



**Education and Examination Regulations**  
***Linguistics & Communication Sciences***  
**Research Master's Program 2019-2020**  
**Tilburg University**

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## **Section 1 General Provisions**

### **Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations**

These regulations apply to the educational program and the (preliminary) 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 Graduate School of the School of Humanities and Digital Sciences, henceforth to be called 'the School, in collaboration with Radboud University, Nijmegen.

### **Article 1.2 Definitions**

In these regulations, the following definitions apply:

- the law: the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (WHW, Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek).
- student: the person registered at the University to receive instruction and/or take (preliminary) examinations that are part of the Program;
- course: a unit of study of the Program, in the sense intended by the law;
- 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.
- examination: the Master's examination of the Program;
- preliminary examination: the examination of a particular course, a particular unit of study;
- semester: segment of the academic year, starting on 1 September, and around 31 January;

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[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].

- ECTS credits (European Credits): credit points in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System. EC-points (or EC) should be read as ECTS credits. 1 ECTS credit = 28 hours of study;
- Examination Board: the Examination Board of the Program as referred to in Article 7.12 of the law;
- Examiner: a person who, on behalf of the Board of Examiners, is entitled to administer an examination or a final examination. Those appointed at Tilburg University as lecturer [2] are also examiner in the sense intended by article 7.12c of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW);
- Admissions Board: the Admissions Board assesses the applications for the Research Master's Program on the basis of the criteria of the Education and Assessment regulations;
- Educational Committee: the Educational Committee advises on the Education and Examination Regulations, according to Article 7.13 of the law, assesses the execution of these regulations and discusses the teaching evaluations. According to Article 19 structuurregeling WHW, the educational committee consists of two staff members of the Program, and two student members;
- Assigned tutor: A researcher in the field of expertise at which the student is aiming, will be assigned to the student by the Admissions Board;
- Board of Appeals for Examinations: 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 Committee (Art. 7.61; address: University Office/Legal Affairs, C 161).

The other terms have the meaning accorded to them by law.

### **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.

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[2] Tenured and non-tenured Docent/UD/UHD/Hoogleraar; PhD student under supervision of Docent/UD/UHD/Hoogleraar.

#### **Article 1.4 Final Attainment Level**

Having completed the Program successfully, the candidate must meet the following requirements:

- will 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.
- will be able to communicate effectively the knowledge and the methods pertaining to the discipline of linguistics and communication sciences.
- will have demonstrated his/her 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 his/her 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 Form of the Program**

The Program is taught on a full-time basis. The Program takes two years.

### **Article 1.6 Examinations of the Program**

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

### **Article 1.7 Evaluation of education programs**

Evaluation of the education programs takes place periodically. Each course will be evaluated at least every four years, in writing or digitally. Moreover, courses will be evaluated if the latest evaluation has given rise to examining (a) specific aspect(s); if the course has been offered by (an) other lecturer(s); if course content and/or examination has/have been substantially changed; at the request of the lecturer(s) / program director / students. In the written / digital evaluation procedure a standardized evaluation form will be used. Apart from the written / digital evaluation procedure, oral evaluation tools will be made use of, such as evaluation teams and student panels.

## Section 2 Organization of the Program

### Article 2.1 Study load

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

### Article 2.2 Composition of the Program

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.

Participation in the educational components may be subject to conditions relating to:

- a. previously obtained courses: if there are specific entry requirements for the participation in a course, they will be announced via OSIRIS Catalog;
- b. The attendance for classes:
  - 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 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.

*\* Examples of such work forms are the use of voting boxes/digital voting systems, quizzes, giving presentations during the lecture, etcetera.*

### **Article 2.3 Content of the Program**

All students registered for the Program are required to complete a basic training.

Students are required 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 Examination Board decides on the approval of the plan.

All students take 12 ects worth of so-called Disciplinary Courses, 12 ects of Research Skills Courses, 15 ects of Lab Rotation and 6 ects of Valorization which provide them with the tools and techniques for empirical research in linguistics and communication sciences. The 30 ects of Specialization Courses focus on recent developments in the fields chosen as area of interest.

