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Master OER Programme-specific appendix PSTS 2016-2017

**Programme-specific appendix to the Education and Examination Regulations
2016-2017**

Master of Science Programme

Philosophy of Science, Technology and Society (PSTS)

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1. Structure and content of the programme

1a. Composition of the programme

The tables below show the courses which make up the PSTS programme in EC (1 EC = 28 hours of study load) per unit.

The generic structure (of the September – fulltime – enrolment) of the programme is as follows:

Schedule 1st Year			
Semester 1		Semester 2	
Block 1A	Block 1B	Block 2A	Block 2B
Philosophy of technology (201200063) 5 EC	Philosophy of science in practice (201400573) 5 EC	Technolab (201400575) 7 EC (5 EC) (2 EC)	Philolab (201400576) 3 EC
Science and technology studies (201200064) 5 EC	History of science and Technology (201400574) 5 EC	Philosophical anthropology and technology (191612550) 5 EC	Technology and social order (191622510) 5 EC
Philosophical theories and methods (201200059) 5 EC	Ethics and technology 1 (191612540) 5 EC	Society, politics and technology (191612560) 5 EC	Ethics and technology 2 (191612580) 5 EC

Schedule 2nd Year				
Profile	Semester 1		Semester 2	
	Block 1A	Block 1B	Block 2A	Block 2B
Profile 1 Technology and the Human Being	Philosophical anthropology and human-technology relations (191612660) 5 EC	Philosophy of mind and body and technology (201300079) 5 EC	Academic profile Master's Thesis 30 EC (201300088) MasterLab 2 (EC's: part of the Master's thesis - with all students) Professional profile Internship 10 EC (201300090) Master's Thesis 20 EC (201300089) MasterLab 2 (EC's: part of the Master's thesis - with all students)	
	Shaping technology and use (191622630) 5 EC			
	Elective taken from another profile 5 EC	Elective taken from another profile 5 EC		
	MasterLab 1 201300085 (with all students) 5 EC			

Profile	Semester 1		Semester 2	
	Block 1A	Block 1B	Block 2A	Block 2B
Profile 2 Technology and Values	Technology and the quality of life (191612670) 5 EC	Assessment of emerging technologies (201300081) 5 EC	Academic profile Master's Thesis 30 EC (201300088) MasterLab 2 (EC's: part of the Master's thesis - with all students) Professional profile Internship 10 EC (201300090) Master's Thesis 20 EC (201300089) MasterLab 2 (EC's: part of the Master's thesis - with all students)	
	Technology, globalisation and the environment (201300080) 5 EC			
	Elective taken from another profile 5 EC	Elective taken from another profile 5 EC		
	MasterLab 1 (201300085) (with all students) 5 EC			
Profile	Semester 1		Semester 2	
Profile 3 Dynamics of Science, Technology and Society	Block 1A	Block 1B	Block 2A	Block 2B
	Philosophy of science and technology relations (201300082) 5 EC	Spatial and temporal dynamics of science, technology and society (201300084) 5 EC	Academic profile Master's Thesis 30 EC (201300088) MasterLab 2 (EC's: part of the Master's thesis - with all students) Professional profile Internship 10 EC (201300090) Master's Thesis 20 EC (201300089) MasterLab 2 (EC's: part of the Master's thesis - with all students)	
	Dynamics and governance of socio-technical change (201300083) 5 EC			
	Elective taken from another profile 5 EC	Elective taken from another profile 5 EC		
MasterLab 1 (201300085) (with all students) 5 EC				

Table 1: Curriculum PSTS 2016-2017

Note:

A 2nd year profile will only be offered upon sufficient enrolment (i.e. that at least 5 students per year opt for this profile)

First semester of year #2

Students take the three obligatory courses (15 EC's) from their profile, and they choose 2 elective courses (10 EC's) from the other PSTS profiles or (upon approval from the Board of Examiners) from another programme.

Students take MasterLab 1 (5 EC's) in parallel to the obligatory and elective courses. In MasterLab 1 students develop additional research skills and write a research proposal for their thesis. MasterLab 1 starts in the first quarter with a limited number of meetings. In the second quarter there are more contact hours. In Masterlab-1 students choose a thesis/final project supervisor.

