Programme-specific part to the Education and Examination Regulations (EER) 2023-2024

For the Master of Science programme

Philosophy of Science, Technology and Society (PSTS)

10 October 2023

Contents

1. General provisions

1.1. Admission to the programme

Students can be admitted to the master PSTS if they satisfy the following requirements:

Admission requirements	**As evidenced by**
Bachelor's degree or equivalent in: (Applied) Natural Science, Engineering Science, Social Science, Philosophy, or any other discipline, with an emphasis on (social) science or technology and a focus on the application of technology in a particular professional area or on technical interventions in social systems.	Bachelor or equivalent diploma
Sufficient affinity with (reflection on) science and technology	Motivational letter
Sufficient mastery of the English language. (Dutch applicants as well as applicants from the UK, Ireland, USA, Australia, New Zealand and the English-speaking part of Canada are exempted from this requirement.)	An IELTS minimum score of 6.5 on the IELTS or an internet based TOEFL (iBT) minimum score of 90.
Sufficient entry-level academic skills, including skills in reading, writing, textual analysis and critical reflection	Writing assignment, showing - Academic writing skills - Understanding the theoretical framework(s) that is/are presented by the author(s) - Ability to formulate properly a line of thought - Understanding of a technological development of your own choice -Ability to reflect on one's own position towards the subject - Ability to come to a conclusion.

An Admission Committee assesses whether a student applying for admission to the programme satisfies these criteria. This Committee consists of two staff members who are examiners in the programme; and they are assisted by employees from the Faculty's Educational Service Centre.

1.2. Language of the programme

Due to the international character of the MSc programme Philosophy of Science, Technology and Society, the language of communication in the programme is English. This means that:

- All study materials are in English
- All classes (lectures, seminars, workshops, practicals, and others) are taught in English
- All written exams and tests are in English, and all papers have to be submitted in English
- All presentations (including the Final Presentation) are prepared in English

1.3. Connecting MSc programme(s)

Not applicable.

1.4. Rights, duties and composition of the programme committee

In line with article 9.18 WHW, each programme has a programme committee, which has the duty to advise programme management on improving and safeguarding the quality of the programme. It has a right of consent regarding a number of topics in the Education and Examination Regulations (EER), e.g., the goals and intended learning outcomes of the programme in terms of knowledge, insight and skills that a student should have acquired at the end of the programme; where necessary the layout of practical exercises; the study load of the programme and its study units. In addition, the programme committee evaluates on a yearly basis the manner in which the EER has been carried out and has the right to advise programme management and the dean – invited or uninvited – on all matters relating to the teaching in the programme.

The composition of the current programme committee can be found here: https://www.utwente.nl/en/psts/programme-committee/).

2. Contents and structure of the programme

2.1. Contents and structure of the programme

This section lists the composition (structure and content) of the regular PSTS programme, as well as the composition of the "Ethics and technology"-track and the Joint Education Programmes with Business Administration (BA) and Public Administration (PA).

The table below shows the courses that make up the regular PSTS programme in EC (1 EC = 28 hours of study load) per study unit. The generic structure of the (full-time) programme is as follows:

YEAR 1			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
Q1	**Q2**	Q3	Q4
Philosophy of Technology (201200063) 5 EC	Philosophy of Science in Practice (201400573) 5 EC	TechnoLab (202000252) 5 EC	PhiloLab (202000253) 5 EC
Science and Technology studies (201200064) 5 EC	History of Science and Technology (201400574) 5 EC	Philosophical Anthropology and Technology (191612550) 5 EC	Technology and Social Order (191622510) 5 EC
Philosophical Theories and Methods (201200059) 5 EC	Ethics and Technology 1 (191612540) 5 EC	Society, Politics and Technology (191612560) 5 EC	Ethics and Technology 2 (191612580) 5 EC
PSTS Skills portfolio (202000102) 0 EC			
8 attended colloquia (202200273) 0 EC			

YEAR 2			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
Q1	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**
Advice: choose 3 out of 4 electives:	*Advice: choose 2 out of 4 electives:*	Master's Thesis 30 EC (201300088) OR	
Technologies in Use (201800145) 5 EC	Anticipation and Evaluation of Emerging Technologies (201800149) 5 EC		
Transformation of Knowledge in a Digital Age (201800146) 5 EC	Minds, Bodies and Technologies (201800150) 5 EC		

