



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2020

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Middle Eastern 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, 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.

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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 Middle Eastern 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.

The following specialisations are being phased out:

- Arabic Studies
- Islamic Studies
- Modern Middle East Studies
- Persian Studies
- Turkish Studies
- Israel Studies

Students who have started before 1 September 2019 will be allowed to complete their specialisation up until August 31, 2021.

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:
 - a. a profound insight into the current issues, core concepts and research questions in the relevant disciplines and regional fields of the programme;
 - b. a thorough understanding of various textual corpuses (or other primary source materials), theories and methodological approaches and research techniques that underwrite Middle Eastern Studies;
 - c. for students taking beginner's level language modules, an appropriate foundation to build upon in further studies (A1 in listening, reading, writing, spoken interaction, and spoken production according to the Common European Framework).
 - d. for students taking advanced language modules, a proficiency in the Middle Eastern language of their choice sufficient to use relevant primary sources in research;
 - e. the ability to develop a conceptual framework suitable for addressing relevant problems and issues;
 - f. the ability to recognize the relationship between theory, method and research context;
 - g. a thorough knowledge of and insight into the interdisciplinary position of the study subject; and
 - h. a thorough understanding of the relevance of the study subject outside of academia.
2. Applying knowledge and understanding:
 - a. the capacity to critically apply theoretical and interpretative approaches when conducting basic independent research in Middle Eastern Studies;

- b. the capacity to deploy theoretical and methodological tool-sets derived from the humanities and/or social sciences for the analysis and interpretation of the object of inquiry;
 - c. the ability to critically analyse primary and secondary sources;
 - d. the ability to independently formulate, perform and assess research at a level suitable for preparing students for an academic career.
3. Making judgments:
- a. the ability to select, compile, compare and analyse discipline-related literature and sources independently, using traditional and/or modern approaches;
 - b. the ability to independently study discipline-related literature and to assess these as to their quality and reliability.
4. Communication
- a. the capacity to report independently on relevant research that has been carried out according to current academic standards for the field of research;
 - b. the ability to write research reports in academic English; and
 - c. the ability to give cogent oral presentations;
5. Learning skills
- a. the capacity to apply learning skills that allow them to initiate and conduct a research project independently, under academic supervision. This includes:
 - i. The ability to formulate a clear and well-argued problem under academic supervision;
 - ii. the ability to break these problems down into clear and manageable research questions;
 - iii. the ability to design and execute a research programme that is both innovative and feasible;
 - iv. the capacity to apply ideas, instructions and constructive criticism of supervisors and peers and in turn offer feedback to the work of others; and
 - v. the ability to set up a realistic work schedule and keep to the agreed time guidelines.

Learning outcomes specialisations prior to 2019-2020

In addition to the achievement levels above, the following achievement levels per specialisation apply:

Graduates will have:

b1. Arabic Studies

Knowledge and understanding of the history of Arab peoples and culture, contemporary developments in the Arab world, Arabic literature and rich manuscript traditions. This also includes a thorough understanding of Islam.

b2. Islamic Studies

Knowledge and understanding of Islamic law and anthropology of the Muslim world from the perspective of the social sciences combined with philology.

b3. Modern Middle East Studies

General knowledge and understanding of the cultures, histories, literatures, politics, and religions of the strategically important Middle Eastern regions with a focus on the modern period.

In-depth knowledge and understanding of the Modern Middle East, depending on the choices of the student, either directed at the Middle East in general, or at one of the regions of the Middle East in depth.

b4. Persian Studies

Knowledge and understanding of the history, literature, politics, religion and Persian visual arts of the Persian cultural realm from the advent of Islam to the present day.

b5. *Turkish Studies*

Knowledge and understanding of Turkish history and culture and Turkey's relation to Europe, viewed against its transition from the multi-ethnic Ottoman state to a nation state.

b6. *Israel Studies*

Knowledge and understanding of the history, literature, politics, and religion of Israeli society from the period of political Zionism to the present day.

Article 2.5 **Study load**

The programme has a study load of 60 credits.

