching Theology at a university of applied sciences. As you also need didactic skills as a teacher, it is advisable to do a Master's in Education after you have completed your regular Master's track.

**Academia**
If, during your studies, you come to the conclusion that you would like to stay in academia, you can choose to apply for a place in the Research Master after your regular Master's programme. If you are admitted, you can complete this two-year programme in one year. The Research Master is a good stepping stone towards a PhD position or a research post at a national or international knowledge institute.
See also the following website: https://www.rug.nl/masters/theology-religious-studies-research/

## 8.6 Coordinator
The coordinator of the Master's track Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern is K.A. Fowler PhD.

# 9. RELIGION, CONFLICT AND GLOBALIZATION

**See also:** http://www.rug.nl/masters/religion-conflict-and-globalization/

## 9.1 Entry requirements
A Bachelor's degree in Theology or Religious Studies will grant admission to the Master's track in Religion, Conflict and Globalization. You may also be admitted on the basis of a university Bachelor's degree in the Humanities, Arts, Philosophy or Social Sciences (Sociology, Cultural Anthropology, Psychology). In this case you will have to complete an 800 to 1000-page reading list in advance.

Students with a different Bachelor's degree must first complete a Pre-Master's Programme before being admitted to this track. Students with a university Bachelor's degree in a field other than behavioral and social sciences, humanities, or theology and religious studies do not need to complete a Pre-Master's Programme if they:
- have completed a University Minor (Religion in the Modern World, Art and Religion, or Religion and Society) at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of the University of Groningen;

or
- can demonstrate that they have earned 30 ECTS credit points in the following topics during their previous degree programme: human rights, migration, development studies, gender studies, politics.

Your application for these tracks must include an overview of results gained in the Bachelor's degree programme and an explanation thereof. More information about the admissions procedure (including application deadlines) can be found on the Faculty website: https://www.rug.nl/masters/religion-conflict-and-globalization/#!requirements

Students with different qualifications may need to follow a pre-Master's programme. The study advisors (studyadvise.rcs@rug.nl) will be able to tell you more about this.

## 9.2 Profile of the track
What is the relationship between religion, conflict and peace? How does globalization affect local religious traditions? How do religious and secular parties communicate with each other in local and global debates on conflict, migration and gender?

Religion is involved at various levels in many of the major conflicts that the world is currently facing. In addition, religion is also an important aspect of people's lives and has become an important basis for solidarity between people all over the world. Nevertheless, the importance of religion in society is still not sufficiently recognized in academic research and in the work of policymakers, NGOs and journalists.

This Master's track studies the key role played by religion in the dynamics of globalization and the conflicts that shape today's societies. This interdisciplinary track will focus on political and societal as well as psychological and cultural dimensions. You will learn:

- to examine the consequences of globalization for religious practices and individual, ethnic and national identities
- to understand the relationship between religion, conflict and peacebuilding
- to analyse national and international conflicts and understand how they are interwoven with religious interests and opinions.

You can specialize in themes such as conflict and peacebuilding, migration and gender.

## 9.3 Objectives and learning outcomes of the track

Upon completion of the Master's track in *Religion, Conflict and Globalization* you will have achieved the general learning outcomes of the Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies with regard to the subfield of religion, conflict and globalization. Important themes in this subfield include religion, migration and conflict; religion, gender and sexuality; and religion, peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

## 9.4 Schematic overview of the track

The Master's track in Religion, Conflict and Globalization is structured as follows.

**Master's programme Theology and Religious Studies - Religion, Conflict and Globalization**

**Year: 1**

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | EC | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ia | Religion, Conflict and Globalization: A Critical Introduction | THM-RCGI5 | 5 | C |
| Ia | *Choice (2 out of 3):*<br>Religion, Violence and Conflict Transformation<br>Religion, Gender and Sexuality<br>Nature, Humanity, and Global Perspectives in Modern Spirituality and Esotericism | <br>THM-RVCT5<br>THM-RGS5<br>THM-NHGP5 | <br>5<br>5<br>5 | C/O |
| Ib | Social Scientific Research Methods | THM-SSRM5 | 5 | C |
| Ib | *Choice (2 out of 4):*<br>Gender, Religion and Sexual Nationalism<br>Global Dynamics and Local Cosmologies<br>National Socialism and Religion: Conflict and Heritage (HR)<br>Migration, Culture and Identity | <br>THM-GRSN5<br>THM-GDLC5<br>THM-NSR5<br>THM-MCRI5 | <br>5<br>5<br>5<br>5 | C/O |
| II | Placement | THMSTAGE10 | 10 | C |
| II | Master Thesis, incl. Thesis Seminar | THMTHRSS20 | 20 | C |

*C=compulsory; O=optional*

**Electives** If you want to focus more on issues in the field of ancient religion, pluralism and conflict in the ancient world, then you can choose course units as electives (max. 15 ECTS) from the Mastertrack Religion and Pluralism.

## 9.5 Career opportunities

In this Master's programme you research the role of religion in current processes of globalization and localization. You learn to analyse national and international conflicts and to show how they are interwoven with religious interests and opinions. You will also gain an understanding of the different ways in which both migrants and 'stay-at-homes ' call on religion to establish a role for themselves in a fast-changing world.

You can make use of the knowledge and skills you acquire on this programme in different sectors.

### Consulting & Policy

In a globalising world, national and international conflicts are far-reaching. There is a need for experts who can explain and help solving these conflicts. With your degree, you can advise or write policy documents on different subjects, such as, developmental assistance or multicultural society. You could work for the government, in business or at an NGO. More specifically, this could mean working for the think-tank of a political party, for the Netherlands Institute for Social Research or for the Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael.

### Media & Journalism

Religion is in the news every day, often in a negative way: from terrorism to integration issues. With your expertise in the field of religion and conflict, you can intensify the debate in society and, where necessary, add some nuance to the picture. You can put your knowledge into practice as an editor at a publishing company, a broadcasting company, a newspaper or a current affairs magazine.

### Education

You will have enough knowledge of the subject to teach Religious Studies and Philosophy or Social Studies in secondary education. You could also opt for a position in higher vocational education. As you also need didactic skills as a teacher, it is advisable to do a Master's in Education after you have completed your regular Master's programme.

### Academia

If, during your studies, you reach the conclusion that you would like to stay in academia, you can choose to apply for a place in the Research Master after your regular Master's programme. If you are admitted, you can complete this two-year programme in one year. The Research Master is a good stepping stone towards a PhD position or a research post at a national or international knowledge institute.

## 9.6 Coordinator

The coordinator of the Master's programme Religion, Conflict and Globalization is dr. J. Tarusarira ([j.tarusarira@rug.nl](mailto:j.tarusarira@rug.nl)).

# 10. HERITAGE AND RELIGION

**See also**: https://www.rug.nl/masters/heritage-and-religion/

## 10.1 Entry requirements
A Bachelor's degree in Theology or Religious Studies will grant admission to the Master's track in Heritage and Religion. You may also be admitted on the basis of a university Bachelor's degree in the Humanities, Arts, Philosophy or Social Sciences (Sociology, Cultural Anthropology, Psychology) and depending on the curriculum, Spatial Sciences. In this case you will probably have to complete an c. 800 page reading list in advance.

Students with another Bachelor's degree programme are required complete a pre-Masters programme before admission to the track. However, students with a University Bachelor's Degree in a non-Social Science, Humanities or Theology and Religious Studies discipline may be exempted from the requirement to complete the pre-Master program if they have:
- Completed a minor (Religion in the Modern World, Art and Religion or Religion and Society) at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of the University of Groningen; *of*
- Can demonstrate completion of 30 ECTs worth of subjects in their previous degree program that have introduced them to the following disciplines: History, Cultural Studies, Heritage Studies, Archaeology, Architecture, Art History, Philosophy, Spatial Sciences.

Your application for these tracks must include an overview of results gained in the Bachelor's degree programme and an explanation thereof. More information about the admissions procedure (including application deadlines) can be found on the Faculty website: https://www.rug.nl/masters/heritage-and-religion/#!requirements.

Students with different qualifications will have to follow a pre-Master's programme. The study advisors (studyadvice.rcs@rug.nl) will be able to tell you more about this.

## 10.2 Profile of the track
Heritage studies is a growing field, and not without reason. Not only is heritage high on the agenda of local, regional, national, and international governmental bodies and NGOs, and a central part of tourism, but in our current era of great climate change, conflicts, mass migration, and profound religious shifts, the political and religious implications of the intersection between identity and heritage been brought into high relief.  Given a recent emphasis on the fundamental human right of all people to access to culture life, we need to ask who benefits from heritage, and who is left out? Who gets define "heritage", how do they do so, for whom?

The need for a study of this within a religious studies framework is clear. First, much of the heritage objects, sites, landscapes, and practices are rooted in religious systems and traditions, irrespective of current ownership or adherence. What happens to the religious status of an altar, for instance, in a museum? What responsibility does a province have for

negotiating not only with the tourism industry but with local religious bodies regarding a pilgrimage? Second, the relationship between heritage and religion raises specific questions. What is the meaning of religious heritage in culture characterized by secularization and great diversity? How are is space made (or not made) for death traditions and monuments of a diverse population, or to mark a traumatic past? In other words, what can the heritagization of religion tell us about how religion is changing in a society. Thirdly, we want to understand what roles can religious heritage play in addressing conflicts, or traumatic histories such as colonialization and armed conflict war. If museums are full of religious objects obtained through various forms of violence (colonialism, revoution), what does displaying these objects presently mean, or entail?

In this Master's specialization, students study the broad field of material and immaterial religious heritage from critical theoretical, historical, political and philosophical perspectives. Students will reflect critically on contemporary ethical and political aspects of heritage, and learn to identify relationships between heritage, identity and history. Learning from heritage professionals, and community-based projects and internships, they will learn to apply their critical and analytical skills to heritage research, and dissemination in the field. This specialization offers students the required theoretical and practical training to assume active roles in this intriguing and growing field.

## 10.3 Objectives and learning outcomes of the track
Upon completion of the Master's track in Heritage and Religion you will have achieved the general learning outcomes of the Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies with regard to the subfield of religion and cultural heritage. Important themes in this subfield include critical theories in the field of heritage, the heritagization of religious objects, the function of memory, appropriation, musealisation and identity, and the relationships between them. The acquisition of skills in planning and conducting projects in the field of marketing heritage is an important element of the track.

## 10.4 Schematic overview of the track

The Master's track in Heritage and Religion is structured as follows.

**Master's programme Theology and Religious Studies - Heritage and Religion**

**Year: 1**

| sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | ECTS | C/O* |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|------|------|
| Ia | The Uses of the Past: Public History and Heritage | THM-UOPE5 | 5 | C |
| Ia | Regional Heritage: Old Churches–New Meanings | THM-RH5 | 5 | C |
| Ia | Material Religion: Things, Places, Performances, and Belief | THMMRE5 | 5 | C/O |
| Ib | Research Methods in Heritage and Historical Studies | THMRMSE5 | 5 | C |
| Ib | *Choice (2 out of 4):* | | | C/O |
| | Museums and Religion | THM-MR5 | 5 | |
| | Heritage of Death: the Heritage of Funerary Practices and Memorialization | THM-HOD | 5 | |
| | National Socialism and Religion: Conflict and Heritage | THM-NSR5 | 5 | |
| | Reception and Re-Use of Authoritative Texts (RPAM) | THMRRATE5 | 5 | |
| II | Placement | THMSTAGE10 | 10 | C |
| II | Master Thesis, incl. Thesis Seminar | THMTHRSS20 | 20 | C |

*C=compulsory; O=optional*

## 10.5 Career opportunities

Our gradutates have found employment in local and national, governmental, and non-governmental bodies working with heritage. They have become secondary school teachers, and event organisers. They have gone on to further study leading in anthropology and art. The emphasis on skills and on connecting with professionals working the the broad field of heritage enables graduates to work for cultural organisations, the government, in the tourist business or at an NGO.

If you want to become a teacher of religion in secondary education you can additionally follow the Educational Master's programme. If you like to undertake a career in research, you can choose to apply for a placement in the Research Master.

You can make use of the knowledge and skill that you acquire on this track in different sectors:

**Consulting & Policy**
Your knowledge about religious heritage will enable you to advise upon or write policy documents on the conservation of religious heritage. You could find a job with central government but also at organizations and foundations in the cultural sector. This could be, for example, the Museum Catharijneconvent in Utrecht or the foundation Stichting Oude Groninger Kerken or international equivalents.

**Cultural Education**
You can work within organizations that consult upon the content and organization within the field of arts and cultural education. Or you could work at an educational department within institutions such as a cultural centeres, grass-roots organisations working on social-inclusion, or museums.

**Media & Journalism**
There is renewed media interest in religion and society, particularly in connection with heritage, and the role it plays in tourism, for instance, or, on the other hand, in social tension or conflict. If you enjoy writing, with the knowledge and skills gained in this programme you will be equiped to make an expert contribution to publications in this field. You could also use your expertise as an editor at a broadcasting company, newspaper or current affairs magazine.

**Education**
Once you have completed this Master's track, you will have sufficient knowledge of the subject to be able to teach Religious Studies or Social Studies in secondary education. You could also opt for a position in higher vocational education. Because you will need pedagogical training in order to become a teaching, it is advisable to do a Master's in Education after you have completed your regular Master's programme.

**Academia**
If, during your studies, you come to the conclusion that you would like to stay in academia, you can choose to apply for a place in the Research Master after your regular Master's programme. If you are admitted, you can complete this two-year programme in one year. The Research Master is a good stepping stone towards a PhD position or a research post at a national or international knowledge institute.

## 10.6 Coordinator
The coordinator of the Master's track Heritage and Religion is dr. A.J.M. Irving (a.j.m.irving@rug.nl).

# 11. Spiritual Care

**See also**: https://www.rug.nl/masters/spiritual-care/

## 11.1 Entry requirements
In order to be admitted to the Master's track Spiritual Care you need a Bachelor's degree in Theology or Religious Studies. You must also have completed the Minor in Spiritual Care or the specific preparatory course units from the pre-Master's or bridging programme. This comprises 30 ECTS credit points.