<table>
<tr><td>Technologies and Discourse (202100093) 5 EC</td><td>Rethinking Science-Technology Relations (201800151) 5 EC</td><td rowspan="2">Internship 10 EC (201300090)
Master's Thesis 20 EC (201300089)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Good Technology for Users and Society (201800148) 5 EC</td><td>Ethics and Epistemology of AI: Minds, machines, and society (202200010) 5 EC</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">MasterLab (202000254) 5 EC</td></tr>
<tr><td>PSTS Skills Portfolio (202000102) 0 EC</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>8 attended colloquia (202200273) 0 EC</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
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Table 1: Curriculum PSTS 2022-2023

Year #1

All students take the twelve (12) obligatory courses (in total 60 EC) of the first year's programme. In parallel, students start their PSTS Skills Portfolio which spans year #1 and the first semester of year #2. Starting from the Skills training in the PSTS courses and with guidance from a PSTS Supervisor, the PSTS Skills Portfolio both fosters and monitors students' achievement of the core PSTS skills. Assessment of the PSTS Skills Portfolio is incremental and largely formative, based on the PSTS core skills rubric. Using this rubric, all course teachers provide the student with a formative assessment of their performance regarding the skills relevant to a specific course. Students upload these assessments and feedback in their electronic portfolio, alongside the underlying work products. The PSTS Supervisor regularly meets with students and reflects upon the portfolio content to discuss which skills have not been sufficiently mastered yet and how to work towards goals. In addition, students in consultation with the supervisor also formulate personal skills learning objectives. To complete the PSTS Skills Portfolio, students should complete two components: a written reflection and develop a portfolio of materials that reflect the skills selected from courses in the PSTS programme. The PSTS Skills Line is graded as a Pass/Fail.

First semester of year #2

Students take five out of the eight elective PSTS-courses (in total 25 EC). The elective options in the regular PSTS programme imply that all students can freely select (at least) five courses from the eight PSTS elective courses offered in the 1st semester of the 2nd year.
Besides these, the Examination Board has already approved two alternative courses from other UT programmes:

- 201100777 Policy Analysis in Public and Technological Domains, and
- 201600012 Management and Governance of Innovation and Creativity.

In case a student opts for other courses besides the PSTS electives, the student has to submit a written request to the programme management.

In parallel, students take the obligatory MasterLab (5 EC) course which spans both the 1st and 2nd semester. Moreover, students continue and finalize their PSTS Skills Portfolio by the end of the 1st semester.

Second semester of year #2

Students work on their master's thesis of either 20 EC plus a 10 EC internship, or 30 EC.

2.2. Study load

The study load in the full-time, regular PSTS programme is 120 EC. Both study years are 60 EC each.

The programme for the part-time variant is identical to the full-time programme and 120 EC in total. Part-time students will take a longer period, usually 4 years, to complete the programme.

The study load of the PSTS programme when taking the Ethics and Technology track, described in paragraph 1b above, also entails 120 EC (two years of 60 EC each).

The study load of the Joint Education Programmes (the PSTS Link-trajectories) is as follows:

- PSTS Link with the UT master's degree programme Business Administration (PSTS-Link-BA): 120 EC (two years of 60 EC each);
- PSTS Link with the UT master's degree programme Public Administration (PSTS-Link PA): 120 EC (two years of 60 EC each).

2.3. Programme-specific characteristics

The programme for the part-time variant is identical to the full-time programme (120 EC in total). Part-time students will take a longer period, usually four years, to complete the programme.

2.4. Honours programme/STAR programme

For excellent students, the University of Twente offers several different extra-curricular master's honours programmes of 15 EC each.

More information on these programmes and the corresponding selection procedures can be found at the UT honours programmes website https://www.utwente.nl/en/excellence/master/

2.5. Elective options

In quartile one and quartile two of the second year of the curriculum students choose their elective courses. This is described in 2.1.

2.6. Joint Education Programmes and/or international cooperation and agreement(s)

2.6.1. Ethics and Technology Track

As an alternative to the regular PSTS programme, students may apply for the "Ethics and Technology" track.

Ethics and Technology track

After having taken the year #1 curriculum of the regular PSTS programme, students can opt for a special "Ethics and Technology" track that is offered in collaboration with the 4TU.Centre for Ethics and Technology (4TU.Ethics). This is a one-year track consisting of 30 EC of advanced courses in ethics and technology and a 30 EC MSc thesis in ethics of technology. Students taking the Ethics and Technology track graduate as regular PSTS students, but with the distinction of having taken the 4TU.Ethics-approved Ethics and Technology track.

