



## Individual Elective

PSY9109 2024/2025



**Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience**



## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the “Individual Elective”. This elective provides students the possibility to work on an individual assignment under the supervision of a member of the scientific staff of Maastricht University, resulting in a written final product (e.g. a literature review, a research report). Examples could be a structured literature review, a small pilot research project, or learning a specific skill, such as fMRI, EEG, or complex data analysis. The individual elective should be clearly distinguishable from the research internship, in that specific time should be allocated to complete the elective. Moreover, the individual elective should have an assessment product that is clearly separable from the master thesis.

Students themselves are responsible for finding a supervisor for the individual elective. Note that learning during the individual elective should be student driven and the FPN supervisor only has a supervision and evaluation role. An individual elective proposal, signed by the supervisor, should be submitted before the deadline for approval to the Individual elective coordinators.

## **CRITERIA**

The criteria for an individual elective are:

- The content of the individual elective should be related to the objectives of the FPN Master program.
- The minimum workload of the individual elective should be at least 168 hours (6 ECTS).
- The individual elective should result in a written final product.
- The student should receive approval from a staff member of the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience that they will supervise the individual elective.
- Individual elective proposals must be submitted, using the Individual Elective Proposal form, for approval by email to the individual elective coordinator(s) before December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Contact information**

Course coordinator:

Hanne Zimmermann & Gill ten Hoor

E-mail: [fpn-msc-electives@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:fpn-msc-electives@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

## **PROCEDURE**

Students take the initiative to locate and arrange a supervisor for the individual elective. The elective topic, content and assessment format will be determined by mutual agreement between student and supervisor.

### **Timeline**

The first step is for you to find an FPN supervisor who is willing to supervise your individual elective. Since you will receive a maximum of 6 ECTS for this elective, this means that you will have to work 168 hours in total on the elective. The elective should take place between January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Next to the individual elective you will start working on your research internship (i.e. your master thesis project). This means that you will have some appointments with your master thesis supervisor to discuss this project and you will start writing on your research proposal. Therefore, make sure to communicate clearly with your master thesis supervisor, as soon as you have found them, how you will combine these tasks during this period.

As soon as you found an elective supervisor, you should fill in the Elective Proposal Form, and send this for approval to your supervisor. This form should be submitted to the Individual elective coordinator before December 1<sup>st</sup>. If you already signed up for one of the other individual electives, this will overrule your previous elective choice.

At the end of the Individual elective period (Latest April 1st) you should hand in your final assessment to your FPN supervisor, who will assess it with a pass or fail, according to the rules and criteria you have agreed upon in the Elective Proposal Form.

### **Grading**

Your faculty supervisor will evaluate your final assessment (as Pass-Fail), based on the criteria set in the Individual Elective Proposal Form.

### **Resit**

An assessment report that is graded as insufficient will have to be rewritten in order to pass the course. The deadline for the resit is 15 working days after reception of the initial evaluation of the report. The revised report has to be handed in via e-mail to the FPN supervisor.

## Appendix

Below you can find the Intended Learning outcomes of the 1 year Master's programme in Psychology. You can use this to indicate to which ILO(s) your proposed elective contributes.

<b>Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) of the 1 year Master's Programme</b>	
<b>Level</b>	<b>Content/orientation</b>
<b>Dublin descriptors</b>	<b>ILOs based on domain-specific reference framework and EFPA</b>
Knowledge and understanding	ILO 1: Knowledge of theories, processes, interventions, instruments and assessment methods in the field of specialization.
Applying knowledge and understanding	ILO 2: Ability to apply theories, interventions, instruments and assessment methods to practices in the field of specialization.
	ILO 3: Ability to write an original and feasible research question and proposal.
	ILO 4: Ability to design and conduct sound scientific research in the field of specialization (incl. the selection and application of appropriate research methods and statistics).
Making judgements	ILO 5: Ability to critically judge research questions and experimental designs.
	ILO 6: Ability to critically assess, evaluate, and interpret theories and publications in the field of specialization.
	ILO 7: Ability to formulate realistic judgements on the implications and importance of research findings and relate them to the existing literature.
Communication	ILO 8: Ability to effectively communicate in English – using a wide range of media tools – on field-related topics.
	ILO 9: Ability to write scientific reports in the form of a practical report, master's thesis and/or scientific publication according to the scientific standards.
	ILO 10: Ability to communicate scientific theories and empirical findings in an understandable way to both professionals (experts and non-experts) and to lay people (incl. clients).
Learning skills	ILO 11: Ability to reflect on one's own professional behaviour and development.
	ILO 12: Ability to work in a research setting and/or in an applied/clinical setting.
	ILO 13: Ability to work in an international team.
	ILO 14: Ability to identify gaps in one's own knowledge and abilities and develop an individual learning plan accordingly
	ILO 15: Ability to understand, reflect upon, and act according to the ethical standards of research and practice in the field.