



**Rules Governing the  
United Nations University  
Master of Science Dual Degree in  
Public Policy and Human  
Development**

## SUMMARY SHEET

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<b>APPLICABILITY</b>	These Rules are applicable to students enrolled in the United Nations University Master of Science Dual Degree in Public Policy and Human Development
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<b>PERSONS CONSULTED IN DEVELOPING POLICY</b>	UNU
<b>DETAIL OF DISSEMINATION</b>	Matriculated students of the Dual Degree programme UNU Institute and Programme Directors and Academic Programme Directors

# Table of Contents

<b>I. Citation .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>II. Definitions.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>III. Applicability .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>IV. Aims of the Programme of Study .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>V. Admissions.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>VI. Minimum Admissions Requirements.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>VII. Structure of the Programme of Study .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Language of Study .....	3
Academic Adviser .....	3
Full-time Study .....	3
Course Registration .....	3
Tuition and Other Fees.....	3
Tuition Refunds .....	3
Equivalency and Transfer of Credit.....	4
Leave of Absence from the Degree Programme .....	4
Withdrawal from the Degree Programme .....	4
<b>VIII. Course Requirements and Examinations .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Consultation of Experts .....	5
Rules for Academic Examinations .....	5
Examination Periods and Publication of Results .....	5
Right of Inspection.....	6
<b>IX. Repetition of Examinations and Courses .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>X. Grading Scales .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Designators and Other Non-grade Symbols Approved for Use in Reporting Course Results .....	8
Awarding Credits.....	8
Graduating with Distinction.....	8
<b>XI. Master's Thesis .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>XII. Student Conduct .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Misconduct.....	9
<b>XIII. General Procedures Regarding Disciplinary Action .....</b>	<b>10</b>

Procedural Fairness.....	10
Summary Powers Relating to Misconduct.....	10
Charges of Misconduct .....	11
Retention in Security of Documents.....	11
Procedure for Hearing Charges .....	11
<b>XIV. Student Complaints Procedure.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>XV. Conditions for the Award of a Degree .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>XVI. Master’s Degree and Student Transcript .....</b>	<b>17</b>
Master of Science Degree .....	17
UNU Student Transcripts .....	17
<b>XVII. Final Provisions.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Amendments.....	17
Announcement.....	17
Unforeseen Circumstances .....	18
Hardship.....	18
Coming into Force.....	18
<b>Annex A. List of Courses.....</b>	<b>19</b>
Semester 1.....	19
Semester 2.....	19

## **CITATION**

1. These Rules are made pursuant to Section 23 of the UNU Programmes and Awards Statute and may be cited as the “United Nations University Rules for the Master of Science dual degree programme in Public Policy and Human Development at UNU-MERIT”.

## **DEFINITIONS**

2. In these Rules governing the United Nations University Master of Science dual degree programme in Public Policy and Human Development at UNU-MERIT:
  - 2.1. “University,” or “UNU” means the United Nations University institute, programme, office, unit, or combination thereof involved in the functioning of this programme;
  - 2.2. “Academic Committee” means the body established under Section 15 of the Postgraduate Programmes and Awards Statute;
  - 2.3. “Board of Admissions and Exams,” also referred to as “UNU Board of Examiners”, means a body composed of three voting experts on behalf of UNU-MERIT;
  - 2.4. “University personnel” means the academic and administrative personnel as defined in Article VIII of the University Charter and Article II of the UNU Personnel Policy;
  - 2.5. “Instructor” means an academic responsible for a (or part of a) UNU educational course;
  - 2.6. “Academic Adviser” means an academic designated by the Academic Programme Director to guide and support a student’s academic development during the programme. The role of the Academic Adviser shall be considered distinct from, but complimentary to the role of the Thesis Supervisor. However, they may be one and the same person;
  - 2.7. “Thesis Supervisor” means an academic, chosen by the student and approved by UNU Board of Examiners, to guide and supervise the progress of the master’s thesis component of a student’s programme of study;
  - 2.8. “Student” means a person enrolled in a postgraduate programme offered in whole or in part by the University leading to the conferral of a UNU degree;
  - 2.9. “Enrolment” means participation by a student in a course or programme of study following acceptance of admission to the course or programme;
  - 2.10. “Obligation” means any action required of students by the University such as the payment of monies, or the return of books or pieces of equipment, arising as a consequence of the student’s enrolment in the University and the accompanying commitments thereof;
  - 2.11. “Residence” means the period of time that a student spends at the University during their enrolment in the degree programme;
  - 2.12. “Academic year” means the period of academic study beginning on 1 September and ending on 31 August;
  - 2.13. “Semester” means a five (5) to seven (7) month division of the academic year. Semester 1 refers to the semester running in the autumn period, and Semester 2 refers to the semester running in the spring period;
  - 2.14. “Course” means a classroom-based educational component of a programme of study;
  - 2.15. “Course syllabus” means a paper or electronic document outlining the goals and content of a particular course, describing methods of instruction, examination, learning outcomes, and appropriate reading list of that particular course and prescribing particular rules and guidelines applicable to the course;

- 2.16. “Course period” means a temporal unit as defined in the academic year, equal to the duration of the educational activities and subsequent examination of a course;
- 2.17. “Activity” means any lecture, tutorial, seminar, demonstration class, University ceremony, social function, briefing session, or similar activity, whether or not one that students are required to attend;
- 2.18. “Credit” means one credit unit based on a study load of approximately twenty-eight (28) hours of work;
- 2.19. “Elective” means a freely chosen course, selected as part of the master’s programme from the list of electives provided in the relevant programme of study;
- 2.20. “Thesis” means an independently and individually written research paper on a particular subject, rigorously analysed from a theoretical and/or practical viewpoint, resulting in an original academic contribution. The thesis is an integral and necessary element to the award of a United Nations University Master of Science degree.

### **APPLICABILITY**

3. These Rules shall be applicable to the United Nations University Master of Science dual degree programme in Public Policy and Human Development at UNU-MERIT. All students enrolled in this postgraduate degree programme shall be responsible for complying with these Rules as well as policies, guidelines and other issuances which may be issued from time to time. Students shall familiarize themselves with other general information documents including, but not limited to, the *Master’s Thesis Regulations*. The University reserves the right to change Rules, policies, guidelines, and other issuances whenever such action is deemed appropriate or necessary. Students will follow the statutes, regulations and rules of their Home University during their period of candidature, unless they are following a course or receiving supervision at the Host University, in which case the Host University rules shall apply. Rules governing the examination of the master’s thesis shall follow those of the student’s Home University.

