university of groningen

FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (OER)

Part B: Bachelor's degree programme in Media Studies

ISAT 50906

for academic year 2025-2026

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SECTION 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1.1 Applicability

These Regulations comprise two parts – Part A and Part B. This degree programme-specific Part B accompanies Part A, which contains general provisions which apply to the teaching, examinations and final assessments of Bachelor's degree programmes provided by the Faculty of Arts, hereinafter referred to as **the Faculty**. Part B contains degree programme-specific provisions which apply to the Bachelor's degree programme in **Media Studies**.

SECTION 2 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Article 2.1 Admission to the programme *with profile requirement*

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2.1 of Part A, it is additionally required for this degree programme that: N/A

Article 2.2 Educational deficiencies

1. 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 to the satisfaction of the Admissions Board: N/A
2. Under certain circumstances, the Admissions Board can request a University Lecturer in the relevant subject to arrange one or more examinations.

Article 2.3 – Starting date

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2.7 of Part A, the following additional requirement 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 requirement for these course units.

SECTION 3 CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 3.1 Learning outcomes of the degree programme

1. Knowledge and understanding
   a. have broad comparative and interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding of media in their cultural, historical, institutional, political, economic, social and technological contexts;
   b. have knowledge and understanding of the role and impact of media in their global context, in (inter-)national, regional and local communities, and in the daily lives of audiences and users;
   c. have an understanding of cultures and practices of media use and production, including the role of platforms and institutions;
   d. have knowledge and understanding of new media forms and their relation to earlier and established forms in the domain of media and information;
   e. have general knowledge and understanding of key theories and concepts in the domain of media studies;
   f. have general understanding of the main methodologies used in the domain of media studies to study media content, use and production.
   g. have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of a complementary discipline domain, delivered as a designated minor programme, aimed at deepening or broadening the major programme
2. Applying knowledge and understanding
   a. can apply the requisite research skills to gather, process and critically evaluate information relating to media;
   b. are able to critically examine media content, use and production in relation to their diverse social and cultural contexts, applying the acquired methodological skills and tools;
   c. are able to apply knowledge of key theories and scholarship to academically and socially relevant issues and debates in the domain of media and information;
   d. can produce conceptually, methodologically and theoretically sound essays, empirical research papers and other academic output;
   e. are able to devise creative and feasible solutions for problems related to media and information, demonstrating the ability to adopt multiple perspectives and tools;
   f. are able to plan, manage and execute individual and group projects, work under time pressure and show initiative ;
   g. are able to develop various media products, applying acquired knowledge, methodological tools and practical skills.
3. Making judgments
   a. are able to conduct guided and semi-independent research, to evaluate relevant primary and secondary sources and other information within the domain of media studies;
   b. are able to develop empirically and/or theoretically informed judgments about transformations in the field of media and information and their impact on culture and society;
   c. are able to critically engage with different theories and approaches in media studies and reflect on their historical and (inter-)cultural specificity;
   d. are able to critically engage with different methods in media studies and reflect on their limitations
   e. are able to reflect critically on the strengths and limitations of their own work and that of peers
4. Communication
   a. have the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, the results of research and to present complex information in a clear and concise manner to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
   b. is able to select the most effective media format for different audiences, communicative purposes and contexts;
   c. have the skills to interact respectfully and constructively with others, share and discuss academic knowledge, and work towards attaining common goals;
   d. have acquired the requisite intercultural awareness and respect to act ethically and effectively in an international academic environment, and in future international employment contexts.
5. Learning skills
   a. have the ability to collect, select and process relevant information quickly and efficiently, demonstrating a high level of responsibility, self-discipline and initiative;
   b. have the ability to think in a problem- and solution-oriented way and possess the appropriate learning skills and strategies to independently identify, analyse and evaluate specific knowledge gaps and stay up-to-date with developments in the field of media studies;
   c. have the ability to successfully undertake specialized second cycle degree programs requiring BA-level domain-specific knowledge and understanding as well as independent research skills, in particular in media studies and related fields, as well as research master programmes.

See appendix 1 for the *Matrix of realized learning outcomes / course units* in the degree programme.

Article 3.2 Language of instruction

1. The degree programme is taught in *English*.
2. The thesis/final assignment must be written in English. A thesis/final assignment may only be written in a language other than English if the Board of Examiners has given permission to do so.

