university of groningen

FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (OER)

Part B: Bachelor's degree programme in Communication and Information Studies (CIS)

ISAT 56826

for the academic year 2025-2026

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SECTION 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1.1 – Applicability of the Teaching and Examination Regulations

These Teaching and Examination Regulations are divided into two sections, Part A and Part B. This degree programme-specific Part B supplements Part A, which contains general stipulations for the teaching and examinations of the Bachelor's degree programmes taught at the Faculty of Arts, hereinafter referred to as the Faculty. Part B contains stipulations that specifically concern the Bachelor's degree programme in **Communication and Information Studies (CIS)**.

SECTION 2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Article 2.1 – Admission to the degree programme *with profile requirement*

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2.1 of Part A of these Teaching and Examination Regulations, the following supplementary requirements apply to this degree programme: N/A.

Article 2.2 – Educational deficiencies

Deficiencies in educational qualifications in the subjects listed below may be compensated for by passing the relevant examinations at the level of the VWO final examination (Dutch pre-university education) to the satisfaction of the Admissions Board: N/A.

Under certain circumstances, the Admissions Board can request an assistant professor in the relevant subject to arrange one or more examinations.

Article 2.3 - Language requirement for foreign certificates

Students who have been admitted to a degree programme on the basis of a foreign certificate or degree may be asked by the Admissions Board – before registration – to pass an English language test, to be administered by an agency stipulated by the Board. The required English language proficiency can be demonstrated by presenting one of the following documents: a) a VWO diploma b) a subject certificate for VWO English (mark 6 or higher) c) the iBT TOEFL test: with a minimum score of 90 and a minimum score of 21 on all components d) IELTS Academic Module 6.5, with a minimum score of 6.0 on all components e) course a certificate from the University of Groningen Language Centre, at least CEFR C1 with B2 for no more than two components. f) Cambridge: C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency with a minimum score of 180 g) Other documentary proof of the required language proficiency may be submitted to the admission committee for assessment.

Language requirement for admission to the Dutch Track:

1. Students who have been admitted to the degree programme on the basis of a foreign certificate or degree may be required by the Admissions Board – before registration – to pass a Dutch language test, to be administered by an agency stipulated by the Admissions Board.
2. The Dutch language proficiency requirement can be met by passing the State Examination in Dutch as a Second Language (NT2-II, at least B2 level).

Article 2.4 – Starting date

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2.7 of Part A, the following applies to this degree programme: Students who have previously been enrolled in this degree programme or who wish to start in a higher year may apply to the Admissions Board for permission to start on a date other than 1 September. The Admissions Board will grant permission for an alternative starting date if the specific course units that the student in question wishes to follow start on this date and if the student has satisfied the entry requirements for these course units.

SECTION 3 - CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Table 1. Learning outcomes

Article 3.1. – Learning outcomes of the degree programme- Description of the	Learning outcomes of the degree programme

Bachelor's level in accordance with the Dublin descriptors	**Graduates must demonstrate:**
1. Knowledge and understanding: Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in a field of study that builds upon and exceeds the level achieved in secondary education, and is typically at a level which, whilst supported by specialist textbooks, includes some aspects that require knowledge of the latest developments in the field.	1. knowledge of theories and research methods that form the basis for an academic approach to the use of language, text, and images in institutional communication contexts 2. the ability to understand the structure of the field and the relationship between the various subfields, and to reproduce and explain their basic knowledge of CIS in a coherent way 3. the ability to put new data and interpretations into context 4. knowledge and understanding of an additional (different) field, acquired by following a Minor in order to either broaden or deepen the Major programme
2. Applying knowledge and understanding: Graduates are able to apply their knowledge and understanding in a manner that demonstrates a professional approach to their job or profession, and have competences typically demonstrated through devising and sustaining arguments and solving problems within their field.	1. the ability to apply the acquired knowledge, understanding, and skills to the systematic and critical evaluation of a wide variety of concepts, ideas, and data (which may be incomplete) and to the identification and analysis of complex/complicated problems and issues 2. the ability to understand and apply the main principles of methodology and theory formulation in the field, particularly in a research project that meets the professional demands of the field, but where the boundaries of the subject do not yet have to be tested 3. the ability to relate relevant concepts from the field to data in an analytically appropriate manner by using both qualitative and quantitative research methods 4. the ability to independently set up and carry out a research project of limited scope 5. skills related to the field studied in situations and contexts of a professional or similar nature, which require personal responsibility, self-discipline, initiative, and the necessary leadership to be demonstrated, where decisions are taken in complex and unpredictable situations, where people must think and write under time pressure and cope with deadlines, and where further developments in the professional field are facilitated 6. IT skills, i.e. word processing, file management, the use of spreadsheets and databases, creating presentations, mastery of techniques in the field of digital information provision and communication
3. Opinion forming: Graduates are able to collect and interpret relevant data (usually in	1. the ability to assess the value of research within the field and to interpret its results

