

# **REGULATIONS OF THE HONOURS PROGRAMMES**

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University of Twente

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# Table of Contents

Chapter 1: General Provisions.....	3
Article 1.1: Applicability of the regulation.....	3
Article 1.2: Definitions .....	3
Article 1.3: Codes of Conduct.....	4
Chapter 2: Admission to the Honours programme.....	4
Article 2.1: Admission criteria.....	4
Article 2.2: Admission procedure .....	5
Article 2.3: Participation in the Honours programme .....	6
Chapter 3: Structure of the Honours programme .....	6
Article 3.1: Course structuring.....	6
Article 3.2 Language in which the Honours programme will be given .....	6
Article 3.3: Commencement of the programme.....	6
Article 3.4: Conclusion of the programme.....	7
Article 3.5: Quality .....	7
Article 3.6: Changes to the Honours programme.....	8
Chapter 4: Module Participation and Assessment .....	8
Article 4.1: Module assessment .....	8
Article 4.2: Registration for the modules and tests .....	8
Article 4.3: Term assessment and results.....	9
Article 4.4: Right of justification and inspection .....	9
Article 4.5: Retention period for tests .....	9
Chapter 5: Examination Board and Complaints Desk.....	9
Article 5.1: Examination Board .....	9
Article 5.2: Complaints Desk.....	9
Chapter 6: Education Committee .....	10
Article 6.1: Appointing the Education Committee.....	10
Article 6.2: Composition of the Honours Education Committee .....	10
Article 6.3: Duties of the Education Committee .....	10
Article 6.4: Order of the meeting .....	10
Chapter 7: Certificate and Diploma Supplement.....	10
Chapter 8: Lasting Impairment.....	10
Chapter 9: Final Provisions .....	10
Article 9.1: Change .....	10
Article 9.2: Publication .....	11
Article 9.3: Hardship clause.....	11
Article 9.4: Additional notes .....	11
Article 9.5: Effective date .....	11

# Chapter 1: General Provisions

## *Article 1.1: Applicability of the regulation*

- 1) These education regulations apply to the Honours programmes of the University of Twente offered to Bachelor and Master students.
- 2) The Honours programmes are extra-curricular and do not constitute a degree programme as described in section 7.3a of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act. The Bachelor or Master Honours programme may not be used to fully or partially substitute educational credits from the degree programme.
- 3) Students who participate in the excellence tracks can derive rights from the regulations as stipulated below.

## *Article 1.2: Definitions*

For the purposes of these regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

Honours Certificate	The certificate that is awarded to a student after they finish an Honours programme detailing their completion of the Honours programme. Only valid together with the appropriate Bachelor's/Master's degree programme diploma and diploma supplement.
Degree programme	The Bachelor's or Master's programme as described in section 7.3a of the WHW.
ECTS	European Credit Transfer System.
Education Coordinator	The Education Coordinator of the UT Honours programme appointed by the Honours Programme Director and tasked with providing support in the development, organisation and execution of the programme. The Education Coordinator is in charge of educational innovation and leading designated projects.
Examination Board	The Examination Board of the Honours programme. The Examination Board is the agency that objectively and expertly determines whether a student meets the requirements set by these regulations with regard to the knowledge, insight and skills necessary to obtain an Honours Certificate, see Chapter 5.
Examiner	The person who has been authorised by the Examination Board for the purpose of conducting examinations in accordance with section 7.12c of the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, WHW).
Rector Magnificus	The Rector Magnificus of the UT. The Rector may delegate his/her tasks and responsibilities described in these Regulations to one of the Faculty Deans.
Faculty Deans	Deans from all UT faculties.
Honours Education Committee	Advisory agency of the Honours programme, see Chapter 6.
Honours Educational Quality Committee	Committee consisting of Honours students and teachers responsible for the evaluation of the modules within the Honours programmes, see article 3.5.
Honours Office	The Honours Office of the Honours programmes of the University of Twente is responsible, together with the Honours Programme Director, for the organisation of the Honours programmes.
Honours programme	An extra-curricular education programme, consisting of mandatory and/or elective modules, for selected Bachelor or Master students. The programme will result in an Honours Certificate when determined by the Examination Board.
UT	University of Twente.
Module	A study unit of 5, 10 or 15 ECTS of the Honours programme focused on the realisation of well-defined objectives in the field of knowledge, insight and skills the person following the module should have upon completion (not to be