A special, 60 ECTS pre-Master's programme for the Master's programme in Spiritual Care has been developed for students with a higher vocational degree or a Bachelor's degree in Theology from a university, or a higher vocational, Bachelor's or Master's degree from degree programmes other than Theology or Religious Studies. Further information about this pre-Master's programme can be obtained from the study advisors (studyadvise.rcs@rug.nl).

## 11.2 Specialization profile
How do people experience meaning in their lives and how do they give meaning to profound events? Everyone is faced with choices about health and illness, life and death.

As a student of Spiritual Care, you will learn to assist people in crisis situations by guiding them in the area of meaning and spirituality. You will study mental and spiritual care in contemporary society and the functioning of a spiritual caregiver in primary care or within an institution. With this baggage, you will be able to respond to current questions of meaning and life with knowledge and creativity.

With the philosophy of life curriculum, you will develop your own philosophical identity and learn to articulate it. The master is profession-oriented and has an open, critical and scientific approach to the field of spiritual care. The program is accredited by the SKGV (Stichting Kwaliteitsregister Geestelijke Verzorging). This training can also be followed part-time.

The Groningen program is not tied to one specific religion or philosophy of life. If you want to work with an official affiliation with a philosophy of life, you need additional training.

## 11.3 Learning outcomes
Upon completion of the Master's track in *Spiritual Care* you will have attained the general learning outcomes of the Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies in the subfield spiritual care. Important themes in this subfield include the perception of health and illness, religion and psychopathology, ethical questions in health care, philosophical development and theories on religion, health and wellbeing.

**Learning outcomes of the Spiritual Care track**
With a view to registration with the SKGV (Stichting Kwaliteitsregister Geestelijke

Verzorgers), below are the specific learning outcomes of the Spiritual Care track.

1. Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the methods, theories and academic/scholarly debates in the field of spiritual care;
2. Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the complex organizations in which spiritual care counsellors are active;
3. Graduates have demonstrated in-depth knowledge and understanding of the psychological, ideological and ethical aspects of religion, health and wellbeing and their interrelationships in the Western multicultural and multi-faith society;
4. Graduates have demonstrated critical understanding (based on 1-3) of the way in which people create meaning and belief in their specific context and the role of a spiritual care counsellor in this process;
5. Graduates can collaborate with colleagues and representatives of other disciplines; thanks to their understanding of the work fields of various closely related professions
6. Graduates possess the communicative and methodological skills required to work as spiritual care counsellors;
7. Graduates are able to connect their professional expertise, professional competence, and ideology in a credible, reflective manner within their own person.

## 11.4.1 Master's programme Theology and Religious Studies - Spiritual Care (fulltime)

The fulltime programme of the Master's track Spiritual Care

**Year: 1**

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | ECTS | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ia | Zingeving: Een eigen perspectief | THM-ZEP5 | 5 | C |
| Ia | Ethics in Health Care | THMEE5 | 5 | C |
| I | Spiritual Care: Roles and Methods | THM-GV5 | 5 | C |
| Ib | Onderzoeksmethoden | THM-GVOM5 | 5 | C |
| Ib | Psychopathology and Religion | THMPSPRE5 | 5 | C |
| Ib,II | Internship | THMSTAGE15 | 15 | C |
| II | Master Thesis, incl. Forum Scriptorium | THMGVSE20 | 20 | C |

*C=compulsory; O=optional*

## 11.4.2 Master's programme Theology and Religious Studies -  Spiritual Care (parttime)

The parttime programme of the Master's track Spiritual Care

**Year: 1**

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | ECTS | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ia | Zingeving: Een eigen perspectief | THM-ZEP5 | 5 | C |
| I | Spiritual Care | THM-GV5 | 5 | C |
| Ib | Psychopathology and Religion | THMPSPRE5 | 5 | C |
| II | Internship | THMSTAGE15 | 15 | C |

*C=compulsory; O=optional*

**Year: 2**

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | ECTS | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ia | Ethiek in de zorg | THMEE5 | 5 | V |
| Ib | Onderzoeksmethoden | THM-GVOM5 | 5 | C |
| Ib, II | Master Thesis, incl. Forum Scriptorium | THMGVSE20 | 20 | C |

*C=compulsory; O=optional*

## 11.4.3 Master's programme Theology and Religious Studies - Religion, Health and Wellbeing / Ethics and Diversity – in dismantling

The master's track Religion, Health and Wellbeing - Ethics and Diversity will be offered for the final year in 2023-2024 to students enrolled in this track in the previous year.
The master's track Religion, Health and Wellbeing - Ethics and Diversity is programmed according to the following schedule.

**Year: 1**

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit Code | ECTS | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ia | Perspectives on Religion, Health and Wellbeing | THM-PRHW | 5 | C |
| Ia | Ethics in Health Care | THM-ME | 5 | C |
| Ia | Religion, Gender and Sexuality | THM-RGS5 | 5 | C |
| Ib | Conducting Research on Religion, Health and Wellbeing | THM-RMRHW | 5 | C |
| Ib | *Choice (1 out of 2):* | | | |
|  | Gender, Religion and Sexual Nationalism | THM-GRSN5 | 5 | C/O |
|  | Psychopathologie en religie (voertaal Nederlands) | THMPSPRE5 | 5 | C/O |
| Ib | Ethics and Medical Humanities | THM-EMH5 | 5 | C |
| II | Placement | THMSTAGE10 | 10 | C |
| II | Master Thesis, incl. Forum Scriptorium | THMTHRSS20 | 20 | C |

*C=compulsory; O=optional*

## 11.5 Opportunities after completing the degree programme

The Master's track Spiritual Care has been accredited by the Quality Register for Spiritual Care (SKGV: *Stichting Kwaliteitsregister Geestelijk Verzorgers*). This means that you can register in the Quality Register if you start working as a spiritual caregiver after obtaining your degree in Spiritual Care, provided you are a member of a professional association and have been tested by the RING-GV.

**Care and Wellbeing**

In the Master's track Spiritual Care, you will study a wide range of religious traditions and personal convictions. You will learn how to counsel groups and individuals, helping them to find meaning and stability in their lives. You can also train company employees and offer advice and opinions at policy level. As a spiritual care counsellor, you may find work in a healthcare institution, for example a general or psychiatric hospital, nursing home or institution for people with an intellectual disability. These days, it is becoming increasingly common for spiritual care counsellors to start their own practice instead of working for an institution.

**Teaching**
A Bachelor's degree in Theology or Religious Studies, followed by this Master's track and specialization, will qualify you as a grade-two teacher of religion and philosophy. You can gain a grade-one teaching qualification by combining this Master's track with our Master of Arts in Teaching programme.

**Academia**
There are still many questions to be answered: Traditional forms of religion are making way for new ways of searching for meaning and purpose in life. How do modern views on health and wellbeing fit in? What is the role of spirituality and religious convictions? How do present-day dilemmas and divergent ideas about these dilemmas affect both our wellbeing and the way we organize our care system? What is the function of professional spiritual counselling in our current healthcare system? This Master's specialization will equip you to answer these and other questions.

## 11.6 Coordinator
The coordinator of the Master's degree programme Spiritual Care is
dr. A. Visser-Nieraeth (a.visser-nieraeth@rug.nl).

# 12. WERK EN ZINGEVING

**See also**: https://www.rug.nl/masters/werk-en-zingeving/

## 12.1 Entry requirements
A Bachelor's degree certificate in Theology or Religious Studies provides access to the Master's track in Werk en Zingeving. Students with other university Bachelor's degree certificates may also be admitted to this Master's track. Students with a university Bachelor's degree in a related field within the humanities/arts, philosophy, or social sciences are usually required to study a reading list of 800–1000 pages in advance.

Students with other Bachelor's degrees must complete a pre-Master's programme before they will be admitted to this track. Students with a university Bachelor's degree in a field other than the behavioural and social sciences, humanities, or theology and religious studies are not required to complete a pre-Master's programme if they:
- have completed a University Minor (Religion in the Modern World, Art and Religion, or Religion and Society) at the University of Groningen Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies;

or
- can demonstrate that they have earned 30 ECTS credit points in the following topics during their previous degree programme: organizational psychology, business, or human resources.

Students applying for the Master's track in Werk en Zingeving must send an overview of the results achieved in their Bachelor's degree programme, along with an explanation of these results. Additional information about the admissions procedure (including application deadlines) is available on the Faculty website: https://www.rug.nl/masters/werk-en-zingeving/#!requirements

Students with different qualifications will have to follow a pre-Master's programme. The study advisors (studyadvise.rcs@rug.nl) will be able to tell you more about this.

## 12.2 Specialization profile
This innovative track investigates the implications of meaning, religion, and spirituality in the design and experience of work. What is the meaning of work in society and for individuals? Which factors are associated with the experience of meaning in work? How can organizations provide meaning? This track explores concepts such as work, health, illness, spirituality, and dignity and places them within a broader context. This interdisciplinary track teaches students to combine ethical, anthropological, psychological, and cultural-historical perspectives and to apply them to concrete topics within the domain of religion, health, and wellbeing.

Students develop academic research skills and practical skills that enable them to advise and support individuals and organizations on the issue of meaning within a work context. You will learn how to analyse the relationship between work and meaning from

psychological, anthropological, sociological, and ethical perspectives. This specialization is primarily taught in Dutch.

## 12.3 Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the Master's track in Work and Meaning, students will have achieved the general learning outcomes of the Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies with regard to the subfield of work. Important topics in that subfield include the relationship between meaning and job satisfaction, between meaning and organizational cultures, and between leadership, ethical issues concerning work, and theory construction on work, meaning, religion, health, and wellbeing.

## 12.4 Master's programme Theology and Religious Studies – Werk en Zingeving

The programme of the Master's track Werk en Zingeving

**Year: 1**

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | ECTS | C/O* |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|------|------|
| Ia | Zingeving: een eigen perspectief | THM-ZEP5 | 5 | C |
| Ia | Zinnig in gesprek | THM-ZIG5 | 5 | C |
| Ia | Perspectieven op werk | THM-POW5 | 5 | C |
| Ib | Werkgeluk en leiderschap | THM-WEL5 | 5 | C |
| Ib | Zingeving en organisatieculturen | THM-ZEOC5 | 5 | C |
| Ib | Onderzoeksmethoden | THM-GVOM5 | 5 | C |
| II | Internship | THMSTAGEWZ | 10 | C |
| II | Masterscriptie, incl. Forum Scriptorium | THMTHRSS20 | 20 | C |

*C=compulsory; O=optional*

Students who are not able to take the full-time programme are advised to contact the study advisor to discuss how the programme could be arranged for them. Please note that the lectures may not be scheduled on the same day of the week.

## 12.5 Opportunities after completing the degree programme

**Care, Advice and Policy**
By the end the Werk en Zingeving specialization, you will have learned which factors affect the experience of meaning, health, and wellbeing in relation to work. You will know how to support groups and individuals in their search for meaning and stability in their work. You will also be able to provide advice on and consider the implementation of a focus on meaning at the policy level. You will be equipped to work in medium-sized to large organizations in various sectors or as a self-employed professional.

**Teaching**
A Bachelor's degree in Theology or Religious Studies, followed by this Master's track, will qualify you as a grade-two teacher of religion and philosophy. You can gain a grade-one teaching qualification by combining this Master's track with our Master of Arts in Teaching programme.

**Academia**
Many questions remain to be answered: Traditional forms of religion are making way for new manners of searching for meaning and purpose in life. How do modern views on work and wellbeing fit in? What is the role of spirituality and religious convictions? How do current dilemmas and divergent ideas about these dilemmas affect both our wellbeing and the ways in which we organize our work? What role could a 'specialization in meaning' serve in today's business community? This Master's degree programme will equip you to contribute to answering these and other questions.

## 12.6 Coordinator
The coordinator of the Master's degree programme in Werk en Zingeving is prof.dr. J.K. Muthert ([j.k.muthert@rug.nl](mailto:j.k.muthert@rug.nl)).

# 13. MASTER THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RESEARCH) (120 ECTS)

**See also**: https://www.rug.nl/masters/theology-religious-studies-research/

## 13.1 Admission requirements
Only a limited number of places are available for this programme and admission is therefore selective, based on a portfolio and an interview.
Students will be admitted to the programme only after careful evaluation by the Board of Admissions. Final responsibility for the selection and the admission procedure rests with the Faculty Board.

To be eligible for the programme, prospective students should meet the following general requirements:
1. A Bachelor's degree or a (one-year) Master's degree, or equivalent, in a subject that fits well in the Research Master's programme. These qualifications must have been obtained within a reasonable period of time and with results that justify the expectation that the student can successfully complete the Research Master programme in two years. We expect an average grade point of 7.5 (out of 10) or higher for BA-2 and BA-3, but also the Bachelor thesis, the motivation and study plan are taken into account.
2. Sufficient knowledge of English: an IELTS score of *at least 7.0* (6.5 on individual components) or an equivalent score in accordance with the Admissions Office conversion table. The test is not required of native speakers of English and of Dutch students with a VWO certificate.

More information about the admission procedure can be found on the website of the Graduate School (https://www.rug.nl/masters/theology-religious-studies-research/#!requirements).

## 13.2 Profile of the programme
How can we interpret the influence of religion on local and global developments? What are the relationships between religion and other cultural domains such as science, philosophy and politics?
In this Research Master's Programme you will study how religion is embedded in present-day societies and in historical cultural contexts. You will explore the impact of local and global socio-economic and political developments on religion, and how religion contributes to such developments. At the start of the degree programme you will be linked to a staff member whose research profile within the field of religious studies/theology best matches your interests. This person will function as your mentor and can give you advice, for example, when drawing up your study plan, choosing degree programme, traineeships and tutorials.
The Master *Theology and Religious Studies (Research)* offers a thorough training in the field of Theology and Religious Studies. The two-year research master programme is offered to highly qualified and motivated students, who have a wide-ranging interest in religion. It prepares students to carry out postgraduate academic research. The programme is rooted in the research of the *Centre for Religious Studies* (CRS), which encompasses three research

groups: 1. *Jewish, Christian and Islamic Origins*; 2. *The Comparative Study of Religion*; 3. *Christianity and the History of Ideas*. The staff in these research groups represent a wide variety of (sub) disciplines in the field of Theology and Religious Studies who can provide students with in-depth knowledge in their area of specialization. The research master programme equips students with a broad range of research skills, and a profound understanding of the interdisciplinary relations in the study of religion.

