

Research Master's Course and Examination Regulations 2026-2027

OER M 2026-2027 ENG

Adopted on July 14, 2026

COURSE AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

Valid from 1 September 2026

Research Master's programme Archaeology

These Course and Examination Regulations (henceforth OER) have been drawn up in accordance with the Higher Education and Research Act [*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*, WHW] (henceforth the Act) and the following Leiden University regulations:

- Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document
- Academic Calendar
- Regulations for Student Registration, Tuition Fees and Examination Fees
- Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes
- [Online Proctoring Protocol](#)

The model OER are laid down in Dutch and then translated into English. In the event that there are differences between the two versions, the Dutch version will prevail.

Pursuant to Article 7.14 of the Act, the Faculty Board regularly evaluates the OER and considers, for the purpose of monitoring and –if necessary– adjusting the study load, how much time it takes students to comply. In accordance with Article 9.18 of the Act, the Programme Committee is assigned the task of annually assessing the implementation of the OER.

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Chapter 1 General Provisions

Article 1.1 Scope of the regulations

These regulations apply to the teaching and examinations of the Research Master's programme Archaeology, henceforth referred to as the programme.

The programme is instituted in the Faculty of Archaeology of Leiden University henceforth referred to as the Faculty, and is taught in Leiden.

Article 1.2 Definitions

In these regulations the following definitions apply:

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| a. Board of Admissions | The Board established by the Faculty Board that has the duty of determining, with the application of the entry requirements referred to in Article 7.30b, (1) and (3) of the Act and the University Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes, which applicants can be admitted to this Master's programme; |
| b. Board of Examiners | The Board of Examiners for the programme, established and appointed by the Faculty Board in accordance with Article 7.12a of the Act; |
| c. Calendar day | A period of 24 hours beginning at midnight and indicated by a date on the calendar, including all days, such as working days, weekends, recognised public holidays and mandatory closing days; |
| d. Component | One of the courses or practical assignments of the programme, as referred to in Article 7.3 of the Act. The study load of each component is expressed in whole credits. Each component is concluded with an examination; |
| e. Credit | The unit in EC that expresses the study load of a component as referred to in the Act. According to the ECTS, one credit equals 28 hours of study; |
| f. Degree classification | Further degree classification by the Board of Examiners; |
| g. Digital teaching environment | A digital environment, such as Brightspace, in which students can work together, communicate and learn; |
| h. ECTS | European Credit (Transfer System); |

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| i. Education Administration Office | The office in the faculty where students can go for information and to register for courses: Education Administration via onderwijs@arch.leidenuniv.nl ; |
| j. Prospectus | The digital prospectus containing specific and binding information about the programme: https://studiegids.universiteitleiden.nl/ . The Prospectus constitutes an integral part of these regulations, and is included as an appendix; |
| k. Enrolment protocol | The enrolment protocol containing specific and binding information concerning enrolment in components, examinations, and final examinations, established by the Executive Board (https://inschrijfprotocol.universiteitleiden.nl/). The enrolment protocol constitutes an integral part of these regulations, and is included as an appendix; |
| l. Examination (<i>tentamen</i>) | An inspection of the knowledge, understanding and skills of the student with respect to a particular component, and an assessment thereof (in accordance with Article 7.10 of the Act). The assessment can take place in written form, orally as well as digitally, or a combination of these methods. An examination may consist of several constituent examinations. Credits are only awarded for examinations passed. The inspection is conducted according to the method determined by the Board of the Examiners to assure the quality of examination and final examinations; |
| m. Examiner | The person appointed by the Board of Examiners to conduct examinations, in accordance with Article 7.12c of the Act; |
| n. Final examination (<i>examen</i>) | The examinations associated with the components belonging to the programme or the propaedeutic phase of the programme, including an investigation to be carried out by the Board of Examiners itself, as referred to in Article 7.10 (2) of the Act; |
| o. First/second reader | The first or second examiner to read and assess the thesis/final paper/final report/final programme assignment. The first reader/reviewer is also the supervisor; |
| p. Language of instruction | The language of a programme, in which lectures and tutorials are given and examinations and final examinations are held; |
| q. Leiden Register of Study Programmes | Register of the programmes offered by Leiden University, maintained under the supervision of the Executive Board, as referred to in Article 7 of the Management and Administration Regulations; |

