



Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2017

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Theology and Religious Studies

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;
- 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 with them. 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 Religious Studies;
2. to enable students to develop the following academic and professional skills:
 - independent academic reasoning and conduct,
 - the ability to analyse complex problems,
 - academic reporting;
3. to prepare students for an academic career and further education;
4. to prepare students for a career outside academia.

Article 2.2 Specialisations

Not applicable.

Article 2.3 Learning outcomes

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

- I. Knowledge and understanding
 - students have become familiar with the most important current debates on method and theory in the academic study of religion – amongst others the literary, historical, cognitive, and social scientific approaches;
 - students have gained knowledge and understanding of the impact of the Enlightenment and modernity on the religious field, and the subsequent development of new forms of religion – both individual and group-oriented – among others modernism and fundamentalism; and
 - students have gained knowledge and understanding of the mutual impact of globalization and religion, including the revision and transformation of (self-) understandings of religions and their practices, and the development of new religions due to global contacts, colonialism, and secularization.
- II. Applying knowledge and understanding:
 - students know how to apply a set of up-to-date analytical tools in the study of religious texts, religious beliefs, religious practices, religious traditions, and religious fields;
 - students can independently apply these analytical tools to the study of primary material (historical and contemporary) in the context of independent research projects; and
 - students can identify and analyze the interactions between religion and (post)modernity in comparative perspective in contemporary societies worldwide, the changes these bring about, and resistance with which these changes are often met.
- III. Judgment
 - students have the ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, to draw conclusions concerning the reliability of information provided by available sources including societal debates and media, and to offer suggestions for further research and arguments for solution of problems.

IV. Communication

- students have the ability to communicate conclusions of their research, as well as the knowledge and rational underpinning of these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences, clearly and unambiguously, both orally – using modern presentation techniques – and in writing.

V. Learning Skills

- students have refined their research skills enabling them to formulate an independent research problem with only minimal supervision, and to operationalize abstract theory by applying analytical methods to concrete empirical material;
- students have refined their cooperative skills, including giving and receiving good quality peer feedback, and preparing class discussions in groups;
- students have refined their skills for writing well-argued, academic papers in English; and
- students have refined their skills in oral discussion and debate in English.

Article 2.5 Study load

The programme has a study load of 60 credits.

Article 2.8 Language of instruction

In compliance with the Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction¹ 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.

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 Not applicable.

Article 4.3 Form of examination

4.3.7 Not applicable.

Chapter 5 Admission to the Programme

Article 5.2 Admission to the programme

5.2.1 Pursuant to Article 7.30b (1) of the Act holders of (one of) the following degrees may be admitted to (the indicated specialisation(s) of) the programme:

- Bachelor programme Theology (Leiden University)
- Bachelor programme Religious Studies (until 1 September 2014: World Religions) (Leiden University)

¹ <http://reglementen.leidenuniv.nl/gedragscodes/gedragscode-voertaal.html>.

- Bachelor programme Islamic Studies (until 1 September 2013: Islamic Theology) (Leiden University)

5.2.2 The Faculty Board may, on request, grant admission to (one or more of the specialisations of) the programme to applicants who do not meet the requirements as specified in 5.2.1 but who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Faculty Board that they possess a level of knowledge, understanding and skills equal to that of holders of a degree specified in 5.2.1, possibly under further conditions.

To be considered as holding a degree equal to the one specified in 5.2.1, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- 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 humanities or social sciences, and
- knowledge in the field of theology and/ or religious studies and history; and
- knowledge of the study of Christianity, Islam and/or Judaism; and
- knowledge of methodologies of either social sciences or history and/or philology; and
- the ability to reflect on current debates and developments regarding religion; and
- the ability to formulate problems and the skill to select the correct methodological approach as well as literature/data to analyse these problems.

Applicants may be asked to submit a writing sample, proving the aforementioned qualities in the field of knowledge, understanding and skills.

In addition, applicants who are in possession of a Bachelor's degree in Humanities or Social Sciences from Leiden University, and who have successfully completed the Leiden University minor 'Religion in a changing World', will be admitted to the programme.

For further information on the admission procedure and required application documents please see <http://www.students.leiden.edu/application-admission/master/application-admission/>.

5.2.3 As further clarification of Article 2.8 concerning the student's command of the language of instruction, the language requirement for this master's programme is English IELTS 7.0, TOEFL 100 (internet-based) or Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE).

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 <http://www.students.leiden.edu/application-admission/master/prospective/language-requirements.html>.

5.2.4 Not applicable.

5.2.5 Not applicable.

Article 5.4 Bridging programmes (Premasters)

5.4.1 The programme has established the following premaster programme(s) in order to remove deficiencies. The premaster programme is intended for applicants who have earned an academic Bachelor's degree from a research university, but who do not possess comparable qualities in the field of knowledge, understanding and skills listed under 5.2.1 and 5.2.2. They will be expected to fulfil a tailor-made premaster programme consisting of a maximum of 60 credits in order to meet these requirements.

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