You will acquire an overview of central debates in the study of religion and develop key research skills by following the compulsory core modules. We offer four specialization routes within which you can develop your individual research profile and skills. Your individual route within the programme consists of a combination of optional modules, research traineeships, writing a thesis and a writing research proposal. The modules and traineeships are designed to equip you with in-depth knowledge of specialized subjects, together with field-specific methodological skills. The final specialization occurs in the Research Master's thesis. This thesis forms the basis of a PhD thesis proposal, which can be used for an application for research funding.

## 13.3 Aims and objectives of the programme

Students who have completed the Research Master's programme have the ability to participate in the academic scholarly discussion in Theology and Religious Studies and to contribute creatively and independently to these fields of inquiry by designing, conducting, and evaluating research. The pragmatic purpose of the Research Master is specific to provide students with the necessary knowledge, skills and insights to enable graduates to enter a PhD programme or to hold positions that require strong academic research skills and experience.

Students who have completed the Research Master's track Theology and Religious Studies have acquired the following competences in the fields of Theology and Religious Studies:

**Knowledge**
1. Graduates have a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the main debates and approaches relevant for the fields of Theology and Religious Studies and their history, with a focus on interdisciplinary methodologies and theoretical perspectives;
2. Graduates have in-depth knowledge of at least one theoretical and methodological approach.

**Skills**
3. Graduates have the skills to find, examine and critique specialized literature on a subject in at least one subfield of Theology and Religious Studies and become acquainted with the methods applied in this field;
4. Graduates have the ability to structure and conduct independent research in at least one subfield of Theology and Religious Studies, to apply the appropriate research methods, and to report on this in accordance with the standards commonly used in this discipline;
5. Graduates have the ability to follow and analyze complex scientific debates and subsequently determine and defend one's own position;

6. Graduates have the ability to consider historical, methodological, social and ethical interests within their own discipline when it comes to the academic assessment and analysis of complex issues;
7. Graduates have the ability to critically reflect on the historical, social and cultural meaning of religious traditions and attitudes in relation to religion;
8. Graduates have good oral and written presentation skills, which enable them to write research papers for specialist audiences that they present at academic conferences and publish in academic journals. They should also be able to communicate their conclusions to non-specialist audiences via media such as online blogs, popular articles and opinion pieces for newspapers and public lectures and presentations, and policy briefing papers.

**Attitude**
9. Graduates have an academic attitude that demonstrates independence, creativity, critical-reflectiveness, and academic integrity.

**Employability**
10. Graduates have the ability to embark on a PhD programme or to function in a national or international research environment requiring special research competences and experience.

## 13.4 Programme content

### a. Overview
The Research Master's programme takes two years (4 semesters) with a total study load of 120 ECTS. In order to achieve its aims, the main structure of the programme consists of 40 ECTS Compulsory Cours units and 20 ECTS Research Traineeships, which are exclusively reserved for the students of the track, as well as 30 ECTS Optional Course units and a Research Master's Thesis (25 ECTS) and Research Proposal (5 ECTS).

The programme has the following structure:

| Master's programme Theology and Religious Studies (Research) | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1st semester | 2nd semester |
| Year 1 | - Theories of Religion and Culture (10 ECTS)<br>- Field Specific Research Skills (5 ECTS)<br>- Generic Academic Skills – Writing English (1 ECTS)<br>- Specialization: Optional Course units (15 ECTS) | - Philosophy of Science (10 ECTS)<br>- Generic Academic Skills (4 ECTS)<br>- Tutorial (5 ECTS)<br>- Elective (NOSTER/course/tutorial/traineeship) (5 ECTS)<br>Research Traineeship (5 ECTS) |
| Year 2 | - Specialization: Optional Course units (5 ECTS)<br>- Tutorial (5 ECTS)<br>- Elective (NOSTER/course/tutorial/traineeship) (5 ECTS)<br>- Research Traineeship (3x5 ECTS) | - Thesis (25 ECTS)<br>- Research Proposal (5 ECTS) |

Students may spend part or all of the third semester (max. 30 ECTS) abroad. Both optional course units and the research traineeships can be used for a stay abroad. If a student wishes to stay abroad for a full semester, the third semester is the best option so that the stay abroad will not cause unnecessary delays. Any programme taken abroad requires permission from the Board of Examiners.

**Supervision**
The programme is taught by professors and senior researchers with proven experience in supervising young researchers and belonging to the *Centre for Religious Studies*. At enrollment, students are assigned a mentor or supervisor in close consultation with whom they draw up a detailed personal study plan. The mentor is a senior staff member who is an expert in the student's intended field of specialization. He or she acts as coach and supervisor throughout the track. The plan should specify the Optional Course units and Research Traineeships the student is planning to take in keeping with his or her interests and preferred field of specialization. The plan has to be approved by the Director of the Graduate School, who is also the Director of Studies of the Research Master.

Please note: all endpapers and other assignments that are assessed in courses and research traineeships that are part of your personal study plan, must be uploaded by yourself in the Brightspace space of the course 'Generic Academic Skills'.

**b. Description of Study Parts**
*1. Compulsory Course Units (30 ECTS)*
The aim of the compulsory course units is (a) to provide students with a general theoretical and methodological framework, as applied to the fields of theology and religious studies, (b) to bring students to a level of knowledge that will enable them to reflect on theories, methods and techniques that are employed by the (sub-)disciplines and so (c) to achieve a deepened understanding of the terminology, perspectives and problems in their fields. All course units are intended to foster interdisciplinary training. Staff members from all three departments are involved, and they address the profile of the research conducted at the Centre for Religious Studies. As such, they school the students more broadly than in their specific interest alone, and they provide a breadth and depth of thinking that a Research Master's graduate should, in our view, possess. In these Compulsory Course units, students learn to address topics at a meta level, thereby learning to define their own position as junior researchers. There are four Compulsory Course units:

## Compulsory modules

**Year: 1**

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | EC | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ia | Theories of Religion and Culture | THRMTRCE10 | 10 | C |
| Ia+Ib | Specialization: Optional Modules | | 15 | C/O |
| Ib | Generic Academic Skills – Writing English | THRM-WRP1 | 1 | C |
| Ib | Field specific research skills<br>*Keuze (1 uit 3)*:<br>New Historical Methods for the Study of Christian Pluralism (RP)<br>Social Scientific Research Methods (RCG)<br>Research Methods in Heritage and Historical Studies (RCH) | THRMNHMCP5<br>THRM-SSRM5<br>THRMRMSE5 | 5 | C |
| IIa | Philosophy of Science in the Study of Religion and Culture | THRMPHSS10 | 10 | C |
| II | Generic Academic Skills | THRMGASE5 | 5 | C |
| II | Specialization: Tutorial | THRMT5-1 | 5 | C/O |
| II | Specialization: Elective (NOSTER/extra course/tutorial/traineeship) | | 5 | C/O |
| II | Research Traineeship | THRMRT5 | 5 | C/O |

*\*C=compulsory; O=optional*

**Year: 2**

| sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | EC | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | Specialization: Optional Module | | 5 | C/O |
| I | Specialization: Tutorial | THRMT5-2 | 5 | C/O |
| I | Specialization: Elective (NOSTER/extra course/tutorial/traineeship) | | 5 | C/O |
| I | Research Traineeships (3 x 5) | THRMRT | 15 | C |
| II | Writing a Research Proposal | THRM-WRP | 5 | C |
| II | Thesis Research Master | THRMSE25 | 25 | C |

*\*C=compulsory; O=optional*

*2. Specialization: Optional Course Units (40 ECTS)*
The specialization consists of optional course units (20 ECTS), tutorials (10 ECTS) and electives (10 ECTS).
The optional course units (20 ECTS) aim to impart in-depth knowledge of specialist topics as well as subject-specific skills and methodologies. Both the following course units from the general Master's tracks offered at the Faculty and course units from other Research Master's tracks (in the Netherlands or abroad) may be followed. Optional course units must demonstrably contribute to the learning outcomes of the student's personal study programme. The optional course units offered by the Faculty are structured as three specializations within the Research Master's track:
- Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern
- Religion, Conflict and Globalization
- Heritage and Religion

Research Master's students who choose course units from one of these three specializations must complete assignments that require a higher level of work than that required of regular master's students. This proposal will be assessed by the lecturer of the relevant course unit.

**Year: 1,2**

| Sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | ECTS | C/O* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern** | | | |
| Ia | The Construction of Religious Identities in Europe: Religious Diversity in the Graeco-Roman World | THRMCRIE10 | 10 | C |
| Ia | Texts of Terror | THRMTTE5 | 5 | C/O |
| Ib | Interreligious Debates and Otherness in Iberian Societies | THRM-IDIS5 | 5 | C |
| Ib | Reception and Re-Use of Authoritative Texts | THRMRRATE5 | 5 | C/O |
| II | Dirk Smilde Research Seminar | THRMDSRSE10 | 10 | O |
| | **Religion, Conflict and Globalization** | | | |
| Ia | Religion, Conflict and Globalization: A Critical Introduction | THM-RCGI5 | 5 | C |
| Ia | *Choice (2 out of 3):* | | | C/O |
| | Religion, Violence and Conflict Transformation | THRM-RVCT5 | 5 | |
| | Religion, Gender and Sexuality | THRM-RGS5 | 5 | |
| | Nature, Humanity, and Global Perspectives in Modern Spirituality and Esotericism | THM-NHGP5 | 5 | |
| Ib | *Choice (1 out of 4):* | | | O |
| | Gender, Religion and Sexual Nationalism | THRM-GRSN5 | 5 | |
| | Global Dynamics and Local Cosmologies | THRM-GDLC5 | 5 | |
| | National Socialism and Religion: Conflict and Heritage (RCH) | THRM-NSR5 | 5 | |
| | Migration, Culture and Identity | THM-MCRI5 | 5 | |
| | **Heritage and Religion** | | | |
| Ia | The Uses of the Past: Public History and Heritage | THRM-UOPE5 | 5 | C |
| Ia | Regional Heritage: Old Churches–New Meanings | THRM-RH5 | 5 | C |
| Ia | Material Religion: Things, Places, Performances, and Belief | THRMMRE5 | 5 | O |
| Ib | *Choice (2 out of 4):* | | | O |
| | Museums and Religion | THRM-MR5 | 5 | |
| | Heritage of Death: the Heritage of Funerary Practices and Memorialization | THRM-HOD | 5 | |
| | National Socialism and Religion: Conflict and Heritage | THRM-NSR5 | 5 | |
| | Reception and Re-Use of Authoritative Texts (RPAM) | THRMRRATE5 | 5 | |

*\*C=compulsory; O=optional*

In addition to the optional course units, students design two tutorials (2 x 5 ECTS), in which they explore a certain topic in depth in close collaboration and coordination with the lecturer. A tutorial comprises four meetings, during which the student and the lecturer discuss the reading list for a certain topic on the basis of *reaction sheets* and a paper written by the student. In addition, students must choose two electives (2 x 5 ECTS) in the form of course units, tutorials or a research placement in consultation with their mentor. Within this elective space, students are obliged to complete at least 5 ECTS credit points with a relevant national research school such as NOSTER (theology and religious studies) or NISIS (Islam studies). Registration for a component at a national research school is arranged through the Graduate School.

*3. Research Traineeships (20 ECTS)*

Like the compulsory course units, the traineeships are exclusively reserved for students of the Research Master. Tailor-made, they are meant to offer not only the opportunity to become thoroughly acquainted with specialist literature, research methods, and current discussions in their field of specialization, but also to train discipline-specific methods and techniques. The research traineeships also enable them to make a well-informed and firm choice of the subject of their Research Master's theses. Traineeships are set up in close consultation with the student's mentor, who may also be responsible for supervision. It is also possible to do a traineeship with others.

On approval of the Graduate School, a traineeship may (in part) be taken abroad, preferably at renowned foreign universities, colleges or schools. The research traineeships are meant to underpin the choice of the subject of the thesis. A research traineeship has a volume of 5 ECTS or 10 ECTS. The forms related to research placements can be found in the Graduate School Brightspace environment. Up to 10 ECTS can be spent on a placement oriented towards career skills other than research.

Students who want to start a placement or research placement must first draw up and sign a plan in consultation with their mentor. If an external supervisor is involved, he or she will also have to sign the plan. The complete plan must be submitted to the ([graduateschool.rcs@rug.nl](mailto:graduateschool.rcs@rug.nl)), before the start of the placement and must be approved by the Director of the Graduate School. There are four deadlines for submitting research placement plans: 11 January, 21 March, 4 July and 17 October. The plan must clearly explain at least the following:
- the aim of the activities (importance, relevance for this specific phase of the student's degree programme)
- which research and training activities will be performed, together with whom, and for how many ECTS
- how and where the research and training will take place (supervisor(s), location(s), etc.)
- if relevant: a cost estimate. Research Master's students qualify for financial support to the amount of € 500 per academic year for traineeships. A request form for financial support can be found in the Graduate School Brightspace environment.

The research activities should be tailored to the academic interests and preferred specialization of the student. They may include:
- writing a publishable book review article, annotated bibliography, article or essay
- doing a literature or archive search
- making a field trip
- holding and transcribing interviews
- participating in and giving a paper or poster presentation at a national or international conference, seminar or workshop
- participating in a summer school (with written assignment: essay or paper), in the ongoing research activities of their supervisor or in a research project of a scholar abroad who is affiliated to the CRS (with written assignment: essay or paper)
- The traineeship as a whole must be graded on the basis of the student's written work and certificates obtained, if any. Students conclude it by writing a report in which they make a self-evaluation of the training results against the background of their plan of

action. The self-evaluation report is graded by the mentor, and represents 20% of the final grade.