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r. Level	The level of a component according to the abstract structure as defined in the Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document ¹ ;
s. Nominal duration of study	The study load in years of study as established in the Central Register of Higher Education Programmes;
t. Portfolio	A monitoring and assessment file with which students (1) demonstrate that they have achieved a sufficient level of academic education to be awarded the degree, (2) record their personal process of academic learning during the programme, and (3) receive appropriate supervision and study advice;
u. Practical assignment	A practical assignment that contributes to an examination or final examination, as referred to in Article 7.13 (2) (d) of the Act, and takes one of the following forms: - writing a thesis/final paper/final report/final programme assignment, - writing a paper or creating an artistic work, - carrying out a research assignment, - participating in fieldwork or an excursion, - completing an internship, or - participating in another educational activity aimed at acquiring particular skills;
v. Pre-master's programme	Opportunity to compensate for deficiencies in the context of a failure to meet the entry requirements as referred to in Article 7.30e of the Act;
w. Programme	The programme to which the OER relates: a coherent set of components, aimed at achieving clearly defined objectives relating to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a graduate of the programme is expected to have acquired. Each programme is concluded with a final examination;
x. Student	A person enrolled at Leiden University in order to follow the courses, and/or sit the examinations and final examinations of the programme;
y. The Act	The Higher Education and Research Act [<i>Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek</i> , WHW];
z. Working day	Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays and the compulsory closure days specified by the Executive Board.

All other terms have the meaning ascribed to them by the Act.

¹ [Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document](#)

Article 1.3 **Codes of conduct**

1.3.1 The Leiden University Code of Conduct on Standards of Behaviour between Lecturers and Students is applicable.² The aim of this code is to create a framework for a good, safe and stimulating work and study environment within Leiden University, in which teachers and students respect each other and in which mutual acceptance and trust are important values.

1.3.2 The Code of Conduct on Remote Teaching applies³; this provides guidelines for teaching and learning in digital environments, remote environments or any form of teaching that is primarily dependent on IT services.

1.3.3 The Leiden University Regulations on ICT and Internet Use are also applicable.⁴ These regulations define what is considered appropriate use of ICT and internet and how usage checks will be made. They also explain which conduct is not tolerated and the consequences that apply.

1.3.4 Furthermore, the following Faculty codes of conduct apply to the programme:

- [Code of Conduct for Fieldwork in the Faculty of Archaeology](#)⁵

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² [Leiden University Code of Conduct on Standards of Behaviour between Lecturers and Students](http://reglementen.leidenuniv.nl/gedragcodes/gedragcode-omgangsvormen.html)<http://reglementen.leidenuniv.nl/gedragcodes/gedragcode-omgangsvormen.html>

³ [Code of Conduct on Remote Teaching](#)

⁴ [Leiden University Regulations on ICT and Internet Use](#)

⁵ [Code of Conduct for Fieldwork in the Faculty of Archaeology](#)

Chapter 2 Description of the Programme

Article 2.1 Objectives of the programme

The programme has the following objectives:

- The primary aim of the Research Master's programme is to convey the knowledge, insights and skills that will enable the graduate to independently formulate research questions, translate these into a research plan and subsequently execute that plan. The graduate is trained to become an independent and critical researcher.
- A completed Research Master's in Archaeology has prepared the graduate to pursue and enroll in PhD programmes in both the Netherlands and abroad. The final requirements that every Research Master's student of Archaeology in Leiden is expected to meet at the conclusion of their research master's degree have been defined within final qualifications on a curricular, cross-curricular and research level.
- In addition, the graduate will also be qualified to hold an authoritative position within archaeological projects or an archaeologically relevant policy position. Accordingly, the graduate should stay adequately informed of the ethical and social implications of their activities as well as the organisational structure of the archaeological system.

Article 2.2 Specialisations

Not applicable.

Article 2.3 Learning outcomes

Graduates of the programme have attained the following learning outcomes:

The theoretical context

The graduate:

1. Is, like the Master of Archaeology, well aware of the current research problems and themes, and their history;
2. Is, like the Master of Archaeology, within their chosen focus as well as on a more general archaeological level, capable of placing research questions and relevant related archaeological data within a scientific, philosophical and theoretical framework and reflect critically upon it;
3. Is, in addition, capable of applying theories and methods in a broader discipline transcending the academic framework and in new, multidisciplinary contexts.

Occupation specific knowledge and understanding

The graduate:

4. Like the Master of Archaeology, has thorough knowledge and understanding of the theories and methods used in their chosen focus and as such is able to interpret any relevant archaeological data.

Applied archaeological skills and methods

The graduate:

5. Like the Master of Archaeology, possesses thorough knowledge and understanding of the methods and techniques required for field and laboratory research for their chosen focus and has the analytical skills to process data obtained from fieldwork;
6. Is, in addition, capable of developing and applying original, creative ideas within their own archaeological research;
7. Is capable to a reasonable degree of independently planning and executing this archaeological research/fieldwork. In the case of archaeological fieldwork, this includes adequately managing organisational, legal, logistical, social and administrative aspects, and efficiently using the available time and resources.

Multidisciplinary skills

The graduate:

8. Like the Master of Archaeology, is capable of critically considering developments in adjoining sciences and arts disciplines regarding possible applications within their chosen specialization hence placing their own research/fieldwork within a multidisciplinary framework and is, in addition, capable of stepping out of the box of their own track to combine sciences and arts applications in a creative and confident way.