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 years of the degree programme comprises a minimum of 360 contact hours a year.
3. The contact hours in the first year are divided as follows:

Nature of contact time	**Number of contact hours in the first year**
Lectures/Seminars	308
Study progress supervision/mentor system/lecturer supervision	70
Exams /assessment incl. postmortem	28
Other regular hours	157
Total	**563**

SECTION 4 THE FIRST YEAR OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 4.1 Structure of the first year of the degree programme

1. The first year comprises the following course units with their related student workloads:

Year 1

no.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS credits
1	Media Platforms and Industries	10
2	Media, Culture and Society	5
3	Studying Media in Everyday Life	5
4	Media History	5
5	Academic Skills	5
6	Introduction to Media Studies	10
7	Professional Writing	5
8	Media Spaces and Practices	5
9	Imagining the Digital	5
10	Social Lab	5

* Students who started the BA in or before the academic year 2024-2025 and who need to retake the previously offered 5 ECTS courses Media Platforms and Industries I and II can take part in the course Media Platforms and Industries (no. 1) in either the first part of the new course if they need to retake Media Platforms and Industries I or in the second part of the new course if they need to retake Media Platforms and Industries II to complete their 5 ECTS missing credits.

All course units are listed in the online course catalogue OCASYS.

2. The modes of instruction and assessment for the course units listed above are set out in the syllabus of each individual course unit and the assessment plan of the degree programme.
3. In situations of force majeure, when it is not reasonably possible to provide teaching in the manner stated in OCASYS, alternative modes of instruction and assessment may temporarily be used. This is on condition that the prescribed learning outcomes are still achieved upon completion of the degree programme.

SECTION 5 THE SECOND AND THIRD YEARS OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 5.1 Structure of the second and third years of the degree programme

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

Year 2

no.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS credits
11	Audiovisual Culture	5
12	Theory Pathways	5
13	Analysing Media Texts	5
14	Professional Skills	5
15	Analysing Media Production and Use*	5
16	Technology and Creative Destruction*	5
17	Political Action in the Network Society*	
18	Media Theory**	10
19	Methods in Media Studies	5
20	Research Seminar***, ****	10
21	Transmedia Production	5

* Depending on their seminar enrolment in the course Theory Pathways (no. 12), students will either take the course Analysing Media Production and Use (no. 15) or Technology and Creative Destruction (no. 15).

** Students who started the BA in or before the academic year 2023-2024 and who need to retake the previously offered 5 ECTS courses Media Theory I and Media Theory II can take part in the course Media Theory (no. 18) in either the first part of the new course if they need to retake Media Theory I or in the second part of the new course if they need to retake Media Theory II to complete their 5 ECTS missing credits.

*** Depending on their seminar enrolment in the course Theory Pathways (no.12), students will follow a corresponding Research Seminar (no. 20).

**** Students who started the BA before the academic year 2021-2022 and who need to retake the previously offered 5 ECTs courses Research Seminar (AC, CI, DC, JS, PC) or Theory Seminar (AC, CI, DC, JS, PC) can take part in the Research Seminar that corresponds with their previous topic choice (no. 20) in either the first part of the new course if they need to retake the Theory Seminar or in the second part of the new course if they need to retake the Research Seminar to complete their 5 ECTs missing credits.

Year 3

no.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS credits
22	Minor (see article 6.1 of part A of this TER)	30
23	Thinkers and Theories	5
24	Research Seminar Media Studies	10
25	Media Careers: Prospects in the Market	5
26	BA Thesis Media Studies *	10

*Those students who are unable to complete their BA Thesis at the end of the third year of their BA programme due to severe personal or medical reasons that are reported to the study adviser in a timely manner, may start their BA Thesis in block 1b, in a remedial BA Thesis class. Students who have failed their BA Thesis at the end of their BA programme, may also apply to this remedial class with the understanding that they will start their BA Thesis with a new supervisor and a new topic. In order to gain access to this remedial class, students need the written support including signatures of the Expertise Team of the Board of Examiners, BA Thesis Coordinator and the BA Programme Coordinator.

All course units are listed in the online course catalogue OCASYS.

2. The modes of instruction and assessment for the course units listed above are set out in the syllabus of each individual course unit and the assessment plan of the degree programme.
3. In situations of force majeure, when it is not reasonably possible to provide teaching in the manner stated in OCASYS, alternative modes of instruction and assessment may temporarily be used. This is on condition that the prescribed learning outcomes are still achieved upon completion of the degree programme.

SECTION 6 TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 6.1 Compulsory order

The course units listed below and their related examinations may not be taken before the examinations for the associated course units have been passed, or, if explicitly stated, the course units have been satisfactorily followed – unless the Board of Examiners has made a different decision in a particular case:

no.	Course unit	no.	After passing course unit
11	Audiovisual Culture	6	Introduction to Media Studies
20	Research Seminar		
		12	Theory Pathways
			Or
		16/ 17	Technology and Creative Destruction Or Political Action in the Network Society
		13	Analysing Media Texts
		15	Analysing Media Production and Use
26	Bachelor's Thesis		At least a total of 110 ECTS from the first two years of the bachelor (60 ECTS from the first year, and 50 ECTS from the second year of which 31 must be a part)
		20	Research Seminar

SECTION 7 TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 7.1 – Transitional arrangements

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

Previous modules	Substitutional module

Introduction to Media Studies 1*	Introduction to media studies – the student will follow week 1 to 7 of this course, do a written assignment and take a digital exam about these first 7 weeks in the exam period at the end of the third block.
Introduction to Media Studies 2*	Introduction to media studies – the student will follow week 8 to 14 of this course, do a written assignment and take a digital exam about these weeks in the exam period of the fourth block.

