Programme-specific part to the Education and Examination Regulations (EER) 2026-2027

For the Master of Science programme

Philosophy of Science, Technology and Society (PSTS)

22 June 2026

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1. General provisions

1.1. Admission to the programme

Students can be admitted to the master PSTS if they satisfy the following requirements:

Admission requirements	**As evidenced by**
Bachelor's degree or equivalent in: (Applied) Natural Science, Engineering Science, Social Science, Philosophy, or any other discipline, with an emphasis on (social) science or technology and a focus on the application of technology in a particular professional area or on technical interventions in social systems.	Bachelor or equivalent diploma
Sufficient affinity with (reflection on) science and technology.	Motivational letter
Sufficient mastery of the English language. (Dutch applicants as well as applicants from some other countries are exempted from this requirement.)	An IELTS minimum score of 6.5 and a minimum score on each section of at least 6.0 on the IELTS or an internet based TOEFL (iBT) overalls core of 90, and a minimum score of each section of at last 21.
Sufficient entry-level academic skills, including skills in reading, writing, textual analysis and critical reflection.	Written entry assignment, showing: Academic writing skills Understanding of the specific technology of your own choice Understanding of the theoretical framework in the text you selected Ability to formulate a clear line of thought Ability to come to a conclusion

An Admission Committee assesses whether a student applying for admission to the programme satisfies these criteria. This committee consists of two staff members who are examiners in the programme, assisted by employees from the Faculty's Educational Service Centre.

1.2. Language of the programme

Due to the international character of the MSc programme Philosophy of Science, Technology and Society, the language of communication in the programme is English. This means that:

- All study materials are in English
- All classes are taught in English
- All written exams and tests are in English, and all papers have to be submitted in English
- All presentations have to be prepared in English

1.3. Connecting MSc programme(s)

Not applicable.

1.4. Rights, duties and composition of the programme committee

In line with article 9.18 WHW, each programme has a programme committee, which has the duty to advise programme management on improving and safeguarding the quality of the programme. It has a right of consent regarding a number of topics in the Education and Examination Regulations (EER), e.g., the goals and intended learning outcomes of the programme in terms of knowledge, insight and skills that a student should have acquired at the end of the programme; where necessary the layout of practical exercises; and the study load of the programme and its courses. In addition, the programme committee evaluates on a yearly basis the manner in which the EER has been carried out and has the right to advise programme management and the dean – invited or uninvited – on all matters relating to teaching in the programme.

The composition of the current programme committee can be found here: https://www.utwente.nl/en/psts/programme-committee/.

2. Contents and structure of the programme

2.1. Composition of the PSTS programme and its tracks

This section lists the composition (structure and content) of the regular PSTS programme, as well as the composition of the Ethics and Technology Track, the AI in Science and Society Track, the Science, Technology and Sustainability Track, and the Joint Educational Programmes with Business Administration (BA) and Public Administration (PA).

The table below shows the courses that make up the regular PSTS programme in EC (1 EC = 28 hours of study load) per course. The generic structure of the (full-time) programme is as follows:

YEAR 1			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
Q1	**Q2**	Q3	Q4
Philosophy of Technology (201200063) 5 EC	Philosophy of Science in Practice (201400573) 5 EC	TechnoLab (202000252) 5 EC	Research Methods (202400551) 5 EC
Science and Technology Studies (201200064) 5 EC	History of Science and Technology (201400574) 5 EC	Philosophical Anthropology and Technology (191612550) 5 EC	Society, Politics and Technology (191612560) 5 EC
Philosophical Methods and Skills (202500447) 5 EC	Ethics and Technology I (202300302) 5 EC	Technology and Social Order (191622510) 5 EC	Ethics and Technology II (202500415) 5 EC
8 attended colloquia (202200273) 0 EC			

YEAR 2			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
Q1	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**
Advice: choose 3 out of 4 electives:	*Advice: choose 2 out of 4 electives:*	Master's Thesis 30 EC (201300088) OR	
Minds, Bodies and Technologies (201800150) 5 EC	Anticipation and the Ethics and Politics of Futures (202500290) 5 EC		
Transformation of Knowledge in a Digital Age (201800146) 5 EC (paused in 2026-2027)	Technologies and Sustainable Use (202500262) 5 EC		

<table>
<tr><td>Sustainability and Decolonisation (202500263) 5EC</td><td>Rethinking Science-Technology Relations (201800151) 5 EC</td><td rowspan="3">Internship 10 EC (201300090)
Master's Thesis 20 EC (201300089)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Good Technology for Users and Society (201800148) 5 EC</td><td>Ethics and Epistemology of AI and Robotics (202200010) 5 EC</td></tr>
<tr><td>Computation and the Environment (202600196) 5 EC</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">MasterLab
(202000254) 5 EC</td></tr>
<tr><td>If not completed yet: 8 attended colloquia (202200273) 0 EC</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
</table>

Table 1: Curriculum PSTS 2026-2027

Year #1
All students take the twelve (12) obligatory courses (in total 60 EC) of the first year's programme.

