

EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS 2025-2026

To make the text easier to read, only the neutral gender form is used. The provisions on (prospective) students do, of course, apply without any gender distinction.

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PART I. – Scope, abbreviations and definitions, and general provisions

CHAPTER I. Scope

Article 1 (scope)

The Education and Examination Regulations apply to all bachelor's degree programmes, master's degree programmes (post-bachelor's degree programmes and post-master's degree programmes), preparatory programmes, bridging programmes, postgraduate programmes and micro-credentials type 1 and type 2.

For guest students whose principal enrolment is at another educational institution, these regulations apply insofar as they are applicable to their situation or have explicitly been declared applicable in whole or in part.

The doctoral programme and obtaining a PhD degree are subject to specific regulations approved by the Academic Council.

Degree programmes organised at inter-university level may derogate from the provisions set out in these regulations.

CHAPTER II: – Abbreviations and definitions

Article 2 (abbreviations)

For the purposes of these regulations, the following abbreviations apply:

ACTO: Academic Centre for Language Education;

BEV: Paid educational leave;

DHO: Higher Education Database;

EEA: European Economic Area;

RPL: Recognition of prior learning;

RPQ: Recognition of prior qualification;

IES: Institute for European Studies;

IRMO: International Relations Office;

MILO: Multidisciplinary Institute for Teacher Training;

MNM: Post-master's programme;

OWSA: Education and Student Administration;

VLIR: Flemish Inter-university Council;

VLIR-UOS: Flemish Inter-university Council – University Development Cooperation;

VUB: Vrije Universiteit Brussel;

VOV: Flemish Training Leave;

WPO: Seminars, practicals and exercises.

Article 3 (definitions)

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

Start of lectures: the start of week 2 of the academic calendar;

Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations: regulations drawn up by the relevant faculty containing the provisions supplementary to the Central Education and Examination Regulations. For programmes organised by the MILO, this concerns the MILO Supplementary Education and Examination Regulations; for programmes organised by the IES, this concerns the IES Supplementary Education and Examination Regulations;

Academic year: a period of one year that begins on 1 September at the earliest and on 1 October at the latest and ends on the day before the start of the next academic year; in exceptional circumstances, the fixed duration of one year may be derogated from if the University Board of Governors decides to either bring forward or postpone the start of the academic year;

Proficiency test: the examination of a person's competencies, prior to issuing a certificate of proficiency;

Scholarship students:

- Students who are entitled to a study grant from the Flemish Government;
- Students who are not entitled to a study grant from the Flemish Government because of the study conditions, but who do meet the financial and nationality conditions referred to in Article I.3 (14) (b) or (c) of the Higher Education Codex. However, this does not apply to advanced academic programmes (post-master's programme and postgraduate degree) or to students who are enrolled on the basis of an examination contract;
- Scholarships within the framework of a Master Mind Scholarship - Fellowship Programme for Excellent Students initiated by the Flemish Government.

Certificate of Proficiency: proof or registration indicating that a student has acquired certain competencies on the basis of RPLs or RPQs;

Quasi-scholarship students:

- Students who satisfy the nationality conditions referred to in Article I.3, point 16 of the Higher Education Codex, and who are not entitled to a study grant from the Flemish Government, but whose reference income is no more than €3,900.00 (amount for the 2024-2025 academic year) above the maximum limit for entitlement to a study grant;
- Students who satisfy the nationality conditions referred to in Article I.3, point 16 of the Higher Education Codex, and who are not entitled to a study grant from the Flemish Government because the cadastral income forms too large a share of the joint taxable income.

Block week: period, prior to the examination period, in which - subject to the exception provided for in Article 8, § 4 - no examinations or other forms of evaluation take place and no lectures are given. It is the period in which students are given time to prepare for exams;

BRUFACE masters: Brussels Faculty of Engineering masters

The English-language master's programmes jointly organised by Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the Université Libre de Bruxelles and the Dutch-language variants of these master's programmes organised by Vrije Universiteit Brussel:

Master of Science in Architectural Engineering;

Master of Science in Engineering Sciences: architecture;

Master of Science in Civil Engineering;

Master of Science in Engineering Sciences: civil engineering;

Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering;

Master of Science in Engineering Sciences: mechanical-electrical engineering;

Master of Science in Chemical and Materials Engineering;

Master of Science in Engineering Sciences: chemistry and materials;

Master of Science in Electrical Engineering;

Master of Science in Engineering Sciences: electronics and information technology.

Cali: Campus Lifecycle, the student information system;

Credit certificate: recognition of the fact that a student has acquired the competencies associated with a course unit, as evidenced by an examination. This recognition is recorded in a document or registry. The acquired ECTS credits, associated with the relevant course unit, are referred to as “credits”;

Credit contract: contract entered into by the student with the university in which the student enrolls with a view to obtaining a credit certificate for one or more course units;

Diploma contract: contract entered into by the student with the university in which the student enrolls with a view to obtaining a degree or diploma on the basis of a degree programme or in which the student enrolls for a preparatory or bridging programme;

Threshold package: the course units that a student takes when they first enrol in a bachelor's degree programme. This package of course units must be completed in threshold year 2;

Threshold year 1: the first year of enrolment in a particular bachelor's programme in Flanders;

Threshold year 2: the second year of enrolment in a particular bachelor's programme in Flanders. In threshold year 2, all course units of the threshold package must be completed;

ECTS credit: an international unit accepted within the Flemish Community that corresponds to no fewer than 25 and no more than 30 hours of prescribed teaching, learning and evaluation activities and which expresses the study load of each programme or course unit;

First examination sitting: comprises a first examination period (weeks 17 to 20) and a second examination period (weeks 38 to 42) in which the student avails themselves of their first or, where applicable, only exam opportunity. The first examination sitting concludes with a deliberation and electronic announcement of the results;

Enabel: Belgian development agency for the implementation and coordination of international development policy for Belgium;

RPL: a previously acquired competence, i.e. the totality of knowledge, insight, skills and attitudes acquired through learning processes but not attested by a study certificate;

RPQ: a previously acquired qualification, i.e. any domestic or foreign study certificate, insofar as it does not concern a credit certificate obtained within the institution and study programme in which the student wishes the attested qualification to be recognised;

Exam: any evaluation of the extent to which a student has acquired the competencies related to the course unit.

Examination contract: contract entered into by the student with the university in which the student enrolls under the conditions determined by the university (these are the same diploma conditions as for a credit and diploma contract) for the purpose of taking examinations with a view to obtaining:

- a) a degree or diploma from a study programme, or
- b) a credit certificate for one or more course units;

Examination period: the period in which examinations are taken;

Examination schedule: determination of the time and place of examinations in a particular examination period for each student;

First-time student: a student enrolling in a bachelor's programme (or a higher vocational education programme) in Flemish higher education with a diploma contract for the first time;

Weighted points deficit (GPT): the weighted points deficit is calculated per course unit by multiplying the deficit of an exam mark (= number of points lower than 10/20) by the number of ECTS credits for that course unit.

For a student who obtains one or more deficits, the total weighted points deficit obtained is calculated as the sum of the weighted points deficits of the course units taken.

Degree: designation of bachelor, master or doctor granted at the end of a study programme or after obtaining a doctorate with the award of a diploma;

Individual Study Path: a study path for a particular student defining specific conditions in relation to study load, deliberation and study progress monitoring;

Yearly course unit: course unit organised over two semesters. For yearly course units, the examination is organised in the examination period following the second semester, with the exception of final written exams;

Prospective student: any person who requests enrolment at VUB;

Prospective refugee: any person whose application for international protection is still being processed in Belgium and who is in possession of a valid certificate of matriculation and the accompanying annex 26;

Qualification: a certificate or diploma awarded after successfully completing a formal education or training programme;

Degree qualification: addendum referring to the completed study programme or, in the case of a doctoral degree, to a field of study;

Study credit: the total package of ECTS credits that a student can use throughout their studies to enrol in an initial bachelor's or master's degree programme under a diploma contract or for a course unit under a credit contract and that can evolve according to the number of ECTS credits for which the student enrolls and which they acquire;

Learning outcomes: learning outcomes specify what a student is expected to know, understand, and be able to do when a course module is completed, and how that knowledge can be demonstrated;

Lecture-free week: period in which no examinations, lectures or other teaching activities take place, subject to the faculties being able to organise catch-up examinations during this week as part of a request for rescheduling;

Master's thesis: a dissertation that concludes a master's course. With this, the student displays their analytical and synthesis skills, or independent problem-solving ability at an academic level,

or the capacity for artistic creation. This piece of work reflects the student's general ability to engage in critical reflection or adopt a research mindset.

Micro-credential: a type of training in a lifelong learning programme that results in proof of the learning outcomes achieved following a learning experience of limited scope. The learning outcomes are evaluated on the basis of transparent standards. The verification of this is set out in a certified document stating the name of the holder, the learning outcomes achieved, the assessment method, the awarding authority and, where applicable, the level within the qualification framework and the ECTS credits earned. Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, are shareable and portable, and can be combined to form wider credentials or qualifications. They are supported by quality assurance according to agreed standards in the sector. We distinguish between four types of micro-credentials, though these can, of course, also be combined:

1. Micro-credentials composed of one or more existing course units from the bachelor's and/or master's programmes.
2. Micro-credentials composed of one or more existing course units from the bachelor's and/or master's programmes, supplemented by additional lifelong learning programmes.
3. Micro-credentials composed of new components with content from the bachelor's and/or master's programmes.
4. Micro-credentials composed of new content or content from existing lifelong learning initiatives.

The Education and Examination Regulations apply to the first two types of micro-credentials;

Standard path: a study path in a specific training programme approved by the Education Council, setting out general terms and conditions regarding study load, deliberation and study progress monitoring;

Education and Student Administration (hereinafter referred to as OWSA): central service unit under the responsibility of the Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs, which manages the entire administration of all students throughout their studies;

Reception week: period in which no regular exams, lectures or other educational activities take place, but in which (mandatory) reception and preparation activities and pre-tests are held;

Study programme: the structuring unit of the educational programme. A diploma or, solely for the purpose of these regulations, a certificate (preparatory programme, bridging programme, postgraduate degree) is awarded on successful completion;

Course outline: a description of a study programme specifying the formal and substantive details as set out in article 16 of these regulations prior to commencement of the enrolment period;

Course unit: a defined set of education, learning and evaluation activities aimed at acquiring well-defined competencies in terms of knowledge, insight, skills and attitudes;

Course unit outline: a description of a course unit specifying the formal and substantive details as set out in article 17 of these regulations prior to commencement of the enrolment period. The course unit outline is submitted to the competent faculty authority for approval;

Continuing education: a training programme organised by the university itself or in joint consultation with a view to further education and training;

Postgraduate programme: a training programme with a study load of at least 20 ECTS credits in the context of further professional training, aimed at broadening or consolidating the competencies acquired on completion of a bachelor's or master's degree programme;

ReFlex students: students who are eligible to be granted reasonable flexibility measures. This includes, among others, top-class sports students, students with disabilities (sensory or physical disabilities, (chronic) medical conditions, mental/psychiatric problems and learning disabilities), students with a mandate as a student representative within the VUB or at supra-institutional level, as well as students in specific situations, as determined by Student Counselling;

Bridging programme: a programme that can be imposed on a student who wishes to enrol in a master's programme on the basis of a bachelor's degree awarded in professional higher education. This programme is aimed at imparting the general scientific competencies and basic scientific-disciplinary knowledge referred to in Article II.141, § 2, 2° of the Higher Education Codex;

Student SelfService: the portal where students can consult and manage their study activities, finances and personal data and view their study results;

Semester course unit: course unit organised within one semester. For semester course units, the exam is organised in the examination period following the semester in which the course unit was taught;

Degree specification: the addition of the words 'of science', 'of arts', 'of laws', 'of medicine', 'of veterinary science', 'of veterinary medicine' and 'of philosophy' to a degree;

(Mandatory) positioning test: an institution-neutral test set up by the Flemish Government to gauge basic knowledge (and skills) in mathematics and/or sciences in relation to the starting level of the relevant bachelor's programme. For specific courses, taking a positioning test is a prerequisite for enrolment;

Students with disabilities: students with long-term physical, mental or sensory impairments that can prevent them from participating fully, effectively and on an equal footing with other students in higher education when interacting with various barriers;

Student counselling: central service unit under the responsibility of the Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs that provides student counselling for all students throughout their entire

study programme; the staff (study advisors and student psychologists), in cooperation with programmes and faculties, strive to ensure the most comprehensive range of student counselling possible, with the aim of enhancing students' well-being and success in their studies, taking the individual needs of each student into account;

Proof of study: document indicating that a formal learning path, whether or not within education, has been successfully completed;

Study contract: contract concluded between the university and the student, opting for a specific objective (diploma, credit or examination contract) and a specific study programme (model or individual programme);

Tuition fee: the amount to be paid by the student for taking part in the educational activities and/or examinations;

Study load: the number of ECTS credits assigned to a course unit or study programme;

Study path: the way in which the student can follow the study programme;

Tentamen examination: a written evaluation of part of the material of an annual course unit of the bachelor's programme, or a bridging or preparatory programme, taking place in the first examination period of the first exam session;

Allowable fail grade: a result obtained after the examination for a course unit in which a student does not obtain a credit certificate, but on the basis of which the cumulative conditions for passing the first year of the full-time standard path of the bachelor's programme (Article 139), or for the entirety of the study programme (Article 143), are met;

Admission agreement: agreement between the University Board of Governors and the student, whereby the latter indicates that they accept the general terms and conditions set out in the Education and Examination Regulations, among other things;

Second examination sitting: comprises one examination period (weeks 49 to 52) during which students avail themselves of their second exam opportunity if this is provided for. The second exam session concludes with a deliberation and electronic announcement of the results;

Continuity requirement: the rules determined by the University Board of Governors with regard to pursuing or passing a course unit or study programme before a student can take an exam for another course unit or study programme;

Full-time study programme: study programme that enables the student to complete a study programme of at least 54 ECTS credits per academic year;

Preparatory programme: a programme that can be imposed on a prospective student with an academic background who does not have a diploma that directly grants admission to the study programme for which they wish to enrol. The programme is aimed at imparting the missing competencies associated with the diploma that would enable admission to be granted directly. If more than one diploma would enable admission to be granted directly, this is then a case of jointly lacking competencies;

Exemption: the lifting of the obligation to take an examination for a course unit or part thereof.

CHAPTER III. - General provisions

Article 4 (due dates and indicative periods)

For the purposes of these regulations, the following arrangements apply to deadlines. The times within which the student must take appropriate action are to be regarded as deadline periods, unless specified otherwise.

Article 5 (requests addressed to the dean)

With the exception of cases where these regulations stipulate that the electronic application form must be used, all requests that have to be addressed to the dean in accordance with these regulations must be submitted via the email address stated in the supplementary faculty provisions to this article.

Article 6 (modalities for educational activities and communication)

§ 1. Audiovisual recording of educational activities (including non-periodic evaluation) and projected teaching materials is not permitted and is deemed to constitute a disruption to educational teaching activities, unless a specific agreement has been made with the lecturer concerned in this regard. The students must clearly state in this respect what, how, when and for what purpose such recording is to be carried out. The recorded material may not be used for purposes other than those for which the lecturer concerned has given permission. If a student records educational activities without taking these agreements into account, the recording must be destroyed on demand.

§ 2. VUB reserves the right to include lectures in the form of distance learning, among other things, and to later make these available to the students and teaching staff concerned via the electronic learning platform and/or the electronic video platform for educational purposes. When students attend these lectures, they automatically give their consent to appear as portrayed in the recordings for distribution within the electronic learning platform. At the start of the lectures, students are aware of the fact that the lecture will be recorded. Under no circumstances may students distribute or edit these recordings, under penalty of disciplinary sanctions as stipulated in the Order and Discipline Regulations for students of Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

§ 3. Under no circumstances may students reproduce or distribute learning or examination materials (exercises, slides, exam questions, etc.) for profit, without the consent of the lecturer in charge. A student who proceeds to do so despite the above, either in person or via third parties, will be liable to sanctions as set out in the Order and Discipline Regulations for Students of Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB).

§ 4. All communication with the student in accordance with these regulations will take place exclusively via the VUB email address, unless specified otherwise.

Article 7 (access control)

The use of the access badge is on a strictly personal basis. Passing on the access badge to other students or third parties is not permitted; any student who does do this will be liable to disciplinary sanctions as set out in the Order and Discipline Regulations for students of Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB).

PART II. – Education regulations

CHAPTER I. – Breakdown of the academic year

Article 8 (breakdown of the academic year)

§ 1. An academic year is broken down into two semesters, followed by the summer holiday and the second exam session:

Week 1: reception week

Weeks 2 – 14: lecture weeks

Weeks 15 – 16: winter holiday

Weeks 17 – 20: first examination period - first examination sitting

Weeks 21: lecture-free week and deliberation period for students in a graduation year who, in accordance with Article 133 of these regulations, have applied to graduate at the end of the first examination period of the first examination sitting

Weeks 22 – 36: lecture weeks including 2 weeks' spring break

Week 37: block week

Weeks 38 – 42: second examination period, first examination sitting and deliberation period –
(at least three weeks are provided for exams)
closure of first examination sitting for all faculties

Weeks 43 – 48: summer holiday

Weeks 49 – 52: examination period and deliberation period - second examination sitting
(at least three weeks are provided for exams)

§ 2. The academic calendar is determined annually by the Academic Council before the start of the academic year and no later than on 1 November.

§ 3. For course units taken at other institutions, examinations can be organised in accordance with the academic calendar of those institutions.

§ 4. Deviations from the academic calendar can be provided for in the supplementary faculty provisions.

CHAPTER II. – Rules on the structure of study programmes

Section 1: Structure of the range of study programmes offered

Article 9 (range of VUB study programmes offered)

The range of study programmes offered by VUB comprises:

- academic bachelor's programmes;
- initial master's programmes;
- post-master's programmes;
- postgraduate programmes;
- continuing education;
- micro-credentials;

- bridging and preparatory programmes;
- PhD study programme;
- PhD

Article 10 (publication of the range of study programmes offered)

With the exception of continuing education, the range of study programmes offered is defined and published before the start of the enrolment period.