the field of study) to form an opinion that is also based on the consideration of relevant social, academic, or ethical aspects.	in terms of practical implications, for example in the form of recommendations or practical measures 2. the ability to apply knowledge, understanding, and skills to the identification and analysis of complex problems and questions
4. Communication: Graduates are able to communicate information, ideas, and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.	1. the ability to reliably and accurately communicate the results of their specific study and other work, thereby making use of the most important concepts, attitudes, and techniques in the subject 2. the ability to apply strategies to prepare and present oral and written presentations efficiently and purposefully with an eye to quality, both individually and as part of a team
5. Learning skills: Graduates have the learning skills required to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.	5.1 the ability to systematically identify and address their own learning needs in relation to current and emerging issues, making use of relevant research, developments, and subject-specific material, including the most recent developments in the field

See Appendix 1 for the *Matrix of learning outcomes achieved/course units passed* of the degree programme.

Article 3.2 – Language of instruction

This is an English-taught degree programme. Therefore, the following applies to the degree programme in general:

1. The language of instruction is English.
2. The thesis/final assignment must be written in English, unless the student is following the Dutch Track. Students enrolled in the regular degree programme may only write their thesis/final assignment in a language other than English with prior permission from the Board of Examiners.

During registration, students enrol in either the regular degree programme or in the Dutch Track. The program modules in the Dutch track answer the following criteria:

1. The language of instruction in the seminars is Dutch.
2. Case material discussed in the seminars is in the Dutch language.
3. Seminar assignments are presented in Dutch and are carried out or reported using the Dutch language.
4. All graded course assessments (including exams, written reports, oral presentations) are presented in Dutch, containing Dutch case materials, and are carried out using the Dutch language.
5. Language proficiency and text quality in written as well as in oral exams are assessed in relation to general standards for Dutch language use and in relation to the learning outcomes of the programme.

Students who successfully complete the Dutch Track will have this acknowledged on their degree certificate. This is subject to the condition that they have completed the entire degree programme, which consists of attending Dutch-language seminars and passing the Dutch-language examination of the following course units:

Year 1:

1. Taaloptimalisatie (LCX023P05)
2. Tekstanalyse 1 (LCX010P05)
3. Gespreksanalyse 1 (LCX011P05)

Year 2:

4. Pragmatiek (LCX058B05)
5. Gespreksanalyse 2 (LCX027B05)
6. ASP voor NL track (LCX051B05)
7. Tekstanalyse 2 (LCX026B05)

Year 3:

8. De BA-scriptie (LCX995B10)

The course units offered as part of the Dutch Track have their own course codes, which differ from the course codes for international variants of the course units. To facilitate the administrative monitoring of the Dutch Track, course results must be registered under the correct code. Students can switch from the Dutch Track to the international variant during the course of the degree programme, without this having any repercussions. However, students can only switch from the international variant to the Dutch Track if they pass the Dutch Track variants of previously completed course units.

Article 3.3 – Contact hours

1. The first year of the degree programme comprises a minimum of 480 contact hours a year.
2. The second and third year of the degree programme comprises a minimum of 360 contact hours a year.
3. The contact hours are divided as follows:

Table 2. Contact hours

Contact time	Number of contact hours per year
Lectures/seminars	350
Study progress supervision/mentor programme/lecturer supervision	31
Exams/assessment incl. feedback session	96
Other regular hours	13
Total	**490**

SECTION 4 - THE FIRST YEAR OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 4.1 – Structure of the FIRST YEAR

1. The first year comprises the following course units and student workloads:

Table 3. course units and student workloads in Year 1

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	Corporate and and Organisational Communication 1: Introduction	5
2	Persuasive communication (*)	5
3	Academic Skills 1 (*)	5
4	Academic Skills 2	5
5	Language Optimization (&*)	5
6	Intercultural Communication (*)	5
7	Text Analysis 1 (&*)	5
8	Qualitative Methods (*)	5
9	Digital Communication	5
10	Conversation Analysis 1 (&*)	5

11	Quantitative Methods (*)	5
12	Multimodal Communication	5

All course units are listed in the online University course catalogue, Ocasys.
& These course units form part of the Dutch Track.
* These course units are also part of the Pre-Master s Minor in Communication and Information Sciences, Communication Studies track.

