

Education and Examination Regulations 2021-2022

Research Master's Program

Linguistics & Communication Sciences

Tilburg University

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CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations

These Regulations apply to the education and examinations of the Linguistics and Communication Sciences Research Master's program [CROHO-code 609060]¹, henceforth to be called the program.

The program is offered by the School of Humanities and Digital Sciences, henceforth to be called the School. The program is offered together with the Faculty of Arts of RU Nijmegen; to formalize the co-operation and to specify the co-operation provisions, both universities have concluded a partnership agreement that, among other things, describes the cooperation of the mutual Examination Boards.

Article 1.2 Definitions

In these regulations, the following definitions apply:

- a. the Act: the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (HERA);
- b. student: the person enrolled at the university to receive education and/or take examinations that are part of the program;
- c. course: an educational unit of the program, within the meaning of the Act;
- d. practical: a practical exercise, as referred to in article 7.13 of the law, in one of the following forms:
 - writing a thesis,
 - writing a paper or technical design,
 - doing a research assignment,
 - participation in fieldwork or an excursion,
 - doing a traineeship/internship,
 - participation in another educational activity that is aimed at acquiring particular skills;
- e. final examination: the Master's examination of the program;
- f. examination: examination: the appraisal of the knowledge, insight, and skills of the student, as referred to in Article 7.10, paragraph 1 of the Act, connected with each part of the study program, and the assessment of the outcomes of that appraisal.

¹ Up to and including 31 August 2018 this program was registered in CROHO as Language and Communication Research Master's Program [CROHO-code 60834].

- g. semester: segment of the academic year, starting on September 1 and ending no later than January 31, or starting no later than February 1 and ending on August 31 at the latest;
- h. ECTS (European Credits): credit points in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System. 1 ECTS credit = 28 study hours;
- i. Examination Board: the Examination Board of the program as referred to in Article 7.12 of the Act;
- j. Examiner: a person who, on behalf of the Examination Board, is entitled to administer an examination. Those appointed at Tilburg University as a lecturer² are also examiner in the sense intended by Article 7.12c of the Act;
- k. Admissions Board: the Admissions Board assesses the applications for the Research Master's program on the basis of the criteria of the Education and Examination Regulations;
- l. Program Committee: the Program Committee advises on the Education and Examination Regulations according to Article 9.18 of the Act; assesses the execution of these Regulations and discusses the education evaluations. According to Article 9.18, half of the Program Committee consists of students and half of the Committee consist of lecturers from the program;
- m. Assigned tutor: a researcher in the field of expertise the student is focusing on will be assigned to the student by the program management;
- n. Examination Appeals Board: the student whose interest is directly at stake can appeal a decision or a refusal to come to a decision in any particular case, to the Examination Appeals Board (HERA, Art. 7.61).

The other terms have the meaning ascribed to them by the Act.

Article 1.3 Objectives of the program

After completing the program, the student will have acquired the knowledge, the skills, and the insight in the field of linguistics and communication sciences needed to conduct independent academic research, to prepare a PhD thesis, or to work in positions in society that require specialist knowledge and the highly developed skills necessary to understand and manage knowledge-intensive activities.

² Tenured and non-tenured lecturer/assistant professor/associate professor/full professor; PhD researcher under supervision of a lecturer/assistant professor/associate professor/full professor.

Article 1.4 Final attainment level

Having completed the program successfully, the candidate must meet the requirements below.