Second semester of year #2

In MasterLab 2 students work on their final project/master's thesis. They receive additional feedback and aid from coordinators and other students on their work in progress. If students wish to orient towards a professional career, they can opt for a brief (10 EC's) Internship and they may write a shorter final thesis (20 EC's). MasterLab 2 is scheduled for one afternoon every two weeks.

ETHICS AND TECHNOLOGY Track

Students can opt for a special Ethics and Technology track, offered by the 3TU Centre for Ethics and Technology (3TU.Ethics). This is a one-year track consisting of 30 EC's of advanced courses in ethics and technology and a 30 EC master's 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 3TU.Ethics-approved Ethics and Technology track. The track is also preparatory for a PhD programme in Ethics and Technology, and PSTS students who have completed the track have an increased chance of being accepted into the PhD programme. Many of the courses in the track will be taken together with PhD students in the 3TU.Ethics programme. Students take the courses in the Profile Technology and Values (profile 2) in their second year of the PSTS Master's programme, plus electives from 3TU.Ethics from UT, TU Delft and TU Eindhoven.

In detail, for 2016-2017 the set of 3TU-Ethics electives span:

- Philosophy of Responsible Innovation (TU Delft) (5 EC)
- Philosophy of Risk (TU/e) (5 EC)
- Climate Ethics (OZSW) (5 EC)
- Philosophical Anthropology and Human-Technology Relations (UT) (5 EC)

Note: Students are also allowed to substitute the course Climate Ethics (TU/e OZSW) for the course Technology, Globalisation and the Environment (UT) (5 EC).
(see also: paragraph 4d: Elective programme)

1b. Study load of the programme

All course-based units of study comprise of 5 EC except TechnoLab, which is a 7 EC unit and PhiloLab which is a 3 EC course. EC designates European Credits. One year of study is 60 EC's, meaning that 1.4 EC is about one week of study. The entire study programme is 120 EC. Both study programme years are 60 EC; semesters are 30 EC; quartiles are 15 EC.

The programme for the part-time variant is the same as for the fulltime programme. Part-time student will take a longer period to complete the programme.

1c. Honours programme

For excellent students the University of Twente offers four (4) different extra-curricular master's honours programmes of 15 EC each. These programmes have a distinctive profile which allows students to develop themselves in one of the three roles: as an organiser, designer or researcher.

These programmes are:

- MSc Change leaders
- MSc Design honours
- MSc Research honours
- High Tech Systems and Materials honours

More information on these programmes and the corresponding selection procedures can be found at the UT honours programmes website (<http://www.utwente.nl/excellentie/en/>)

2. Goals and objectives of the programme

The aim of the programme is to equip students with knowledge and skills in the area of philosophy of technology, which is a domain that comprises not only the methodology and foundations of engineering, but also the various ways in which technology and society have become intertwined and depend on each other. The field of Science, Technology and Innovation studies (STS) is considered as part of this domain. STS provides evidence-based insights into contemporary technology for philosophical reflection and is taught as a new way to do philosophy with empirical means, i.e. as a form of 'empirical philosophy'. The aim of the programme is achieved in such a way that graduates (making use of knowledge gained through a previous Bachelor's programme in engineering sciences, (applied) natural sciences, social sciences, or philosophy) are able to conduct philosophical or philosophically informed multidisciplinary analyses pertaining to the areas of technology, technical sciences and applied physical sciences, technological developments, and the relationship between technology and society. Graduates possess sufficient knowledge and skills to participate in professional practice, for example as scientific researchers, R&D researchers, consultants, policymakers, educators, or designers. They are able to independently carry out philosophical and/or STS research and could be considered for a PhD. position.

The PSTS programme's final qualifications.

The PSTS programme has as its domain the philosophy of technology, which is a field that is concerned with the philosophical study of technology and its implications for and interactions with society. In the PSTS programme, the philosophy of technology is understood broadly as a field that includes, next to philosophical approaches, empirical and multidisciplinary approaches from the field of science, technology and innovation studies (STS).

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 communicate research results and solutions to colleagues, as well as professionals from other subject areas, and the ability to generate learning processes from that interaction.
- 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.



3. Examination and exams

3a. Examination

The PSTS programme has one (1) examination, i.e. the master's examination after 2 years. The master's examination is deemed to have been successfully completed if all exams of the agreed units of study, including the Final project (master's thesis), have been taken successfully.