Academic skills

The graduate:

9. Like the Master of Archaeology, is capable of gathering literature on a particular archaeological subject or topic using both traditional and modern (digital) techniques and selecting this literature on the basis of relevance and quality;
10. Like the Master of Archaeology, is capable of analyzing archaeological literature in terms of data and/or artifact interpretation and arguments and conclusions, and of assessing the interpretative and argumentative merits of said literature;
11. Like the Master of Archaeology, is capable of analyzing and interpreting archaeological data using modern (digital) techniques and instruments;
12. Like the Master of Archaeology, is capable of adequately applying and integrating images into a presentation so as to clarify and/or strengthen their argumentation (and vice versa).
13. Like the Master of Archaeology, is capable of taking criticism in a constructive and business-like manner and where necessary can revise their own previous position and is, in addition, capable of criticising the research of others in the same way;
14. Is, in addition, capable of writing an academic report on their own research/fieldwork in academic English, ultimately culminating in a substantiated personal position and recommendations for further research, with the potential of being published;
15. Is, in addition, capable of presenting a clear oral report to a public of international specialists and peers, in at least academic English;
16. in addition, is capable of functioning independently in academic networks or teams.

Dissemination and Teaching Activities

The graduate:

17. Like the Master of Archaeology, has the ability to convey research data and interpretations together with corresponding theoretical and methodological approaches to an audience of non-specialists, both orally and in writing;
18. Is, in addition, capable of reflecting on the ethical-social aspects of Archaeology and is able to debate the latest archaeological developments and their significance to society, the field of Archaeology and their own research, and can communicate and discuss this from an international globalizing perspective;
19. Is, in addition, capable of assisting archaeological education at Bachelor's level, under supervision of the lecturer and primarily in the teaching of academic and study skills (tutorship).

Article 2.4 Structure of the programme

The programme offers full-time tuition.

The nominal duration of the full-time programme is 2 years.

Article 2.5 Study load

The programme has a study load of 120 ECTS credits.

Article 2.6 Start of the programme; uniform structure of the academic year

The programme starts on 1 September and on 1 February of each year. In terms of regular courses, the programme is based on the university semester system and comprises 42 teaching weeks.

Article 2.7 Final examinations of the programme

The programme is concluded with a master's final examination.

Article 2.8 Language of instruction

2.8.1 Subject to the Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction and Examination,⁶ the language(s) in which the instruction is given is: English, and the language in which the examinations and final examinations are held is: English. Students are expected to have an adequate command of the language(s) of instruction and examination in the programme, in accordance with the requirements stated in Article 5.2.3. As appropriate, the Faculty publishes OER in English for English-taught programmes.

2.8.2 Contrary to Article 2.8.1, in individual cases the Board of Examiners can permit the student to write the final thesis in another language, in accordance with the Guideline on Language Policy.⁷

⁶ [Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction, Article 4](#)

⁷ [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

Article 2.9 **Quality**

The programme is accredited by NVAO⁸ and meets the national and international quality requirements for degree programmes. The programme's teaching also meets the quality standards for teaching set out in the Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document.

⁸ [The Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders.](#)

Chapter 3 Curriculum

Article 3.0 Exceptions due to *force majeure* situations

3.0.1 If it is not possible, due to a crisis or other *force majeure* circumstances, to provide or take part in components as set out in the OER or the Prospectus, changes will be announced by the authorised body in due time. Such changes will be announced in any case in Brightspace, or alternatively a statement will be made in Brightspace regarding which other medium will be used to communicate about this. A crisis is understood to mean a crisis as defined in Article 1 of the Leiden University Regulations on Crisis Management Coordination.

Article 3.1 Compulsory components

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components worth a total study load of 110 ECTS credits. These compulsory components include the set components from which students are obliged to choose.

3.1.2 The Prospectus further specifies the actual structure of the programme, the study load, level,⁹ content, method of examination, and structure of the components of the curriculum.

Article 3.2 Optional components

3.2.1 In addition to the components referred in 3.1.1, the student selects components worth a total study load of 10 ECTS.

3.2.2 The Board of Examiners must approve the student's selection of components.

3.2.3 In addition to the components taught at this university, and subject to the approval of the Board of Examiners, students may also select components offered by other Dutch or foreign universities, or components offered by another legal entity offering accredited undergraduate higher education programmes.

3.2.4 Students who are enrolled in the programme may assemble their own curriculum of components that are taught by an institution, as long as these are concluded with a final examination. They will require the permission of the most appropriate Board of Examiners. When granting such permission, the Board of Examiners also indicates to which University programme the curriculum is considered to belong.¹⁰ If necessary, the Executive Board designates a Board of Examiners to take this decision.

