



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2020

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Literary 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.

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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 Literary Studies;
2. to enable students to develop the following academic and professional skills:
 - a. the ability to solve academic problems independently, critically and creatively;
 - b. the ability to analyse complex problems;
 - c. 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 demonstrate, in their written and oral work:

1. a thorough knowledge and understanding of Literary and Cultural Studies, its central research questions and problems, and its basic concepts, research methods and techniques (notably analysis and interpretation), and the developments in the specialisation;
2. a thorough knowledge and understanding of the interdisciplinary aspects of the program, both in relation to Arts and Culture, History, Social Sciences, and other related fields, as Literary Studies are understood here as a broad intermedial and intercultural field of inquiry into textual, cultural and artistic practices;
3. Graduates are conversant with various approaches in specific historical periods, are aware of the specific effects of genre, the implications of literary representation, they know how literature contributes to constructions of identity, and how it deals with space and time. They are able to position themselves in relation to current debates on, for instance, cultural history, modernity, hybridisation or secularism. They have an in-depth knowledge of the relevant contexts, cultural, ideological, religious or scientific, of the production, reception and dissemination of literature, conceived in the broad sense of the term, and its impact on society at the time of its production and in the present.

II. Applying knowledge and understanding

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

1. define a research topic, formulate research questions and identify an object of inquiry (a corpus of literary texts, images and texts or cultural practices) that will allow them to answer these research questions in a way that conforms with current scholarly practices in Literary Studies;
2. select an appropriate body of theory for the analysis and interpretation of the object of inquiry, so that innovative answers to the research question can be given;
3. bring analysis and theory into critical interaction, that is: the object of inquiry is clarified and problematized by the concepts and methods, and the concepts and methods applied are clarified and problematized by the object of inquiry;

4. understand the social and cultural dimensions of both the researched literary or cultural practice and the theoretical approaches to it;
5. contribute creative solutions to on-going debates in the discipline, based on independent research and theoretical reflection.

III. Making judgments

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the capacity to:

1. critically evaluate their sources;
2. build an argument that leads to its conclusion in a clear, cogent and verifiable manner;
3. reflect critically on the role played by the graduates' personal points of view and interests and in relation to international debates;
4. include, in addition to theoretical aspects, social and ethical aspects, in the arguments that lead to the conclusion.

IV. Communication

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

1. formulate a clear and well-founded thesis, hypothesis and research questions, and to divide these into convenient and manageable parts;
2. give a clear, systematic and well-founded oral or written report of the state of the art in their research field, the selected object of inquiry and the concepts and theories used;
3. write grammatically correct English, according to the conventions of a specific style (e.g. MLA).

V. Learning skills

Graduates display, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

1. independently identify and collect the literature and historical sources in the field of arts and culture and to use current bibliographical instruments;
2. independently study the literature and historical sources of the field and to judge their quality and reliability;
3. formulate a clear and well-founded thesis and to divide the problem into opportune and manageable parts;
4. give a clear and well-founded oral and written report of research results meeting the criteria of the field;
5. initiate and conduct a research project under supervision at the entrance level of national or international subsequent education (PhD).
6. 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 means that graduates:
 - have defined the research question or thesis independently;
 - have conducted relevant bibliographical research;
 - have drawn up a realistic research plan.

Article 2.5 Study load

The programme has a study load of 120 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 and in which the examinations and final examinations are held 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 5.2.3.

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 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 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 schools³, from which students must choose electives totalling 10 EC. Since students can take Master courses for 30 EC within their area of research, an extra Research MA component is obligatory in that case.

Chapter 4 **Examinations, Final Examination and Further Education**

Article 4.2 **Obligatory sequence**

4.2.1 Not applicable.

Article 4.3 **Form of examination**

4.3.5 Not applicable.

Chapter 5 **Admission to the Programme**

Article 5.2 **Admission to the programme**

5.2.1 Not applicable.

5.2.2 Pursuant to Article 7.30b (1) of the Act persons may be granted admission to (the indicated specialisation(s) of) the programme, if they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Faculty Board that they meet the following admission requirements, without prejudice to the requirements specified in 5.2.4:

- 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 must be in Comparative Literature/Literary Studies or in a specific Language and Culture (Dutch, English, French, German, Italian etc.)

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, without prejudice to the requirements specified in 5.2.4.

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

² [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

³ <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/humanities/graduate-school/current-phd-candidates/research-schools>

Article 5.2.3 **Dutch and English language**

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;
- A minimum score of IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 25 is required for each of the four components.
- Additionally candidates should have sufficient knowledge of the language of their specialisation in order to be able to read texts (at least Common European Framework level B1).

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.universiteitiden.nl/en/education/admission-and-application/masters/admission-requirements#language-requirements>.

5.2.4 **Qualitative admission requirements**

5.2.4.1 In addition to the requirements specified in 5.2.1 or 5.2.2 the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b (2) of the Act:

- A. 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
- B. Affinity with and suitability for scholarly research in the specific field of the programme and the ability to clearly report on research, and
- C. Demonstrable motivation to study and suitability for the particular Research MA programme.

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

- A: as evidenced by a transcript of records and diploma of the relevant obtained academic degree.
- B: to be demonstrated a "Writing Sample". All applicants are required to submit a writing sample (a relevant research paper or Bachelor's Thesis). In case applicants are unable to demonstrate via a writing sample that they meet the requirement sub 5.2.4.1 D, are required to submit a 1,250 word essay as part of the admission process:

- in this essay they must demonstrate a clear affinity with and specific knowledge of literary studies in general and specifically in the area of research for which they apply,
- specifically, the essay must clearly answer a research question, provide a reasonable and reasonably well-organised argument that demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the topic of the essay.
- C: 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 <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/admission-and-application/masters>.

5.2.5 Maximum Capacity

5.2.5.1 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

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