



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2017

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Latin American Studies (research)

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 broaden and deepen the students' knowledge, understanding and skills, and train them in the use of scientific methods in the area of contemporary history, cultural and social analysis of Latin America and the Caribbean;
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 Learning outcomes

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

1. *Knowledge and understanding*

Graduates demonstrate in their written and oral work:

- a. A thorough knowledge and understanding of central research questions and debates in the field of Latin American Studies, with a special focus on knowledge of current debates on Latin American Modernities;
- b. A thorough knowledge and understanding of the interdisciplinary aspects of Latin American studies;
- c. For those who choose to accentuate fieldwork within the scope of the social studies: knowledge of its basic concepts, research methods and techniques and the developments in the specialization; or:
For those who choose to accentuate field work within the scope of Latin American cultural studies: knowledge of basic concepts, research methods and of text and discourse analysis.

2. *Applying knowledge and understanding*

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

- a. translate the acquired knowledge on key issues and the academic debates around them into relevant research questions, which in terms of content and scope can be studied in an independent research;
- b. have a thorough knowledge of up-to-date research methods used in the followed path and are able to operationalize this knowledge in an independent way into a concrete and feasible research design;
- c. contribute to the on-going debates on Latin American modernities through a case-study based on independent research and theoretical reflection;
- d. be sensitive towards the relationship between theory, method and place: understand the specificity of Latin American social and cultural dimensions of both the researched practice and the theoretical approaches to it;

- e. critically select, study and analyse literature relevant to the issues and problems presented by the curriculum and the research programmes in question;
- f. carry out independent research in Latin America and they possess the intercultural skills to work there with relevant individuals and institutions.

3. *Making judgements*

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

- a. critically evaluate their sources;
- b. build an argument that leads to its conclusion in a clear, cogent, and verifiable manner;
- c. make careful considerations about the academic merits and utility of academic arguments and of material that is at the basis of their research and subsequent final report;
- d. form a good judgment about the social, cultural and ethical aspects which should be taken into account when conducting and reporting about their research.

4. *Communication*

Graduates demonstrate the ability to:

- a. formulate a clear and well-founded hypothesis and research questions, and to divide these into convenient and manageable parts;
- b. produce 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;
- c. present their work for an audience of specialists in the field and non-specialists;
- d. write texts at a high scholarly standard in Spanish, Portuguese or English;
- e. to rework the results of the thesis in to an article for an academic journal and/or non-academic publications.

5. *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;
- possess the learning skills that enable them to pursue a follow-up study which demands a great amount of self-organization and self-sufficiency, such as writing a PhD thesis.

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 on the Language of Instruction¹ the languages of instruction and examination of the programme are English and Spanish. Students are expected to have an adequate command

¹ <http://reglementen.leidenuniv.nl/gedragcodes/gedragcode-voertaal.html>.

of the language(s) of instruction and examination in the programme, in accordance with the requirements stated in Article 5.2.4.

Chapter 3 Curriculum

Article 3.1 Compulsory components

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components worth a total study load of 120 credits. These compulsory components include the set components from which a student is obliged to choose. This includes the electives offered by the recognised national research schools, from which students choose electives totalling 10 ec.

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 Not applicable.

5.2.2 Not applicable.

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), and

Spanish/Portuguese

- Listening: Spanish CEFR B2,
- Reading: Spanish CEFR C1;
- Spoken interaction Spanish and/or Portuguese CEFR B2:
- Spoken production Spanish and/or Portuguese CEFR B2:
- Writing Spanish and/or Portuguese CEFR B2:

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 Pursuant to Article 7.30b (1) and (2) of the Act persons will be granted admission to the programme, if they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Faculty Board that they meet the following admission 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

- Candidates must have affinity with and suitability for scholarly research, demonstrated by the required research proposal*
- 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
- Candidates must possess knowledge of the fundamentals of area studies, literary studies, history and/or social sciences, demonstrable from a bachelor's thesis in which relevant literature and research are covered;

*All applicants are required to submit a "Research Proposal" of approximately 1000 words, 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, and indicating the names of one or two faculty members who might guide that research.

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

5.2.5 Maximum Capacity: not applicable

Article 5.4 **Bridging programmes (Premasters)**

5.4.1 Not applicable.