*4.* *Thesis (25 ECTS) and Research Proposal (5 ECTS)*
The thesis (25 ECTS) must provide substantial evidence of the students' research skills by demonstrating their ability to identify and define academic problems, by reflecting their skills in using specialist literature and by situating their subjects within the existing academic discussions of theology and religious studies. Moreover, students must demonstrate their ability to develop effective methods to solve research problems, to put these methods into practice, and to report clearly and adequately on the results of their research. Students must choose the subject of their thesis by the end of the third semester at the latest.
During the final semester, all students must write a research proposal (5 ECTS) for a PhD project that is related to their thesis subject. Students are free to write this proposal concurrently with or after their thesis. This allows for better dovetailing of the Research Master's thesis with future PhD research.
The research proposal may also be written before the start of the Research Master's thesis, in consultation with the mentor. In all cases, the research proposal should enable the student to meet the application requirements of a PhD position.
If work on the thesis and the research proposal will take more than 30 ECTS, the extra work cannot be compensated by reducing any of the other components of the programme which is worth a total of 120 ECTS.

From the start of the programme onwards, we expect students to take part in the monthly meetings of the Graduate School, in which both PhD and Research Master's students present and discuss their research. Students are also encouraged to participate in seminars, symposia, conferences and summer schools relevant to their specialization.
Students in the Research Master's track have the opportunity to participate in the *Master's Honours programme* at the University of Groningen. This is an extra programme worth 15 ECTS credit points in addition to the Research Master's track of 120 ECTS. It is a one-year interdisciplinary programme that is designed to introduce students to various aspects of leadership. This theme is explored from various angles. Students who complete the Master's Honours programme receive a separate Honours certificate and a letter of recommendation from the Rector Magnificus.

## 13.5 Erasmus Mundus / Red Global
Within the Theology and Religious Studies (research) master's program, there is the possibility to follow the specialization Religious Diversity in a Globalized World. This specialization focuses on the role of religious identities and diversity, and their complex interaction with globalization processes. Ample attention is paid to both historical perspectives and contemporary developments; the specialization focuses primarily on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, but there is also some room for students to specialize in other directions. The program is taught in collaboration with a number of European and non-European universities, including UCO (Córdoba, Spain) and UC (Coimbra, Portugal). This two-year specialization offers students a research track or a professional track in the

third semester; depending on their choice, special attention is given to intercultural skills and competencies needed to do doctoral research or to enter the workforce in different sectors.

The program for students following the Religious Diversity in a Globalized World specialization is as follows.

### Religious Diversity in a Globalised World (ReD Global)

**year: 1**

| sem | course unit title | course unit code | ECTS | CO/O |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ia+Ib | Theories of Religion | THRMTRCE10 | 10 | C |
| Ia | The Construction of Religious Identities in Europe: Religious Diversity in the Graeco-Roman World | THRMCRIE10 | 10 | C |
| Ia | New Historical Methods for the Study of Christian Pluralism | THRMNHMCP5 | 5 | C |
| Ia | Growth and expansion of religious identities: Religious disputes in Late Antiquity | THRMGERI5 | 5 | C/O |
| II | Choice for Cordoba or Coïmbra | | 30 | C |

*\*C=compulsory; O=optional*

**year: 2**

| sem | Course unit title | Course unit code | ECTS | CO/O |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | choice for academic track or professional track<br>choice between different partners | | 30 | C/O |
| II | Research Proposal | THRM-WRP | 5 | C |
| II | Thesis | THRMSE25 | 25 | C |

*\*C=compulsory; O=optional*

For more specific information on this specialization see https://www.red-global.eu/

## 13.6 Research Master's Thesis

**Size**
The scope of the thesis should be 23.000-25.000 words (font size 12; line spacing 1.5; left margin at 4.5 cm, right margin at 2.5 cm; new paragraphs by indenting), not including the bibliography, appendices and other materials that usually do not form part of the main body of the thesis. The Faculty uses the Chicago Manual of Style guidelines (footnotes or in-text citation). Deviation from these guidelines is only permitted if both supervisors agree. Any further guidelines with regard to the thesis must be agreed upon with the supervisors.

**Supervision and final responsibility**
In consultation with the mentor, the student must find a supervisor for the Master's thesis. The supervisor must find an assessor in consultation with the student. The supervisor must be a senior staff member. The assessor must be a specialist in the subject of the thesis or in a related area, and must also be staff member. If there is a third assessor, he or she does not need to be a specialist in the subject of the thesis. Exceptions may be made, subject to the approval of the Board of Examiners. In case of problem with the supervision, students are advised to consult the study coordinator. In the event of disputes relating to marks, students can appeal under Article 7.61 of the Higher Education & Research Act (WHW).

**Thesis proposal and supervision arrangements**
The supervision arrangements and the thesis proposal are agreed before the student starts work on the thesis. The procedure is as follows:

*1. Orientation phase*
Before work on the thesis begins, students consult their supervisor the feasibility of their thesis plans. The supervisor decides how many credits should be spent on preparatory reading. Students then draw up a thesis proposal, which will enable them to plan and to manage the process of writing the thesis. The proposal also allows adequate monitoring of this process by the mentor.

*2. Thesis proposal\**
The thesis proposal must be approved by the supervisor and assessor, and must include the following:
1.  A description of the subject and the problem definition
2.  A general indication of the expected findings
3.  Provisional chapter headings
4.  Work schedule (including a time-table)
5.  Supervision (mentor, assessor and frequency/schedule of meetings with them)
     As appendices:
       - list of works to be consulted for the preliminary study
       - general list of works to be consulted for the thesis.

*3. Supervision arrangements\**
In line with the thesis proposal, a number of items regarding the supervision should be specified in the supervision arrangements:
1.  a proposed submission date for the thesis;
2.  provisional completion dates for chapters of the thesis;
3.  frequency of supervision meetings (with or without the assessor) with a maximum of seven.

These arrangements will be made in mutual consultation between the supervisor, co-reader and the student and laid down in the supervision arrangements form\*, which must be signed by the parties involved. Any changes to the document will also be subject to mutual consultation.

After that this supervision arrangements form has to be submitted for approval to the Board of Examiners.

The original thesis proposal and the supervision arrangements form will be kept in the student's file at the Student Administration Office. The student, supervisor, co-reader and study coordinator will all have a copy of the file.
Major changes in the thesis proposal or supervision schedule must be agreed by all parties mentioned above.

\* The forms for the thesis proposal and supervision arrangements are available via the Brightspace space of the Graduate School.

**Finishing and submission of the final version of the thesis**
You must complete your thesis within the academic year in which you started it. If you fail to complete your thesis within that academic year, you must choose a new topic and a new supervisor. If you are unable to complete your thesis within the set time period due to exceptional or other circumstances, you must apply to the Board of Examiners for a deadline extension. The Board of Examiners will consult your supervisor before reaching a decision. The Board of Examiners can extend your thesis deadline by one semester. No more than two extensions will be granted.

You must hand in a draft version of your thesis in early June, a final version no later than 1 July, and if necessary a revised version no later than 1 August.

You must hand in a digital final version of your thesis (including a summary) to your primary supervisor. You should also hand a printed copy of the final version of your thesis to each of the examiners during the final interview.

**Assessment criteria for the Research Master's thesis**
The Research Master's thesis is assessed by means of an assessment form that covers the following ten criteria:
- Problem analysis and research question
- Operationalisation of the research question
- Sources, methods and/or approach
- Analysis and argumentation
- Contribution to Scientific Debates
- Conclusion
- Academic language and readability
- Overall coherence of the thesis
- Independence
- Defence

You can find the Research Master's thesis assessment form on the student's intranet of the Faculty. See https://myuniversity.rug.nl/infonet/medewerkers/rcs/onderwijs/scriptie
The assessment form with the criteria for the Research Master's thesis can also be found in the digital environment of the Thesis Seminar.

**Submitting the final version of the thesis**

The student submits the final version (incl. summary) digitally to primary supervisor.

A printed copy of the final version of the thesis must be handed in to each of the examiners during the final interview.

## 13.7 Research proposal

The research proposal (5 ECTS) should be no longer than max. 2500 words (. appendices excluded). The aim of writing the proposal is to enable the student to design and elaborate a plan for independently carrying out a (supervised) research project, whether in the PhD programme of the Graduate School or elsewhere. A good proposal will significantly further a student's chances of admission to a PhD programme, the requirements for which are usually quite severe. During the last semester, the writing of the research proposal is offered as a course unit. In addition, usually the thesis supervisor also serves as supervisor and assessor of the proposal.

The proposal should be drawn up under supervision of the supervisor. It should be submitted to the Board of Examiners together with the thesis. The research proposal will be assessed on its own by the supervisor of the thesis and the lecturer of the Research Proposal course. The format of a proposal for NWO (PhD in Humanities) serves as a starting point.

A research proposal should address the following issues:

1. Title of Research Proposal
2. Name applicant
3. Summary (max. 250 words)
4. Summary in 5 key words
5. Description of proposed research (max. 2500 words, excluding bibliography and time table)
6. Institutional embedding and supervision
7. Research budget
8. Summary for non-Specialists, newsletters and website (max. 50 words)
9. Curriculum Vitae PhD candidate
   a) education
   b) honours, prizes, scholarships, grants
   c) relevant academic experiences
   d) other relevant positions
   e) publications
   f) motivation for doing the proposed PhD project

For a more elaborate presentation of the steps in writing a research proposal, see the Brightspace course Graduate School ThRS. There is also a more extended description of the different parts of the research proposal.

### 13.8 Staff
Academic Staff of the Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society and its research centre, the *Centre for Religious Studies* (CRS), is involved in the programme as teachers, mentors, supervisors and as scholars. Each member of staff participates in one of the three research groups of the CRS:

**Jewish, Christian and Islamic Origins**
A.F. Bakker PhD, K.A. Fowler PhD, R.N. van der Iest MA, S. Kara PhD, prof.dr. M. Popović, prof.dr. F.L. Roig Lanzillotta, dr. W.H. Rose, drs. A. van der Zwan.

**Comparative Study of Religion**
dr. B.E. Bartelink, dr. P. Berger, prof.dr. M.W. Buitelaar, dr. K.E. Knibbe,
dr. J. Martinez-Ariño, dr. B.M.H.P. Mathijssen, dr. E. Mucciarelli, prof.dr. J.K. Muthert,
prof.dr. C.K.M. von Stuckrad, dr. J. Tarusarira, dr. A. Visser-Nieraeth, J.O. Wiering PhD.

**Christianity and the History of Ideas**
G. Andrejč PhD, M. Carpenedo Rodrigues PhD, dr. M. Colominas Aparicio, dr. M. van Dijk,
dr. A.J.M. Irving, prof.dr. C. Jedan, prof.dr. A.L. Molendijk, prof. dr. ir. G.J. de Ridder,
prof.dr T.H. Weir, prof.dr. E.K. Wilson.

### 13.9 Director
The Master *Theology and Religious Studies (Research)* is offered by the Faculty's Graduate School Religion, Culture and Society. The Graduate School offers also PhD training and research programmes. Director of the Graduate School is prof.dr. C.K.M. von Stuckrad (c.k.m.von.stuckrad@rug.nl).

# 14. MASTER'S PROGRAMME FOR TEACHING SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES IN RELIGION AND WORLD VIEW (LVHO) (60 ECTS)

**See also** (only in Dutch): https://www.rug.nl/gmw/lerarenopleiding/onderwijs/master-lvho-%281-jarig%29/

Students who wish to teach after gaining a degree in Theology and Religious Studies can take the Master of Arts in Religious Studies Teaching to deepen their knowledge of religion and share this knowledge with secondary school pupils.

## 14.1 The 1 + 1 system

If you have completed a Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies or Theology followed by a Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Groningen or another university or any other Master's degree programme and you decide to become a teacher, you can follow a one-year Master of Arts in Teaching programme after your Master's degree programme. In that year, you will follow course units in subject-specific didactics and educational theory and complete a number of placements at secondary schools. In the deepening placements you will use your own lessons in religion and belief in class. You will complete the degree programme with a research project on a topic in theory of education.

If you did not complete a Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies or Theology prior to your Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies, you will first have to follow a pre-Master's programme (30 ECTS).

# 15. ORGANIZATION OF THE FACULTY

## 15.1 Faculty Board
The Faculty is governed by the Faculty Board. The Faculty Board is responsible for the management and administration of the Faculty, and for supervising the quality of the teaching and research. It also draws up the budgets and allocates staff.

The Faculty Board has three members who are appointed by the Board of the University, each with a specific area of responsibility (research, education and resources). In addition, a student member is appointed to the Faculty Board in an advisory capacity. The student is appointed for one year by the Faculty Board on the recommendation of the student members of the Faculty Council.

The Board meets once a week. These meetings are not public. For a list of members, see Section 16.5 or the Faculty website.

## 15.2 Faculty Council
The Faculty Board discusses policy with the Faculty Council. The Faculty Council issues advice in matters concerning teaching and research as well as the Faculty budget. The Board must have the approval of the Council in the following two situations:
- when amending Faculty regulations
- when amending the Teaching and Examination Regulations.
The views of the Council carry significant weight with the Faculty Board because they are an indication of whether there is a support base for potential decisions.

The Faculty Council consists of 10 members, 5 elected by and from the staff (with a two-year term) and 5 elected by and from the student body (with a one-year term). The student members of the Faculty Council represent the interests of students at the Faculty and are a point of contact when complaints arise among the student population.

