



Universiteit Leiden

# Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2019

Programme-specific section:

## Master's Programme: African 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, 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.

### Contents

1. General Provisions
2. Description of the Programme
3. Curriculum
4. Examinations, Final Examination and Further Education
5. Admission to the Programme
6. Student Counselling and Study Advice
7. Evaluation of the Programme
8. Final Provisions

### Appendices

Faculty Section:

Appendix A - Master's Thesis Regulations

Appendix B - General Academic Skills

Programme-specific Section:

Appendix C – E-prospectus (see <https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl>)

## 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 African 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:*

- A profound awareness of the current issues, core concepts and research questions in the relevant disciplines and regional fields of the programme;
- A thorough understanding of various theories and methodological approaches and techniques that are commonly used in research in African Studies as well as in different related disciplines;
- The ability to develop a conceptual framework suitable for addressing relevant problems and issues;
- Advanced, up-to-date knowledge of the quantitative and qualitative research methodology appropriate to particular projects and locations;
- Sensitivity to the relationship between theory, method and actual research context;
- A thorough knowledge of and insight into the interdisciplinary position of the study subject;
- A thorough understanding of the societal relevance of the study subject.

#### II. *Applying knowledge and understanding*

*Graduates have:*

- The capacity to critically apply theoretical and descriptive approaches when conducting basic independent research in African Studies;
- The capacity to (innovatively) deploy theoretical and methodological tool-sets derived from the humanities and social sciences for the analysis and interpretation of the object of inquiry. ;
- The ability to critically select, study and analyse literature;

- The ability to independently formulate, perform and assess scientific research at a level suitable for preparing scientific publications;

### III. *Making judgments*

*Graduates have:*

- The ability to select, compile, compare and analyse discipline-related literature and sources independently, with the aid of traditional and modern techniques (heuristic skills);
- The ability to independently study discipline-related literature and sources and to assess these as to their quality and reliability;
- Profound knowledge of the philosophy and ethics of African Studies research and the limitations of individual research projects;
- Awareness of the role of comparison;
- Sophisticated understanding of the stakes in the politics of knowledge and their relationship with the ethics of fairness and objectivity;
- The fundamentals of research project management, such as framing the research, gathering data, data storage, articulating a thesis, ordering and presenting findings in oral and written form and reflection on the ethics of scientific inquiry.

### IV. *Communication*

*Graduates have;*

- The capacity to report independently on relevant research that has been carried out according to current academic standards for the field of research;
- The ability to write scientific reports in English;
- The ability to give persuasive oral presentations;
- The ability to engage in the international academic debate and in non-specialist discussions.

### V. *Learning skills*

*Graduates have:*

- The capacity 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 includes:
- The ability to formulate a clear and well-argued problem under expert supervision; and the ability to break these problems down into clear and manageable sub-problems;
- The ability to set up and carry out a research project under expert supervision;
- The capacity to take into account ideas, instructions and constructive criticism of supervisors and peers and in turn offer feedback to the work of others;
- The ability to set up a realistic workschedule and keep to the agreed time guidelines.

## Article 2.5 **Study load**

The programme has a study load of 120 credits.

## Article 2.8 Language of Instruction

2.8.1. In compliance with the Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction<sup>1</sup> 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.

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.<sup>2</sup>

## Chapter 3 Curriculum

### Article 3.1 Compulsory components

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

## 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>	<i>Participation in examination after passing:</i>
Reflexivity and Methodologies in Africanist Research	The Theoretical Foundations and Interdisciplinary Nature of African Studies	
Africa in Cross-Regional Perspective		Thematic Fields: Theoretical and Empirical Explorations
Seminar: Writing Research Proposal		Thematic Fields: Theoretical and Empirical Explorations

### 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.

### Article 5.2.3 Dutch and English languages<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

<sup>3</sup> Letter of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of 11 July 2018, decision on costs of standardised tests (costs of standardised tests, including language tests, are to be paid by the study programme from the academic year 2019-2020). This applies for all students. If possible, the Minister will make a decision on a different procedure for students with a diploma from outside the Netherlands.

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 (or other 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.
- a high school (or higher) diploma obtained in an EEA country, where English has been studied up to and including the final year of the programme, and where the level of English can be considered comparable to Dutch VWO (pre-university education), to be determined by SEA (Admissions Office).

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:

- IELTS 7.0;
- Toefl (internet-based) 100;
- C2 Proficiency (/CPE) or C1 Advanced (/CAE) 185.

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

#### Article 5.2.4 **Qualitative admission requirements**

5.2.4.1 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. 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
- B. The bachelor's degree is in the field of African Languages and Cultures, Linguistics, History, Cultural Anthropology, Literature, Sociology, Political Sciences, Public Administration or other studies related to the Humanities or Social Sciences.

In addition, applicants must also meet the following qualitative admission requirements:

- C. 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.
- D. Affinity with and suitability for scholarly research in the specific field of the programme/specialisation and the ability to clearly report on research.

- E. Demonstrable motivation to study and suitability for the particular Research MA programme/specialisation.

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

- A, B and C: as evidenced by a transcript of records and diploma of the relevant obtained academic degree.
- D: to be demonstrated by a “Writing Sample”. All applicants are required to submit a writing sample (a relevant research paper, Bachelor’s Thesis, or a Research Proposal of approximately 1000 words). In case applicants submit a Research Proposal the proposal should be 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.
- E: to be demonstrated by a well-argued and structured motivation letter in which the applicant indicates why he/she wants to follow the research programme and convincingly discusses what makes the applicant a good candidate for the research MA programme. 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:

**Start in September**

- In case a visa or residence permit is required, the deadline for application in the online application portal (uSis) is 1 April.
- In case a visa or residence permit is not required, the deadline for application in the online application portal (uSis) is 15 June.

**Start in February**

- In case a visa or residence permit is required, the deadline for application in the online application portal (uSis) is 15 October.
- In case a visa or residence permit is not required, the deadline for application in the online application portal (uSis) is 1 December.

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

**Article 5.2.5 Capacity limitation**

5.2.5.1 Maximum capacity: not applicable.

**Article 5.4 Pre-master’s programmes**

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