



Universiteit Leiden

# Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2023

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;
- the Online Proctoring Protocol Leiden University.

The model OER are laid down in Dutch and then translated into English. In the event that there are differences between the two versions, the Dutch version will prevail.

Pursuant to Article 7.14 of the Act, the Faculty Board regularly evaluates the OER 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 master's 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.

### 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

Appendix C - Internship Regulations for Humanities Bachelor's and Master's programmes

Appendix D – Enrolment protocol

Programme-specific Section:

Appendix E – 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 African 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:

#### **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 Instruction and Examination<sup>1</sup> 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

---

<sup>1</sup> [Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction](#)

programme, in accordance with the requirements stated in Article 5.2.3. As appropriate, the Faculty publishes the 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.<sup>2</sup>

## **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 Students may only sit examinations and, if indicated, participate in class of the following components once they have passed the examination of the preceding components specified below:

- Research internship (Field assignment): 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century;
- Methods Clinic African Studies;
- A research internship proposal approved by the supervisor, Board of Examiners and Career Service.

### **Article 4.3 Form of examination**

4.3.6 Not applicable.

## **Chapter 5 Admission to the Programme as of September 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):

---

<sup>2</sup> [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

- a. a bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university in the field of African Studies or 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. 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).

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, (a) and (b) or whether they meet these conditions after additional requirements have been met.

The Board of Admissions assesses, where relevant, whether the applicant meets the qualitative selection requirements 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.

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 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-taught 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 6.5; where each separate component score must be at least 6.0
- TOEFL (Internet-based) 90, where each separate component score must be at least 20<sup>3</sup>

At the time when the student applies for the programme, the test must have been taken no more than two calendar years previously.

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.

---

<sup>3</sup> See also the [English test score equivalency table](#) of Leiden University.

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

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. The LDE minor African Dynamics serves as a pre-master's/bridging programme.

5.4.2 Information on the bridging programme can be requested from the study advisor 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.