First semester of year #2
Students take five out of the eight elective PSTS-courses (in total 25 EC). In parallel, students take the obligatory MasterLab (5 EC) course which spans both the 1st and 2nd semester. MasterLab cannot be replaced.
The elective options in the regular PSTS programme imply that all students can freely select (at least) five courses from the PSTS elective courses offered in the 1st semester of the 2nd year. Students may replace up to two courses by choosing suitable 5 EC courses from other MSc programmes. The courses need to be approved by the programme director if they are offered at UT.
If a student would like to replace up to two electives with (a) course(s) that is/are offered by another Dutch university, the student needs to discuss this with the programme management.
If a student would like to replace up to two electives with (a) course(s) that is/are offered by an international university, the student needs to make a request at the Examination Board.

For each elective course, a minimum enrolment number is established based on the specific circumstances of that course. If this number is not reached, programme management will consult with the course coordinator to decide whether the course can still be offered.

The Examination Board has already approved alternative courses from other UT programmes: 201100777 Policy Analysis in Public and Technological Domains (Paused in 2026-2027), and 201600012 Management and Governance of Innovation and Creativity.

Second semester of year #2

Students work on their master's thesis of 30 EC or take an internship (10 EC) and write a shorter thesis (20 EC).

Joint educational programmes (PSTS Link-trajectories)

In addition to the regular PSTS programme, students can also opt for a Joint Educational Programme with one of our partner programmes. Our partner programmes are:

- UT master's degree programme Business Administration (PSTS-Link-BA)
- UT master's degree programme Public Administration (PSTS-Link PA)

A JEP consists of two programmes which the students follow independently and will lead to two distinction diplomas. The programmes, however, do coordinate their course offering and offer the opportunity to write a combined thesis.

2.2. Study load

The study load in the full-time, regular PSTS programme is 120 EC. Both study years are 60 EC each.

The study load of the PSTS programme when taking the Ethics and Technology track, or the AI in Science and Society track, or the Science, Technology and Sustainability track, also entails 120 EC (two years of 60 EC each).

The study load of the Joint Educational Programmes (the PSTS Link-trajectories) is as follows:

- PSTS Link with the UT master's degree programme Business Administration (PSTS-Link-BA): 120 EC (two years of 60 EC each);
- PSTS Link with the UT master's degree programme Public Administration (PSTS-Link PA): 120 EC (two years of 60 EC each).

2.3. Programme-specific characteristics

The programme for the part-time variant is identical to the full-time programme (120 EC in total). Part-time students will take a longer period, usually four years, to complete the programme.

2.4. Honours programme

For excellent students, the University of Twente offers several different extra-curricular master's honours programmes of 15 EC each.

More information on these programmes and the corresponding selection procedures can be found at the UT honours programmes website https://www.utwente.nl/en/honours/master/

2.5. Elective options

In quartile one and quartile two of the second year of the curriculum students follow their elective courses. This is described in 2.1.

2.6. Joint Educational Programmes and/or international cooperation and agreement(s)

2.6.1. Specialized Tracks within the PSTS-curriculum

As an alternative to the regular PSTS programme, students may apply for the Ethics and Technology track, for the AI in Science and Technology track, or for the Science, Technology and Sustainability track.

2.6.1.1. Ethics and Technology Track

After having taken the year #1 curriculum of the regular PSTS programme, students can opt for a special Ethics and Technology track that is offered in collaboration with the 4TU.Centre for Ethics and Technology (4TU.Ethics). This is a one-year track consisting of 25 EC of advanced courses in ethics and technology and a 30 EC MSc thesis in ethics of technology. Students taking the Ethics and Technology track graduate as regular PSTS students, but with the distinction of having taken the 4TU.Ethics-approved Ethics and Technology track.

Students in the Ethics and Technology track take the following 2nd year courses from the PSTS programme:

- Good Technology for Users and Society (Quartile 1)
- Minds, Bodies and Technologies (Quartile 1)
- Anticipation and the Ethics and Politics of Futures (Quartile 2) *or* Ethics and Epistemology of AI and Robotics (Quartile 2)
- MasterLab (Quartiles 1-4)

If these courses provide a specific Ethics and Technology track assignment, students in this track need to take that specific assignment.

In addition, students in the Ethics and Technology track take two of the three following listed courses offered by the 4TU.Ethics graduate programme for which students need to register themselves through the OZSW website:

- LC1 Philosophy of Risk (TU/e) - A full-time 5-day week;
- LC2 Philosophy of Responsible Innovation (WUR/TUD) - A full-time 5-day week;

- LC8 Design for Human Autonomy (TUD) - A full-time 5-day week.

The UT member of the 4TU.Ethics Management Team acts as the track coordinator.

Students can request to substitute one 4TU.Ethics course with another course offered by the 4TU.Ethics Graduate Programme, provided the requested course is relevant to their thesis research.

Upon approval by the track coordinator of the 4TU.Ethics graduate school and the PSTS programme management, students may substitute one of the above-mentioned courses by a course offered by the Dutch Research School of Philosophy (https://www.ozsw.nl/for-participants/).