	confused with a TOM module). Each module will be concluded with either a 'pass' or a 'fail'.
Module assessment	An exploration of the knowledge, the insight and the skills of the student, as well as the assessment of the results of that exploration (section 7.10 WHW) by at least one examiner appointed by the Examination Board for that purpose.
Honours Programme Director	The Programme Director of the Honours programmes of the University of Twente tasked with the development, organisation and execution of the programme.
Honours student (also referred to in this document as 'student')	The person who has been enrolled in a degree programme of the University of Twente in accordance with article 7.34 and 7.37 of the WHW and has been admitted to the Honours programme.
Track	A completed set of corresponding modules with their own attainment targets.
VU/UVA	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam / University of Amsterdam
WHW	The Dutch Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (Wet op Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek), shortened to WHW in Dutch, Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 1992, 593 and as amended since. Any terms not defined here have the meaning assigned to them by the Act.
Working day	One of the days from Monday through Friday with the exception of the recognised public holidays and the arranged bridging days that the staff has off.

### *Article 1.3: Codes of Conduct*

- 1) In order to guarantee proper use of the facilities and a proper, safe and encouraging work and study environment, various documents that provide these guarantees are in effect. Therefore, the Rules of Conduct in the University of Twente Student Charter also apply for all involved in the Honours programme.
- 2) As an addition to these Rules of Conduct mentioned in 1.3.1, the following provision for fraud/plagiarism applies to the Honours programme:
  - a. Students using AI (Artificial Intelligence) and/or tools that make use of it (such as ChatGPT and Grammarly) to write part or all of an assignment, without the explicit prior consent of the instructor, should be considered to have committed academic misconduct.
  - b. Suspicion that students have used AI should be reported to the Examination Board along with an explanation of the suspicion and any supporting documentation in the same way as any other suspicion of academic misconduct.

## Chapter 2: Admission to the Honours programme

### *Article 2.1: Admission criteria*

- 1) Admission to the Bachelor Honours programme is obtained if the student meets the following requirements:
  - a. Has a valid enrolment at the UT;
  - b. Is in their first or second year of a Bachelor's programme at the UT;
  - c. Is talented, motivated and enterprising;
  - d. Has good course results and a nominal study progress;
  - e. Likes to go off the beaten track, looks beyond the borders of disciplines and looks for ways to ensure that their ideas have an impact on society;
  - f. Has the potential to complete the Honours programme within the set period;
  - g. Has not completed or is not currently participating in another Bachelor Honours programme of the University of Twente.
  - h. Has a strong possession of the English language, both in written and oral form (a minimum CEFR-level of C1, characterised by the ability to express oneself and hold scientific/topic

- specific discussions in English, both in written and oral form); this ability may be evaluated during the selection interview.
- 2) The Honours programme can be continued in the Bachelor's programme after the first two modules under the following conditions:
    - a. The student is studying in a degree programme within the official time period without any delay, or the student has valid reasons for a delay as assessed by the track coordinator and Honours Programme Director;
    - b. The student successfully completed the first two modules of the Honours programme;
    - c. The student passed all modules, or a student failed modules with a valid reason as assessed by the Honours Examination Board, in which case Article 4.1. applies.
  - 3) In case a student fails to comply with any of the conditions listed in Article 2.1.2 at any given time during the programme, they are to be unenrolled by the Honours Office.
  - 4) Admission to the Honours programme in the Master's programme can be obtained if the student meets the following criteria:
    - a. Is legitimately registered at the UT;
    - b. Is in the first or second year - or third year for three-year Master's programmes - of their registration for a Master's programme at the UT;
    - c. Is talented, motivated and enterprising;
    - d. Has good course results and is studying within the official time period without any delays;
    - e. Likes to think outside the box, looks beyond disciplines and searches for ways to enable their ideas to have an impact on society;
    - f. Has the potential to complete the Honours programme within the specified period;
    - g. Has not completed or is not currently participating in another Master Honours programme of the University of Twente.
    - h. Has a strong possession of the English language, both in written and oral form (a minimum CEFR-level of C1, characterised by the ability to express oneself and hold scientific/topic specific discussions in English, both in written and oral form); this ability may be evaluated during the selection interview.

