Teaching and Examination Regulations
(OER)

Academic year – 2016-2017

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
And
University of Amsterdam
Faculty of Economics and Business

Joint Master’s degree programmes in
Entrepreneurship
Business in Society
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Section A: General

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Applicability of the Regulations
1. These Regulations apply to the teaching and examinations for the Master's degree programmes Entrepreneurship and Business in Society (hereinafter referred to as: the degree programme) provided by the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (hereinafter referred to as: FEWEB) of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (hereinafter referred to as: VU) and the Faculty of Economics and Business (hereinafter referred to as: FEB) of the University of Amsterdam (hereinafter referred to as UvA).
2. These Regulations consist of a faculty section (A) and a programme-specific section (B). Section A contains general provisions and applies to the teaching and examinations of the Master's degree programmes of FEWEB and FEB. Section B contains programme-specific provisions. Together, Sections A and B form the Teaching and Examination Regulations for the programme.
3. The Regulations can be declared to apply mutatis mutandis to the joint degree programmes and units of study, pursuant to Section 7.3c of the WHW, also provided by the faculties.
4. These Regulations apply to anyone enrolled in the programme, irrespective of the academic year in which the student was first enrolled in the programme.
5. Section B of these Teaching and Examination Regulations may contain additional general provisions for the relevant degree programme.

Article 1.2 Definitions
The following definitions are used in these Regulations:

a. EC (European Credit): a credit with a workload of 28 hours of study;
b. fraud and plagiarism: the student's acts or failures to act which make it wholly or partially impossible to accurately judge his/her knowledge, understanding and skills;
c. joint degree: a degree awarded by an institution together with one or more institutions in the Netherlands or abroad, after the student has completed a degree programme (a degree programme, a major or a specific curriculum within a degree programme) for which the collaborating institutions are jointly responsible;
d. component: a unit of study of the programme within the meaning of the WHW;
e. period: a part of a semester;
f. practical exercise: the participation in a practical training or other educational learning activity, aimed at acquiring certain (academic) skills. Examples of practical exercises are:
   o researching and writing a thesis
   o carrying out a research assignment
   o taking part in fieldwork or an excursion
   o taking part in another educational learning activity aimed at acquiring specific skills or
   o participating in and completing an internship
g. programme: the totality and cohesion of the course components, teaching activities/methods, contact hours, testing and examination methods and recommended literature;
h. thesis: a component comprising literature research and/or a contribution to scientific research, always resulting in a written report;
i. VUnet: the VU University Student Information System;
j. study guide: the guide for the degree programme that provides further details of the provisions and other information specific to that programme. The course catalogue is available electronically at www.vu.nl/en/study-guide (VU) or www.studiegids.uva.nl (UvA);
k. workload: the workload of the unit of study to which an interim examination applies, expressed in terms of credits = EC. (The workload for 1 year (1,680 hours) is 60 EC credits);
l. working day: Monday to Friday, except for public holidays or days designated as holidays by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and/or University of Amsterdam;
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m. academic year: the period beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August of the following calendar year;

n. examination: an assessment of the student’s knowledge, understanding and skills relating to a course component. The assessment is expressed in terms of a final mark. An examination may consist of one or more partial examinations, which can have different forms and be individual and/or team based. A resit always covers the same material as the original interim examination;

o. Admissions Board: the committee that assesses, on behalf of the Faculty Board (FEWEB)/ Dean (FEB), whether a candidate meets the requirements for admission to the Master’s degree programme of his/her choice. If there is no Admissions Board appointed for the degree programme, the Examinations Board (within the meaning of Section 7.12 of the WHW) functions as Admissions Board;

p. universities: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the University of Amsterdam;

q. WHW: the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek, WHW);

r. Regulations and Guidelines: Regulations and guidelines regarding examinations Joint Master’s programme in Entrepreneurship and Business in Society, drafted by the Examination Board;

The other terms have the meanings ascribed to them by the WHW.

2. Previous education and admission

Article 2.1 Previous education
1. In order to qualify for enrolment in a Master’s degree programme, a Bachelor’s degree obtained in academic higher education (WO) is required. The requirements that the Bachelor’s degree must meet are specified in Section B.

2. The Admissions Board of the degree programme will assess suitability for admission to the programme on the basis of the requirements stipulated in Section B.

3. In order to qualify for enrolment in a Master’s degree programme for teaching in pre-university education, the individual concerned must have been awarded the Master’s degree in the relevant subject area, pursuant to Section 7.10a of the WHW.

Article 2.2 Registration and enrolment
1. The deadline for registering for the Master’s programme is stipulated in Article 3.3 (Section B).

2. After registering on time, the student must enrol before 1 September.

Article 2.3 Admissions Board
The Faculty Board (FEWEB)/Dean (FEB) will establish one or more Admissions Boards. The Faculty Board / Dean will appoint its members after consultation with the Programme Directors and Examinations Board of the relevant degree programmes.

Article 2.4 Admissions procedure
1. The Admissions Board is responsible for admission to the programme.

2. With a view to admission to the programme, the Admissions Board assesses the candidate’s knowledge, understanding and skills. The Board may request experts within or outside the University to test certain types of knowledge, understanding and skills, in order to supplement written evidence of the programme/programmes the student has already completed. In its assessment, the Board includes knowledge and skills of the language in which the programme will be taught.