Admission to and exit from the Ethics and Technology track

Students register to the Ethics and Technology track at the end of the first year of the PSTS programme. Decisions about admission and exit are taken by the track coordinator. The Ethics and Technology track has the following admission requirements:

- At the start of the track, at least 55 EC of PSTS 1 completed, including the courses Ethics and Technology 1 and 2, and Society, Politics and Technology.
- Grades meet the following criteria: Either a minimum average grade of 8.0 for Ethics and Technology 1, Ethics and Technology 2, and Society, Politics and Technology, or a minimum average grade of 7.5 for these courses combined with a minimum average grade of 7.5 for all PSTS 1 courses.
- Deadline for applications is 15 June, and applicants will be notified by 31 July whether they are admitted to the track.
- A maximum of five students can be admitted in the track.

Once admitted to the Ethics and Technology track, students must be aware that their academic achievement must meet specific standards. In case students do not meet these standards, they will have to leave the track (and proceed in the regular PSTS programme).

These standards are:

- Having completed the course Good Technologies for Users and Society (201800148) before the start of quartile 1B.
- Having completed the courses Anticipation and the Ethics and Politics of Futures, or Ethics and Epistemology of AI and Robotics and Minds, Bodies and Technologies before the start of quartile 2A.
- When these three above mentioned courses have been completed, their average score should be at least a 7.5.

Information on this track can also be found on the website: Curriculum & Manuals | 2nd year Ethics and Technology track and PhD Programme connected to PSTS | Programme information for current students & employees PSTS (utwente.nl)

2.6.1.2 AI in Science and Society Track

After having taken the year #1 curriculum of the regular PSTS programme, students can specialize in AI-related research by participating in the AI in Science and Society track. This is a one-year track consisting of 25 EC of advanced courses in the specific domain and a MSc thesis supervised by a staff member with a relevant research expertise. Students taking the AI in Science and Society track graduate as regular PSTS students, but with the distinction of having taken the AI in Science and Society track.

Students in the AI in Science and Society track take the following 2nd year courses from the PSTS programme:

- Transformation of Knowledge in a Digital Age (Quartile 1, paused in 2026-27)
- Good Technology for Users and Society (Quartile 1)
- Computation and the Environment (Quartile 1)
- Rethinking Science-Technology Relations (Quartile 2)
- Ethics and Epistemology of AI and Robotics (Quartile 2)
- Any other PSTS 2 or an external elective in the place of Transformation of Knowledge in a Digital Age in 2026-27
- MasterLab (Quartiles 1-4)

Students may replace up to two courses by choosing suitable 5 EC courses from other MSc programmes. The courses need to be approved by the programme director and the AI in Science and Society-track coordinator. MasterLab cannot be replaced.

If a course provides a specific AI in Science and Society track assignment, students in this track need to take that specific assignment.

Admission to the AI in Science and Society track

Students can apply for admission to the AI in Science and Society track at the end of the first year of the PSTS programme.

The track has no special admission requirements.

However, students who want to participate in the track must register by emailing the track coordinator (with cc to the PSTS study adviser), before 15 June. The registration allows PSTS management to plan ahead, for instance, to anticipate the number of thesis supervisors needed.

2.6.1.3. Science, Technology and Sustainability Track

After having taken the year #1 curriculum of the regular PSTS programme, students can specialize in sustainability-related research by participating in the Science, Technology and Sustainability track. This is a one-year track consisting of 25 EC of advanced courses in the specific domain and

a MSc thesis supervised by a staff member with relevant research expertise. Students taking the track graduate as regular PSTS students, but with the distinction of having taken the track.

Students in the Science, Technology and Sustainability track take the following 2nd year courses from the PSTS programme:

- Sustainability and Decolonisation (Quartile 1)
- Computation and the Environment (Quartile 1)
- Anticipation and the Ethics and Politics of Futures (Quartile 2)
- Technologies and Sustainable Use (Quartile 2)
  Plus
- One more elective from the PSTS programme
- MasterLab (Quartiles 1-4)

Students may replace up to two courses by choosing suitable 5 EC courses from other MSc programmes. The courses need to be approved by the programme director and the Sustainability track coordinator. MasterLab cannot be replaced.

If a course provides a specific Sustainability track assignment, students in this track need to take that specific assignment.

Admission to the Science, Technology and Sustainability track

Students can register to the track at the end of the first year of the PSTS programme.

The track has no special admission requirements.

However, students who want to participate in the track must register by emailing the track coordinator (with cc to the PSTS study adviser), before 15 June. The registration allows PSTS management to plan ahead, for instance, to anticipate the number of thesis supervisors needed.

2.6.2. Joint Educational Programmes Link Trajectories

In addition, students may opt for one of the joint educational degree programmes as stipulated in paragraph 1c above. These PSTS-Link trajectories lead to a double MSc degree.