## *Article 2.2: Admission procedure*

- 1) Students can apply on their own initiative.
- 2) Every student who would like to participate in the Honours programme has to go through the same selection procedure, regardless of their study or background. This includes amongst others ATLAS and exchange students, see Article 2.2 paragraph 5.
- 3) The following applies for the Bachelor Honours programme:
  - a. The student has applied for participation in the Honours programme by means of a letter of motivation received by the Honours Programme Director prior to the deadline specified on the website and in the letter.
  - b. The Honours Programme Director can issue invitations for an interview.
  - c. The Honours Programme Director has consented to the student's admission request.
  - d. The admission applies for the first 10 ECTS; continuation is regulated in Article 2.1, paragraph 2.
- 4) The following applies for the Master Honours programme:
 

The track coordinators advise the Honours Programme Director on the admission of students for their track:

  - a. For the track Research Honours, applicants have to submit their curriculum vitae, a grade list, a motivation letter and a letter of recommendation from a researcher who will become the student's supervisor. Once applied for the programme, applicants will receive an invitation for an interview. On the basis of the submitted material and the interview, the coordinator of the Research Honours track will decide if the applicant is eligible for the programme.
  - b. For the track Change Leaders Honours, applicants have to submit a letter of motivation along with a curriculum vitae and relevant transcripts. On the basis of the submitted documents, a committee will decide whether or not to invite the applicant for an interview. The applicants' eligibility to join the programme will be decided upon by the coordinator on the basis of the submitted documents and the interview.

- c. For the track 4TU.Responsible Sustainable Challenge, applicants have to submit a letter of motivation along with a curriculum vitae. and relevant transcripts. Once applied for the programme, applicants may receive an invitation for an interview. Based on the submitted material and (if relevant) the interview, the UT coordinator of the track will decide if the student is eligible for this track.
  - d. For the track Great Negotiators, applicants have to submit a motivation letter, a curriculum vitae and a list of grades. Highly motivated students will then be invited to an interview. On the basis of the submitted material and the interview the coordinator of the Great Negotiators track will decide if the student is eligible for the programme.
- 5) The following applies to ATLAS and exchange students:
- a. For following the full Bachelor/Master Honours programme or for choosing modules from the Bachelor Honours programme, the admission procedure of Article 2.2 paragraph 3 and 2.2 paragraph 4 applies;
  - b. Students falling under this category cannot choose individual modules from the Master Honours programmes;
  - c. Students falling under this category can choose a maximum of two modules of the Bachelor Honours programme during the study time at the institution unless the student applies for an Honours track;
  - d. Students falling under this category applying for independent Honours programme modules should have the pre-requisite knowledge of the modules they are applying for as determined by the teacher of that module/track coordinator.
- 6) Student may object to the admission outcome decision of a Bachelor or Master Honours track by applying for an appeal at the Honours complaints desk (see Article 5.2). A granted appeal to the objection of the admission decision will lead to a reassessment of the student's application, which may or may not include a re- or secondary interview with the student's preferred track.

### *Article 2.3: Participation in the Honours programme*

- 1) The only students who are allowed to participate in the Bachelor Honours programme are those who have been admitted to the entire programme.
- 2) Admission to the Honours programme in the Master's programme applies to the entire programme.
- 3) For ATLAS and exchange students refer to Article 2.2 paragraph 5.

## Chapter 3: Structure of the Honours programme

### *Article 3.1: Course structuring*

- 1) Courses and learning goals of the Honours programmes can be found in the appendix: "Courses and Learning Objectives of the Honours programmes".
- 2) Each Honours module has a module coordinator and a module examiner. This can be the same person.
- 3) The Examination Board generically authorises examiners including a module examiner per module.

### *Article 3.2 Language in which the Honours programme will be given*

The official language of the Honours programmes is English, which means that the classes will be taught in English and students will use the English language during their assignments. Dutch can be used as the language of communication during a module if:

- 1) A teacher or tutor of the module has command of the Dutch language, and
- 2) Students participating in the module have command of the Dutch language.