Article 3.3 Practical assignments

3.3.1 For each component, the Prospectus specifies which practical assignments are included, the nature and scope of the student's workload for these practical assignments and whether participation

⁹ [In accordance with the 'abstract structure', as described in the Framework Document of the Leiden University Register of Study Programmes.](#)

¹⁰ In accordance with Article 7.3j of the WHW ('free curriculum in higher education').

in these is a condition of admission to (other parts of) the examination. The Board of Examiners may exempt students from a practical assignment, in which case the Board can choose to apply alternative conditions.

3.3.2 The Prospectus specifies the scope and study load of the thesis/final paper/final report/final programme assignment, including the requirements that the final thesis/final paper/final report/final programme assignment must meet.

Article 3.4 **Taking part in components and sitting examinations**

3.4.1 **Taking part in components**

3.4.1.1 Students must register for the component according to the applicable enrolment protocol.¹¹ This means that students register for a component in MyStudymap, ticking the activities in which they want to participate (lecture, tutorial, practical assignment and examination). Registration is possible until no later than five calendar days before the start of the component. For some components, the term stipulated in the component's description in the Prospectus and in Article 3.4.1.2 applies. A different term applies for registration for the examination, as stipulated in Article 3.4.2.

3.4.1.2 In the case of a component with restrictions on the number of participants, participation takes place in order of enrolment. For students enrolled in the programme, timely enrolment guarantees placement in the components that form part of the mandatory curriculum of the programme.

3.4.1.3 Contrary to Article 3.4.1.1, a different enrolment period (fourteen days or twenty-eight calendar days) may apply to certain components, if approved by the Faculty Board. The relevant components and the corresponding enrolment term can be found in the Prospectus.

3.4.1.4 Students who have not enrolled on time can report to the Education Administration Office of the faculty of which the study programme is part. The relevant enrolment protocol specifies the circumstances on the basis of which students may be enrolled contrary to Article 3.4.1.1.

3.4.2 **Sitting examinations and constituent examinations**

3.4.2.1 In order to sit the examination or constituent examination, students are required to register no later than ten calendar days before the start of the examination or constituent examination.

3.4.2.2 In order to take the resit of the same component in the current academic year, students are required to register no later than five calendar days before the start of the examination or constituent examination. This term also applies for the situation referred to in Article 4.6.2.

3.4.2.3 Students who have not registered for the examination on time according to the applicable enrolment protocol may report to the Education Administration Office of the faculty of which the programme forms part. The relevant enrolment protocol specifies the circumstances on the basis of which students may be registered contrary to Articles 3.4.2.1 and 3.4.2.2.

¹¹ [Course and examination enrolment – Leiden University](#)

Article 3.5 **Distribution of study materials**

3.5.1 Students are not permitted to take photographs or make audio or video recordings of lectures or education-related meetings, including the feedback sessions after examinations (including examination assignments and model answers), without the explicit prior permission of the relevant lecturer. Should such permission be granted, students are only legally permitted to use the photograph or recording for their own use; all forms of distribution or publication of the photograph or recording are prohibited. A student has no independent control over these materials, unless the University has explicitly granted this to the student.

3.5.2 Students are prohibited from all forms of distribution or publication of study materials. The materials are for students' own use only.

3.5.3 Students are prohibited from infringing the intellectual property rights of the University, third parties or the person with whom licensing agreements were made.

Chapter 4 Examinations, Final Examinations and Further Education

Article 4.0 Exceptions due to *force majeure* situations

4.0.1 If it is not possible, due to a crisis or other *force majeure* circumstances, to offer examinations and final examinations in the form and at the point in time set out in the OER or the Prospectus, changes will be announced by the authorised body in due time. Such changes will be announced in any case in Brightspace, or alternatively a statement will be made in Brightspace regarding which other medium will be used to communicate about this. A crisis is understood to mean a crisis as defined in Article 1 of the Leiden University Regulations on Crisis Management Coordination.

Article 4.1 Frequency of examinations

4.1.1 Examinations are held twice during the academic year for each component offered in that academic year. The Board of Examiners determines the manner of resit takes place for practical assignments.

4.1.2 The Faculty Board is responsible for the practical organisation of the examinations and final examinations and ensures, if necessary by means of invigilation, that the examinations and examinations proceed properly. If online proctoring is used, this is done according to the [Online Proctoring Protocol](#).

4.1.3 If a component includes a practical assignment, students may only sit the examination as referred to in 4.1.1 if they have passed the practical assignment, unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise.

4.1.4 If the grade for a component results from several constituent examinations, it is possible to vary from the number of examinations and resits as referred to in 4.1.1, on the understanding that students are given the opportunity to pass the component during the second exam opportunity by taking an examination that is representative of the component. If applicable, this is specified in the Prospectus. Compensation of constituent exams is only possible if the constituent exam is graded with at least a 5.0.