1. Have acquired and worked with a substantial body of knowledge, which, at the very least, includes the principles of international academic practice and of theory construction, methodology, and study in linguistics and communication sciences.
2. Be able to communicate effectively the knowledge and the methods pertaining to the discipline of linguistics and communication sciences;
3. Have demonstrated their ability to apply the academic methods used in the disciplines of linguistics and communication sciences, to develop, interpret and implement new knowledge by:
 - carrying out practical research activities and reporting on them. These activities include:
 - academic writing,
 - reflection on the research methods in linguistics and communication sciences,
 - oral presentations,
 - editing a collection of essays,
 - compiling a bibliography,
 - assisting in the editing of a text;
 - writing a solid literature review that demonstrates their theoretical and methodological capacities with respect to formulating a future PhD research proposal;
 - writing a solid project proposal that can be used in an application procedure for a PhD position, or for a research-oriented profession;
 - writing a publishable research paper or a Master's thesis that explores the theoretical and methodological aspects of a potential dissertation proposal;
 - writing a publishable article on a specialized topic in accordance with the requirements set by academic journals;
 - actively contributing to academic journals by way of co-authorship.

Article 1.5 Program form

The program is offered on a full-time basis. The program takes two years.

Article 1.6 Final examination of the program

The only examination that can be taken in the program is the Master's final examination.

Article 1.7 Evaluation of education in the program

All courses in the programs are evaluated annually in writing by digital means. In this evaluation procedure, a standardized evaluation form is used. In addition, student panels are active in which verbal evaluation data are collected about individual courses and curriculum components.

CHAPTER 2 ORGANIZATION OF THE PROGRAM

Article 2.1 Study load

1. The study load is expressed in ECTS credits.
2. The program has a study load of 120 ECTS credits, in which one credit equals 28 hours of study.

Article 2.2 Composition of the program

1. The requirements that are set for the thesis, and the way in which supervision and assessment take place are laid down in the Thesis Regulations of the study program concerned.
2. Participation in the educational components may be subject to conditions relating to:
 - previously obtained courses: if there are specific entry requirements for the participation in a course, they will be announced via OSIRIS Catalog;
 - attendance requirements:
 - practicals: for practicals compulsory attendance applies;
 - seminars: if there are specific entry requirements for the participation during seminars, they will be announced via OSIRIS Catalog;
 - lectures: in principle lectures are not compulsory. However, there may be educational reasons (like work forms that require active participation, for example the use of voting boxes/digital voting systems, quizzes, giving presentations during the lecture) for the lecturer to demand mandatory attendance during lectures. In these cases, compulsory attendance may be required for the lectures or parts thereof. The lecturer communicates the compulsory attendance for the lecture or parts thereof before the start of the course via OSIRIS Catalog.

Article 2.3 Content of the program

Students are invited to draw up a plan of study in consultation with the assigned tutor, including the elective courses and, in exceptional cases, the replacement of part of the compulsory program by an alternative program.

The program consists of 33 ECTS of obligatory core courses, 12 ECTS of elective skills and methods courses, 15 ECTS of lab rotations, 30 ECTS of elective courses, and a 30-ECTS Thesis.

Within the 33 ECTS of obligatory courses, 12 ECTS is devoted to foundational courses, the remaining 21 ECTS are devoted to research associated courses. Together with the lab rotations and the elective skills and methods courses, the core courses provide students with the tools and techniques for empirical research in linguistics and communication sciences. The remaining 30 ECTS of elective courses (and the 30 ECTS thesis) focus on recent developments in the fields chosen as area of interest.

The program comprises the following units of study:

Course code	Course title	ECTS
880571-M-3	Statistics and Experimental Methods 1	3
880579-M-3	Statistics and Experimental Methods 2	3
880480-M-6	Foundations of Language & Communication	6
880040-M-6	Lab Rotation 1	6
880046-M-9	Lab Rotation 2	9
880503-M-3	Research Orientation	3
880041-M-6	Term Paper ReMa	6
880470-M-6	Grant Proposal Writing	6
880631-M-6	Valorization	6
	Research Skills (see below)	12
	Elective Courses (see below)	30
880044-M-30	Master Thesis ReMa	30
	Total	120

Elective courses and Research Skills modules include courses offered by one of the National Research Schools. Furthermore, students may choose from a selection of Research Master's courses that belong to their specialization area of interest. See Osiris Catalog and the course guide of Radboud University.