Students in the "Ethics and Technology" track take the following 2nd year courses from the PSTS programme:

- Good Technology for Users and Society (Quartile 1)
- Anticipation and Evaluation of Emerging Technologies (Quartile 2)
- Minds, Bodies and Technologies (Quartile 2)
- Ethics and Epistemology of AI: Machines, Minds and Society (Quartile 2)
- MasterLab (Quartiles 1-4)
- PSTS Skills Portfolio (Quartiles 1-4)

If these courses provide a specific "Ethics and Technology" track assignment, students in this track need to take that specific assignment.

In addition, students in the "Ethics and Technology" track take two of the three following listed courses offered by the 4TU.Ethics graduate programme for which students need to register themselves through the OZSW website:

- LC1 Philosophy of Risk (TU/e) - A full-time 5-day week;
- LC2 Philosophy of Responsible Innovation (WUR/TUD) - A full-time 5-day week;
- LC8 Design for Values (TUD) - A full-time 5-day week.

Students can request to substitute one 4TU.Ethics course with another course offered by the 4TU Graduate Programme, provided the requested course is relevant to their thesis research.

Upon approval by the director of the 4TU.Ethics graduate school and the PSTS programme management, students may substitute one of the above-mentioned courses by a course offered by the Dutch Research School of Philosophy (https://www.ozsw.nl/phd-rema-student-program-2/).

Admission to and exit from the Ethics and Technology track

Students can apply for admission to the "Ethics and Technology"-track at the end of the first year of the PSTS programme. Decisions about admission and exit are taken by the track's programme director. The Ethics and Technology track has the following admission requirements:

- At the start of the track, students should have completed at least 55 EC from the first year of PSTS, including the courses 'Ethics and Technology 1', 'Ethics and Technology 2', and 'Society, Politics and Technology'.
- An average grade of ≥7.5 for the three courses 'Ethics and Technology 1', 'Ethics and Technology 2', and 'Society, Politics and Technology'. If the grade for 'Ethics and Technology 2' is not available in time for admission, admission can also be granted on the basis of an average grade of ≥7.5 for 'Ethics and Technology 1' and 'Society, Politics and Technology' plus an average grade of ≥7.5 for all completed PSTS courses, or an average grade of ≥8.0 for 'Ethics and Technology 1' and 'Society, Politics and Technology'.'

Once admitted to the "Ethics and Technology"-track, students must be aware that their academic achievement must meet specific standards. In case students do not meet these standards, they will have to leave the track (and they will proceed in the regular PSTS programme).

These standards are:

- Having completed the course Good Technologies for Users and Society (201800148) before the start of quartile 1B.
- Having completed the courses Anticipation and Evaluation of Emerging Technologies (201800149) AND Minds, Bodies and Technologies (201800150) before the start of quartile 2A.
- When these three above mentioned courses have been completed, their average score should be at least a 7.5.

Information on this track can also be found on the website: Curriculum & Manuals | 2nd year Ethics and Technology track and PhD Programme connected to PSTS | Programme information for current students & employees PSTS (utwente.nl)

2.6.2. Joint Education Programmes / Link Trajectories

In addition, students may opt for one of the Joint Education Programmes as stipulated in paragraph 1c above. These PSTS-Link trajectories lead to a Joint Education Programme MSc degree.

In 2022-2023 the PSTS programme offers two **Link trajectories**:

- PSTS Link with the UT master's degree programme Business Administration (PSTS-Link BA, 120 EC)
- PSTS Link with the UT master's degree programme Public Administration (PSTS-Link PA, 120 EC)

Students who have started with the standard PSTS curriculum can switch to one of the PSTS Link trajectories until the end of the Q2 of the first year, because the first course from the partner programme will be taken in Q3, provided they are admitted to the partner programme.