3. Candidates receive either confirmation of admission or a negative decision. An appeal against a negative decision can be lodged with the VU Examinations Appeals Board within six weeks.

Article 2.5 Refusal or termination of enrolment (unsuitability/judicium abeundi)
1. Based on the provisions of Section 7.42a of the WHW, the Faculty Board / Dean or the Examinations Board may, in exceptional cases, ask the Admissions Board to terminate or refuse a student’s enrolment in a programme, if that student’s actions or remarks show that he/she is unsuitable either for practising one or more of the professions for which the
programme in question is preparing the student or for the practical preparation for professional practice.

2. If a student is suspected of being unsuitable as described in paragraph 1, the Examinations Board or the Faculty Board / Dean will institute an inquiry, of which the student will be informed immediately. The Examinations Board or the Faculty Board / Dean will not issue any recommendation without carefully considering the interests involved and giving the student the opportunity to be heard.

3. Degree programme structure

Article 3.1 Structure of academic year
1. A year in the degree programme is divided into two semesters.
2. Every semester consists of three consecutive periods of eight, eight and four weeks.

Article 3.2 Organisation of the programme
1. The programme comprises the components of study included in Section B.
2. The size of the degree programme in EC is stipulated in Section B.
3. A component comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof.
4. By way of exception to paragraph 3, the Study Guide may stipulate that a component comprises a multiple of 3 EC.
5. The programme is made up of a compulsory part and an individual Master’s thesis and/or academic internship and, if applicable, a subject-specific optional component as specified in more detail in the programme-specific section B.
6. If the student wishes to choose a different component than those stipulated in the Study Guide as part of his/her electives, prior permission is required from the Examinations Board.

4. Examinations

Article 4.1 Signing up for examinations
1. Students must sign up for participation for all programme components. This is only possible in the periods designated for that purpose.
2. Some courses are classified as FEWEB VU courses, and others as FEB UvA courses.
   2.a FEWEB VU exams: Every student must sign up for every examination opportunity. The procedure for signing up is described on VUnet. Participation in the examination will be refused if the student does not sign up or fails to do so in time.
   2.b By way of exception to the provisions of paragraph 2.a, any student who has correctly signed up for participation in the instruction/classes for a particular course and has been admitted will also be signed up for the subsequent examination.
3. FEB UvA exams: Students are registered for exams by registering for the component. This also applies to possible constituent examinations and resit examinations.

Article 4.2 Type of examination
1. The studyguide stipulates the way in which a component is concluded and the form any examination will take.
2. At the student’s request, the Examinations Board may permit a different form of examination than that stipulated in the Study Guide. If applicable, more detailed regulations on this are included in the Regulations and Guidelines.
3. In the case of a component that is no longer offered, in the academic year following its termination, at least one opportunity will be provided to sit the examination(s) or parts thereof and a transitional arrangement will be included in the programme-specific section for the subsequent period.
4. At least 60% of the final grade of a unit of study should be based on individual examinations. For assessed components of a unit of study, including interim examinations, assignments and final examinations, a minimum score may be set for completing the course successfully. The mark of the final examination for every course must always be at least 5.0 but can be higher (maximum 5.5) as stated in the study guide.

Article 4.3 Oral examinations
1. Unless otherwise specified for the relevant component in Section B, no more than one student will be examined orally at the same time.
2. An oral examination is public unless the Examinations Board or examiner determines otherwise in an exceptional case. A student may submit a reasoned request to the Examinations Board to depart from the public nature of the oral examination. The Examinations Board will balance the interests of the student against the interests of a public examination.

3. Unless otherwise specified by the Examinations Board, an oral examination will be taken in the presence of a second examiner.

Article 4.4 Determining and announcing results
1. The examiner determines the result (= mark) of the final examination or thesis as soon as possible, but at the latest within fifteen working days. The results of interim examinations must be determined at the latest within ten working days. The examiner and programme secretariat will then immediately ensure that the marks are registered and also ensures that the student is immediately notified of the mark, taking due account of the applicable confidentiality standards.

2. If, as a result of exceptional circumstances, the examiner is likely to exceed the deadline, he or she must inform the Examinations Board, stating reasons. If the Examinations Board approves the delay of maximum five working days the Board will then ensure that the students are informed of the new deadline.

3. The examiner determines the result (= mark) of an oral examination as soon as the examination has finished and informs the student accordingly. The third sentence of the first paragraph applies.

4. In the case of alternative forms of oral or written examinations, the Examinations Board determines in advance how and by what deadline the student will be informed of the results.

5. Together with the result of an examination, the student's attention will also be drawn to their right to inspect the assessed work and have a post-examination discussion as stipulated in Articles 4.9 and 4.10, as well as his/her option to appeal to the Examinations Appeals Board (Cobex) VU.

6. A student may lodge an appeal against the way in which the result was reached with the Examinations Appeals Board within six weeks of the announcement of the result.

7. In the event that the Examinations Board ascertains that a student has committed fraud, it is entitled to take measures against the student.

Article 4.5 Resits
1. An opportunity will be offered to resit examinations in the degree programme once in each academic year.

2. Paragraph 1 does not apply in the case of a fail for an internship or a thesis. The options for retaking internships and theses are detailed in the internship manual or thesis regulation.