### **AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

4. The United Nations University Master of Science dual degree Programme in Public Policy and Human Development shall contain sufficient elements beneficial to the academic growth of the student, in particular regarding:
  - 4.1. Provision of an academic education within the context of the specific educational concept and profile of the University;
  - 4.2. Provision of in-depth knowledge and understanding tailored to the student’s specific academic field of choice;
  - 4.3. Support for independent and scientific thinking and research, evidenced by, inter alia, the successful deposition and defence of a master’s thesis;
  - 4.4. Support for the further development of academic, analytical and communication skills.

### **ADMISSIONS**

5. Not applicable within the programme — admission is handled by Maastricht University and is subject to Maastricht University rules and regulations.

### **MINIMUM ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS**

6. Not applicable within the programme — admission is handled by Maastricht University and is subject to Maastricht University rules and regulations.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

### ***Language of Study***

7. The medium of instruction shall be in the English language.

### ***Academic Adviser***

8. An academic adviser shall be assigned to each student admitted to the study programme. The academic adviser can meet with the student to discuss his or her background, as well as preparation for and progress in the Programme.

### ***Full-time Study***

9. The United Nations University Master of Science Dual Degree Programme in Public Policy and Human Development shall be made up of sixty (60) ECTS credits.
10. Students shall be normally expected take an average of thirty (30) credits per semester.
11. This Programme shall be offered on a full-time basis only.
12. This Programme shall require personal attendance, i.e. physical presence in the facilities where the academic activities are held, for all components except the Master Thesis, unless explicitly noted or exempted within an individual course syllabus or by decision of the UNU Board of Examiners.
13. In order to meet the degree requirements for this Programme, students will need to select one of the specialisations published at the outset of every academic year.

### ***Course Registration***

14. Students will be automatically registered for the courses in Semester 1 and for the Master thesis. Students may participate in specialisations courses in Semester 2 after they have registered for such courses before the designated deadline.
15. Students can change their course registration of courses offered by UNU in Semester 2 before the designated deadline by submitting the designated course registration form to the UNU Board of Examiners at least four (4) weeks before the start of the course the request relates to. Should multiple registrations be received only the most recent submission will be deemed valid.
16. Students may re-take courses after their first academic year of registration if they did not receive a passing grade (60-62%) and when they registered for such courses in a timely manner.
17. Course registration will be confirmed by the UNU Board of Examiners.

### ***Tuition and Other Fees***

18. Tuition fees for this Programme shall be determined annually and prior to the start of the academic year in consultation with the Maastricht University.
19. Students shall be required to pay the full tuition before the start of the academic year.
20. Students shall be required to provide proof of payment.

### ***Tuition Refunds***

21. In the event a student withdraws prior to completion of the Programme, the student may be eligible to receive a partial refund for the portion of the programme remaining. No refund will be issued if a student withdraws from the Programme in the final two (2) months of the academic year.
22. If the student is expelled from the programme of study no refund shall be made.

### ***Equivalency and Transfer of Credit***

23. The UNU Board of Examiners is authorized to grant equivalency for a required course provided that the student can demonstrate the successful completion of a similar course at a recognized institution of higher education or that they have gained sufficient knowledge and skills relevant to the examination concerned, either through work of professional experience. At most, eight (8) of the ECTS credits for the programme may be earned based on the exemptions granted.
24. A request for recognition of course equivalency must be submitted to the UNU Board of Examiners along with all necessary forms and supporting documents. Along with the request, the student will need to submit properly validated documentation proving the successful completion of a similar course and the acquisition of equivalent skills. Such requests must be made at least four (4) weeks prior to the start of the course for which equivalency is being sought, except for the first courses of the programme where the request may be submitted up to two (2) weeks before the start of the course for which equivalency is being sought .
25. Only courses which have been (i) successfully completed, (ii) submitted on an official transcript from a recognized institution of higher education, and (iii) granted or assigned credit on the transcript of that institution, may be considered for equivalency and transfer of credit. Transfer credit will be awarded at the discretion of the UNU Board of Examiners.
26. In instances where a substitution and transfer of credit has been granted, the student's transcript will carry the notation 'XMP' based on the *Designators and Other Non-grade Symbols Approved for Use in Reporting Course Results* specified in Rule 64. This notation carries credit for the course but will not be considered for averaging purposes.
27. A transfer of credit will not result in a reduction of the programme fees.
28. No exemption or equivalency can be granted for the thesis component or elective courses.
29. No exemption or equivalency shall be granted based on exams passed by a student outside the Programme during a period in which the student was suspended from the Programme.

### ***Leave of Absence from the Degree Programme***

30. A leave of absence may be granted by the University on a case-by-case basis, for justifiable reasons. In order to request a leave of absence from the programme, students must submit a written notification to the Chairperson of the UNU Board of Examiners. Students will not be permitted to resume the academic programme if the leave of absence exceeds a twenty-four (24) month period from the time of enrolment.
31. Students requesting a leave of absence for health reasons must also submit a certified medical certificate. A leave of absence for health reasons is not counted towards the maximum enrolment period.

### ***Withdrawal from the Degree Programme***

32. In order to withdraw from this Programme, students must submit written notification to the UNU Board of Examiners. Any refund of fees will follow the principle stated in Rules 21 and 22. Application for re-admission by a student who has withdrawn will be considered in competition with all other applicants and subject to the admissions requirements then in effect.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS**

33. The UNU Board of Examiners shall uphold the rules and guidelines regarding proper conduct in examinations and regarding the procedural aspects of such examinations.
34. In case of irregularities in an examination or part(s) thereof, preventing the course instructor from assessing the student's knowledge, the UNU Board of Examiners shall be authorized to take action to remedy the situation.



