Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2022

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Philosophy (120 EC)

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 programme-specific section. Other articles are included in the faculty 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 the philosophy of a discipline;

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**

The programme has the following specialisations:

- Philosophy of Humanities
- Philosophy of Law, Governance, and Politics
- Philosophy in World Traditions

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. knowledge and understanding in the field of the history, foundations, methodology and/or ethics of the specific discipline, in particular:

      - *Philosophy of Humanities*
        knowledge and understanding of the methodologies, key terms, and philosophical foundations of the literary arts and humanities, as well as the philosophical reflection on the social and cultural meaning of the literary arts and humanities;
      - *Philosophy of Law, Governance, and Politics*
        knowledge and understanding of the methodologies, key terms, and philosophical foundations of legal and social sciences, as well as the philosophical reflection on the social and cultural impact of these;
      - *Philosophy in World Traditions*
        knowledge and understanding of one or more of the Asian or Middle Eastern philosophical traditions and their histories, as well as the relevant methodologies, key terms, and philosophical reflection on their linguistic, cultural, geographical, and historical underpinnings;

   b. knowledge and understanding with regard to the social and cultural meaning of philosophy in general and the philosophy of the specific discipline in particular;

   c. knowledge and understanding of the main philosophical elements of the discipline as well as knowledge of the problems, methods and key terms of these elements.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding

   a. the ability, based on the acquired knowledge and understanding, to contribute to discussions in the philosophy of the specific discipline, and related areas;

b. the ability to demonstrate specific and transferable skills in an academic and/or a professional environment;
   c. the ability to develop a personal and professional profile for employability in a future career.

3. Judgement

   a. the ability, on the basis of the sound knowledge of philosophy acquired during the programme, to analyse complex philosophical problems;
   b. the ability to judge the reliability of different kinds of sources;
   c. the ability to form judgements based on different kinds of sources;
   d. a realistic view of the reliability of their conclusions;
   e. the ability to integrate different approaches to philosophical questions and compare these with each other.

4. Communication

   a. the ability to give a clear presentation of philosophical problems, ideas, theories, interpretations and arguments, for specialist audiences as well as for a general audience;
   b. the ability to write philosophical papers at an academic level.

5. Learning skills

   the possession of learning skills that allow graduates to continue their study of philosophy and to formulate a research proposal for a PhD.

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 and Examination[1] 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. As appropriate, the Faculty publishes OER in English for English-taught programmes.

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.

Chapter 4   Examinations, Final Examination and Further Education

Article 4.2   **Obligatory sequence**

4.2.1   Not applicable.

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[1] Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction
[2] Guideline on Language Policy

Article 4.3   **Form of examination**

4.3.6   The final part of the completion and assessment of the MA thesis is the oral MA examination, which consists of an interview with the candidate on the subject of the thesis conducted by a graduation committee, appointed by the Board of Examiners. The candidate's performance during the interview will be taken into account for the determination of the final grade of the thesis.

Article 4.6   **Assessment**

4.6.4   The examination results are expressed as a half number between 1.0 and 10.0, including both limits.

Chapter 5   Admission to the Programme per September 2023 or February 2024

Article 5.1   **Confirmation of admission**

See the faculty section.

Article 5.2   **Admission to the programme**

5.2.1   Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

a.   Not applicable. No direct admission, see Article 5.2.1b.

b.   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

- either the bachelor's degree is in a discipline relevant to the chosen specialisation and the applicant possesses knowledge, understanding and skills comparable to those acquired upon completion of the bridging programme in philosophy as described in article 5.4, for example by having earned a bachelor's degree in a programme in which philosophy is combined with the chosen discipline,

- or the bachelor's degree is in a discipline relevant to the chosen specialisation and the pre-master's programme in philosophy as described in article 5.4 is completed,

- or the bachelor's degree is in Philosophy and possesses knowledge, understanding and skills comparable to those acquired upon completion of the bridging programme in one of the relevant non-philosophical disciplines, and

- the ability to formulate a clear philosophical research question, to develop and formulate a critical view on that question, and to support this view by means of argument and analysis, to be determined on the basis of a writing sample.