The Program comprises the following units of study:

| <b><i>Course title</i></b>              | <b><i>coursecode</i></b> | <b><i>ECTS-credits</i></b> |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Statistics and Experimental Methods 1   | 880571                   | 3                          |
| Statistics and Experimental Methods 2   | 880579                   | 3                          |
| Foundations of Language & Communication | 880480                   | 6                          |
| Lab Rotation 1                          | 880040                   | 6                          |
| Lab Rotation 2                          | 880046                   | 9                          |
| Research Orientation                    | 880503                   | 3                          |
| Term Paper ReMa                         | 880041                   | 6                          |
| Grant Proposal Writing                  | 880470                   | 6                          |
| Valorization A                          | 880042                   | 3                          |
| Valorization B                          | 880043                   | 3                          |
| Research Skills****                     | .....                    | 12                         |
| Elective Courses***                     | .....                    | 30                         |
| Master Thesis ReMa                      | 880044                   | 30                         |
|   | <b>Total</b>             | <b>120</b>                 |



\*\*\* Elective courses and Research Skills modules include courses offered by one of the National Research Schools. Furthermore, you may choose from a selection of Research Master's courses which belong to your specialization area of interest. See Osiris Catalog.

\*\*\*\**Research skills modules:*

|   |               |     |
|---|---------------|-----|
| • Research Skills: Academic Writing                 | 880002        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Annotation                       | 800860        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: An Introduction to EEG           | 800805        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Analysis of variance             | 880434        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Anthropology and Fieldwork       | 880249        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Data Processing Advanced         | 880082        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Design & Analysis Questionnaires | 880500/880602 | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Digital Ethnography              | 800847        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Ethnography and Interview        | 800847        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Eye Tracking                     | 880490        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Hermeneutics                     | 880476        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Online Data Collection           | 880491        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Programming                      | 800863        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Programming with R               | 880256        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Research Interview (KCW)         | 880489        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Research Interview (CIW)         | 880474        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Social Media Analytics           | 800861        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Survey Design                    | 800814        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Text Mining                      | 880091        | (3) |
| • Research Skills: Visual Thinking and Composition  | 800806        | (3) |
| • Academic Writing                                  | RU Nijmegen   | (3) |
| • Linear Mixed Effects Modeling                     | RU Nijmegen   | (6) |

### **Article 2.3 Language of instruction**

The language of instruction is English.

## **Section 3 (Preliminary) Examinations**

### **Article 3.1 Periods and Frequency of the (Preliminary) 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 for preliminary examinations is set. Each year, the Examination Board determines a detailed time schedule for completion of units of study.

### **Article 3.2 Form of the (Preliminary) Examinations**

1. Subject to the provision in Article 3.1, the (preliminary) examinations of the courses/units of study mentioned in Article 2.2 are written or oral (preliminary) examinations. Oral (preliminary) examinations are conducted on the basis of one or more written papers or drafts submitted in advance.
2. At the request of the student, the Examination Board can decide to allow preliminary examinations to be taken in a way different from what is specified in the previous subsection.
3. Students with a functional disorder are given the opportunity to take (preliminary) examinations in a way adapted as much as possible to their individual handicap. If necessary, the Examination Board will seek expert advice before taking a decision.

### **Article 3.3 Oral (Preliminary) Examinations**

1. In oral (preliminary) examinations, not more than one person will be tested at the same time, unless the Examination Board decides otherwise.
2. An oral (preliminary) examination is a public event, unless the Examination Board or the examiner concerned decides otherwise, or unless the student objects.

### **Article 3.4 Determination and Publication of Preliminary Examination Results**

1. The examiner determines the results of a written (preliminary) examination within 10 work days after the day on which the (preliminary) examination was taken, and provides the Administration Department of the School with the necessary data for announcing the results. The results are published on the Tilburg University web pages.
2. The examiner determines the results of an oral (preliminary) examination within one week after the day on which the examination was held, and provides the student with a written statement of these results.
3. For a (preliminary) examination that is neither a written nor an oral exam, the Examination Board decides in advance in what way the examinations will be administered, and the period within which the student receives a written statement specifying the results.
4. The students are made aware of their right of inspection, mentioned in Article 3.6, Subsection 1, and of the possibility of appealing to the Board of Appeals for Examinations.

### **Article 3.5 Period of Validity**

1. In principle, the period of validity of scores for preliminary 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<sup>5</sup> ), unless the Examination Board decides otherwise.
2. Contrary to the rule defined in Subsection 1, and prior to allowing the student to take the Master's examination, the Examination Board can impose an additional or a replacement (preliminary) examination for a course if the (preliminary) examination was passed more than five years before.
3. Subsections 1 and 2 also apply with regard to the period of validity of an exemption for a course.

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<sup>5</sup> Please note: At a start in the spring semester, an academic year runs from February to February.

### **Article 3.6 Right of Inspection**

1. Until six weeks after the results of the written preliminary examinations were announced, students have the right to inspect their examination papers. In addition, at their request, they will be given a copy of their work at cost price. No copy will be provided in case of multiple-choice preliminary examinations.
2. During the period mentioned in Subsection 1, any interested person can inspect the questions and the assignments of the preliminary examination in question, and, if possible, be given the norms on the basis of which assessment has taken place.

