



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2018

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Middle Eastern 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. 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 field of Middle Eastern 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 Learning outcomes

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

I. Knowledge and understanding

Graduates have and can show knowledge and understanding of relevant models and theoretical notions at a level typical of a master's student. They are capable of surpassing this level or deepening the knowledge and understanding and appear capable of contributing to the growth of knowledge or to its applicability, the latter most likely in a team of researchers.

1. a profound awareness of the current issues and research questions in the relevant disciplines and regional fields of the programme;
2. a thorough understanding of various theories and methodological approaches that are commonly used in research programmes in Middle Eastern Studies as well as in different related disciplines;
3. the ability to identify a theoretical framework suitable for addressing relevant problems and issues, with a particular sensitivity to the significance of 'the Middle East' in this regard;
4. advanced, up-to-date knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies appropriate to particular projects and locations;
5. sensitivity to the relationship between theory, method, place and language;
6. appropriate language skills to access sources in original languages, as relevant;

II. Application of knowledge and understanding

Graduates can apply knowledge and understanding and problem-solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to the field of study; they have the ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity.

1. the capacity to apply a theoretical or descriptive framework in conducting independent basic research in Middle Eastern Studies;

2. the capacity to deploy the theoretical and methodological tool-sets of at least one mainstream academic discipline;
3. the capacity to think critically and creatively about the parameters and origins of disciplinary tool-sets;
4. the ability to critically select, study and analyse literature relevant to the issues and problems presented by the curriculum and the research programmes in question;
5. the ability to independently formulate, perform and assess scientific research at a level suitable to preparing scientific publications;
6. sensitivity to the relationship between theory, method, place and language;
7. ability to deploy comparison as an analytical tool.
8. the fundamentals of research project management, such as framing the research, gathering data, articulating a thesis and ordering and presenting findings in oral and written form;

III. Making judgments

Graduates can formulate judgments on the basis of incomplete or limited information, taking into account the social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and understanding.

1. familiarity with the philosophy and ethics of Middle Eastern Studies research, and the limitations of individual research projects conducted in isolation;
2. sophisticated understanding of the stakes in the politics of knowledge and their relationship with the ethics of global citizenship;

IV. Communication

Graduates can clearly and unambiguously communicate conclusions and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

1. the capacity to report independently on relevant research which has been carried out according to current academic standards;
2. the ability to write scientific reports in English;
3. the ability to give persuasive oral presentations;
4. the ability to engage in the international academic debate;

V. Learning skills

Graduates have the learning skills to allow them to continue studies in a largely self-directed or autonomous manner.

the curiosity and eagerness to learn that is expected in any future research position, be it in an academic setting or in that of applied research, which are acquired through the training to develop autonomy and confidence in designing and conducting all stages of research.

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 language of instruction and examination of the programme is English. Students are expected to have an adequate command 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 IELTS7.0/TOEFL (Internet based) 100/CPE or CAE 185; a minimum score of IELTS 6.5 or TOEFL 22 is required for each of the four components;

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*

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

- 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 Middle Eastern Studies and/or area studies, literary studies, linguistics, history and/or social sciences, that ideally, but not necessarily, includes knowledge and understanding of the regional languages. When language competence is required for the proposed research, this will be taken into account as above under "affinity with and suitability for scholarly research."

*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.

5.2.5 Maximum Capacity: not applicable

Article 5.4 **Bridging programmes (Premasters)**

5.4.1 Not applicable.

Chapter 7 Evaluation of the Programme

Article 7.1 **Evaluation of the Programme**

The programme is evaluated as follows:

- Course Evaluations
- Programme Evaluation