Article 11 (bachelor's programme)

An academic bachelor's programme has a study load of at least 180 ECTS credits. The study load is in principle a multiple of 60 ECTS credits.

Article 12 (master's programme and post-master's programme)

A master's programme and a post-master's programme have a study load of at least 60 ECTS credits. The study load is in principle a multiple of 30 ECTS credits.

Article 13 (postgraduate programmes, continuing education and micro-credentials)

A postgraduate programme has a minimum study load of at least 20 ECTS credits. If a student passes the postgraduate programme, they will receive a postgraduate certificate.

There is no set minimum study load for continuing education. Consequently, there is no obligation to express the study load of continuing education in terms of ECTS credits. Depending on the nature of the continuing education, this programme leads to an attestation, a certificate, or documentary proof of participation.

A micro-credential has a minimum study load of 3 ECTS credits and a maximum of 19 ECTS credits. If a student passes a micro-credential, they will receive a credit certificate.

Article 14 (bridging programme)

Holders of a professional bachelor's degree can move on to a master's degree programme provided that they pursue a bridging programme.

A bridging programme has a minimum study load of 45 ECTS credits and a maximum of 90 ECTS credits. On the basis of the course(s) previously attended by the student, a reduction in the study load is possible.

Article 15 (preparatory programme)

Holders of an academic bachelor's degree who do not have direct access to a particular master's programme may still be admitted provided that they follow and pass a preparatory programme. On the basis of the course(s) previously attended by the student, a reduction in the study load is possible.

Section 2: Training programme and course unit

Article 16 (course outline)

§ 1. A course outline is drawn up for each programme, containing at least the following elements:

1. Degree, qualification and specification of the programme;
2. Study load expressed in ECTS credits;
3. Any majors, profiles and minors;
4. Language of instruction of the programme;
5. Content and objectives of the training, the study programme, breakdown into course units;
6. Standard study path;
7. The continuity requirement for the course units and descriptions of study progress;
8. Entry requirements and learning outcomes;
9. Organisation in the form of a standard study path and/or individual study path;
10. Whether or not to set up a specific training path for working students;
11. Affiliations and follow-up training programmes.

§ 2. The course outline is to be drafted in Dutch and English.

§ 3. With regard to study programmes leading to the profession of doctor, general practitioner, pharmacist or architect, the study programme meets the requirements set out in European Directive 2005/36/EC when defining the study programme. The education regulations indicate compliance with the European directive.

Article 17 (course unit outline)

§ 1. A course unit outline is drawn up for each course unit, containing at least the following elements:

1. Code, faculty and department responsible;
2. Title of the course unit;
3. Type of study programme to which the course unit primarily belongs;
4. Language of instruction;
5. Semester in which the course unit is organised or indication that it is a yearly course unit;
6. Study load of the course unit expressed in ECTS credits;
7. Enrolment requirements, including pre- and co-requisites;
8. The teaching methods associated with the course unit;
9. The lecturer (in charge) and other education providers;
10. Specific structure of the course unit set up for working students;
11. Indication of whether enrolment is or is not possible via an examination contract and, if so, what the specific requirements are regarding these students;
12. Learning outcomes;
13. Content of the course unit;

14. Examinations: exam form, how the exam mark/grade is determined, indication of whether or not there is a second exam opportunity. This information can be supplemented by the information provided on the learning platform before the start of the semester;
15. Study material;
16. Any additional costs associated with the course unit.

§ 2. If an internship, bachelor's thesis or master's thesis is not eligible for a credit contract, this will be stated in the course unit outline.

§ 3. The course unit outline is to be drafted in Dutch and English. If the course unit concerns the study of another language, the enacting provisions of the course unit outline must always be drafted in Dutch.

Article 18 (course unit study load and study time)

The study load of each course unit is expressed in whole ECTS credits. The minimum load of a course unit is 3 ECTS credits. An ECTS credit amounts to 25 - 30 hours of teaching and study activities or study time.

Article 19 (curriculum structure guidelines).

When developing a study programme, the curriculum structure guidelines must be followed.

Section 3: Teaching language provisions

Article 20 (principle regarding administrative and teaching language)

The administrative language and the language of instruction at VUB is Dutch. The principle that the language of instruction is Dutch may be derogated from in accordance with Article 21.

Article 21 (course units in another language)

In the initial bachelor's and master's programmes with Dutch as the language of instruction, the following course units can be organised in a language other than Dutch:

1. Course units that have a foreign language as their subject matter and which are taught in that language;
2. Course units taught by foreign-language guest professors;
3. Course units that, on the initiative of the student and with the consent of the University Board of Governors, are attended at another institute of higher education;
4. Course units where the explicitly reasoned decision shows the added value for the students and the related professional field of practice and the functionality for the training programme.

In the cases referred to in Article 21 (2) and (4), students may request to take the examination for the course unit in a language other than Dutch no later than one month before the start of the examination period concerned.

Article 22 (percentage of course units in another language)

§ 1. Subject to justification on the basis of added value for the student and the functionality of this for the study programme, the faculty may ask the Education Council to organise course units other than those described in Article 21 in a language of instruction other than Dutch. For the bachelor's programme, the organisation of courses in other languages is limited to 18.33% of the study load for the overall study programme. For the calculation of this percentage, the course units focusing on the study of a foreign language and the course units that the student attends at another institution can be disregarded.

§ 2. For the master's programme, the organisation of courses in other languages is limited to 50% of the study load for the overall study programme. For the calculation of this percentage, the course units focusing on the study of a foreign language and the course units that the student attends at another institution can be disregarded. The master's thesis and the internship are considered Dutch-language course units.

Article 23 (study programmes entirely in another language)

§ 1. If the study programme has been specifically designed for foreign students or if the added value for the students and the related professional field of practice and the functionality for the study programme can be sufficiently demonstrated, initial bachelor's and master's programmes can be organised entirely in a language other than Dutch, provided that a full study programme is organised in Dutch within the Flemish Community.

§ 2. Within the Flemish Community, institutions can offer an equivalent initial bachelor's or master's programme jointly. All course units of such a jointly organised equivalent bachelor's or master's programme are attended by the students in a single location.

§ 3. By way of derogation from § 1, the obligation to set up a Dutch equivalent will cease to apply if:

- it concerns a study programme that, based on a prior decision by the Flemish Government, benefits from an exemption from the condition of equivalence;
- it concerns a study programme that has the International Course Programme status, or a study programme that has been selected in accordance with the provisions of a European programme for the promotion of international cooperation in higher education and in which a multi-diploma or joint diploma is a prerequisite;
- the foreign-language initial bachelor's or master's programme is jointly organised with an institution outside the Flemish Community and is validated by way of a joint diploma and if the expertise for the course units organised outside the Flemish Community is not available within the Flemish Community.

§ 4. The examinations are taken in the language in which the instruction takes place.

Article 24 (post-master's programmes, postgraduate programmes and continuing education)

For post-master's programmes, micro-credentials, postgraduate programmes and continuing education, the language of instruction can be freely determined. If the language of instruction is not Dutch, there is no obligation to establish a Dutch-language equivalent. The examinations are taken in the language of instruction of the study programme or in the language of instruction of the course unit if this differs from the language of instruction for the overall study programme.

Article 25 (language support measures)

§ 1. Students who pursue a foreign-language initial bachelor's or master's degree programme or an initial bachelor's or master's degree programme with course units in another language can have their language proficiency tested in that other language. More information regarding the language tests organised at VUB can be found on the ACTO website (<https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/alle-opleidingen/leer-een-nieuwe-taal/actootaalopleidingen-voor-vub-studenten>).

§ 2. The institution provides initial bachelor's or master's degree programmes with course units in other languages or initial bachelor's or master's degree programmes in other languages in adapted facilities. These language support measures may include:

1. language course units (including language courses) offered within the package of mandatory course units or as a compulsory elective course unit;
2. language support measures integrated into the foreign-language course units. These language support measures provide for active coaching of the students and are clearly recognisable as such for the students in the course unit.

§ 3. The obligation in § 2 may be derogated from in the case of:

1. a consecutive master's programme, where the language support measures were included in the previous bachelor's programme;
2. a non-consecutive master's programme, where the language support measures were included in the preparatory programme or in the bridging programme.

§ 4. The institution provides a free, accessible and needs-based range of Dutch and foreign language courses as well as language support measures.

CHAPTER III. - Conditions of admission

Section 1: General remarks

Article 26 (conditions for enrolment in study programmes and course units)

§ 1. The conditions of admission listed below apply both to enrolment for study programmes, bridging and preparatory programmes as well as enrolment for course units. They apply notwithstanding the specific conditions that may also be imposed, and which are specified for each study, bridging or preparatory programme or course units contained in the course outline or the course unit outline.

§ 2. A prospective student who wants to enrol for a study programme with a diploma contract and who enrolls for the relevant course at VUB for the first time should enrol via the registration application.

§ 3. A prospective student who wants use a credit contract to enrol for course units for which they do not meet the conditions of admission in principle should contact the dean, who will judge whether they possess the necessary competencies in this regard. The student must submit their application via the central registration application.

§ 4. Prospective students who want to enrol with an examination contract with a view to obtaining credits should contact the dean. The student must submit their application via the central registration application.

§ 5. Enrolment that is inconsistent with the measures taken for the prospective student's study progress monitoring will be refused.

§ 6. Students who are in arrears with payment will be refused (re)enrolment in accordance with article 67, § 3.

§ 7. Students who discontinue their study programme at VUB cannot re-enrol for the same study programme at VUB within the same academic year.

Article 27 (time of assessment of admission conditions)

Whether a prospective student satisfies the admission conditions will be assessed at the time of enrolment.

Section 2: Admission conditions - diploma

Subsection 1: Admission conditions for a bachelor's degree programme

Article 28 (General remarks)

§ 1. A prospective student who has obtained one of the following diplomas at an educational institution recognised by the Flemish, French or German-speaking Community can be admitted to a bachelor's degree programme:

- a secondary education diploma, awarded up to and including the 2024-2025 school year;
- a secondary education diploma, educational qualification level 4, awarded from the 2024-2025 school year;
- a secondary education diploma awarded by an adult education centre up to and including the 2025-2026 school year;
- a short-cycle higher education diploma with a full curriculum;
- a higher education diploma for social advancement, with the exception of the Pedagogical Proficiency Certificate;
- a graduate diploma or certificate awarded in the context of higher vocational education.

§ 2. A prospective student who has obtained a diploma or study certificate outside Flanders can also be admitted to a bachelor's degree programme:

- if such a diploma or study certificate has been recognised by the university as equivalent to one of the diplomas listed under § 1 by virtue of a legal standard or an international agreement;
- if such a diploma or study certificate has been recognised as equivalent by the Agency of the Flemish Community for Quality Assurance in Education and Training (National Academic Recognition Information Centre – Flanders, NARIC Flanders).
- if such a diploma or study certificate has been recognised as equivalent by the Agency of the French Community (National Academic Recognition Information Centre - Le centre ENIC-Naric de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles).

These prospective students must apply in accordance with the procedure for enrolment on the basis of a foreign diploma, as set out in these regulations.

§ 3. If the prospective student is unable to submit a diploma, enrolment will only be possible in accordance with the special admission procedure stated in Article 29.

§ 4. If the prospective student submits a different diploma or study certificate, they must apply in accordance with the procedure for enrolment on the basis of a foreign diploma as set out in these regulations.

Article 29 (special admission procedure for those unable to submit a diploma)

§ 1. A prospective student who cannot submit any of the diplomas as stated in the previous article may be permitted to take an aptitude test. In this regard, the student concerned may invoke humanitarian grounds, or medical, psychological or social reasons, or a general qualification level, merits or competencies. The student must submit a file to Student Counselling, compiled as specified below.

§ 2. For enrolment in the first semester, a file can be submitted up to 15 August. For enrolment starting in the second semester, a file can be submitted up to 1 December.

§ 3. The prospective student must have reached the age of 21 at the time of enrolment or must reach the age of 21 in the calendar year in which they apply for admission.

§ 4. Taking the aptitude test as part of this special admission procedure is only possible once per academic year.

§ 5. Prospective students who have taken a specific 'exam d'admission aux études universitaires de premier cycle' at a university in the French Community and can submit an accompanying certificate are exempted from the aptitude test.

Article 30 (file to be submitted and further examination)

§ 1. The file submitted on humanitarian grounds must contain the following documents:

- Proof of identity;
- Proof that the prospective student is a recognised refugee, has additional protection status, or the application for this is still being examined or processed;
- Declaration that they do not hold the required diploma;
- Overview of the study path already followed, with supporting documents where possible.

§ 2. The file submitted on medical, psychological or social grounds must contain the following documents:

- Proof of identity;
- Evidence in support of the medical, psychological or social grounds invoked;
- Overview of the study path already followed, with supporting documents;
- Copy of the last diploma or certificate of secondary education obtained.

§ 3. The file submitted on the basis of the general qualification level, merits or competencies must contain the following documents:

- Proof of identity;
- Overview and proof of work experience;
- Overview of the study path already followed, with supporting documents;
- Copy of the last diploma or certificate of secondary education obtained.

§ 4. Opinions and recommendations from the university service units, e.g. student counselling, medical service, etc., can be included in the file.

§ 5. The Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs decides whether the file is complete. If the decision is positive, the prospective student will be notified that they can take the aptitude test.

Article 31 (admission after the aptitude test)

§ 1. After receiving the assessment of the aptitude test, the Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs decides whether the prospective student may enrol in the degree course, programme or course units they wish to enrol for. If the aptitude test shows that the prospective student does not attain the required level compared with the standard group of secondary school-leavers, the student concerned will not be admitted.

§ 2. The Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs will inform the prospective student of the decision taken within one month of receiving the assessment of the aptitude test. The validity period in the event of a positive result is five years.

Article 32 (admission to the medical degree programme and to advanced training in dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery)

§ 1. Anyone wishing to enrol for a bachelor's degree programme in the field of medicine or for course units of such a bachelor's degree programme must have achieved a high ranking beforehand on the basis of the comparative doctor's entrance examination as stipulated by law.

§ 2. A student enrolled for the master's programme in dentistry who at the same time wishes to enrol for the basic course in medicine at VUB in order to commence the postgraduate course in stomatology/oral and maxillofacial surgery may submit an application to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy for exemption from the entrance examination for the complementary basic course. The specific procedure is set out in the Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations.

Article 33 (admission to certain bachelor's programmes: positioning test/(mandatory level test)

Anyone wishing to enrol for the bachelor's programme in bioscience engineering, biomedical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, physics and astronomy, industrial sciences, engineering: civil engineer, engineering: architecture or mathematics and data science must, notwithstanding the admission conditions set out in Article 28 and Article 29, have taken part in a positioning test (mandatory level test) or a non-mandatory level test as stipulated in the cross-institutional regulations.

A student who does not achieve the pre-determined pass mark for the mandatory level test or positioning test must attend a mandatory remedial course. This remedial course can be taken on an extracurricular basis before the start of the academic year (digitally or via a preparatory course) or on an intracurricular basis in the first year of the bachelor's programme. The remedial course has a load within the range of one to three ECTS credits. Students entering the second semester can be required to take extracurricular remedial courses. If a student has not attended

the mandatory remedial course required of them, the institution can take this into account in its deliberation.

If the mandatory remedial course is organised no later than in week seven of the academic year, the lecturer in charge can stipulate in the course unit outline that students who do not attend this remedial course will be given a second chance in the first examination period of the first examination session or in the second examination session. Students will not be offered a third chance.

Article 34 (exemption from mandatory participation in the positioning test/(mandatory) level test)

In the event of not taking part in a positioning test (mandatory level test) or a non-mandatory level test as stipulated in the aforementioned Article 33, the student may, by way of a well-reasoned application, ask the Exemptions Committee for level tests to nevertheless be admitted to the relevant study programme. The student must submit such a well-reasoned application by 23 September at the latest. The application will be dealt with by the Exemptions Committee, comprising the dean, a member of the independent academic staff, a study programme supervisor and a 'central study advisor for level tests'.

Where appropriate, the student may be required to attend a remedial course in the first year of the bachelor degree programme.

The well-reasoned request to the Exemptions Committee regarding level tests is to be made via the application form 'exemption from mandatory participation in a positioning/level test' available at <https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/inschrijven-aan-de-vub/toelatingsexamen-en-ijkingstoetsen/ijkingstoetsen>.

Article 34bis (exemption from the mandatory remedial course within the framework of the positioning test/mandatory level test)

In order to be exempted from the mandatory remedial course referred to in the aforementioned Article 33, the student may submit a well-reasoned application to the Exemptions Committee for level tests. The application will be dealt with by the Exemptions Committee, comprising the dean, a member of the independent academic staff, a study programme supervisor and a 'central study advisor for level tests'.

The well-reasoned application to the Exemptions Committee for level tests is to be made via the 'exemption from the mandatory remedial course' application form available at <https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/inschrijven-aan-de-vub/toelatingsexamen-en-ijkingstoetsen/ijkingstoetsen>.

Subsection 2: Admission conditions for a master's programme

Article 35 (admission to a master's programme: general rule)

§ 1. For enrolment in a master's programme (initial master's programme, not a post-master's programme), the prospective student must have obtained an academic bachelor's degree.

§ 2. For each master's programme, at least one academic bachelor's degree is stipulated as a general condition for admission to the master's programme. Admission to a master's programme may be restricted to an academic bachelor's programme with specific programme characteristics. For similar bachelor's programmes followed at another educational institution, the content of the master's programme may vary according to the degree of similarity of content, without the study load being adjusted. A university and one or more colleges of higher education may jointly offer master's programmes within an association, with a bachelor's degree in higher vocational education stipulated as a general condition for admission.

§ 3. Those who have obtained another academic bachelor's degree may be admitted if they have passed a preparatory programme defined for this purpose.

§ 4. Those who have obtained a professional bachelor's degree will be admitted if they have passed a bridging programme defined for this purpose.

§ 5. Derogations from this general rule are included in the following articles.

Article 36 (special admission procedure for those unable to submit a diploma)

§ 1. A prospective student who has obtained an academic bachelor's degree but cannot submit it for humanitarian reasons may be permitted to take a specific test that gauges the student's required prior knowledge and is tailored to the initial competencies of the master's programme concerned. This test is drawn up by the Education Council responsible for the master's programme in which the prospective student wishes to enrol. To this end, the person concerned should address their reasoned application to the Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs. They should also submit a file, compiled as set out below. On the basis of the prospective student's file, the Education Council may decide that the applicant is exempt from the admission test referred to above. In doing so, the prospective student should demonstrate that they have the necessary initial competencies.