The Examination Board may determine that inspections occur at a fixed place and time. If the student can prove to be, or to have been, unable to come to this fixed place and time due to circumstances beyond his/her control, he or she will be offered another opportunity, preferably within the period mentioned in Subsection 1.

### **Article 3.7 Exemptions**

1. At the student's request, and having heard the examiner concerned, the Examination Board can grant a student exemption for a preliminary examination, if the student:
  - has completed a unit of study at a university that is comparable in terms of content, study load, and level;
  - or
  - can show that he/she possesses sufficient knowledge and skills as a result of work or professional experience.
2. The request is to be submitted to the secretary of the Examination Board, together with the necessary papers substantiating the student's claim, and must include a specification of the applicant's reasons for making the request.

### **Article 3.8 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 to be defended before a committee of two examiners. The first examiner usually is the supervisor of the thesis, and already is 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 examination as soon as the student has submitted sufficient proof of the preliminary examinations passed, and of the academic skills thus acquired.
3. Before determining the results of the 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 preliminary examinations at issue give the Board cause to do so.

### **Article 3.9 Degree**

1. Those who have passed the 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 diploma.
2. The degree conferred is specified on the degree certificate of the examination.

## **Section 4 Admission/Entrance Requirements**

### **Article 4.1 Admissions Board**

All prospective students must apply for enrolment in the Research Master's Program. An Admissions Board, appointed by the Examination Board of the Program, 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 Educational Entrance Requirements and Admission**

1. The Program starts twice a year, around 1 September and around 1 February.
2. Eligible for admission to the Program are those students who have successfully completed a Bachelor's or Master's examination in a relevant discipline. If students from outside the Netherlands apply, or students with another examination, 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.
3. Bachelor's students should meet the following requirements:
  - An average score of 7.5 (out of 10) on their preliminary examinations in the second and third years of their completed Bachelor's program, and a minimal score of 8 on their final 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 doing 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 a student according to the Admissions Board cannot show a sufficient command of English he/she has to pass one of the following English Language Proficiency Tests:
    1. TOEFL with a score of at least 100 on the internet-based version.
    2. IELTS: with an overall score of minimum 7.0 and 6.5 on all parts,
    3. Cambridge Proficiency Examination (CPE): with an overall score of PassPlease note that the English proficiency tests must be less 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 preliminary examinations of their completed Master's program, and a minimal score of 8 on their final 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 doing 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 a student according to the Admissions Board cannot show a sufficient command of English he/she has to pass one of the following English Language Proficiency Tests:
    1. TOEFL with a score of at least 100 on the internet-based version.
    2. IELTS: with an overall score of minimum 7.0 and 6.5 on all parts,
    3. Cambridge Proficiency Examination (CPE): with an overall score of PassPlease note that the English proficiency tests must be less than two years old at the time of application
  
5. To students who have successfully completed a Master's 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 section.

### **Article 4.3 Admission Inquiry: Procedure**

1. 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 written evidence of the preceding course(s) of study and training 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 it 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 training programs completed successfully.
5. In the written statement with respect to admission, the student is alerted to the possibility of appealing to the Board of Appeals for Examinations.



## **Section 5 Counseling and Monitoring Students' Progress**

### **Article 5.1 Monitoring Students' Progress**

1. Studentenadministratie ('Student Administration') registers the student's individual course results.
2. Studentenadministratie ('Student Administration') is responsible for the accessibility of the student's progress data on the Internet, as well as for information on this.

### **Article 5.2 Counseling**

1. As part of the admission procedure, the School will make an arrangement with the student about the individual organization of the program he or she is taking.
2. The School sees to it that every student receives sufficient supervision and coaching during his or her studies.

## **Section 6 Final Provisions**

### **Article 6.1 Changes**

1. Any changes in these regulations are made by exceptional decision by the Dean after hearing the Examination Board and obtaining the Program Committee's advice and the Faculty Council's consent.
2. Any changes to these regulations do not pertain to 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 changes 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**

1. The Dean sees to a fitting publication of these regulations, the Rules and Guidelines laid down by the Examination Board, and any changes to these documents.
2. Any person interested can obtain a copy of the documents referred to in subsection 1.

### **Article 6.3 Unforeseen circumstances**

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|--|
| 1. In exceptional individual cases in which applying the Education and Examination Regulations would lead to situations of extreme unfairness, the Examination Board has the power to make an exception in favor of the student. |
| 2. In cases not provided for by the Education and Examination Regulations, the Examination Board will decide.  |

**Article 6.4 Date of Entry into Effect**

These regulations shall enter into effect on September 1, 2019.

Adopted by the Dean on July 3, 2019.