Curriculum Joint Education Programme PSTS-Business Administration (BA) 2023-2024

YEAR 1			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
Q1	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**
Philosophical Theories & Methods (201200059, 5 EC)	Ethics & Technology 1 (191612540, 5 EC)	TechnoLab (202000252, 5 EC)	PhiloLab (202000253, 5 EC)
Science & Technology Studies (201200064, 5 EC)	History of Science & Technology (201400574, 5 EC)	Society, Politics & Technology (191612560, 5 EC)	Technology & Social Order (191622510, 5 EC)
Philosophy of Technology (201200063, 5 EC)	Philosophy of Science in Practice (201400573, 5 EC)	Strategic Technology Management & Innovation (201600015, BA profile, 5 EC)	Ethics & Technology 2 (191612580, 5 EC)
PSTS Skills Portfolio (202000102, 0 EC)			
8 attended colloquia (202200273, 0 EC)			

YEAR 2			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
Q1	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**
Entrepreneurial Leadership & Responsible Organizational Design (201600002, 5 EC)	Anticipation and Evaluation of Emerging Technologies (201800149, 5 EC)	Masterclass BA (201400018, BA core for Joint Education Programme, 5 EC)	combined Final Thesis Project (201900178, 25 EC)
International entrepreneurship – a Strategic Technology Perspective (201600011, 5 EC)	Business Valuation and Corporate Governance (201800089, 5 EC)		
Management and Governance of Innovation and Creativity (201600012, 5 EC)			
MasterLab (202000254, 5 EC)			
PSTS Skills Portfolio (202000102, 0 EC)			
8 attended colloquia (202200273, 0 EC)			

Curriculum Joint Education Programme PSTS-Public Administration 2023-2024

YEAR 1			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
Q1	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**
Philosophical Theories & Methods (201200059, 5 EC)	Ethics & Technology 1 (191612540, 5 EC)	TechnoLab (202000252, 5 EC)	PhiloLab (202000253, 5 EC)
Science & Technology Studies (201200064, 5 EC)	History of Science & Technology (201400574, 5 EC)	Public Governance and Legitimacy (194101070**,** 5 EC)	Technology & Social Order (191622510, 5 EC)
Philosophy of Technology (201200063, 5 EC)	Philosophy of Science in Practice (201400573, 5 EC)	Society, Politics & Technology (1916125605, 5 EC)	Ethics & Technology 2 (191612580, 5 EC)
PSTS Skills Portfolio (202000102, 0 EC)			
8 attended colloquia (202200273, 0 EC)			

YEAR 2			
Semester 1		**Semester 2**	
Q1	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**
Policy-making for complex systems (202201391, 5EC)	Anticipation and Evaluation of Emerging Technologies (201800149, 5 EC)	Deliberative Governance of Knowledge & Innovation (201100076**,** 5 EC)	
Technologies and Discourse (202100093, 5 EC) **OR** Policy Analysis in Public & Technological Domains (201100077**,** 5 EC)	PA Academic Research (201500145, 5 EC) **OR** PSTS MasterLab (202000254, 4 EC)*	Public Governance and Policy Networks (194111240**,** 5 EC)	
PSTS MasterLab (202000254, 1 EC)*			
Crisis management in technological domains (202100089, 5 EC	combined Final Thesis Project (201900179, 25 EC)		
PSTS Skills Portfolio (202000102, 0 EC)			
8 attended colloquia (202200273, 0 EC)			

Note: PSTS-PA Joint Education Programme students are advised to start PSTS MasterLab in Q1 and to decide at the end of Q1 whether they will continue in MasterLab or switch to PA Academic Research.

2.7. Pre-MSc programme

Not applicable.

3. Programme objectives and intended learning outcomes

3.1. Programme objectives

PSTS is an English language master programme in the philosophy of a scientific domain, focusing on philosophy of technology. PSTS educates students to analyse, reflect on and assess the mutual interaction between science and technology, on the one hand, and human beings, values and societies, on the other. The orientation of the programme is partly analytical and interpretative (understanding the way in which scientific and technological artefacts and practices shape, and are themselves shaped by, society and culture) and partly *normative* (providing evaluations and assessments of scientific developments, technologies and their correlated social and cultural impacts). The programme is developed from a broad conception of philosophy of technology, in which both traditional philosophical, as well as interdisciplinary and empirical approaches and methods, such as Science and Technology Studies (STS), are crucial to foster proper reflection.

3.2. Intended learning outcomes

The programme's Final Qualifications are the following:

Knowledge

K1.	Extensive knowledge of the philosophy of technology, including its philosophical and STS approaches, and the ability to relate these approaches to each other.
K2.	Good knowledge of the various philosophical subfields, including ethics of technology, social and political philosophy of technology, philosophical anthropology of technology, epistemology and metaphysics of technology, and philosophy and history of (engineering) science and technology.
K3.	Good knowledge of approaches and themes in STS.
K4.	Good knowledge of empirical research methods in STS and philosophical research methods.
K5.	A basic understanding of the relation between the philosophy of technology, including its various subfields, methods and history, to general philosophy, including its various subfields, methods and history.
K6.	Specialist knowledge of a sub-domain or specialized topic within the philosophy of technology (broadly defined).