Research skills modules		ECTS
Course code	Course title	
880002-M-3	Research Skills: Academic Writing	(3)

800860-M-3	Research Skills: Annotation	(3)
880434-M-3 /		
880586-M-3	Research Skills: Analysis of Variance	(3)
880249-M-3	Research Skills: Anthropology and Fieldwork	(3)
880500-M-3/		
880602-M-3	Research Skills: Design & Analysis Questionnaires	(3)
800886-M-3	Research Skills: Ethnography and Interview	(3)
880627-M-3	Research Skills: Ethnomining	(3)
880490-M-3	Research Skills: Eye Tracking	(3)
880624-M-3	Research Skills: Narratology and Discursive Analytical Strategies	(3)
880491-M-3	Research Skills: Online Data Collection	(3)
800863-M-3	Research Skills: Programming	(3)
880010-M-3 /		
880582-M-3	Research Skills: Rapid Prototyping	(3)
880474-M-3	Research Skills: Research Interview	(3)
800861-M-3	Research Skills: Social Media Analytics	(3)
800814-M-3	Research Skills: Survey Design	(3)
880617-M-3	Research Skills: The Hybrid Media System and Online Writing	(3)
880012-M-3 /		
880584-M-3	Research Skills: Usability and User Experience Evaluation	(3)
880626 -M-3	Research Skills: Using Digital Literacies	
800806-M-3	Research Skills: Visual Thinking and Composition	(3)
RU Nijmegen	Academic Writing	(3)
RU Nijmegen	Linear Mixed Effects Modelling	(6)

Electives		
Course code	Course title	ECTS
880027-M-6	Social Networking in Organizations	(6)
880096-M-6	Determinants of Corporate Online Intervention Strategies	(6)
880033-M-6	Cognition and Process: Advanced Topics	(6)
880630-M-6	Studying Digital Food Marketing	(6)
880632-M-6	Human Media Interaction Theory and Research	(6)
880650-M-6	Cognitive Aspects of Language Technology	(6)
880077-M-6	Introductory Statistics for Research Master	(6)

880634-M-6	Online and Offline Discourse Analysis	(6)
880607-M-6	Studying Online Health Practices	(6)
880657-M-6	Advances in Interactive Storytelling	(6)
880038-M-6	Capita Selecta in Language and Communication	(6)
899003-M-6	Elective ReMa Nijmegen	(6)
899004-M-3	LOT course; see lotschool.nl	(6)
880262-M-6	A Theoretical Approach to Data and (Mis)information	(6)
880023-M-6	Advances in Negotiation Studies	(6)
880635-M-6	Research in User Experience Design	(6)
880609-M-6	Cognitive Science of Visual Narratives	(6)
880604-M-6	Multimodality and Cognition	(6)
880654-M-6	Risks and Opportunities of Social Media	(6)
880606-M-6	Understanding Digital Media and Everyday Life	(6)
880573-M-6	Mediated Knowledge	(6)
880647-M-6	The Normal and the Abnormal in Health	(6)
880608-M-6	Linguistic Knowledge	(6)
880610-M-6	Understanding the Social Implications of Language Technology	(6)
880611-M-6	Research in Digital Health Communication	(6)
880633-M-6	Psychology of Creativity	(6)
880632-M-6	Human Media Interaction Theory and Research	(6)
880263-M-6	Current Development in Resistance and Persuasion	(6)
880653-M-6	Role-playing @ Work	(6)
880651-M-6	Current Media Topic: Migration	(6)
880648-M-6	Understanding Digital Industries and Infrastructures	(6)
880652-M-6	Intercultural Communication	(6)
880071-M-6	Psychological Processes in (mis)communication	(6)
880565-M-6	Public Relations & Online Crisis Management	(6)
880035-M-6	Strategic Use of Social Media	(6)
880036-M-6	Non-verbal Communication and Prosody	(6)
880577-M-6	Virtual, Augmented, and Mixed Reality for ReMa	(6)
880635-M-6	Research in User Experience Design	(6)
880030-M-6	Usage Based Approaches to Knowledge	(6)

Article 2.4 Language of instruction

The language of instruction is English.