### *Article 3.3: Commencement of the programme*

- 1) The Honours programme commences on the first day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> academic quartile of each calendar year for students who have been admitted, as described in Chapter 2.
- 2) The commencing date of the tracks of the Honours programme in the Master's programme differs and will be announced through OSIRIS.

### *Article 3.4: Conclusion of the programme*

- 1) The student receives an Honours certificate in case they have successfully completed the programme as determined by the Examination Board.
- 2) The student has successfully completed the Bachelor Honours programme when the following requirements have been met:
  - a. A total of 30 ECTS in module results has been obtained during the Honours programme;
  - b. The Honours programme in the Bachelor's programme is completed within the specified period of 18 months;
  - c. The student has to have completed all their followed modules with a 'pass' grade. If a module has been assessed with a 'fail' grade, it is not possible to obtain an Honours certificate. If that is the case, the modules that have been successfully completed will be listed on the diploma supplement.
- 3) The student has successfully completed the Master Honours programme when the following requirements have been met:
  - a. A total of 15 ECTS in module results has been obtained during the Honours programme;
  - b. The student has to have completed all their followed modules with a 'pass' grade. If a module has been assessed with a 'fail' grade, it is not possible to obtain an Honours certificate. If that is the case, the modules that have been successfully completed will be listed on the diploma supplement;
  - c. The student has not previously completed any or is not currently participating in another Master Honours programme;
  - d. For the Master Honours programmes, the student completes the programme within the same academic year of the start date of the track, or the student has a valid reason for a delay as assessed by the Honours Examination board.

### *Article 3.5: Quality*

- 1) The education of the Honours programme is managed and organised by the Honours Programme Director, module coordinators, Honours Office, Education Coordinator, Honours Education Committee and Honours Educational Quality Committee.
  - a. The Honours Programme Director is responsible for the development, execution and organisation of the Honours programmes and heads the Honours Office;
  - b. The tasks of a module coordinator are: (educational) development and execution of the track, in cooperation with the teachers of the track; participating in coordinators meetings and relevant Honours events such as Plenary Sessions, the Honours Certification Ceremony, recruitment and selection activities;
  - c. The Education Coordinator supports the Honours Programme Director and module coordinators in the development, execution and organisation of the Honours programmes.
  - d. The Honours Office is the executive management which solves problems, creates policies and organises activities to secure and monitor the continuity, quality and developments of the Honours programmes. Furthermore, the Honours Office provides support to and consults with all the organs involved in the Honours programmes.
- 2) To guarantee the quality of the Honours programmes, the Examination Committee determines once a year whether the Honours examiners nominated Honours Programme Director meet a number of basic criteria. An examiner:
  - a. Holds a PhD;
  - b. Has experience in (Honours) teaching and selection;
  - c. Possesses a basic teaching qualification or an equivalent; or has a waiver of this requirement for the Honours programmes;
  - d. Achieved the minimum required level of English (C1 - CEFR);
  - e. Possesses an appointment at the University of Twente;
  - f. Will be able to make a positive contribution to a multidisciplinary Honours community.
- 3) The quality of each module is monitored by means of an evaluation by the Honours Educational Quality Committee after the module is concluded. The results of the module evaluations are discussed by the Honours Education Committee.
- 4) The Examination Board is responsible for the quality of testing and the attained learning outcomes.

- 5) The Honours Programme Director has yearly discussions with the faculty Deans and Rector Magnificus regarding the Honours programme offering and quality, based on Honours education data, e.g. enrolments, dropouts and evaluations.

### *Article 3.6: Changes to the Honours programme*

The Honours programme can change, for example as a consequence of changes in the teaching staff, as well as the addition of new tracks. Changes in these Educational regulations are executed in accordance with Article 9.1.