3b. Exam formats

The exam formats of each of the units of study (courses) in the PSTS programme is shown table 2
 Written tests are individual tests, unless specified otherwise. The weight attributed to each of the exam components is stipulated in the course's electronic learning environment, and made public before the start of the course.

Course list PSTS 2016-2017, year #1

Semester 1			
Code	Name (+ study load)	Examiner(s)	Mode of assessment
201200063	Philosophy of Technology	Prof.dr.ir. P.P.C.C. Verbeek , Dr. L. Fleming Miller	Exam, assignment
201200064	Science and Technology Studies	Prof.dr. L.L. Roberts Dr. A. Weber	Assignments
201200059	Philosophical Theories and Methods	Dr. L. Fleming Miller	Exam,assignments
201400573	Philosophy of Science in Practice	Dr. K. Karaca	Exam, assignments
201400574	History of Science and Technology	Prof.dr. L.L. Roberts	Assignments
191612540	Ethics and Technology I	Dr. J.H. Søraker , R.J. Geerts MSc	Assignments

Semester 2			
Code	Name (+ study load)	Examiner(s)	Mode of assessment
201400575	TechnoLab	Prof.dr.ir. M. Boon , Dr. K. Karaca	Exam, assignment
191612550	Philosophical Anthropology and Technology	Prof.dr. C. Aydin , Dr. L. Fleming Miller	Exam, assignment
191612560	Society, Politics and Technology	Prof.dr. P.A.E. Brey , Dr. N. Gertz	Assignment
201400576	PhiloLab	Dr. L. Fleming Miller Dr. Peter Stegmaier, Dr. Adri Albert de la Bruheze, Prof.dr. Stephan Kuhlmann	Assignments
191622510	Technology and Social Order	Prof.dr. L.L. Roberts	Assignments
191612580	Ethics and Technology II	Dr. N. Gertz	Assignments

Course list PSTS 2015-2016, year #2

Semester 1			
Code	Name (study load)	Examiner(s)	Mode of assessment
191612660	Philosophical Anthropology and	Dr. M. Nagenborg	Assignments,

	Human-Technology Relations		
191622520	Shaping Technology and Use	Dr.ir. E.C.J. van Oost	Assignment
191612670	Technology and the Quality of Life	Dr. J.H. Søraker, Dr. S. Nagel	Assignment
201300080	Technology, Globalisation and the Environment	R.J. Geerts MSc	Assignment
201300082	Philosophy of Science and Technology Relations	Prof.dr.ir. M. Boon, Dr. K. Karaca, Dr. M. MacLeod	Assignment
201300083	Dynamics and Governance of Socio-Technical Change	Dr. K.E. Konrad T.H. Harmsen MSc	Assignment
201300079	Philosophy of Mind, Body and Technology	Prof. dr. C. Aydin, Dr. M. Nagenborg	Assignments
201300081	Assessment of Emerging Technologies	Dr. M. Boenink Dr. K.E. Konrad	Assignments
201300084	Spatial and Temporal Dynamics of Science, Technology and Society	Prof.dr. L.L. Roberts	Assignment
Semester 1 & 2			
201300085	MasterLab1	Dr. L. Fleming Miller	Assignments
Semester 2			
Code	Name (+ study load)	Examiner(s)	Mode of assessment
	MasterLab2	Dr. L. Fleming Miller (co-ordinator)	Presentations
201300090	Brief Internship	Supervisor (as indicated on the final project contract)	Internship report
201300089	Master's Thesis (20 EC)	Supervisor (as indicated on the final project contract) ¹	Thesis, presentation and oral examination
201300088	Master's Thesis (30 EC)	Supervisor (as indicated on the final project contract) ²	Thesis, presentation and oral examination

Table 2: List of units and study, examiners, and exam forms (modes of assessment)

In case more than one examiner per unit of study is mentioned, the examiner in bold has been designated as the one who holds first responsibility.

