

## Section 7 MaRBLLe 2.0 regulations

*MaRBLLe 2.0 regulations for the Bachelor's programme in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence of Maastricht University.*

### ARTICLE 7.1 APPLICABILITY OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

This section describes the rules and regulations that are specific to MaRBLLe 2.0 of the Bachelor's programme in Data Science & Artificial Intelligence, withstanding the Education and Examination Regulations, hereinafter referred to as EERs.

### ARTICLE 7.2 OBJECTIVE

In the second year of the Bachelor's programme Data Science & Artificial Intelligence, students can perform a research project within DACS as part of their orientation towards academia.

### ARTICLE 7.3 QUALIFICATION

MaRBLLe 2.0 is part of the DACS Honours programme, where selection is based on the number of ECTS earned, the grades obtained during the first year and motivation. The entrance requirements are described in Article 3.12 paragraph 2 of the EER.

There are only a limited number of places available and a selection amongst the eligible students is made.

### ARTICLE 7.4 COMPOSITION

MaRBLLe 2.0 replaces each of the 2 projects of 6 ECTS in year 2 by two research projects of 6 ECTS. Additionally, for the successful completion of MaRBLLe 2.0 a student must conclude with a research oriented Bachelor's thesis, taking into account that the procedure for the Bachelor's thesis is governed by the general Thesis Regulations.

### ARTICLE 7.5 MARBLE 2.0 COORDINATOR

The Board of Examiners shall appoint a MaRBLLe 2.0 coordinator that also acts as an examiner for all MaRBLLe 2.0 research projects. The MaRBLLe 2.0 coordinator must be a member of the academic staff of the programme and DACS, and must hold a doctoral degree.

The MaRBLLe 2.0 coordinator is responsible for defining the research projects and the project groups. The MaRBLLe 2.0 coordinator proposes examiners for each of the research projects. Furthermore, the MaRBLLe 2.0 coordinator acts as a supervisor for all MaRBLLe research projects.

### ARTICLE 7.6 MARBLE 2.0 EXAMINER

The Board of Examiners shall appoint two examiners for each of the MaRBLLe 2.0 projects. The MaRBLLe 2.0 examiners must be a member of the academic staff of the programme and must hold a doctoral degree.

The examiners are responsible for assessing the students' performance, filling out assessment forms and providing feedback to the students.

## **ARTICLE 7.7 RESEARCH OBJECTIVE**

Before a student can start MaRBLLe 2.0 project, the MaRBLLe 2.0 coordinator must hand in a

- formulation of the research objective(s) for the MaRBLLe 2.0 projects;
- time and duration of the MaRBLLe 2.0 projects;
- methods of reporting and assessing;
- the examiners
- the student(s) involved

The research objective(s) needs approval of the Board of Examiners before the internship can start. If the objective(s) changes markedly during the MaRBLLe 2.0 project, the updated research objective(s) has to be sent to the Board of Examiners for re-approval.

## **ARTICLE 7.8 ASSESSMENT**

Assessment of each MaRBLLe 2.0 research project of 6 ECTS is done in accordance with the research objective(s), by an ad hoc committee, which includes the MaRBLLe 2.0 examiners. Grading is performed by the MaRBLLe 2.0 examiners on the basis of consensus reached within the ad hoc assessment committee (See Article 2.11 of the Rules and Regulations). Both half and whole grades can be awarded for MaRBLLe 2.0.

The final assessment will be determined at the end of each MaRBLLe 2.0 project. Each part of the project will be assessed separately and will be based on the following aspects:

- the research plan in the first semester;
- the project report in the second semester;
- the project product in the second semester;
- the project presentation in the second semester.

The requirements for the research plan, project product, report and presentation are determined separately for each project. Group participation and group cooperation are taken into account, if applicable. Half and whole grades can be awarded.

## **ARTICLE 7.9 PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR**

Starting from the moment of application, students are expected to behave in a professional way. This means that in case of illness or absence, the MaRBLLe program is timely informed, and that the student responds promptly to inquiries. Failure to do so is taken into account in selection, assessment and discussions on whether to terminate the program.

## **ARTICLE 7.10 EARLY TERMINATION**

1. If the student's results drop drastically during the MaRBLLe program, i.e. GPA in any semester of the bachelor is below 7.0, DACS (the MaRBLLe 2.0 coordinator or the Board of Examiners) may decide in due consultation with the student and MaRBLLe 2.0 examiners to terminate the student's participation in MaRBLLe 2.0.
2. If a student fails more than one course in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year (after resit), or receives a lower grade than 7.0 for a MaRBLLe 2.0 project, the MaRBLLe 2.0 coordinator automatically discusses whether Paragraph 1 of this Article will be invoked.
3. If the student violates the research objective(s), or misbehaves, commits fraud in any component or acts inappropriately, the MaRBLLe 2.0 coordinator can, in careful consultation with the MaRBLLe 2.0 coordinator/examiners, terminate the student's participation in MaRBLLe 2.0. In case of fraud or misconduct, a notice of unprofessional behaviour will be sent to MaRBLLe 2.0.

4. MaRBLLe 2.0 is automatically terminated after the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of study, unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise.

#### **ARTICLE 7.11 EXTENSION**

After approval by both the MaRBLLe 2.0 coordinator and the Board of Examiners, the MaRBLLe 2.0 project can, on an individual basis, be extended to semester 1 of year 3.

#### **ARTICLE 7.12 EXTRACURRICULAR WORK**

MaRBLLe 2.0 students are expected to work the equivalent of approximately 16 ECTS beyond the credit points awarded for MaRBLLe 2.0. These extra hours do not count towards meeting the minimal number of required ECTS for completing the bachelor exam and do not appear on the transcript.