### ***Consultation of Experts***

35. Before reaching a decision, the UNU Board of Examiners may consult an expert on the matter referred to in Rule 34.

### ***Rules for Academic Examinations***

36. To ensure that the method of evaluation in every course reflects appropriate academic standards and fairness to students, UNU shall apply the following rules governing course procedures:
- 36.1. Two weeks prior to the first day of a UNU course, the course instructor shall make available to the students, and shall file with the UNU Board of Examiners, the method(s) by which student performance shall be evaluated. This information shall describe the method(s) (including essays, tests, examinations and presentations), the relative weight of these evaluation(s) in relation to the overall course grade, and the timing of each major evaluation. This information shall be embodied in a course syllabus.
  - 36.2. Examinations shall be taken orally, in writing, or otherwise as announced in the course syllabus, without prejudice to the competence of the UNU Board of Examiners to determine otherwise in exceptional cases. An oral examination will be assessed and graded by one examiner and a second assessor appointed by the UNU Board of Examiners. The examiner must provide the student with a written statement of this assessment stating the grade, including the filled-out assessment norm (rubric) and written feedback.
  - 36.3. The relative value of each part of an in-course examination shall be indicated to the student at the time of the examination. In the case of a written examination, the value of each part shall be indicated on the examination paper.
  - 36.4. Upon request, students with a disability and/or chronic illness are offered the opportunity to take exams and assessments or teaching and learning activities in a manner adapted as optimal as possible to their disability and/or chronic illness. These adjustments shall be reasonably tailored to the student's disability and/or chronic illness but may not alter the quality or difficulty of an educational component or assessment programme. All intended learning outcomes must be covered by the adapted (assessment) provision. The UNU Board of Examiners decides on the adaptations, based on the advice of the Disability Support from Maastricht University, and the Board of Examiners from Maastricht University, and any additional information. If the UNU Board of Examiners deviates from the advice of the Disability Support from Maastricht University and the Board of Examiners from Maastricht University, this deviation must be motivated.
  - 36.5. Grades shall be assigned by the instructor in reference to the approved grade scales and on the basis of each student's performance.
  - 36.6. The Director of UNU-MERIT or the Rector may request an explanation of any grades for a course that appear not to be based on the approved grade scales or otherwise appear anomalous in reference to these Rules.
37. Presence at and participation in educational activities may be part of course examinations when announced along with the assessment norms in the course syllabus. However, presence and participation evaluations shall count for no more than thirty (30) percent of the evaluation total.

### ***Examination Periods and Publication of Results***

38. Examination dates, including dates for resitting exams, shall be announced at the start of the course.
39. To the extent possible, UNU-MERIT will take into consideration official holidays in the scheduling of examinations.
40. Examination results shall be made available to the student within fifteen (15) working days after each individual examination.

41. Within ten (10) working days of the date on which the results of an examination are announced, the student should be given the opportunity to inspect the individual examination. The inspection date, time and location should be informed no later than 5 calendar days before the date of the actual inspection.
42. Course results shall be made available together with the last examination results of any course.
43. After an examination inspection has occurred, the examiner provides the UNU-MERIT Office of Student Affairs with the necessary information to apprise the student of the final course results.
44. Course results shall be reflected on the student transcript five (5) working days from the date that the examiner hands in the final results of an exam.

### ***Right of Inspection***

45. Within ten (10) working days after the publication of examination results, students will be given the opportunity to inspect:
  - 45.1. their assessed written examination; and,
  - 45.2. the questions and assignments posed and given within the framework thereof.
46. Comments and complaints regarding open and/or closed questions for written examinations or parts thereof shall be submitted to the course instructor within five (5) working days of the examination in order for them to be reviewed. Comments and complaints submitted after this period has expired may be considered at the discretion of the course instructor.
47. Students who wish to appeal the results of an assessment may make use of the Student Complaints Procedure outlined in Section XIV.
48. The announcement of written (including computer-based) examination results will specify how the right of inspection can be obtained.
49. The student is not allowed to make any copies of their assessed examination or remove the assessed examination from the premises.

### **REPETITION OF EXAMINATIONS AND COURSES**

50. Students may not repeat any course for which they have already obtained credit (i.e. a mark of sixty (60) percent or higher). However, an instructor may indicate in the course syllabus that, due to the nature of the educational unit(s) of the course assessed, a resit of specific educational unit(s) of the course must be taken when the grade of those educational units are below sixty (60) percent, regardless of the final grade in the course. The instructor decides, based on the nature of the course, to offer a resit for the educational unit(s) that participants have not passed or one combined resit for all educational unit(s) in the course.
51. Each course provides one repeat exam opportunity per year at a date and time determined by the UNU Board of Examiners. The repeat examinations take place during the regular re-examination periods indicated in the annual academic calendar and/or the course syllabus.
52. Students have to register for repeat examinations if they did not pass the first examination.
53. There are two options for repeat examinations. By default, one repeat examination shall be offered for each part of a course assessment, excluding participation requirements. Students are entitled to register for the repeat examination of all components which they have failed. Alternatively, one combined repeat examination for all components may be offered, provided that this is specifically noted in the course syllabus. In this case, any student who has failed the course is allowed to participate.
54. In the case of the circumstances outlined in Rule 167, the UNU Board of Examiners may decide on an extra examination opportunity, provided that the conditions outlined in Rule 55 are met.

55. Students that have completed the graduation requirements with the exception of one course are entitled to request an extra examination opportunity if the next regularly scheduled examination for this subject will take place over three (3) months after the student has completed all other requirements with the exception of the master's thesis. This extra examination opportunity is requested to the UNU Board of Examiners and can only be granted once per student.
56. Students who undertake a repeat examination shall not be eligible for an award of distinction, regardless of their final overall grade.
57. The grades for all courses, whether successfully completed or not, shall appear on the transcript and be entered into the computation of the cumulative grade, except in the case of credit transfer.
58. The UNU Board of Examiners shall review student progress each semester and may issue a warning if grades fall below a passing grade (60-62%).