In 2025-2026 the PSTS programme offers two **Link trajectories**:

- PSTS Link with the UT master's degree programme Business Administration
  (PSTS-Link BA, 120 EC)
- PSTS Link with the UT master's degree programme Public Administration
  (PSTS-Link PA, 120 EC)
- Students who have started the standard PSTS curriculum can switch to one of the PSTS Link trajectories until the end of the Q2 of the first year, because the first course from the partner programme will be taken in Q3, provided they are admitted to the partner programme.

Curriculum joint educational programme PSTS-Business Administration (BA) 2026-2027

YEAR 1			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
Q1	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**
Philosophical Methods and Skills (202500447 5 EC)	Ethics & Technology I (202300302, 5 EC)	TechnoLab (202000252, 5 EC)	Research Methods (202400551, 5 EC)
Science & Technology Studies (201200064, 5 EC)	History of Science & Technology (201400574, 5 EC)	Technology & Social Order (191622510, 5 EC)	Society, Politics & Technology (191612560, 5 EC)
Philosophy of Technology (201200063, 5 EC)	Philosophy of Science in Practice (201400573, 5 EC)	Strategic Technology Management & Innovation (201600015, BA profile, 5 EC)	Ethics & Technology 2 (202500415, 5 EC)
8 attended colloquia (202200273, 0 EC)			

YEAR 2			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
Q1	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**
Entrepreneurial Leadership & Responsible Organizational Design (201600002, 5 EC)	Anticipation and the Ethics and Politics of Futures (202500290, 5 EC)	Masterclass BA (201400018, BA core for double degrees, 5 EC)	Combined Final Thesis Project (201900178, 25 EC)
International entrepreneurship – a Strategic Technology Perspective (201600011, 5 EC)	Business Valuation and Corporate Governance (201800089, 5 EC)		
Management and Governance of Innovation and Creativity (201600012, 5 EC)			
MasterLab (202000254, 5 EC)			
If not completed: 8 attended colloquia (202200273, 0 EC)			

Curriculum joint educational programme PSTS-Public Administration 2026-2027

YEAR 1	
Semester 1	**Semester 2**

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Philosophical Methods and Skills (202500447, 5 EC)	Ethics & Technology 1 (202300302, 5 EC)	TechnoLab (202000252, 5 EC)	Research Methods (202400551, 5 EC)
Science & Technology Studies (201200064, 5 EC)	History of Science & Technology (201400574, 5 EC)	Public Governance and Legitimacy (194101070**,** 5 EC)	Society, Politics & Technology (1916125605, 5 EC)
Philosophy of Technology (201200063, 5 EC)	Philosophy of Science in Practice (201400573, 5 EC)	Technology & Social Order (191622510, 5 EC)	Ethics & Technology 2 (202500415 EC)
8 attended colloquia (202200273, 0 EC)			

<table>
<tr><th colspan="4">YEAR 2</th></tr>
<tr><th colspan="2">Semester 1</th><th colspan="2">Semester 2</th></tr>
<tr><th>Q1</th><th>Q2</th><th>Q3</th><th>Q4</th></tr>
<tr><td>Policy-making for complex systems (20220090, 5EC)</td><td>Anticipation and the Ethics and Politics of Futures (202500290, 5 EC)</td><td>Smart Rules and Regimes (201200039, 5 EC)</td><td rowspan="4"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Sustainability and Decolonisation (202500263, 5EC)
OR
Policy Analysis in Public & Technological Domains (201100077, 5 EC) (Paused in 2026-2027)</td><td rowspan="2">PA Academic Research (201500145, 5 EC)
OR
PSTS MasterLab (202000254, 5 EC)*</td><td rowspan="2">Public Governance and Policy Networks (194111240, 5 EC)</td></tr>
<tr><td>PSTS MasterLab (202000254)*</td></tr>
<tr><td>Crisis management in technological domains (202100089, 5 EC</td><td colspan="2">Combined Final Thesis Project (201900179, 25 EC) >></td></tr>
<tr><td>If not completed: 8 attended colloquia (202200273, 0 EC)</td><td colspan="3"></td></tr>
</table>

Note: Students who take the PSTS-PA programme are encouraged to take PSTS MasterLab as well during their thesis project in semester 2, but arrangements may depend on what is feasible and most useful for the student.

2.7. Pre-MSc programme

Not applicable.

3. Programme objectives and intended learning outcomes

3.1. Programme objectives

PSTS is an English language master programme in the philosophy of a scientific domain, focusing on philosophy of technology. PSTS educates students to analyse, reflect on and assess the mutual interaction between science and technology, on the one hand, and human beings, values and societies, on the other. The orientation of the programme is partly *analytical and interpretative* (understanding the way in which scientific and technological artefacts and practices shape, and are themselves shaped by, society and culture) and partly *normative* (providing evaluations and assessments of scientific developments, technologies and their correlated social and cultural impacts). The programme is developed from a broad conception of philosophy of technology, in which both traditional philosophical, as well as interdisciplinary and empirical approaches and methods, such as Science and Technology Studies (STS), are crucial to foster proper reflection.