Skills

S1.	Writing and verbal communication skills.
S2.	Skills in reasoning and arguing and in the analysis of arguments.
S3.	Skills in locating, reading and analysing scientific texts from various disciplines in philosophy and STS, as well as professional and popular texts, that reflect on technology, engineering sciences, technological developments, and the relationship between technology and society.
S4.	Skills in the identification and analysis of problems related to the role of technology and science in society, and the ability to formulate a position with regard to these problems from a philosophical and/or STS perspective.
S5.	The ability to perform original scientific research in the field of philosophy of technology, using philosophical and/or STS methods. This includes the ability to arrive at a well-considered problem formulation, the selection and development of appropriate theories and (empirical) methodologies, and the proper execution of a research plan.
S6.	Skills in the comparison of differing scientific approaches or paradigms in a sub-domain or specialized topic, the application of these approaches, and the ability to critically analyse them.
S7.	The ability to generate philosophical and/or STS research results that are relevant for scientific, technological, and/or social practices.
S8.	The capacity to collaborate with and communicate research results and solutions to scientists in- and outside one's own academic field, as well as professionals from societal domains and the ability to generate learning processes from that interaction and collaboration.
S9.	Reflective capacity pertaining to one's own work, selecting or altering course, and the ability to translate learning trajectories into the development of more general knowledge and methods.
S10.	Capable to endeavour a career inside or outside of academia wherein philosophical and STS knowledge and skills are required.

These final qualifications are well aligned with the Dublin descriptors (an international benchmark for what completion of master level should entail). This implies that PSTS graduates should be capable to function on a master's level.

4. Assessment/examination

4.1. Final examination

Apart from the course-specific exams, the PSTS programme has one examination, i.e., the master's examination after two years. The master's examination is deemed to have been successfully completed if the study units, and the Final Project (MSc thesis), have been successfully completed.

4.2. Assessment format interim examinations/tests

The assessment formats of each of the study units in the PSTS programme is shown in the table below. Written tests are individual, unless specified otherwise. The weight attributed to each of the exam components is stipulated in the course's electronic learning environment (Canvas) and made public before the start of the course.

Note:
In addition to Article 3.3 of the BMS EER, in the PSTS MSc programme the following applies:

If a study unit has been completed successfully (final grade 6 or more) then this grade is final. If a student (due to exceptional circumstances) would like to improve the grade, the student has to submit a motivated request to the Examination Board.

Course list PSTS 2023-2024, year #1

Semester 1			
Code	**Name (+ study load)**		**Mode of assessment**
201200063	Philosophy of Technology		Individual exam, individual assignment
201200064	Science and Technology Studies		Individual assignment, group assignment
201200059	Philosophical Theories and Methods		individual assignment and group assignment
201400573	Philosophy of Science in Practice		duo essay, weekly group reflection reports, group presentations
201400574	History of Science and Technology		Individual assignment, group assignment,
191612540	Ethics and Technology 1		individual assignment, group presentation
Semester 1+2			
202000102	PSTS Skills Portfolio		Participation and written assignments
Semester 2			
Code	**Name (+ study load)**		**Mode of assessment**
202000252	TechnoLab		individual assignment, group assignment

191612550	Philosophical Anthropology and Technology		individual assignment, individual exam
91612560	Society, Politics and Technology		Presentation, 2 written exams
202000253	PhiloLab		Group paper, individual assignment
191622510	Technology and Social Order		Individual assignment, group assignment
191612580	Ethics and Technology 2		individual assignments

Course list PSTS 2023-2024, year #2

Semester 1			
Code	**Name (study load)**		**Mode of assessment**
201800145	Technologies in Use		Group assignment, individual assignments, participation
201800146	Transformations of Knowledge in a Digital Age		Assignments, presentation
202100093	Technologies and Discourse		Individual Assignment
201800148	Good technology for Users and Society		Individual presentation, individual assignment
201800149	Anticipation and Evaluation of Emerging Technologies		Group report, individual assignment
201800150	Minds, Bodies and Technologies		Individual assignment, individual presentation
201800151	Rethinking Science-Technology Relations		Presentation, assignments
202200010	Ethics and Epistemology of AI: Machines, minds and society		Group assignment, Individual assignment
202000102	PSTS Skills Portfolio		Participation and written assignments
Semester 1+2			
202000254	MasterLab		Participation, assignments, thesis proposal
Semester 2			
Code	**Name (+ study load)**		**Mode of assessment**
201300090	Brief Internship (10 EC)		Internship report
201300089	Master's Thesis (20 EC)		Thesis, presentation and oral exam
201300088	Master's Thesis (30 EC)		Thesis, presentation and oral exam