CHAPTER 3 (FINAL) EXAMINATIONS

Article 3.1 Periods and frequency of the examinations

In principle, all units of study must be completed within the semester in which they are offered. For each course/unit of study, one opportunity is offered for examinations. Each year, the Examination Board determines a detailed time schedule for completion of units of study.

Article 3.2 Form of the Examinations

1. Subject to the provision in Article 3.1, the course examinations mentioned in Article 2.2 are, in principle, administered as follows:
 - In writing (including an examination taken by writing one or more assignments, a paper, report, or thesis);
 - orally;
 - through a practical assessment (e.g. internships);
 - hybrid forms of the above.

In addition to the above-mentioned forms, the lecturer has the right to administer examinations in other ways, following the learning objectives of the course. Students will be informed of this in good time in the OSIRIS Catalog.

2. For each course, the exact form of the examination is included in the OSIRIS Catalogue. Any additions or changes to the text in the Catalog are announced by the examiner in the Education Catalogue at the start of the course concerned at the latest.
3. If the Examination Board is of the opinion that, for a specific, examination additional measures are necessary to prevent fraud and to identify the student, and thereby ensure the legitimacy of the diploma, it may advise the Dean to take further measures.
4. After consultation with the Dean the Examination Board may decide that a written examination must be conducted using a system for online proctoring. An examination can only be proctored online if it concerns a (partially) knowledge-based examination and the Examination Board believes that the use of an online proctoring system is necessary to prevent fraud and to identify the student, and thus to guarantee the legitimacy and public value of the diploma.

5. In addition to and as an elaboration of the Examination Board's Rules and Guidelines, the Examination Board may establish further rules for the supervision and organization of online (proctored) examinations. These further rules must comply with the guidelines established by the Executive Board to ensure the quality and practical organization of online examinations (Article 7.10, paragraph 3 of the HERA) and the protection of students' personal data (GDPR).
6. In the case of an online (oral or written) examination other than at a location designated by Tilburg University, the student must be alone in the room during the examination and may not communicate with others.
7. At the request of an individual student or the examiner, the Examination Board may decide to administer an examination in a different form for the student in question. At the request of the student, the Examination Board may, under certain conditions, permit an examination to be taken remotely.
8. To students with disabilities, the Examination Board can offer the opportunity to take the examinations in an adapted manner. If necessary, the Examination Board seeks expert advice before deciding to do this. If taking the examination in an adapted manner requires special facilities or a special form of examinations, the student must submit a request at least six weeks before the examination in question is administered, using the appropriate form on the website.

Article 3.3 Oral examinations

1. In principle, no more than one person is assessed during an oral examination. The Examination Board may decide otherwise.
2. An oral examination is a public event, unless the Examination Board or the examiner concerned has determined otherwise in a special case, or if the student has objected.
3. In the case of an online oral examination other than at a location designated by Tilburg University, the student must be alone in the room during the examination and may not communicate with others.
4. Unless an oral examination is conducted by two examiners, an (audio) recording is made of the (online) oral examination. The recording will be kept

for 30 days after the date of the examination. In the event that the Examination Board suspects fraud, the recording or audio recording may be kept until a final and irrevocable decision has been taken on the legitimacy of the examination.

Article 3.4 Determination and publication of examination results

1. The examiner determines the results of a written examination within 15 working days after the day on which the examination was taken, and in any case five working days before the next examination opportunity.
2. In the case of oral examinations, the examiner, in principle, determines the result immediately after completion or, in any case, within five days after the oral examination took place.
3. For examinations that are neither oral nor written, the Examination Board decides in advance how the student receives the result and within what time frame.
4. The examiner provides the Student Administration with the information necessary to publish the results. Results are published in Osiris. Results announced by any means other than in Osiris are always preliminary.
5. The students are made aware of their right of inspection, mentioned in Article 3.6, paragraph 1, and of the possibility of appealing to the Examination Appeals Board.