3.2. Intended learning outcomes

The programme's Final Qualifications are the following:

Knowledge

K1.	Extensive knowledge of the philosophy of technology, including its philosophical and STS approaches, and the ability to relate these approaches to each other.
K2.	Good knowledge of the various philosophical subfields, including ethics of technology, social and political philosophy of technology, philosophical anthropology of technology, epistemology and metaphysics of technology, and philosophy and history of (engineering) science and technology.
K3.	Good knowledge of approaches and themes in STS.
K4.	Good knowledge of empirical research methods in STS and philosophical research methods.
K5.	A basic understanding of the relation between the philosophy of technology, including its various subfields, methods and history, to general philosophy, including its various subfields, methods and history.
K6.	Specialist knowledge of a sub-domain or specialized topic within the philosophy of technology (broadly defined).

Skills

S1.	Writing and verbal communication skills.
S2.	Skills in reasoning and arguing and in the analysis of arguments.
S3.	Skills in locating, reading and analysing scientific texts from various disciplines in philosophy and STS, as well as professional and popular texts, that reflect on technology, engineering sciences, technological developments, and the relationship between technology and society.
S4.	Skills in the identification and analysis of problems related to the role of technology and science in society, and the ability to formulate a position with regard to these problems from a philosophical and/or STS perspective.
S5.	The ability to perform original scientific research in the field of philosophy of technology, using philosophical and/or STS methods. This includes the ability to arrive at a well-considered problem formulation, the selection and development of appropriate theories and (empirical) methodologies, and the proper execution of a research plan.
S6.	Skills in the comparison of differing scientific approaches or paradigms in a sub-domain or specialized topic, the application of these approaches, and the ability to critically analyse them.
S7.	The ability to generate philosophical and/or STS research results that are relevant for scientific, technological, and/or social practices.
S8.	The capacity to collaborate with and communicate research results and solutions to scientists in- and outside one's own academic field, as well as professionals from societal domains and the ability to generate learning processes from that interaction and collaboration.
S9.	Reflective capacity pertaining to one's own work, selecting or altering course, and the ability to translate learning trajectories into the development of more general knowledge and methods.
S10.	Capable to endeavour a career inside or outside of academia wherein philosophical and STS knowledge and skills are required.

These final qualifications are well aligned with the Dublin descriptors (an international benchmark for what completion of master level should entail).

4. Assessment/examination

4.1. Final examination

Apart from the course-specific exams, the PSTS programme has one examination, i.e., the master's examination after two years. The master's examination is deemed to have been successfully completed if the courses, and the Final Project (MSc thesis), have been successfully completed.

4.2. Assessment format interim examinations/tests

The assessment formats of each of the courses in the PSTS programme is shown in the table below. Written tests are individual, unless specified otherwise. The weight attributed to each of the exam components is stipulated in the course's electronic learning environment (Canvas) and made public before the start of the course.

Note:
In addition to Article 3.3 of the BMS EER, in the PSTS MSc programme the following applies:

If a course has been completed successfully (final grade 6 or more) then this grade is final. If a student (due to exceptional circumstances) would like to improve the grade, the student has to submit a motivated request to the Examination Board.

Course list PSTS 2026-2027, year #1

Semester 1		
Code	**Name (+ study load)**	**Mode of assessment**
201200063	Philosophy of Technology	Individual exam (50%), individual assignment (50%)
201200064	Science and Technology Studies	Individual assignment (70%), group assignment (30%)
202500447	Philosophical Methods & Skills	Individual assignment (70%), group assignment (30%)
201400573	Philosophy of Science in Practice	Individual assignment (70%), group assignment (15%)+ group presentation (15%)
201400574	History of Science and Technology	2 individual assignments (65% + 35%),
202300302	Ethics and Technology I	Individual assignment (50%), individual exam (%)
Semester 2		
Code	**Name (+ study load)**	**Mode of assessment**
202000252	TechnoLab	group assignment (100%)

191612550	Philosophical Anthropology and Technology		Individual assignment (50%), individual exam (50%)
91612560	Society, Politics and Technology		Individual presentation (20%), 2 written exams (30% + 50%)
202400551	Research Methods		2 individual assignments (70% _+ 30%)
191622510	Technology and Social Order		2 individual assignments (40% + 60%),
2023000264	Ethics and Technology II		Group assignment (60%), individual exam (40%)

Course list PSTS 2026-2027, year #2

Semester 1			
Code	**Name (study load)**		**Mode of assessment**
202500262	Technologies and Sustainable Use		Individual assignment (30%), group assignments (10% + 10&+%), individual or group research project (50%)
201800146 (paused in 26-27)	Transformations of Knowledge in a Digital Age		individual assignment (70%), group assignment (30%)
202500263	Sustainability and Decolonisation		Individual assignment (60%), 2 group assignments (40%)
201800148	Good technology for Users and Society		individual assignment
202500290	Anticipation and the Ethics and Politics of Futures		group assignment (50%), individual assignment (50%)
201800150	Minds, Bodies and Technologies		individual assignments (70% + 30%)
201800151	Rethinking Science-Technology Relations		individual assignments (60% + 40%)
202200010	Ethics and Epistemology of AI and Robotics		group assignment (20%), individual assignment (80%)
202600196	Computation and the Environment		Presentation (pass/fail) and individual assignment (100% of the grade)
Semester 1+2			
202000254	MasterLab		4 individual assignments, 2 group assignments, 2 individual presentations (all 12,5%)
Semester 2			
Code	**Name (+ study load)**		**Mode of assessment**
201300090	Brief Internship (10 EC)		Internship report