#### **ARTICLE 7.13 SKILL CLASSES**

Mandatory skill classes can be imposed. Failure to attend or participate in the complete training has the consequence that the honours certificate is withheld.

#### **ARTICLE 7.14 PROJECT MEETINGS**

MaRBLLe 2.0 project meetings are aimed at learning to manage a research project and are considered practical training as defined in Article 7.13(2)(t) of the act. Participation in project meetings is mandatory.

#### **ARTICLE 7.15 RESITS**

If a student fails a MaRBLLe 2.0 project part, in principle the MaRBLLe 2.0 programme will be terminated (Article 7.10.2). For each individual case it will be decided by the Board of Examiners in consultation with the Examiner whether, and if so, in which form, a resit opportunity will be offered.

## Section 8 Thesis regulations

*Thesis regulations for the Bachelor's programme in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence of Maastricht University, approved by the Board of Examiners.*

### ARTICLE 8.1 APPLICABILITY OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

This section describes the rules and regulations specific to the Bachelor's thesis for the Bachelor's programme in Data Science & Artificial Intelligence, withstanding the Education and Examination Regulations, hereinafter referred to as EERs.

### ARTICLE 8.2 THESIS EXAMINER: APPOINTMENT

The Board of Examiners shall appoint two thesis examiners for every student, in consultation with the student and the proposed thesis examiners. One of these thesis examiners takes the role of thesis supervisor. The thesis examiners must be members of the academic staff of the programme and DACS and must hold a doctoral degree in a field relevant for the objectives of the programme and adhere to the conditions in Article 1.5. The Board of Examiners can appoint, under conditions, a postdoctoral researcher as a second examiner as part of a training programme.

### ARTICLE 8.3 THESIS PLAN

1. Before the student starts his/her/their thesis, the student has to set up a written thesis plan, using the appropriate form, in consultation with and consent from the thesis examiners. The use of the most recent form provided by the Board of Examiners is mandatory.
2. The student must adhere to the deadline for the submission of the thesis plan for the given semester.
3. The thesis plan needs approval of the Board of Examiners before the thesis work can start.
4. The student must qualify according to the requirements in Article 5.3 of the EER at the time of submission of the plan. The Board of Examiners can decide to grant conditional approval in case there is a reasonable expectancy that the student will qualify (with grades published and credits awarded) no later than 3 weeks after the start of the semester.
5. In principle there should be no confidentiality agreement covering the thesis or thesis work, and any confidentiality agreement that might be there in very exceptional circumstances, is subject to approval by the legal department, the program director and the Board of Examiners, and must be signed by an authorized person.

### ARTICLE 8.4 THESIS EXAMINERS: TASKS

The thesis examiners are responsible for checking the validity of the thesis plan, ensuring it is aligned with the objectives of the programme and establishing that the required academic level is obtained. The examiners are responsible for composing an ad hoc assessment committee as described in Article 8.7, grading the thesis, and for filling out an assessment form. The examiners are also responsible for conducting a plagiarism check on the final version of the thesis.

## **ARTICLE 8.5 THESIS SUPERVISOR: TASKS**

The thesis supervisor is responsible for advising the student while she/he/they is working on the thesis about thesis activities and products and for establishing that the required academic level is obtained. If the thesis is conducted as an internship at an external organisation, the thesis supervisor needs to maintain contact with the daily supervisor at the internship organisation. Supervision cannot be done by a third party.

## **ARTICLE 8.6 THESIS MANUSCRIPT**

The program will publish guidelines and requirements for the thesis manuscript to which the student must adhere. The thesis is an individual work.

## **ARTICLE 8.7 THESIS ASSESSMENT**

1. The Bachelor's thesis must be presented at the Bachelor's Conference. This withstanding, if the examiners determine that the thesis is of insufficient quality, incomplete or not according to instructions, they can refuse a student access to the Bachelor's conference and as a consequence an NG will be awarded. Access to the Bachelor's conference does not imply a passing grade.
2. There will be no individual thesis presentation outside this conference without permission of the Board of Examiners.
3. The student must be physically present at this Bachelor Conference.
4. After the presentation the final grade of the thesis will be determined. The assessment of the thesis must be done by an ad hoc committee, which consists of at least the thesis examiners. If the thesis is conducted in an external collaboration, the assessment committee also includes the daily supervisor from the internship organisation.
5. Grading is done by the examiners on the basis of consensus reached in the ad hoc assessment committee (See Article 2.11 of the Rules and Regulations) at the thesis conference, unless is decided otherwise by the Board of Examiners. The assessment form is handed in by the examiners to the education office within 5 working days after grading.

## **ARTICLE 8.8 START OF THESIS AFTER APPROVAL OF THESIS PLAN**

1. The student must wait until the Board of Examiners has approved the written thesis plan as referred to in Article 8.3 before starting the thesis. A thesis plan must be approved by the thesis examiners before it is offered to the Board of Examiners. The Board of Examiners assesses the plan on the formal requirements and on the basis of the academic level of the research proposal, feasibility and whether it is in line with the learning goals of the programme (if applicable, after seeking advice from staff members with relevant expertise). The deadlines for submitting the bachelor thesis plan are communicated on Student Portal.
2. If a student has started without prior approval of the Board of Examiners, the thesis research can be nullified and the student will have to start a new thesis on another topic in the semester thereafter.
3. During periods where the student is suspended from all exams due to fraud, the thesis is put on hold and there shall be no thesis supervision during said period.

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#### **ARTICLE 8.9 RESIT**

Students are required to present at the regular Bachelor's conference indicated on the thesis plan. If a student fails to do so, the result of that conference is NG and the student gets one opportunity to defend his/her/their work at the resit Bachelor's conference in the same semester. If the student does not participate at and/or does not pass any of those two conferences, the student must select a new topic with associated examiners and submit a new thesis plan.