The chair of the Faculty Council is one of the staff members, the vice chair is always a student member. The elections for the Faculty Council are organized in accordance with the Electoral Regulations of the University. All students and staff have passive and active voting rights. The members of the Faculty Board are not permitted to be members of the Faculty Council. The term for the members begins on 1 September of the year in which the elections for the section in question have taken place. The Faculty website lists the members of the Faculty Council. For information about the contact person, contact W.C. van de Pol, tel. (050) 36 35591, e-mail: board.rcs@rug.nl

Meetings of the Faculty Council are public, so you can attend if you wish. The student members of the Faculty Council, Faculty Board and programme committees also hold a General Student Platform a couple of times per year. All students are welcome to attend.

### 15.3 Programme Director and Research Director

The Programme Director is responsible for the scheduling and implementation of the teaching in the degree programmes. The research director is responsible for drawing up the research programme. However, the final responsibility rests with the Faculty Board. The programme director is advised by the programme committees. The research director is advised by the Centre for Religious Studies (CRS). Because the Faculty is small, the positions of programme director and Faculty Board Member for Education are combined. This also applies to the positions of research director and Faculty Board Member for Research.

### 15.4 Sub-departments

The programme director is responsible for the practical implementation of teaching programmes. The principal task of the programme director is to ensure effective coordination between course units and optimum implementation of the teaching programme. Departments are responsible for what is actually taught in a course unit.
The Faculty has three departments.
- Jewish, Christian and Islamic Origins
- Comparative Study of Religion
- Christianity and the History of Ideas

### 15.5 Graduate School of Religion, Culture and Society

The Graduate School of Religion, Culture and Society brings together Research Master's students, PhD students and researchers in their field of interest. The Graduate School coordinates the Research Master's degree in Theology and Religious Studies and the PhD programme in Theology and Religious Studies, thereby coordinating the transition from one to the other. The director of the Graduate School is prof. dr. C.K.M. von Stuckrad, who is responsible on the Faculty Board's behalf for the teaching and supervision of Research Master's students and PhD students.

### 15.6 Programme committees

Programme Committees are important advisory bodies for the teaching.
A Programme Committee (OC) has been established for each programme or combination of programmes. There is also a Programme Committee for the degree programmes run by the Graduate School (Research Master's degree and PhD), and the Master's programmes. This is also the case for the Bachelor's programmes Religious Studies and Theology.

The task of the Programme Committees is to advise the Faculty Board and programme director, on request or on their own initiative, about the Teaching & Examination Regulations, the teaching programme, quality assurance and course unit evaluations. The subject, semester and curriculum evaluations are conducted by means of a standard questionnaire. The results of the evaluations are public, with the exception of personal comments, and are discussed by the Programme Committees. If problems are signalled, the Programme Committee will inform the programme director, who will then undertake the necessary action to resolve them.

Half of the members of each Programme Committee are students and half are staff. The student members are appointed every two years on the recommendation of the student members of the relevant Programme Committee. For this purpose, the committee organizes open recruitment via the vacancy site on Brightspace. All student members of the Programme Committees can attend annual training courses, for example in meeting techniques.

Further information about the composition of the Programme Committees can be found on Brightspace.

## 15.7 Board of Examiners

In accordance with Article 7.12 of the WHW, the Faculty Board has appointed a Board of Examiners for the purpose of organizing and coordinating examinations for the Faculty's degree programmes. The Board of Examiners is the body that determines, in an objective and expert manner, whether a student meets the requirements specified in the Teaching & Examination Regulations with regard to the knowledge, understanding and skills that are required to obtain a degree. The members of the Board of Examiners are appointed from the members of staff responsible for providing the teaching in the relevant degree programme(s). The study advisor is appointed to the Board of Examiners in an advisory capacity.

The duties of the Board of Examiners are as follows:
- to assure the quality of examinations and final examinations
- to hold the examinations
- to organize and coordinate the examinations
- to ensure that examinations proceed satisfactorily
- to approve optional course unit choices (Art. 7.3.c) within existing degree programmes.

The 'organization and coordination of examinations' mainly involves the following:
- appointing the examiners who will take the examinations

- drawing up regulations concerning 'the proper procedure during examinations and the measures to be taken accordingly'
- issuing 'guidelines and instructions' to examiners concerning 'the assessment of the student taking the examination and the determination of the examination result'.

The Board of Examiners:
- checks examination-subject forms to ensure that examination requirements have been met
- is authorized to form judgements regarding students who are suspected of cheating
- is authorized to extend the validity of examinations
- has the right, in special cases, to hold examinations in a manner other than that specified by the board of the institution
- assesses whether there is a case of clear force majeure when students request dispensation (the following, for example, constitute clear force majeure: illness – for which a doctor's certificate is required – or the serious illness or death of a close

relative). The Board of Examiners assesses such circumstances and allows exceptions to the rules
- can determine whether exemption can be granted for certain course units on the basis of examinations or final examinations already taken in higher education, or for knowledge and skills acquired outside the context of higher education
- deals with requests for approval of combinations of minor subjects.

The Board of Examiners usually meets during the first week of each month, except in the month of August. In that month, the Board of Examiners will address only those requests that have been submitted by students.

A request to the Board of Examiners must be sent via a webform (see: https://www.rug.nl/rcs/organization/office-and-services/study-matters/examencommissie) to: boardofexaminers.rcs@rug.nl.
Letters received before the first day of the month are dealt with during the next meeting
The Board of Examiners deals only with electronic mail sent to the above address. Enclosures/attachments such as copies of diplomas, exam slips, lists of marks etc., should preferably be scanned and submitted electronically with the request. Attachments should also be submitted before the first day of the month in which the correspondent wishes the request to be dealt with. The person submitting the request will be informed of the Board of Examiners' decision within four weeks.

## 15.8 Centre for Religious Studies
The *Centre for Religious Studies* (CRS) is the central research institute of the Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society. The Board of the CRS also functions as the Faculty Academic Research Committee and the Admissions Board for the *Graduate School*. The CRS advises the Faculty Board, on its own initiative or on request, on the following:
- the development, coordination and prioritization of research to be carried out at the Faculty
- the progress of the research.

The Board of the CRS advises the Faculty Board on all matters relating to Faculty research, such as the appointment of PhD students and postdocs, and international contacts at Faculty level. In addition, every year the CRS lists and evaluates the research activities of the three departments, particularly their research output (books, articles, dissertations, etc.).

The Board of the CRS comprises the research director, the chairs of departments, the director of the Graduate School of Religion, Culture and Society, the funding officer (advisory member), the research policy officer (advisory member) and a PhD student (advisory member).

Director: prof.dr. M. Popović
Secretariat: W.C. van de Pol
Telephone.: 050-36 35591
E-mail: board.rcs@rug.nl

## 15.9 Other Faculty committees

**Introduction Committee**
The Introduction Committee organizes the introductory period at the beginning of the propaedeutic phase. E-mail: [intro.rcs@gmail.com](mailto:intro.rcs@gmail.com).

**BSA Committee**
The Committee monitors the progress of students, particularly during the first two years. At the end of the first and second years, after consulting the first-year lecturers, the Committee issues a BSA to first-year and second-year students.

**Library Committee**
The Library Committee is responsible for maintaining the academic standard of the library. It formulates guidelines for the acquisition of books and periodicals, is involved in spatial issues arising in the library, and investigates whether the collection needs to be reviewed.

**Admissions Boards for Master's degree programmes**
Separate Admissions Boards have been appointed for the individual Master's degree programmes. The boards determine whether students fulfil the entry requirements.

**IT Committee**
The IT Committee draws up rules for the use of computers by students in the central computer room. The committee also makes suggestions regarding the purchase of computers and software.

## 15.10 Faculty society: Gerardus van der Leeuw

The Gerardus van der Leeuw Society was founded in April 2003. The Society organizes activities related to the first-year introduction period, Faculty parties, a Parents' day, a study trip, the Faculty barbecue at the end of the year, and much, much more. Besides all the fun, the faculty association also provides activities that have more to do with studies and employability, such as workshops and lectures. These activities allow students from different directions (and sometimes staff) to get together in a fun way, making studying and participating in faculty life more sociable and lively.

The Gerardus van der Leeuw Society has a number of committees to organize all these activities. The committees vary greatly, so there is a place for every enthusiastic student. You can think of the Accie, the activities committee, which organizes fun activities such as drinks and parties, the Greencie which organizes activities focused on sustainability, the Travelcie which deals with outings and organizes an annual trip, and the Fitcie where the focus is on both mental and physical health.

Contact: [gerardusvanderleeuw@gmail.com.](mailto:gerardusvanderleeuw@gmail.com)

## 15.11 Debating societies
The faculty currently has two debating societies: S.T.A.O. Alektoor and M.A.T.A.. Each dispute has its own character. One of the main objectives of a dispute is to promote contact between new and more senior students by meeting regularly. Any student of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies can join a debating society, from first-years to master students and alumni.
Debates are held in the evenings, approximately once every three weeks. The meeting usually involves an informal debate on a chosen theme and allows for discussion and connection. Furthermore, the disputes have many traditions of their own that vary greatly. Examples of these are activities around Christmas and Easter, or an annual dispute weekend.
For further information, see: http://gerardusvanderleeuw.nl/

## 15.12 Alumnicontact
Alumni receive an electronic newsletter twice a year. This contains news about the Faculty, a summary of the Faculty's activities that might be of interest, and a list of postgraduate education courses. From time to time, the newsletter features an invitation for alumni to sign up as a 'Mentor for one day'. This project enables students to take a peek into an alumnus' everyday workplace. These alumni days take place at least once every two years. Alumni can also keep track of Faculty activities via Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/TheoRS/) or Twitter (@ReligieCultuur).
For further details about University of Groningen alumni, see: https://www.rug.nl/alumni.

## 15.13 Faculty prizes

### Prof. H.G. Hubbeling Prize
The Prof. H.G. Hubbeling Prize was introduced by the Faculty in 1994 to promote academic research and knowledge transfer by graduates in theology and religious studies. The Hubbeling Fund, which is managed by the family of the late Prof. H.G. Hubbeling, donates the sum of € 500 for the prize. H.G. Hubbeling was Professor of the Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Ethics at the Faculty from 1967 to 1986.

The prize is awarded once every three years to a graduate of the Faculty who has written a thesis that has been given a grade higher than 8. The winners are selected by a 3-member jury of staff and emeriti, appointed by the Faculty Board.

The Hubbeling Prize has been awarded to the following people:
1994 – drs. G.J.C. Labuschagne
1997 – drs. J. Dijkema
2000 – dr. J.K. Muthert
2003 – drs. M. Crajé
2006 – dr. M.E. Knibbe
2009 – B.E.A.L. van der Lans MA
2012 – I. Busschers MA
2016 – C. Oosterkamp MA
2019 – W.F. Wagenaar MA
2022 – S. Löwe MA

**Mallinckrodt Prize**
The Mallinckrodt Prize was introduced in 1925 by the family of the late Professor W. Mallinckrodt, who was a Church-appointed professor at the University of Groningen. The prize is awarded once every ten years for the most original theological thesis written and defended by a PhD student of a state university in the Netherlands. The Professors of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at Groningen select the thesis to submit.

The Mallinckrodt Prize has been awarded to the following people:
1935 – dr. K.H. Miskotte te Haarlem
1945 – dr. W.C. van Unnik te Schiedam
1955 – dr. D.J. Hoens te Utrecht
1965 – dr. G.H.M. Posthumus Meyes te Ndoungue (Cameroon)
1975 – dr. H.W. de Knijff te Utrecht
1985 – dr. L.J. van den Brom te Soest
1995 – dr. E. Talstra te Amsterdam
2005 – dr. G.F. Jensma te Sauwerd
2016 – dr. F.J. Stock te Utrecht

# 16. WHO, WHAT, WHERE

## 16.1 Address details
Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society
Oude Boteringestraat 38
9712 GK Groningen
☎ (050) 36 38017
rcsinfo.rcs@rug.nl
www.rug.nl/rcs

## 16.2 Faculty Building Opening Hours
During teaching weeks:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday              8.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday                      8.30 a.m. - 8.00 p.m.

## 16.3 Study advisors and student administration
The study advisors give information and advice about study planning and guidance,
registration regulations and more personal matters.
If you have questions for the study advisors, visit this site first:
https://www.rug.nl/education/faq/

drs. T.M.L. de Boer
Room 028
☎ (050) 36 35581
e-mail: T.M.L.de.Boer@rug.nl
Consultation: by appointment

K. van den Ende MA
Room 028
☎ (050) 36 39382
e-mail: k.van.den.ende@rug.nl
Consultation: by appointment

Student Office Administration
Room 004
☎ (050) 36 35568 / 36 38421
e-mail: studentoffice.rcs@rug.nl
Opening hours for students: Tuesday to Thursday, 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. or by
appointment

## 16.4 Brightspace and the teaching and examination timetable

For questions about Brightspace or the teaching and examination timetable, please contact
drs. H.T. van Putten
Room 036
☎ (050) 36 34589
e-mail: H.T.van.Putten@rug.nl

## 16.5 Faculty Board

M.J. Westerbeek, MSc RC, Faculty Board Treasurer
Room 008
☎ (050) 36 38017
e-mail: m.j.westerbeek@rug.nl

prof.dr. M. Popovic, Dean and Faculty Board Member for Research (also Research Director)
Room 104
☎ (050) 36 37544
e-mail: m.popovic@rug.nl

dr. B.M.H.P. Mathijssen, Interim Vice Dean and Faculty Board Member for Education (also Programme Director)
Room 106
☎ (050) 36 38017
e-mail: brenda.mathijssen@rug.nl

In addition, a student member is appointed to the Faculty Board in an advisory capacity.

## 16.6 Library

**Collection, catalogue, borrowing**
The Library of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies moved to the University of Groningen Library (Broerstraat 4) in July 2014. The Faculty collection comprises about 40,000 volumes, most of which can be found in the Reading Room on the fourth floor of the University Library (UB). The rest of the collection is housed in the UB's closed stacks.
The open collection includes reference works (encyclopedias, bibliographies, commentaries, concordances, dictionaries – including theological dictionaries), monographs and collections of articles, as well as about 300 subscriptions to journals and series. Printed journals can be found in the journals collection on the first floor of the UB. The collection can be accessed from the University's online catalogue. A valid library card (student or staff card) is required to borrow books.