§ 2. For enrolment in the first semester, a file can be submitted up to 15 August. For enrolment starting in the second semester, a file can be submitted up to 1 December.

Article 37 (file to be submitted and further examination)

§ 1. The submitted file must contain the following documents:

- Copy of identity card;
- Proof that the prospective student is a recognised refugee, has additional protection status, or the application for this is still being examined or processed;
- Declaration that they do not hold the required diploma;
- Overview of the study path already followed, with supporting documents where possible.

§ 2. At the request of the Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs, VUB service departments, such as student counselling, the medical service, etc., can invite the student and provide advice to enable them to complete their file.

§ 3. The Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs will inform the prospective student of the decision they have taken within one month of receiving the application. If the decision is positive, the prospective student will immediately be informed that they can attend the relevant test.

Article 38 (taking the specific test)

§ 1. The specific test is drawn up and administered by the Education Council with responsibility for the master's programme in which the prospective student wishes to enrol.

§ 2. Based on of the prospective student's file, the Education Council may decide to exempt them from the specific test.

§ 3. The Education Council will inform the Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs without delay of the decision to grant an exemption or with regard to whether or not this specific test has been passed.

Article 39 (decision on admission or refusal)

The Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs will inform the prospective student of the decision taken within one month of receiving the assessment from the Education Council.

Article 40 (admission to the post-master's programme)

§ 1. For enrolment in a post-master's programme, the student must have obtained a master's degree. In addition, permission to enrol can be made dependent on an aptitude test. Where appropriate, attendance of a preparatory programme can be required. Admission to a post-master's programme may be restricted to a master's programme with specific programme characteristics. For similar master's programmes followed at another educational institution, the content of the post-master's programme may vary according to the degree of similarity of content, without the study load being adjusted.

§ 2. Permission to enrol in the post-master's programme in specialist medicine is subject to an aptitude test, in which a quantitative limitation may be determined for each specialisation, depending on the programme capacity available. The specific modalities are set out in a separate set of regulations.

Permission to enrol in the post-master's programme in general medical practice is subject to an aptitude test.

In order to be able to take the post-master's programme in specialist medicine and the post-master's programme in general medical practice, students must be authorised to practice medicine in accordance with the legal provisions applying in Belgium.

Article 41 (admission to the educational master's programme)

§ 1. The further enrolment conditions for each area of study have been established by the MILO. This also applies to the terms and conditions regarding language proficiency. These terms and conditions can be viewed at vub.be.

§ 2. The diploma for the shortened master's programme in education can only be awarded if the diploma for the relevant master's programme has been obtained.

Subsection 3: Combination of enrolments

Article 42 (combination of enrolments in bachelor's and master's programmes)

§ 1. A student who was enrolled in a bachelor's programme and has not yet obtained the bachelor's degree required for admission to a subsequent master's programme may enrol in this master's programme at the same time, subject to the conditions set out below. However, the restrictions set out in Article 59 and Article 88, § 3 also apply.

The above rule also applies to inter-university combined enrolments, both at home and abroad.

§ 2. The student needs 30 or fewer ECTS credits to obtain the bachelor's degree. The student can enrol in a subsequent master's degree programme or for course units offered in such a master's degree programme in accordance with the applicable rules regarding the continuity requirement, without obtaining permission.

§ 3. The student needs more than 30 ECTS credits to obtain the bachelor's degree. The student can enrol for a subsequent master's degree programme or for course units offer in such a master's degree programme in accordance with the applicable rules regarding the continuity requirement, provided they obtain permission to do so. To this end, the student or prospective student should address their request to the dean.

If the student needs more than 45 ECTS credits to obtain the bachelor's degree, they cannot apply for admission to also enrol in the subsequent master's programme.

When assessing the request, the dean takes into account, among other things, the prior knowledge required for the course units of the master's programme, for the master's thesis and for any internship. The reasoned request to the dean is to be made via the application form 'study programme exemption' available at <https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/praktische-info-voor-studenten/studiebegeleiding/studietraject/uitzondering-studietraject>.

§ 4. The master's degree can only be awarded if the required bachelor's degree has been obtained.

Article 43 (other combinations)

§ 1. The same rules as those referred to under the previous article apply equally to a student who enrolled in a bridging or preparatory programme and has not yet obtained the associated ECTS credits. Such a student can already enrol for the subsequent master's programme, under the conditions stated in that article.

§ 2. The same rules also apply analogously to students who have not yet obtained the master's degree required for admission to a post-master's degree programme.

Section 3: Language proficiency

Subsection 1: Language proficiency requirements

Article 44 (language of instruction)

§ 1. The language of instruction is set annually for each degree programme. It is indicated in the course outline.

§ 2. A student who enrolls for a degree programme, a programme or a course unit must master the language in which this education is provided at an academic level. How language proficiency is to be demonstrated is set out in greater detail in the following provisions.

Subsection 2: Proof of language proficiency on enrolment

Article 45 (proof of language proficiency)

When enrolling, students must provide proof of their proficiency in the language of instruction.

Article 46 (proof of knowledge of Dutch)

§ 1. The prospective student is deemed to have provided proof of sufficient knowledge of Dutch as a language of instruction if one of the following conditions is met:

1. they have obtained a secondary or higher education diploma with Dutch as the language of instruction;
2. they have successfully completed at least one academic year in secondary education with Dutch as the language of instruction;
3. they have successfully completed course units with a total of at least 54 ECTS credits in higher education with Dutch as the language of instruction;
4. they have achieved a favourable ranking for the medical or dentistry entrance examination organised by the Flemish Government;
5. they have obtained a higher education certificate for social advancement in Dutch;
6. they have passed the Dutch State Examination in Dutch as a Second Language (NT2), Programme II;
7. they have passed a test devised in accordance with the European reference framework level B2, in particular the Dutch as a Foreign Language Certificate (CNaVT) - 'Educatief Startbekwaam', (up to and including 2014: the Dutch Language Skills Profile for Higher Education (PTHO)), the Inter-university Language Test in Dutch for Speakers of Other Languages (ITNA - CEFR B2).

The attestations and certificates of language tests may not be more than five years old when enrolling for the first time.

§ 2. Each faculty may require a higher level of language proficiency for a particular degree programme. This is stated in the course outline.

§ 3. In the case of courses for which MILO is responsible, specific language requirements may be imposed in accordance with Article 41, § 1.

§ 4. The chairperson of the Education Council may also grant a derogation from the requirements for language proficiency on the basis of the overall assessment of the particular case.

§ 5. Each faculty may decide for a postgraduate or post-master's programme that the students do not have to provide proof of their knowledge of the language of instruction when enrolling. This is stated in the course outline.

Article 47 (proof of knowledge of English)

§ 1. The prospective student is deemed to have provided proof of sufficient knowledge of English as a language of instruction if one of the following conditions is met:

1. they have obtained a secondary education diploma with English as their sole language of instruction, with the exception of any language subjects;
2. they have obtained a degree in higher education with English as the sole language of instruction;

3. they have successfully completed secondary education organised by (an educational institution recognised by) the Flemish, French-speaking or German-speaking Community;
4. they have passed one of the following language tests in accordance with the European Framework of Reference for Languages with minimum level B2:
 - TOEFL iBT (home edition) with the following minimum level: 79, with a minimum sub-score of 18 in each of the 4 components;
 - IELTS with the following minimum level: academic module 6.5, with a minimum sub-score of 6.0 in each of the 4 components;
 - ITACE with the following minimum level: B2 in at least 4 of the 5 components of the ITACE test;
 - Cambridge English Qualification with the following minimum level: B2 First (FCE) with a minimum score of 170.

The attestations and certificates of (online) language tests may not be more than five years old when enrolling for the first time.

§ 2. Each faculty may require a higher level of language proficiency for a particular degree programme. This is stated in the course outline.

§ 3. The chairperson of the Education Council may also grant a derogation from the requirements for language proficiency on the basis of the overall assessment of the particular case.

§ 4. Each faculty may decide for a postgraduate or post-master's programme that the students do not have to provide proof of their knowledge of the language of instruction when enrolling. This is stated in the course outline.

Article 48 (language test)

§ 1. ACTO can administer a language test to prospective students who have not been able to submit a language certificate, according to the conditions stated on the ACTO website.

§ 2. Students who change their enrolment and wish to transfer to a programme that imposes different language requirements must submit to a new language test.

Article 49 (course units in another language)

A prospective student who only wants to enrol in course units that are taught in a language other than that applying to the overall course does not have to provide proof of their knowledge of the language of instruction of the course; but does have to provide proof regarding the language of instruction for the course unit if the faculty so desires.

Proof of knowledge of the language of the course unit is to be provided in accordance with Article 46 to Article 48 at the time of enrolment.

Section 4: Admission conditions regarding study credits

Article 50 (admission conditions regarding study credits)

§ 1. Students can enrol for a bachelor's degree programme on the basis of a diploma contract, provided they have a positive study credit. Enrolment may be refused if the student wishes to enrol for more ECTS credits than their available study credit allows. First enrolment in a new bachelor's degree programme on the basis of a diploma contract can be refused if the study credit amounts to fewer than 60 ECTS credits.

§ 2. Students can enrol for one or more course units on the basis of a credit contract, provided they have a positive study credit. Enrolment may be refused if the student wishes to enrol for more ECTS credits than their available study credit allows.

§ 3. Students can enrol for one or more course units on the basis of an examination contract, provided they have a positive study credit. Enrolment may be refused if the student wishes to enrol for more ECTS credits than their available study credit allows.

§ 4. By way of derogation from § 1, students in a bachelor's degree programme whose study credit is less than or equal to zero may be admitted for one academic year to further complete that bachelor's degree programme, provided that they meet the admission conditions and still have to complete a maximum of 30 ECTS credits from that bachelor's degree programme.

§ 5. Students whose study credit is less than or equal to zero are also allowed to start or continue a master's degree programme with a negative study credit, provided that they meet the admission conditions.

§ 6. These provisions apply without prejudice to any study progress decisions, including measures for monitoring study progress.

CHAPTER IV. – Study contracts and further rules concerning enrolment

Section 1: Enrolments and study contracts

Subsection 1: Enrolments

Article 51 (general)

§ 1. A prospective student enrolls for:

- One or more study programmes at the same time;
- One course unit;
- Multiple course units, which are part of one or more study programmes;
- A bridging programme;
- A preparatory programme.

§ 2. Students enrolled with a diploma contract must then register their programme for the year.

§ 3. Prospective students who wishes to enrol on the basis of an examination contract or a credit contract must register via the central application procedure.

Subsection 2: Study contracts

Article 52 (type of study contract)

§ 1. At the time of enrolment, the prospective student must conclude an admission agreement with the university. When enrolling, a student has the choice between the following contracts:

- *Diploma contract*, with a view to obtaining a diploma;
- *Diploma contract*, if the student enrolls for a postgraduate degree or bridging or preparatory programme;
- *Credit contract*, with a view to obtaining a credit certificate for one or more course units;
- *Examination contract* with a view to obtaining a diploma;
- *Examination contract* with a view to obtaining a credit certificate for one or more course units.

§ 2. Students can opt for a combination of study contracts. However, the following 2 combinations of contracts are not allowed for the same programme:

- (i) combination of diploma contract and examination contract with a view to obtaining a diploma;
- (ii) combination of credit contract and examination contract with a view to obtaining credits.

Article 53 (consent)

When concluding the admission agreement, students grant consent by agreeing to their enrolment and the associated conditions in the Student SelfService portal or by signing the study contract.

Article 54 (examination and credit contract: characteristics and restrictions)

§ 1. Anyone who has enrolled for courses on the basis of an examination contract may not take part in the associated educational activities.

§ 2. Whether enrolment is permitted on the basis of an examination contract is stated in the course unit outline. Enrolment on the basis of an examination contract may possibly be permitted for a course unit, subject to the student performing alternative activities. In that case, the course unit outline will state which alternative activities are to be imposed in this regard.

§ 3. If an internship, bachelor's thesis or master's thesis is not eligible for a credit contract, this will be stated in the course unit outline.

Subsection 3: Change of study contract

Article 55 (change of type of contract)

Changes to the choice of a type of study contract are possible throughout the academic year. The student concerned should contact OWSA to terminate the current study contract and apply for a new type of study contract.

Article 56 (change of study programme)

§ 1. Students who change their choice of study programme unenrol from the entire study programme for which they have enrolled, and immediately enrol for another study programme. This change to the curriculum may have consequences for the study credit.

§ 2. Such a change in the choice of a degree study programme can only take place within the context of a diploma contract.

§ 3. In the event of such a change, additional tuition fees will be charged if due in accordance with Article 70.

Subsection 4: Standard study path versus individual study path

Article 57 (standard study path)

§ 1. A standard study path is defined for each study programme that can be enrolled for via a diploma contract. The standard study path is broken down into study years.

§ 2. Students follow a standard model course when they follow the standard study path approved by the Education Council and take between 54 and 66 ECTS credits annually.

Article 58 (individual study path)

Students follow an individual study path when they:

- do not take a package of course units worth between 54 and 66 ECTS credits each year, or
- deviate from the order of course units as stipulated the standard study path, or
- deviate from the total study load of the study programme.

Subsection 5: Scope of enrolment

Article 59 (scope of enrolment)

§ 1. Enrolment in a study programme, a bridging programme or a preparatory programme is permitted for a maximum of 72 ECTS credits, except for students who find themselves in the situation referred to in Article 78, § 3 and Article 88, § 3. This maximum number also applies in the case of enrolment where different types of contracts are combined.

§ 2. Deviation from the maximum of 72 ECTS credits may be requested. To this end, the student concerned should address their request to the dean. The reasoned request to the dean is to be

made via the 'study path exemption' application form, available at [https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/praktische-info-voor students/student counselling/study trajectory/exception study trajectory](https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/praktische-info-voor-students/student-counselling/study-trajectory/exception-study-trajectory).

§ 3. Without prejudice to the rules concerning study credit, a student who is subject to a binding condition in the context of a particular study programme has the right to take at least 45 ECTS credits in that study programme within the academic year to which the binding condition relates, unless this is not permitted in terms of the continuity requirement.

Section 2: Enrolment regulations

Subsection 1: General regulations

Article 60 (enrolment period)

§ 1. The first period for submitting an enrolment application runs from 1 July to 23 September. Prospective students wishing to enrol for the first semester must complete their online application by no later than 23 September. From 24 September on, enrolment is only possible with the explicit permission of the dean. Such admission is subject to the student completing their online application within 7 calendar days of receiving the decision. From 15 November, enrolment for the first period will no longer be possible.

The reasoned request to the dean is to be made via the 'study programme exemption' application form, available at <https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/praktische-info-voor-studenten/studiebegeleiding/studietraject/uitzondering-studietraject>.

§ 2. For those who want to start in the second semester, the second period for submitting an enrolment application runs from 1 December to 15 February. Prospective students wishing to enrol for the second semester must complete their online application by no later than 15 February. From 16 February on, enrolment is only possible with the explicit permission of the dean. Such admission is subject to the student completing their online application within 7 calendar days of receiving the decision. From 16 March, enrolment for the second period will no longer be possible.

The reasoned request to the dean is to be made via the 'study programme exemption' application form, available at <https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/praktische-info-voor-studenten/studiebegeleiding/studietraject/uitzondering-studietraject>

Faculties can determine In the Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations which study programmes cannot be enrolled in for the first time in the second semester for organisational reasons.

§ 3. Students who have obtained permission to enrol and can sign the enrolment contract must complete this (online) contract signature by no later than 8 October for enrolment in the first semester or by no later than 28 February for enrolment in the second semester.

§ 4. Students who re-enrol must complete their re-enrolment by 15 February at the latest.

§ 5. After enrolling in the study programme, students must register their course units in accordance with Article 78, and do so within the following deadline periods:

- For course units in the first semester and yearly course units, registration for course units is only possible until 8 October;
- For course units in the second semester, registration for course units is only possible until 28 February.

The registration of course units outside these deadlines is only possible with the explicit permission of the dean. The student must address a request to the dean to this effect in accordance with Article 79, § 3 to § 6.

The reasoned request to the dean is to be made via the 'study programme exemption' application form, available at <https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/praktische-info-voor-studenten/studiebegeleiding/studietraject/uitzondering-studietraject>

§ 6. By way of derogation from § 1 to § 3, a student can enrol in the post-master's programme in specialist medicine throughout the academic year.

In addition, by way of derogation from § 4, a student may be enrolled in the post-master's programme in specialist medicine without registering for course units.

§ 7. Also in derogation from § 1 to § 3, if there are still internship places available after the quota has been used up, a student who is not required to have a visa may enrol in the post-master's programme in specialist medicine throughout the academic year.

§ 8. For postgraduate programmes, a different enrolment period is possible if the structure of the postgraduate degree differs from the academic calendar approved by the Academic Council.

§ 9. By way of derogation from § 1, students who enrol in a study programme for which payment of the enrolment fee must be made before 1 July and who are already in possession of the diploma that gives access to the study programme in question can enrol from 1 January prior to the start of the academic year.

§ 10. Persons who have their main enrolment at another educational institution and who have been admitted to attend one or more course units at VUB must enrol as a guest student by no later than 15 October for the first semester or by no later than 15 March for the second semester. After this date, enrolment is only possible with the explicit permission of the dean. From 1 December, it will no longer be possible to enrol as a guest student in the first period. From 16 March, it will no longer be possible to enrol as a guest student in the second period.

The reasoned request to the dean is to be made via the 'guest student application' application form, available at <https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/inschrijven-aan-de-vub/aanmelden-en-inschrijven/info-voor-gaststudenten>.