Article 2.8 **Language of instruction**

2.8.1. Subject to the Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction¹ the language in which the instruction is given and in which the examinations and final examinations are held 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 5.2.3.

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 the Guideline on Language Policy.²

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 In the classes and examination of the following components can only be taken part once the examination of the preceding components specified below have been successfully completed:

<i>Component:</i>	<i>Participation in class and examination after passing:</i>
Modern Standard Arabic 2	Modern Standard Arabic 1
MA course(s) in Turkey	At least successful completion of 20 EC of the MA-programme
Thesis writing seminar	Theories and Methods of Middle East and Islamic Studies
MA Thesis Middle Eastern Studies	Theories and Methods of Middle East and Islamic Studies Students who have been admitted to the Master's programme in September 2020, on the basis of having completed at least 165 EC of the relevant Bachelor's programme, cannot start their MA Thesis before successfully completing their Bachelor's thesis.

Article 4.3 **Form of examination**

4.3.5 Not applicable.

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

² [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

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 programme, or who have successfully completed the following prescribed pre-master's/bridging programme:

- a. A bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university (in the specialisation):
Middle Eastern Studies;
- b. a bachelor's degree in the field of the specialisation of the relevant programme(s) BA Arabic Language and Culture, BA Hebrew Language and Culture, BA Religious Studies with a specialisation Islam Studies provided the student has at least 30 EC of courses on the cultures, histories, literatures, politics, and religions of the Middle East;
- c. a prescribed pre-master's/bridging programme pursuant to article 5.4.1. The prescribed pre-master's/bridging programme must be completed within the nominal duration plus one semester (in case of a pre-master's/bridging programme of 30 EC or less) or plus one study year (in case of a pre-master's/bridging programme of more than 30 EC).

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, points a and b possibly under further conditions, without prejudice to the requirements in 5.2.4.

To be considered as holding a degree equal to the one specified in 5.2.1a, 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.
 - this bachelor's degree is in Social Sciences or Humanities, with either:
 - a relevant regional specialisation (e.g. Middle Eastern Studies) or
 - a regionally relevant minor or courses on the cultures, histories, literatures, politics, and religions of the Middle East with a total of at least 30 credits

Applicants with a bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university in International Studies who

- have completed all area courses for the Middle East, and either
 - wrote their BA Thesis on the Middle East or
 - completed optional courses worth 10 credits on the Middle East.

Applicants as referred to in Article 5.2.1b and Article 5.2.2. are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with information demonstrating that the applicant possesses the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree as specified in Article 5.2.1a.

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 Dutch and English languages

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 (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.

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 language requirements can be set:

- English IELTS 7.0
- TOEFL (Internet based) 100/CPE or 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: <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/admission-and-application/masters/admission-requirements#language-requirements>.

5.2.3.5 Additional language requirements will apply for specific courses within the MA programme. The requirements per course are listed in the Prospectus (<https://studiegids.universiteitleiden.nl/en/studies/7553/middle-eastern-studies#tab-1>). The language requirements per course may consist of one of the requirements below:

- a good working knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: listening B1; reading B2; spoken interaction B1; spoken production B1; writing B1), or
- an adequate proficiency in reading one of the major languages current in the Muslim world (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: reading B2), or
- a good working knowledge of Persian (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: listening B1; reading B2; spoken interaction B1; spoken production B1; writing B1), or
- an adequate proficiency in reading Turkish (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: reading B2), or
- a good working knowledge of Modern Hebrew (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: listening B1; reading B2; spoken interaction B1; spoken production B1; writing B1).

5.2.4 Qualitative admission requirements

5.2.4.1 Not applicable.

5.2.5 Maximum capacity

5.2.5.1 Not applicable.

Article 5.4 Pre-master's Programmes

5.4.1 The programme has developed pre-master's programmes (for the following target groups) in order to remove deficiencies. Pre-master's programmes/bridging programmes must be completed successfully within the prescribed period as specified in sub Article 5.2.1c.

The pre-master programme below is intended for students who have earned the degree of bachelor at a university of applied sciences in a relevant field, equivalent to the level of a Dutch HBO bachelor's degree, in order to remedy deficiencies:

Students need to finish the complete pre-master's programme successfully before they can start with the MA-programme.