3. In the event of a resit, the most recent mark applies.

4. The resit for an examination must not take place within ten working days of the announcement of the result of the examination being resat.

5. Contrary to the provisions in paragraph 1, a separate resit is not provided for interim examinations.

6. During a resit, the full course material will be tested. An exception can be made for results of practical interim examination assignments such as papers. The results of these examinations may be valid for the resit, on the condition that the resit gives the student a reasonable opportunity to pass the course. In any case the digital Course Catalogue should clearly state the grading policy.

Article 4.6 Marks
1. Marks are given on a scale from 1 to 10.

2. An examination is assessed as a pass of a fail, or, when expressed as a final grade 6 or higher (pass) and 5 or lower (fail).

3. Marks are given one decimal, rounded to 0.5 with the exception of marks between 5 and 6 that will be rounded to 1.0 in such a way that 0.1 to 0.4 will be rounded down and 0.5 to 0.9 will be levelled up.

Article 4.7 Exemptions
1. At the written request of the student, the Examinations Board may exempt the student from taking one or more components, if the student:
a. has passed a component of a university or higher professional education programme that is equivalent in both content and level; or
b. has demonstrated through his/her work and/or professional experience that he/she has sufficient knowledge and skills with regard to the relevant component.

2. The Examinations Board will make a decision within twenty working days of receiving the written request.

3. This exemption does not apply to the Master's thesis.

4. The maximum number of exemptions that can be granted in order to meet the requirements of the master examination of a degree programme is notified in section 4.7 of the B part of the OER.

Article 4.8 Validity period for results
1. The validity period of examinations passed and examination exemptions is limited to two years for a one year programme and three years for a two year programme from the moment the student enrolled in the programme.

2. The validity period of an interim examination is limited to the academic year in which it was sat or until the end of the course concerned, as stipulated in the Study Guide.

3. The Examinations Board can extend the limited validity period of examination results or exemption if a student submits a reasoned request to that effect. The Examinations Board may decide to permit the extension of the validity after the individual making the request has successfully completed a supplementary examination on the relevant subject matter.

Article 4.9 Right of inspection
1. Within twenty working days after the announcement of the results of a written examination, the student can, on request, inspect his/her assessed work, the questions and assignments set, as well as the standards applied for marking.

2. The Examinations Board can determine that the inspection or post-examination discussion referred to in paragraph 1 take place exclusively at a specified place and at a specified time. In that case, the place and time will be announced at the time of the examination and on the faculty website.

3. If the student was unable to attend at the place and time referred to in paragraph 2 through no fault of his/her own, an alternative option will be offered.

4. If a student intends to appeal against the way in which his/her mark was assessed, he/she can be issued with a copy of the marked work at his/her request at cost price.

Article 4.10 Post-examination discussion
1. If a collective post-examination discussion has been organised, individual post-examination discussions will be held only if the student has attended the collective discussion or if he/she was unable to attend the collective discussion through no fault of his/her own.

2. Students who meet the requirements stipulated in the first paragraph can submit a request for an individual post-examination discussion to the relevant examiner. The discussion will take place at a time and location to be determined by the examiner.

Article 4.11 Master's final examination
1. The Examinations Board determines the final examination result and the date on which the student obtains his/her degree after it has been established that the student has passed all components belonging to the programme.

2. As an exception to paragraph 1, prior to assessing the result of the examination, the Examinations Board can undertake an evaluation of the student’s knowledge with regard to one or more degree programme components, if and in so far the results of the relevant examinations in questions warrant it.

3. A diploma can only be awarded after the Programme Director has declared that the student has satisfied all the procedural requirements, including the payment of tuition fees.

4. The Examinations Board can award a citation. If the student has demonstrated exceptional ability, the Examinations Board will award the citation ‘cum laude’; criteria for citations are listed in the ‘Regulations and guidelines regarding examinations for joint programmes’.

Article 4.12 Diplomas and transcripts
1. The Examinations Board grants a diploma as proof that the student has passed his/her final examination. The Programme Director sets the model for the diploma. The Examinations Board adds a diploma supplement to the diploma providing information on the nature and content of the degree programme completed. The diploma supplement is drawn up in English
Teaching and Examination Regulations for joint Master's Degree programmes

and complies with the European format.

2. Individuals who have successfully completed one or more components of the programme and who cannot be awarded a diploma as stipulated in paragraph 1 will, on request, receive a statement to be issued by the Examinations Board stating at least the components that have been successfully completed, the number of EC obtained and the way in which the examinations were taken.

3. Within the maximum validity of examination results, the student can - without needing to provide reasons - request that the Examinations Board not proceed to award a diploma, unless the student him-/herself submitted the request for its issue.

Article 4.13 Fraud and plagiarism
1. The provisions of the Regulations and Guidelines apply in full.
2. Electronic detection software programs may be used to detect plagiarism in texts. In submitting a text, the student implicitly consents to the text being entered into the database of the detection program concerned.

5. Study supervision and study progress

Article 5.1 Administration of study progress and academic student counselling
1. The FEWEB Faculty Board / FEB Dean is responsible for the correct registration of the students’ study results in VUnet. After the assessment of an examination component has been registered, every student has the right to inspect the result for that component via VUnet and also has a list of the results achieved at his/her disposal in VUnet.
2. Enrolled students are eligible for academic student counselling. The types of academic student counselling available are listed on VU and UvA website.