4.1.5 In accordance with Article 7.13 (2) (h) of the Act, the Prospectus specifies the dates of the examinations.

4.1.6 At a student's request the Board of Examiners may in exceptional circumstances diverge from the provisions of Article 4.1.1 and allow an additional resit.

4.1.7 During a master's programme, students may resit one examination that they passed. The Board of Examiners may diverge from this stipulation in exceptional, individual cases and at the student's request. A resit of an examination that was passed can only take place in the same academic year as the original examination. In the event of such a one-time resit, the highest result obtained applies.

The examination referred to in the first sentence may consist of a number of constituent examinations. Registration for this examination should take place in accordance with Articles 3.4.1.1 and 3.4.2.2.

4.1.8 The following are excluded from the resit option as referred to in Article 4.1.7:

- Oral examinations
- Practical assignments
- Examinations that the student passed at a different institution than Leiden University

4.1.9 If a component is included in multiple programmes, the student is only granted one opportunity to resit an examination that they previously passed for this component.

Article 4.2 **Obligatory sequence**

4.2.1 The Prospectus specifies the sequence in which examinations must be taken. Students may only sit examinations that are subject to a compulsory sequence once they have passed the examinations for one or more other components.

4.2.2 For the components and their attendant examinations which must be completed in a given sequence, the Board of Examiners may in special cases, and following a substantiated written request by the student, agree to an alternative sequence.

Article 4.3 **Form of examination**

4.3.1 The Prospectus states the method of examination. It indicates whether the examination or constituent examinations for a component take the form of a written, digital or oral examination, or a combination of these, or is completed in another way. Established forms of examination may only be modified in exceptional cases by the Board of Examiners, in consultation with the examiner. Any changes must not affect the learning objectives of the course component.

4.3.2 The procedure during examinations and the guidelines and instructions, as referred to in Article 7.12b (1) (b) of the Act, for assessing and establishing the results of examinations and final examinations are described in the 'Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners'.

4.3.3 Students with a disability or chronic medical condition are given the opportunity to apply for individual examination arrangements adjusted to their particular disability or condition. These arrangements may not affect the quality or level of difficulty of the examination. If necessary, the Board of Examiners seeks expert advice, as referred to in the Protocol on Studying with a Disability,¹² before reaching a decision.

4.3.4 In special cases, the Board of Examiners may, at the request of the student and within the scope of the OER, permit a student to sit an examination in another manner than specified in the Prospectus.

¹² [Protocol on Studying with a Disability](#)

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4.3.5 Examinations are held in the language(s) of instruction for this programme that are specified in the OER. At the request of the student, the Board of Examiners may permit a student to sit an examination in another language.

Article 4.4 Oral examinations

4.4.1 Students take oral examinations individually, unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise.

4.4.2 Oral examinations are public, unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise owing to special circumstances, or unless the student has reservations.

Article 4.5 Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners

4.5.1 In accordance with Article 7.12b (3) of the Act, the Board of Examiners establishes rules concerning the performance of its tasks and responsibilities and the measures it can take in the event of fraud.

4.5.2 The Board of Examiners is responsible for ensuring that the right of students to appeal against decisions of the Board of Examiners or the examiners is guaranteed.

Article 4.6 Assessment

4.6.1 The examiner determines the grade as soon as possible after an oral examination has been conducted. The student receives a message about the grade via the University study progress system.

4.6.2 The examiner determines the grade of any written or other form of examination or constituent examination within fifteen working days of the day on which the examination or constituent examination was held. The result is notified to the student within the same fifteen working days. The final grade is recorded in the University study progress system, and the student receives a message about it via that system. The student will be informed of the result at least five working days before the next opportunity to resit the relevant examination. If this deadline is not met, the resit can be postponed. Longer terms apply to internship reports and final projects, which are specified in the Rules and Regulations by the Board of Examiners, Article 4.10.1.

4.6.3 If the examiner is unable to comply with the periods of fifteen and five working days respectively, as specified in Article 4.6.2, the student is notified accordingly in a message sent to the student's u-mail address before this term expires. This message includes the (latest) date by which the student will be informed of the result.

4.6.4 The examination result is expressed as a whole number or a number to a maximum of one decimal place, between and including 1.0 and 10.0. The result of the examination is not expressed as a number between 5.0 and 6.0. Examination results for courses taken abroad after 1 September 2025 will be expressed and registered in uSis as 'pass' or 'fail', which means these grades will not count towards the weighted average at Leiden University. Results for courses completed before 1 September 2025 but

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submitted for registration after academic year 2025-2026 will also be expressed and registered as 'pass' or 'fail' and will therefore not count towards the weighted average at Leiden University.

4.6.5 The examination result is considered to be a pass if it is 6.0 or higher.

4.6.6 If students must complete a practical assignment to be permitted to sit an examination, the Board of Examiners may decide that students have sat the examination once they have passed the practical assignments.

4.6.7 Together with the written or electronic notification of examination results, students are also informed of their right to inspect their graded examination papers, as referred to in Article 4.8, as well as of the appeals procedure.