201300089	Master's Thesis (20 EC)	Thesis (80%), presentation and oral exam (20%)
201300088	Master's Thesis (30 EC)	Thesis (80%), presentation and oral exam (20%)
201900178	Master's Thesis Joint Educational Programme PSTS-BA (25 EC)	Thesis (80%), presentation and oral exam (20%)
201900179	Master's Thesis Joint Educational Programme PSTS-PA (25 EC)	Thesis (80%), presentation and oral exam (20%)

4.3. Period of validity of test results

Results of examinations and tests remain valid indefinitely (EER 3.9.1). Exceptions to this rule apply to tests within a course inextricably linked (one cannot stand alone without the other). Exceptions to the validity of the results, as referred to in EER 3.9.1, will be explicitly stated in the grading scheme which is published on the Canvas page of the respective course.

4.4. Maximum number of attempts for tests/

Each year, two separate opportunities are offered for taking an exams associated with a course.

- Courses and their exams can be offered more than once per academic year. If that is the case students may participate in the exams at a maximum of two occasions.
- There is in any case at least one opportunity to take an exam in the period in which the applicable course is taught.

In exceptional individual cases, the examination board may approve a deviation from the number of times and the manner in which exams can be taken.

4.5. Specific pass-fail regulations

Passing grades are final.

In addition to Article 3.3.7 of the BMS EER, in the PSTS MSc programme the following applies:

If a course has been completed successfully (final grade 6 or more) then this grade is final. If a student feels that there are exceptional circumstances that justify an exemption from this rule (and thus justify an extra opportunity), the student has to send a motivated written request to the Examination Board..

Required sequence of courses

Course	
YEAR 1 – sem. 2	**Formal requirements (prerequisites)**
202300264 Ethics and Technology 2 (2B)	20230032 Ethics and Technology 1 (1B)
YEAR 2 – sem.1	**EC criteria and advised courses**
Starting year #2 courses in general	Min. **40** EC year #1 courses
202000254 MasterLab	Min. **50** EC year #1 courses
202500262 Technologies and Sustainable Use (1A)	No formal or additional requirements
201800146 Transformation of Knowledge in a Digital Age (1A)	Not formal requirements, but advised: 201200064 Science and Technology Studies 201400573 Philosophy of Science in Practice 201400574 History of Science and Technology 202000252 TechnoLab
202500263 Sustainability and Decolonisation (1A)	Not formal requirements, but advised: 201200064 Science and Technology Studies 191622510 Technology and Social order
201800148 Good technology for Users and Society (1A)	Not formal requirements, but advised: 202300302 Ethics and Technology 1 191612560 Society, Politics and Technology 2023000264 Ethics and Technology 2
202500290 Anticipation and the Ethics and Politics of Futures (1B)	Not formal requirements, but advised: 202300302 Ethics and Technology 1 202000252 TechnoLab 202300264 Ethics and Technology 2
201800150 Minds, Bodies and Technologies (1B)	Not a formal requirement, but advised: 191612550 Philosophical Anthropology and Technology
201800151 Rethinking Science-Technology Relations (1B)	Not formal requirements, but advised: 201200064 Science and Technology Studies 201400573 Philosophy of Science in Practice 201400574 History of Science and Technology 202000252 TechnoLab
202200010 Ethics and Epistemology of AI and Robotics (1B)	No formal or additional requirements
YEAR 2 – sem. 2	**Thesis starting criteria**
201300088 Master Thesis (30 EC)	Min. **75** EC year #1 + #2 courses, including at least: 202000254 MasterLab – 1st semester component
201300090 Internship (10 EC) + 20130089 Master Thesis (20 EC)	Min. **75** EC year #1 + #2 courses, including at least: 202000254 MasterLab – 1st semester component

Master Thesis (25 EC)	Min. **75** EC year #1 + #2 courses, including at least: 202000254 MasterLab – 1st semester component

NB: Before starting year #2 courses, students need to have completed at least 40 EC (out of 60 EC) of the year #1 courses. In order to start MasterLab and the thesis trajectory, students must have obtained at least 50 EC of the year #1 courses. Before the start of the 2nd year the students will receive a binding study progress report from the PSTS study adviser, stating the number of EC the student has obtained and whether, and to what extent, the student can continue in the second year.

4.6. Examination board

The examination board is the body that determines in an objective and expert manner whether a student meets the conditions set under the Education and Examination Regulations (EER) concerning the knowledge, insight and skills required to obtain a degree. Members of the examination board are appointed by the dean of the faculty.