Article 5.2 Adaptations for students with a disability
1. A student with a disability can submit a written request to the study adviser to qualify for special adaptations with regard to teaching, practical training and examinations. These adaptations will accommodate the student’s individual disability as much as possible, but may not alter the quality or degree of difficulty of a course or an examination. In all cases, the student must fulfil the exit qualifications for the degree programme.
2. The request referred to in the first paragraph must be accompanied by a recommendation from a student counsellor. The recommendation must be no more than twelve weeks old and must in part be based on a recent statement from a physician or psychologist.
3. The FEWEB Faculty Board or FEB Dean or, on his/her behalf, the FEB College/Graduate School director decides on the adaptations concerning the teaching facilities and logistics. The Examinations Board will rule on requests for adaptations with regard to examinations.
4. In the event of a positive decision in response to a request as referred to in paragraph 1, the student will make an appointment with the study adviser to discuss the details of the provisions.
5. A request for adaptations will be refused if it would place a disproportionate burden on the organisation or the resources of the Faculty or University were it to be upheld.
6. If the disability justifies an extension to the time in which the examination may be sat, the Examinations Board will issue a statement testifying to this entitlement to an extension. If a disability justifies other measures being taken, the study adviser can initiate the necessary measures.
7. The statement referred to in paragraph 6 is valid for a maximum period of the length of the programme plus one year. The period of validity can be extended on the recommendation of a student counsellor.

6. Hardship

Article 6.1 Hardship clause
In exceptional cases, the Examinations Board may deviate from these Teaching and Examination Regulations in the student’s favour, where application of the regulations leads to disproportionate disadvantage or unfairness of a serious nature.

7. Transition and final provisions
Article 7.1 Amendments and periodic review
1. Any amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations will be adopted by the Faculty Board / Dean after taking advice from the relevant programme committee. A copy of the advice will be sent to the authorised representative advisory bodies.
2. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations requires the approval of the authorised representative advisory bodies if it concerns components not related to the subjects of Section 7.13, paragraph 2 sub a to g and v, as well as paragraph 4 of the WHW and the requirements for admission to the Master's programme.
3. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations can only pertain to an academic year that is already in progress if this does not demonstrably damage the interests of students.

Article 7.2 Transitional provisions
There are no transitional provisions applicable for 2016-2017.

Article 7.3 Publication
1. The Faculty Board / Dean shall ensure appropriate publication of these Regulations, as well as of any adjustments to them.

Article 7.4 Effective date
These Regulations enter into force with effect from xxxx 2016

Thus drawn up by the
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, FEWEB Faculty Board 21 June 2016
And approved by the Joint Meeting FEWEB on 7 July 2016

and University of Amsterdam, FEB Dean on 8 July 2016
Section B: Master’s Programme in Entrepreneurship

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Definitions
Not applicable

Article 1.2 Degree Programme information
1. The MSc Entrepreneurship (CROHO number 65006) is offered on a full-time basis and the language of instruction is English.
2. The programme has a workload of 60 EC.
3. A component comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof.

Article 1.3 Intake dates
The full-time Master programme is offered starting in the first semester of the academic year (1 September) only. The intake dates mentioned in this paragraph ensure that a programme can be completed within the nominal study duration set for the programme.

2. Programme objectives and exit qualifications

Article 2.1 Programme objective
1. The Master programme has a final attainment level corresponding to the Dublin Descriptors (the Framework of Qualifications for the European Higher Education Area) and the Higher Education Qualifications Framework in the Netherlands. In the programme-specific section, this is expressed in final attainment objectives.
2. The programme provides academic and entrepreneurial skills, as well as knowledge of and insight into Entrepreneurship issues. Accordingly, graduates are equipped to analyse Entrepreneurship issues from a range of perspectives (social, societal, economic, ethical), are able to be critical about theoretical and practical solutions chosen, and can develop their own alternatives with decent foundations. Detailed knowledge at a high academic level (acquired from leading journals) is combined with empirical research and applications.

Article 2.2 Exit qualifications
There are three categories of exit qualifications:
1. Knowledge
2. Skills
3. Attitude.

In terms of knowledge and insight, the outcomes are:
K1. Profound academic knowledge of the background, nature, and central concepts that are used in entrepreneurship research, both theoretically and methodologically.
K2. Academic knowledge of and insight into societal developments that influence entrepreneurship and vice versa: the societal implications of entrepreneurship.
K3. Academic knowledge that will enable the alumnus to recognize, utilize, and combine multiple theoretical perspectives towards entrepreneurship so as to be able to understand and solve complex entrepreneurship problems.
K4. Academic knowledge of and insight into the mechanisms underlying entrepreneurial processes.
K5. The academic knowledge required to assess which research method(s) should be employed to answer a given research question / to meet a particular research aim.
K6. The academic knowledge required to assess business ideas from (combinations of) various disciplines in terms of their innovativeness, viability and quality.
K7. Academic knowledge and insight (in combination with an analytical toolbox) to assess which processes and research efforts (market, financial etc) are required to turn business ideas into reality and to create sustainable value with them.
In skills terms, the outcomes are:

Academic
SA1. The ability to independently design and conduct research of an academic nature, including formulating the issue, sourcing and processing the necessary research sources, and systematically collating, interpreting and analyzing relevant data, drawing relevant conclusions, and reporting about it.
SA2. The ability to find, analyze and critically assess scientific information.
SA3. The ability to systematically and creatively analyze and solve concrete problems.
SA4. The ability to communicate effectively and univocally with experts as well as laymen, both orally as well as in writing.
SA5. A logic, reflexive, critical and independent level of thinking and working.
SA6. The ability to reflect on and discuss social-ethical aspects in relation to entrepreneurship.
SA7. The ability to work individually as well as in multidisciplinary teams.