## GRADING SCALES

59. Grades shall be a measure of the performance of a student in individual courses and educational activities. Each student shall be evaluated on their ability to master key concepts and skills, as well as their ability to demonstrate critical thinking in the application of scientific analysis.
60. Grade meanings for each course shall be:
  - Excellent,
  - Good,
  - Adequate,
  - Inadequate.
61. At UNU-MERIT, grades for all examinations shall be reported on the numerical scale of marks, i.e. one (1) to one hundred (100) percent. A grade of 0% ("No Grade") shall only be used at the discretion of the UNU Board of Examiners. "No Grade" is a grade assigned when it is not possible to determine a grade. More specifically, instances which warrant a No Grade include, but are not limited to: a) a student has not taken the examination for which they were registered; b) a student fails to submit the examination before the deadline; c) a student has completed an examination that cannot be assessed (e.g. a corrupted file, an incomplete examination document, or similar cases); d) a student has engaged in misconduct in accordance with Rules 75, 76 and 97.2.
62. Instead of assigning a grade on the numerical scale of marks, a skill courses may be scored in a pass / fail scale. This scale recognizes ECTS and has no GPS implications.
63. For the purposes of the UNU student transcript, the grading of courses offered under the Maastricht University rules and regulations will be converted to the grading scale at UNU-MERIT. The grading scale shown in the following table, is referred to in the UNU student transcript. Explanations of approved grade scales outside this basic scheme will also be given upon request.

Grade Meanings	Truncated Letter Grade Scale	Numerical Scale of Marks	ECTS Scale <i>For reference only</i>	Grade Point Value <i>For reference only</i>	Dutch Grades <i>For reference only</i>
	A+	90–100%	A	4.0	8.9–10.0
Excellent	A	85–89%	A	3.9	8.3–8.8
	A-	80–84%	B	3.7	7.7–8.2

	B+	77-79%	B	3.3	7.4–7.6
Good	B	73-76%	C	3.0	7.0–7.3
	B-	70-72%	C	2.7	6.6–6.9
	C+	67-69%	D	2.3	6.3–6.5
Adequate	C	63-66%	D	2.0	5.8–6.2
	C-	60-62%	E	1.7	5.5–5.7
Inadequate	F	0-59%	F	0.0	1.0–5.4

### ***Designators and Other Non-grade Symbols Approved for Use in Reporting Course Results***

64. The following designators and other non-grade symbols shall be approved for use in reporting course results:

**XMP:** Exemption granted on the basis of credit work completed elsewhere.

XMP shall be assigned by the UNU Board of Examiners upon approval of a student's petition. It carries credit for the course but will not be considered for averaging purposes.

65. The universities involved in the delivery of this dual degree programme shall consult one another on the appropriate use of designators and other non-grade symbols in Rule 64.

### ***Awarding Credits***

66. Credits for a course or skills training shall only be awarded in full. Partial credits will not be awarded. Skills courses graded with a pass / fail scale has no GPS implications.

### ***Graduating with Distinction***

67. If a student has given evidence of exceptional competence within the programme, the UNU Board of Examiners may decide to recommend that the student be awarded with a degree classification of "Graduation with the Highest Distinction" or "Graduation with Distinction."
68. Awards of distinction require the collective consideration of the academic personnel affiliated with the master's programme. In making these decisions, consideration shall be given not only to the candidate's grades in the programme of study, but to the overall performance. A reasoned request can be submitted to the UNU Board of Examiners to grant a 'Graduation with the Highest Distinction' or 'Graduation with Distinction' in spite of an obtained 'no grade' or participation in a resit due to personal circumstances.
69. The UNU Board of Examiners may decide to recommend that the candidate receive the degree classification: (i) "Graduation with the Highest Distinction" if the student achieves an overall mark ranging from ninety-one (91) to one hundred (100) percent, obtained a mark of at least ninety-one (91) to one hundred (100) percent for the Master's thesis, has not resat an exam or obtained a 'no grade,' has no mark below seventy-three (73); and has not been found guilty of academic misconduct as described in Rules 75 and 76; (ii) "Graduation with Distinction" if the student achieves an overall mark ranging from eighty-two (82) to ninety (90) percent, obtained a mark of at least eight-two (82) for the Master's thesis, has not resat an exam or obtained a 'no grade, has no mark below seventy-three (73), and has not been found guilty of academic misconduct as described in Rules 75 and 76. Awards of distinction are also subject to the provisions of Rule 67 and 68.

70. Any credits obtained by granted exemptions shall not be taken into account when determining an award of distinction.

## **MASTER'S THESIS**

71. Not applicable within the programme — the thesis track is handled by Maastricht University and is subject to Maastricht University rules and regulations.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

72. Students shall be individually responsible for their actions whether acting alone or in a group. Students will be obliged to make responsible decisions concerning their conduct.
73. Students will be expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. The concept of integrity will include, but not be limited to, probity, impartiality, fairness, honesty and truthfulness in all matters affecting their work and status.
74. Students will be encouraged to discuss the content of a course among themselves and to help each other to master it, but no student will be permitted to receive help in doing a course assignment that is meant to test what he or she can do without help from others. In instances of collaboration, students will be required to indicate that the work is a product of a collaborative effort unless given explicit permission by the course instructor.

### ***Misconduct***

75. In these Rules, "misconduct" means conduct on the part of a student which impairs the reasonable freedom of other persons to pursue their studies, research, duties or lawful activities, whether or not on the premises of the University. Misconduct extends to conduct on the part of a student which is detrimental to the proper order or good conduct of the University or is adverse to its academic standing or standing as an institution established under the auspices of the United Nations. The Guidelines on using generative AI provided by Maastricht University are applicable to these Rules, subject to the sanction procedure of these Rules.
76. Without limiting the generality of Rule 75, a student shall be guilty of misconduct if the student engages in any of the following actions:
- 76.1. Plagiarism, including self-plagiarism and assignments generated by artificial intelligence software;
  - 76.2. Misrepresenting his or her work;
  - 76.3. Co-operation or collaboration in contravention of the rules set by the course instructor;
  - 76.4. Unauthorized aids or assistance as defined by the course instructor;
  - 76.5. Unauthorized resubmission of work;
  - 76.6. Impersonating another student or entering into an arrangement with another to be impersonated;
  - 76.7. Obtaining, distributing, or receiving any confidential academic material without the express consent of the instructor;
  - 76.8. Theft of intellectual property;
  - 76.9. Forging a signature to certify completion of a course assignment or a recommendation;
  - 76.10. Academic or admission fraud;
  - 76.11. Altering, falsifying or withholding a relevant document or record kept by the University;
  - 76.12. Making unwarranted and unsubstantiated allegations concerning the conduct or reputation of members of the University personnel;
  - 76.13. Misconduct in research including breach of ethics in conducting research, including the falsification of data;
  - 76.14. Hoarding or damaging library materials;

- 76.15. Disruptive, dangerous, aggressive or threatening behaviour, including by electronic means;
- 76.16. Misuse of University resources, equipment or supplies, including, but not limited to, computers and network, keys, records, permits, letterhead;
- 76.17. Disruption or obstruction of any teaching activity, examination, official meeting or other proceeding of or within the University;
- 76.18. Disruption or obstruction to any University personnel in the performance of their duties;
- 76.19. Unauthorized use of equipment, material or a facility or service;
- 76.20. Entering any part of the University premises to which the student knows, or ought reasonably to know, that entry is prohibited.