## Chapter 4: Module Participation and Assessment

### *Article 4.1: Module assessment*

- 1) In order to successfully complete a module, the student has to meet all the requirements of the module. These requirements include, at the very least:
  - a. Mandatory presence and participation in the meetings unless excused by the teacher;
  - b. Assignments have been completed and handed in before the set deadline;
  - c. Presentations have to have been prepared and given;
  - d. The student has proportionally contributed to the group work;
  - e. The level of the supplied work is, at the very least, marked sufficient to good and demonstrates achievement of the learning goals;
  - f. Specific requirements that have to be announced to the student no later than two weeks prior to the start of the module.
- 2) In case of an insufficient result, the module coordinator can require an additional assignment during the module in accordance with Article 4.1 paragraph 1e.
- 3) The module assessment's goal is to determine a specific development stage of the student.
- 4) The student's effort and their provided result or results are assessed as a whole per module.
- 5) The student has the right to know the level expected of them, the manner in which they will be assessed and the time at which they will be assessed prior to the start of the module.
- 6) During the module, the module coordinator is allowed to change the time of assessment.
  - a. Changing the time of assessment is only possible with a recommendation by the Examination Board. The students are informed immediately of the relevant change.
  - b. If the change only constitutes moving the hand-in or presentation time to a different day than noted in the schedule, it is sufficient to notify the students and the Examination Board of the change in a timely fashion.
  - c. A change in the assessment time may not have an adverse effect on the students.
- 7) The final assessment of the module is expressed in either a 'pass' or 'fail' grade.
- 8) The student is granted a 'pass' grade for the module if all requirements as described in Article 4.1, paragraph 1 have been met.
- 9) A module is granted a 'fail' grade if:
  - a. One or more of the requirements as described in Article 4.1, paragraph 1 is not met;
  - b. The Examination Board has determined there is a question of fraud;
- 10) The module assessment is determined by the module examiner. In case of multiple examiners per module, the module examiners consult with each other before deciding on a grade.
- 11) ECTS will only be awarded for the module if the entire module has been awarded a 'pass' grade. No ECTS will be awarded for parts of units of study and/or individual tests passed.
- 12) In special cases of force majeure, which make it impossible for students to study, the Honours Programme Director can allow an additional performance.

### *Article 4.2: Registration for the modules and tests*

- 1) In order to participate in the modules, registration through Osiris prior to the start of the module is mandatory.
- 2) By registering for the module, the student automatically takes part in the assignments that will be assessed.



#### *Article 4.3: Term assessment and results*

- 1) The student will be notified of the module assessment result within fifteen working days after completion of the module.
- 2) If circumstances prevent an examiner from complying with the periods stipulated in Article 4.3 paragraph 1, they shall report this to the Examination Board, giving reasons. The students involved will be informed of the delay as soon as possible while stating the new deadline by which the result will be announced. If the Examination Board feels that the examiner is in default, they can order a different examiner to assess the assignment.

#### *Article 4.4: Right of justification and inspection*

- 1) The student is entitled to a justification of the results of an assessment from the examiner, whereby the examiner substantiates the assessment that was given. If no collective discussion of the results is held, the student may submit a request for an individual discussion of the results to the examiner within ten working days of publication of the assessment. The discussion must take place no later than five weeks after the publication of the assessment, in the presence of the examiner or an authorised replacement.
- 2) The student has the right to inspect their work for a period of two years after the assessment.

#### *Article 4.5: Retention period for tests*

The questions, elaborations and the assessed work of written tests will be retained for a period of four years.

## Chapter 5: Examination Board and Complaints Desk

#### *Article 5.1: Examination Board*

- 1) The Rector authorises the Honours Programme Director for the appointment and composition of the Examination Board of the Honours programme (WHW section 7.12a).
- 2) The Honours Programme Director:
  - a. Appoints the members of the Examination Board on the basis of their expertise in the field of the relevant degree programme or group of degree programmes (WHW section 7.12a, paragraph 1);
  - b. Consults the members of the relevant Examination Board before proceeding to appoint a member (WHW Article 7.12a, paragraph 4);
  - c. Ensures that the independent and expert operation of the Examination Board is sufficiently guaranteed (WHW Article 7.12a, paragraph 2).
- 3) When appointing members of the Examination Board, the Honours Programme Director ensures that:
  - a. At least one member is connected to the Honours programme as a teacher;
  - b. At least one member is independent of the Honours programme;
  - c. Persons who have a financial responsibility within the UT are not appointed.
- 4) The Examination Board is responsible for setting the regulations and guidelines for module assessments for the benefit of examiners and students (WHW, Article 7.12b). These are set down in a separate document entitled Rules and Regulations of the Examination Board.
- 5) The Examination Board draws up a report of its activities each year. The Examination Board submits the report to the Rector (WHW Article 7.12b, paragraph 5).
- 6) The members of the Examination Board cannot also be a member of the Honours Education Committee nor the Honours Educational Quality Committee.

