

To Whom It May Concern

Faculty of Social Sciences

Educational Institute of Psychology/ Examination Board

Date 3 August 2023
Our reference PS21
Your reference
Subject **Bachelor's Programme Psychology and
conversion of grades in international context**

STATEMENT

Below the Board will address the following topics:

- Final qualification to be met by graduates of the bachelor's programme in Psychology
- The bachelor's programme in Psychology at Radboud University (ECTS per sub-discipline)
- The Dutch grading scale
- The grading distribution in the bachelor's programme Psychology
- The indicative conversion of these grades into the grading scales commonly used in the United Kingdom, the United States and in Germany. In this indicative conversion the Board adheres to the guidelines provided by the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC)ⁱ.
- Language of the programme

Final qualifications

The final qualificationsⁱⁱ of the bachelor's degree in Psychology match the level 6 requirements of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the first phase objectives of the European Certificate in Psychology (EuroPsy). The final qualifications read as follows:

Knowledge and Insight: Domain of Brain & Cognition

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1. You will develop an understanding of the relationships between brain, cognition, emotion, and behaviour (Biological Psychology, Cognitive Psychology and Neuropsychology), and you will be able to apply this to theoretical and practical problems, on the basis of current knowledge.

Knowledge and Insight: Domain of Behaviour & Environment

2. You will develop an understanding of the relationships between social context and behaviour (Social Psychology, Cultural Psychology, Work and Organisation Psychology), and you will be able to apply this to theoretical and practical problems, on the basis of current knowledge.

Knowledge and Insight: Domain of Development & Mental Health

3. You will develop an understanding of the relationships between healthy function, pathological function, and life stages (Developmental Psychology and Clinical Psychology), and you will be able to apply this to theoretical and practical problems, on the basis of current knowledge.

Research skills

4. You will acquire knowledge of conventional statistical and methodological research techniques in psychology and will be able to apply this knowledge largely on your own.

Academic Skills

5. You possess academic skills (analytical, reflective, communicative and learning skills) and can apply these to theoretical and practical problems, for the most part independently.

Professional Skills

6. At the basic level, you have professional skills (conversational skills, testing skills, intervention skills, and reporting skills) in the sub-disciplines you have selected and you can apply these in practical situations, taking into account the tense relationship between science and practice.

Structure of the programme in EC

The six Bachelor's exit qualifications result in six learning paths:

- Brain & Cognition: Biological Psychology, Cognitive Psychology and Neuropsychology
- Behaviour & Environment: Social Psychology, Work and Organization Psychology
- Development & Mental Health: Developmental Psychology, Clinical Psychology
- Research skills: Research Methods, Statistics, Data Analysis, three Research Projects, Bachelor Thesis
- Academic Skills: Academic Skills for Psychologists, Theoretical Psychology, Philosophy, Ethics
- Professional Skills: Methods of Professional Conduct, Professional Skills for Psychologists, Conversational Skills, Psychodiagnostics/ Clinical Assessment, Intervention.

[Year 1](#) provides a general introduction to Psychology and introduces the three domains. Students also train their academic, professional, and research skills in small groups and at basic level. Talented students can participate in an interdisciplinary honours programme during their foundation year.

[Year 2](#) focuses on analysis, application, and profiling. In theoretical domain courses, students apply scientific knowledge and theory to practical problems. In the Professional Skills practical course, students continue practicing the application of interview, testing, and reporting skills and in Psychometrics and Decision Theory, they practise interpreting test data. Students choose two key themes in which they learn to analyse practical situations from at least two perspectives and to develop basic-level interventions. One key theme also serves as the topic for their individual research in the Research Practical Course 2. Statistics 2 and Data Analysis deepen students research skills. Talented students can now choose from four disciplinary and interdisciplinary honours programmes.

[Year 3](#) concentrates on specialisation, intervention and evaluation. Students choose one domain of specialisation in which they opt for four “domain electives” (16 EC from 8 to 10 electives per domain). In these programme components, they are taught to critically analyse and develop interventions for issues and/ or evaluate these issues. If desired, students can complete part of this at one of our 130 partner universities abroad. The Applied Research Methods course provides a wide range of commonly used research approaches in the chosen domain. The capstone of the Bachelor’s programme is Research Practical Course 3 and the Bachelor’s thesis (12 EC combined) in which students show that they, with guidance and assistance, can design and conduct research into a domain-specific topic of their own choosing and that they can report on this topic in an academic manner.

Table 1. Structure of the Bachelor’s Programme: learning paths and number of EC

Learning paths	Number of EC Compulsory	Number of EC Domain electives	Number of EC Free electives
Brain & Cognition	18-24 EC	16 EC domain electives within one of the theoretical domains	16 EC
Behaviour & Environment	18-24 EC		free electives within Psychology or within another degree programme
Development & Mental Health	18-24 EC		
Research skills	47 EC		
Academic Skills	17 EC		
Professional Skills	16 EC		

Dutch grading system

The Dutch grading system, used from elementary up to university, is the 1 to 10 scale given in table 2, in which 10 is the highest grade, 6 the minimum pass and 1 the lowest grade.

Dutch examiners uniformly comment on the great difficulty in obtaining 9's and 10's and the respectability of 6's. There is also agreement that an 8 represents a high level of achievement, while grades 6 and 7 generally account for the majority of passing grades awarded.

