



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2021

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Classics and Ancient Civilizations (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 academic methods in the field of the cultures of Classical Antiquity, Ancient and Coptic Egypt, or the Ancient Near East as represented in the tracks Assyriology and Hebrew and Aramaic Studies;
2. to enable students to develop the following academic and professional skills:
 - the ability to solve academic problems independently, critically and creatively;
 - 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 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

The programme has the following specialisations:

- Assyriology (research)
- Classics (research)
- Egyptology (research)
- Hebrew and Aramaic Studies (research)

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. Thorough knowledge and understanding of one of the following fields of study: Assyriology, Classics, Egyptology, Hebrew and Aramaic Studies, and its principal concepts, heuristic instruments, research methods and techniques;
 - b. Knowledge and understanding of interdisciplinary aspects of the specialisation, such as connections with the other specialisations within the programme and connections with other disciplines, including philology, linguistics, material culture, economic, social and legal history, and reception studies.
2. *Applying knowledge and understanding*
 - a. The ability to apply different methodologies relevant to the specialisation;
 - b. The ability to independently identify and collect the relevant literature and historical sources using traditional and modern techniques;
 - c. The ability to analyse a problem and formulate a clear and well-founded thesis and to divide it into convenient and manageable parts;
 - d. The ability to take on a research topic of substantial size and bring it to a conclusion under expert supervision;

3. *Judgement*

- a. The ability to critically select and assess the relevant primary source material;
- b. The ability to independently study the relevant literature and historical sources and to judge their quality and reliability;
- c. The ability to critically assess the relevant secondary literature and to contribute to scholarly debate.

4. *Communication*

- a. The ability to give a clear and well-argued oral presentation on a research topic in accordance with the academic standards of the relevant specialisation;
- b. The ability to give a clear and well-argued oral presentation that aims at a wider audience of humanities scholars and / or the general public;
- c. The ability to write a clear and well-argued written presentation on a research topic in accordance with the academic standards of the relevant specialisation.

5. *Learning skills*

- a. The learning abilities required to be able to follow post-master's professional or PhD training;
- b. The ability to demonstrate domain specific skills and transferable skills in an academic and professional environment;
- c. The ability to develop a personal and professional profile for employability on the future job market.

Learning Outcomes per Specialisation

1. Graduates of the specialisation ***Assyriology*** will have attained the following achievement levels:

1. *Knowledge and understanding*

- a. Advanced knowledge and understanding of the formal and linguistic aspects of the Akkadian, Sumerian or Hittite language and scripts, and an advanced reading level;
- b. Advanced knowledge and understanding of literary, historical and cultural aspects of Akkadian, Sumerian or Hittite texts;
- c. Familiarity with scholarly approaches to the history and archaeology of ancient Mesopotamia and / or Anatolia.
- d. A diverse and well-balanced view of ancient Mesopotamia and Anatolia on the basis of an integrated linguistic, literary, cultural-historical approach, and reflection on the connections between different ancient civilizations.

2. *Applying knowledge and understanding*

- a. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the interpretation of the Akkadian, Sumerian or Hittite language and scripts;
- b. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the interpretation of Akkadian, Sumerian and Hittite texts and archaeological evidence;
- c. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the history and archaeology of ancient Mesopotamia and / or Anatolia;
- d. The ability to interpret the complex connections between Mesopotamia, Anatolia, and other ancient civilizations on the basis of primary and secondary sources.

2. Graduates of the specialisation ***Classics*** will have attained the following achievement levels:

1. *Knowledge and understanding*

- a. Advanced knowledge and understanding of the formal and linguistic aspects of ancient Greek and Latin texts;
- b. Advanced knowledge and understanding of literary, historical and cultural aspects of Greek and Latin texts;

- c. Familiarity with scholarly approaches to the history of ancient Greece and Rome and / or ancient philosophy;
- d. A diverse and well-balanced view of Greco-Roman antiquity on the basis of an integrated linguistic, literary, cultural-historical approach, reflection on the connections between ancient civilizations, and reflection on the relation between classical antiquity and later periods (in particular early modern Europe and the twenty-first century world).

2. *Applying knowledge and understanding*

- a. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the semantics and the communicative functions of Greek and Latin texts;
- b. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning literary devices in Greek and Latin texts, and to assess their functions in a broader literary context;
- c. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the history of ancient Greece and Rome and / or ancient philosophy;
- d. The ability to interpret the complex connections between classical antiquity and the modern world on the basis of primary and secondary sources.

3. Graduates of the specialisation ***Egyptology*** will have attained the following achievement levels:

1. *Knowledge and understanding*

- a. Advanced knowledge and understanding of the formal and linguistic aspects of the ancient Egyptian language and scripts, especially Middle Egyptian, Coptic and Demotic, and an advanced reading level;
- b. Advanced knowledge and understanding of literary, historical and cultural aspects of Egyptian texts;
- c. Advanced knowledge and understanding of the archaeology and cultural history of ancient Egypt, including familiarity with modern Egypt and its research facilities;
- d. A diverse and well-balanced view of ancient Egypt on the basis of an integrated linguistic, archaeological, cultural-historical approach, and reflection on the connections between different ancient civilizations.

