



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2020

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: International Relations

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:

- the Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document;
- the Academic Calendar;
- the Regulations for Student Registration, Tuition Fees and Examination Fees;
- the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.

Pursuant to Article 7.14 of the Act, the Faculty Board regularly evaluates the Course and Examination Regulations and considers, for the purpose of monitoring and adjusting the study load, how much time it takes students to comply. In accordance with Article 9.18 of the Act, the departmental committee is assigned the task of annually assessing the implementation of the OER.

These Course and Examination Regulations consist of two sections:

- a faculty section that is the same for all programmes and
- a section that contains information that is specific to a particular programme, what is known as the programme-specific section of the Course and Examination Regulations.

In the text below the relevant articles will refer to this section.

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Chapter 2 Description of the Programme

Article 2.1 Objectives of the programme

The programme has the following objectives:

1. to enable students to acquire academic knowledge, understanding and skills, and train them in the use of scientific methods in the field of International Relations;
2. to enable students to develop the following academic and professional skills:
 - independent academic reasoning and conduct,
 - 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 and further education;
4. to prepare students for a career outside academia.

Article 2.2 Specialisations

The programme has the following specialisations:

- Culture and Politics
- European Union Studies
- Global Conflict in the Modern Era
- Global Order in Historical Perspective
- Global Political Economy

Article 2.3 Learning outcomes

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

1. Knowledge and understanding

- a. Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of
 - the contemporary and historical dimension, the evolution and interdependency of bilateral and multilateral relations among states and non-state actors,
 - the importance of government institutions and frameworks for the development of these relations,
- b. and the main areas and issues of current global and regional politics and international relations. knowledge of the main academic terminology, theories and paradigms pertaining to the past, present and future of current global issues and politics, with a special focus on ideas and approaches related to the humanities.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding

- a. the ability to locate, analyse and critically assess primary documents emanating from relevant sources and secondary (academic) sources, relating to areas and issues relevant to International Relations, including the process of European integration;
- b. the ability to conduct independent multi-disciplinary research and to formulate and conduct substantial pieces of academic research (including a master's thesis) in the field of humanities-based International Relations, thereby showing the ability to comprehend and apply relevant theoretical insights and methodological approaches;
- c. with regard to major regional and global areas and issues, the ability to successfully transfer and apply research to non-academic settings and environments;

- d. the ability to initiate and conduct research into the relevant areas and issues of regional and global politics, economics and culture;
- e. the ability to follow and understand the evolution of academic and non-academic discussions on the complex interdependency of national, regional and global politics;
- f. the ability to apply and evaluate qualitative and, if applicable, quantitative methods to the relevant contexts.

3. Judgement

- a. the ability to independently and critically evaluate evidence and sources relating to the variety and interdependency of areas and issues of regional and global economics, politics and culture;
- b. the ability to evaluate the historical, political, economic and cultural factors that shape the interests and behaviour of major state and non-state actors in the contemporary world, including the European Union;
- c. the ability to recognise, reflect upon and judge between different academic opinions and arguments on the complexity and interrelationship of contemporary politics, cultures and economics.

4. Communication

- a. the ability to clearly and convincingly present academically-supported arguments and analyses with respect to the evolution of relations among states, international organisations and non-state actors before peer-group and professional audiences both orally and in writing;
- b. the ability to present research in the relevant areas and issues.

5. Learning skills

- a. the learning abilities required to be able to follow post-master's professional training or a PhD training of a largely self-determined or autonomous nature.

In addition to the above programme-wide achievement levels, graduates will have obtained the following achievement levels per specialisation:

Specialisation in European Union Studies

1. Knowledge and understanding

- a. comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the main policy areas (including external policies), institutions and decision-making procedures of the European Union);
- b. knowledge of the main academic paradigms and theories pertaining to the past, present and future evolution of the process of European integration;
- c. knowledge and understanding of the problem areas of the European Union, including issues such as foreign and security policy, relations with neighbouring countries, economic and monetary union, institutional reform, agricultural and rural policy, cultural policy.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding

- a. the ability to critically analyse primary documents emanating from the European Union and other relevant sources that relate to the European Union and its member states;
- b. the ability to follow the evolution of academic and non-academic discussions on European Union policy issues.

3. Judgement

- a. the ability to evaluate evidence and sources relating to the European Union and its member states;
- b. the ability to assess different academic opinions and arguments about European issues;
- c. the ability to evaluate policies of the European Union and its member states.