Article 61 (enrolment documents)

§ 1. Insofar as VUB is not yet in possession of these documents, prospective students enrolling in a new study programme at VUB for the first time must submit the following documents:

1. identity card or passport;
2. a supporting document on which the National Register or INSZ number is stated;
3. for students requiring a visa: a passport with a provisional residence permit for the purpose of studies (type D visa) or a valid residence permit, on the understanding that the (prospective) student can also attach this document to the file after enrolment, at the latest on the date stated at <https://www.vub.be/en/internationalisation-vub/international-relations-what-we-do-how-you-can-reach-us/welcome-desk-international-office>;
4. the diploma granting access to the study programme, a copy is not sufficient; anyone who obtained their secondary education diploma from the Flemish Community after 31 December 2004 does not have to submit this, unless the diploma cannot be consulted in a database;
5. for prospective medical school students:
 - certificate of favourable ranking in the admission examination for medical studies, or
 - proof of equivalence diploma in medicine issued by NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centre)
6. for prospective students in the bachelor's programmes referred to in Article 33: proof of taking a positioning test/(mandatory) level test;
7. for refugees and asylum seekers for whom a professional or residence procedure is in progress, the certificate issued by the Office of the Commissioner-General for Refugees and Stateless Persons, unless they are in possession of a secondary education diploma obtained in Belgium;
8. for scholarships from the Flemish Community, VLIR-UOS and Enabel and other scholarships awarded for study courses at VUB, the scholarship holder certificate;
9. for prospective students who cannot enrol directly, the admission letter signed by the Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs
10. any supporting document required to demonstrate that the conditions for admission have been met;
11. for foreign students, proof that they are covered by health insurance that is valid in Belgium, with the exception of students who have a diplomatic passport, a special identity card or a valid residence permit. Prospective students who are not covered by such health insurance can take out a policy via the *VUB International Relations Office (IRMO)*. The (prospective) student can also attach this document to the file after enrolment, at the latest by the date communicated at <https://www.vub.be/en/internationalisation->

vub/international-relations-what-we-do-how-you-can-reach-us/welcome-desk-international-office.

§ 2. If the above-mentioned documents cannot be substantiated in a (Flemish) government database, verification of the diploma will be required. The student must take the necessary steps in this regard.

§ 3. Students who wish to pursue continuing education or a postgraduate programme can also apply to the Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs for permission to enrol remotely via a reasoned request. If such enrolment is permitted, the student wanting to start a continuing or postgraduate degree programme must provide a certified copy of their diploma and passport/identity card to OWSA in advance.

Article 62 (enrolment certificates)

§ 1. The student will be provided with the student card and the enrolment certificates.

§ 2. The Flemish Education Administration sends the enrolment data directly to the Study Grants Department of the Flemish Government as well as those bodies remitting the Growth Package (Flanders) and child benefit (Brussels) by electronic means. The student therefore does not receive any documents in this regard.

§ 3. The student can obtain enrolment certificates from OWSA.

Subsection 2: Specific arrangements for enrolment on the basis of a foreign diploma

Article 63 (admission based upon a foreign diploma)

§ 1. Enrolment on the basis of a foreign diploma is only possible if permission has been obtained from the Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs.

§ 2. A prospective student can submit an application for admission from 15 November of the academic year preceding the academic year for which they are submitting their application. The application for permission to enrol is to be submitted to OWSA. Students submit their application for admission by completing an online application.

With the exception of postgraduate programmes, the following deadlines apply to applications for admission:

- Visa required: 31 March. A change in the aforementioned deadline is granted to the categories of prospective students included in the list to be validated annually by the Education Council; these prospective students must submit their application for admission by 30 April at the latest.
- No visa required: 31 July. A change in the aforementioned deadline is only possible for students who change their study programme within VUB during the course of the

academic year, with the explicit consent of the dean, and do so in accordance with the deadlines for students with a Belgian diploma who do not require a visa.

Applications for admission to a postgraduate degree programme must be submitted before 1 September.

§ 3. The Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs will only admit the prospective student if they have obtained a diploma at the same level as the diploma required by VUB as a condition of admission to that programme.

Prospective students can submit their application during the year in which they expect to obtain their degree. If the file is assessed favourably and no other substantive conditions still have to be met in addition to obtaining the diploma, they may be granted a conditional letter of admission.

§ 4. A Chinese prospective student with a Chinese diploma must also submit an *APS certificate (Akademische Prüfstelle)*, with the exception of those Chinese prospective students who are exempted according to the guidelines of the Flemish Government, which can be found on the IRMO web page: <https://www.vub.be/en/studying-vub/apply-and-enrol-vub/application-and-enrolment/enrolling-with-foreign-diploma#paragraph-81726>. A Chinese student who obtained a diploma outside China must present proof of authenticity of such a diploma, issued by the embassy of the country where the diploma was obtained.

§ 5. After the file has been assessed by OWSA and the faculty, the prospective student will receive an admission or refusal letter signed by the Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs.

§ 6. Except for prospective students who are granted direct admission on the basis of a diploma obtained in Belgium, prospective students will be charged a registration fee of €90 per application.

VUB must receive payment of the registration fee no later than 30 calendar days after the payment notice has been sent. Applications for which VUB receives payment of the registration fee later than this period will no longer be processed.

Scholarship holders and students from partner institutions are exempt from this registration fee.

§ 7. Students permitted to stay in Belgium for a limited or unlimited duration on the basis of Article 49, § 1 of the Aliens Law of 15 December 1980:

- may submit their application for admission up to 23 September, by way of derogation from Article 63, § 2 of these regulations;
- no registration fee as referred to in Article 63, § 6 of these regulations is due in this case.

§ 8. Students who enjoy temporary protection in Belgium on the basis of Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001, and students who came to Belgium as minors and whose parents benefit from this temporary protection:

- no registration fee as referred to in Article 63, § 6 of these regulations is due in this case.

- a tuition fee will be charged equal to the tuition fee for EEA students.

Article 64 (admission file)

With a view to obtaining the desired admission letter, the prospective student must submit a completed electronic application form and a file containing at least the following documents:

- For admission to a bachelor's degree programme:
 - diploma and score sheets;
 - copy of identity card or passport;
 - passport photo;
 - cover letter;
 - any documentary evidence required to demonstrate that the conditions for admission have been met.
- For admission to a master's degree programme, teacher training and a postgraduate degree course:
 - diploma and score sheets;
 - copy of identity card or passport;
 - passport photo;
 - cover letter;
 - letters of recommendation;
 - any supporting document required to demonstrate that the conditions for admission have been met.

Section 3: Discontinuation of the study programme without new enrolment

Article 65 (discontinuation of study programme)

§ 1. Students who do not wish to continue their studies at VUB can unenrol by completing the online unenrolment form available for this purpose and submitting it to OWSA.

§ 2. A student who asks to completely discontinue their study programme must hand in their student card. If this is not done so immediately, their application to discontinue the study programme will in any case include the undertaking to no longer use or present their student card or other certificates issued to them.

§ 3. Discontinuation of enrolment in a study programme is no longer possible from 15 May to the end of the academic year.

Section 4: Tuition fees

Article 66 (calculation of tuition fee)

§ 1. The tuition fee for enrolment in a bachelor's degree programme or initial master's degree programme on the basis of a diploma credit or examination contract comprises:

- a fixed part, payable only once per academic year;
- a variable part, according to the number of ECTS credits for which the student enrolls.

§ 2. The fixed part of the tuition fee is only due once per academic year. For the calculation of the tuition fee, a student's enrolments for one or more study programmes and for one or more course units on the basis of a diploma and credit contract are therefore regarded as one enrolment. All the ECTS credits are therefore totalled together for this purpose.

§ 3. Contrary to the general rule, enrolments in the following study programmes are always regarded as separate (i.e. not as additional) enrolments:

- enrolments for post-master's programmes;
- enrolments for a PhD;
- enrolments for a postgraduate programme;
- enrolments on the basis of an examination contract with a view to obtaining credits;
- enrolments on the basis of an examination contract with a view to obtaining a diploma.

These enrolments are not subject to the provisions concerning scholarship and quasi-scholarship students.

§ 4. The student will pay the tuition fees set by the ruling of the Academic Council annually. The tuition fees can be consulted at <https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/praktische-info-voor-studenten/hoeveel-kost-studeren/studiegeld>.

§ 5. VLIR-UOS and Enabel scholarship holders pay the same rate as EEA non-scholarship holders.

§ 6. Scholarship holders within the framework of the Master Mind Scholarships – Fellowship Programme for Excellent Students initiated by the Flemish Government pay the same rate as EEA scholarship students.

§ 7. Further rules for calculating the tuition fees are included in a spreadsheet and the accompanying note, as stipulated annually by the VUB Academic Council. These rules form an integral part of the Education and Examination Regulations.

§ 8. By way of derogation from § 1, a student who is enrolled in the post-master's degree programme in specialist medicine during the entire academic year without registering for any course units will not be liable to pay a tuition fee.

§ 3. Prospective refugees pay the same tuition fees as EEA non-scholarship students. These students must submit current proof of their residence status by 31 December at the latest. If a student has obtained full recognition as a refugee, the EEA rate will continue to apply. If the request for recognition was rejected, the student can remain enrolled, but the tuition fee will be adjusted to the non-EEA rate. If the application procedure has not yet been completed or has been extended, the EEA rate will continue to apply. On re-enrolment, the student must again submit current proof of their residence status.

§ 10. If the student applies on the basis of a certain residence status, but this residence status changes before the start of the academic year, the tuition fee will be charged in accordance with the new residence status.

Article 67 (time of payment)

§ 1. The tuition fee is due from the signing of the study contract or from the time of approval given in the Student SelfService portal.

§ 2. After signing or agreeing in the Student SelfService portal, the student will receive a payment notice for the amount to be charged at that time. The student must then pay immediately. The tuition fee is recalculated after any change to the student's curriculum. Where appropriate, the student will receive a fortnightly payment statement at their VUB email address.

§ 3. Default in payment means that there is no legal entitlement to take part in examinations. In addition, any student not paying the tuition fee due, including any additional administrative costs, in full by the due date, even after a reminder, will be suspended.

The suspension can only be lifted once the full tuition fee and the additional administrative costs have been paid. If payment takes place during an ongoing examination period, the suspension cannot be lifted during that period. In order to be able to participate legally in examinations, the tuition fee, with the additional costs, must be paid in full no later than one week before the start of the examination period. Furthermore, interim evaluations, the final assessment of which also occurs within that examination period, will not be taken into consideration either.

As long as the tuition fee due has not been paid in full, credit certificates, diplomas and certificates (including associated diploma and certificate supplements, and pertaining to each academic year in which the student is/was enrolled) will be withheld.

Any student not paying after the end of the academic year to which the tuition fee relates will be excluded from the possibility of (re-)enrolling.

In none of the above cases does this release the student from the obligation to pay the amount owed – plus the administrative surcharge.

VUB reserves the right to demand the collection of the amounts owed by judicial means.

Article 68 (method of payment)

§ 1. The tuition fee is paid by means of:

- valid training vouchers;
- bank transfer, quoting the reference given in the payment notice;
- SME portfolio.

§ 2. The tuition fee paid can be refunded in exchange for training vouchers.

§ 3. When a scholarship body deposits the tuition fees for non-EEA scholarship holders (who cannot benefit from a reduced tuition fee) into a VUB project account, the holder of that project account can issue a voucher.

Article 69 (amount to be paid for all study programmes)

§ 1. Students enrolling must pay the tuition fees set by the institution on an annual basis immediately upon receipt of the payment notice.

§ 2. A student who, on enrolling at VUB for the first time, declares that they received a study grant from the Flemish Government in the previous academic year at another educational institution and explains that they have submitted or will submit an application for a study grant from the Flemish Government for the academic year for which they are enrolling will pay the tuition fee for scholarship students.

If the student's application or the renewal is not approved, or if no decision is taken before 1 May regarding their scholarship, they must pay the balance of the tuition fee. If the student's study grant is then approved later, VUB will reimburse the excess amount paid.

Article 70 (payment of tuition fees after changing the choice of a study programme)

§ 1. Changing one's choice of a study programme is possible as set out in greater detail in Article 56. Except in the case of changing from or to a postgraduate degree programme, such a change will result in the following obligation to pay the tuition fee.

Consequences concerning the variable part

§ 2. If the enrolment was changed before 1 December, the student will not be due to pay an additional variable tuition fee insofar as the change does not lead to the total number of ECTS credits for which they are enrolled exceeding the number for which they were originally enrolled.

§ 3. The same rule applies to students who enrol in the second semester after the end of the first semester if the enrolment was changed before 1 March.

§ 4. If the enrolment is changed after 1 December but before 1 March, the student will not be due to pay an additional variable tuition fee for second-semester course units insofar as the change does not lead to the total number of ECTS credits for second-semester course units in which they are enrolled exceeding the number for which they were originally enrolled.

§ 5. If the change is not requested in time, the student must pay the full amount of variable tuition fees required for the new enrolment, without offsetting the variable tuition fees due for the previous enrolment.

Consequences concerning the fixed part

§ 6. In the event of changing to a study programme for which the fixed amount is different from the fixed amount due for the study programme in which the student was first enrolled, the two fixed amounts will be offset against each other if the enrolment was changed before 8 October.

§ 7. The same rule applies to students who enrol in the second semester after the end of the first semester if the enrolment was changed before 15 February.

§ 3. If the change is not requested in time, the student must pay the full amount of fixed tuition fees required for the new enrolment, without offsetting the fixed amount of tuition fees due for the previous enrolment.

Article 71 (payment of tuition fees after changing the choice of course units)

§ 1. Changing the choice of course units is possible as set out in greater detail in Article 79, and results in the obligation to pay tuition fees, as follows.

§ 2. If the total number of ECTS credits for which the student is enrolled due to the change exceeds the number for which they were originally enrolled, the tuition fee due will be recalculated. The student must pay the additional tuition fees.

§ 3. If the student enrolls for first-semester course units or for yearly course units before 1 December, they will not have to pay an additional tuition fee if the total number of ECTS credits for which they are enrolled due to the change does not exceed the number for which they were originally enrolled.

§ 4. If the student enrolls for second-semester course units before 16 March, they will not have to pay an additional tuition fee if the total number of ECTS credits for which they are enrolled due to the change does not exceed the number for which they were originally enrolled.

§ 5. If the total number of ECTS credits in the student's curriculum is lower after the change than the number of ECTS credits before the change, they will be entitled to reimbursement if the student unenrolled from those courses before 1 December (when changing the choice of first-semester course units and yearly course units), or before 16 March (when changing the choice of second-semester course units).

§ 6. In the event of changing from 1 December (when changing the choice of first-semester course units and yearly course units) or from 16 March (when changing the choice of second-semester course units), the student will pay tuition fees for the ECTS credits relating to the additional course units for which they enrol.

Article 72 (reimbursement of tuition fee on discontinuation of the study programme)

§ 1. Discontinuing the study programme will in no way release the student from the obligation to pay the amount due.

§ 3. If the study programme is discontinued before the start of the academic year (week 1) or before the start of the second semester and if the student enrolls for the first time before the start of the second semester (week 22), the tuition fee will be waived in full.

§ 3. In the event of discontinuation up to 30 November, the student will receive a refund of the tuition fee paid, with the exception of the fixed amount.

§ 4. In the event of discontinuation from 1 December to 15 March, the student will receive a refund of the tuition fees paid for the second-semester course units.

§ 5. In the event of discontinuation from 16 March on, the full tuition fee will remain payable to VUB.

Section 5. Study credit

Article 73 (study credit and discontinuation of the study programme)

§ 1. If the study programme is discontinued before 1 December, the student will get back the full study credit.

§ 2. If the study programme is discontinued from 1 December to 15 March, the student will get back the study credit back for second-semester course units and yearly course units.

§ 3. If the study programme is discontinued after 15 March, the student will lose all the study credit used.

Article 74 (study credit and reorientation)

§ 1. A student who wants to change their study programme must discontinue their current study programme and enrol for a different study programme. The study credit for the discontinued study programme will be returned in accordance with the provisions of Article 73.

§ 2. A first-time student who changes study programmes between 1 December and the last day before the start of the first examination period of the first examination session will get back half of the study credit for first-semester course units, as well as the study credit used for second-semester course units and yearly course units.

Article 75 (study credit and change of yearly programme)

§ 1. If the student unenrolls from course units before 1 December, they will be reimbursed for the study credit they have used. From 16 October, unenrolling from course units is only possible with the approval of the dean, in accordance with Article 79.

§ 2. If a student unenrolls from course units between 1 December and 15 March, they will lose the study credit for the first-semester course units. The study credit for second-semester course

units and yearly course units will be returned. Unenrolling from course units is only possible with the approval of the dean, in accordance with Article 79.

§ 3. If a student unenrols from course units after 15 March, they will lose the study credit used.

§ 4. When unenrolling from course units under a credit contract, the student will lose the study credit used, regardless of when this happens.

Article 76 (correction and requests for restitution of study credit)

§ 1. If an administrative legal act leading to the establishment, increase or reduction of study credit is affected by a material error or inaccuracy, the student must request correction of such a material error or inaccuracy in writing within 10 calendar days of notification of the administrative legal act. To this end, the student must address the dean, who will make a decision within 15 calendar days of receiving the request. The student will then be notified of the decision by registered letter.

§ 2. As an administrative tribunal, the Council for Disputes concerning Study Progress Decisions rules on the applications submitted to it directly by students to adjust their study credit on grounds that they found themselves in a situation of force majeure.

Section 6: Annulment of enrolment

Article 77 (annulment of enrolment)

§ 1. An erroneous or invalid enrolment will be corrected at the institution and cancelled in the DHO.

§ 2. An enrolment obtained on the basis of incorrect or false information, despite this having been essential, will be declared null and void by the Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs.

CHAPTER V. – Establishing the student's individual yearly study programme

Section 1: Registration of course units

Article 78 (establishing the yearly study programme)

§ 1. For enrolments ensuing on the basis of a diploma contract, the student must define their yearly study programme for each academic year. In this regard, the student must comply with

the specific provisions associated with the study programme and as set out in the course outline or, where applicable, in the course unit outline.

§ 2. Students register their course units in the Student SelfService portal.

For enrolments ensuing on the basis of an examination contract or credit contract, registration is carried out by the faculty administration. The registration of course units for guest students is also carried out by the faculty administration.

§ 3. Students enrolling in a particular bachelor's degree programme at VUB for the first time are automatically registered for the mandatory first-year course units in the standard course for that programme.