4.6.8 The Board of Examiners may draw up rules that specify under which conditions it may exercise its power as specified in Article 7.12b (3) of the Act to determine that students do not have to pass every examination and/or under which conditions the results of constituent examinations can compensate for each other. These rules are specified in the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners and are, if applicable, specified in the course description in the Prospectus.

Article 4.7 Period of validity of examinations

4.7.1 The Faculty Board can limit the period of validity of an examination pass. The Board of Examiners may, however, extend the period of validity in individual cases. The period of validity of an examination pass can only be limited if the examined knowledge, understanding or skills are demonstrably outdated.

4.7.2 The Board of Examiners may, in accordance with the criteria specified in the Rules and Regulations and at the request of the student, extend the validity of examinations for a period to be specified by the Board itself. In the event of special circumstances in the sense of Article 7.51 (2) of the Act, the Board of Examiners will act in accordance with the pertinent provisions in Article 7.10 (4) of the Act.

4.7.3 The validity period referred to in 4.7.1 starts on 1 September of the academic year following that in which the grade was obtained or the exemption granted.

Article 4.8 Inspection and feedback session

4.8.1 Students are entitled to inspect and receive feedback on their graded examination within a maximum period of 30 calendar days following the publication of the results of a written or digital examination, and in any case before the second exam opportunity takes place

4.8.2 During the period referred to in 4.8.1, students may inspect the examination questions and assignments, as well as the grading schemes used to grade the examination.

4.8.3 The time and manner of the inspection and feedback session on the examination are specified in the Prospectus or the digital teaching environment.

4.8.4 The Board of Examiners is authorised to decide whether the inspection of the examination paper and the feedback session are to be collective or individual.

4.8.5 The examiner determines where and when the inspection of the examination paper and the feedback session will take place.

4.8.6 Students who are unable to attend the feedback session due to demonstrable circumstances beyond their control are granted another opportunity, if possible within the period referred to in 4.8.1.

Article 4.9 **Exemption from examinations and/or practical assignments**

At the student's request and after consultation with the examiner in question, the Board of Examiners may grant the student exemption from one or more examinations or practical assignments if the student:

- has completed a component at a research university or university of applied sciences that is similar in content and level to the component for which the student is requesting exemption, or
- has demonstrated, through relevant work or professional experience, that they have acquired sufficient skills and knowledge in relation to the component in question.

Article 4.10 **Final examination**

4.10.1 The Board of Examiners awards a degree certificate when there is sufficient proof that the final examination has been passed.

4.10.2 As part of the final examination, the Board of Examiners is entitled to conduct its own evaluation of the knowledge, understanding and skills of the examination candidate and assess the results.

4.10.3 The degree is only conferred once the Executive Board has declared that all procedural requirements (including the requirement to pay tuition fees) have been met. One degree certificate is awarded for each programme. The degree certificate states that the programme or specialisation was delivered by Leiden University.

4.10.4 Pursuant to the regulations referred to in Article 7.11 (3) of the Act, a student who is entitled to graduate may ask the Board of Examiners to postpone graduation, as long as the student has not exceeded the maximum period of enrolment of the nominal study duration plus one academic year for the programme in question.

4.10.5 This request must be submitted within five working days of the student receiving notification of their final examination results. In the request the student must indicate when they wish to receive the degree certificate.

4.10.6 The Board of Examiners may also approve the request if refusing it would result in a considerable injustice.

4.10.7 A supplement in Dutch and/or in English that conforms to the standard European Diploma Supplement format, including the grading table applicable for the degree programme, is attached to the degree certificate. In addition to the degree certificate, students are issued with a translation of the degree certificate and a certificate in Latin.

Article 4.11 **The degree**

4.11.1 The degree of Master of Arts or of Science is awarded to those who have passed the final examination.

4.11.2 The degree certificate specifies which degree has been awarded.

Article 4.12 **Degree classification**

4.12.1 The student is awarded a degree classification for the final examination.

4.12.2 The final degree classification is based on the weighted average of the grades obtained for all examinations that form part of the final examination, with the exception of the components for which an exemption was granted or for which the student only obtained a proof of attendance. Components completed from other programmes, including components followed abroad, must be approved by the Board of Examiners.

4.12.3 The weighted average of all grades is determined by multiplying the number of ECTS credits for each component by the grade awarded for this component, adding these together and then dividing the result by the number of credits earned.

4.12.4 Without prejudice to the provisions of 4.12.6 and 4.12.7, the degree certificate and diploma supplement include the 'cum laude' classification if the following conditions are met for the full-time programmes:

- the weighted average for all components is 8.0 or higher
- the grade for the final assignment of the master's programme is 8.0 or higher
- the examination was passed within the nominal duration of study + 1 year

The Board of Examiners sets corresponding conditions for part-time programmes, proportionate to the nominal duration of the study programme.

