



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2021

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: 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.

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 – 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 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 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 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: Religious Studies
- b. To be considered as holding a degree sufficiently related to the one specified in 5.2.1 .a, applicants must meet the following requirements:
 - a bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university, or a bachelor's degree from a foreign 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 humanities or social sciences, and
 - the applicant can demonstrate to possess the following knowledge, understanding and skills with at least 30 EC of relevant courses:
 - knowledge of topics, theories and methods relevant to the study of religion from an academic perspective; and
 - knowledge of the academic study of one or more religious traditions (e.g., Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, ancient religions, new religions)

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 30 EC minor 'Religion in a Changing World', are considered to have fulfilled these requirements.

- 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).

Applicants with a bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic bachelor's degree, not in the field of humanities or social sciences as well as applicants with a bachelor's degree Docent Godsdienst/Levensbeschouwing from a university of applied sciences (hoger beroepsonderwijs, hbo) will be considered for admission after successful completion of a premaster's programme of a maximum of 60 EC. Further specifications with respect to pre-master's programmes are provided in 5.4.

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 5.2.1.b and 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;

Applicants may be asked to submit a writing sample proving the qualities in the field of knowledge, understanding and skills outlined in 5.2.1.b.

The admission process may include an interview with the Board of Admissions, should this be necessary to clarify whether the applicant has the qualities in the field of knowledge, understanding and skills outlined in 5.2.1.b.

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 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 language requirements can be set:

- IELTS 7.0, with a minimum component score of 7.0 for both writing and speaking;
- TOEFL (Internet based) 100, with a minimum component score of 25 for both writing and speaking;
- Cambridge C2 Proficiency (former CPE) or C1 Advanced (former CAE) 185, with a minimum component score of 185 for both writing and speaking.

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 5.2.1.c.

The 30 EC pre-master's programme is intended for applicants with a bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic bachelor's degree, in the field of humanities or social sciences, but who do not possess knowledge, understanding and skills listed under 5.2.1.b. They will be expected to fulfil a tailor-made premaster's programme consisting of a maximum of 30 EC.

The 60 EC pre-master's programme is intended for applicants with a bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic bachelor's degree, not in the field of humanities or social sciences or for applicants with a bachelor's degree Docent Godsdienst/Levensbeschouwing from a university of applied sciences (hbo). They will be expected to fulfil a tailor-made premaster's programme consisting of a maximum of 60 EC.

5.4.2 Information regarding the premaster's 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.