Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2018

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: African 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. 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 African studies;
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

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
The graduate has:
- Multidisciplinary knowledge of and insight into societies and cultures of Africa at an advanced level.
- A thorough understanding of the societal relevance of the study subject.
- General knowledge of and insight into current issues and debates within the overall field and main disciplines of African Studies (History, Politics, Economics, Geography, Culture Studies, Linguistics and Anthropology, insofar as relevant to African Studies).
- Advanced knowledge and understanding of the main theories, key concepts and methodological approaches and techniques of at least two of the following disciplines in relation to African Studies : Linguistics, Culture Studies, Anthropology, Geography, Political Science, History or Economics.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding
The graduate has:
- The ability to coherently understand knowledge insight of relevant issues in African Studies, key concepts, and research methods of the mentioned disciplines in African Studies and to apply this in independent research, as well as in other professional settings to complex problems.
- The technical and cognitive skills to collect, select, analyse and critically evaluate data and academic literature, in order to formulate and test working hypotheses and to formulate an answer to research questions.
- The ability to work with a complex body of sources of diverse nature and to report on this analysis either orally and/or in written form.
- The ability to develop a coherent and feasible research proposal.
- The ability to apply academic knowledge and insights to other professional domains, such as policy, development, business or journalism.
- The ability to develop, arrange and execute a project in an unfamiliar country, to liaise with various stakeholders of a different nature, and the ability to work in a (culturally) unfamiliar professional environment.

3. Ability to formulate judgements

The graduate is able to:
- Formulate judgements, based on a question or problem in the field of African Studies, even when the student has limited information due to lacunae in the data available
- Take into account social and cultural, academic and ethical aspects relevant to the analysis of complex questions and the formulation of judgements.
- Reflect on methodological, historical and ethical-social aspects of African Studies.

4. **Communication**
   Oral and written skills to clearly communicate the outcomes based on the student's own academic research, knowledge, motifs, and considerations to professionals as well as the broader public.

5. **Learning Skills**

The graduate:
- Has the learning skills to continue further study at a professional level or to start a PhD program more or less independently, and of an autonomous character.
- Is able and aware of the necessity to keep abreast of relevant developments in the academic and practitioners field.
- Is able to assess where his/her own research/work can contribute to academic or practioners' fields;

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 Instruction[1] the language of instruction and examination in the programme 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 5.2.4.

Chapter 3   Curriculum

Article 3.1   **Compulsory components**

3.1.1   The programme includes compulsory components worth a study load of 60 credits. These compulsory components include a period of internship in Africa, in which a research component is incorporated, relevant for work of the internship organization as well as forming the basis for the MA thesis.

Chapter 4   Examinations, Final Examination and Further Education

Article 4.2   **Obligatory sequence**

4.2.1 before the student can undertake the internship and research in Africa, the following elements of the course programme should be successfully completed:
- Research Methods and an approved research proposal;
- An approved internship plan;

Article 4.3   **Form of examination**

4.3.7   Not applicable.

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[1] Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction

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 African Languages and Cultures (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

- prior education must include the following subjects: language, literature, cultures, history, economics and/or social sciences, related to Africa with at least the following study load: 30 EC.

Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in International Studies from Leiden University who have completed all area courses for Africa are considered to have fulfilled these requirements.

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

5.2.3   As further clarification of Article 2.8 concerning the student's command of the language of instruction, the following language requirements apply:

the language requirement for this master's programme is English IELTS7.0/TOEFL (Internet based) 100/CPE or CAE 185.

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/binaries/content/assets/studentenwerving/scm/admission-and-application/english-language-proficiency-masters-programmes-def.pdf .

5.2.4   Not applicable.

5.2.5   Maximum capacity: not applicable.

Article 5.4   **Bridging Programmes (Premasters)**

5.4.1   The programme has established the following bridging programme(s) in order to remove deficiencies.

Students who have earned the degree of bachelor at a university of applied sciences in the field of humanities and/or social sciences, equivalent to the level of a Dutch HBO bachelor's degree, and/or students with an academic bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch

WO bachelor's degree, that do not meet the admission requirement of 30EC in African Studies as specified in article 5.2.2., will be admitted after completing an individual bridging programme.

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

Chapter 7   Evaluation of the programme

Article 7.1   **Evaluation of the programme**

The programme is evaluated as follows:
- course evaluations
- programme evaluation