4.12.5 Without prejudice to the provisions of 4.12.6 and 4.12.7, the degree certificate and the diploma supplement include the 'summa cum laude' classification if the following conditions are met for the full-time programmes:

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- the weighted average for all components is 9.0 or higher
- the grade for the final assignment of the master's programme is 9.0 or higher
- the examination has been passed within the nominal duration of study

The Board of Examiners sets corresponding conditions for part-time programmes, proportionate to the nominal duration of the study programme.

4.12.6 The Board of Examiners may also decide to award a distinction in other, exceptional cases, on the condition that the weighted average grade does not differ by more than 0.5 from the grades stipulated in the fourth and fifth paragraphs above. This may involve such considerations as the student's development throughout the study programme, any exceptional performances on the part of the student in completing the final paper or thesis and any other relevant exceptional circumstances.

4.12.7 If a student has been subject to a disciplinary measure as a result of irregularity, fraud or plagiarism, as set out in the Rules and Regulations, a distinction will not be awarded, unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise.

Article 4.13 Further education

The degree awarded grants the holder access to a PhD programme.

Chapter 5 Admission to the programme as of September 2027 or February 2028

Article 5.1 Confirmation of admission

5.1.1 The Faculty Board provides confirmation of admission if the student meets the entry requirements specified in Articles 5.2 and 5.3. If the Executive Board has determined a maximum number of students for the programme, a confirmation of admission will be issued if the student meets the entry requirements and this maximum number is not exceeded.

5.1.2 Confirmation of admission must be requested according to the rules set out in the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.¹³

Article 5.2 Admission to the programme

5.2.1 Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act)¹⁴:

- a. A bachelor's degree in Archaeology, obtained at a university in the Netherlands;
- b. A bachelor's degree in Archaeology obtained at a university abroad, or an academic bachelor in a related field obtained at a university, provided the applicant has completed at least 60 EC of university-level coursework/fieldwork in Archaeology. This must include university-level knowledge and understanding in the following areas:
 - archaeology of one or more regions and/or periods; and/or
 - archaeological theory, concepts, data, and disciplinary development; and/or
 - methods for the collection, documentation, analysis, interpretation and academic reporting of archaeological data; and/or
 - the role of archaeology, archaeological collections, and heritage in contemporary society.

5.2.2 Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements or prescribed pre-master's requirement referred to in 5.2.1 may submit a request to the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 5.2.1 (a) and (b) or whether they meet this condition once additional requirements have been met.

The Board of Admissions assesses, where relevant, whether the applicant meets the qualitative selection requirements referred to in 5.2.4.

¹³[Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

¹⁴ Please note: *"In our system, a bachelor's degree generally grants access to master's programmes. No distinction is made between a bachelor's degree from a university of applied sciences and a bachelor's degree from a research university."* Parliamentary Papers II 31288, no. 1188, letter from the Minister of Education, Culture and Science on the approach to accessibility and progression in higher professional education and university education, 9 April 2025.

5.2.3 English and Dutch languages

5.2.3.1 As further clarification of Article 2.8 concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas or must meet the criteria of:

- An International Baccalaureate diploma from a programme taught in English (or an IB diploma with English A)
- A diploma of secondary or higher education completed in Australia, Canada (with the exception of French-taught programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa
- A diploma of an English-taught academic education (WO) programme completed at a Dutch university
- A diploma of an English-taught four-year higher professional education (HBO) programme completed at a Dutch university of applied sciences
- A pre-university education (VWO) diploma
- A diploma from a university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university or a Dutch University of Applied Sciences.

5.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 5.2.3.1, the language level can be demonstrated with one of the following tests:

- IELTS 6.5, where each separate constituent score must be at least 6.0;
- TOEFL (internet-based) 90, where each separate constituent score must be at least 20;¹⁵
- Cambridge English C2 Proficiency or C1 Advanced with an overall score of 180, where each separate constituent score must be at least 169.

At the time when the student applies for the programme, the test must have been taken no more than two calendar years previously.

5.2.3.3 Not applicable.

5.2.3.4 Not applicable.

5.2.4 Qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements)

5.2.4.1 In addition to the requirements specified in 5.2.1 or 5.2.2 or in derogation of the language requirement in 5.2.3, the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b (2) of the Act:

- An average grade over the BA2 and BA3 of at least 7.5 and bachelor's thesis graded with at least an 8.0. The thesis grade can be compensated with a higher average grade, but should at least be a 7.0.

Or:

- Completion of the first semester of the MA Archaeology (i.e. 25 EC minimum) with at least an 8.0 average.

¹⁵ [See also the comparison table: english-test-equivalencies.pdf \(universiteitleiden.nl\)](#)

And:

- Passed the selection interview in which the research proposal and the motivation of the student is assessed.