* In case a student has failed both introduction to media studies 1 and 2 they can follow the new module introduction to media studies in its entirety.

Students who started the degree programme on 1 September 2024 or earlier can replace previous modules as indicated below. **Note that these transitional arrangements are only valid for the academic year 2025/2026**. From academic year 2026/2027 onwards, students who started their degree programme on 1 September 2024 or earlier will not be able to replace previous modules, but will need to follow the TER for 2026/2027. Students who started their degree programme on 1 September 2024 or earlier with severe personal or medical circumstances, need to report to the Study Advisers and apply for alternative transitional agreements with the Exam Board of the Faculty of Arts.

Previous modules 1st year	**Substitutional module 1st year**
Media Platforms and Industries 1	Media Platforms and Industries – the student will follow week 1 to 7 of this course, do the literature assignments and do a written exam about these first 7 weeks in the exam period at the end of the first block.
Media Platforms and Industries 2	Media Platforms and Industries – the student will follow week 8 to 14 of this course, do an oral presentation and a written exam about these first 7 weeks in the exam period at the end of the second block.
Previous module 2nd year	**Substitutional module 2nd year**
Audiovisual Culture	Theory Pathways – the student will follow a seminar in the course Theory Pathways that corresponds with the previously offered module, do a presentation and a written assignment.
Cultural Industries	Theory Pathways – the student will follow a seminar in the course Theory Pathways that corresponds with the previously offered module, do a presentation and a written assignment.
Digital Cultures	Theory Pathways – the student will follow a seminar in the course Theory Pathways that corresponds with the previously offered module, do a presentation and a written assignment.
Journalism Studies	Theory Pathways – the student will follow a seminar in the course Theory Pathways that corresponds with the previously offered module, do a presentation and a written assignment.
Politics and Global Citizenship	Theory Pathways – the student will follow a seminar in the course Theory Pathways that corresponds with the previously offered module, do a presentation and a written assignment.
Journalistic Writing and Storytelling	Professional Skills – the student will follow a seminar offered in Professional Skills and complete written assignments.
Media Entrepreneurship	Professional Skills – the student will follow a seminar offered in Professional Skills and complete written assignments.
Web Design	Professional Skills – the student will follow a seminar offered in Professional Skills and complete written assignments.
Digital Curation	Professional Skills – the student will follow a seminar offered in Professional Skills and complete written assignments.
Social Media Analysis	Methods in Media Studies – the student will follow a seminar offered in Methods in Media Studies and – depending on the methods studied during a course – complete written assignments or complete literature assignments and written assignments or complete literature assignments, written assignments and a written exam.
Statistics in Media	Methods in Media Studies – the student will follow a seminar offered in Methods in Media Studies and – depending on the methods studied during a course – complete written assignments or complete literature assignments and written assignments or complete literature assignments, written assignments and a written exam.

(New) Media Archives	Methods in Media Studies – the student will follow a seminar offered in Methods in Media Studies and – depending on the methods studied during a course – complete written assignments or complete literature assignments and written assignments or complete literature assignments, written assignments and a written exam.
Media Ethnography	Methods in Media Studies – the student will follow a seminar offered in Methods in Media Studies and – depending on the methods studied during a course – complete written assignments or complete literature assignments and written assignments or complete literature assignments, written assignments and a written exam.
Media Theory I	Media Theory – the student will follow week 1 to 7 of this course, do the written assignments and do a digital exam about these first 7 weeks in the exam period at the end of the third block.
Media Theory II	Media Theory – the student will follow weeks 8 to 14 of this course, do the literature assignments and a written assignment.
Previous module 3rd year	**Substitutional module 3rd year**
Specialization Course Media Studies	Media Careers: Prospects in the Market – the student will follow this module as replacement for the Specialization Course Media Studies.

Article 7.2 – Amendments

1. Any amendments to part A of these Regulations will, following the recommendation by and/or 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 the 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 students.

Article 7.3 – Publication

1. The Faculty Board shall duly publish these Regulations, any rules and guidelines formulated by the Board of Examiners, and any amendments to these documents.
2. Copies of the documents referred to in Article 7.2.1 are available from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website via the Student Portal.

Article 7.3 – Date of commencement

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 17 October 2025.

Appendices
Appendix 1: Assessment Plan