

Wageningen University – Regulations Governing Flexible Bachelor's or Master's Programmes

1. Introduction

Every Wageningen University bachelor's or master's student is entitled to compile a flexible bachelor's or master's programme. Such a programme must comply with the educational frameworks of Wageningen University and the Examining Board's approval is required for it.

As in the case of a conventional degree programme, such a programme leads to a BSc or MSc degree. The diploma will list the name of the most closely related degree programme along with the qualification 'flexible programme'. The courses that have been passed will be listed on an addendum to the diploma.

2. Procedure

2.1. Student and study adviser

The following matters are important where a student decides in favour of a flexible programme:

- the student must compile a comprehensive selection of courses. Contact a study adviser for advice beforehand;
- The study adviser assesses the application and submits the programme to the Examining Board, accompanied by an advice regarding content;
- a number of additional documents must also be submitted, namely:
 - an overview, in which the student indicates whether it is feasible to study the relevant courses; the schedule and timetable must be in order. A possible structure may comprise a list of the courses that have already been passed (along with the marks) and also of the courses that are still to be taken (together with the schedule and timetable);
 - the rationale for opting for a flexible programme clearly stipulated in writing;
 - in the case of a flexible BSc programme students must include notes, in which they set out the prospects for them after obtaining the requisite diploma (e.g. correlation with the field of work and/or a follow-up MSc).
NB. The compilation of a flexible BSc programme **may** entail constraints on the admission to a follow-up MSc (or specialisation or major);
- After approval, the Examining Board will enter the flexible programme in Osiris.

The assignment of degree programmes to the various Examining Boards is listed on the [Examining Boards' webpage](#).

A student is required to apply for a flexible programme as soon as possible in the course of their studies, preferably by no later than halfway through the second year in the case of the bachelor's and 10 months in the case of the master's degree. If a student waits too long to apply for a flexible programme, they run the risk that their courses will not be approved. An application for a flexible programme may be submitted to the Examining Board of the degree programme to which that flexible programme is most closely related. This is often the Examining Board of the degree programme for which the student is registered and is determined in consultation with the study adviser.

2.2. Assessment by the Examining Board

The Examining Board examines whether the application is accompanied by a clear motivation, whether all required information is available and whether the programme contains sufficient ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credits. The Examining Board most closely involved (based on the essence of the programme) then assesses the contents of the flexible programme. If the programme is inadequate or specific matters are not clear, the student is asked to provide additional information or a more detailed explanation. The Examining Board maintains contact with the student through the study adviser. The Examining Board is the decision-making body and ensures that its decisions are appropriately filed. Upon approval, the Examining Board records the flexible programme in Osiris.

It may happen that the Examining Board for the degree programme for which a student is registered contacts another Examining Board, because the essence of the relevant programme has shifted. Sometimes a student may eventually need to register for a different degree programme.

2.3. Response time and approval

An Examining Board seeks to deal with a student's application within six weeks. If a programme is approved by the Examining Board, the student receives an automatic notification from Osiris.

2.4. Amendment of an application that has already been approved

After approval and implementation in Osiris, all courses within the flexible programme become compulsory. In the exceptional case that a student wishes to make a modification to an already approved programme, a new decision of the Examining Board is required. The student submits a proposal for modification accompanied by a clear motivation and arrange for a study adviser to assess the amended programme. The study adviser will forward the application to the Examining Board. If approved, the Examining Board will adjust the programme in Osiris.

3. Criteria for approval

- The flexible programme must comply with the general guidelines for the degree programme for which the student has registered and Wageningen University's educational frameworks.
- A bachelor's programme represents 180 ECTS credits. The conclusion to the bachelor's degree programme (a BSc thesis) is a mandatory component.
- A master's programme represents 120 ECTS credits. The final subject (an MSc thesis), an internship (or research practice or second thesis, if applicable) and an academic master's cluster are mandatory.
- Rationale for the course selection – the following matters are important:
 - job prospects and/or a follow-up study (MSc);
 - how the student views their studies in a broader context;
 - the reason why it is impossible to do the selection of courses as part of an existing degree programme;
 - the coherency of the selection of courses.
- The final selection of courses must differ sufficiently (target value 30%) from the university's regular degree programmes. Should that not be the case, the Examining Board may decide not to assess the selection of courses and the student will be advised to complete their studies through one of the regular degree programmes.
- An Examining Board will assess the **structure** and **depth** of every selection of courses.
- Courses may be done at another university (foreign or otherwise). An explanation for a decision to do so must be set out as part of the rationale.

Guidelines for the structure of a flexible bachelor's programme:

- **introductory and basic courses** representing a total of 60 ECTS credits;
- **more in-depth and advanced courses** representing a total of 60 ECTS credits;
- **specialist courses, including a BSc thesis and minor (or free choice (selective) component)** representing a total of 60 ECTS credits (these courses should constitute a coherent selection covering the subject matter that has been decided on in greater depth).

Guidelines for the structure of a flexible master's programme:

- **more in-depth courses** representing a total of 48 ECTS credits;
- an **Academic Master's Cluster (AMC)** representing 12 ECTS credits;
- a **thesis and internship** representing a total of 60 ECTS credits. In consultation with the Examining Board, the internship may be replaced by a research practice or second thesis.

4. Diploma

If a student completes a flexible BSc or MSc, they will receive a BSc or MSc diploma citing the title of the most closely related degree programme and the qualification 'flexible programme'.

5. Miscellaneous

If a current or prospective student requires information about the possibility of doing a flexible bachelor's or master's programme, they will first be referred to these regulations. Should there still be anything that is not clear, they may contact a study adviser and/or the Examining Board of the degree programme for which the student is registered, or the Examining Board of the degree programme that is most closely related to the flexible programme that they want to do.