4.3. Period of validity of test results

In derogation from the generic rule (Paragraph 3.9 of the UT-BMS EER,) stating that in case a study unit consists of elements that are graded separately (the so-called sub-grades), the validity of these sub-grades is limited till the end of that academic year, the sub-grades in the PSTS courses remain valid until the end of the subsequent academic year.

The HTHT minor modules Philosophy of Science and Technology, and Governance of Innovation and Socio-Technical Change are structured as 15EC study units. The validity of all test results is extended with one academic year to allow students to redo parts the next year after doing the minor for the first time.

4.4. Maximum number of attempts for tests/interim examinations

Each year, two separate opportunities are offered for taking a written or oral exam associated with a specific study unit.

- Study units and their exams can be offered more than once per academic year. If that is the case students may participate in the exams at a maximum of two occasions
- There is in any case at least one opportunity to take an exam in the period in which the applicable study unit is taught.

In exceptional individual cases, the examination board may approve a deviation from the number of times and the manner in which exams can be taken.

4.5. Specific pass-fail regulations

Passing grades are final

In addition to Article 3.3 of the BMS EER, in the PSTS MSc programme the following applies:

If a study unit has been completed successfully (final unrounded grade 5.5 or more) then this grade is final. If a student feels that there are exceptional circumstances that justify an exemption from this rule (and thus justify an extra opportunity), the student has to send a motivated written request to the Examination Board. Such an exemption can only be granted once per student.

4.6. Prerequisites / required sequence of interim examinations

Course	**Prerequisites**
YEAR 1 – sem.2	
202000252 TechnoLab (2A)	201200063 Philosophy of Technology 201200059 Philosophical Theories and Methods 201200064 Science and Technology Studies
202000253 PhiloLab (2B)	201200063 Philosophy of Technology 201200059 Philosophical Theories and Methods

	201200064 Science and Technology Studies 202000252 TechnoLab
191612580 Ethics and Technology 2 (2B)	191612540 Ethics and Technology I
191622510 Technology and Social Order (2B)	201200064 Science and Technology Studies 201400574 History of Science and Technology
YEAR 2 – sem.1	
Master year #2 courses in general	Min. **40** EC year #1 courses
202000254 MasterLab	Min. **50** EC year #1 courses, including at least: 202000252 TechnoLab 202000253 PhiloLab
201800145 Technologies in Use (1A)	No additional requirements
201800146 Transformation of Knowledge in a Digital Age (1A)	No formal requirement, but advised: 201200064 Science and Technology Studies 201400573 Philosophy of Science in Practice 201400574 History of Science and Technology 202000252 TechnoLab
202100093 Technologies and Discourse (1A)	No formal requirement, but advised: 201200064 Science and Technology Studies 191622510 Technology and Social order
201800148 Good technology for Users and Society (1A)	No formal requirement, but advised: 191612540 Ethics and Technology 1 191612560 Society, Politics and Technology 191612580 Ethics and Technology 2
201800149 Anticipation and Evaluation of Emerging Technologies (1B)	No formal requirement, but advised: 191612540 Ethics and Technology 1 202000252 TechnoLab 191612580 Ethics and Technology 2
201800150 Minds, Bodies and Technologies (1B)	No formal requirement, but advised: 191612550 Philosophical Anthropology and Technology
201800151 Rethinking Science-Technology Relations (1B)	No formal requirement, but advised: 201200064 Science and Technology Studies 201400573 Philosophy of Science in Practice 201400574 History of Science and Technology 202000252 TechnoLab
202200010 Ethics and Epistemology of AI: Machines, minds and society (1B)ok	No additional requirements
YEAR 2 – sem.2	
201300088 Master Thesis (30 EC)	Min. **75** EC year #1 + #2 courses, including at least: 202000254 MasterLab – 1st semester component
201300090 Internship (10 EC) + 20130089 Master Thesis (20 EC)	Min. **75** EC year #1 + #2 courses, including at least: 202000254 MasterLab – 1st semester component

4.7. Examination board

The examination board is the body that determines in an objective and expert manner whether a student meets the conditions set under the Education and Examination Regulations (EER) concerning the knowledge, insight and skills required to obtain a degree. Members of the examination board are appointed by the dean of the faculty.