By way of derogation from the first paragraph, the following students may apply to deviate from the first year of the standard course when enrolling in a bachelor's degree programme for the first time:

- Students from the following groups (applications can be submitted up to 8 October):
 - students who have been granted ReFlex status;
 - students with a top-level sports status, who are granted ReFlex status in this context;
 - working students with employment of 80 hours per month;
 - scholarship-eligible students with employment of at least 16 hours per week;
 - students who change their study programme - whether or not within the same institution - during the course of the academic year.
- Students who have already obtained a bachelor's or master's degree (or a degree equivalent to this) can (applications for this can be validly submitted up to 8 October).***
- Students who, on the basis of their exceptional situation, submit a reasoned request to deviate from the standard course. This includes students who enrol at VUB in the second semester. For students who enrol at VUB in the second semester, the faculty can determine which course units cannot be included in their yearly study programme, taking into account the consecutive structure of the first year of the standard course or for reasons of continuity.

The procedure and modalities for requesting an exception are available on the web page: <https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/iedereen-welkom-aan-de-vub/eerstejaars-aan-de-vub/hoe-ziet-een-studietraject-eruit>.

A student who provides incorrect or false information with a view to obtaining permission to deviate from the standard course when enrolling for the first time will still be registered for the standard course and will also be exposed to sanctions as stipulated in the Order and Discipline Regulations for Students of Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

§ 4. A student who has not obtained a credit certificate or allowable fail grade for all the course units taken must, on subsequent enrolment in that study programme, at least re-enrol for all the

course units for which they have not obtained a credit certificate or an allowable fail grade. If one of these course units is an elective course unit, the student can opt for an alternate elective course unit within the arrangement applying to the study programme in question.

The obligation stated in the first paragraph may be waived if the student can prove that a case of force majeure exists or special individual circumstances apply.

The reasoned request for an exemption in this regard is to be made via the 'study path exemption' application form, available at <https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/praktische-info-voor-studenten/studiebegeleiding/studietraject/uitzondering-studietraject>

§ 5. When compiling the individual study path, students can call on the advice of the study path counsellor.

§ 6. Students can plan their individual yearly study programme for first-semester course units and yearly course units up to 8 October. They can plan second-semester course units up to 28 February. Enrolment outside the predetermined enrolment periods is only possible with the permission of the dean, in accordance with Article 60. If students fails to plan their individual yearly study programme before 15 November or before 31 March in consultation with the study path counsellor, they will be deemed to have tacitly terminated the admission agreement, after which the student will be administratively unenrolled. In this case, they will also lose all rights as a VUB student.

§ 7. When compiling the individual yearly study programme, students are limited to 18.33% of ECTS credits for the bachelor's degree programme and 50% of the study load of ECTS credits for the master's degree programme when including course units in a foreign language.

Article 79 (change in yearly study programme)

§ 1. Changing the choice of and unenrolling from course units in the study programme for which the student is enrolled is possible at the following points in time.

This change to the curriculum may have consequences for the study credit.

§ 2. Students can make changes in the Student SelfService portal, without restrictions, up to 8 October.

§ 3. For first-semester course units, students need the approval of the dean to enrol or unenrol from 9 October to 15 December at the latest. The dean may refuse enrolment if, among other things, the teaching for that course unit has already progressed too far. The dean may refuse unenrolment if, among other things, a (partial) result or proclamation code is attached to the course unit.

§ 4. For yearly course units, students need the dean's permission to enrol from 9 October to 28 February at the latest. The dean may refuse enrolment if, among other things, the teaching in that course unit has already progressed too far. For yearly course units, students need the dean's permission to unenrol from 9 October until 15 March at the latest. The dean may refuse

unenrolment if, among other things, a (partial) result or proclamation code is attached to the course unit.

§ 5. For second-semester course units, students may only make the change via the Student SelfService portal up to 28 February. Students need the dean's permission to enrol or unenrol from 1 March to 20 May at the latest. The dean may refuse enrolment if, among other things, the teaching for that course unit has already progressed too far. The dean may refuse unenrolment if, among other things, a (partial) result or proclamation code is attached to the course unit.

§ 6. By way of derogation from § 1 to § 6, it is not possible to change the yearly study programme for students enrolling in a bachelor's degree programme for the first time, except in those cases where permission is given to deviate from the standard path in accordance with Article 78, § 3.

§ 7. The implications for the calculation of the tuition fees, including the possible obligation to pay tuition fees, are set out in Article 71.

Article 80 (acquired ECTS credits)

In the event of changes to the study programme (adjustments to the curriculum), students can validate ECTS credits already acquired within the renewed study programme. The transitional measures

taken for this purpose are submitted to the Education Council together with the curriculum reforms.

Article 81 (procedure for deviating from the continuity requirement)

If a student wishes to deviate from the continuity requirement in the study programme, they must obtain permission from the dean accordingly.

The student can submit an exemption request up to 8 October. If the application concerns second-semester course units only, the deadline is 15 February. Students who have been given permission to enrol late may submit an exemption request no later than seven calendar days after the date on which the notification of permission to enrol late was given.

The reasoned request to the dean is to be made via the application form 'study programme exemption' available at <https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/praktische-info-voor-studenten/studiebegeleiding/studietraject/uitzondering-studietraject>.

Section 2: Exemptions on the basis of RPL/RPQ

Article 82 (application and grounds)

§ 1. If a student believes they are eligible for an exemption on the basis of an RPL or an RPQ, they must submit an application in accordance with the procedure indicated.

§ 2. An exemption may be granted on the following grounds:

- a credit certificate or diploma issued by the specific institution or another institute of higher education;
- a certificate of proficiency issued by a validating authority;
- an RPL, other than a credit certificate or diploma, that meets the definition of the Higher Education Codex.

Article 83 (transfer of exam result)

When granting an exemption, the examination result obtained is not transferred, unless:

- a) a credit certificate was obtained in the context of a credit contract for an identical course unit included in a study programme that is subsequently enrolled for on the basis of a diploma contract;
- b) a credit certificate was obtained for an identical course unit that several study programmes taken simultaneously or consecutively have in common.

Article 84 (assessment criteria)

When granting an exemption, it is assessed to what extent there is sufficient consistency in terms of objectives, content and learning outcomes of the course unit for which the exemption is requested and the course unit on the basis of which the exemption is requested.

Article 85 (extent of exemption)

§ 1. The exemption may be total or partial. If a total exemption is not possible, it must be examined in each case to what extent a partial exemption is possible.

§ 2. The extent of an exemption is expressed in whole ECTS credits.

§ 3. If a partial exemption is granted, it must be stated explicitly in the decision which parts the student has been granted an exemption for and those for which they still have to take an examination. This also indicates how the exam grade will be determined.

Article 86 (validity period)

A credit certificate obtained within the same study programme at VUB, as well as a certificate of proficiency issued by a validating authority within the association, is valid indefinitely.

After five years, however, if substantial differences can be demonstrated between the competencies that the student has acquired according to the credit certificate and the current competencies desired for a course unit, the dean may require the student to bridge these substantial differences by taking one or more complete or partial course units. The aforementioned term of five years is calculated from the first day of the month of October following the academic year in which the credit certificate was acquired.

Article 87 (procedure)

§ 1. The decision to grant an exemption is taken by the dean, where applicable following advice from the lecturer in charge and/or the Education Council. The further procedure for applying for and granting an exemption is published on the faculty website.

The application for exemption can be submitted up to 8 October. If the application concerns second-semester course units only, the deadline for the application is 28 February. Students who have received permission to enrol late may submit an application for exemption no later than seven calendar days after the date on which the notification of permission to enrol late was issued.

§ 2. If it is established on the basis of RPQs and/or a certificate of proficiency that a person has acquired the domain-specific learning outcomes associated with a study programme, the relevant diploma will be awarded to that person. Administrative enrolment in the study programme is required for this. As a contribution to the costs for the award of the diploma, an amount of €50 will be charged.

§ 3. When taking a decision on the granting of exemptions on the basis of a foreign diploma or study period abroad, the provisions and principles of the Convention of the Council of Europe and UNESCO on the Recognition of Higher Education Diplomas in the European Region are applied, insofar as the country of origin has also ratified this Convention.

§ 4. Decisions on granting or refusing an exemption must be saved. The relevant documents from the file will be kept at the faculty for at least 1 academic year.

Section 3: Study progress monitoring

Article 88 (imposing a measure to monitor study progress)

§ 1. Regardless of the university where they started their study programme, students who, on first enrolling in a particular initial bachelor's degree programme at VUB, did not obtain a credit certificate or an allowable fail grade for all the course units included in that enrolment will be subject to the measures for monitoring study progress as follows.

If a student has not obtained a credit certificate or allowable fail grade for all the course units taken after enrolling for the first time, they must obtain these in the same study programme in a subsequent academic year when enrolling for the second time. This provision remains valid if a student changes universities or replaces an elective course unit with another elective course unit when enrolling for the second time. This provision does not apply if a student changes their main subject.

If a student does not meet this strict condition, they cannot re-enrol in the relevant study programme, except in cases of force majeure or special individual circumstances.

A student whose enrolment in a particular study programme has been refused in accordance with paragraph 3 may re-enrol in the same study programme if they have obtained a higher

education diploma after the refusal to allow enrolment or after a waiting period of six academic years following the academic year in which enrolment was refused.

§ 2. If a student has not achieved a success rate of at least 30% following their first enrolment in a particular initial bachelor's degree programme at VUB, that student will be refused re-enrolment in the same study programme, as well as re-enrolment for course units in the same on the basis of a credit contract or examination contract, except in cases of force majeure or special individual circumstances. The Examination Board may decide against such refusal in the case of students who have only enrolled for one or two course units.

§ 3. A student enrolled on the basis of a diploma contract who has not obtained 60% of the ECTS credits taken will be subject to a binding condition when re-enrolling for the same study programme on the next occasion. When re-enrolling for the same study programme via a diploma contract, the student must acquire 75% of the ECTS credits or allowable fail grades and must pass or obtain an allowable fail grade for each course unit for which they have already been enrolled at least twice, though without yet obtaining a credit certificate. In addition, students in a bachelor's degree programme can only register for a maximum of 60 ECTS credits. A student can also be placed under mandatory study guidance. If the student concerned does not meet this binding condition, the next re-enrolment in the same study programme, including course units of the same, will be refused under any type of contract, except in cases of force majeure or special individual circumstances.

At the start of the academic year, the student is entitled to an interview with a student counsellor regarding the student's study progress and any relevant student counselling.

§ 4. When re-enrolling for the same study programme on the next occasion, a binding condition is also imposed on any student enrolled on the basis of a diploma contract who has already been enrolled twice for a course unit but has not obtained a credit certificate or an allowable fail grade for such unit. When re-enrolling for the same study programme, the student must obtain a credit or allowable fail grade for the course unit in question. A student can also be placed under mandatory study guidance. If the course unit was previously included in another study programme or under a different type of contract, these enrolments will also be taken into account.

If a student does not meet this binding condition, the next re-enrolment in the same study programme, including course units of the same, will be refused under any type of contract, except in cases of force majeure or special individual circumstances.

§ 5. If a student enrolled on the basis of a diploma contract has not obtained any credits, that student will be refused re-enrolment for the same study programme, as well as for course units of the same on the basis of a credit contract or examination contract, except in cases of force majeure or special individual circumstances. The Examination Board may decide against such refusal in the case of students who have only enrolled for one or two course units.

§ 6. For the purposes of this article, students enrolled on the basis of an examination contract with a view to obtaining a degree or diploma associated with a study programme are subject to the regulations that apply to students under a diploma contract.

§ 7. Except in cases of force majeure or special individual circumstances, a student enrolled on the basis of a credit contract or examination contract with a view to obtaining credits will be refused entry to a particular course unit if they have already been enrolled twice for that course unit without obtaining a credit certificate.

§ 8. A student who has been refused re-enrolment for a study programme at VUB will be subject to a binding condition the next time they enrol for another study programme within the same field of study on the basis of a diploma contract. The student must obtain 75% of ECTS credits or allowable fail grades for the course units taken and must register for and pass each course unit for which the student has not yet obtained a credit certificate and for which they have already been enrolled twice.

If the student concerned does not meet this binding condition, the next re-enrolment in the same study programme, including course units of the same, will be refused under any type of contract, except in cases of force majeure or special individual circumstances.

§ 9. A student who has not acquired 60% of the enrolled ECTS credits for a study programme at another institution will be subject to a binding condition when next enrolling in a study programme within the same field of study on the basis of a diploma contract: when enrolling for a study programme within the same field of study via a diploma contract, the student must acquire at least 75% of the ECTS credits or allowable fail grades for the course units taken. The student may also be placed under mandatory study guidance. If the student concerned does not meet this binding condition, the next re-enrolment in the same study programme, including course units of the same, will be refused under any type of contract, except in cases of force majeure or special individual circumstances.

§ 10. If a student is refused enrolment for a study programme in accordance with the provisions set out in this article, a refusal to re-enrol will also be imposed for the further study programme and the language equivalents of that study programme.

§ 11. The decision to impose binding conditions or deny enrolment is announced in the Student SelfService portal.

§ 12. If a student is refused enrolment for a study programme in accordance with the provisions of § 2 to § 10 of this article, the student may, following a break in enrolment of at least one academic year for the course programme(s) and course unit(s) for which the student was refused, submit a written and substantiated file showing that circumstances have changed. The file should be submitted to the administrative secretariat of the faculty before 1 June and 1 September respectively, and will be dealt with by the Examination Board. The Examination Board

may impose a binding condition on the student in accordance with § 3 and § 4 of this article, as applicable at the time of the decision.

If the student obtains admission from the Examination Board, they must then enrol in the academic year for which permission is granted. If the student does not wish to enrol again until a subsequent academic year, they must submit a new, substantiated file to the Examination Board in writing.

§ 13. In the event of force majeure or special individual circumstances, a student may dispute the imposition of a binding condition or a refusal to allow re-enrolment (even if this results from a failure to achieve the threshold package) by submitting a substantiated file to the chairperson of the Examination Board, which must include at least a factual description of the force majeure or special individual circumstances, backed up by supporting documents. The file is to be submitted to the administrative secretariat of the faculty no later than ten calendar days before the deliberation date (second session).

§ 14. A decision taken by a partner institution to refuse enrolment in an inter-university study programme that is subject to the 'examination regulations for inter-university master's programmes for which it is possible to enrol at more than one university' will be recognised at VUB.

§ 15. The study progress decision is made subject to Article 50.

§ 3. The provisions of § 1 to § 15 of this article do not apply to post-master's programmes or postgraduate programmes, unless stipulated otherwise in the Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations.

Article 88bis (discontinuation of internship or other practical course unit)

§ 1. If a student has demonstrated through their behaviour that they are unfit to practise a profession for which the relevant training is imparted in the study course, the internship may be terminated prematurely.

§ 2. If the facts are proven, the dean will decide, possibly after consultation with the chairperson of the Examination Board, whether or not to discontinue the internship(s) or practical course unit(s). Pending a decision by the dean, the student may continue to participate in the internship, notwithstanding any regulatory measures and/or sanctions as stipulated in the Order and Discipline Regulations for Students of Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB).

The dean may decide on (a combination of) the following measures:

- imposition of specific conditions that the student must meet in order to continue the internship(s) or other practical course unit(s) during the current academic year;
- discontinuation of internship(s) or other practical course unit(s) if the student has shown that their behaviour renders them unfit to practise the profession concerned; the student

will not be entitled to a second examination opportunity. Subsequent enrolment for internship(s) or other practical course unit(s) may be refused.

§ 3. The student has the right to be heard before the decision is made. The faculty ombudsperson is invited to attend. The student has the right to inspect the file and may be assisted by counsel during the hearing.

§ 4. If the internship commences before the start of the academic year in which the student is enrolled for the internship, such internship will only commence under the suspensive condition of the possibility of the student being (re-)enrolled in the study programme and course units of the same at the start of the academic year.

An internship that is inconsistent with the measures for monitoring the student's study progress will be terminated immediately.

§ 5. If the student's enrolment is suspended during the internship period, the internship will be discontinued immediately. If the suspension is lifted, the student may ask for the internship to be restarted.

Section 4: Timetable

Article 89 (timetable)

Students are informed about the date, time and room where the classes (lectures, WPO, etc.) take place via a timetable issued before the start of the semester in question on the student portal. Any changes to the timetable will be communicated to the students in the same way.

Section 5: Taking course units at another institution and international internships

Article 90 (taking an elective course unit at another Flemish university)

Under an agreement concluded between the Flemish universities, a student can take a course unit that is offered by another university as an elective course unit. The agreement stipulates the following conditions/arrangements:

- the student is enrolled via a diploma contract or an examination contract with a view to obtaining a diploma;
- the course is not organised within the student's own institution;
- the student does not have to pay any additional tuition fees to the other institution;
- the exam grade is communicated to the home institution by the host institution;
- the credit certificate is issued by the home institution.

Article 91 (taking a course unit at another institute of higher education and international internships)

§ 1. In the context of internationalisation/student mobility, faculties of different universities can make arrangements concerning exchanges and the 'borrowing/lending' of course units.

§ 3. If a student wishes to take one or more course units at another institution outside the cases referred to in Article 91 and Article 90 § 1 of these regulations, they must submit a reasoned request to the dean for this purpose.

In the event of a positive decision, the faculty will clearly explain which course units can be replaced by an external course unit and how exam results will be converted.

§ 3. Outgoing exchange students set out in a Learning Agreement which package of VUB course units is to be replaced by a package of course units at the partner institution. Any deviation from this in a negative sense will only be permitted for a maximum of 2 ECTS credits.

§ 4. Every international student movement must be registered by the student in the SOP Mobility Online portal. Students must do this following administrative and/or academic approval of the move by the person responsible at the faculty and no later than one month before departure to the country concerned.

Article 92 (Travel policy)

§ 3. In the context of safety, public health and the public interest, students may be prohibited from travelling abroad as part of their educational activities, even requiring them to return to Belgium if necessary. The decision will be taken by the Vice-Rector for Internationalisation.

§ 2. Students who do not comply with a ban on travel and/or an order to return to Belgium will be deemed not to be legally registered for the course units that are the subject of the relevant outbound mobility scheme and/or international internship, and will consequently lose any right to take part in the education and evaluation activities abroad. In such cases, any exam results obtained will be deemed non-existent.