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

- for the specialisation Philosophy of Humanities, the relevant disciplines must be in the field of modern European languages and cultures, classics, (art)history, culture, or religious studies;

- for the specialisation Philosophy of Law, Governance, and Politics, the relevant disciplines must be in the field of law, (international) political science or public administration;

- for the specialisation Philosophy in World Traditions, the relevant disciplines must be in the field of Asian studies, or in the field of Intercultural Philosophy.

- a bachelor's degree and additionally having passed the prescribed pre-master's/bridging programme pursuant to article 5.4.1. Students may overrun the allotted time for the prescribed pre-masters/bridging

programme by one semester (in case of a pre-master's/bridging programme of 30 EC or less) or one study year (in case of a pre-master's/bridging programme of more than 30 EC).

It is not possible to apply to this programme with a degree from a Dutch University of Applied Sciences (hbo).

5.2.2   Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements or prescribed pre-master's requirement referred to in 5.2.1 may submit a request to the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 5.2.1, under (a) and (b). The Board may also impose further conditions.
The Board of Admissions assesses, where relevant, whether the applicant meets the qualitative selection requirements mentioned referred to 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.

- a writing sample demonstrating the candidate's ability to formulate a clear philosophical research question, to develop and formulate a critical view on that question, and to support this view by means of argument and analysis.

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.

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 from a programme taught in English (or an IB 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);
- C1 Advanced (former CAE) 185.

The test result may not be older than two years at the time of enrolment for the programme.

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 https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/admission-and-application/masters/admission-requirements#language-requirements.

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 5.3 Deficiencies

See the faculty section.

Article 5.4 Pre-master's programmes

5.4.1 The Programme has established pre-master's programmes (for the following target groups) in order to remedy deficiencies. Pre-master's programmes/bridging programmes must be completed successfully within the prescribed period as specified in sub Article 5.2.1c.

This 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 a subject belonging to the relevant disciplines, who do not fulfil the entry requirements regarding the knowledge, understanding and skills in the field of philosophy, as specified in article 5.2.2. Students who successfully complete this pre-master programme of 60 credits will be admitted to the relevant specialisation of the Master's programme.

The premaster programme consists of:

- compulsory introductory courses of 5 credits each,
- one elective course in philosophy of 5 credits from the relevant pre-master package (if applicable),
- advanced seminar(s) at third-year BA level of 10 credits each,

as specified in the table below. The choice of components depends on the chosen specialisation in the Master's programme in Philosophy (120 EC).

For candidates who can demonstrate to have relevant knowledge and skills related to one or more of the components of the pre-master's programme described below, the pre-master's programme may be tailored to their individual backgrounds (resulting in programmes smaller than 60 EC).

It is not possible for candidates with a degree from a Dutch University of Applied Sciences (hbo) to remedy deficiencies with the pre-master's programme.

Abbreviations:

HUM   Philosophy of Humanities
LGP   Philosophy of Law, Governance, and Politics
WT   Philosophy in World Traditions

Semester	Course unit title	Level	Credits	HUM	LGP	WT
	Compulsory introductory courses, selected for the chosen master's specialisation):			HUM	LGP	WT
I	Griekse en Romeinse filosofie / World Philosophies: Greek and Roman Antiquity	100	5	X	X	X
I	World Philosophies: China	100	5			X
I	History of Modern Philosophy	200	5	X	X	X
I	Ethiek / Ethics	100	5	X	X	X
I	Politieke filosofie / Political Philosophy	200	5		X	
I	Cultuurfilosofie / Philosophy of Culture	100	5	X		X
I	Comparative Philosophy	200	5	X		
II	World Philosophies: Africa	200	5			X
II	World Philosophies: India	100	5			X
II	World Philosophies: Middle East	200	5			X
II	History of Political Philosophy	200	5	X	X	
II	Epistemologie / Epistemology	200	5		X	
II	Continentale filosofie	200	5	X		
II	Philosophical Skills	100	5	X	X	X
				40	35	45
	Optional courses: select one of the courses that are available for the chosen master's specialisation (LGP and WT only)			HUM	LGP	WT
I	Cultuurfilosofie / Philosophy of Culture	100	5		X	
I	Logica / Logic	200	5		X	
I	Wetenschapsfilosofie / Philosophy of Science	200	5		X	
I	Comparative Philosophy	200	5		X	
I	Language and Thought	200	5			X
I	Concepts of Self	200	5			X
II	History of Political Philosophy	200	5			X
II	Medieval Philosophy	100	5		X	
II	World Philosophies: Middle East	100	5		X	
II	Continentale filosofie	200	5		X	
				0	5	5
	Select one (WT) or two (HUM, LGP) advanced seminar(s) from the courses that are available for the chosen specialisation.			HUM	LGP	WT
I	Intercultural Philosophical Hermeneutics	300	10			X