More information, including the most up-to-date composition of the examination board can be found at its website: examination boards BMS. All information for students, examiners, and educational support staff about the examination boards of BMS is published there, including their Rules and Guidelines, and the procedures and conditions for submitting a request.

4.8. Composition of Graduation Committee

In derogation from paragraph 5.02 of the Faculty's Rules and Guidelines of the BMS Examination Boards, in the PSTS programme both the 1st supervisor and the 2nd reader (examiner) of the final project have at least a doctorate degree (PhD).

For each thesis project, there is a supervisor and a 2nd reader. The role of the first supervisor is to guide the student through the thesis process. The role of the 2nd reader is to confirm the quality of the thesis proposal and the final thesis. Hence, they have a limited role in the supervision process: Together with the supervisor, the 2nd reader (1) approves the thesis proposal, (2) greenlights the final thesis draft, and (3) is part of the graduation committee.

4.8.1. Specific requirements on the composition of the Graduation Committee for the Joint Education Programmes

The requirements for final thesis projects in PSTS Link trajectories are based on two starting points.

1. Since the aim of the Joint Education Programmes (labelled PSTS-Link) is to create synergy between the MSc PSTS and another MSc programme, the final project for both programmes should be combined, resulting in one thesis. This means that the Joint Education Programme student chooses a thesis topic that fits with and can be investigated from both a PSTS- and the partner programme's (BA/PA) perspective. Ideally, the research leads not only to overlapping, but also to integrated insights and results, showing the added value of a combined final thesis project, rather than two separate projects on the same topic.

2. To safeguard and check that students doing a combined final thesis project ultimately satisfy the final qualifications of the MSc PSTS, as well as the final qualifications of the partner programme, the combined project (or the relevant parts, see below) will be assessed using the assessment criteria and rubrics that are also used for 'regular' final projects in each of the two programmes. This implies the thesis (or the relevant parts) receives two grades and that these may differ.

At this moment, the study load of the combined final project and the exact requirements for preparative courses (research skills training) vary among the different Joint Education Programmes. Regardless of these differences, however, similar requirements and procedures apply to all PSTS-Link trajectories.

Project requirements:

- The student formulates one research proposal with an overarching question for the project as a whole, and different sub-questions for the different parts of the project. These sub-questions can be clearly related to one of the two programmes, or may integrate the different approaches, as student and supervisors see fit.
- The student produces one thesis. This thesis should (at minimum) contain a joint introduction and an overall conclusion, answering the overarching question and reflecting on the added value of the combined perspectives and methods.
- In the research proposal, the student specifies the planned thesis outline and, with the help of the supervisors, indicates which parts of the thesis are relevant to which programme. This subsequently determines which parts will be assessed by which criteria. NB: this implies that it is possible, but not necessary, that all chapters are relevant for both programmes.
- The length of the thesis can (but need not) be increased to 1.5x the length of a single master thesis (16000-24000 words in the case of a 30 EC PSTS thesis, implying a combined thesis would be 24000-36000 words).

Supervision:

- The combined final project is supervised by two staff members from PSTS (one being the supervisor, and one in the role of second reader). The supervisors from both programmes are involved in developing the thesis, and must approve the thesis proposal before the student can start working on the project.
- If parts of the final project and the resulting thesis have been assigned to one of the two master programmes only, the supervisor(s) from that programme takes care of the supervision for that part in the same way s/he would supervise single degree final thesis projects.
- To safeguard sufficient alignment of expectations and a clear direction for the final thesis project, the supervisors have regular joint meetings with the student. Preferably they are all present during the supervision meetings, but if this is not feasible the supervisors jointly meet with the student *at least* at the following moments:
    - Before starting to develop the final thesis proposal, to discuss the feasibility and direction of the combined thesis project;
    - Before the thesis proposal is approved, also arranging who will be responsible for which thesis part(s);
    - Halfway through the thesis writing (or more frequently as they see fit) to monitor progress and align and where possible integrate intermediary results;
    - Near the end, to discuss possibilities for integration of the different parts and to indicate what should be done before a green light can be given.