## **GENERAL PROCEDURES REGARDING DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

- 77. Students who violate Section XII will be subject to a range of disciplinary actions ranging from a warning to expulsion from the University.
- 78. Fairness will be fundamental when dealing with students. Students shall be informed of policies, procedures or guidelines that may affect their academic progress or their conduct, and may question whether decisions are consistent with those policies, procedures or guidelines.

### ***Procedural Fairness***

- 79. The procedures for handling offences shall reflect the University's commitment to fairness.
- 80. Every student shall be entitled to:
  - 80.1. A presumption of innocence unless the contrary is established beyond reasonable doubt;
  - 80.2. Be made aware of the case against him or her;
  - 80.3. Have matters addressed fairly and expeditiously;
  - 80.4. Be accompanied by a support person to any meeting with administrators and to any hearing;
  - 80.5. Have matters heard by those who are not sitting in judgment of their own actions or decisions;
  - 80.6. Know, respond to and seek clarification of evidence presented by witnesses; and
  - 80.7. Decisions based on the balance of probabilities with consideration given to consistency and University precedent.
- 81. University personnel may not investigate a matter in which they have a material interest or in which any potential conflict of interest may arise. In the event of a conflict of interest, the most senior UNU staff member at UNU-MERIT not involved in the case shall replace the individual found to have a conflict of interest and shall take the necessary action to implement a reasonable remedy.

### ***Summary Powers Relating to Misconduct***

- 82. Where it appears to an instructor or to a person (whether or not a member of the University personnel) conducting an activity on behalf of the University that a student is guilty of misconduct, the instructor or the person in question may exclude the student from that activity for the duration of the activity only if the student's participation is deemed an obstruction to the proper enjoyment of the activity by other students.
- 83. A student shall not be excluded under the provision of Rule 82 from any activity unless the person responsible for supervising the activity concerned considers the student's exclusion to be necessary in the interests of the other students or the University.
- 84. The exclusion of a student from an activity of the University must be accompanied by a charge of student misconduct.

### ***Charges of Misconduct***

85. An instructor or a person (whether or not a member of the University personnel) conducting an activity on behalf of the University may charge a student with misconduct either on their own initiative or on the complaint in writing of a third person but shall, where possible, first give the student an opportunity of making any representation.
86. A charge of misconduct shall be:
  - 86.1. In writing, specifying the time and place of the alleged misconduct, giving relevant particulars;
  - 86.2. Signed by the instructor or person making the charge, and dated; and
  - 86.3. Lodged with the UNU Board of Examiners.
87. The fact that a charge has been preferred against a student shall not be entered on any formal record kept by the University with respect to the student until the charge has been finally disposed of in accordance with these Rules, and then only if it results in the imposition of a penalty on the student.
88. If the student is found guilty of misconduct, the charge and the nature of the offence shall be entered on the student's academic record.
89. Every decision after a hearing shall be recorded in writing.

### ***Retention in Security of Documents***

90. Where misconduct has been alleged, any documents considered relevant to the allegation shall be retained in security until the matter has been finally determined.
91. If the student in a case is found not guilty by the University, all records of the case, including the reports of all hearings, shall be expunged from the files of the University within a period of six (6) months.

### ***Procedure for Hearing Charges***

#### **First Hearing**

92. Charges of misconduct shall be heard in the first instance by the UNU Board of Examiners, unless the penalties available to the UNU Board of Examiners are inadequate, in which case, the case may be referred to the Director of UNU-MERIT.
93. At the first hearing the following shall be present:
  - 93.1. A representative of the UNU Board of Examiners;
  - 93.2. The person who has laid the charge;
  - 93.3. The student;
  - 93.4. Any relevant witnesses;
  - 93.5. A third-party independent observer.
94. The independent observer shall be a faculty member appointed by the UNU Board of Examiners. Both the person laying the charge and the student may also bring to the hearing an adviser.
95. At the first hearing, the person who has laid the charge shall present evidence in support of the charge against the student. The student shall be given the opportunity to respond and, if he or she wishes, to present evidence refuting the charge.
96. The function of the independent observer shall be to observe the proceedings impartially, and in the event of an appeal to the judgment of the UNU Board of Examiners, be prepared to testify as to the procedures followed.
97. After hearing the student, the UNU Board of Examiners may either dismiss the charge or, if there is clear and convincing evidence that the student is guilty of misconduct, find the student guilty. If the student is found guilty, the UNU Board of Examiners may

- 97.1. Issue a reprimand to the student and/or,
  - 97.2. Decide that the marks awarded, in whole or in part, for any examination, essay or other assessment be set aside and a mark of zero (0) used in its place.
98. If the student fails to attend the first hearing without a compelling excuse, the hearing may proceed in his or her absence.
99. If the issue is not resolved to the satisfaction of both parties, either party may submit a written request to the Director of UNU-MERIT, informing him or her of the need for a further hearing. This shall be the final appeal.