Specialisation in Culture and Politics

1. Knowledge and understanding

- a. comprehensive knowledge and understanding of theories and methods in the humanities whereby culture is analysed;

- b. knowledge of the paradigms through which mainstream IR scholarship has traditionally approached the study of culture, with a special focus on studies of “identity”;
- c. knowledge of areas where governments attempt to make practical use of culture.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding

- a. the ability to analyse cultural works and practices (e.g. movies, literature, music, comics and cartoons, games, ceremonies) to show how meaning about cross-border phenomena is produced, circulated, and maintained through culture.
- b. the ability to expound, problematize, and/or critique mainstream IR’s reliance on “thin” concepts of culture in the study of concepts such as “identity.”
- c. the ability to provide informed commentary and critique on government policy that claims to use “culture,” particularly in spheres such as nation branding and public diplomacy.

3. Judgement

- a. the ability to recognise and select cultural texts that are—broadly speaking—relevant to politics and international relations and to deploy methods of analysis that go beyond descriptive analysis.
- b. the ability to evaluate “identity” as a force shaping the interests and behaviour of major state and non-state actors in the contemporary world;
- c. the ability to recognise, reflect upon and judge between different academic opinions and arguments about government uses of “culture.”

Specialisation in Global Conflict in the Modern Era

1. Knowledge and understanding

- a. comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the main terminology, concepts and issues in the debate about conflict, peace and security since the nineteenth century.
- b. knowledge of the main academic paradigms and theories pertaining to the past, present and future evolution of conflict, peace and security;
- c. Knowledge of the main methods used in the investigation of conflict, peace and security in the modern era.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding

- a. the ability to critically analyse primary and secondary documents related to conflict writ large;
- b. the ability to follow the evolution of academic and non-academic discussions issues related to conflict, peace and security.
- c. the ability to comprehend and apply relevant theoretical insights and methodological approaches in the field of conflict, peace and security.

3. Judgement

- a. the ability to evaluate evidence and sources relating to conflict, peace and security;
- b. the ability to assess different academic opinions and arguments about conflict, peace and security;
- c. the ability to evaluate policies conflict, peace and security.

Specialisation in Global Order in Historical Perspective

1. Knowledge and understanding

- a. Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the processes behind the evolution of the global order, the pursuit of global justice and the variety of ethics, ideologies, institutions and norms that underpin the international political system;
- b. Knowledge and engagement with different trajectories of states, organizations and peoples, examining how they are manifested in power relations and interact at different points across time to order the world;
- c. Knowledge of how power relations are structured, from the great power politics of global governance, to diplomatic culture in regional and national perspectives through regional and transnational groupings.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding

- a. The ability to critically analyse primary sources relating to institutions, nation-states, transnational organisations and NGOs;
- b. The ability to apply a solid historical knowledge to current affairs and international politics.

3. Judgement

- a. The ability to critically evaluate evidence on issues relating to global order;
- b. The ability to dissect how institutions and systems of power are created modified and evolve over time;
- c. The ability to review and assess different opinions and discourses about the system of global governance.

Specialisation in Global Political Economy

1. Knowledge and understanding

- a. Knowledge and understanding of salient properties of the world economy and the social relations and institutional arrangements that have shaped its development;
- b. Knowledge of key concepts, leading theories, and major debates concerning the past, present and future development of world economy and their practical and normative implications;
- c. Knowledge and understanding of the determinants of variation in the world economy, particularly with respect to patterns of economic growth, inequality, and human well-being;
- d. Knowledge and understanding of actors and institutions that have shaped the organization and operation of the world economy and which have influenced and conditioned its regional, national, and local effects; including states, firms, international organizations, and civil society actors, among others
- e. Knowledge and understanding of theoretical and research methods used for linking the analysis of the world economy to regional, national, and local contexts;

2. Applying knowledge and understanding

- a. The ability to locate, analyse and critically assess data and documents from official, academic, and other sources relevant to the analysis of the world economy;
- b. The ability to organize and order analyses from diverse disciplinary and theoretical perspectives in the exploration of a variety of global political economy themes;
- c. The ability to understand and engage debates on various aspects of global political economy, both within and outside academia, and across a variety of global settings;

3. Judgement

- a. The ability to explore rival hypotheses concerning the development of the world economy and its bearing on patterns of social change across and within countries;
- b. The ability to evaluate evidence relating to various aspects of global political economy across diverse geographical and historical contexts;
- c. The ability to evaluate the assumptions, interests, ideologies, and differential capacities of a diverse array of actors impinging on the development of the world economy and its regional, national, and local effects, including states, firms, international organizations, and civil society actors, among others;

Article 2.5 Study load

The programme has a study load of 60 credits.