Assessment:

- The standard PSTS assessment criteria (and form), as well as the assessment criteria and form of the partner programme will be applied to those parts of the thesis that were indicated as relevant for PSTS and/or the partner programme in the research proposal. This implies that the standard rubrics of both programmes will be used in parallel. The level of integration of the two programme perspectives will be assessed as part of the content-oriented criteria of the rubrics of each programme; if the integration is quite successful this is a plus when assessing these criteria.
- Before the green light meeting, the supervisors informally (and separately) grade the *draft* thesis, using the format of their own programme. If the two informal grades differ 2 points or more, additional examiners (see bullet point below) are asked to assess not only the draft, but to also grade the *final* thesis.

- A second examiner from PSTS and possibly from the partner programme will be involved in marginally assessing the *draft* thesis, to safeguard the quality of the work from each programme' s perspective. This examiner does not grade, but checks whether the draft thesis satisfies the minimum standards for a sufficient thesis; his/her approval is a requirement to receive green light for graduation. Only in case of a substantial divergence in grades of the two first supervisors, these additional examiners will be involved in the grading of the final thesis.
- The final assessment of the thesis project will thus be done by the two supervisors, unless (1) one or both of them is/are not approved as an examiner for the other programme, or (2) the informal grade assigned for the draft thesis diverges 2 points or more.

Graduation:

- For the graduation, Joint Education Programme students have to do both an oral exam, and a colloquium (as any other PSTS student). If the other master programme has similar procedures, these can be combined. The time available for the exam can, if necessary, be extended to 90 instead of 60 minutes, to make sure all parts can be sufficiently examined.
- The combined final project is assessed with two grades, one for each programme. This implies that a student can receive different final project grades for the two programmes. The assessment form of each programme is used to determine the grade for that programme.
- Cum laude: the requirements of each programme apply to determine whether a student receives the label 'cum laude' for that programme. In the calculation, the grade of the thesis will have the same weight it has for single degree students. This implies that a student can receive a cum laude for one, or for both diplomas.

Requests for exemption, programme adjustments etc.:

- If a Joint Education Programme student wants to submit a request for exemption, this has to be discussed with the study adviser of the programme that provides the course, and the request should be submitted to the Examination Board of that MSc programme.
- If a Joint Education Programme student wants to submit a request for a curriculum change that could affect realization of the final requirements of both programmes, the request needs to be approved by both Examination Boards.

5. Transitional arrangements

Article 8.4 of the EER 2022–2023 of the Faculty of Behavioural, Management and Social Sciences for master programmes is applicable. This means that if a study unit that does not involve a practical exercise is deleted from the programme, then students (only when exam results from the deleted study unit are registered in the Student Information System) are to be given two opportunities in the following academic year to take the relevant exam, either orally or in writing, or to undergo another form of assessment.

6. Other topics

6.1. Use of generative AI

Given the distinct and central role of writing skills in philosophical research, by default, the use of so-called generative AI to produce text and images (e.g., ChatGPT) is not allowed. This especially includes - but is not limited to - its use in exams and assignments, credited or otherwise. If teachers want to allow the use of generative AI in their courses to meet specific learning goals, they will announce the deviation from the default position in the OSIRIS description of their course. Teachers may use suitable detection tools.

6.1. Binding recommendation on continuation of studies

Before starting year #2 courses, students need to have completed at least 40 EC (out of 60 EC) of the year #1 courses. In order to start MasterLab and the thesis trajectory, students must have obtained at least 50 EC of the year #1 courses. Before the start of the 2nd year the students will receive a personal study progress report from the PSTS study adviser, stating the number of EC the student has obtained and whether, and to what extent, the student can continue in the second year.

6.2. Graduation with distinction

If upon completing the master's examination the student has shown evidence of exceptional capabilities, 'cum laude' will be recorded on the degree certificate.

A student is considered to have exceptional capabilities if all of the following conditions are met:

- the mark for the Final Project is at least a 9.0;
- the average mark awarded for all study units of the master's examination is at least an 8.0;
- no course was graded less than a 7.0;
- each mark needs to be obtained at each course's first attempt;
- in the determination of the average grade, the courses that were not graded with a numerical mark (and the non-numerical grade is at least a Pass) or courses for which an exemption was granted are not considered;
- the number of courses for which no numerical mark has been given or for which exemption has been granted, spans max. 30 EC;
- The study duration is maximally the nominal duration plus 25%.

In special cases and despite not fulfilling these conditions, the student is entitled to submit a request for 'cum laude' to the Examination Board.