Section 6: Equal Opportunities

Article 93 (inclusive education)

§ 1. All educational activities must be inclusive. Every student should be given equal opportunities. For this, it may be necessary to call for reasonable flexibility (according to criteria of feasibility, acceptability and defensibility), with variations being agreed for an individual student in a specific situation. A reasonable variation is deemed to be one that does not impose a disproportionate burden. A reasonably flexible variation makes education more feasible for the student, remains acceptable to the lecturer and is defensible vis-à-vis fellow students or the

educational institution. The student can obtain advice from Student Counselling or the Department of Top-level Sport and Study, leading to a reasoned request being made to the lecturer based on a professional certificate and a discussion with a student counsellor under the responsibility of the dean. A decision to refuse the requested adjustments may be justified on the basis of an assessment made by the institution that the requested adjustment concerned detracts from the possibility of achieving the domain-specific learning outcomes associated with the study programme or the possibility of achieving other objectives of the study programme in overall terms. Students with disabilities can lodge an appeal against such refusal to make adjustments within the institution in accordance with Article 154.

§ 2. Efforts will always be made to reach a workable arrangement by way of dialogue. If difficulties arise in this dialogue, the intervention of the faculty ombudsperson can be requested.

Section 7: Flemish Training Leave, Paid Educational Leave and Study Leave

Article 94

§ 1. A student who combines work and study can be registered as a working student. The criteria for and the method of registration as well as the nature of the special educational facilities that working students can avail themselves of are set out at <https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/alle-opleidingen/werkstudenten-aan-de-vub> and <https://www.vub.be/nl/studeren-aan-de-vub/alle-opleidingen/werkstudenten-aan-de-vub/info-voor-werkstudenten#inschrijven-en-herinschrijven>.

§ 2. In order to enjoy the right to paid educational leave, the student concerned must have their attendance list signed by the lecturer after each lecture they have attended. The student must submit these attendance lists to OWSA on a quarterly basis, at the latest on:

- the last Friday before the winter holiday (for first-semester course units);
- the last Friday before the spring holiday (for second-semester course units or yearly course units);
- 30 June (for second-semester course units or yearly course units).

Students enrolled on the basis of an examination contract with a view to obtaining a diploma and who are entitled to paid educational leave must provide the employer with proof of effective participation in the exams. The student must request this proof of effective participation after the second session by sending an email to the faculty secretariat.

§ 3. To benefit from study leave, students must have their attendance list signed by the lecturer after each lecture they have attended. They must submit these attendance lists to OWSA by 30 June at the latest.

§ 4. To benefit from Flemish training leave, students should email the completed 'Working and studying' form to werkstudent@vub.be. It is not possible to apply for training leave directly during online registration or re-enrolment. The enrolment certificate (stating the OBD number) will be delivered to the student in the week following the deadline for course registration.

Participation in the final evaluation or attendance (in the case of continuing education) is communicated to the departments concerned automatically.

CHAPTER VI. – Student feedback

Article 95 (structure and objectives)

As students are important stakeholders in education, they are explicitly asked for their opinion about that education. One of the tools used to do this is the survey aimed at gauging student feedback. All bachelor's and master's degree programmes as well as the bridging and preparatory programmes are evaluated annually by the students by means of this survey.

This survey has a multiple purpose. The results provide an insight into the extent to which students are pleased with the quality of the education on offer. The feedback from students can help the lecturers, the education councils and the institution to reflect on the quality of the education offered, detect and address any problems and further optimise teaching. The quantitative feedback is also used by the institution for reporting purposes and quality assurance. The qualitative feedback is initially used by the lecturers with a view to improving quality.

The participation of students in the student feedback is necessary to achieve these objectives in the context of quality assurance and is therefore mandatory. Students who do not participate in the student feedback can be temporarily denied access to the learning platform.

Article 96 (survey content)

The survey consists of several components:

- a survey per course unit, in which the satisfaction of the students is surveyed with regard to five aspects: goals, content, guidance, study material and forms of evaluation. In addition, questions are asked about students' satisfaction with each member of teaching staff associated with the course as a lecturer in charge or co-lecturer in charge;
- a survey on how study time is experienced;
- a questionnaire that measures satisfaction with the study programme, the training facilities and the generic competencies acquired during the study programme;
- a questionnaire regarding general satisfaction with VUB and central services.

Article 97 (frequency and scope)

The student feedback survey is organised twice a year, at the end of the first and second semesters, respectively, for the course units taken by the students in the semester in question. All course units are evaluated, including internships as well as bachelor's and master's theses.

The questionnaire about the study programme is provided at the end of the second semester to bachelor's and master's degree students who complete their study programme. The general satisfaction survey is provided to all students at the end of the first semester.

Article 98 (coordination)

The survey is organised, coordinated and managed by Education and Student Affairs, under the supervision of the Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs. The development and maintenance of the application is carried out by IT.

The survey is conducted electronically via a secure website. Students have access via their individual VUB account. Education and Student Affairs takes the necessary measures to ensure the anonymity of the students.

Article 99 (results and reporting)

The results of the survey are reported via the official results site for academic staff and students after each collection of data. This secure website is accessible to students and lecturers via their VUB account.

Students have access to the aggregated results of the survey per course unit and to the results (excluding comments) of the other components of the survey.

Article 100 (follow-up signals resulting from the survey per course unit)

A follow-up signal is deemed to exist if, at macro-level (aggregated by course catalogue number), at least 34% of the participating students gave an answer below 5 on a scale of 0-10 for any of the aspects. Furthermore, the following participation criteria must be met (the percentages relate to the proportion of students enrolled in the course unit taking part in the survey for the same course unit):

- at least 50% for group size [1-15]
- at least 40% for group size [16-50]
- at least 30% for group size [51-150]
- at least 20% for group size 151 and above

A signal is only generated if at least three students participate.

Follow-up signals that occur two or three times within a period of five years for the same aspect for the same course unit are referred to as second or third follow-up signals. These follow-up signals must be followed up in a formal manner.

Part III. - Examination regulations

CHAPTER I. – Organisation of examinations

Article 101 (written examinations)

§ 1. For yearly course units within the bachelor's degree programmes or within the bridging and preparatory programmes, a written examination can be organised in the first examination period of the first session.

§ 2. If a written examination is organised, this will be stated in the course unit outline.

§ 3. The way in which the results of these examinations are included in the final result of the course unit is explained in the course unit outline.

Article 102 (number of exam opportunities)

§ 1. For each course unit for which they are enrolled, a student is entitled to two exam opportunities during the course of the academic year to obtain a credit certificate. Due to the nature of a course unit, the number of exam opportunities, at exam component level where relevant, can be limited to one. This is referred to in the course unit outline.

§ 2. Under no circumstances may a student attend more than twice for the same exams or exam sections during the course of the same academic year.

Article 103 (partial or continuous evaluation)

§ 1. Each faculty has the opportunity to evaluate the competencies associated with these activities separately for course units consisting of several learning activities.

The information regarding the student must include at least the following aspects:

- Description of the various learning activities;
- The percentage share of the various learning activities in the final exam grade;
- The method and times of evaluation that occur (at least partially) outside the actual examination periods;
- The possibility to share the results of individual evaluations with students;
- The possibility to also include results of individual evaluations in the exam grade for the second session.

§ 2. The modalities for implementing § 1 will be announced before the start of the academic year via the course unit outlines.

Article 104 (retaking exams)

§ 1. With regard to course units for which an exam was taken in the first examination period of the first session, a new exam can be taken in the second session at the earliest.

§ 2. For students who take part in international exchange programmes, the procedures for re-sitting examinations are outlined in the agreement with the partner institution. The dean may only give permission in exceptional circumstances to students who have not obtained a credit certificate for a course unit taken at another foreign institution for higher education to sit an examination for the equivalent VUB course unit at VUB in the examination period of the second session in the same academic year.

Article 105 (time of exams)

§ 1. Except for top sports students, no examination may be taken outside the periods specified in Article 8, § 1. If there is a public holiday during the examination period, the relevant examination period will begin on the Saturday of the previous block week.

§ 2. For international students, students participating in international exchange programmes and students enrolled in an inter-university degree programme, the decision to derogate is taken by the competent faculty bodies and set out in the Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations.

§ 3. In the non-standard situation as described in § 2, teaching activities should not be suspended.

Article 106 (examination schedule)

§ 1. For the first and second examination periods of the first session, the provisional examination schedule will be announced at least fourteen weeks in advance on the VUB notice boards and/or in person via the VUB email address. As far as the second session is concerned, this period is reduced to at least four weeks.

For the first and second examination periods of the first session, the examination schedule will be finalised four weeks before the commencement of the relevant examination period. The examination schedule for the second session will be finalised two weeks before the commencement of the examination period.

§ 2. The examination schedule is compiled on the basis of the standard study path. Students who have several examinations at the same time, either by deviating from the standard study path or through combined enrolment or as a result of elective course units, will take the examination that occurs first in the standard study path or the examination for the course unit component that is mandatory (relative to the elective course unit). With regard to the exams for the other course units, the student can ask whether a new exam time can be set within the examination period concerned. The new examination arrangement may be accompanied by an adjustment of the form of the examination, as decided of the dean. The procedure for requesting the rescheduling of an examination is outlined in the Faculty Education and Examination Regulations. This procedure stipulates that students have a period of at least 3 calendar days after the announcement of the final examination schedule to report any overlap in their examination schedule.

When compiling the examination schedule on the basis of the standard study path, consideration is given to distributing the demands placed on students fairly. With regard to the faculties, it is recommended that, as far as possible in organisational terms, an examination is not organised over two days in a row, unless it concerns different evaluations associated with the same course unit.

§ 3. For students participating in international exchange programmes who are abroad at the time of the exam, the dean, following consultation with the lecturer in charge and with a change in the form of the examination where appropriate, will decide whether a digital oral examination is possible on the same or another day. The procedure for this is set out in the Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations.

§ 4. The faculty ombudsperson will be involved in drawing up the final examination schedule at their request or following a complaint.

§ 5. Any change instigated by the institution after the announcement of the examination schedule will be announced immediately and in person to the student concerned via the VUB email address. Such a change may not lead to the examination being brought forward.

§ 6. The dean is responsible for the implementation of this article.

CHAPTER II. – Equal opportunities

Article 107 (inclusivity)

§ 1. All examination activities must be inclusive. Every student should be given equal opportunities. A number of examination measures are provided for which are inclusive (for each student and in each course unit). The overview of these inclusive examination measures is published annually on the website. In addition, it may be necessary to call for reasonable flexibility (according to criteria of feasibility, acceptability and defensibility), with variations being agreed for an individual student in a specific situation. A reasonable variation is deemed to be one that does not impose a disproportionate burden. A reasonably flexible variation makes examinations more feasible for the student, remains acceptable to the lecturer and is defensible vis-à-vis fellow students or the educational institution. The student can obtain advice from Student Counselling or the Department of Top-level Sport and Study, leading to a reasoned request being made to the lecturer based on a professional certificate and a discussion with a student counsellor under the responsibility of the dean. A decision to refuse the requested adjustments may be justified on the basis of an assessment made by the institution that the requested adjustment concerned detracts from the possibility of achieving the domain-specific learning outcomes associated with the study programme or the possibility of achieving other objectives of the study programme in overall terms. Students with disabilities can lodge an appeal against such refusal to make adjustments within the institution in accordance with Article 154.

§ 2. Students who wish to apply for the ReFlex status or make adjustments to a previously acquired ReFlex status must do so at the latest between:

- 1 September and 30 October if they wish to request educational measures for the first semester and/or examination measures for the first examination period of the first session,
- 1 February and 1 March if they wish to request examination measures for the first session – April,
- 1 February and 30 March if they wish to request educational measures for the second semester and/or examination measures for the second examination period of the first session,
- between 15 June and 30 June if they wish to request examination measures for the second session.

After the student has submitted their application, they receive a proposal of measures to which they are entitled or an invitation to an interview to discuss their measures. Only students who have completed the full procedure for applying for status and the granting of measures within the deadline can apply for the education and examination measures granted to them (within the deadlines provided for). If the status is recognised, ReFlex students will direct their request for reasonable flexible adjustments to student counselling no later than at the following times:

- for educational measures for the first semester or examination measures for the first examination period of the first session: before 1 December;
- for the examination period of April in the first session: before 15 March;
- for educational measures for the second semester or examination measures for the second examination period of the first session: before 1 May;
- for the second session: before 15 July;
- for evaluations outside the examination periods: no later than 14 calendar days before the evaluation.

The procedure and the form for requesting ReFlex status are communicated via the website in every case.

§ 3. Efforts will always be made to reach a workable arrangement by way of dialogue. If difficulties arise in this dialogue, the intervention of the faculty ombudsperson may be requested.

CHAPTER III. – Participation in examinations

Article 108 (participation in examinations)

§ 1. Student will only be permitted to take exams if they are properly enrolled for the relevant academic year and are registered for the relevant course unit in the Student SelfService portal. The examination list contains the names of the students who are registered for the course unit in question.

§ 2. If a student does not appear on the examination list and still believes that they should be admitted to the exam, they must contact the faculty secretariat before the start of the examination at the latest. In exceptional circumstances, the examiner may decide that the student can be provisionally admitted to the examination. If it emerges that the student is not properly enrolled, the examination will not be valid.

§ 3. Participation in examinations is only possible if all necessary certificates/diplomas have been submitted at the time of enrolment.

§ 4. A student cannot legally take part in examinations for as long as there is an outstanding balance of tuition fees.

§ 5. A student who has been suspended in accordance with Article 67, § 3 or has no entitlement to educational or evaluation activities; participation in examinations already taken is also not legally valid, and the student will not have acquired any exam grades in this regard.

If payment of the tuition fee, and the additional costs, is made during an ongoing examination period, the suspension will remain in force until the end of that examination period. In order to be able to participate legally in examinations, the full tuition fee, including the additional costs, must be paid no later than one week before the start of the examination period. Furthermore, interim evaluations, the final assessment of which also occurs within that examination period, will not be taken into consideration either.

§ 6. Without prejudice to § 5 of this article, the faculties determine the conditions under which students are admitted to or excluded from examinations. These rules must be made known to students from the beginning of the academic year. These rules are included in the Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations.

Article 109 (discontinuation of internship agreement)

The internship organisation or VUB may terminate the internship agreement in the event of misconduct, bad faith, unlawful absence or deliberate violation of the regulations of the internship agreement. If this is the case, the student will be assigned a zero for the (part of the) course unit. In such a case, the student is not entitled to a replacement assignment.

Article 110 (participation in the 2nd session exams)

§ 1. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 108 and Article 109, students are automatically enrolled for the second session for all course units for which they have not yet obtained a credit in the first session, subject to allowable fail grades.

§ 2. If, in accordance with the provisions of § 1 of this article, students have to retake a course unit in the second session, the exam grade for the first session will cease to apply automatically and irrevocably, and a new examination decision will take its place.

CHAPTER IV. – Conduct of examinations

Article 111 (force majeure)

§ 3. Students must adhere strictly to the established schedule and examination venue.

In the exceptional case of force majeure, a student may ask for the examination to be rescheduled, provided that they provide the necessary proof of such force majeure. Any case of force majeure as well as a request to postpone the examination as a result thereof must be reported by the student to the secretariat of the faculty in writing by no later than the day of the examination. The student concerned must complete the form provided correctly and in full for this purpose. The faculties set out in their Faculty Education and Examination Regulations where the form can be found and what procedure the student must follow before submitting the same. The original supporting documents substantiating the force majeure are to be sent to the secretariat of the faculty within three calendar days of the day of the examination and, where applicable, no later than on the day of the examination under the new examination arrangement.

§ 2. If force majeure is demonstrated, the dean will decide, after consultation with the examiner, whether a new examination arrangement is possible in terms of organisation within the same examination period.

In the event of a positive decision, the dean will define the new examination arrangement, which may involve a change in the form or modalities of the examination.

§ 3. In exceptional circumstances, the dean may decide, on the basis of the file submitted, to extend the examination session/period, or move the new examination arrangement for examinations from the first examination period of the first session to the other examination periods during the first session. The student concerned will be notified of the decision within 3 calendar days of receipt of the request to postpone the examination.

Article 112 (medical certificates)

§ 1. If a student attempts to demonstrate force majeure with regard to examinations, evaluation components or mandatory class activities on the basis of a medical certificate, the following medical certificates will not be accepted:

- an insufficiently completed certificate or a certificate that contains contradictions;
- a certificate based solely on the patient's statement;
- a certificate that is issued later than the day on which the examination, evaluation or compulsory teaching activity takes place.

§ 2. If the student participates in an exam, evaluation or mandatory class activity during the period of incapacity as stipulated in the medical certificate, the validity of the medical certificate will be null and void from that day and for the remaining duration.

Article 113 (examiner)

§ 1. An examination is administered under the responsibility of the lecturer in charge of the course unit or by the person who taught the course that year as a replacement. The examiner will keep an accurate attendance list of all students who have taken the examination in their presence. The examiner must respect the established schedule and examination venue.

§ 2. In the event of the examiner being absent due to force majeure or a legitimate reason for being indisposed, the dean will decide on a new examination arrangement for each of the students concerned.

The new examination arrangement may require a change in the form and/or modalities of the examination and/or transferring it to another day within the same examination period and/or replacing the examiner with the appointment of a deputy examiner (member of the independent academic staff or a doctoral assistant).

Where possible, the examiner will submit a reasoned request to the dean to waive all or part of their examination assignment and/or change the form and/or modalities of the examination accordingly.

In exceptional circumstances, the dean may also decide to move the new examination arrangement for exams from the first examination period of the first session to the other examination periods in the first session.

§ 3. In the case of blood or family ties up to and including the fourth degree, or in the event of personal involvement between a student and an examiner, the dean will appoint a deputy examiner in consultation with the chairperson of the Examination Board. In that case, the examiner must request such replacement from the dean before the start of the examination sessions.

Article 114 (openness of examinations, right of access and feedback)

§ 1. Examinations requiring the physical presence of students are conducted by the lecturer in charge in an exam room at VUB. In exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the dean, the location of the exam may be changed.

§ 2. The openness of the oral examination is ensured by offering the student the opportunity to request an observer. To this end, the student must submit a reasoned written request to the chairperson of the Examination Board no later than two weeks prior to their oral examination. The observer may not be a student who is to be examined by the examiner concerned during that academic year, nor may they have any blood or family ties up to and including the fourth degree, nor may they be anyone with whom the student has a personal involvement. The observer may only take notes.