Article 2.8 Language of instruction

2.8.1. Subject to the Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction¹ the language in which the instruction is given and in which the examinations and final examinations are held is English. Students are expected to have an adequate command of the language of instruction and examination in the programme, in accordance with the requirements stated in Article 5.2.3.

¹ [Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction](#)

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.²

Chapter 3 Curriculum

Article 3.1 Compulsory components

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components worth a total study load of 60 credits. These compulsory components include the set components from which a student is obliged to choose.

Chapter 4 Examinations, Final Examination and Further Education

Article 4.2 Obligatory sequence

4.2.1 Students may only sit examinations and, if indicated, participate in class of the following components once they have passed the examination of the preceding components specified below:

<i>Component:</i>	<i>Participation in class and examination after passing:</i>
MA Thesis	Thesis Seminar and Methods in International Relations Research

Article 4.3 Form of examination

4.3.5 Not applicable.

Chapter 5 Admission to the Programme

Article 5.2 Admission to the programme

5.2.1 Not applicable.

5.2.2 Pursuant to Article 7.30b (1) of the Act persons may be granted admission to (the indicated specialisation(s) of) the programme, if they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Faculty Board that they meet the following admission requirements, without prejudice to the requirements specified in 5.2.4:

- a bachelor's degree from a research 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 B, and
- the bachelor's degree is in the field of social sciences, humanities, law or economics, and
- in addition, applicants must meet the following specific requirements per specialisation:

Specialisation European Union Studies

- a completed minor in European Union Studies at Leiden University or components worth at least 30 credits in the field of contemporary European studies with comparable content and course objectives.

Applicants in possession of a Bachelor's degree from a university of applied sciences, equivalent to the level of a Dutch HBO bachelor's degree, in the field of economics, history, political science (and international relations), law or European Studies can apply for admission to European Union Studies but are not directly admissible and may be referred to the premaster programme, see Article 5.4.

² [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

Specialisations (a) Culture and Politics; (b) Global Conflict in the Modern Era and (c) Global Order in Historical Perspective

- prior education must include components worth at least 30 EC that are comparable in level, content and course objectives to the following courses of the bachelor's programme International Studies at Leiden University:
 - Global History (5 EC)
 - Introduction to Area Studies/Introduction to International Studies (5 EC)
 - Cultural Interaction: a Global Perspective (5 EC)
 - International Economics/Global Political Economy (5 EC)
 - International Politics/International Relations (5 EC)
 - Politics of a specific area (i.e. Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America, Russia and Eurasia, South and Southeast Asia) (5 EC)

Specialisation Global Political Economy:

- prior education must include components worth at least 30 EC that are comparable in level, content and course objectives to the following courses of the bachelor's programme International Studies at Leiden University:
 - Global History (5 EC)
 - Introduction to Area Studies/Introduction to International Studies (5 EC)
 - Cultural Interaction: a Global Perspective (5 EC)
 - International Economics/Global Political Economy (5 EC)
 - International Politics/International Relations (5 EC)
 - Politics of a specific area (i.e. Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America, Russia and Eurasia, South and Southeast Asia) (5 EC)
 - Prior education must include components on International Economics and/or International Political Economy worth at least 20 EC

See the Prospectus of the BA International Studies for more information about the content and objectives of these courses (<https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl/en/>).

Applicants are required to demonstrate in their application that they have completed components worth at least 30 EC in total that are comparable to the courses mentioned above.

Applicants for the specialisations (a) ***Culture and Politics***; (b) ***Global Conflict in the Modern Era***; (c) ***Global Order in Historical Perspective*** and (d) ***Global Political Economy*** who hold a bachelor's degree in a relevant field, as indicated above, but are unable to demonstrate via their academic record that they meet the specific requirements set per specialisation, are required to submit a 1,250 word essay as part of the admission process:

- in this essay they must demonstrate a clear affinity with and specific knowledge of International Relations in general and specifically in the field of the specialisation for which they apply,
- specifically, the essay must clearly answer an original research question, provide a reasonable and reasonably well organised argument that demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the essay topic, demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of historical and/or social science methods, critically engage with the additional reading specified on the website of the programme (<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/study-programmes/master/international-relations/admission-and-application>) and contain no fundamental errors.