Entrepreneurial
SE1. The ability to assess, produce, and develop innovative, viable, high-quality research-based ideas in various contexts.

In attitudinal terms, the outcomes are:
A1. Reflecting on economic, business, ethical and societal dimensions and consequences of entrepreneurial behaviour.
A2. An independent, academic and critical attitude and way of working.
A3. An attitude where boundaries between disciplines form no burden and where knowledge, concepts, methods, and perspectives from a range of disciplines are employed to generate new insights.
A4. Meta-cognitive and meta-affective skills to regulate the graduate’s own learning process, in terms of self-development and interdisciplinary approach.

3. Further Admission Requirements

Article 3.1 Admission requirements
1. Students will be admitted to the degree programme if they hold a certificate of admission, issued by or on behalf of the Faculty Board / Dean because they have demonstrated that they meet the following knowledge and skills at the level of an academic bachelor programme:
a) Organizational Behavior and/or
b) Organization Design
c) Academic writing as evidenced by a bachelor’s thesis
d) Research skills, both qualitative and quantitative
2. Applications are assessed by the Admissions Board.
3. In addition to the requirements listed in paragraph 1, the Admissions Board can assess the application based on a combination of the following types of criteria:
a) motivation, as evidenced by a motivation letter;
b) sample of academic writing of sufficient quality;
c) being in good standing at previous institutions, as evidenced by a reference letter from an instructor at a previous institution.
2. Students who have completed a professional education (HBO/polytechnic degree) can be admitted once they have successfully completed the applicable pre-Master’s programme.
3. The Admissions Board will investigate whether the interested person meets the admission requirements.
4. The certificate of admission relates exclusively to the academic year following the academic year in which the application for the certificate was submitted, unless the Executive Board decides otherwise.
5. The applicant has to meet all requirements before being allowed to enter the programme.

Article 3.2 Limited programme capacity
1. The FEWEB Faculty Board and FEB Dean will, if necessary, announce the maximum programme capacity by 1 May prior to the start of the academic year.
2. Candidates will be selected in the following way:
The Admissions Board will offer admission to the candidates in the order of ranking.
Article 3.3 Final deadline for application
1. An application for admission to the study programme must be submitted to the FEB Admissions Office in the form of a digital registration in Embark for the following students and by the following dates before the start of the academic year:
   a. 1 April for students from non-EU countries;
   b. 1 April for students from EU countries;
   c. 1 June for students with a Dutch diploma
2. All candidates (including FEWEB or FEB bachelor’s degree students) must submit a request to be admitted to the programme through Studielink before 1 June.

Article 3.4 English language requirement
1. English language requirement for English-language Master's programmes
   a. The proficiency requirement in English as the language of instruction can be met by the successful completion of one of the following examinations or an equivalent:
      i. IELTS: 6.5 at least 6 on each sub-score;
      ii. TOEFL paper based test: 580
      iii. TOEFL internet based test: 92-93, at least 20 on each sub-score
      iv. Cambridge Advanced English: A (FCE) B (CAE) or C(CPE).
   b. Exemption is granted from the examination in English referred to in the first paragraph to students who, within two years of the start of the programme:
      i. met the requirements of the VU test in English language proficiency TOEFL ITP, with at least the scores specified in paragraph 1, or
      ii. had previous education in secondary or tertiary education in an English-speaking country as listed on the VU website, or
      iii. have an English-language ‘international baccalaureate’ diploma

4. Curriculum

Article 4.1 Components
1. The programme consists of
   a. compulsory courses
   b. specialization courses
   c. elective courses
   d. thesis

Article 4.2 Curriculum
1. The courses in the following schedule are also included in the digital UvA and VU Study Guide 2015-2016. All courses carry 6 credits unless stated otherwise.
2. Only students who have passed the courses ‘Entrepreneurship Theory & Practice’ and ‘Entrepreneurship Research Skills’ are allowed to officially start their thesis, i.e. receive thesis supervision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 1</td>
<td>Period 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>Period 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 3</td>
<td>Period 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entrepreneurship Theory &amp; Practice (Joint UvA-VU)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Entrepreneurship Research Skills (Joint UvA-VU)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 EC</td>
<td>Social Dynamics in Entrepreneurship (VU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Choice between:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Entrepreneurial Finance (UvA)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Enterprising for a Better World (VU); - Entrepreneurship, Institutions</td>
<td><strong>Choice between:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Entrepreneurship in Science &amp; Technology (UvA); - Entrepreneurship in the Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thesis</th>
<th>EC see period 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 EC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Elective courses