#### Second Hearing

100. If the decision of the UNU Board of Examiners in the first hearing is appealed by either party, the charge(s) of misconduct shall be heard by the Director of UNU-MERIT.
101. At the second hearing the following shall be present:
- 101.1. Director of UNU-MERIT;
  - 101.2. The person who has laid the charge;
  - 101.3. The student;
  - 101.4. The independent observer present at the first hearing;
  - 101.5. A representative of the UNU Board of Examiners;
  - 101.6. Any relevant witnesses.
102. Both the person laying the charge and the student may also bring to the hearing an adviser.
103. At the second hearing, the person who has laid the charge shall present evidence in support of the charge against the student. The student shall be given the opportunity to respond and, if he or she wishes, to present evidence refuting the charge.
104. The independent observer from the first hearing shall serve as the independent observer at the second hearing. The function of the independent observer shall be to observe the proceedings impartially and, if queried, be prepared to testify as to the procedures followed.
105. After the hearing, the Director may either dismiss the charge or, if there is clear and convincing evidence that the student is guilty of misconduct, find the student guilty. If the student is found guilty, the Director may impose a penalty from the list specified in Rule 107.
106. If the student fails to attend the second hearing without a compelling excuse, the hearing may proceed in his or her absence.
107. If the Director of UNU-MERIT finds the complaint proved, he may impose a penalty from the list below:
- 107.1. That the student be excluded from the University either permanently or for such periods as it shall determine;
  - 107.2. That the student's enrolment be terminated;
  - 107.3. That the marks awarded, in whole or in part, for any examination, essay or other assessment be set aside and a mark of zero (0) used in its place;
  - 107.4. That restitution be made for any property removed or damaged by the student;
  - 107.5. That the admission of a student to a degree of the University be withheld pending the settlement of any outstanding obligation to the University;
  - 107.6. That the student be expelled from residential accommodation provided by the University;
  - 107.7. That the student be reprimanded; or
  - 107.8. That any combination of the foregoing penalties be imposed.



108. Every decision of the Director of UNU-MERIT shall be recorded in writing and shall be transmitted to the Rector. Upon receipt of such decisions, the Rector will review the process followed and the decision taken by the Director of UNU-MERIT. In exceptional cases, the Rector may task an inquiry committee to look into the matter and recommend an alternative course of action. The Rector shall decide the composition of the inquiry committee and shall appoint its members. The inquiry committee shall decide its rules of procedure.
109. If the charge of misconduct is determined to be unfounded, all records of the case, including the reports of all hearings, shall be expunged from the files of the University within a period of six (6) months.

### **STUDENT COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

110. The University seeks to maintain the highest standards of integrity and fairness in its relationship with students. It recognizes that students need a clear framework within which to tackle problems they may encounter within the University. The student complaint procedure outlined here aims to ensure that students have accessible, consistent, and efficient procedures for the resolution of student complaints.
111. These procedures reflect the University's devolved structure and ensure that there is appropriate local and central responsibility for resolving student complaints.
112. Students who lodge a complaint or appeal in accordance with these procedures shall not be victimized or discriminated against.
113. The University shall monitor and review complaints made under these procedures in order to continually improve its processes, while respecting the confidentiality of individuals.

#### Scope and Applicability

114. Students enrolled in this Programme may use these procedures for courses and activities of the UNU.
115. Complaints must be made within thirty (30) days from the event's occurrence. Complaints made outside this period will not normally be considered unless the student can demonstrate reasonable grounds why the complaint was not made earlier.
116. All student complaints and grievances will be handled in a serious, sensitive, confidential and timely manner and discussed only with those persons relevant to the case or who can provide specialist advice.
117. The complaints procedure may be used for individual concerns relating to:
- 117.1. Academic facilities;
  - 117.2. Academic services;
  - 117.3. Student support services;
  - 117.4. Administrative services;
  - 117.5. An alleged action or inaction by the University or a member of its personnel, including harassment;
  - 117.6. Teaching and supervision; or
  - 117.7. Assessment of academic work.
118. Harassment is any improper and unwelcome conduct that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another person. Harassment may take the form of words, gestures or actions which tend to annoy, alarm, abuse, demean, intimidate, belittle, humiliate or embarrass another or which create an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment. Harassment normally implies a series of incidents. Disagreement on academic performance is normally not considered harassment.

119. Sexual harassment is understood as any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favour, verbal or physical conduct or gesture of a sexual nature, or any other behaviour of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another, when such conduct interferes with work/studies, is made a condition of advancement or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work/study environment. While typically involving a pattern of behaviour, it can take the form of a single incident. Sexual harassment may occur between persons of the opposite or same sex. Both males and females can be either the victims or the offenders.
120. In the event that a charge is brought against a member of the University personnel, it will be dealt with separately, at the discretion of the University, through the relevant University procedures. However, every effort will be made to resolve the student's specific complaint through the student complaints procedure.
121. Students seeking advice or further information on the complaints procedure may wish to consult:
- 121.1. their academic adviser and/or thesis supervisor;
  - 121.2. the Academic Programme Director; or
  - 121.3. the UNU Board of Examiners.

#### Handling of Complaints

122. The student complaints procedure is divided into two stages which must be followed sequentially: the informal stage and the formal stage.
123. For matters of a very grave nature, the student may decide to proceed directly to the formal complaint stage.
124. The informal stage of the procedure is designed to provide students with an opportunity to resolve concerns informally within their academic programme.
125. In general, the person who or office which is the subject of a complaint has a right to know what is being claimed and who is making a complaint. There may be exceptions to this Rule, for instance in the initial stages of harassment claims.
126. If the student is concerned to protect his or her anonymity, the student may wish to designate a third party to speak to a member of the UNU Board of Examiners or the Director of UNU-MERIT on the student's behalf.
127. Records of all complaints, applications for the review of decisions, and the outcomes of the complaint process will be retained for a period of five (5) years. These records will be kept strictly confidential and filed separately from the student or personnel file. Parties to the complaint will normally be allowed supervised access to these records.

#### Informal Procedure

128. Students are encouraged to raise their complaints directly with the person or office concerned. This should be done as soon as possible and normally within a few days (normally within 14 days) of the problem arising.
129. If the initial discussion does not satisfactorily resolve the matter, the student should ask to discuss it informally with the Academic Programme Director as soon as possible and normally within a few days of the problem arising.
130. At any time the student may seek advice from one of the following:
- 130.1. the Academic Programme Director;
  - 130.2. their Academic Adviser; or
  - 130.3. a member of the UNU Board of Examiners.
131. If the student is not satisfied with the response to his or her complaint, the student may proceed to the formal complaint stage. The formal complaint procedures should be initiated as soon as possible, normally within ten (10) days following the outcome of the informal complaint stage.