I	Buddhistm: Topics	400	10			X
I	African Political Theory	300	10			X
I	Avicenna and his Critics	400	10			X
I	Aesthetics	400	10	X		
I	Introduction to Phenomenology	400	10	X		
I	Continental Philosophy I (TBA)	300	10	X		
I	Critical Philosophy: Feminism, Gender and Race	400	10	X		
I	Metaethics	400	10		X	
I	Global Justice	300	10		X	
I	Capitalism and Beyond	400	10		X	
I	Classics of Practical Philosophy	300	10		X	
II	Conceptions of Knowledge in India and China	300	10			X
II	Global and Comparative Philosophy (TBA)	400	10			X
II	Buddhist Moral Philosophy	300	10			X
II	Feminist Theories in Asian Philosophy	400	10			X
II	Philosophy and Decolonization	300	10			X
II	Existentialism	300	10	X		
II	Heidegger and His Critics	400	10	X		
II	Introduction to German Idealism	400	10	X		
II	Twentieth Century French Philosophy	400	10	X		
II	Philosophy of Play	400	10	X		
II	Philosophy of Technology	300	10	X		
II	Kritische theorie	300	10	X	X	
II	Continental Political Philosophy	300	10	X	X	
II	Ethics II	400	10		X	
II	Environmental Philosophy	400	10		X	
II	Political Obligation	300	10		X	
II	Moral Psychology	400	10		X	
II	Plato Politeia	300	10		X	
				20	20	10

5.4.2   Information regarding the pre-master's programmes 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.

Appendix D - Transitional provisions

As of 1 September 2020 the specialisations of the MA Philosophy (120 EC) have been changed.

MA Philosophy (120 EC) until September 2020	MA Philosophy (120 EC) starting September 2020
Specialisations: - Philosophy of Humanities - Philosophy of Law - Philosophy of Natural Sciences - Philosophy of Political Science - Philosophy of Psychology *Full time and part time programme*	Specialisations: - Philosophy of Humanities - Philosophy of Law, Governance, and Politics - Philosophy in World Traditions *Only full time programme*

- The following specialisations are being phased out:

Philosophy of Natural Sciences
Students who have started the specialisations Philosophy of Natural Sciences (part time) before 1 September 2020 will be allowed to complete the programme up until August 2024.

Philosophy of Psychology
Students who have started the specialisations Philosophy of Psychology (part time) before 1 September 2020 will be allowed to complete the programme up until August 2024.

- The following specialisations are merged:

Philosophy of Law **and** *Philosophy of Political Science*
The specialisations Philosophy of Law and Philosophy of Political Science are merged into the specialisation Philosophy of Law, Governance, and Politics.

As of 1 September 2020 students in the specialisations Philosophy of Law or Political Science will be registered in the specialisation Philosophy of Law, Governance, and Politics.

The following transitional provisions apply:
- Students who started the specialisation Philosophy of Law before 1 September 2020 and have completed only one of the two specialist courses *Philosophy of Law* are required to complete one specialist course Philosophy of Law, Governance, and Politics.
- Students who started the specialisation Philosophy of Law before 1 September 2020 and have completed both specialist courses *Philosophy of Law* are considered to have fulfilled the requirement for the two specialist courses Philosophy of Law, Governance, and Politics.
- Students who started the specialisation Philosophy of Political Science before 1 September 2020 and have completed only one of the two specialist courses *Philosophy Political Science* are required to complete one specialist course Philosophy of Law, Governance, and Politics.
- Students who started the specialisation Philosophy of Political Science before 1 September 2020 and have completed both specialist courses *Philosophy Political Science* are considered to have fulfilled the requirement for the two specialist courses Philosophy of Law, Governance, and Politics.

These transitional provisions will apply from 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 for the part time programme.

- The part time programme of Philosophy (120 EC) (all specialisations) is being phased out, see the Faculty-section, Article 2.4.1.