60 EC start in FALL					
Obligatory courses:					20
Academic Skills I Pre-Master	5003KAS	sem	300	5	
History of Contemporary Iran	5852VHCI	sem	200	5	
Kerncurriculum: Area Studies	50000VASH	lc	100	5	
Introduction to the Study of Islam	5071VITSI	lc	100	5	
Choose 1 from the following seminars:					5
Ideologies and Politics in the Middle East	5852VIPME	sem	200	5	
Islamic Law	5852VISL	sem	200	5	
	5852VIIS				
Introduction to Israel Studies: Politics, History and Society		sem	300	5	
Urban Youth Cultures in the Middle East	5852VUYC	sem	200	5	
Choose 1 from the following seminars:					5
Diasporas and Minorities in the Middle East	5853VDIA	sem	300	5	
History and Culture of Modern Turkey	5853IHCMT	sem	300	5	
Islam and Society	5853VIS	sem	300	5	
International Relations of the Middle East (BA)	5853IIRMB	sem	300	5	
Introduction to Israel Diaspora Relations: The Politics and History of a Complex Relationship".	5853VIDR	sem	400	5	
The Living Quran	5853KLQ	sem	300	5	
			Total EC		
			sem 1		30
Obligatory courses:					25
History of the Middle East 2 (1500-present)	5851VGM2	lc	200	5	
Economies of the Middle East	5851VEME	lc	200	5	
Understanding war through primary sources: the Arab-Israeli conflict	5851VAIC	lc	200	5	
Pre-Master Thesis Middle Eastern Studies		ss	400	10	
Choose 1 from the following seminars:					
Islam in the modern World	5851VIMW	lc	200	5	
Modern Thinkers and Trends in Islam	5852VTTI	lc	300	5	
			Total EC		
			sem 2		30
			Total EC		60

The pre-master's programme below is intended for students who have earned the degree of bachelor at a research university in a relevant field, but who lack the minimum required ECs as defined in the entry requirements.

30 EC start in FALL				
Obligatory courses:				15
Kerncurriculum: Area Studies	50000VASH	lc	100	5
Introduction to the Study of Islam	5071VITSI	lc	100	5
History of Contemporary Iran	5852VHCI	sem	200	5
Choose 1 from the following seminars:				5
Ideologies and Politics in the Middle East	5852VIPME	sem	200	5
Islamic Law	5852VISL	sem	200	5
Introduction to Israel Studies: Politics, History and Society	5852VIIS	sem	300	5
Urban Youth Cultures in the Middle East	5852VUYC	sem	200	5
Choose 2 from the following seminars:				10
Diasporas and Minorities in the Middle East	5853VDIA	sem	300	5
History and Culture of Modern Turkey	5853IHCMT	sem	300	5
Islam and Society	5853VIS	sem	300	5
International Relations of the Middle East (BA)	5853IIRMB	sem	300	5
Introduction to Israel Diaspora Relations: The Politics and History of a Complex Relationship".	5853VIDR	Sem	400	5
The Living Quran	5853KLQ	sem	300	5
		Total EC		30

30 EC start in SPRING				
Islam in the modern World	5851VIMW	lc	200	5
Modern Thinkers and Trends in Islam	5852VTTI	lc	300	5
Rituals and Symbols of Islam	5852VRSI	sem	200	5
Understanding war through primary sources: the Arab-Israeli conflict	5851VAIC	lc	200	5
Economies of the Middle East	5851VEME	lc	200	5
History of the Middle East 2 (1500-present)	5851VGM2	lc	200	5
		Total EC		30

5.4.2 Information on the pre-master's programmes can be requested from the coordinator of studies of the programme/specialisation and can be found in the Prospectus (<https://studiegids.universiteitleiden.nl/studies/7733/middle-eastern-studies#tab-1>).

Chapter 7 Evaluation of the programme

Article 7.1 Evaluation of the programme

The programme is evaluated as follows:

- course evaluations
- programme evaluation

The Programme Committee advises the Programme Board based on the outcomes of the evaluation.