132. Subject to Rule 123, students may initiate a formal complaint procedure only when the mechanisms provided for in the informal procedure have been exhausted.

#### Formal Procedure

133. In order to lodge a formal complaint, the student must submit their complaint in writing, either in hard copy or electronically, to the UNU Board of Examiners.

134. The University should be provided with the information necessary to consider all aspects of the complaint. The complaint must be specific and comprehensively documented. The student should present full details, including their name and address, any relevant documentation, and dates, locations and witnesses as appropriate. Details of any previous unsuccessful attempts at informal resolution should also be included.

135. Students may expect to receive an acknowledgement from the UNU Board of Examiners of their written complaint within five (5) working days. The University aims to resolve most complaints within thirty (30) working days. Students will be informed if there is likely to be any delay in the process.

#### Formal Procedure for Hearing Student Complaints

##### First Hearing

136. Student complaints shall be heard in the first instance by the UNU Board of Examiners.

137. At the first hearing the following shall be present:

- 137.1. A representative of the UNU Board of Examiners;
- 137.2. The person who is presenting the complaint;
- 137.3. The accused (if any);
- 137.4. Any relevant witnesses;
- 137.5. A third-party independent observer.

138. The independent observer shall be a faculty member appointed by the UNU Board of Examiners. Both the student presenting the complaint and the accused may bring to the hearing an adviser.

139. At the first hearing, the student shall present evidence in support of the complaint. The accused shall be given the opportunity to respond and, if he or she wishes, to present evidence refuting the charge.

140. The function of the independent observer shall be to observe the proceedings impartially, and in the event of an appeal to the judgment of the UNU Board of Examiners, be prepared to testify as to the procedures followed.

141. After hearing the student and the accused, the UNU Board of Examiners may either dismiss the complaint or, if there is clear and convincing evidence that the complaint is founded, take the necessary action to implement a reasonable remedy.

142. If the accused fails to attend the first hearing without a compelling excuse, the hearing may proceed in his or her absence.

143. If the issue is not resolved to the satisfaction of both the student and the accused, either may submit a written request to the Director of UNU-MERIT, informing him or her of the need for a further hearing. This shall be the final appeal.

##### Second Hearing

144. If the decision of the UNU Board of Examiners in the first hearing is appealed by either party, the appeal shall be heard by the Director of UNU-MERIT.

145. At the second hearing the following shall be present:

- 145.1. Director of UNU-MERIT;
- 145.2. The student issuing the original complaint;
- 145.3. The accused (if any);
- 145.4. The independent observer present at the first hearing;

- 145.5. A representative of the UNU Board of Examiners; and,  
145.6. Any relevant witnesses.
146. Both the parties may also bring to the hearing an adviser.
147. At the second hearing, the student that has filed the complaint shall present supporting evidence. The accused shall be given the opportunity to respond and, if he or she wishes, to present evidence refuting the charge.
148. The independent observer from the first hearing shall serve as the independent observer at the second hearing. The function of the independent observer shall be to observe the proceedings impartially and, if queried, be prepared to testify as to the procedures followed.
149. After the hearing, the Director may either dismiss the appeal or take the necessary action to implement a reasonable remedy.
150. If the accused fails to attend the second hearing without a compelling excuse, the hearing may proceed in his or her absence.
151. Every decision of the Director of UNU-MERIT shall be recorded in writing and shall be transmitted to the Rector. Upon receipt of such decisions, the Rector will review the process followed and the decision taken by the Director of UNU-MERIT. In exceptional cases, the Rector may task an inquiry committee to look into the matter and recommend an alternative course of action. The Rector shall decide the composition of the inquiry committee and shall appoint its members. The inquiry committee shall decide its rules of procedure.
152. The University shall inform the student in writing of the outcome of the complaint review process and shall state the reasons upon which it is based.

#### Retention in Security of Documents

153. Any documents considered relevant to the investigation shall be retained in security until the matter has been finally determined.
154. If the complaint is determined to be unfounded, all records of the case, including the reports of all hearings, shall be expunged from the files of the University within a period of six (6) months.

### **CONDITIONS FOR THE AWARD OF A DEGREE**

155. A student will be deemed to have satisfied the degree requirements of the UNU Master of Science dual degree in Public Policy and Human Development when the student has passed all required courses and skills trainings that are part of the study programme, defined as follows:
- 155.1. The student will have earned 28 credits of general coursework, as defined in the programme materials given to students at the outset of the Programme;
- 155.2. The student will have earned 16 credits of specialized coursework, as defined in the programme materials given to students at the outset of the Programme and chosen by the student;
- 155.3. The student has submitted and successfully passed the evaluation of his or her master's thesis and oral defence (and therefore, earned 16 credits for the master thesis); and,
- 155.4. The student will be in good standing with the University with respect to its rules and regulations.
156. Students will complete the degree requirements in one academic year. When this is not possible, students must register to the programme before the beginning of the subsequent academic year to complete the remaining degree requirements.

157. The UNU Board of Examiners shall decide upon the fulfilment of the requirements as set out in Rule 155, within eight (8) weeks after a request for such a decision is submitted by the student. The request is considered by the UNU Board of Examiners after the last examination has been taken and the evaluation of the master's thesis is complete.

## **MASTER'S DEGREE AND STUDENT TRANSCRIPT**

### ***Master of Science Degree***

158. A United Nations University Master of Science degree certificate shall be awarded to students who have fulfilled all the requirements of the Master of Science dual degree programme in Public Policy and Human Development as set out in Rule 155.

159. The UNU Master of Science degree certificate will include:

- 159.1. The University name and University seal;
- 159.2. The full title of the master's programme;
- 159.3. The title of the degree awarded;
- 159.4. The name of the student upon whom the degree is conferred, as well as the student's date and place of birth;
- 159.5. The date of graduation and conferral of the UNU degree;
- 159.6. Honours or distinctions awarded by the University;
- 159.7. The signature of the Rector of the University;
- 159.8. The signature of the Director of UNU-MERIT.