Article 3.5 Period of validity

1. In principle, the period of validity of scores for examinations that have been passed is unlimited. Results obtained for interim exams and interim assignments remain valid only during the academic year in question and only for the current duration of the unit of study in question (fall semester or spring semester) unless the Examination Board decides otherwise.³
2. Contrary to the rule defined in paragraph 1, and prior to allowing the student to take the Master's final examination, the Examination Board can impose an

³ Please note: at a start in the spring semester, an academic year runs from February to February.

additional or a replacement examination for a course if the examination was passed more than five years earlier.

3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 also apply with regard to the period of validity of an exemption for a course.

Article 3.6 Right of inspection

1. Until six weeks after the results of the written examinations were announced, students have the right to inspect their examination papers. Students are given the opportunity to inspect questions and assignments from the examination in question and, if possible, are provided with the norms based on which the assessment was made.
2. The Examination Board may determine that inspection or perusal is to take place at a fixed place and time. If the student can prove to be or to have been prevented by force majeure from appearing at the fixed place and time, another opportunity will be offered, if possible within the period mentioned in paragraph 1.

Article 3.7 Exemption

1. The Examination Board may, at the student's request and having heard the examiner concerned, grant an exemption from a course if students:
 - have completed a component, corresponding in terms of content, study load, and level at a university; or
 - can demonstrate that, as a result of work or professional experience, they possess sufficient knowledge and skills.
2. The request is to be submitted to the official secretary of the Examination Board, together with supporting documents substantiating the claim among which a specification of the applicant's reasons for making the request.

Article 3.8 Final examination

1. The program is concluded with the Master's thesis, as referred to in Articles 1.2, 1.4 and 2.2. The thesis will be written in English, unless the Examination Board allows the student to write the thesis in another language. The Master's thesis is evaluated by a committee of two examiners. The first examiner usually is the supervisor of the thesis and is already closely

associated with the project within the context of the research training. In consultation with the student, the first examiner approaches the second examiner.

2. The Examination Board determines the results of the final examination as soon as the student has submitted sufficient proof of the examinations passed and of the academic skills thus acquired.
3. Before determining the results of the final examination, the Examination Board can inquire into the student's knowledge with respect to one or more topics or aspects of the program, if and insofar as the results of the examinations at issue give the Board cause to do so.

Article 3.9 Degree

1. Those who have passed the final examination are granted the title of Master of Arts, which can be considered equivalent to the internationally recognized qualification of MPhil (Master of Philosophy). For this, students receive a supplementary qualification in addition to their diplomas.
2. The degree conferred is specified on the degree certificate of the final examination.

CHAPTER 4 ADMISSION AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Article 4.1 Admissions Board

All prospective students must apply for enrollment in the Research Master's program. An Admissions Board, appointed by the program's Examination Board, consisting of two senior academic staff members of Tilburg University, and of two senior academic staff members of Radboud University Nijmegen, decides about admission of individual students.

Article 4.2 Previous education requirements and admission

1. The Program starts twice a year, around September 1 and around February 1.
2. Eligible for admission to the program are those students who have successfully completed a Bachelor's or Master's program in a relevant discipline. If students from outside the Netherlands apply, or students with another final examinations, the Admissions Board will assess whether the program completed by the student is comparable to a relevant Bachelor's or Master's program in the Netherlands and whether the entry requirements can be met.
3. Bachelor's students should meet the following requirements:
 - an average score of 7.5 (out of 10) on their examinations in the second and third years of their completed Bachelor's program, and a minimal score of 8 on their Bachelor's thesis or equivalent scores for these study units in a non-Dutch higher education system;
 - sufficient talent, affinity, and motivation with respect to conducting scientific research, as demonstrated in the Bachelor's thesis (or a comparable essay) or in a dedicated research proposal;
 - sufficient knowledge of the English language. If students, according to the Admissions Board, cannot demonstrate a sufficient command of English, they have to pass one of the following English Language Proficiency Tests:
 - TOEFL with a score of at least 100 on the internet-based version,
 - IELTS: with an overall score of minimum 7.0 and 6.5 on all parts,
 - Cambridge Certificate Proficiency C2 (formerly CPE): with an overall score of Pass.