The examiner may request the chairperson of the Examination Board to appoint a member of the independent academic staff as an observer during the oral examination of one or more students.

§ 3. The openness of the written examination is ensured by granting the student access to the copy after each examination period within a period of five calendar days following publication of the results in accordance with Article 145 of these regulations. The request for an appointment must be made within three calendar days following the announcement of the results in accordance with Article 145 of these regulations.

Each faculty determines in its Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations how this access is organised.

The examiner keeps the copies of the examination, in whatever form the exam took place, for three months after the end of the academic year in which the examination was taken.

§ 4. With a view to pedagogically responsible guidance, the student may request an explanation of the results of examinations within a period of five calendar days following publication of the results in accordance with Article 145 of these regulations.

§ 5. After the student has received feedback, they can, for written examinations, request a copy of the exam taken in accordance with the procedure provided for in the Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations. This copy must be treated as private and confidential and may only be used in relation to the student's educational advancement.

A student who duplicates and/or disseminates the copy will be liable to sanctions as set out in the Order and Discipline Regulations for Students of Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Article 115 (examination modalities)

§ 1. The course unit outline explains the modalities under which the exams are administered.

§ 2. When taking digital oral exams, supervision is carried out via webcam. Students will be asked to make themselves clearly visible in the picture and hold their student card in front of the webcam at the beginning of the exam. This form of supervision is necessary to identify the student and ensure that the examinations are conducted fairly; this is in itself essential for due and proper performance of the study contract.

In the case of webcam monitoring, personal data is processed. This processing is carried out on the basis of performance of the study contract (Art. 6(1)(b) of the GDPR) with the student concerned and with the objective of ensuring that the examinations are conducted fairly. Images may also be recorded in the context of monitoring and fraud prevention and will in that case be kept until after the Examination Board meeting.

The VUB privacy statement can be found at <https://www.vub.be/nl/privacybeleid-vub>.

§ 3. Digital written examinations on campus can be organised in such a way that they can only be taken via a specific browser. Prior to the examination, students must follow the necessary steps regarding the use of this browser, otherwise the student will not be able to participate in the exam and will thus be registered as absent.

§ 4. If a student experiences technical difficulties while taking an online examination, they should contact the examiner (or a member of the teaching team or supervisor designated by the examiner) immediately. If the student fails to contact the examiner immediately, the exam result

may be determined on the basis of the answers that the student has already given, where applicable.

Article 116 (derogation from examination modalities)

§ 1. At the latest on the dates stated below, the student may, for compelling reasons, ask the chairperson of the Examination Board to allow derogation from the proposed form of examination in relation to the subject matter of one or more course units:

- first examination period, first session: 1 December
- second examination period, first session: 1 May
- second session: 15 July

In exceptional circumstances, this period and/or type of reasons may be changed.

§ 2. The chairperson of the Examination Board will inform the dean and the lecturer(s) in charge of any permitted change.

Article 117 (filling in details)

The student is responsible for correctly and completely filling in their personal and administrative details relating to the examination. If identification is not possible, the lecturer in charge of the course unit may decide to record the student as being absent.

Article 118 (irregularities)

§ 1. If an academic staff member suspects or detects that a student has committed an irregularity while taking the examinations or other forms of evaluation, they must report this in writing to the dean immediately. If an examiner, or another person in charge of supervision, determines that a student has committed irregularities during an examination, they will inform the student accordingly and may terminate the ongoing examination of that student, if necessary after seizing the disputed documents and the copy already produced.

§ 2. Any behaviour by a student in the context of a course unit that makes or attempts to make a correct assessment of their own or other students' knowledge, insight and/or skills completely or partially impossible is deemed an irregularity.

Any form of fraud that constitutes a breach of scientific integrity, including the use of statements or texts produced by generative AI applications without reference to original sources¹, or the simulation or falsification of research data, is deemed an irregularity as referred to in this article.

¹ Students may not present work generated by AI as their own. Under no circumstances may reference be made to primary source material where the work and citations have been generated by generative AI applications and these applications are not mentioned. Each source to which students refer must be consulted, assessed and processed by the students themselves to substantiate their work. Additional provisions regarding the use of AI may be included in the faculty regulations.

Possession during the examination of a mobile phone or smartphone or any other device whose use was not explicitly permitted is also deemed an irregularity within the meaning of this article.

Plagiarism is also deemed an irregularity under the provisions of this article. Plagiarism is understood to mean the use of someone else's work, whether or not in edited form, without accurate citation of the source. Plagiarism may relate to various forms of work, such as text, images, music, databases, structure, lines of thought, ideas. More specifically, the following situations, among others, are deemed to constitute plagiarism:

- A student copies work from other authors, although citing the source, without using quotation marks in the case of a literal copy (or translation);
- A student incorporates (translated) excerpts from other authors, whether verbatim or not (translated), without citing the source;
- A student refers to primary source material where they copy (or translate) the work and the citation verbatim from unlisted secondary sources;
- A student uses (translated) excerpts from other authors, with or without citing the source, with minor and/or misleading modifications.

For the application of these regulations, borrowing one's own work without proper quotation of source is also considered an irregularity.

VUB reserves the right to check for plagiarism by means of the auxiliary tools it deems useful for this purpose.

§ 3. If the facts are proven, the dean will decide, possibly after consultation with the chairperson of the Examination Board, whether or not to impose an examination-related disciplinary decision. The student concerned may continue to participate in the examinations pending a decision by the dean.

§ 4. The student has the right to be heard in this regard. The faculty ombudsperson will be invited to attend, as will the lecturer (or members of the teaching team). The student has the right to inspect the file and may be assisted by counsel during the hearing.

§ 5. The dean may decide on (a combination of) the following examination-related disciplinary sanctions:

- a 0/20 for the exam or paper relating to the course unit or part thereof in one or more examination periods of the current academic year;
- exclusion from one or more examination periods: no grades to be awarded for all exams in one or more examination periods of the current academic year;
- exclusion from the institution: immediate discontinuation of enrolment in the current academic year. This sanction leads to immediate loss of the student status;
- a ban on (re-)enrolment for one or more academic years.

Depending on the severity of the violation, the 'exclusion from one or more examination periods' sanction or 'exclusion from the academic year' may also be imposed with regard to other study programmes for which the student is enrolled within the same faculty.

§ 6. The severity of the violation and the level of punishment are assessed, among other things, on the basis of the following elements:

- the nature and extent of the irregularity;
- the student's experience;
- the intention to commit the cheating/deception.

§ 7. The student concerned may lodge an internal appeal with the chairperson of the Internal Appeal Committee within seven calendar days (expiry period starting on the day after notification of the decision), in accordance with the modalities and procedure set out in Article 153.

§ 8. In the event of an appeal, the decision taken by the dean, as referred to in § 5 of this article, will be suspended until the Internal Appeal Committee decides on the irregularity identified.

§ 9. In the event of serious irregularities, a penalty may be imposed after the examination mark has been determined, whereby that examination mark will be deemed non-existent and, regardless of the time at which the irregularity is identified, credit certificates, other certificates and attestations and diplomas issued may be declared null and void and reclaimed.

Article 119 (minor irregularities)

By way of derogation from Article 118, in the event of minor irregularities and insofar as these are not repeated, the dean may inform the student by email of the irregularities found and inform the student that the dean is considering imposing a 0/20 grade for that course unit or for an examination component thereof as a sanction. If the student cannot agree with the sanction being considered, they must inform the dean by email accordingly within seven days of receiving the notification. The dean will then initiate the procedure provided for in Article 118, § 4 and, if the dean considers the irregularities proven, impose a sanction as provided for in Article 118, § 5. In the absence of a response from the student or on agreement, the sanction considered will be imposed.

CHAPTER V. – Master's thesis

Article 120 (subject, supervisor, Supervisory Board members)

§ 1. A master's thesis must be included in every master's degree programme. With regard to the master's thesis, each faculty determines in its Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations when the students communicate the following information to the dean:

- the subject of the master's thesis;
- the approval of the supervisor;
- where applicable, an indication of the objective and method.

§ 2. The list of master's theses indicating the subject and the supervisor must be submitted to the Educational Council for approval before the winter holiday. The competent body is designated in the Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations.

In addition to the supervisor, at least one Supervisory Board member is appointed by the faculty; the Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations stipulate the deadline date by which this must be done.

§ 3. A supervisor must be an independent academic staff member, a post-doctoral research assistant or guest professor, or another member of the academic staff who holds a doctorate. In principle, the Supervisory Board members are members of the academic staff of VUB. The faculty may decide to appoint one Supervisory Board member from among experts outside the institution. The supplementary faculty provisions can stipulate that more than one supervisor can be designated. Only one of those supervisors will be responsible in academic terms.

Article 121 (amendments)

§ 1. Changes of subject, a change of supervisor by the student or the supervisor withdrawing from the assignment must be reported to the dean in writing. Reasons for this must be given in each case.

§ 2. In accordance with the provisions of Article 120, a new subject and/or another supervisor must be designated, subject to the deadlines where applicable.

Article 122 (supervisor guidance)

The supervisor undertakes to provide the student with guidance on a regular basis, while the student

undertakes to keep their supervisor informed of the research progress made. In the event of non-compliance, the student or the supervisor concerned may notify the dean in writing accordingly.

Article 123 (date of submission)

The faculty determines the dates on which the master's thesis is submitted annually, preferably before 15 August of the calendar year in which the academic year begins; these dates are included in the Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations or in the procedure set out on the faculty student portal.

Article 124 (form of submission)

§ 1. The master's thesis must be submitted to the faculty in digital form. The Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations determine whether one or more copies of the master's thesis are to be submitted in print. The Supplementary Faculty Education and Examinations Regulations state that, together with their master's thesis, students must submit a publishable summary as well as an abstract to be included in the standard lists of theses published in Belgian specialist journals.

§ 2. The digital version of the master's thesis for which the student has obtained a credit is kept by the University Library.

The master's thesis will only be published with the explicit consent of the student.

The Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations determine the procedure and the modalities for publication.

§ 3. The student must be able to prove the authenticity of the research material.

Article 125 (assessment)

§ 1. The supervisor and the Supervisory Board members will discuss and assess the master's thesis, without prejudice to the provisions of § 2.

§ 2. If a public oral defence is not provided for all students with regard to the master's thesis, students will be given access to the reasoned report drawn up by the supervisor and the Supervisory Board member(s) and the proposed examination mark at their request. On that basis, a student may decide whether or not to proceed with an oral public defence of their master's thesis with the supervisor and the Supervisory Board member(s), among other things should the student concerned wish to contest the grade awarded at that moment.

§ 3. The student concerned may be required to conduct an oral public defence on the basis of a reasoned report.

§ 4. If a public oral defence is provided for all students, the Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations state whether the student is provided with a qualitative assessment for the defence.

§ 5. The Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations may provide for a procedure to derogate from the public nature of the oral defence. The decision to override the public nature of the defence must be justified on the basis of exceptional circumstances in each case.

§ 6. The Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations may provide for a procedure to replace the supervisor or a Supervisory Board member if they cannot be present at the oral defence in the event of force majeure or a legitimate reason for being indisposed.

Article 126 (reports)

The reports drawn up by the supervisor and the Supervisory Board member(s) are available to the members of the Examination Board, and it must be possible to consult these during the meeting.

Article 127 (supervision by more than one institutions)

In the event of joint supervision of a master's thesis by two or more institutions, the modalities of this joint supervision will be set out in the cooperation agreement.

CHAPTER VI. – Examination Board

Article 128 (examination board)

For all bachelor's and master's degree programmes, bridging and preparatory programmes and postgraduate programmes, an Examination Board will be set up for the entire study programme.

Article 129 (composition)

§ 1. The competent faculty body will determine the names of the Examination Board members before the start of the academic year. It will also determine whether replacements can be nominated to deputise for members.

§ 2. The Examination Board is constituted in a representative manner, comprising at least six independent academic staff members with voting rights, unless the total number of examiners is fewer. In order to make a valid decision regarding a student, at least half of the Board members must participate in the deliberation.

§ 3. The faculty ombudspersons may not participate in an Examination Board as voting members. In cases where an ombudsperson nevertheless wishes to participate in the Examination Board as a voting member, they must then be replaced as an ombudsperson by their deputy in the faculty during the deliberation. The faculties establish the necessary rules in their Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations for this purpose.

Article 130 (chairperson and secretary)

§ 1. For each Examination Board, a chairperson and a secretary as well as replacements to deputise for both positions are appointed by the competent faculty body before the start of the academic year. Their names are to be communicated to the faculty ombudsperson by the dean.

§ 2. The name of the chairperson of the Examination Board will be announced to the students during the academic year.

Article 131 (members in an advisory capacity)

The following persons may take part in the functioning of an Examination Board in an advisory capacity:

- the dean, who may attend and chair all meetings of the Examination Boards for their faculty;
- the supervisor of a master's thesis;

- the faculty ombudsperson;
- the faculty secretary;
- a member of the administrative staff appointed by the dean to prepare the deliberation;
- the study adviser.

CHAPTER VII. - Deliberation and study progress based on examinations

Section 1: Powers of the Examination Board

Article 132 (powers of the examination board)

§ 1. The Examination Board has the following powers:

1. adjusting an exam grade in the event of a material error, a gross irregularity or obvious unreasonableness;
2. taking a measure to monitor study progress in accordance with Article 88;
3. declaring a student to have passed the entire study programme in a reasoned manner. To this end, the Examination Board will weigh up its final assessment vis-à-vis the objectives of the study programme and any specialisation undertaken by the student by including specific choices to broaden or deepen their knowledge. The application of this article at least expects the student to have demonstrated that special personal or family circumstances exist and that the aforementioned objectives have been achieved.
The fact that a student is deemed to have passed in overall terms does not mean that they are eligible for a credit certificate for those courses units that they have not passed. If the student is deemed not to have passed, they must retake everything that have been found to have failed.
4. in exceptional circumstances, the Examination Board may, in derogation of Article 144, determine the degree of merit with which the diploma is awarded.

§ 2. The Examination Board competent for the Master of Medicine degree has the additional authority to decide whether the student is allowed to continue clinical internships.

Section 2: Conduct of deliberation

Article 133 (deliberation meetings)

Each Examination Board meets at least twice per academic year. The first meeting concerns dealing with the examination results of the first and second examination periods in the first session. The second meeting concerns dealing with the second session. Deliberation can only be organised for students in a graduation year at the end of the first examination period of the first session, in accordance with the modalities set out in the Supplementary Faculty Education and

Examination Regulations. Students who wish to graduate at the end of the first examination period of the first session are to request this in the Student SelfService portal.

Article 134 (conduct of deliberation and voting)

§ 1. The activities of the Examination Board during the deliberation will be accurately recorded in the minutes by the secretary of the Examination Board. The minutes, signed by the chairperson and secretary of the Examination Board, are available to the Rector and the faculty ombudsperson.

§ 2. The Examination Board has absolute authority and acts as a college. A decision concerning a student is taken by way of a simple majority. In the case of a tied vote, the decision will be made in favour of the student. Each member has only one vote, regardless of the number of course units for which they have been the examiner. Members of the Examination Board cannot take part in the deliberation if blood or family ties up to and including the fourth degree are involved. Each voting member of the Examination Board is entitled to request a secret ballot.

Article 135 (attendance)

Attendance at the deliberation is mandatory for all members of the Examination Board with voting rights. Being legitimately indisposed must be communicated to the chairperson of the Examination Board or to the dean beforehand.

The deliberation can be organised electronically.

Article 136 (discretion)

The members of the Examination Board and all persons present at the deliberation ex officio are obliged to safeguard the confidential nature of the discussions.

Section 3: Study progress based on examinations

Article 137 (exam grade)

§ 1. One exam grade is assigned for each course unit. The exam grade is expressed in the form of an integer from 0 to 20 or in the form of a non-numeric score. The exam grade is calculated in accordance with the calculation method described in the course unit outline.

§ 2. The exam grade calculated in accordance with § 1 is rounded down to the lower grade for decimals < (less than) 0.5 and rounded up for decimals ≥ (greater than or equal to) 0.5. Partial grades are never rounded, only the final grade.

§ 3. Absence from a mandatory part of the evaluation results in absent as a result code, unless specified otherwise in the course unit outline.

Article 138 (passing a course unit)

§ 1. Students obtain a credit certificate for each course unit they have passed. The pass mark for a course unit is at least 10/20. The document attached to the credit certificate is issued once only at the student's request. A student cannot forgo a credit certificate.

§ 2. A credit certificate remains valid indefinitely within the relevant study programme at the institution where it was obtained.

Article 139 (passing the first year of the bachelor's full-time standard study path)

§ 1. Students in the first year of the bachelor's full-time standard study path are automatically deemed to have passed if examinations have been taken for all first-year course units of the bachelor's full-time standard study path and:

1. All examinations have resulted in a credit certificate, or
2. the following cumulative conditions are met:
 - the student achieves a weighted average of at least 55%;
 - the student does not achieve an examination result lower than 8/20;
 - the weighted points deficit is a maximum of 18;
 - the student obtains a maximum of three points below 10/20, spread over a maximum of two course units;
 - the student has passed those course units with a mandatory internship component, for which no deficit is tolerated. Allowable fail grades will be tolerated for all other first-year course units.

In the case of exemptions being granted, the maximum permitted weighted deficit is determined proportionally.

§ 2. Within the academic year, a student may take advantage of a second examination opportunity to retake an allowable fail grade permitted in accordance with the previous paragraph; if the allowable fail grade relates to two course units, the student must retake both. The student concerned must submit a written request to this effect to the faculty secretariat within a deadline period of seven calendar days from the day after the electronic publication of the results in accordance with Article 145 of these regulations.

If the student indicates that they wish to take advantage of a second examination opportunity for an allowable fail grade, the original result will irrevocably cease to apply and the newly achieved result will become final. The previously pronounced deliberation result will be adjusted accordingly.

Article 140 (average percentage result of a study programme)

§ 1. To determine the percentage for the overall study programme, all examination marks obtained for a course unit in the context of a diploma contract or an examination contract for the purpose of obtaining a diploma are taken into account.

