Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2021

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: History (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 history;

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

   - Ancient History (research)
   - Cities, Migration and Global Interdependence (research)
   - Colonial and Global History (research)
   - Europe 1000-1800 (research)
   - Politics, Culture and National Identities, 1789 to the Present (research)

Article 2.3   Learning outcomes

Graduates of the programme have attained the following learning outcomes, listed according to the Dublin descriptors:

I. Knowledge

1. Thorough knowledge and comprehension of one of the specialisations as well as of the historiography of the specialisation, focusing particularly on the following:

   - in the specialisation Ancient History: unification processes in the Graeco-Roman World, 400 BC-400 AD; insight into the recent large-scale debates in the field with respect to both the history of mentality and socio-economic history;

   - in the specialisation Colonial and Global History: comprehension of how global (political, socio-economic, and cultural) connections interact with regional processes of identity and state formation; hence insight in cross-cultural processes (including the infrastructure of shipping and other modes of communication) that affect regions across the world such as imperialism, colonisation, islamisation, modernisation and globalization (in particular during the period 1200-1940);

   - in the specialisation Europe 1000-1800: broader processes of political, social and cultural identity formation between about 1000-1800; awareness of problems of periodization and impact of 'national' historiographical traditions on the field;

   - in the specialisation Cities, Migration and Global Interdependence: the manner in which migrations (of people, goods and ideas) between and within states have led to shifts (in cohesion, ethnic composition, policies, imaging, culture, and power relations) in the period 1600-2000, with a focus on (urban) networks (within and across borders);

   - in the specialisation Politics, Culture and National Identities: political practices, symbols and perceptions, nationalism, and national identities in a cultural and societal context from 1800;

2. Thorough knowledge and comprehension of the theoretical, conceptual and methodological aspects of the specialisation, with a particular focus on the following:

   - in the specialisation Ancient History: the comparative method; application of socio-scientific methods; specialised source knowledge, in particular of documentary sources;

   - in the specialisation Colonial and Global History: empirical research from a comparative and connective perspective;

   - in the specialisation Europe 1000-1800: the ability to analyse and evaluate primary sources from the period in their original languages; ability to make use of relevant and state-of-the-art methods of quantitative and qualitative analysis to interpret sources in their textual and historical context;

   - in the specialisation Cities, Migration and Global Interdependence: the interdisciplinary approach (application of theories and methods from social sciences), the comparative perspective (diachronic and synchronic) and working with a large variety of primary sources;

   - in the specialisation Politics, Culture and National Identities: international comparison and transfer; the analysis of the specific perspectives of secondary studies; a cultural-historical approach of politics and a political-historical approach of culture;

3. Thorough knowledge and comprehension of the theoretical foundation of the discipline and of its position vis-à-vis other disciplines;

4. Knowledge and awareness of the relevance of disciplines related to the specialisation and the ability to evaluate their significance for the students' own topics of study. Thorough knowledge and understanding of the interdisciplinary aspects of the specialisation, both with regard to other historical specialisations and to related fields.

II. Skills

1. The ability to independently identify and select secondary literature, using traditional and modern techniques;

2. The ability to independently identify and select primary sources, using traditional and modern techniques;

3. The ability to analyse and evaluate a potentially complex corpus of sources with a view to addressing a particular historical problem;

4. The ability to analyse and evaluate literature with a view to addressing a particular historical problem;

5. The ability to independently formulate a clear and well-argued research question, taking into account the theory and method of the field and to reduce this question to accessible and manageable sub-questions;

6. The ability to independently set up and carry out an original research project which raises new questions, pioneers new approaches and/or points to new directions for future research;

7. The ability to give a clear and well-founded oral and written report on research results in correct English meeting the criteria of the discipline;

8. The ability to participate in current debates in the specialisation;

9. The ability to apply knowledge and understanding, and problem solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to the field of study;

10. The ability to participate in a discussion of the theoretical foundations of the discipline.

III. Academic attitude

Graduates of this programme are in possession of the following:

1. The ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgments with incomplete or limited information, including the ability to reflect on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of knowledge and judgments;

2. The ability to reflect on one's own professional integrity and moral conduct;

3. The ability to provide constructive feedback to and formulate criticism of the work of others and the ability to evaluate the value of such criticism and feedback on one's own work and incorporate it;

4. Understanding of the relevance for society of the historical discipline in general and the specialisation in particular.

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 Instruction[1] 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 schools[3], 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.

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[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

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:

- 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 must be in History or a comparable degree with a relevant specialisation; and
- Candidates must have knowledge, understanding and skills with respect to:

  o conducting independent empirical research;

  o the ability to read academic literature and reflect critically on it;

  o general history and the ability to present their findings (based on a critical reading of the literature or based on empirical research) in a systematic and analytical manner;

  o the ability to write a thesis with proper references to the literature;

- Have sufficient knowledge of languages (other than English) relevant for study and research within the chosen specialisation.

5.2.1 c. Not applicable.

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 possibly under further conditions, without prejudice to the requirements specified in 5.2.4.

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 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:

- A minimum score of IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 25 is required for each of the four components
- 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 see: http://www.students.leiden.edu/application-admission/master/prospective/language-requirements.html.

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 grade of at least 7.5 (Dutch grading system) for their entire bachelor's programme; and

B. A grade for the bachelor's thesis of an 8 or higher; and

C. Affinity with and suitability for scholarly research in the specific field of the programme/specialisation; and

D. Demonstrable motivation to study the particular Research MA programme/specialisation.

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
    i. a "Research Proposal". All applicants are required to submit a Research Proposal of approximately 1000 words, accompanied by an annotated bibliography of at least five (5) items, outlining the topic or field of research that the applicant wishes to pursue at Leiden University, and indicating the names of one or two faculty members who might guide that research.
    ii. two letters of recommendation, at least one of which by an academic member of staff.
- D: To be demonstrated by
    i. a well-argued and structured motivation letter in which the applicant indicates why he/she wants to follow the History 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.
    ii. two letters of recommendation, at least one of which by an academic member of staff.

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).

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: 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.

Appendix D – Transitional provisions

From September 2016, the ResMA History programme has changed as is explained below:

Old programme (before September 2016)	New programme (from September 2016 onwards)
Literature Seminar within specialization (10 EC)	Literature Seminar within specialization (10 EC)
Research Seminars within specialization (20 EC)	Research Seminars within specialization (20 EC)
Optional Course (20 EC)	Optional Course (20 EC)
Historical Theory (10 EC)	Historical Theory (10 EC)
Research School courses (10 EC)	Research School courses (10 EC)
Tutorial (10 EC)	Tutorial (10 EC)
Thesis (40 EC)	***New course:*** *Developing Research Proposals (10 EC)*
	Thesis (**30** EC)

This means the following:
  i. students who started their programme <u>before the academic year 2016-2017</u> are allowed to finish the old programme they started in. This will be possible until 1 February 2023. Transferring to the new programme before 1 February 2022, is possible after permission of the Board of Examiners (<u>examcom.history@hum.leidenuniv.nl</u>);

  ii. students who <u>re-registered after deregistration</u> (e.g. started in 2015-2016, temporarily halted their studies, and reregistered for September 2020), need to adhere to the graduation requirements of the new programme (see table above).