**The electronic collection**
In addition to the collection of printed material, the University Library also has an extensive electronic collection, comprising electronic journals, databases containing bibliographical information, text files and e-books, which can be consulted online. The electronic collection is available via the proxy server, which means that University of Groningen staff and

students can log in from any location around the world with their student or personnel number.

**Wijchers Collection**
The Library also houses the Wijchers Collection, a loaned collection of about 10,000 volumes comprising religious songbooks from many countries, dating from the 17th to the 20th century. This collection is stored in the UB closed stacks and cannot be borrowed.

**Iconography collection**
The Theology and Religious Studies collection also includes a large collection of religious iconography, especially that of the pre-literate cultures and Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and the ancient cultures. The collection consists of about 24,000 slides with a card index of photographs, and is stored in slide cabinets and card-index boxes. This collection is stored in the University Museum and can be viewed by appointment. For more information, please contact the University Museum: https://www.rug.nl/museum/

An extensive collection of photographs and accompanying documentation on church architecture and church art is kept in the Faculty building. This collection has also been digitized and is available at http://www.kerkeninbeeld.nl/

**Workstations**
Workstations are provided in the UB for consulting items that cannot be borrowed (e.g. reference works and valuable items) and/or for quiet study.

The former Faculty Library also has 23 workstations where students can study quietly.

Students can also use the other University of Groningen library locations, including the Library of Behavioural and Social Sciences, the Zernike Library and the Central Medical Library.

**Information**
More information about the Library can be found at: https://www.rug.nl/library/

## 16.7 IT
Computers play an important and self-evident part in the degree programmes in Theology and Religious Studies. You are therefore expected to have mastered basic IT skills before starting your degree programme.

**Computer account and e-mail address**
When you begin your degree programme, you will be given a computer account and e-mail address so that you can use a number of the University's computer programs. Your account will give you access to several university computer programs and to the University of Groningen student network, including the wireless network Eduroam.

You will receive the university computer account from the Central Student Administration (CSA) with the confirmation of your registration or re-registration at the University of

Groningen. The account consists of a user name (s + student number) and a password that you will need to change a couple of times each year. The account and e-mail address will remain valid for the duration of your degree programme.

The university e-mail address provided by the RUG is the address the faculty uses to inform its students about a variety of issues. It is also automatically used by the electronic learning environment Brightspace and Progress. It is therefore important that you check your e-mail regularly. Your inbox can be accessed via the internet address: https://googleapps.rug.nl. In this case too, you use your university computer account to log in.

TIP: If you find it difficult to set a study e-mail address as well as a private e-mail address, set up a forward.
https://student.portal.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/ict/servicedesk/handleiding/google-apps-for-education

**Computer facilities and wireless network**
In room S34 (basement area) at the Faculty there are several computers available for use during opening hours (8.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. and also to 8.00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays during teaching weeks). The University Library also has computer facilities for students. For problems relating to computer use, you can contact the CIT Service Desk on the first floor of the Harmoniegebouw (Room 1313.0231, Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 26, Faculty of Arts). If you have forgotten your password, you will need proof of identity in addition to your student card.
If you provided a private e-mail address when you registered, you can also request a new password at https://account.rug.nl./sspr/public/

Students, staff and guests of the University of Groningen have wireless internet access via their personal laptops via Eduroam. Wireless access is possible in public areas in the University buildings, and throughout the Faculty. The following are required: a laptop with a wireless network card, software and a staff/student number. For more information and the software, go to
https://student.portal.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/ict/servicedesk/handleiding/

**Computer courses and software**
Please contact the University of Groningen's Center for Information Technology (CIT) (Nettelbosje 1 (Smitsborg), 050-36 39200) if you want to follow a computer course or if you need help solving a problem relating to IT equipment, programs and other IT facilities. You can also log in to the University network from home. For more information, go to
http://student.portal.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/ict/
In addition, you can buy software and other IT products legally and at very attractive rates via Surfspot (https://www.surfspot.nl/ ).

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# 17. CODE OF CONDUCT

**Enroll for courses**
Everyone must register for courses in good time via Progress. An enrollment leads to an automatic registration for the examination and (if needed) the re-examination. If you do not enroll for a course, you might not be allowed to participate. You will also miss out on the Brightspace link important information about the relevant course. If you decide not to take an examination for which you are registered, you should cancel your registration via Progress.

**Prepare classes**
Preparations of classes is mandatory. Prepare classes by reading the assigned literature before each meeting and by bringing it to the meeting. This will ensure that your study load is distributed more evenly during the semester, that you can participate optimally during meetings and that you are well prepared for the assessments.

**Keep the deadline**
Submit assessments before the deadline. If you submit a paper late or if you do not show up at a presentation assignment, the resit regulation will apply. Should circumstances of force majeure prohibit you from meeting the deadline, the teacher can grant an exemption to these rules, but only based on 'evidence', such as a doctor's certificate in cases of illness.

**Be on time**
Attend all meetings and be on time. You will miss important information and the group will miss your input every time you are late or absent. If you are late, you disturb the session. The teacher is authorized to take adequate measures in order to guarantee the undisturbed course of the sessions.

**Participate in class**
Participate actively during the meetings. You can do this by asking questions and by answering them, providing feedback to your colleagues and teachers, and sharing your insights about the subject at hand. This asks of you that you approach your colleagues with respect and openness. You can expect the same from them.

**Make notes during class**
Make notes during class, it will help you in your learning process. Preferably, make notes using pen and paper.

**Switch off electronic equipment**
Make sure your phone is switched off. Your phone should be removed from the table, for it can distract you and your colleagues from what is happening in class. Laptops may only be used for making notes. Using them for any other propose (unless permitted by the teacher) is prohibited.

**State your sources**
Plagiarism is forbidden. Using fragments of text without stating the source is a cardinal sin for academics. This applies to text copied from academic literature as well as from the internet. The Board of Examiners regards plagiarism as a form of fraud. The University of Groningen uses digital tools to track plagiarism.

**Communicate clearly**
When sending e-mails or letters, please state clearly who they are intended for, what they are about and who the sender is. Write clearly and using Dutch or English correctly. All texts that you submit should meet the requirement of correct and good Dutch or English.

**Cooperating in evaluations**
Within the framework of quality assurance, all of our teaching is evaluated in various ways (digital, written, oral). We expect you to cooperate with requests to participate in evaluations. It is extremely important for the degree programme, and thus also for students, that we maintain our high standard of teaching.

**Problems or questions? Ask for help!**
Do you have questions regarding your studies or are you encountering difficulties? First, check whether the information you need is in the study guide or on the Faculty website https://student.portal.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/rcs/. Please also consider where or to whom you can best put your question – for example to the lecturer, administration office or study adviser. However, most important, always ask for help if you need it!

# 18. INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDENT CHARTER

**The Student Charter**
The Student Charter provides an overview of the rights and obligations of both students and the University. It is based on national legislation, particularly the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW), supplemented by regulations that are specific to the University of Groningen. These latter regulations are set out in the appendices to the Student Charter.

The Act stipulates that the Student Charter comprises two sections: a university-wide section and a programme-specific section.
The university-wide section describes the rights and obligations that apply to the university as a whole, such as registration and protection of rights. You can find this section on the internet: https://myuniversity.rug.nl/infonet/medewerkers/beleid-en-strategie/wet-en-regelgeving/onderwijs/studentenstatuut/.
The university-wide section of the Student Charter does not literally quote the articles from acts and regulations but describes them as clearly as possible. The various topics are accompanied by links to the relevant articles of the act or regulation in question.

The programme-specific sections describe the rights and obligations that apply to specific degree programmes. These sections include the Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER), Rules and Regulations for examinations and final assessment and other regulations and provisions set by the various degree programmes and faculties. You can consult your programme-specific section at the Faculty Education Offices and in the Study Guides.

**Applicability**
The Student Charter applies to academic year 2023-2024. The university-wide section of the Student Charter is approved annually by the Board of the University and endorsed by the University Council. In the event that the Charter challenges or contradicts any legal regulations, these legal regulations will take priority.

**Publication**
At the start of the academic year all students will be sent an e-mail by the Board of the University informing them where they can find the Student Charter on the internet and where they can consult a hardcopy of the Student Charter.

**Using the Student Charter**
All students are expected to be familiar with the contents of the Student Charter. Not complying with the rules in the Charter may affect your rights, for example the right to financial support from the Profileringsfonds.
Some of these regulations may not be as hard and fast as they sound. Rules and regulations are by definition general in character, and this Student Charter is no exception. This means that the applicability of these regulations in concrete situations and individual instances is not always a predictable and straightforward matter. Students who have registered for the first time this year may find that the regulations that apply to them are different to those for students who have reregistered. Make sure you are provided with the right information by

your Faculty and/or the Student Service Centre (SSC) and read the Student Charter and the associated regulations carefully!

**Items in the Student Charter**
The university-wide section of the Student Charter contains information on the rights and obligations of students regarding the following items:
- admisson
- registration and deregistration
- teaching, including the binding study advice
- examinations and final assessments
- financial assistance
- consultative participation
- rules of beahaviour
- legal rights.

## 19. TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS 2023-2024

The Teaching and Examination Regulations 2023-2024 for the Bachelor's and (Research) Master's degree programs of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies are listed on the following web pages:

https://www.rug.nl/rcs/education/studyguide/
https://student.portal.rug.nl/infonet/studenten/rcs/onderwijszaken/studiegids/

# 20. RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

**RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE RELIGION, CULTURE AND SOCIETY BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Rules and Regulations as referred to Articles 7.12b.1 and 3 of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW; *Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek*) for the Bachelor's degree programmes in Theology (180 ECTS) and Religious Studies (180 ECTS), the Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies (60 ECTS), the Research Master's programme in Theology and Religious Studies (120 ECTS), the Minor on Religion in the Modern World (15 and 30 ECTS), the Minor on Art and Religion (15 ECTS) and the interfaculty Minor What it Means to be Human.

The Board of Examiners for the above-mentioned degree programmes and University Minors, having regard to Articles 7.12b.1 and 3 of the Higher Education and Research Act (henceforth referred to as the Act).

HAS DECIDED:
to set the following rules and regulations for the degree programmes:

## Article 1  Definition of terms

The following definitions apply to these Rules and Regulations:
- **TER** (Dutch OER for *Onderwijs- en Examenregeling*): the **Teaching and Examination regulations** for the degree programmes and University Minors listed above, most recently updated on 1 September 2023
- **examiner**: a person appointed by the Board of Examiners to set examinations and determine the results thereof
- **examinee**: a person taking an examination or final assessment
- **final assessment**: the final assessment for the Bachelor's/Master's degree which is considered to be passed if all the requirements of the entire Bachelor's/Master's degree programme have been satisfied
- **examination**: an assessment of the knowledge and/or skills of the examinee concerning a specific course unit in the degree programme
- **student**: a person registered at the University for the purpose of following course units and/or taking examinations leading to the conferral of a university degree.

## Article 2  Duties and work methods of the Board of Examiners

1. The Board of Examiners is the body responsible for determining, in an objective and expert manner, whether individual students satisfy the conditions set out in the OER with regard to the knowledge, understanding and skills that are required to be awarded a university degree.
2. The duties of the Board of Examiners include:
   a. monitoring and advising on the correct application of the TER. The Board of Examiners is the body that deals in the first instance with complaints regarding the

application of the TER. The Board of Examiners does not make decisions about the content or organization of the curriculum

b.  ensuring the quality of examinations and final assessments, notwithstanding Article 7.12c of the Act

c.  drawing up guidelines and instructions within the framework of the TER referred to in Article 7.13 of the Act, in order to determine the results of examinations and final assessments

d.  decisions concerning the approval of course units as referred to in Article 7.3.d of the Act (i.e. Open Degree Programme). An Open Degree Programme and the inclusion of an irregular component in the degree programme must always be approved in advance by the Board of Examiners of the degree programme

e.  decisions concerning regulations that, at the request of the student, may deviate from current provisions

f.  decisions regarding exemptions

g.  decisions regarding the approval of course units followed at universities abroad. If a student is following part of the programme at a foreign university, the programme must be submitted to the Board of Examiners in advance for approval and must be laid down in a learning agreement

h.  preparations to determine the results of final assessments

i.  determining measures in the event of an infringement of the due procedure during an examination, and in the event of cheating and plagiarism

j.  presenting the relevant degree certificates on behalf of the Board of the University

k.  specific duties with regard to the assessment policy set out by each Faculty Board:
    -  appointing officials who will be responsible for the implementation of the various components of assessment
    -  determining the method for the periodic evaluation of assessment and the evaluation of the assessment process as a whole
    -  ensuring that assessment complies with the assessment plan that has been drawn up
    -  ensuring that students satisfy the learning outcomes of the degree programme when assessed in accordance with the assessment plan.

3.  The Board of Examiners elects a chair and a secretary, as well as a deputy chair and a deputy secretary from among its members. An administrative secretary is appointed to provide administrative support to the Board of Examiners.

4.  The Board of Examiners can appoint a committee from among its members to deal with the day-to-day business of the Board of Examiners, within the meaning of Article 2.2 (a, d, e, f, g, h, i, j and k). This committee is accountable to the Board of Examiners.

5.  The Board of Examiners organizes the agenda and minute-taking for every meeting. All decisions are recorded in the minutes. The agenda and minutes are sent to all members of the Board of Examiners. The documents will be filed by the secretariat of the degree programmes.

6.  The Board of Examiners has set out the following in appendices to these Rules and Regulations:

a.  mandated duties, including the determining of accountability in decision-making

b.  internal work procedures relating to:
    -  the appointment of examiners

- quality assurance for examinations
- measures in the event of cheating and plagiarism (see Appendix: Regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism).