More information, including the most up-to-date composition of the examination board can be found at its website: Examination Boards BMS. All information for students, examiners, and educational support staff about the examination boards of BMS is published there, including their rules and guidelines, and the procedures and conditions for submitting a request.

4.7. Composition of Graduation Committee

In derogation from paragraph 4.2 of the Faculty's Rules and Guidelines of the BMS Examination Boards, in the PSTS programme both the supervisor and the second reader of the final project hold a doctorate degree (PhD).

For each thesis project, there is a supervisor and a second reader. The role of the supervisor is to guide the student through the thesis process. The role of the second reader is to confirm the quality of the thesis proposal and grade the final thesis.

The second reader (in collaboration with the supervisor) is also involved in the thesis project at three moments:

1. co-approve the research question(s) and the research proposal of the Final Project;
2. independently evaluate if the thesis is sufficient for the so-called 'green light';
3. independently grade the thesis.

The second reader is not a supervisor but a neutral and independent assessor.

4.8 Evaluation of Education

The education in the programme is evaluated via the internal quality assurance system based on the Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle. This includes various items:

- On course level:

On the last lecture day of the course students receive an end-of-course survey.

The teachers are asked to write a course improvement plan based on the outcomes of the evaluation.

The results of the evaluation, and the reaction from the teacher are posted on the quality assurance webpage of BMS. Furthermore, the results are discussed with the programme committee.

- On programme level:

Students are asked to fill in a survey after they have completed the programme. The outcomes of these surveys are discussed with the programme committee.

4.9 Specific requirements on the master's thesis for the Joint Education Programmes

The requirements for final thesis projects in PSTS Link trajectories are based on two starting points. Since the aim of the Joint Education Programmes (labelled PSTS-Link) is to create synergy between the MSc PSTS and another MSc programme, the final project for both programmes should be combined, resulting in one thesis. This means that the Joint Education Programme student chooses a thesis topic that fits with and can be investigated from both a PSTS- and the partner programme's (BA/PA) perspective. Ideally, the research leads not only to overlapping, but also to integrated insights and results, showing the added value of a combined final thesis project, rather than two separate projects on the same topic

To safeguard and check that students doing a combined final thesis project ultimately satisfy the final qualifications of the MSc PSTS, as well as the final qualifications of the partner programme, the combined project (or the relevant parts, see below) will be assessed using the assessment criteria and rubrics that are also used for 'regular' final projects in each of the two programmes. This implies the thesis (or the relevant parts) receives two grades and that these may differ.

5. Transitional arrangements

Article 7.4 of the EER 2026–20267 of the Faculty of Behavioural, Management and Social Sciences for master programmes is applicable. This means that if a course that does not involve a practical exercise is deleted from the programme, then students (only when exam results from the deleted course are registered in the Student Information System) are to be given two opportunities in the following academic year to take the relevant exam, either orally or in writing, or to undergo another form of assessment. The transitional arrangement needs to be approved by the Examination Board (article 7.4.5).

6. Other topics

6.1. Use of generative AI

Given the distinct and central role of writing skills in philosophical research, by default, the use of so-called generative AI to produce text and images (e.g., ChatGPT) is not allowed.. Further details and possible exemptions can be found in the Programmme's AI Policy.

6.2 Binding recommendation on continuation of studies

Not applicable.

6.3 Graduation with distinction

If upon completing the master's examination the student has shown evidence of exceptional capabilities, 'cum laude' will be recorded on the degree certificate.

A student is considered to have exceptional capabilities if all of the following conditions are met:

- the grade for the Final Project is at least a 9.0;
- the (unweighted) average grade awarded for all courses of the master's examination (including the Final Project) is at least an 8.0;
- no course was graded less than a 7.0;
- each grade must be obtained at the first opportunity to do so within the course;
- in the determination of the average grade, the courses that were not graded with a numerical grade (and the non-numerical grade is at least a Pass) or courses for which an exemption was granted are not considered;
- the number of courses for which no numerical grade has been given or for which exemption has been granted, spans max. 30 EC;
- The study duration is maximally the nominal duration plus 25%.

In special cases and despite not fulfilling these conditions, the student is entitled to submit a request for 'cum laude' to the Examination Board.

6.4 Changes made to the PSP

Every year the programme management revises the PSP according to the changes that may occur in e.g., the programme, the courses, the curriculum, the advice of the Programme Committee, the BMS-regulations and / or the UT central regulations. In this section the major changes are listed in the order of the PSP chapters.

- In 1.2 the phrasing was changed according to the advice of the PC.
- In 2.1 the procedure how courses outside of the UT can become part of the Curriculum in the second year has been specified and explained.

- In 2.1 the procedure about the possible minimum number of students has been described
- In chapter 2 the curriculum for 26-27 has been inserted.
  This curriculum has one new elective course: Computation and the Environment.
  The course Minds, Bodies and Technologies has moved to Q1
  The course Technologies and Sustainable Use has moved to Q2
- In 2.6.1.1 the phrasing was changed according to the advice of the PC.
- In 3.1 the PMT decided not to follow the advice from and decided to not mention the tracks under 3.1, because the tracks are means to meet the "Programme objectives," not objectives in themselves
- Chapter 4, section 4.2. The assessment plan has been adapted according to the new curriculum.
- In 4.3. the phrase ‘inextricably linked’ is explained.
- In 4.4. heading is changed.
- In 4.5. the sentence “Such an exemption can only be granted once per student’ is removed because this needs to be decided by the Examination Board.
- In 4.5 the strict grade cap of 6 is not mentioned.
- In 7.5.2. the sentence was removed.

