



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2020

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Theology and Religious 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 Religious 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:

- I. Knowledge and understanding
 - students have become familiar with the most important current debates on method and theory in the academic study of religion – amongst others the literary, historical, cognitive, and social scientific approaches;
 - students have gained knowledge and understanding of the mutual impact of globalisation, modernisation, migration, and religion, including the revision and transformation of (self-) understandings of religions and their practices, and the development of (new) religions due to global contacts, colonialism, religious superdiversity, and secularisation;
 - in the specialised pathway Religion, History, and Society: a knowledge and understanding of religion in historical context and the development of religion across time, including contemporary forms of religiosity;
 - in the specialised pathway Religion, Politics, and Governance: a knowledge and understanding of religion in relation to at least one of the following fields: politics, law, political-legal systems, international relations, or education;
 - in the specialised pathway Religion and Area Studies: a knowledge and understanding of religion in an area studies perspective and the movement of ideas and peoples across places, spaces, and contexts.
- II. Applying knowledge and understanding:
 - students know how to apply a set of up-to-date analytical tools in the study of religious texts, religious beliefs, religious practices, religious traditions, and religious fields;
 - students can independently apply these analytical tools to the study of primary material (historical and contemporary) in the context of independent research projects; and
 - students can identify and analyse the interactions between religion, globalisation, modernisation, and migration in comparative and historical perspective in contemporary societies worldwide, the changes these processes bring about, and resistance with which these changes are often met.

- III. Judgment
- students have the ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, to draw conclusions concerning the reliability of information provided by available sources including societal debates and media, and to offer suggestions for further research and arguments for solution of problems.
- IV. Communication
- students have the ability to communicate conclusions of their research, as well as the knowledge and rational underpinning of these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences, clearly and unambiguously, both orally – using modern presentation techniques – and in writing.
- V. Learning Skills
- students have refined their research skills enabling them to formulate an independent research problem with only minimal supervision, and to operationalize abstract theory by applying analytical methods to concrete empirical material;
 - students have refined their cooperative skills, including giving and receiving good quality peer feedback, and preparing class discussions in groups;
 - students have refined their skills for writing well-argued, academic papers in English; and
 - students have refined their skills in oral discussion and debate in English.

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.

2.8.1. 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.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 Students are required to complete at least 20 EC's of the programme before enrolling in the Thesis Seminar and Job Market Orientation course.

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

² [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

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 Master's thesis before successfully completing their Bachelor's thesis.

Article 4.3 **Form of examination**

4.3.5 Not applicable.

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, 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):
Bachelor programme Religious Studies
- b. a bachelor's degree in the field of the specialisation of the relevant programme(s) *Theology or Islamic Studies* provided the student has *at least 30 EC* from the relevant field, distributed over the field or knowledge of the discipline Religious Studies.
- c. a prescribed pre-master's/bridging programme pursuant to article 5.4.1. The prescribed pre-masters/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, and
- the bachelor's degree is in the field of humanities or social sciences, and
- knowledge in the field of religious studies and history; and
- knowledge of the study of Christianity, Islam and/or Judaism; and
- knowledge of methodologies of either social sciences or history; and
- the ability to reflect on current debates and developments regarding religion; and
- the ability to formulate problems and the skill to select the correct methodological approach as well as literature/data to analyse these problems.

Applicants who are in possession of a Bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university in Humanities or Social Sciences, and who have successfully completed the minor 'Religion in a changing World', are considered to have fulfilled these requirements.

Applicants may be asked to submit a writing sample, proving the aforementioned qualities in the field of knowledge, understanding and skills.

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
- C2 Proficiency (former CPE) or C1 Advanced (former 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>.

5.2.4 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 is intended for applicants who have earned an academic Bachelor's degree from a research university, but who do not possess comparable qualities in the field of knowledge, understanding and skills listed under 5.2.1 and 5.2.2. They will be expected to fulfil a tailor-made premaster programme consisting of a maximum of 60 credits, including the mandatory course 'Academic Skills I Pre-master' in order to meet these requirements. Exemptions from this course are possible if applicants are able to demonstrate that they have mastered these skills prior to enrollment in the pre-master.

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

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

Appendix D – Transitional provisions

For students who enrolled in February 2020, the following interim programme applies:

Spring 2020:

- Religion on the Move: From Local Origins to Global Networks
- Thesis Seminar and Job Market Orientation
- MA Thesis

Autumn 2020:

- Tools and Theories in the Study of Religion: Historical, Cognitive, and Social-Scientific Approaches
- For the remaining courses, you can either: take two pathway electives; or take one pathway elective and an internship or fieldwork project.

For students who enrolled in Autumn 2020 or before and have not yet completed Confronting Modernity, any pathway elective can be substituted.