The following course list is also included in the digital UvA and VU Study Guide 2016-2017. All courses carry 6 credits unless stated otherwise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elective</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>UvA/VU/Joint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Strategy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capita Selecta Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Cultural Management</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Business Development</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprising Skills</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate Management</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Consulting</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>UvA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing Creativity (UvA, sectie E&amp;I)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>UvA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Marketing</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>UvA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Article 4.3 Practical exercises
Not applicable

Article 4.4 Electives
1. Courses listed in the course list in Article 4.2 paragraph 2 are not part of the mandatory curriculum and may be included in the study programme as an elective. Entry requirements or capacity restrictions may apply.
2. An elective outside the course list in Article 4.2 may be included if each of the following requirements are met:
   a. the course must be provided at Master’s level and should be relevant to the study programme;
   b. the course is successfully completed elsewhere during the period that the student is enrolled in the Master’s programme Entrepreneurship;
   c. the Programme Director for the study programme in question has provided the Examinations Board with a positive recommendation;
   d. there is no substantial overlap between the course concerned and any other courses in the Master’s study programme.

Article 4.5 Participation requirements
1. If a component involves mandatory attendance, students may miss at most one of the mandatory sessions. Students may be asked to submit a compensation assignment for this missed session. If a student misses more than one of the mandatory sessions, they cannot complete the component with a passing grade.
2. In specific cases the Examinations Board can allow students to miss more sessions than indicated in paragraph 1 of this Article. In all cases, students have to submit extra assignments to compensate for their absence in addition to the assignments which are already part of the component.

Article 4.6 Validity period of examinations
See section A, paragraph 4.8.

Article 4.7 Exemptions
It is not possible to obtain credits through exemptions.
Article 4.8 Degree
Students who have successfully completed their Master's examination are awarded a Master of Science degree. The degree awarded is stated on the diploma. It will also be stated on the diploma that it concerns a joint degree.

5. Transition and final provisions

Article 5.1 Amendments and periodic review
1. Any amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations will be adopted by the Faculty Board / Dean after taking advice from the relevant programme committee. A copy of the advice will be sent to the authorised representative advisory bodies.
2. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations requires the approval of the authorised representative advisory bodies if it concerns components not related to the subjects of Section 7.13, paragraph 2 sub a to g and v, as well as paragraph 4 of the WHW and the requirements for admission to the Master's programme.
3. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations can only pertain to an academic year that is already in progress if this does not demonstrably damage the interests of students.

Article 5.2 Transitional provisions
There are no transitional provisions applicable for 2016-2017.

Article 5.3 Publication
3. The Faculty Board / Dean shall ensure appropriate publication of these Regulations, as well as of any adjustments to them.

Article 5.4 Effective date
These Regulations enter into force with effect from 1 September 2016

Thus drawn up by the
VU University Amsterdam, FEWEB Faculty Board on xxxx 2016
and University of Amsterdam, FEB Dean on xxxx 2016
Section B: Master’s Programme Business in Society

1. General provisions

Article 1.1 Definitions
Not applicable

Article 1.2 Degree Programme Information
1. The MSc Business in Society (CROHO number 65008) is offered on a full-time basis and the language of instruction is English.
2. The programme has a workload of 120 EC, 60 ECTS in the first year, and 60 in the second.
3. A component comprises 6 EC or a multiple thereof, unless the Study Guide stipulates that a component comprises 3 EC.

Article 1.3 Intake dates
The full-time Master programme is offered once a year, starting in the first semester of the academic year (1 September). The intake date mentioned in this paragraph ensures that a programme can be completed within the nominal study duration set for the programme.

2. Programme objectives and exit qualifications

Article 2.1 Programme objective
1. With the goal of developing excellent researchers, who are able to conduct research at the intersection between business and society, the Research Master Business in Society meets the domain specific requirements established for Research Master programmes in the Netherlands worth of 120 ECTS of course work, and aims to offer:

   a) The focus on the relations between business and society as a connecting anchor to the whole programme. Throughout the 2-year programme students work on conceptualizing and empirically addressing problems related to business and its interaction with society, i.e., in the courses ‘Interdisciplinary project “Business in Society” I and II’ and the course ‘Business in Society’;
   b) The programme’s three core pillars are inspired by the liberal arts and science educational philosophy: becoming a theorist (inspired by literary arts), becoming a methodologist (inspired by mathematical arts), and specializing (in a sub-discipline in preparation for individual PhD trajectories). A core objective of the programme is to develop students in strong theorizing, writing as well as research methods skills to help them become excellent researchers;
   c) High quality academic deliverables: (a) a PhD proposal which will be submitted to the two faculties, and to other organizations for funding (including NWO - Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek ), (b) and a publishable academic paper that can become a chapter of the student’s prospective PhD dissertation;
   d) Research experience (research internships) with the research groups of the Amsterdam Business Research Institute (VU) and/or the Research Institute of the Amsterdam Business School (UvA);
   e) Skills, competencies, research experience and background to enter PhD and other research positions at the two faculties of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the University of Amsterdam, and other universities in the Netherlands and abroad.

Article 2.2 Exit qualifications

There are three categories of exit qualifications:
1. Knowledge
2. Skills
3. Attitude.