7. Minors

7.1. HTHT minor Philosophy of Science and Technology

This minor introduces students to some of the main approaches and theories from the history of philosophy, to enable them to reflect systematically and critically on science and technology and their place in society. Rather than merely studying the philosophical tradition in itself or aiming to understand technology in general and the scientific processes that give rise to them, the minor subsequently aims to develop skills to analyse specific technologies, and technological and scientific practices.

The minor includes five components: Philosophical Theories & Methods (5 EC), Controversies and Uncertainties in Science and Engineering (2 EC), Cyborgs and Other Human-Technology Relations (2 EC), Technology, Ethics and Society (2 EC), and a project called Philosophy of Technology Lab (4 EC). This module is part of the HTHT-Package 'Philosophy and Governance of Science and Technology'. The package consists of two modules: 'Philosophy of Science and Technology' (15 EC, quartile 1) and 'Governance of Innovation and Socio-Technical Change' (15 EC, quartile 2). The modules can either be chosen separately or as a package.

7.2. HTHT minor Governance of Innovation and Socio-Technical Change

This minor builds on the interdisciplinary field of science and technology studies (including sociological, policy studies and historical perspectives), in order to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand how technology and society co-evolve and how processes of socio-technical change are governed.

The minor includes four components: Innovation and Social Change (4 EC), Governance of Science, Technology & Innovation (4 EC), Prospecting and Assessing Technologies (3 EC) and a project (4 EC), in which groups of students use insights from the thematic components to study a chosen case.

This module is part of the HTHT-Package 'Philosophy and Governance of Science and Technology'. The package consists of two modules: 'Philosophy of Science and Technology' (15 EC, quartile 1) and 'Governance of Innovation and Socio-Technical Change' (15 EC, quartile 2). The modules can either be chosen separately or as a package.

7.3. Minor Intelligence and Creativity in Science and Technology

NB: This minor will not be offered in 2026-2027. This Challenge-Based Research/Learning (CBR/L) minor will provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the complex issues of modern society, and to conduct inter-and transdisciplinary research aimed at mitigating these issues. In the CBR/L project, students will learn to investigate these issues (the challenges) from various disciplinary perspectives. The overarching learning objective of the minor is the ability to conduct inter-and transdisciplinary research aimed at responsible and innovative technology in the context of societal challenges. This minor is a 30 EC programme.

7.4. Minor Environmental Values and Sustainable Transformations

This 15 EC interdisciplinary minor offers students analytical tools, knowledge, and skills needed to examine complex environmental issues and challenges. The minor consists of 5 main modules:

The minor consists of three main study units: Climate Justice (5 EC), Sustainable Consumption and Food Ethics (5 EC), and Biodiversity Conservation (5 EC).

The Climate Justice unit presents complex challenges at the intersection of technological innovations and ethical values. The Sustainable Consumption and Food Ethics unit is about sustainable consumption and food justice. The Biodiversity Conservation unit covers biodiversity, linguistic and cultural diversity conservation, and ecosystem services. Students have the opportunity to consider what this means in the context of their own disciplinary training.

The assessments include a philosophical walk to engage with a classmate on the topics taught in class, a quiz designed by peers on class content, a self-ethnography food diary to track and reflect on your food consumption practices, a reflection on the outcomes of the serious game on climate change, and the creation of a video (with an open format) to engage more deeply with a topic or issue discussed in class at the end of the quartile.

7.5. Minor regulations

7.5.1. Integrated Minor

All of the above mentioned minors are integrated. This means that students must pass all components to receive a final grade in Osiris.

7.5.2. Validity of grades in minor modules

The results of an examination that has been passed remain valid indefinitely. The period of validity of an examination that was passed may only be limited if the tested knowledge or understanding is demonstrably outdated or the tested skills are demonstrably outdated.

7.5.3. Exam opportunities

Each year, two separate opportunities are offered for taking an exam associated with a specific study unit. There is in any case at least one opportunity to take an exam in the period in which the applicable study unit is taught.

7.5.4. Assessment format interim examinations/tests

The assessment formats of each of the study units in the minors is presented in the Canvas' pages of the minors. The weight attributed to each of the exam components is stipulated in the course's Canvas pages and made public before the start of the course. Written tests are individual, unless specified otherwise.

In addition to Article 3.6 of the BMS EER, for the minors the following applies:

If a study unit has been completed successfully (final grade 6 or more) then this grade is final. If a student (due to exceptional circumstances) would like to improve the grade, the student has to submit a motivated request to the Examination Board.

The result of a test is to be disclosed to the student within ten working days after the test date.