## Article 3 Taking examinations

1. The Board of Examiners appoints one or more examiners for each examination.
2. Every examination is a test by the examiner of the knowledge, understanding, and skills of the student, as well as an assessment of the results of that test.
3. The Board of Examiners ensures that the basic quality of the assessment is satisfactory (valid, reliable, and transparent).
4. The examiner ascertains whether the conditions for taking the examination have been met.
5. If a student has already passed an examination for a course unit, they may not resit the same examination.

## Article 4 Alternative modes of assessment

With the approval of the examinees and the Board of Examiners, an examiner may decide that a certain examination will be taken in the form of an oral exam rather than a written one.

## Article 5 Determining the result of the final assessment

1. In the case of insurmountable disagreement between examiners, the Board of Examiners or the committee within the meaning of Article 2.4 determines the result of the final assessment by a simple majority vote. If the vote is tied, the examinee is awarded a fail.
2. Results of official final assessments and the dates of degree certificates and ceremonies are published in writing by the Student Administration Office on behalf of the Board of Examiners and are sent to the student in question and to the Board of Examiners.
3. Degree certificates proving that the student has passed the final assessment are awarded by the Board of Examiners on behalf of the Board of the University.
4. All members of the Board of Examiners are authorized to sign degree certificates.

## Article 6  Retention periods

1. In connection with possible appeals procedures, work that has been assessed, or assessable proof of that work, must be retained for at least two years after the result has been made known.
2. In respect of re-accreditation of the degree programme, notwithstanding Article 16.1 of the Act, final papers that meet the criteria set for the Bachelor's and Master's degree, and the relevant assessment forms and research proposal/contract, must be retained for seven years.

3. If the result was not made known, or if it was not allowed to be made known, the period stipulated in Article 16.1 of the Act will commence on the date that the examination was set.
4. The results of examinations and theses must be retained for at least seven years.
5. These deadlines are based on the Basic Selection List Universities.

## Article 7  Examination times

1. The dates for written examinations will be determined at least two months before the start of the relevant semester, in consultation with the relevant examiners and in accordance with the provisions of the TER.
2. When determining the times as referred to in Article 7.1, wherever possible examinations will not be planned concurrently.
3. Changes to a time as referred to in Article 7.1 may only take place as a result of force majeure, for example the non-availability of the required examination hall.
4. Oral examinations will be taken at a time to be agreed between the examiners(s) in question, if possible in consultation with the examinee.
5. The provisions of Article 7.4 apply mutatis mutandis to examinations to be taken in a form other than written or oral.

## Article 8  Registration

1. Students who satisfy all the entrance and progress requirements for a certain course unit do not have to fulfil additional requirements to participate in the examination for that course unit. For modes of assessment requiring registration in Progress, students are automatically registered for the examination after registering for a course unit in Progress.
2. Students who receive a mark lower than 5.5 for an examination with automatic registration in Progress will be automatically registered for the relevant resit.
3. Students who are not registered for a course unit but wish to take the examination or resit and satisfy the entry requirements, must register electronically for the relevant examination or resit in Progress before the deadline set for this purpose.

## Article 9  Request for an additional examination opportunity

1. The examinee or examiner may ask the Board of Examiners to grant an additional examination opportunity (e.g. to sit an examination outside the designated period or to replace a written examination with an oral one).
2. Such requests may be granted if the examinee did not pass the examination in question due to force majeure and not granting an additional examination opportunity would result in a study delay of at least one semester.
3. An additional examination opportunity will only be granted if the course unit in question is the only course unit that still needs to be passed. The examinee must have participated in the last two regular exam opportunities for the course unit in question and have gained at least a mark 4 and a mark 5. The examination of the course unit in question may not already have been passed. The study delay if the additional

examination opportunity is not granted would be at least one semester.

## Article 10  Request for exemption

1. Requests for exemption, stating reasons, must be submitted digitally to the Board of Examiners via the form intended for this purpose.
2. The Board of Examiners or the committee within the meaning of Article 2.4 takes a decision on the student's request, with due observance of the provisions of the TER, within six weeks of receipt of the request. The student will be informed of the decision immediately. Before making a decision, the Board of Examiners may speak to the student, lecturer(s), examiner(s) and/or study advisor.
3. A decision to entirely or partially deny exemption may not be made by the Board of Examiners before the person making the request has been given the chance to put forward their case.
4. Appeals against the decision of the Board of Examiners may be lodged in accordance with the provisions of Article 19.

## Article 11  Order during examinations

1. The Student Administration Office must ensure that invigilators are appointed to supervise written examinations, to ensure that the examination proceeds in good order.
2. Examinees are required to prove their identity by means of their student card.
3. Examinees must obey the instructions of the Student Administration Office or the examiner that are published before the start of the final assessment or the examination, as well as instructions given during or immediately following the examination or final assessment.
4. If an examinee ignores one or more of the instructions referred to in Article 11.3, then they may be excluded from further participation in the examination in question by the Board of Examiners or the examiner. Exclusion means that no mark will be awarded for the examination in question. Before the Board of Examiners or the examiner makes a decision to exclude an examinee, it will give the examinee the opportunity to put forward their case.
5. The duration of each examination is such that the examinee may reasonably have enough time to answer the questions.
6. Unless otherwise determined by or on behalf of the Board of Examiners, examinees must hand in the examination papers after the examination. This also applies to any note paper used during the examination.

## Article 12  Cheating and plagiarism

1. Cheating is an act or omission (regardless of whether that act or omission was intentional) by an examinee that partly or wholly hinders the forming of a correct assessment of an individual's knowledge, understanding, and skills. Cheating also includes plagiarism. Lecturers are expected to report suspected cases of cheating to the Board of Examiners.

2. Plagiarism refers to copying one's own or someone else's work without properly indicating the source. The Board of Examiners distinguishes between the following forms of plagiarism:
   a. mild plagiarism: incomplete or unclear referencing
   b. medium plagiarism: copying short pieces of text without (clearly) referring to the source, creating the impression that other people's ideas are one's own
   c. severe plagiarism: copying large pieces of text without (clearly) referring to the source; presenting other people's ideas as one's own; re-submitting previous assignments.
3. The Board of Examiners will take certain measures to prevent cheating, including:
   a. clear communication about the penalty for cheating
   b. organizing examinations and tests in such a way that cheating is prevented as far as possible
   c. requiring the use of a plagiarism scanner in order to check assignments and the Bachelor's and Master's thesis before these are assessed.
4. Any student caught cheating during an examination may be excluded by the Board of Examiners from participation in one or more examinations or final assessments to be determined by the Board of Examiners, for a period of time also to be determined by the Board of Examiners with a maximum of one year. In serious cases of cheating, the Board of the University, on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners, may definitively terminate the student's registration in the degree programme. The Board of Examiners must notify the student in advance that they will advise the Board of the University in this way.
5. The decision to exclude a student will be taken on the basis of a written report by the invigilator concerning the discovered or suspected cheating.
6. Before the Board of Examiners makes a decision within the meaning of Article 12.4, it will give the examinee the opportunity to put forward their case.
7. In cases requiring swift action, the Board of Examiners may decide to impose a provisional ban based on a verbal report by the invigilator. They must ensure that this report is committed to writing immediately after the examination and a copy provided to the examinee.
8. In the event that a student is excluded, no mark will be awarded for the examination referred to in Article 12.4.

## Article 13  Questions and assignments

1. The questions and assignments of an examination paper must not extend beyond the content of the sources upon which the paper is based. These sources are made public in general terms before the start of the course unit that prepares for the examination.
2. The questions and assignments that form part of the examination cover the examination material as evenly as possible, and the content and form of the examination are in line with the intended learning outcomes of the relevant component.
3. The questions and assignments in the examination must be clear and unambiguous and contain sufficient indications of the detail required in the answers.
4. No less than four weeks before the examination is scheduled to take place, the Board of Examiners or the examiner will announce the manner in which the provisions of Article

9.7 of the TERs for the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology and the Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies, and Article 4.7 of the TERs for the Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies and the Research Master in Theology and Religious Studies will be implemented with regard to the mode of assessment.
5. No less than four weeks before the examination is scheduled to take place, the Board of Examiners or the examiner will arrange a mock examination to familiarize the examinees with the mode of assessment as well as the model answers and the norms based on which the examination has been assessed.

## Article 14  Assessment

1. The propaedeutic phase is deemed to have been passed when all the examinations have been passed (5.5 or higher). Students are deemed to have passed the final Bachelor's assessment if they have passed all the examinations (5.5 or higher). In order to pass the Bachelor's and Master's theses, they must have been awarded a 6.0 or higher (not rounded off). Internships may also be assessed as follows: O (Onvoldoende; Fail), V (Voldoende; Pass).
2. Exemption from an examination or an internship is considered to be the equivalent of a Pass and will be indicated by VR (Vrijstelling).
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3.3, the assessment of written examinations will be carried out on the basis of standards that have been laid down in writing in advance and amended if necessary as a result of matters that may arise during the actual assessment process.
4. Assessment takes place in such a way that the examinee can review how their examination result was determined.
5. The Board of Examiners will announce in good time in which cases it will carry out its own investigation as referred to in Article 10.1.4 of the TER for the Bachelor's degree programme in Theology and the Bachelor's degree programme in Religious Studies, and in Article 5.1.3 of the TER for the Master's degree programme in Theology and Religious Studies and the Research Master in Theology and Religious Studies.

## Article 15  Feedback

1. As soon as possible after announcement of the results of an oral examination, there will be a discussion of the results between the examiner and the examinee, either on request or on the initiative of the examiner. The results will then be explained.
2. An examinee can request a feedback discussion with the relevant examiner concerning the results of an examination other than an oral examination within a period of six weeks, starting on the day following the announcement of the results. The discussion will take place at a time and a place determined by the examiner.
3. If the Board of Examiners arranges a collective feedback session for an examination, an examinee may only submit a request as defined in Article 15.2 if they attended the collective feedback session and are able to substantiate their request, or if they were unable to attend the collective feedback session due to force majeure.

4. The provisions of Article 15.3 will also apply if the Board of Examiners or the examiner offers the examinee the opportunity to compare their answers with the model answers.
5. The Board of Examiners or examiner may allow exceptions to the provisions of Articles 15.2 and 15.3.

## Article 16  Examiner authorization

1. An (external) examiner is responsible for an individual course unit at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of the University of Groningen and is appointed by the Board of Examiners to assess students by setting the examinations for the course unit and determining the results thereof. In principle, the person who is ultimately responsible for the course unit is also ultimately responsible for all the assessments of components for which credits are awarded. An examiner is also responsible for determining whether a student has met the conditions for admission to the examination, the taking of examinations, and the determination of their results.
2. The responsibilities as referred to in the previous paragraph apply per academic year and per course unit. To this end, the Director of Education must submit a list of examiners to the Board of Examiners for approval in time for the coming academic year. The list is kept up to date throughout the academic year by the secretary of the Board of Examiners. This list is public and can be consulted by anyone upon request. The Board of Examiners applies the following criteria:
   a. staff members (lecturers, assistant professors, associate professors, full professors) at the University of Groningen who have a UTQ certificate are authorized to conduct examinations
   b. staff members with a temporary appointment who are not UTQ certified, including postdocs and research assistants, can be authorized to conduct examinations by the Board of Examiners if they have successfully completed a course in didactic skills. The period of validity and area of expertise of the staff member must be noted in this decision
   c. staff members of universities and other institutions other than the University of Groningen can also be authorized to conduct examinations by the Board of Examiners
   d. authorization to conduct examinations is limited to the domain in which staff members are recognized as experts.
3. At the start of their thesis process, a student can submit a request to the Board of Examiners to appoint an external examiner as second reader/second assessor of their Master's thesis. The primary thesis supervisor must be from the student's own Faculty. Such requests must be made before the student draws up the thesis contract with the supervisors in question.
4. At the request of the student, the Board of Examiners may, occasionally, grant examination authorization to:
   - a second assessor from outside the Faculty but from *within* the University of Groningen
   - a second assessor affiliated to a *university other than* the University of Groningen
   - a second assessor who has a PhD and is *not affiliated to a university*.

5. If the second supervisor is an expert without a PhD and is not affiliated with a Dutch university, a third examiner from within the student's Faculty must also be appointed as an examiner for the assessment of the thesis.
6. At least two and no more than five examiners must attend the Master's thesis defence, including at least the first thesis supervisor and the second reader/second assessor.

**Article 17  Standards**

The Board of Examiners or the examiners must adhere to the following standards when making their decisions:
a. the preservation of quality criteria and selection criteria for each examination
b. effectiveness criteria, with a focus on:
   - limiting the loss of time for students who are progressing well with their studies
   - the timely withdrawal from the degree programme by students who are unlikely to pass a final assessment or examination
   - limiting the amount of study delay for students who have incurred such delays, by organizing the subsequent course of study in an efficient manner.
c. be understanding towards students who, through no fault of their own, have incurred a study delay.

**Article 18  Decisions**

The Examination Board and/or examiners make their decisions taking into account:
a. legal, university and faculty regulations and policies
b. general principles of good governance

**Article 19 Right of appeal**

Students can lodge an appeal with the Board of Appeal for Examinations against decisions made by the Board of Examiners or the examiners, within the meaning of Article 7.60 ff. of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW).

**Article 19  Amendments to the Rules and Regulations**

No amendments applicable to the current academic year will be made unless it is reasonable to assume that the amendment will not harm the interests of students.

**Article 20  Date of commencement**

These Rules and Regulations will take effect on 1 September 2022.