Table 2. Dutch grading system

Grades	Definition
10	Excellent
9	Very good
8,5	Above good
8	Good
7,5	More than satisfactory
7	Satisfactory
6	Sufficient
5	Below sufficient; highest fail grade
4	Insufficient
3	Very insufficient
2	Poor
1	Very poor

Grading distribution

This general agreement is reflected in table 3, mentioning the grading distribution in the bachelor's programme in Psychology in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. This overview is based on all passing grades of the students registered for the bachelor's programme Psychology (including grades of free electives taken outside the degree programme, for 16 ECTS at maximum). In table 3, partial grades are abbreviated to the grade before the decimal, i.e. 7.1 to 7.9 are all shown as 7.

Table 3. Grading distribution bachelor's programme Psychology, Radboud University

National/ Institutional grade	Total number awarded in the reference group	Percentage of the total number
10	66	0.3%
9	1.293	6.3%
8	4.941	24 %
7	7.880	38.2 %
6	6.438	31.2 %
	20.618	100 %

Conversion of Dutch grades

Regarding the conversion of grades between the educational systems of the Netherlands and the UK and US, the Board of Examiners refers to the guidelines of NUFFICⁱⁱⁱ. The NUFFIC advice is based on "data available for secondary education examinations in the Netherlands and the UK. For the US, the grades are taken from academic transcripts of undergraduate programmes issued by American universities" (page 3).

Table 4. Conversion of Dutch grades to UK and US grading systems

NL	UK	US
10	A*	A+
9.5	A*	A+
9	A*	A+
8.5	A*	A+
8	A	A
7.5	A-	A
7	B	B+
6.5	C	B
6	D	C
5.5	E	D
5	F	F
4	F	F
3	F	F
2	F	F
1	F	F

For the conversion of Dutch grades to German grades, NUFFIC^{iv} presents the following formulae (page 16) to correct for the fact that students in the German grading system usually attain higher grades, compared to students in the Dutch system:

$x = 1 + 3 \cdot (N_{\max} - N_d) / (N_{\max} - N_{\min})$ where x = the German exam result $N_{\max} = 9$
 $N_{\min} = 6$; N_d = the candidate's result.

Example: The calculations for the grade conversion of a 7,5 obtained in the Netherlands are as follows: German grade = $1 + 3 \cdot (9 - 7,5) / 9 - 6 = 1 + 3 \cdot 1,5 / 3 = 1 + 1,5 = 2,5$.

Table 5A provides the conversion of Dutch grades to German grades, following this formulae.

Table 5A. Conversion of Dutch grades to the German grading system: following NUFFIC formulae

Dutch grades	Corresponding German grades
10	1.0
9.5	1.0
9	1.0
8.5	1.5
8	2.0
7.5	2.5
7	3.0
6.5	3.5
6	4.0
5.5	4.5

Based on the investigation of the German Wissenschaftsrat⁴, the Examining Board defends a further correction to be justifiable. The Wissenschaftsrat analysed the distribution of grades for multiple bachelor's degree programmes at German universities in the academic year 2010. In this year no less than 95 percent of the bachelor's graduates in Psychology attained 'good' or above. The general average for bachelor graduates in Psychology was 1,8. In the Netherlands the grades 6, 6,5 and 7 generally account for the majority of passing grades awarded. Hence, it is expected that conversion as described in table 5B provides a fuller appreciation of students who graduated in the bachelor's programme Psychology at Radboud University.

Table 5B. Conversion of Dutch grades to the German grading system: further correction based on report Deutscher Wissenschaftsrat (2012).

Dutch grades	Corresponding German grades
10	1.0
9.5	1.0
9	1.0
8.5	1.0
8	1.5
7.5	2.0
7	2.5
6.5	3.0
6	3.5
5.5	4.5

On this basis we trust that where German master's programmes in Psychology usually require a general average of 2,5 to be admitted, students attaining a 7 or higher from Radboud University will be competent to perform on the required master's level.

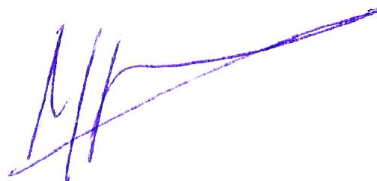
Language of the programme

The Psychology Bachelor English-track programme is taught in English-only (EER Article 10.4.1). In the programme, 100% of the language skills (e.g. reading and writing skills) are used at an Academic level of English. To be admitted to the programme, a proficiency of English level is required: Dutch VWO level or international equivalent (more details on admission criteria of English language: EER Article 9.1.3).

On behalf of the Examination Board Psychology,

Yours sincerely,

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Chair



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ⁱ For further information please consult www.nuffic.nl and

<http://www.nuffic.nl/en/diploma-recognition/country-modules/country-modules>

(accessed December 2018).

ⁱⁱ For the full final qualifications of the bachelor's degree programme: see [Education and Examination Regulations bachelor's programme in Psychology Radboud University](#), app.

6 Learning outcomes (accessed December 2018).

ⁱⁱⁱ Grading Systems in the Netherlands, the United States and the United Kingdom, NUFFIC, July 2013 (accessed November 2018); see <https://www.nuffic.nl/en/subjects/education-in-the-netherlands/>).

^{iv} Education system Germany described and compared with the Dutch system, NUFFIC, January 2015 (accessed November 2018; see <https://www.nuffic.nl/en/subjects/education-and-diplomas-germany/>

^v Prüfungsnoten an Hochschulen im Prüfungsjahr 2010. Arbeitsbericht mit einem Wissenschaftspolitischen Kommentar des Wissenschaftsrates, Deutscher Wissenschaftsrat, November 2012 (accessed January 2019); see <http://www.wissenschaftsrat.de/download/archiv/2627-12.pdf>