2. The modes of instruction and assessment for the course units listed above are set out in the syllabus for each individual course unit (available in Student Portal) and in the Assessment Plan for the degree programme (see Appendix).

SECTION 5 - THE SECOND AND THIRD YEARS OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 5.1 – Structure of the second and third years for students who started the degree programme after 1 September 2018

1. The second and third years of the degree programme comprises the following course units with their related student workloads:

Table 4. course units and student workloads in Year 2

	Course unit	**Student workload in ECTS**
13	Pictures in Professional Communication	5
14	Pragmatics (&)	5
15	Statistics (*)	5
16	Conversation Analysis 2 (&)	5
17	Corporate and Organisational Communication 2: Marketing and Branding (*)	5
18	Questionnaire and Interview Design	5
19	Design and Evaluation (*)	5
20	Text Analysis 2 (&)	5
21	Social Media	5
22	ASP for Dutch Track (&)	5
23	*Health Communication*	5
24	*Usability*	5
25	*Webdesign*	5
26	*Current trends in CIS research*	5
27	*Statistics 2*	5

28	*CIS Diversity Management I: Cultural Diversity (%)*	5
29	*CIS Diversity Management II: Linguistic Diversity*	
30	*L&S B: Intro Socio/Applied Linguistics*	*5*

All course units are listed in the online University course catalogue, Ocasys.
& These course units form part of the Dutch Track.
* These course units are also part of the Pre-Master s Minor in Communication and Information Sciences, Communication Studies track.
Course titles set in italics are elective courses. Students in the international track can select 15 ECTS from these courses. For students in the Dutch Track ASP voor Dutch Track is a mandatory course. They can select 10 ECTS from the elective courses.
%This course can not be selected by students who passed the exam of Corporate and Marketing Communication 2 in 2021-2022 or CIS Diversity Management in 2022-2023 because the contents of these courses are overlapping.

Table 5. course units and student workloads in Year 3

	Course unit	**Student workload in ECTS**
32	Minor	30
33	CIS Case Study	10
23	*Health Communication*	5
24	*Usability*	5
25	*Webdesign*	5
26	*Current Trends in CIS Research*	
34	*Corporate and Organizational Communication 3: Responsible communication*	5
27	*Statistics 2*	5
28	*CIS Diversity Management I: Cultural Diversity (%)*	5
29	*CIS Diversity Management II: Linguistic Diversity*	5
30	*L&S B: Intro Socio/Applied Linguistics*	*5*
35	CIS BA Thesis and Seminar (&)	10
36	Literature Review (*)	5

All course units are listed in the online University course catalogue Ocasys.
& This course unit forms part of the Dutch Track.
* This course unit is part of the Pre-Master s Minor in Communication and Information Sciences,Communication Studies track.

%This course can not be selected by students who passed the exam of Corporate and Marketing Communication 2 in 2021-2022 or CIS Diversity Management in 2022-2023 because the contents of these courses are overlapping.

In the third year of the Bachelor's degree programme, the CIS case study, the Minor, and the CIS Bachelor's thesis and seminar are compulsory components. In this year, the students also complete their elective CIS course units. Students following the Dutch Track must write their Bachelor's thesis in Dutch.

2. The modes of instruction and assessment for the course units listed above are set out in the syllabus for each individual course unit (available in Student Portal) and in the Assessment Plan for the degree programme (see Appendix).

Article 5.2 – Transitional arrangements

Students who started before September 1, 2018

Introduction to CIS [Inleiding CIW], Introduction to Communication Research [Inleiding Communicatieonderzoek], Academic Writing and Presentation 1 [ASP 1], Communication in Organizations [Organisationele Communicatie]. For these course units, the following transitional arrangements apply.

1. Introduction to CIS [Inleiding CIW]
   Students who need to complete the first year after the 2017-2018 academic year and who did not pass the Introduction to CIS course unit should consult the study advisor to find out which of the new CIS first year course units they can take in their first year. This must then be submitted to the Board of Examiners.

2. Introduction to Communication Research [Inleiding Communicatieonderzoek]
   Students who need to complete the first year after the 2017-2018 academic year and who did not pass the Introduction to Communication Research course unit should consult the study advisor to find out which of the new CIS first year course units they can take in their first year. This must then be submitted to the Board of Examiners.

3. Academic Writing and Presentation [ASP]
   Students who need to complete the first year after the 2017-2018 academic year and who did not pass the Academic Writing and Presentation course unit must register for the Academic Writing and Presentation course unit offered as part of the Dutch Language and Culture Bachelor's degree programme.