3c. Prerequisites and required sequence of exams

Year #1, semester 1

Code	Course name	Obligatory prior knowledge
201200063	Philosophy of Technology	Relevant completed undergraduate programme or registered student in a relevant graduate programme, to be decided by the

¹ & ¹ In the PSTS programme the role of 2nd supervisor (or better: 2nd reader) is to be regarded as an examiner as well. This examiner plays a role at 3 specific moments in the Master's thesis / Final Project trajectory:

1. At the moment that the student has written the introductory chapter and has formulated the research question (and sub questions). At that moment the examiner, in collaboration with the 1st supervisor, assesses and has to approve the research question(s).
2. At the moment that the so-called "Green Light" has to be given to the student, the examiner decides together with the 1st supervisor whether the student is eligible to plan the oral examination and the final colloquium
3. At the moment that the master's thesis has to be evaluated by the 1st supervisor and the examiner. The examiner then also is present at the oral examination.

		programme's Admission Committee
201200064	Science and Technology Studies	Relevant completed undergraduate programme or registered student in a relevant graduate programme, to be decided by the programme's Admission Committee
201200059	Philosophical Theories and Methods	Relevant completed undergraduate programme or registered student in a relevant graduate programme, to be decided by the programme's Admission Committee
201400573	Philosophy of science in Practice	Relevant completed undergraduate programme or registered student in a relevant graduate programme, to be decided by the programme's Admission Committee
201400574	History of Science and Technology	Relevant completed undergraduate programme or registered student in a relevant graduate programme, to be decided by the programme's Admission Committee
191612540	Ethics and Technology I	Relevant completed undergraduate programme or registered student in a relevant graduate programme, to be decided by the programme's Admission Committee

Year #1, semester 2

Code	Course name	Obligatory prior knowledge
191612550	Philosophical Anthropology and Technology	Relevant completed undergraduate programme or registered student in a relevant graduate programme, to be decided by the programme's Admission Committee
191612580	Ethics and Technology II	191612540
191622510	Technology and Social Order	191622500/201200064, 191612500/201200059, 191652500/2014000573/2014000574
201400576	PhiloLab	2014000575, 201200059, 201200064, 201200063
201400575	Technolab	201200063, 201200059,

	201200064
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Year #2, PSTS

	M-2 courses in general	<u>Min. 40</u> EC year #1 courses
201300085	Masterlab-1	<u>Min. 50</u> EC year #1 courses, including at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 201400575 TechnoLab • 201400576 PhiloLab
201500443	Masterlab-2	<u>Min. 80</u> EC year #1 + #2 courses, including at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 201400575 TechnoLab • 201400576 PhiloLab • 201300085 MasterLab 1
201300088	Master Thesis (30 EC)	<u>Min. 80</u> EC year #1 + #2 courses, including at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 201400575 TechnoLab • 201400576 PhiloLab • 201300085 MasterLab 1
201300090 & 20130089	Internship and Master thesis (20 EC)	<u>Min. 80</u> EC year #1 + #2 courses, including at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 201400575 TechnoLab • 201400576 PhiloLab • 201300085 MasterLab 1

4. General information

4a. Admission to the programme

The Admissions Committee assesses all applicants to the MSc programme PSTS on an individual basis. The assessment of the applicant's skills is based on formal as well as content-related admission criteria.

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent in:
 - (Applied) Natural Science, Engineering Science,
 - Social Science,
 - Philosophy,
 - 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.
- Sufficient mastery of the English language.
- Sufficient entry-level academic skills, including skills in reading, writing, textual analysis, and library skills.

To prevent enrolment of students who are not fit for PSTS, all students have to enclose with their admission form a motivation letter and a CV in which they demonstrate that they have sufficient affinity with (reflection on) science and technology. If students do not fit in the PSTS profile, they will receive a negative advice regarding enrolment from the admission committee.

Explanation of concepts and criteria

Bachelor's from a Dutch research university

- Applicants with a bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university qualify for admission.
 - Examples of appropriate bachelor degrees in engineering and science are: Computer Science, Biomedical Science, Environmental Science, Life Sciences, Molecular Science, Industrial Engineering, Design Engineering, Biology, Chemistry, Physics.
 - Examples of appropriate social sciences are : Media Studies, Psychology, Public Administration, European studies, Communication Science, Educational Science, Business Administration, Sociology, Economy, Geography.
 - Philosophy

Note that admission is not restricted to these examples.

Bachelor's from a Dutch university of applied sciences (in Dutch: HBO)

- Examples of appropriate bachelor degrees from Dutch universities of applied sciences (HBO) are: engineering disciplines with an 'Ir.' certificate such as Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Technology and Industrial Design.
- Applicants from a Dutch university of applied sciences (HBO) preferably need a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of at least 7.0 during the final two years of their bachelor's studies.