#### *Article 5.2: Complaints Desk*

Every student or external student, including future and former students, can turn to the Complaints Desk with a formal complaint, a formal appeal or a formal objection. The objections and appeals period comprise six weeks after the decision has been made public.

## Chapter 6: Education Committee

### *Article 6.1: Appointing the Education Committee*

- 1) The Honours Programme Director appoints the Education Committee.
- 2) The members of the Education Committee are entitled to the use of a meeting room.
- 3) Lecturer members are appointed for a period of two years.
- 4) Student members are appointed for a period of one year.
- 5) External members are appointed for a period of one year.

### *Article 6.2: Composition of the Honours Education Committee*

- 1) The Education Committee consists of a mix of student and teacher members and one external member.
- 2) Student members have to be students or alumni of the Honours programmes.
- 3) The other members are part of the staff that is responsible for the courses of learning in the Honours programme and are appointed for two years by the Honours Programme Director.
- 4) The members of the Honours Education Committee cannot also be a member of the Honours Educational Quality Committee.

### *Article 6.3: Duties of the Education Committee*

- 1) Offer solicited and unsolicited advice on the Education Regulations of the Honours programmes;
- 2) Assess the manner of execution of the Education Regulations of the Honours programmes;
- 3) Offer solicited or unsolicited advice to the Honours Programme Director about all affairs concerning the education of the Honours programmes.

### *Article 6.4: Order of the meeting*

The Education Committee chooses a chair and secretary from among its members. Replacements for the chair and the secretary are also appointed. The positions can be held by either a teacher or a student.

## Chapter 7: Certificate and Diploma Supplement

- 1) The Examination Board awards a certificate when it becomes clear that the student has met all requirements as described in Article 3.7 of these regulations.
- 2) Upon request, the Examination Board of the Honours programme can grant the examination candidate an extension for meeting the requirements described in Article 3.4. The Examination Board can seek the advice of the Honours Programme Director on this.
- 3) Students who successfully complete the Bachelor or the Master Honours programme are awarded one Honours Certificate and one Honours Pin. The Honours Certificate states the programme has been organised by the University of Twente.
- 4) The successfully completed modules will be listed on the diploma supplement. In case a student receives more than one Bachelor or Master diploma the successfully completed modules will only be listed on one diploma supplement. It is the student's choice on which diploma supplement the successfully completed modules will be listed.

## Chapter 8: Lasting Impairment

Students with a disability or a chronic illness are offered the opportunity to adapt their studies around the limitations caused by this impairment, as much as is reasonably possible. These adjustments are geared towards the individual impairment of the student as much as possible but should not influence the quality or difficulty level of a course or the exam programme. The Honours Examination Committee shall obtain expert advice before making a decision.

## Chapter 9: Final Provisions

### *Article 9.1: Change*

Changes to these regulations as regards content, study workload and other subjects as described in section 7.13 WHW are implemented after receiving recommendations from the Education Committee and after obtaining the Honours Programme Director's approval.

#### *Article 9.2: Publication*

The Honours Programme Director is responsible for the publication of these regulations alongside supplements of the regulations and guidelines as determined by the Examination Board of the Honours programme, as well as for all changes made to these documents through the university website (concerning the Honours programme).

#### *Article 9.3: Hardship clause*

In special cases, the Examination Board may, at the request of the student, grant dispensation from one or more of the requirements described in these regulations.

#### *Article 9.4: Additional notes*

In the context of the collaboration Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) and UT, Bachelor students of Mechanical Engineering and Creative Technology who successfully complete the 30 EC VU Bachelor Honours programme (as determined by the VU/UvA), are awarded a UT – Bachelor Honours programme Honours Certificate and Honours Pin at the request of that student.

#### *Article 9.5: Effective date*

These regulations are applicable to all cohorts of Honours students starting the Honours programme after 01/02/2024.