2. *Applying knowledge and understanding*

- a. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the interpretation of ancient Egyptian scripts and languages;
- b. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the interpretation of Egyptian texts and archaeological evidence;
- c. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the history and archaeology of ancient and Coptic Egypt;
- d. The ability to interpret the complex connections between Egypt and other ancient civilizations on the basis of primary and secondary sources.

4. Graduates of the specialisation ***Hebrew and Aramaic Studies*** will have attained the following achievement levels:

1. *Knowledge and understanding*

- a. Advanced knowledge and understanding of the formal and linguistic aspects of ancient Hebrew and Aramaic, and an advanced reading level;
- b. Advanced knowledge and understanding of literary, historical and cultural aspects of Hebrew and Aramaic texts;
- c. Familiarity with scholarly approaches to the history and archaeology of the ancient Levant, especially Palestine and Syria;
- d. A diverse and well-balanced view of ancient Palestine and Syria on the basis of an integrated linguistic, literary, cultural-historical approach, and reflection on the connections between different ancient civilizations.

2. *Applying knowledge and understanding*

- a. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the semantics and communicative functions of the ancient Hebrew and Aramaic languages;
- b. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the interpretation of ancient Hebrew and Aramaic texts and archeological evidence;
- c. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the history and archaeology of ancient Palestine and Syria;
- d. The ability to interpret the complex connections between ancient Palestine and Syria and other ancient civilizations on the basis of primary and secondary sources.

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 EC. 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.

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

Article 4.2 **Obligatory Sequence**

4.2.1 Not applicable.

Article 4.3 **Form of Examination**

4.3.6 Not applicable.

Chapter 5 **Admission to the Programme**

Article 5.2 **Admission to the Programme**

5.2.1 a. Not applicable.

5.2.1 b. 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:

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

² [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

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

- 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

In addition, applicants must also meet the following specific requirements per specialisation:

Specialisation Assyriology

Knowledge and relevant skills pertaining to at least one of the following topics and demonstrated by having successfully completed classes in one or more of these topics amounting to at least 30 EC:

- o the grammar of the most important phases of the Akkadian, Hittite or Sumerian language, of the relevant scripts and of the historical development of those languages and scripts;
- o the archaeology, the material culture and art history of the region involved;
- o the cultural history of the region involved, including its literature, its religion, and its social structure.

Specialisation Classics

A Bachelor's degree in Classics or a comparable discipline, with classes on Greek and Latin texts in the original language, roughly equivalent to the 95 credits required in the Dutch system. Applicants are required to submit an overview of ancient Greek and Latin texts (with numbers of pages) that they have read in the original language during their undergraduate/graduate studies.

Specialisation Egyptology

Knowledge and relevant skills pertaining to at least one of the following topics and demonstrated by having successfully completed classes in one or more of these topics amounting to at least 30 EC:

- o the grammar of the most important phases of the Egyptian language, of the relevant scripts and of the historical development of the language and scripts;
- o the archaeology, the material culture and art history of the region involved;
- o the cultural history of the region involved, including its literature, its religion, and its social structure.

Specialisation Hebrew and Aramaic Studies

An academic Bachelor's degree in Theology or Semitic Languages or a comparable degree, with at least 15 EC of Biblical Hebrew.

5.2.1 c. Not applicable.

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.

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;
- 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.

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:

<http://www.students.leiden.edu/application-admission/master/prospective/language-requirements.html>.

Article 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 the entire bachelor's programme, and
- B. A grade for the bachelor's thesis of at least 8.0 (Dutch grading system)
- C. Demonstrable motivation to study the particular Research MA programme/specialisation.
- D. Affinity with and suitability for scholarly research in the specific field of the MA specialisation and the ability to clearly report on research.

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

- A and B: as evidenced by a transcript of records and diploma of the relevant obtained academic degree;
- C: to be demonstrated by a well-argued and structured motivation letter in which the applicant indicates why they want to follow the research MA programme and convincingly discusses what makes them a good candidate for the research MA programme. The statement should be between 700 and 1,500 words;
- D: to be demonstrated by two letters of recommendation, the motivation letter (as referred to in 5.2.4.2 C) and 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 5.2.4.1c, they 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 the field of the specialisation 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.

In addition, to assess the admission requirements stated in 5.2.1, 5.2.2, and 5.2.3, the Board of Admissions will use the following documents:

- copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s);
- curriculum vitae (resume);
- proof of language proficiency (if applicable, see 5.2.3).
- For the *Specialisation Classics* only: an overview of ancient Greek and Latin texts (with numbers of pages) that they have read in the original language during their undergraduate/graduate studies;

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.b. and meets the qualitative requirements specified in 5.2.4.1.

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 <http://www.students.leiden.edu/application-admission/master/application-admission/>.

Article 5.2.5 Capacity Limitation

5.2.5.1 Maximum capacity: 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.