Article 5.2.3 Dutch and English 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 (with English A);
- a diploma of secondary or higher education completed in the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia or Canada (with the exception of French-taught education in Canada);
- a diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- a pre-university education (VWO) diploma.

5.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 5.2.3.1, at least one of the following English language requirements for this master's programme can be set:

- English IELTS 7.0/TOEFL (Internet based) 100/ C2 Proficiency (former CPE) or C1 Advanced (former CAE) 185;
- for the 'speaking' and 'writing' components a minimum score of IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 25 is required;

5.2.3.3 Not applicable.

5.2.3.4 Not applicable.

The Faculty Board may request that applicants demonstrate an adequate command at this level. For more information on language tests and diplomas which are sufficient with regard to the required command of English please see <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/admission-and-application/masters/admission-requirements#language-requirements>.

Article 5.2.4 **Qualitative admission requirements**

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

- A good academic record as an indicator of academic excellence, demonstrated by an average grade of at least 7.0 (Dutch grading system), in the Bachelor programme.
- Other indicators of suitability for the MA programme such as practical experience (e.g. extensive internship experience that required policy input from the intern), successful completion of a BA honours programme, or substantial international work experience in an international field relevant to the programme International Relations, such as diplomacy, advocacy, organisation, or business.
- Demonstrable motivation to study and familiarity with the MA programme and the specific specialisation(s).

5.2.4.2 Where article 5.2.4.1 applies, the admission requirements will be implemented as follows:

- A: as evidenced by a transcript of records/grade list;
- B: to be demonstrated by the required CV and two reference letters (at least one from an academic staff member), and/or certificates of extracurricular activities relevant to the MA programme;
- C: to be demonstrated by a well-argued and structured motivation letter in which the applicant indicates why he/she wants to follow the (specific focus area/areas) of the MA programme and convincingly discusses what makes the applicant a good candidate for the MA programme, specifically listing the courses taken in International Studies including the course objectives and key readings. The statement should be between 700 and 1,500 words.

5.2.4.3 Where article 5.2.4.1 applies, the deadline for the admission requirements is as follows:

- The admissions assessment takes place twice a year in respect of the intake in September and February.

- Requests for admission to all specialisations must be submitted respectively before 1 April and 15 October. Given the selective nature of all specialisations, this deadline applies to all applicants.

For further information on the admission procedure and required application documents please see <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/admission-and-application/masters>.

5.2.5 Maximum capacity

5.2.5.1 The Executive Board has determined a maximum capacity for this programme. The order of admission will be determined by the qualitative admission requirements as referred to in Article 5.2.4. The maximum capacity set for this programme for the academic years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 is:

	Global Conflict in the Modern Era	Global Political Economy	Global Order in Historical Perspective	Culture and Politics	European Union Studies	Total
September	80	60	40	40	60	280
February	40	20	20	20	20	120
Total	120	80	60	60	80	400

5.2.5.2 Where article 5.2.5.1 applies, the method of selection on the grounds of the criteria will be as follows:

1. With regard to admission to the programme, the Admissions Board assesses the knowledge and skills of the applicants on the basis of the files they have submitted.
2. If necessary the Board can contact the applicant by mail or telephone at any time during the admission procedure in order to gain further information.
3. The Admissions Board decides on the basis of this assessment:
 - a. which applicants meet the entry requirements of the specialisation – if appropriate on the condition that they have been awarded their bachelor's degree in time – and can in principle be admitted;
 - b. which applicants cannot be admitted because they do not meet the requirements.
4. The Board ranks the suitability of the applicants in category a to the specialisation of the MA programme on the basis of the files they have submitted, having regard to the qualitative admission requirements as specified in article 5.2.4, and, if the Board has requested this, the further information provided by the applicant.
5. Students who have successfully completed the premaster programme European Union Studies, within one academic year, will be admitted to the Master Programme International Relations, specialisation European Union Studies.

5.2.5.3 Where article 5.2.5.1 applies, the deadlines for selection are as follows:

- Applicants who are placed in category b, as referred to in Article 5.2.5.2, point 4, receive a negative admissions decision by 1 June (September intake) or 15 December (February intake) at the latest.
- On the basis of the ranking as referred to Article 5.2.5.2 point 4, the Board issues a recommendation on 15 May (September intake) and 1 December (February intake) at the latest to the Faculty Board to admit the top ranking applicants to the respective specialisations of the programme, up to the numbers specified in article 5.2.5.1. These applicants receive a positive admissions decision on respectively 1 June and 15 December at the latest.
- The remaining applicants in category a are informed that they can in principle be admitted to the programme but that they have been placed on the waiting list and will not receive an admissions decision pending places becoming free. They are informed here of their position on the waiting list.

