UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

UvA Honours Programme Regulations

Introduction to the UvA Honours Programme Regulations

In 2025, the Executive Board of the University of Amsterdam (UvA) decided to provisionally continue the programme to promote excellence in Bachelor's education, following a decision by the Executive Board of VU Amsterdam to restructure the Honours Programme at VU Amsterdam. This programme was organised in collaboration with VU Amsterdam in the period 2013-2025. The principles and agreements stated in these regulations are in line with the 2013 regulations.

Students at the UvA can distinguish themselves by following an additional programme on top of their regular Bachelor's curriculum. The programme consists partly of a combination of more demanding course units that are either in-depth or broadening (i.e. interfaculty).

Article 1. Description of the UvA Honours Programme

1. The UvA offers an Honours Programme for motivated students who meet the admission requirements. The Honours Programme consists of courses that are offered alongside the Bachelor's programme and are not part of the Bachelor's programme. The courses are aimed at deepening or broadening the knowledge that students acquire during their Bachelor's programme.
2. The Honours Programme consists of faculty courses, which are determined annually by the Faculty Board, and interfaculty courses at the UvA.
3. The Honours Programme comprises 30 ECTS credits, of which at least 12 ECTS credits must be earned in faculty courses and at least 12 ECTS credits in interfaculty courses. The options available are announced on the website.
4. Contrary to the first paragraph, regular Bachelor's courses may be designated as Honours courses, provided that these courses are enriched with an additional Honours component. If a student successfully completes an enriched Bachelor's course, the student will be awarded the regular number of credits plus Honours credits.

Article 2. Characteristics of honours courses

1. Characteristics of honours courses are:
    a) demonstrable added value compared to regular Bachelor's courses;
    b) the language of instruction is English, unless the content of the course requires another language;
    c) high-quality content;
    d) challenging teaching methods;
    e) highly creative and groundbreaking content;
    f) focus on academic competencies;
    g) an eye for coherence between intellectual, social and personal development;
    h) stimulating contact with (guest) lecturers.

Article 3. Admission to the UvA Honours Programme

1. To be admitted to the UvA Honours Programme, students must have obtained all credits for the first year with a weighted average of at least 7.5 and provide a solid motivation.

2. In special cases, a student who does not meet the requirements in paragraph 1 may be admitted. This is at the discretion of the Examinations Board/College or Graduate School director.
3. First-year Bachelor's students may be admitted to honours courses after the first semester, provided they have obtained 30 ECTS credits with a weighted average of at least 7.5. First-year students may only take honours courses that are open to first-year students.
4. Students who have taken honours courses in their first year of study will be admitted to the Honours Programme if they meet the conditions set out in paragraph 1.

Article 4. UvA Honours Programme graduation requirements

1. Students who have met the requirements of the regular Bachelor's programme within the standard duration of study with a weighted average of at least 7.5 across all courses in the Bachelor's programme (excluding honours courses) and have met the requirements of the Honours Programme will receive a certificate stating that they have successfully completed the Honours Programme.
2. The Examinations Board may grant permission to deviate from the nominal duration of study as stated in paragraph 1 in the event of personal circumstances as referred to in Article 2.1 of the Implementation Decree of the WHW, or if the extension of the nominal duration of study is the result of a recognised study or internship abroad.

Article 5. Opening up honours courses to non-honours students

1. Students who have not registered for the Honours Programme but who meet the admission requirements may participate in the interfaculty honours courses, provided there are sufficient places available.
2. For participation in faculty honours courses, the decision on admission lies with the faculty concerned.
3. The diploma supplement of students who have not followed or completed the Honours Programme will list the honours courses that have been successfully completed.

Article 6. UvA Honours Meeting

1. The UvA Honours Meeting will in any case include: the honours dean of the UvA (in this case, the FNWI dean), the director of education of AUC, a coordinator of the Honours Programme and an honours student.
2. The UvA Honours Meeting is responsible for ensuring:
    a. the entry and graduation requirements;
    b. the diversity of the range of courses on offer and the prevention of overlap between courses;
    c. the visibility of the range of courses on offer.
3. The UvA Honours Meeting meets at least twice a year.
4. The UvA Honours Meeting reports annually in writing to the Executive Board on (the development of) the UvA Honours Programme and formulates advice and recommendations where necessary.

Article 7. Quality assurance in honours education

1. The UvA Honours Consultation devotes attention to the components of quality assurance in its annual report.

Article 8. Diploma supplement

1. The diploma supplement accompanying the certificate of a student who has successfully completed the Honours Programme states that the student has met the requirements of the Honours Programme. The supplement describes what the Honours Programme entails, which honours courses the student has completed, the scope of those courses and the results per course.
2. Only a programme consisting of honours courses can be designated as "Honours" or "Honours Programme" on a diploma supplement. Other faculty excellence programmes will be designated in a different, clearly distinguishable manner.

Article 9. Entry into force

These regulations shall enter into force on 1 September 2026.