### ***UNU Student Transcripts***

160. The UNU student transcript will state:

- 160.1. The student's name and identification number(s);
- 160.2. The full title of the master's programme;
- 160.3. The title of the degree being pursued or awarded;
- 160.4. A list of the student's courses and corresponding grades;
- 160.5. A guidance table for converting University grades to other common grading systems;
- 160.6. A table of definitions for designators and other non-grade symbols approved for use in reporting course results;
- 160.7. Honours or distinctions awarded by the University;
- 160.8. The signature of an official of UNU-MERIT or the Office of the Rector.

161. Requests for transcripts may be directed to UNU.

## **FINAL PROVISIONS**

### ***Amendments***

162. Amendments to these Rules shall be made pursuant to Section 23 of the UNU Postgraduate Programmes and Awards Statute.
163. These Rules shall be valid for the duration of this Programme of Study. In the case of an amendment to these Rules, students will continue to adhere to the Rules in place at the time of their enrolment. Students who wish to adopt amended Rules must first submit a signed written request to the Office of Student Affairs.

### ***Announcement***

164. The UNU Board of Examiners shall ensure proper announcement of these Rules, as provided by the Rector and of all amendments to these Rules and any policies, guidelines and other such issuances pursuant thereto.

165. Up-to-date digital versions of the Rules, policies, guidelines and other such issuances will be made available on the University website.

### ***Unforeseen Circumstances***

166. With regard to these Rules, the Director of UNU-MERIT shall decide on any matter not provided for therein.

### ***Hardship and Force Majeure***

167. Upon consultation with the UNU Board of Examiners, the Director of UNU-MERIT or the Rector may decide to deviate from these Rules, if strict adherence to these Rules would result in undue hardship for a student, under the following circumstances:

- 167.1. Illness of the student concerned;
- 167.2. Physical, sensory or other impairments of the student concerned;
- 167.3. Pregnancy of the student concerned;
- 167.4. Special family circumstances; or
- 167.5. Other personal circumstances, not mentioned in paragraphs 167.1 to 167.4 which would lead to manifestly unreasonable results. Other personal circumstances not covered in paragraphs 167.1 to 167.4, which, in the judgment of the Director of UNU-MERIT or Rector, would result in clearly unreasonable or inequitable outcomes for the student.

168. If unforeseen and exceptional circumstances occur beyond the control of the student and/or UNU-MERIT, and are solely the result of force majeure, such as crises or war, humanitarian emergencies, geopolitical tensions, or the outbreak and containment of contagious diseases (e.g., epidemics or pandemics), that prevent students from fulfilling examination or other requirements stated in these Rules, in consultation with the UNU Board of Examiners, the Director of UNU-MERIT or the Rector may deviate from these Rules and prescribe or provide appropriate alternatives.

### ***Coming into Force***

169. These Rules shall take effect on 1 September 2025.

## ANNEX A. LIST OF COURSES

The programme includes the following courses and related study load. In bold and without brackets are the courses organised by United Nations University (that fall under this UNU Rules). Other courses are organised by Maastricht University. In view of the dual degree, the UNU Board of Examiners of UNU gives proof to the Board of Examiners of Maastricht University that the student fulfilled the necessary requirements and that the learning objectives of the UNU courses were achieved.

### ***Semester 1***

- **MPP4301 Public Policy (mandatory, 4 ECTS)**
- **MPP4302 Public Economics (mandatory, 4 ECTS)**
- (MPP4504 Public Policy Analysis (mandatory, 8 ECTS))
- (SKL4106 Methods for Policy Analysis (mandatory, 6 ECTS))
- **SKL4205 Advanced Methods for Policy-Relevant Research and Analysis (mandatory, 6 ECTS)**

### ***Semester 2<sup>12</sup>***

*Specialisation "Social Protection Policy" (elective)*

- (SPP4401 Social Protection: From Justification to Intervention) (8ECTS))
- **SPP4502 Sustainable Social Protection: Governance & Finance (8ECTS)**

*Specialisation "Migration studies" (elective)*

- (MGR4401 Migration Studies: Concepts, Theories and Trends (8ECTS))
- (MGR4502 Migration Effects, Policy and Governance (8ECTS))

*Specialisation "Global Governance for Development" (elective)*

- **GGD4401 Global Governance and Human Development (8 ECTS)**
- (GGD4502 Governing Global Challenges (8ECTS))

*Specialisation "Governance of Innovation" (elective)*

- **GOI4105 Innovation and Innovation Policy from a System Perspective: Global and Local Perspectives (8 ECTS)**

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<sup>1</sup> As of academic year 2025-2026, the composition of the specialisations will be amended from 4x4ECTS courses to 2x8ECTS courses. Participants who have not yet completed the course(s) in their specialisations before 2025-26 have the possibility to retake each course during academic year 2025-2026 or choose an exam only option. During academic year 2026-2027 students who have not yet completed courses from this specialisation cannot retake the course(s) and are given an exam only opportunity. From academic year 2027-2028 participants who have not yet completed their specialisation must take (a) replacement course(s). This transition regulation takes effect on 1 September 2025 and applies until 1 September 2027.

<sup>2</sup> As of academic year 2025-2026, the courses formerly part of the Risk and Vulnerability Specialisation entitled Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RSK4105); Building Resilience and Adaptive Governance (RSK4206); Risk Management in Crisis Situations (RSK4307) and Behavioral Insights for Policy Design in Risky and Vulnerable Situations (RSK4409) will no longer be offered. Students who have not yet completed these courses before 2025 – 2026 may retake each course or request an exam only opportunity during academic year 2025 – 2026. During academic year 2026 - 2026, students who have not yet completed these course(s) cannot retake the course(s) and are given an exam only opportunity. During subsequent academic years, students who have not yet completed these courses must follow courses from a different specialisation. This transition regulation takes effect on 1 September 2025 and applies until 1 September 2027.

- **GID4408 Innovation for Twin Transitions (8 ECTS)**

*Specialisation “(Pre)approved free elective track” (elective)*

A pre-approved free elective track is determined by the UNU Board of Examiners who determine that the combinations offered ensure that the students attain the programme learning outcomes. A list of pre-approved free elective tracks, approved by the BoE, is made available in October. Students are required to discuss their choice with the Academic Programme Director and must submit a motivation letter together with their specialisation registration.