In terms of knowledge and insight, the outcomes are:
K1. Academic knowledge of and insight into the foundations of and recent advancements in the literature in business administration, as well as the social issues linked to the study of organisations, forming therefore a basis for the students’ consequent contributions to the academic literature.

K2. Academic knowledge of and insight into a specialized research area within business administration, in which the student might wish to specialize and develop his/her PhD research aspirations.

K3. Academic knowledge of and insight into relevant methods of research associated with business administration, providing the basis for producing high-quality empirical work.

K4. Academic knowledge of and insight into the process of research (including the ethics of research), providing therefore students with a basis for doing original and responsible research independently.

In skills terms, the outcomes are:

S1. The ability to conceive, with scholarly integrity, a (substantial) research project that addresses a question concerned with contemporary business and society issues, that is original for a specific field of studies, and that makes a scholarly contribution to this field.

S2. The ability to design and plan, with scholarly integrity, a (substantial) empirical research project that addresses a question concerned with contemporary business and society issues.

S3. The ability to carry out and improve based on feedback, with scholarly integrity, a (substantial) research project.

S4. The ability to critically analyze and evaluate theories and formulate judgments in writing and verbally on the theories related to business and management studies.

S5. The ability to critically evaluate research design and methods used in management studies and formulate judgments about research designs and methods in writing and verbally.

S6. The ability to synthesize literature and integrate knowledge related to business studies, therefore formulating judgments as well as generating new knowledge through, e.g., systematic literature review and other types of conceptual integration.

S7. The ability to respond to the critical judgments by others within the scholarly business and management community, and learn from these critical judgments improving therefore students’ own research work.

S8. The ability to communicate verbally and in writing about theories in business studies with expert and non-specialist audiences.

S9. The ability to communicate verbally and in writing about research methods in business studies with expert and non-specialist audiences.

S10. The ability to communicate verbally and in writing on the process of conducted research on topics related to business and management and its effects on society with expert and non-specialist audiences.

S11. The ability to do research in teams.

In attitudinal terms, the outcomes are:

A1. An independent, academic and critical attitude and way of working.

A2. Reflecting on business topics and research in ethical and socially responsible way, as well as act ethically in their professional and social contexts.

A3. Reflecting on their own learning process, in terms of self-development and development of further research competences.

3. Further Admission Requirements

Article 3.1 Admission requirements

The committee in charge of the admissions will make admission decisions on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Possess a university (WO) BSc- or BA - degree, preferably in the field of business administration, economics, psychology, social science, law, and engineering or a broad bachelor delivered by a university college. The Bachelor’s programme should have been completed before the start of the MSc Business in Society program. If the Bachelor’s degree is not in business administration, the admissions committee will verify whether the content of the previously taken programme is sufficient for entering the Research Master. Generally, students entering the Research Master should exhibit (a) an academic intellectual working standard (including experience in academic writing), (b) an academic knowledge base in business administration (knowledge of strategy, marketing, finance, accounting, organization studies, HRM, and IT, together at least 30 ECTS)
and (c) a basic knowledge of research methodology and sufficient analytical and statistical skills and knowledge. For example, students who have completed a Minor in economics and business or in business studies will typically meet the requirements regarding the academic knowledge base in business administration. If there are deficiencies regarding the background knowledge in business administration, eligible students will be asked to remedy these deficiencies either by (a) adding courses (e.g. a Minor in Business Administration) to their Bachelor’s or Master’s programme that precedes their entrance into our Research Master or (b) by familiarizing themselves with a ‘required reading’ list, their knowledge of which will be tested before the start of the programme.

2. GRE or GMAT: Valid GRE General Test or GMAT results are required from all (including Dutch) applicants. Test results should not be older than five years. An indication of required score is to be in the 85 percentile or above.

3. Can demonstrate an excellent knowledge of English. Non-native speakers should show evidence of their language proficiency (see English language requirements below).

4. Possess the intellectual capabilities, writing skills, and interest in Business in Society issues: Students should be interested in the theme of the Research Master. Such interest will be assessed on the basis an essay on a topic of the applicant’s choice related to business in society.

5. Strong motivation to pursue a research-related career. This motivation will be assessed by a letter of motivation and two reference letters (letters of recommendation).

Article 3.2 Limited programme capacity
1. The Faculty Board will, if necessary, announce the maximum programme capacity by 1 May prior to the start of the academic year.
2. Candidates will be selected in the following way: The Admissions Board will offer admission to the candidates on a rolling basis.

Article 3.3 Final deadline for application
1. An application for admission to the study programme must be submitted to the FEB Admissions Office in the form of a digital registration at Embark for the following students and by the following dates before the start of the academic year:
   a. 1 April for students from non-EU countries;
   b. 1 April for students from EU countries;
   c. 1 June for students with a Dutch diploma.
2. All candidates must submit a request to be admitted to the programme through Studielink before 1 June.
3. Under exceptional circumstances, the Admission Board may consider a request submitted after this closing date.