- Applicants who have received a positive admissions decision must express within two weeks of the date of the decision whether they will enrol on the programme. If an applicant does not indicate within this period whether he or she will take the place on the programme, the applicant at the top of the waiting list will receive a positive admissions decision.
- If the admissions assessment results in fewer applicants in category a than the maximum capacity of the programme, the Admissions Board can consider the requests that have been submitted after 1 April or 15 October. These requests will be considered in the order of arrival.

5.2.5.4 Where article 5.2.5.1 applies, the weighting of the criteria will be as follows:

Applicants are ranked in three groups A, B, and C:

A: An excellent candidate who meets all the admissions requirements: 1) Overall grades 7.5 and above (Dutch grading system). 2) Substantial extracurricular activities, professional/practical experience and international experience relevant to the programme. 3) An exemplary, original letter of motivation which demonstrates excellent motivation and suitability for the programme.

B: A good candidate who meets the admissions requirements: 1) Overall grades 7.0-7.4 (Dutch grading system). 2) Relevant extracurricular activities, professional/practical experience and international experience relevant to the programme. 3) Good letter of motivation which shows clear motivation and familiarity with the programme.

C: The applicant does not meet the qualitative admission requirements: 1) An average academic record (below 7.0, Dutch grading system). 2) No substantial extracurricular activities, professional/practical experience and international experience relevant to the programme. 3) A below standard letter of motivation.

Article 5.4 Premaster programmes

5.4.1 The programme has established the following premaster programmes in order to remove deficiencies.

Specialisation European Union Studies:

This premaster programme is intended for:

- students in possession of a Bachelor's degree from a university of applied sciences, equivalent to the level of a Dutch HBO bachelor's degree, in the field of economics, history, political science (and international relations), law or European Studies, with an average grade of at least 7.0 (Dutch grading system)
- students who have obtained a bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic bachelor's degree in the field of economics, history, political science (and international relations), law or European Studies (who do not meet the entry requirements).

Students who successfully complete this premaster programme will be admitted to the specialisation European Union Studies. Students can only start the premaster programme in September.

Semester	Course unit title	ECTS-Credits
I	The History of European Integration	5
I	Institutions of the European Union	5
I	The European Union Today	5
I	Academic Skills I Pre-Master	5
		20

II	The Political Economy of the European Union	5
II	Pre-master's thesis	10
	<i>Choice of two 5 EC electives</i>	10
		25
	Total study load premaster programme:	45

Specialisation European Union Studies:

The following bridging programme is intended for:

- students of the Bachelor programme European Studies from The Hague University of Applied Science [De Haagse Hogeschool], who meet the following requirements:
 - An average grade of 8 (out of 10) in the first three years of the programme;
 - Passing grades for the following courses (or an equivalent course)³:

Year 1

<i>The Cultural Dimension of Europe,</i>	3 EC
<i>The Business Dimension of Europe,</i>	3 EC
<i>The Political Dimension of Europe,</i>	3 EC
<i>Institutions of the EU,</i>	2 EC
<i>Introduction to Research Skills,</i>	3 EC

Year 2

<i>Contemporary European Politics,</i>	5 EC
<i>Decision Making in the EU,</i>	5 EC
<i>International Relations,</i>	5 EC
<i>European Public Policy,</i>	5 EC
<i>Advanced Research Skills,</i>	3 EC

Year 3

<i>The Legal Dimension of Europe,</i>	4 EC
<i>Research design for the Public & Private sector</i>	4 EC

The bridging programme will consist of the following courses:

- 2 electives (2x 5 EC) from the minor European Union Studies, offered by the Faculty of Humanities at Leiden University
 - A pre-master's thesis (10 EC)
- (Total study load bridging programme: 20 EC)

Students who successfully complete this bridging programme within the time stipulated will be admitted to the specialisation European Union Studies. This bridging programme is for students who intend to register for the MA International Relations: European Union Studies at Leiden University exclusively.

Students are required to successfully complete this programme within 6 months.

5.4.2 Information regarding the premaster/bridging programmes can be requested from the coordinator of studies of the programme.

³ Students who meet the aforementioned requirements are exempted from an English language test.

Chapter 7 Evaluation of the programme

Article 7.1 Evaluation of the programme

The programme is evaluated as follows:

- course evaluations
- programme evaluation

The Programme Committee advises the Programme Board based on the outcomes of the evaluation.