



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2016

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Literary Studies (research)

These course and examination regulations have been drawn up in accordance with Section 7.13 of the Higher Education and Research Act [*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*] (WHW) (henceforth the Act) and additional quality marks as set out in the framework document Leiden University Register of Study Programmes [*Leids universitair register opleidingen*].

Pursuant to Section 7.14 of the Act the Faculty Board regularly evaluates the course and examination regulations and assesses, for the purpose of monitoring and, if necessary, adjusting the study load, the time it takes students to comply with the regulations. In conformity with Section 9.18 of the Act, the department teaching committee is assigned the task of annually assessing how the course and examination regulations are implemented.

These course and examination regulations consist of two sections: a general section that is the same for all programmes and a section that contains information that is specific to a particular programme. This programme-specific section forms a whole with the general section, and only contains the articles with content that is specific to a particular programme.

Contents

1. General Provisions
2. Description of the Programme
3. Curriculum
4. Examinations, Final Examination and Further Education
5. Admission to the Programme
6. Student Counselling and Study Advice
7. Transitional Provisions
8. Final Provisions

Appendices

Appendix D – Curriculum

Appendix E – E-prospectus (see <https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl>)

Article 2.1 **Objectives of the Programme**

The programme has the following objectives:

1. to broaden and deepen the students' knowledge, understanding and skills, and train them in the use of scientific methods in the field of Literary Studies;
2. to enable students to develop the following academic and professional skills:
 - the ability to solve academic problems independently, critically and creatively;
 - the ability to analyse complex problems;
 - the ability to clearly report academic results, both in writing and orally;
3. to prepare students for an academic career at a university for postgraduate programmes;
4. to prepare students for a non-academic career in the public or private sector for which advanced research skills and practical research experience are a prerequisite.

Article 2.2 **Specialisations**

Not applicable.

Article 2.3 **Achievement Levels**

Graduates of the programme have attained the following learning outcomes, listed according to the Dublin descriptors:

I. Knowledge and understanding

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work:

1. a thorough knowledge and understanding of Literary Studies, its central research questions and problems, and its basic concepts, research methods and techniques (notably analysis and interpretation), and the developments in the specialisation;
2. an in-depth knowledge of the relevant (inter)cultural contexts of production, dissemination and reception of literature. Graduates are conversant with various approaches to narrative, the literary representation and construction of identity, space and time, and with current debates on for instance modernity, hybridisation or secularism;
3. a thorough knowledge and understanding of the interdisciplinary aspects of the program, both in relation to Arts and Culture, History, Social Sciences, and other related fields, as Literary Studies are understood here as a broad, interdisciplinary, intermedial and intercultural field of inquiry into textual cultural and artistic practices.

II. Applying knowledge and understanding

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

1. define a research topic, formulate research questions and identify an object of inquiry (a corpus of literary texts, images and texts or cultural practices) that will allow them to answer these research questions in a way that conforms with current scholarly practices in Literary Studies;
2. select an appropriate body of theory for the analysis and interpretation of the object of inquiry, so that innovative answers to the research question can be given;
3. bring analysis and theory into critical interaction, that is: the object of inquiry is clarified and problematized by the concepts and methods, and the concepts and methods applied are clarified and problematized by the object of inquiry;
4. understand the social dimensions of both the researched literary or cultural practice and the theoretical approaches to it;

5. contribute creative solutions to on-going debates in the discipline, based on independent research and theoretical reflection.

III. *Making judgments*

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the capacity to:

1. critically evaluate their sources;
2. build an argument that leads to its conclusion in a clear, cogent and verifiable manner;
3. reflect critically on the role played by the graduates' personal points of view and interests;
4. include, in addition to theoretical aspects, social and ethical aspects, in the arguments that lead to the conclusion.

IV. *Communication*

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

1. formulate a clear and well-founded thesis, hypothesis and research questions, and to divide these into convenient and manageable parts;
2. give a clear, systematic and well-founded oral or written report of the state of the art in their research field, the selected object of inquiry and the concepts and theories used;
3. write grammatically correct English, according to the conventions of a specific style (e.g. MLA).

V. *Learning skills*

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

apply learning skills that allow them to initiate and conduct a research project with a great degree of independence and autonomy, under expert national or international supervision. This means that graduates:

- have articulated the research question or thesis independently;
- have conducted relevant bibliographical research;
- have drawn up a realistic research plan.

Article 2.5 **Study Load**

The programme has a study load of 120 credits.

Article 2.8 **Language of Instruction**

In compliance with the Code of Conduct regarding Language of Instruction [*Gedragscode voertaal*¹] the language of instruction and examination of the programme is English. Students are expected to have an adequate command of the language of instruction of the programme.

Article 3.1 **Compulsory Components**

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components totalling a study load of 120 credits. These compulsory components include the optional courses [*keuzevakken*] from which a student is obliged to choose. These compulsory components also include 10 credits for electives offered by the recognised national research schools.

Article 4.2 **Obligatory Order**

4.2.1 Not applicable.

¹ The Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction and Examination [*Gedragscode voertaal*] was adopted by the Executive Board on 28 May 2013 and can be found on the following website: [media.leidenuniv.nl/legacy/language of instruction.pdf](http://media.leidenuniv.nl/legacy/language%20of%20instruction.pdf).

Article 4.3 **Examination Formats**

4.3.7 Not applicable

Article 5.2 **Admission to the academic year 2016-2017 and following years**

5.2.1 Not applicable.

5.2.2 The Board of Admissions may, on request, grant admission to the programmes to persons who do not meet the requirements specified in 5.2.1 but who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board of Admissions that they possess an equal level of knowledge, understanding and skills as the holders of a degree specified in 5.2.1, possibly under conditions to be further determined, without prejudice to the requirements in 5.2.4.

5.2.4 Alongside the requirements specified in 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b, second paragraph, of the Act:

- have earned the degree of Bachelor at a university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic Bachelor's degree, or demonstrate to meet the requirements for such a degree, including the General Academic Skills listed in Appendix C; and
- have affinity with and suitability for scholarly research, demonstrated by good grades comparable with an average mark of at least 7.5 (Dutch grading system) for their entire bachelor's programme, and a grade for the bachelor's thesis of an 8 or higher; and
- are sufficiently proficient in the language of instruction, to be assessed by the Faculty Board (English IELTS 7.0, TOEFL 100 (internet-based) or Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE); for the 'writing' and 'reading' components a minimum score of IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 25 is required); and
- have earned a bachelor's degree in Comparative Literature/Literary Studies or in a specific Language and Culture (Dutch, English, French, German, Italian etc.); and
- have sufficient knowledge of the language of their specialisation in order to be able to read texts (at least Common European Framework B1).

5.2.5 If the Executive Board has determined a maximum capacity for the programme, the order of admission will be determined by the qualitative admission requirements as referred to in Article 5.2.4 and Appendix F.

Article 5.4 **Bridging Programmes (Premasters)**

Not applicable.