§ 2. The weighting of the course units is based on the number of ECTS credits associated with the course unit.

§ 3. The percentage calculated in accordance with § 1 and § 2 is rounded down to the underlying percentage for decimals < (less than) 0.5 and rounded up for decimals ≥ (greater than or equal to) 0.5.

Article 141 (transferring different exam components)

§ 1. If the final result for a course unit consists of several partial results, the results of these individual evaluations/components that cannot be retaken in the second session will be retained, unless an alternative form of examination or alternative calculation of results for the next examination period is included in the course unit outline.

§ 2. Partial results of individual evaluations/components that can be retaken in the second session will not be transferred to the second session, unless stipulated otherwise in the course unit outline.

Partial results will not be transferred to a subsequent academic year, unless stipulated otherwise in the course unit outline.

If the course unit outline allows a transfer of partial results of at least 10/20 or passed, the conditions for transfer will be included in the course unit outline, and it will also be stipulated whether a student can waive the partial result.

Article 142 (conversion of exam grades)

If a student takes course units at another institution in accordance with article 90 and Article 92 of these regulations, the examination for these course units will be taken at the time and place and in accordance with the modalities determined by the other institution. The examination grades obtained from the institution may be the subject of conversion.

CHAPTER VIII. – Awarding a degree or diploma

Article 143 (passing a study programme)

§ 1. A student acquires a degree or diploma at the end of a study programme if they are deemed to have passed the study programme as a whole.

§ 2. The student is automatically deemed to have been successful at the end of the programme if they have passed all the examinations associated with the study programme and if all examinations have resulted in a credit certificate.

§ 3. At the end of a bachelor's degree programme, a bridging or preparatory programme or a master's degree programme (including post-master's programmes), the student is also

automatically deemed to have been successful if they have passed all the examinations associated with the study programme and the following cumulative conditions are met:

- the student achieves a weighted average of at least 55% over the entire programme;
- the student does not achieve an examination result lower than 8/20 over the entire programme;
- the weighted points deficit achieved does not exceed the limits stated below:
 - 2nd and 3rd year of the full-time standard study path for the bachelor's degree programme: max. 18 GPT
 - master's degree programme of 60 ECTS credits: max. 12 GPT
 - master's degree programme of 90 ECTS credits: max. 13.5 GPT
 - master's degree programme of 120 or more ECTS credits: max. 18 GPT
 - bridging programme (s ECTS credits): max. $18 \times s/90$ GPT
 - preparatory programme (s ECTS credits): max. $18 \times s/90$ GPT, with 18 GPT as a maximum, even if $s > 90$ ECTS credits;
- either within the entirety of the 2nd and 3rd years of the full-time standard study path of the bachelor's degree programme and provided that the student has obtained a credit certificate or post-deliberation grade as referred to in Article 139 for all first-year course units of the full-time standard study path, or at the end of the other study programmes referred to above in this § 3, the student obtains a maximum of three points below 10/20, spread over a maximum of two course units;
- the student has passed in relation to the bachelor's thesis, the master's thesis and/or the mandatory internship, insofar as these course units are part of the study programme. Furthermore, the Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations determine for which course units, if any, a deficit (allowable fail grade) is not tolerated.

If, because of a shortened study path, the study load of the programme either for the entirety of the 2nd and 3rd year of the full-time standard study path of the bachelor's degree programme for a student is less than that generally provided for, and/or in the case of exemptions that have been granted, the maximum permitted weighted deficit is determined proportionally.

§ 4. A student who is deemed to have passed in accordance with § 3 of this article may take advantage of a second examination opportunity within the same academic year to retake an allowable fail grade in accordance with this paragraph; if the allowable fail grade relates to two course units, the student must retake both. The student concerned must submit a written request to this effect to the faculty secretariat within a period of seven calendar days from the day after the electronic publication of the results.

If the student indicates that they wish to take advantage of a second examination opportunity for an allowable fail grade, the original result will irrevocably cease to apply and the newly achieved result will become final. The previously pronounced deliberation result will be adjusted accordingly.

§ 5. Students cannot be deemed to have passed for the entirety of the study programme if they have not yet completed the preparatory programme.

Article 144 (degrees of merit)

§ 1. Students who obtain a bachelor's, master's or teaching degree are awarded one of the following degrees of merit:

- passed - satisfactory, average final result less than 68%;
- passed with distinction, average final result from 68%;
- passed with high distinction, average final result from 77%;
- passed with the highest distinction, average final result from 85%.

§ 2. A degree of merit can only be awarded if a minimum number of ECTS credits has been obtained within the study programme at VUB. The minimum number of ECTS credits is:

- for a bachelor's degree programme, 60 ECTS credits,
- for a master's degree programme, at least half the total study load.

CHAPTER IX. – Announcement of results

Article 145

§ 1. After each examination period, the results of the examinations are communicated to students via the Student SelfService portal.

§ 2. The results of the examinations taken in the first examination period of the first session will be announced to students on the first day of the first week of lectures in the second semester.

§ 3. The results of the examinations taken in the second examination period of the first session, and the results of the examinations taken in the second session, will be announced to students after deliberation by the Examination Board in accordance with the provisions set out in Article 146. The same applies to the results of those students who, in accordance with their request under the terms of Article 133, were the subject of deliberation by the Examination Board at the end of the first examination period of the first session.

Article 146

After the deliberation, the chairperson of the Examination Board, the dean or a member of the Examination Board designated by them will announce the decision taken by the Examination Board via the Student SelfService portal.

Article 147

Either an individual points list or an individual points sheet stating the examination mark per course unit as discussed by the Examination Board, including a proclamation code, is made available to each student in the Student SelfService portal.

PART IV. – Ombudspersons and means of redress

CHAPTER I. – Ombudspersons

Article 148 (appointment and job description)

§ 1. Following consultation in the Education Council, the Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs will appoint at least one member of the independent academic staff per faculty as an ombudsperson for complaints regarding educational organisation and examination matters before the start of each academic year. Each faculty must designate a faculty deputy using the same procedure. A central ombudsperson and deputy for the same are to be appointed at the same time and as part of the same procedure. The information concerning the names of the faculty ombudsperson, the central ombudsperson and their deputies, as well as where and when they can be reached, is to be made known to students throughout the entire academic year via the VUB website at the very least.

§ 2. The faculty ombudspersons are authorised to receive complaints and comments from students that may relate to educational organisation, examination regulations, the examination procedure, the assessment of the master's thesis, deliberation, the publication of results, study progress based on examinations and the obtaining of a credit certificate. They are likewise authorised to intervene regarding any appeals lodged in accordance with Article 153 and Article 154 of these regulations;

§ 3. The central ombudsperson is authorised to receive and deal with complaints and comments from students with regard to educational organisation, examination regulations, the examination procedure, the assessment of the master's thesis, the deliberation, the publication of results, study progress based on examinations and the obtaining of a credit certificate when the faculty ombudsperson is involved, as a result of which their independence and impartiality is jeopardised, or in the absence of the faculty ombudsperson, in which case they are prevented from performing their function.

§ 4. The ombudsperson concerned (central or faculty) mediates at the request of the students with the dean, the chairperson of the Examination Board, the members of the academic staff and the faculty secretary with the aim of reaching an amicable settlement within the shortest possible time.

Article 149 (reporting)

The central and faculty ombudspersons report annually on their activities to the Vice-Rector for Education and Student Affairs before 15 November of the following academic year.

CHAPTER II. - Means of redress

Article 150 (material errors)

If a material error is identified in a study progress decision, this is to be reported formally to the dean within 10 calendar days of the day on which it was made.

After this period, a material error can only be rectified in the following cases:

- if the correction is in the student's favour;
- if the material error involves a violation of legal terms and conditions;
- if the material error is demonstrably the result of serious negligence or a serious error on the part of the student.

An error that does not lead to a less favourable decision with regard to the student will be rectified by the dean. The rectification is communicated to the student and adequately documented within the faculty.

If the error ascertained leads to a less favourable decision for the student, the error must be rectified by the body that made the original decision. If necessary, this body will be convened as soon as possible by the dean. The rectification is communicated to the student and adequately documented within the faculty.

Article 151 (decisions against which an appeal can be lodged)

The following study progress decisions may be appealed against internally and then externally in accordance with Article 153:

- a) examination decision, i.e. any decision that, whether or not on the basis of deliberation, involves a final assessment of compliance for a course unit, several course units of a study programme, or a course of study as a whole, in accordance with Article 132, Article 143 and Article 144 of these regulations;
- b) examination-related disciplinary decision, i.e. a sanction imposed as a result of facts concerning an exam, as provided for in Article 118 of these regulations;
- c) granting an exemption - i.e. lifting the obligation to take an examination for a course unit, or part thereof – in accordance with Article 87 of these regulations;
- d) decision requiring attendance of a bridging and/or preparatory programme and determining the study load of such a programme;
- e) imposing a measure to monitor study progress, in accordance with Article 88 and Article 88bis of these regulations;
- f) refusing to include a particular course unit in the study contract for which the student pursuing an individual study path has not previously enrolled;
- g) decision refusing enrolment on the basis of an inadequate study credit or a study credit lower than or equal to 0, unless this results from a general regulatory provision
- h) a decision on substantial differences in competencies if a credit certificate was acquired more than five years previously.

A decision to refuse adjustments requested by students with disabilities may be appealed internally in accordance with Article 154.

Article 152 (composition of internal appeal committee)

A central Appeal Committee is set up with the authority to hear all internal appeals lodged against the study progress decisions referred to in Article 151.

The Appeal Committee is composed of a chairperson and two assessors. The Academic Council designates the persons who can take on the role of chairperson and assessor within the Internal Appeal Committee, as well as their deputies, from among the members of the independent academic staff (including emeriti).

The Internal Appeal Committee may invite the following persons to the hearing for the purpose of dealing with the case:

- the faculty ombudsperson,
- the study programme supervisor of the faculty to which the student belongs,
- the faculty secretary or the faculty policy officer for education,
- a representative of the Rector with expertise in education regulations,
- If the Appeal Committee deems it expedient, it may be assisted in the handling of an appeal by the chairperson of the Examination Board concerned.

The function of the secretariat of the Internal Appeal Committee is performed by a representative of the Rector with expertise in education regulations.

Article 153 (internal appeal procedure with the exception of the decision concerning reasonable adjustment)

§ 1. An appeal can be lodged against a study progress decision which the student or person to whom the decision relates considers is tainted by a breach of the law. The appeal must be lodged within a limitation period of seven calendar days. For appeals against examination decisions, this limitation period commences on the day after the electronic announcement of the examination results in accordance with Article 145. For other appeals, this limitation period commences on the day after announcement of the decision.

If the inspection of the examination paper is planned for later than the five calendar days provided for in Article 114, § 3, the appeal must likewise be lodged within the limitation period. The student must expressly mention this in the written request and should factually substantiate their complaint within seven calendar days after the limitation period. If they fail to do so, their appeal will automatically be considered inadmissible, to the extent that there are no other grievances and to the extent that no factual description of the invoked objection was included.

The appeal must be lodged by means of a signed and dated petition submitted to the Appeal Committee by way of registered letter addressed to the Chairperson, Education and Student Affairs – BraeM 3, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels, failing which the appeal will be deemed inadmissible.

As a minimum, the identity of the student concerned, the disputed decision(s) and a factual description and reasons for the objections invoked are to be included in the petition. Insofar as the student believes that they can invoke exceptional circumstances as referred to in Article 132 § 1, 3, they must demonstrate in the petition that special circumstances exist and that they have achieved the objectives in overall terms.

The date of the appeal is the date of the postmark on the registered mail.

§ 2. The appeal can result in:

- the reasoned rejection of the appeal on the grounds of inadmissibility or lack of competence; this decision can be taken by both the Appeal Committee and the chairperson;
- a decision by the Appeal Committee that confirms or revises the original decision in a reasoned manner.

Examination of the admissibility of the appeal and examination of the authority are always dealt with on the basis of the file, without the student being heard. In principle, the Appeal Committee will also examine the merits of the appeal on the basis of documents, except insofar as the appeal is directed against a decision as referred to in Article 151(1) (a), (b) or (e), in which cases the student concerned will be invited to the hearing of the Appeal Committee.

The Appeal Committee may invite anyone whose presence it deems useful for dealing with the case to be heard at any time.

The deliberation and vote of the Internal Appeal Committee are secret.

A decision will be taken by way of a majority vote of the three members of the Appeal Committee.

The chairperson of the Internal Appeal Committee is responsible for maintaining order during the hearing.

If an external appeal is lodged against a decision arrived at by the Internal Appeal Committee or the appeal was wrongly declared inadmissible, the chairperson may decide to revoke that decision. Following such revocation, the chairperson will ask the Internal Appeal Committee to reach a new decision or take a new decision personally, depending on the body responsible for the revoked decision.

§ 3. The decision pursuant to § 2 will be notified to the student or the person to whom it relates within a period of 20 calendar days from the date on which the appeal was lodged.

By way of derogation from Article 6, § 4 of these regulations, notification of the decision taken by the Internal Appeal Committee with regard to an appeal against a refusal to allow re-enrolment, imposed in accordance with Article 88, may also ensue via the student's personal email address.

§ 4. An appeal against the decision taken pursuant to § 2 can be lodged with the Council for Disputes concerning Study Progress Decisions, as set out in Article 155.

§ 5. The documents the student concerned becomes aware of in the context of the appeal procedure may not be used for anything other than personal purposes. The student is therefore not permitted to reproduce and/or distribute these documents, under penalty of disciplinary sanctions as stipulated in the Order and Discipline Regulations for students of Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Article 154 (internal appeal procedure for reasonable adjustment)

§ 1. A student can, within a limitation period of seven calendar days starting on the day after notification of the decision, lodge an internal appeal with the dean against a decision to refuse reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities where the student concerned considers that such decision is tainted by a breach of law. The following will also be invited in an advisory capacity: the faculty ombudsperson, the faculty secretary and a student counsellor.

§ 2. The student concerned has the right to be heard on the merits of the case.

§ 3. The decision will be notified to the student within a period of twenty calendar days, commencing on the day following that on which the appeal is lodged.

§ 4. The documents the student concerned becomes aware of in the context of the appeal procedure may not be used for anything other than personal purposes. The student is therefore not permitted to reproduce and/or distribute these documents, under penalty of disciplinary sanctions as stipulated in the Order and Discipline Regulations for students of Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Article 154bis (procedure for appeal against positioning tests (mandatory level tests and non-mandatory level tests))

Students can appeal to the inter-institutional appeal body against the following decisions in accordance with the procedure available at www.ijkingstoets.be:

- a) their results in the test;
- b) failure to obtain support measures when taking part in a test, or the nature of such measures;
- c) failure to obtain an exemption from taking part in a test;
- d) failure to obtain an exemption from a mandatory remedial course for the students as defined in Article 22 of the cross-institutional regulations on positioning tests:
 - based on standard exemptions;
 - based on special individual skills.

Article 155 (external appeal procedure)

After exhausting the internal possibility of appeal in accordance with Article 153 of these regulations, students may lodge an external appeal with the Council for Disputes concerning Study Progress Decisions in accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Codex and the Decree of 4 April 2014 on the organisation and administration of justice of certain Flemish administrative courts. This appeal must be filed by sending a petition via secure mail within a limitation period of seven calendar days starting from the day after notification of the decision taken, in accordance with Article 153 (Address: Council for Disputes concerning Study Progress Decisions (DBRC), Koning Albert II-laan 15 box 130, 1210 Brussels).

A copy of this petition must be sent to the Board at the same time via secure mail (for the attention of the chairperson of the Appeal Committee, Education and Student Affairs – BraeM 3, with address at Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels).

In the absence of a timely decision within the period provided for in Article 153, the appeal must be lodged with the Council within the limitation period of seven calendar days following expiry of that period, unless the internal appeal body informs the student concerned of a later date on which it will give judgement before the expiry of the period available to it.

The date of the appeal will be the date of the postmark.

The documents the student concerned becomes aware of in the context of the appeal procedure may not be used for anything other than personal purposes. The student is therefore not permitted to use, reproduce and/or distribute these documents, under penalty of disciplinary sanctions as stipulated in the Order and Discipline Regulations for students of Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Article 156 (liability of staff and directors)

Non-contractual claims by students against (direct and indirect) auxiliary persons of VUB (including staff and Board members) are ineligible with regard to harm caused by the non-fulfilment of an obligation or duty arising from the student's contractual relationships with VUB to the fullest extent permitted by law.

PART V. – Transitional and concluding provisions

Article 157 (supplementary faculty provisions and derogations from the central regulations)

§ 1. The competent faculty body may propose special provisions and criteria as stipulated in these regulations and other faculty provisions supplementing these Education and Examination Regulations. The supplementary faculty provisions are approved by the Education Council.

§ 2. Derogations from the central regulations are possible with regard to article 8 and article 120, § 3 of the Education and Examination Regulations, as proposed by the competent faculty body. The faculty derogations are approved by the Education Council and included in the Supplementary Faculty Education and Examination Regulations. In view of the specific nature of these study programmes, postgraduate programmes can deviate from the provisions contained in these regulations.

§ 3. For BRUFACE masters, the IR faculty may request a derogation from Article 129, Article 143, § 1 and Article 144 § 1 of the Education and Examination Regulations via the procedure referred to in § 1.

§ 4. Derogations from the provisions contained in these regulations are possible for students participating in international mobility programmes. The cooperation agreements are submitted to the Education Council for approval.

Article 158 (code of conduct)

The code of conduct on transgressive behaviour, as specified at https://www.vub.be/sites/default/files/2024-09/2024_Reglementen_Addendum_OER_NL.pdf, forms an integral part of these regulations as an addendum.

Article 159 (amendments)

Amendments to these regulations are only possible by way of a decision taken by the Academic Council, following advice from the Education Council.

Article 160 (MILO powers)

With regard to teacher training, the powers on the dean conferred in these regulations are exercised by the chairperson of MILO.

The powers granted to the faculty secretary in these regulations are exercised by the general coordinator of MILO with regard to teacher training.

Article 161 (integration of academic higher education study programmes)

These regulations apply in full to students of the academic higher education study programmes that were transferred to the university in the 2013-2014 academic year.

Article 162 (entry into force)

These regulations will enter into force as of the 2025-2026 academic year.