International Students

- International applicants preferably need good grades at the Bachelor's level, e.g. at least 7.5 on a 0.0-10.0 scale, or at least 3.5 on a 0.0-4.0 scale.

- In weighing grades, the admission committee will take into consideration the quality of the institution where the applicant took his/her bachelor's programme.

English

- An IELTS minimum score of 6.5 on the IELTS or an internet-based TOEFL (iBT) minimum score of 90 is required; each item (reading, writing, speaking, listening) has to be sufficient.
- [For Dutch applicants: VWO-English with a 6, or HAVO-English with at least an 8 is considered equivalent.]
- Students from the UK, Ireland, USA, Australia, New Zealand and (the English speaking part of) Canada are exempted from testing.

Academic Skills

- Include skills in reading, writing, textual analysis and library skills.
- **These skills are tested in the admission procedure by means of a writing assignment for applicants from Dutch universities of applied sciences (HBO) and international students.**

ADMISSION COMMITTEE

The Admission Committee has two members who are examiners in the programme and they are assisted by a clerk from the Faculty's Educational Service Centre.

4b. Language

The language of communication in the MSc programme Philosophy of Science, Technology and Society is English.

Which means:

- All study materials are in English.
- All classes (lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, and others) are taught in English
- All written exams and tests are in English, and all papers have to be submitted in English.
- All presentations (including the Final Presentation) are prepared in English
- Students are supposed to be aware of the aforementioned rules with regard to the use of English.

4c. International agreements

Not applicable

4d. Elective programme

The elective options in the programme may be derived from the programme's regular curriculum, and imply that students in one of the respective 3 profiles (see: table 1) choose during block 1A one elective from one of the other two (2) profiles, and during block 1B another elective from one of the other two (1) profiles. This may allow them to broaden their distinctive profile with insights from 1 or 2 of the other profiles.

In addition, students may opt for a special Ethics and Technology track, offered by 3TU.Ethics. This is a one-year track consisting of 30 EC in advanced courses in ethics and technology and a 30 EC master 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 3TU.Ethics-approved Ethics and Technology track. The track is also preparatory for a PhD programme in Ethics and Technology, and PSTS students who have completed the track have an increased chance of being accepted into the PhD programme.

Many of the courses in the track will be taken together with PhD students in the 3TU.Ethics programme. Students take the courses in the Profile Technology and Values (profile 2) in their second year of the PSTS Master's programme, plus electives from 3TU.Ethics from UT, TU Delft and TU Eindhoven.

For 2016-2017 the set of 3TU-Ethics electives span:

- Philosophy of Responsible Innovation (TU Delft) (5 EC)
- Philosophy of Risk (TU/e) (5 EC)
- Climate Ethics (TU/e OZSW) (5 EC)
- Philosophical Anthropology and Human-Technology Relations (UT) (5 EC)

Note: Students are also allowed to substitute the course Climate Ethics (TU/e OZSW) for the course Technology, Globalisation and the Environment (UT) (5 EC).

Access to this track is bound to special admission criteria (see: PSTS Programme Guide) and aims at excellent students.

4e. Composition Programme Committee

The members of the PSTS programme committee are appointed by the Dean. The members are recruited from students and teaching staff of the PSTS programme on an equal basis (50% students and 50% staff). The most up-to-date composition of the committee can be found on the webpage of the programme committee

The tasks of the programme committee are:

- Advising on the Education and Examination Regulations (EER)
- Assessing, on a yearly basis, the way in which the EER are carried out
- Advising the programme management and the Dean on all matters related to the teaching in the PSTS programme.

4f Composition Graduation Committee

In derogation from article 4.3 of the Faculty's Rules and Regulations of the Examination Board, do both the 1st supervisor and the 2nd reader (examiner) (basically the UT members of the graduation committee) possess at least a doctorate (PhD) degree.

4g. Examination Board

The Examination Board is the body that determines in an objective and expert way whether a student meets the conditions under the Education and Examination Regulations (EER) concerning the knowledge, comprehension and skills required in order to obtain the Master of Science (MSc) degree. Members of the Examination Board are appointed by the Dean of the Faculty.

The Board's tasks are described in paragraph 5.1 of the generic (i.e. non programme-specific) part of the TER. More information, including the most up-to-date composition of the Board can be found on the webpage of the [Examination Board](#).