**Appendices to the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners Religion, Culture and Society 2023-2024**

**FACULTY OF RELIGION, CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

**REGULATIONS CONCERNING CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

1. Cheating and plagiarism are acts or omissions, regardless of whether these are intentional, by a student designed to partly or wholly hinder the forming of a correct assessment of their own or someone else's knowledge, understanding and skills (see the Teaching and Examination Regulations, Article 8 (Th/RS) or Article 4.18 (ResMa)).
2. Cheating includes acts such as the following:
   - Cheating during an examination. Anyone who deliberately enables someone else to cheat is considered complicit
   - Bringing aids (pre-programmed calculators, mobile phones, books, syllabi, notes, etc.) to the examination, consultation of which is not explicitly permitted
   - Having others complete an assignment or part thereof on one's behalf
   - Taking possession of the relevant exam questions or assignments before the date or time of the examination
   - Faking questionnaire or interview answers or research data
   - Copying fellow students' work and presenting this as one's own work
   - Resubmitting assignment that have been awarded marks in a previous course unit
   - Submitting assignments acquired from a commercial institution or written by someone else (whether paid for or not).
   - The examination board prohibits the use of AI tools, such as Chat GPT, GPT-4, Grammarly and BARD. The use of these tools is allowed only if explicitly authorized by the instructor of a course. However, the use of spell checkers is permitted.
3.a Plagiarism is a specific type of fraud, where in a thesis or other assignment data or sections of one's own or someone else's work are copied without properly referring to the source.
   Plagiarism includes acts such as the following:
   - Copying text from digital sources such as encyclopaedias or digital journals without using quotation marks or references
   - Copying text from the internet without using quotation marks and references
   - Copying text from printed media such as books, journals or encyclopaedias without using quotation marks or references
   - Including translations of texts such as the ones listed above without using quotation marks or references
   - Paraphrasing texts such as the ones listed above without properly acknowledging the source – a paraphrase must be indicated as such, by explicitly linking the text to the original author in either the body of the text or a note, to prevent the impression being formed that it represents the student's own ideas
   - Copying video, audio or test material from others without mentioning the source and thus presenting it as one's own work

- Submitting previously submitted own work without stating the source and presenting it as original work produced for the course unit in question, unless the course unit or the lecturer explicitly permit this
- Copying fellow students' work and presenting it as one's own work. A student who gives a fellow student permission to copy their work is considered complicit to plagiarism
- If one of the authors collaborating on a joint assignment commits plagiarism, the other authors are complicit to this plagiarism if they could or should have known that the other author was committing plagiarism
- Submitting assignments acquired from a commercial institution (such as a website containing extracts or papers) or paying someone else to write them.

3.b Electronic detection programs may be used to detect plagiarism in texts. When submitting a text, the student in question implicitly grants permission for the text to be included in the database of the relevant detection program.

4. Lecturers are required to report suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism.
   a. If an act of cheating or plagiarism has been detected or is suspected, the Board of Examiners will launch an investigation, during which the student and the lecturer will be heard
   b. The Board of Examiners will then determine whether an act of cheating or plagiarism has been committed.

5. Once cheating or plagiarism is detected, the Board of Examiners will take the following measures:
   a. In all cases:
      • declare the assignment or examination invalid
      • issue a reprimand, which is recorded in the student's file
   b. In certain cases, depending on the nature and extent of the cheating or plagiarism, and on the study phase of the examinee, one or more of the following sanctions:
      • expulsion from the course unit
      • denial of permission to participate in examinations or other modes of assessment relating to the relevant course unit for the current academic year, or for a period of 12 months
      • denial of permission to participate in all exams or other modes of assessment for a period of 12 months
   c. If the student has already been reprimanded in the past: denial of permission to participate in all exams or other modes of assessment for a period of 12 months
   d. In the event of very serious cheating or repeated cheating, the Board of Examiners may propose to the Board of the University that the student's registration be definitively terminated.

6. The term 'Board of Examiners' refers to the Board of Examiners of The Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society.

7. The term 'examination' or 'exam' refers to the assessment (including marking) for each course unit of students' knowledge, understanding or skills.

These Regulations took effect on 1 September 2023 and may be cited as the 'Regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism' of the Faculty of Religion, Culture and Society.

## 21. ADDRESSES CENTRAL BODIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

**Board of the University (CvB)**
Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen
Telephone: (050) 36 35285

**University Council (U-raad)**
Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen
Telephone: (050) 36 38535
E-mail: uraad@rug.nl
https://www.rug.nl/about-us/organization/administrative/participation/uraad/

**Legal Affairs Office (ABJZ)**
Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen
Telephone: (050) 36 35440
abjz@rug.nl
https://www.rug.nl/about-us/organization/bureau-of-the-university/abjz

**Center for Information Technology (CIT)**
Visiting address: Nettelbosje 1 (Smitsborg)
Postal address: P.O. Box 11044, 9700 CA Groningen
Telephone: (050) 36 39200
E-mail: secretariaat-cit@rug.nl
https://www.rug.nl/society-business/centre-for-information-technology/

**CIT Helpdesk**:
Telephone: (050) 36 33232
https://www.rug.nl/society-business/centre-for-information-technology/contact-cit-servicedesk

**Health, Safety and Sustainability (AMD)**
Visiting address and postal address: Visserstraat 49, 9712 CT Groningen
Telephone: (050) 36 35551
E-mail: amd@rug.nl
https://www.rug.nl/about-us/organization/bureau-of-the-university/amd

**Office of the Confidential Advisor**
drs. M.H.J. Renker, Confidential Advisor
Visserstraat 47-49, 9712 CT Groningen
Telephone: (050) 36 35435
E-mail: m.h.j.renker@rug.nl or secretariaatBVP@rug.nl
https://www.rug.nl/about-us/organization/rules-and-regulations/integriteit/vertrouwenspersoon/

**Ombudsperson**
mr. C.A. Winnubst
Oude Boteringestraat 71, 9712 GG Groningen
+31 (0)6 2543 1437
c.a.winnubst@rug.nl
https://www.rug.nl/about-ug/organization/rules-and-regulations/integrity/ombudsperson

**Complaints Committee for Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Aggression, Violence and Discrimination**
Postal address: Antwoordnummer 172, 9700 AB Groningen
https://myuniversity.rug.nl/infonet/medewerkers/beleid-en-strategie/wet-en-regelgeving/vertrouwelijkheid-klachten-bezwaar-beroep/siagd-klachtenregeling-09


**ADDRESSES FOR STUDENTS**

**Student Information and Administration (SIA)**
Visiting address: Broerstraat 5
Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen
Telephone: (050) 36 38004
https://www.rug.nl/education/contact/information-services/

**Immigration Service Desk (ISD)**
Visiting address: Broerstraat 5
Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen
Telephone: (050) 36 38181
https://www.rug.nl/education/contact/information-services/immigration-service-desk

**Student Service Centre (SSC)**
Visiting address: Uurwerkersgang 10
Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen
Telephone: (050) 36 38066
https://www.rug.nl/education/student-service-centre

The Student Service Centre is the centre of expertise in student counselling at the University of Groningen. Student counsellors, psychologists and trainers work at the SSC to support students with their studies in various areas.
The Student Service Centre offers UG-students support on:
- Study skills
- Study delay
- Psychological problems
- Studying with a functional impairment
- Financial matters
- Legislation and regulation

The student counsellors at the SSC are specialized in financial matters, problems relating to registering and deregistering for programmes, the ballot system and admissions, problems choosing a degree programme, studying with a functional impairment and objection and appeal procedures. If you find yourself facing a study delay of more than 15 ECTS credit points due to exceptional circumstances, it is important to make an appointment with a student counsellor to safeguard your right to graduation support. Don't hesitate to get in touch! More information is available on: https://www.rug.nl/education/student-service-centre/student-counsellors

Our student psychologists can give help and advice on problems relating to studying, personal interaction, relationships with parents, making decisions, stress and anxiety, depression and lack of assertiveness. Their help usually consists of a short series of individual counselling sessions. Group activities, such as assertiveness training or short-term group sessions, are also available.

The SSC also offers training courses and workshops to help with successful studying and personal development. These include courses for improving academic writing skills, dealing with procrastination, effective study techniques and coping with fear of failure and study stress. More information about the range of courses we have on offer is available on: https://www.rug.nl/education/student-service-centre/workshops-cursussen-training

If you have any questions about these or other subjects, try consulting the knowledge bank https://www.rug.nl/education/faq/. If you can't find the answer to your question, use the contact button to send an e-mail.

**Careers Advise**
Visiting address: I Shop, Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 19
Postal address: Postbus 72, 9700 AB Groningen
careerservices@rug.nl
https://www.rug.nl/careerservices/

**Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights**
Postal address: Postbus 72, 9700 AB Groningen
https://www.rug.nl/education/laws-regulations-complaints/complaintobjectionappeal

**University Funds Committee (UFC)**
Postal address: Postbus 72, 9700 AB Groningen
ufc@rug.nl

# 22. CALENDAR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023–2024

| Timetable | | week | | Begin/Enddate semester | Enrolling courses | Enrolling examinations |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sem. 1 | 04 sept. | 36# | Lectures | 04-09-2023 start block 1 | * | |
| | 11 sept. | 37 | | | * | |
| | 18 sept. | 38 | | | | |
| | 25 sept. | 39 | | | | o |
| | 02 okt. | 40 | | | | o |
| | 09 okt. | 41 | | | o | o |
| | 16 okt. | 42 | | | o | o |
| | 23 okt. | 43 | | | o | |
| | 30 okt. | 44 | Examination weeks | | | |
| | 06 nov. | 45 | | | | x |
| | 13 nov. | 46 | Lectures | 13-11-2023 start block 2 | o | x |
| | 20 nov. | 47 | | | o | x |
| | 27 nov. | 48 | | | o | x |
| | 04 dec. | 49 | | | o | |
| | 11 dec. | 50 | Resit | | o | |
| | 18 dec. | 51 | colleges | | o | o |
| | 25 dec. | 52 | Christmasholiday | | o | o |
| | 01 jan. | 01 | | | o | o |
| | 08 jan. | 02 | Lectures | | o | o |
| | 15 jan. | 03 | | | * | |
| | 22 jan. | 04 | Examination weeks | | * | |
| | 29 jan. | 05 | | 02-02-2024 | * | x |
| Sem. 2 | 05 feb. | 06 | Lectures | 05-02-2024 start block 3 | | x |
| | 12 feb. | 07 | | | | x |
| | 19 feb. | 08 | | | | x |
| | 26 feb. | 09 | | | | o |
| | 04 mrt. | 10 | Resit | | | o |
| | 11 mrt. | 11 | Lectures | | | o |
| | 18 mrt. | 12 | | | | o |
| Goede Vrijdag 29 maart | 25 mrt. | 13 | | | | |
| Pasen 31 maart, 1 april | 01 april | 14 | Examination weeks | | | |
| | 08 april | 15 | | | | x |
| | 15 april | 16 | Lectures | 15-04-2024 start block 4 | | x |
| Koningsdag 27 april | 22 april | 17 | | | | x |
| Bevrijdings-dag 5 mei | 29 april | 18 | | | | x |
| Hemelvaart 9 mei | 06 mei | 19 | | | | |
| | 13 mei | 20 | Resit | | | o |
| Pinksteren 19-20 mei | 20 mei | 21 | Lectures | | | o |
| | 27 mei | 22 | | | o | o |
| | 03 juni | 23 | | | o | x |
| | 11 juni | 24 | Examination weeks | | o | x |
| | 17 juni | 25 | | 21-06-2024 | o | x |
| | 24 juni | 26 | | | o | |
| | 01 juli | 27 | Resit | | o | |
| | 08 juli | 28 | | | o | |
| | 15 juli | 29 | Summerholiday | | o | |
| | 22 juli | 30 | BSA 26 juli | | o | |
| | 29 juli | 31 | Summerholiday | | o | |
| | 05 aug. | 32 | | | o | |
| | 12 aug. | 33 | | | o | |
| | 19 aug. | 34 | | | * | |
| | 26 aug. | 35 | | | * | |

# 7 september 2023 from 5 p.m. Opening Academic Year

o enrolling Lectures and Examinations
x enrolling Resit
* poss. change enrollment via Student Office Administration

## 23. COURSE OVERVIEW BACHELOR THEOLOGY

See for course descriptions Theology:

Bachelor Theology:
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THTH
Bachelor Theology (incl. Greek):
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THTHGR
Bachelor Theology (incl. Greek, incl. PThU-track):
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THTHGRPT
Bachelor Theology (incl. PThU-track):
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THTHPT


## 24. COURSE OVERVIEW BACHELOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES

See for course descriptions Religious Studies:

Bachelor Religious Studies:
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THRS


## 25. COURSE OVERVIEW PRE-MASTERTRACKS THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

See for course descriptions pre-Master

Pre-Master programme in Spiritual Care (parttime)
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/PROG-3722
Pre-Master programme in Spiritual Care (fulltime)
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THPMGVVLT
Pre-Master RPAM, RCG and HR
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THPM3
Pre-Master Werk en Zingeving
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THPMWZ

# 26. COURSE OVERVIEW MASTERTRACKS THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

See for course descriptions Mastertracks:

Master Spiritual Care – parttime
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/PROG-242
Master Spiritual Care – fulltime
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/PROG-243
Master Heritage and Religion
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THMRCH
Master Religion and Pluralism: Ancient and Modern
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THMRPAM
Master Religion, Conflict and Globalization
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THMRCG
Master Religion, Health and Wellbeing - Ethics and Diversity (in dismantling)
    https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/ggw/vak/showpos?opleiding=6266
Master Religious Diversity in a Globalised World (ReDGlobal)
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THMRDGW
Master Theology and Religious Studies (Research)
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/PROG-2334
Master Werk en Zingeving
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THMAWZ
Master Werk en Zingeving voor professionals (AOG)
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THMWZAOG


# 27. COURSE OVERVIEW MINORS THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

See for course descriptions Minors:

Cultural Impact of Religion (TH/RW)
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THB3CIR
Lived Religion (TH/RW)
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THB3LR
Origins of Religion (TH)
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THB3OR
Minor SC (TH/RW)
    https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/PROG-247

## 28. COURSE OUTLINE UNIVERSITY MINORS RELIGION, CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Minor Anthropology: What it means to be human
https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THAWIMTBH
Minor Art and Religion
https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/THRA
Minor Religie in de moderne wereld
https://ocasys.rug.nl/2023-2024/catalog/programme/MITHRMW