4. Communication in Organizations [Organisationele Communicatie]
   Students who need to complete the first year after the 2017-2018 academic year and who did not pass the Communication in Organizations course unit must instead complete the new first year course unit Intercultural Communication.

Other courses before September 1, 2018
For the other course units, the required literature is now in English and the lectures will also be given in English (also in the Dutch Track). This means that the content of the seminars and/or assignments will also be revised. Repeat students from the years prior to the 2018-2019 academic year will therefore not simply be able to sit the examination for these course units; they will have to repeat the course units in their entirety.

Note: new course titles and codes, unchanged course contents
A number of courses received a new course title and course code although the contents of the course didn t change. Students who passed these courses under their old names and codes are *not* allowed to take the new ones.

Students who passed the course Linguistics for CIS and IS are not allowed to take Language Optimization or Taaloptimalisatie.

Students who passed the course Corporate Communication or Corporate and Marketing Communication 1 are not allowed to take Corporate and Organisational Communication 1: Introduction. Students who passed the course Corporate and Marketing Communication 2 are not allowed to take Corporate and Organisational Communication 2: Marketing and Branding. Students who passed the course Corporate and Marketing Communication 3 are not allowed to take Corporate and Organisational Communication 3: Responsible Communication.

Students who started in 2017-2018
For students who took their first year programme in 2017-2018 Multimodal Communication (compulsory course) was replaced by Language and Literacy Development. In these students programmes, Multimodal Communication should be taken as an elective in the second and third years of the degree programme .

Students who started in 2018-2019
In 2019-2020 Pictures in Professional Communication (compulsory course unit in the 2nd year) was replaced by an elective in the CIS programme of the students own choice. These students must take Pictures in Professional Communication in their 3rd year, instead of one of the electives in the CIS programme.

Students who started in 2020-2021
Students who passed the exam of Corporate and Marketing Communication 2 in 2021-2022 or CIS Diversity Management in 2022-2023 cannot select CIS Diversity Management I: Cultural Diversity as an elective course. The contents of these courses are overlapping.

Students who started in 2022-2022
Students who passed the exam of CIS Diversity Management in 2022-2023 cannot select Diversity Management I: Cultural Diversity as an elective course. The contents of these courses are overlapping.

Students who started in 2023-2024 or before
Students who started the degree programme on 1 September 2023 or earlier can replace profile modules as indicated below:

Previous module:	**Substitutional module**
Corporate and Marketing Communication 1	Corporate and Organisational Communication 1: Introduction
Corporate and Marketing Communication	Corporate and Organisational Communication 2: Marketing and Branding
Corporate and Marketing Communication	Corporate and Organisational Communication 3: Responsible Communication

SECTION 6 - TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 6.1 – Compulsory order

Unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise in a particular case, students will not be able to participate in the course units listed below, or sit the corresponding examinations, until they have passed the examinations for the associated course units:

Table 6. Compulsory order of courses

	Course unit		**After passing course unit**
16	Conversation Analysis 2	10	Conversation Analysis 1
20	Text Analysis 2	7	Text Analysis 1

21	Social Media	1	Digital Communication
35	CIS BA Thesis and Seminar	8	Qualitative Methods
35	CIS BA Thesis and Seminar	11	Quantitative Methods
35	CIS BA Thesis and Seminar		60 ects from year 1
33	Case study		60 ects from year 1
17	Corporate and Organisational Communication 2: Marketing and Branding	1	Corporate and Organisational Communication 1: Introduction
30	CIS Diversity management II: Linguistic Diversity	29	CIS Diversity management I: Cultural Diversity

SECTION 7 – TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 7.1 – Amendments

1. Any amendments to Part A of these Regulations will, after due consultation with and, if necessary, upon the approval of the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
2. Any amendments to Part B of these Regulations will, following a recommendation by and/or upon the approval of the Programme Committee and the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
3. Any amendments to these Regulations will not apply to the current academic year, unless it may reasonably be assumed that the amendment in question will not harm the interests of students.
4. In addition, an amendment may not influence any other decision concerning a student taken by the Board of Examiners under these Regulations to the disadvantage of that student.

Article 7.2 – Publication

1. The Faculty Board will duly publish these Regulations, the Rules and Regulations formulated by the Board of Examiners, and any amendments to these documents.
2. Any interested party may obtain a copy of the documents referred to in Article 7.2.1 from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website via the Student Portal.

Article 7.3 – Entry into force

These Regulations shall take effect on 17 October 2025.

These Regulations were decreed by the Board of the Faculty of Arts on 17 October 2025 and approved by the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee where required on.