5.2.4.2 These qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements) will be measured or assessed according to the following method:

- An RMA interview;
- Research proposal: the proposal should be accompanied by an annotated bibliography of at least five (5) items, outlining the topic or field of research that the applicant wishes to pursue at Leiden University;
- Motivation letter: a well-argued and structured motivation letter in which the applicant:
 - indicates why they want to follow the research programme;
 - explains possible subjects for a research topic which is linked to the research of their preferred supervisor;
 - argues why the applicant is a good candidate for the research MA programme.The statement should be between 700 and 1,500 words;
- Form for supervisor choice (application form);
- CV;
- Overview of grades of BA2 and BA3;
- 2 reference letters.

The committee uses the motivation letter, reference letters and form for supervisor choice to make the best possible match between a candidate and a supervisor. If the preferred expertise is not present within the faculty, and no other match can be made, the candidate might be rejected.

5.2.4.3 Proof that the student meets the qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements) must be provided by the following deadline:

For September starters:

- 1 June if students also need to apply for a visa
- 15 June for all other students

For February starters:

- 1 December if students also need to apply for a visa
- 15 December for all other students

5.2.5 Capacity limitation

Not applicable.

Article 5.3 Deficiencies

5.3.1 Holders of a bachelor's degree from a research university, a related university bachelor's diploma as referred to in 5.2.1, point b or an equivalent diploma with a maximum of 15 ECTS of

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deficiencies, may be admitted to the programme, as long as it may reasonably be expected that they will meet the entry requirements within a reasonable period of time.

5.3.2 Students who still have the deficiencies referred to in 5.3.1 when admitted to the programme may participate in the programme but may not sit a final examination or any examinations that the Faculty Board has specified in its decision to grant admission.

5.3.3 For the admission referred to in 5.3.1 the Board of Admissions assembles a catch-up programme with examination opportunities.

5.3.4 If students are admitted to the programme on the basis of 5.3.1 and must sit examinations to meet the entry requirements, these are not considered part of the curriculum of the master's programme.

Article 5.4 **Pre-master's programmes and educational modules**

Not applicable.

Chapter 6 Student Counselling and Study Advice

Article 6.1 Study progress administration

6.1.1 The Faculty Board keeps records of the results achieved by individual students.

6.1.2 Students may inspect their results in the study progress system at any time.

Article 6.2 Introduction and student counselling

The programme is responsible for the introduction and student counselling.

Article 6.3 Supervision of the thesis/final paper/final report/final programme assignment

6.3.1 Together with the first reader, the student draws up a plan for the thesis/final paper/final report/final programme assignment as referred to in 3.3.2. This plan is based on the study load for this component, as specified in the Prospectus.

6.3.2 The plan referred to in 6.3.1 also specifies the frequency and manner of supervision.

Article 6.4 Top-level sport

Students who engage in top-level sport at a professional level are given the opportunity to adjust their study programme to their sporting activities wherever possible. The programme determines who falls within this category in line with the guidelines set out in Section III of the [Regulations on Financial Support for Students](#), drawn up by the Executive Board.

Article 6.5 Disability or chronic medical condition

Where possible, students with a disability or chronic medical condition are given the opportunity to adjust their study programme to the limitations resulting from their disability or chronic medical condition. The study programme can be adjusted to the individual disability or chronic medical condition of the student in question, but this must not affect the quality or level of difficulty of the components or the final examination curriculum itself.¹⁶

Article 6.6 Study and internships abroad

Special measures will be taken for students who suffer from a demonstrable delay in their studies as a result of study or an internship abroad that has been approved by the Board of Examiners, in order to limit the delay.

¹⁶[Protocol on Studying with a Disability](#)

Chapter 7 Evaluation of the Programme

Article 7.1 Evaluation of the programme

The education in the programme is evaluated as follows:

- course evaluations
- programme evaluation

The Programme Director will inform the Programme Committee about the outcomes of the evaluation.

Chapter 8 Final Provisions

Article 8.1 Amendments

8.1.1 Amendments to these regulations are adopted by a separate order of the Faculty Board, with the prior consent of the Faculty Council or the Programme Committee, depending on the topics concerned.

8.1.2 Amendments to these regulations which apply to a particular academic year must be adopted before the start of that year and published in the prescribed manner, unless earlier implementation of an amendment to the regulations is strictly necessary and, in all reasonableness, does not harm the students' interests.

8.1.3 Amendments to these regulations may not adversely affect any prior decision pertaining to students taken by the Board of Examiners on the basis of these regulations.

Article 8.2 Publication

The Faculty Board or Programme Board is responsible for publishing these regulations, the Rules and Regulations established by the Board of Examiners, and any amendments to these documents via the University website.

Article 8.3 Term of application

The Course and Examination Regulations apply for the duration of one academic year.

Article 8.4 Entry into force

These regulations enter into force on 1 September 2026.