Article 3.4 English language requirement
Applicants must complete a certified English-language test before beginning the programme. TOEFL or IELTS scores should be no older than five years on the date of application. The minimum score requirement is 600 (for a paper version), 250 (for a computer version), 100 (for an internet version of TOEFL), or 7 (IELTS). The following applicants are exempted from this test:
1. anyone who has met the requirements of the VU English language proficiency test: TOEFL ITP;
2. anyone who holds a Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) or Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE), either certificate having a score of A, B or C;
3. anyone who has completed a programme of at least three years in the English language in an English-speaking country included on the relevant list issued by the International Office;
4. anyone who has an English-language ‘international baccalaureate’ diploma

4. Curriculum

Article 4.1 Components
The programme consists of

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1 Note that applying for scholarships may have different deadlines
a. core courses that are mandatory courses for all students  
b. electives and restricted electives  
c. projects and internships, which are mandatory for all students  
d. a thesis

Article 4.2 Curriculum
The courses in the following schedule are also included in the digital UvA and VU Study Guide 2016-2017. All courses carry 6 credits unless stated otherwise.

### Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period 1</th>
<th>Period 2</th>
<th>Period 3</th>
<th>Period 4</th>
<th>Period 5</th>
<th>Period 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Theories in Perspectives (9 EC)</td>
<td>Specialisation Seminar (Restricted Elective)</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary project “Business in Society” I (Developing skills for theoretical research)</td>
<td>Research methods in business administration</td>
<td>Quantitative research methods in business administration</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary project “Business in Society” II (Developing skills for empirical research)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy of Science for Business Administration (3 EC)</td>
<td>Business in Society or Specialisation Seminar (Restricted Elective)</td>
<td>Research Internship I</td>
<td>Qualitative research methods in business administration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Year 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period 1</th>
<th>Period 2</th>
<th>Period 3</th>
<th>Period 4</th>
<th>Period 5</th>
<th>Period 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theory Building in Business Administration</td>
<td>Guided Research Proposal Writing</td>
<td>Ethics in Business Research (3 EC)</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Business in Society or Specialisation Seminar (Restricted Elective)</td>
<td>Research Internship II (3 EC)</td>
<td>Thesis (24 EC)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Restricted elective courses list**

**Specialization seminars 2016-2017**
- Specialization Seminar in Technology and Innovation
- Specialization Seminar in Organizational Theory
- Specialization Seminar in OB/HRM

**Entry requirements for second year courses**
1. The entry requirement for second year courses is that students have completed at least 48 ECTS of first year’s credits. In addition, for each course specific entry requirements will be determined in the study guide, if applicable.
2. The grading of the Research Master thesis can only take place if the student has passed all core courses.

**Article 4.3 Practical exercises**
Research Internships are a mandatory part of the study programme. See the course description for more details.
Article 4.4 Electives
1. There are two types of electives in the programme. One set of electives are restricted electives. See 4.2. Courses listed in the courses list of Article 4.2 which are not part of the mandatory curriculum and are not on the list of restricted electives, may be included in the study programme as an elective.
2. Two electives outside the course list as mentioned above (in Article 4.2) need to be included as Advanced Methods courses. Students should consider the advanced methods courses offered by other research masters at the VU and UvA. Students who wish to take a methods course from another research master as an elective must meet the following requirements:
   a. the course must be provided at Research Master’s level and should be relevant to the study programme;
   b. the course is successfully completed elsewhere during the period that the student is enrolled in the Master’s programme Business in Society;
   c. the Programme Director for the study programme in question has provided the Examinations Board with a positive recommendation;
   d. there is no substantial overlap between the course concerned and any other courses in the Master’s study programme.

Article 4.5 Participation requirements
1. If a component involves mandatory attendance, students may miss at most one of the mandatory sessions. Students may be asked to submit a compensation assignment for this missed session. If a student misses more than one of the mandatory sessions, he/she cannot complete the component with a passing grade.
2. In specific cases the Examinations Board can allow students to miss more sessions than indicated in paragraph 1 of this Article. In all such cases, students have to submit extra assignments to compensate for their absence in addition to the assignments that are already part of the component.

Article 4.6 Validity period of examinations
See section A, paragraph 4.8.

Article 4.7 Exemption
A maximum of 24 credits may be accumulated through granted exemptions.

Article 4.8 Degree
Students who have successfully completed their Master's examination are awarded a Master of Science degree (MSc in Business in Society). The degree awarded is stated on the diploma. It will also be stated on the diploma that it concerns a joint degree.

5. Transition and final provisions

Article 5.1 Amendments and periodic review
1. Any amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations will be adopted by the Faculty Board / Dean after taking advice from the relevant programme committee. A copy of the advice will be sent to the authorised representative advisory bodies.
2. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations requires the approval of the authorised representative advisory bodies if it concerns components not related to the subjects of Section 7.13, paragraph 2 sub a to g and v, as well as paragraph 4 of the WHW and the requirements for admission to the Master's programme.
3. An amendment to the Teaching and Examination Regulations can only pertain to an academic year that is already in progress if this does not demonstrably damage the interests of students.

Article 5.2 Transitional provisions
There are no transitional provisions applicable for 2016-2017.

Article 5.3 Publication
1. The Faculty Board / Dean shall ensure appropriate publication of these Regulations, as well as of any adjustments to them.
Article 5.4 Effective date
These Regulations enter into force with effect from 1 September 2016

Thus drawn up by the
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, FEWEB Faculty Board on June 21 2016
and approved by the Joint Meeting FEWEB on July 7 2016

and University of Amsterdam, FEB Dean on 8 July 2016.