Please note that the English proficiency certificates must be no more than two years old at the time of application.

4. Master's students should meet the following requirements:
 - an average score of 7.5 (out of 10) on their examinations of their completed Master's program, and a minimal score of 8 on their Master's thesis, or equivalent scores for these study units in a former or non-Dutch higher education system;
 - sufficient talent, affinity, and motivation with respect to conducting scientific research, as demonstrated in the Master's thesis (or a comparable essay) or in a dedicated research proposal;
 - sufficient knowledge of the English language. If students, according to the Admissions Board, cannot demonstrate a sufficient command of English, they have to pass one of the following English Language Proficiency Tests:
 - TOEFL with a score of at least 100 on the internet-based version,
 - IELTS: with an overall score of minimum 7.0 and 6.5 on all parts,
 - Cambridge Certificate Proficiency C2 (formerly CPE): with an overall score of Pass.

Please note that the English proficiency tests must be no more than two years old at the time of application.

5. To students who have successfully completed a Master's program or a comparable final academic examination in a relevant discipline, the Examination Board proposes a reduced program, which, according to the Examination Board, warrants successful completion of the program, with all exemptions from units of study taken into account.
6. The Examination Board decides in all cases that are not explicitly provided for in this chapter.

Article 4.3 Admission inquiry: procedure

1. After enrollment via *Studielink*, a request to be admitted to the program must be submitted to the Admissions Board.
2. In view of admission to the program, the Admissions Board inquires into the knowledge, insight, skills, and motivation of the candidate. To complement the written evidence of the preceding study components and study

program(s) completed by the candidate, the Admissions Board may decide to have certain skills and knowledge tested by experts within or outside the University by means of an interview (in person or by telephone), for instance.

3. Within six weeks after the application deadline, the Admissions Board will come to a decision and communicate this to the candidate.
4. Admission is granted subject to the condition that, at the latest on the starting date of the program, the candidate meets the requirements with respect to knowledge and skills evidenced by certificates of the study programs completed successfully.
5. In the written statement with respect to admission, the student is alerted to the possibility of appealing to the Objections and Appeals Advisory Committee.

CHAPTER 5 COUNSELING AND MONITORING STUDENTS' PROGRESS

Article 5.1 Monitoring students' progress

1. The Student Administration records student's individual course results.
2. Student Administration is responsible for the accessibility of the student's progress data via Osiris, as well as for providing information on this.

Article 5.2 Counseling

1. In the framework of the admissions procedure, the School makes an arrangement with the students regarding the individual design of the program to be followed by them.
2. The School sees to it that all students receive sufficient supervision and coaching during their studies.

CHAPTER 6 FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 6.1 Amendments

1. Any amendments to these Regulations are made by exceptional decision by the Dean after hearing the Examination Board and obtaining the Program Committee's advice and the School Council's consent.
2. Any amendments to these Regulations do not affect the current academic year unless it can reasonably be argued that they are in no way detrimental to the interests of the students.
3. Furthermore, no amendments in these Regulations must adversely affect any other decision regarding a student taken by the Examination Board on the basis of the existing Regulations.

Article 6.2 Publication

The Dean ensures appropriate publication of these Education and Examination Regulations, the Rules and Guidelines established by the Examination Board, and any amendments to these documents.

Article 6.3 Unforeseen circumstances

1. Examination Board is authorized to make an exception to the Education and Examination Regulations in individual cases for the benefit of the student, in the event of extreme unfairness.
2. In cases not provided for in the Education and Examination Regulations, the Examination Board decides.

Article 6.4 Entry into force

These Regulations shall enter into force on September 1, 2021.

Adopted by the Dean on June 21, 2021