

Academic and Examination Regulations for the TI Research Qualification

August 2020

At times, PhD students are directly hired for a specific research project without completing a research master program before starting PhD research. A concise set of (TI) courses gives these PhD students the opportunity to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills. Students who complete the educational program qualify for the TI Research Qualification.

Scope of the Regulations

1. The Tinbergen Institute Research Qualification is a set of educational requirements for PhD students employed by the schools of Economics of Erasmus University, the University of Amsterdam and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
2. These regulations apply to PhD students who started their PhD track in 2019 and later. PhD students who started before 2019 should refer to the regulations of 2017.
3. Students who have completed TI's research master program and students who have completed another, comparable high level research master program (to be assessed by the Director of Graduate Studies, DGS) fulfil the requirements for the TI research qualification. For all others additional coursework is required; requirements are laid down in this document.
4. Special TI services like training and assistance in the PhD placement procedure are only available for students who meet the educational requirements of the TI research qualification.
5. Courses come from TI's curriculum. Course descriptions are published on the TI website (www.tinbergen.nl) and/or Intranet.
6. These Academic and Examination regulations are not applicable to students in the research master program.

Definition of terms

1. TI Research Qualification: the TI Research Qualification is awarded to students who meet the educational requirements set by TI for this qualification. The TI Research Qualification is a requirement for access to PhD facilities for PhD students.
2. Director of Graduate Studies (DGS): Director of Graduate Studies of the Tinbergen Institute. For the RQ, the TI Director of Graduate Studies performs the duties of the Examination Board.

3. TI Research Master program: Tinbergen Institute's 2-year (120 ECTS) master program in economics, econometrics and finance.
4. ECTS: a unit of 28 study load hours, in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System.
5. Core course sequence: a number of coherent course blocks together form a core course. Core courses are: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics, Advanced Econometrics and Finance.
6. Course block: a sequence of weekly lectures concluded by an examination (usually 8 weeks).
7. Field course: Specialized course in a field.
8. A major field is the student's chosen specialization consisting of a minimum of four courses in a particular field, in line with the completed core courses.

Requirements for the TI Research Qualification

1. At the start of the PhD track, students select the courses for the research qualification in consultation with the PhD supervisor. The DGS and the supervisor need to give approval to the selected course package. The course package chosen is explicitly stated in the Plan for PhD training and supervision which forms part of the PhD student's employment contract.
2. Students complete at least seven core courses blocks and six field courses.
3. The seven core course blocks (4 ECTS each) are selected from the TI research master program from the Micro, Macro and Econometrics core course sequences. From each of the core sequence at least one course block must be taken.
4. Students select four (out of six) field courses (3 ECTS each) within the same TI field in order to meet the field requirement. The DGS assesses whether the student meets the entrance requirements for the field courses.
5. Students may substitute one field course with a core course block which was not part of their core requirement.
6. Subject to approval by the DGS, students may substitute a maximum of two TI field courses for PhD level courses organized by other graduate schools or by inter-university networks. The requirement of six field courses remains unchanged, irrespective of the number of credits allocated to the external course.
7. At the end of the first full academic year after the start of the PhD appointment, students need to have fulfilled at least 24 ECTS of their chosen program. Students need to have completed the research qualification within 32 months after the start of their PhD.
8. In the research qualification, a grade 5 for one core course block can be compensated by a grade 7.5 or higher within the same core course sequence. A 4.5 or lower cannot be compensated.