



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2021

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: African 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 African Studies;
2. to enable students to develop the following academic and professional skills:
 - independent academic reasoning and conduct,
 - the ability to analyse and work with complex problems,
 - the ability to clearly report academic results to various audiences, in writing, orally and by audio-visual means;
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:

1. Knowledge and understanding

The graduate has:

- Multidisciplinary knowledge of and insight into societies and cultures of Africa at an advanced level.
- A thorough understanding of the societal relevance of the study subject.
- General knowledge of and insight into current issues and debates within the overall field and main disciplines of African Studies (History, Politics, Economics, Geography, Culture Studies, Linguistics and Anthropology, insofar as relevant to African Studies).
- Advanced knowledge and understanding of the main theories, key concepts and methodological approaches and techniques of at least two of the following disciplines in relation to African Studies: Linguistics, Culture Studies, Anthropology, Geography, Political Science, History or Economics.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding

The graduate has:

- The ability to coherently understand knowledge insights of relevant issues in African Studies, key concepts, and research methods of the mentioned disciplines in African Studies and to apply this in independent research, as well as in other professional settings to complex problems.
- The technical and cognitive skills to collect, select, analyse and critically evaluate data and academic literature, in order to formulate and test working hypotheses and to formulate an answer to research questions.

- The ability to work with a complex body of sources of diverse nature and to report on this analysis orally, visually and/or in written form.
- The ability to develop a coherent and feasible research proposal.
- The ability to apply academic knowledge and insights to other professional domains, such as policy, development, business or journalism.
- The ability to develop, arrange and execute a project in an Africa-related setting, to liaise with various stakeholders of a different nature, and the ability to work in a (culturally) unfamiliar professional environment.

3. Ability to formulate judgements

The graduate is able to:

- Formulate judgements, based on a question or problem in the field of African Studies, even when the student has limited information due to lacunae in the data available
- Take into account social and cultural, academic and ethical aspects relevant to the analysis of complex questions and the formulation of judgements.
- Reflect on methodological, historical and ethical-social aspects of African Studies.

4. Communication

Oral, audio-visual and written skills to clearly communicate the outcomes based on the student's own academic research, knowledge, motives, and considerations to professionals as well as the broader public.

5. Learning Skills

The graduate:

- Has the learning skills to continue further study at a professional level or to start a PhD program more or less independently, and of an autonomous character.
- Is able and aware of the necessity to keep abreast of relevant developments in the academic and practitioners field.
- Is able to assess where his/her own research/work can contribute to academic or practitioners' fields;

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 with the Guideline on Language Policy.²

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

² [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

Chapter 3 Curriculum

Article 3.1 Compulsory components

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components worth a study load of 60 credits. These compulsory components include a period of internship in an Africa-related setting, in which a research component is incorporated, relevant for work of the internship organisation as well as forming the basis for the MA thesis.

Chapter 4 Examinations, Final Examination and Further Education

Article 4.2 Obligatory sequence

4.2.1 Before the student can undertake the research internship in an Africa-related setting the following elements of the course programme should be successfully completed:

- Africa in Practice;
- Researching Africa in the 21st Century;
- Methods Clinic African Studies;
- A research internship proposal approved by the supervisor, Board of Examiners and Career Service.

Students who have been admitted to the Master's programme in September 2021, 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

4.3.6 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 or persons who have successfully completed the following prescribed pre-masters/bridging programme may be admitted to the programme:

- a. a bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university in the the field of African Languages and Cultures;
- b. To be considered as holding a degree sufficiently related 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, including the General Academic Skills listed in Appendix B of the Faculty section of these regulations, and
 - the bachelor's degree is in the field of Linguistics, History, Cultural Anthropology, Literature, Sociology, Political Sciences, Public Administration, International Studies, or other studies related to the Humanities or Social Sciences.

- c. a bachelor's degree and additionally having passed the 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, admit persons to the programme 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.

Admission process

Applicants as referred to in Article 5.2.1.b and Article 5.2.2 are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with:

- copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s);
- proof of language proficiency (if applicable, see 5.2.3);
- curriculum vitae (resume);
- a filled in 'Questionnaire Master Application' demonstrating that the candidate 1) has gained knowledge, understanding and skills in the field (of the specialisation) of the MA programme and 2) has acquired general academic skills as listed in Appendix B of the Faculty section of these regulations.

The admission process may include an interview with the Board of Admissions, should this be necessary to clarify whether the applicant has the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in 5.2.1.a.

For further information on the admission procedure and required application documents please see <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/admission-and-application/masters>.

Article 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 Australia, Canada (with the exception of French-language programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South-Africa;
- a diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- a Dutch 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 English language requirements for this master's programme can be set:

- IELTS 7.0;

- TOEFL (Internet-based) 100 (Internet based);
- C2 Proficiency (former CPE) or C1 Advanced (former CAE) 185.

5.2.3.3 Not applicable.

5.2.3.4 Not applicable.

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 Not applicable.

Article 5.2.5 **Capacity limitation**

5.2.5.1 Maximum capacity: not applicable.

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

5.4.1 The programme has established the following pre-master's/bridging programmes (for the following target groups) in order to remedy deficiencies.

For students with a bachelor's degree at a university of applied sciences in the field of humanities and/or social sciences, equivalent to the level of a Dutch hbo bachelor's degree, and/or students with an academic bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch WO bachelor's degree, who do not meet the admission requirement of holding a BA in the Humanities or Social Sciences in article 5.2.1b, the Board of Admissions may impose a pre-master's programme, tailored to the individual background of the prospective student, to be completed before admission into the MA programme.

Pre-master's/bridging programmes must be completed successfully within the prescribed period as specified in sub Article 5.2.1c.

5.4.2 Information on the bridging 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.