5. Transitional arrangements

A. The so-called old style PSTS programme (i.e. programme 2011)

In the old style PSTS (programme 2011) there were two specialisation tracks in the programme: a philosophical track—*Philosophy of Technology*—and a philosophically informed multidisciplinary track—*Science, Technology, and Society*. The first year of the Master's programme constituted a shared foundation for both specialisation tracks. Students in this old style programme completed their first year courses according to the 2011 curriculum. Students formally declared their choice for a specialisation track by the end of the fourth quartile. After having completed all units of study of quartile 1 to 4, students formally entered one of the two specialisation tracks. Students in the old style programme who entered the second year in September 2013 or later, basically enrol in the second year of the current ("new style") programme.

Students who entered the second year of 'PSTS old style' in September 2012 or earlier, will be given the opportunity to finish the programme in the old style as follows:

In line with the Student Charter the following applies to each of these courses:

Students who submitted at least once a course assignment(s) or who sat for an exam during the academic year 2015-2016, but who failed to complete the course successfully (i.e. implying that the course is graded as *insufficient* in the university's administrative system Osiris) are entitled to submit the course-specific assignment(s) twice (or sit twice for the exam) during the academic year 2016-2017, where it has to be taken into account that no class sessions will be scheduled.

Students who did not submit the course's assignment or who did not sit for an exam of one of the 2013-2014 version of these courses will, in close consultation with the programme's management and upon approval of the programme's Board of Examiners, select an as equivalent possible course from the PSTS 2016-2017 course list.

B. Curricular changes 2016-2017 compared to the 2015-2016 curriculum.

Since there are no curricular changes in the 2016-2017 curriculum (compared to the 2015-2016 curriculum) no transitional arrangements need to be applied.

6. Study advice at the end of year #1

Before starting year #2 courses, students need to have completed at least 40 EC (out of 60 EC) of the year #1 courses.

In addition (and on course level) special requirements may apply. For all details, please read section 3.1 of this programme-specific appendices.

7. Additional subjects

7a. Colloquia

PSTS students are obliged to participate in a minimum number of colloquia in the domain of the PSTS programme. These colloquia are offered by the departments that are involved in PSTS (and that are approved by the programme's director). The objective of this obligation is that students will be introduced in the culture and community in the domain of his/her academic domain. The requisites are: being present, aware and alert. There is no formal assessment involved. Student asks the speaker to sign for their participation directly after the colloquium. The departmental organiser of the colloquium is responsible for submitting the signed list of participants to the Educational Affairs Office. [In case of an (approved by the programme director) non-departmental colloquium, the student is responsible for submitting proof of his/her attendance at such a colloquium to the Educational Affairs Office].

7b. Graduation with distinction (Cum Laude)

If upon sitting the Master's examination, the student has shown evidence of exceptional capability, 'cum laude' (with distinction") will be recorded on the degree certificate.

A student is considered to have exceptional capability if each of the following conditions is met:

- the average mark awarded for the units of study of the Master's examination (except the Final Project (read: master's thesis) is at least an 8;
- no unit of study was graded less than a 7,
- each grade needs to be obtained at each course's first attempt [Exception: a student may re-sit for an exam or re-submit an assignment once (upon approval from the Examination Board) when having obtained a 6 for that course at the first attempt];
- the mark for the Final Project (read: master's thesis) is at least a 9;
- the mark for the internship (if applicable) is at least an 8;
- in the determination of this average, the units of study which were not graded with a numerical mark or units of study for which an exemption was granted are not considered;
- the number of units of study for which no numerical mark has been given or for which exemption has been granted, spans max. 30 EC [In case the number of these non-numerically marked courses and/or exemptions exceeds 30 EC's, then the Examination Board has to evaluate whether graduation with distinction is possible];
- The length of study is maximal the nominal duration plus 25%.

In special cases and despite not fulfilling these conditions, a member of the Examination Board or the student's *Graduation Committee* is entitled to propose a "Cum Laude" award to the Examination Board. Besides, the Examination Board will only award a "Cum Laude" designation in case the Final Project has been completed under the supervision of and has been assessed by a faculty's examiner.

The rules applied by the Examination Board can be found in the [Rules & Regulations](#) of the Examination Board.