



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2023

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Linguistics

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.

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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 linguistics or translation 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; and
4. to prepare students for a career outside academia.

Article 2.2 Specialisations

The programme has the following specialisations:

- Linguistics
- Modern Languages
- Translation

Article 2.3 Learning outcomes

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

1. Knowledge and insight

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work:

- i. thorough knowledge of the basic tenets of the theoretical approach and research methodologies of their specialisation.

2. Applying knowledge and insight

Graduates demonstrate:

- i. basic research skills which are adequate to carry out original research focused on primary language data;
- ii. the ability to write a final thesis, i.e. to independently identify and formulate a scientific problem, describe this problem, analyse relevant data and provide an insightful and verifiable solution.

3. Making judgements

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work:

- i. the ability to provide constructive criticism of oral and written research results and to use criticism for revising theories and points of view;
- ii. the ability to critically evaluate scientific paradigms in their chosen field of research.
- iii. take into account the philosophy and ethics of linguistic research.

4. Communication

Graduates demonstrate:

- i. the ability to communicate the achieved research results in their chosen field of research in a clear and substantiated way in an oral and written report, meeting the general criteria observed in the field of their specialisation.

5. Learning skills

Graduates demonstrate:

- i. the learning abilities required to be able to follow postmaster's professional training or a PhD training of a largely self-determined or autonomous nature.

Extending and deepening these general qualifications, graduates of each of the specialisations will have obtained the following achievement levels:

Additional learning outcomes for graduates of the specialisation Linguistics

Graduates of the specialisation **Linguistics** have attained the following learning outcomes, listed according to the Dublin descriptors:

1. Knowledge and insight

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work:

- i. thorough knowledge of the basic tenets of the theoretical approach and research methodologies of their subdiscipline.
- ii. knowledge and understanding of the discipline of linguistics, the scientific study of human language;
- iii. familiarity with the basic concepts, research methods and techniques, and current developments in the field;
- iv. knowledge of at least one subdiscipline of linguistics, such as descriptive, formal, experimental, applied, or comparative linguistics; being acquainted with its specific research questions and methodology.

2. Applying knowledge and insight

Graduates of the specialisation **Linguistics** demonstrate:

- i. basic research skills which are adequate to carry out original research focused on primary language data;
- ii. the ability to define a research topic, formulate research questions, and collect data, e.g. through fieldwork, study of existing corpora or an experimental setup;
- iii. the ability to perform an analysis and interpretation of the object of inquiry;
- iv. the ability to relate the analysis to the relevant literature;

- v. the ability to contribute to ongoing debates in the discipline, based on independent research and theoretical reflection.
- vi. the ability to write a final thesis that demonstrates all the above knowledge and insight capacities.

3. Making judgments

Graduates of the specialisation **Linguistics** demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

- i. provide constructive criticism of oral and written research results and to use this to revise theories and points of view;
- ii. critically evaluate scientific paradigms in their chosen field of research.
- iii. build an argument that leads to its conclusion in a clear and verifiable manner;
- iv. relate the results of their research to the existing literature;

Additional learning outcomes for graduates of the specialisation Modern Languages

Graduates of the specialisation **Modern Languages** have attained the following learning outcomes, listed according to the Dublin descriptors:

1. Knowledge and insight

Graduates of the specialisation **Modern Languages** demonstrate, in their written and oral work:

- i. knowledge of the field of Chinese/English/French/German/Italian language and linguistics and the connections between the various subfields of Chinese/English/French/German/Italian language and linguistics.
- ii. advanced knowledge of at least one of the subfields of Chinese/English/French/German/Italian language and linguistics;
- iii. knowledge of linguistic research methods used in the field of Chinese/English/French/German/Italian language and linguistics;

2. Applying knowledge and insight

Graduates of the specialisation **Modern Languages** demonstrate the ability to:

- i. critically apply analytical and descriptive linguistic research methods to data of Chinese/English/French/German/Italian;

3. Making judgements

Graduates of the specialisation **Modern Languages** demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

- i. critically evaluate scientific arguments within the chosen subdiscipline of Chinese/English/French/German/Italian language and linguistics, and to formulate an independent critical opinion of these arguments;
- ii. provide a critical synthesis of scientific arguments dealing with a given issue in the chosen subdiscipline of Chinese/English/French/German/Italian language and linguistics.

4. Communication

Graduates of the specialisation **Modern Languages** demonstrate the ability to:

- i. communicate about the achieved research results in their chosen field of research in a clear and substantiated way in an oral and written report, meeting the general criteria observed in the field of Chinese/English/French/German/Italian language and linguistics.

Graduates specialising in English, French, German, or Italian linguistics demonstrate the ability to:

- ii. comprehend oral presentations and conversations in English/French/German/Italian at the CEFR levels specified in the table below;
- iii. comprehend written texts in English/French/German/Italian at the CEFR levels specified in the table below;
- iv. give an oral presentation in English/French/German/Italian (CEFR levels specified in the table below), reporting on the work outlined in (2i) and (3i-ii);
- v. write an MA thesis in English/French/German/Italian (CEFR levels specified in the table below), on the work outlined in (2i) and (3i-ii).

| <i>English:</i> | | <i>French:</i> | | <i>German:</i> | | <i>Italian:</i> | |
|--------------------|----|--------------------|-------|--------------------|----|--------------------|-------|
| Listening | C2 | Listening | C1/C2 | Listening | C2 | Listening | C1 |
| Reading | C2 | Reading | C2 | Reading | C2 | Reading | C1 |
| Spoken interaction | C2 | Spoken interaction | C1 | Spoken interaction | C1 | Spoken interaction | B2/C1 |
| Spoken production | C2 | Spoken production | C1 | Spoken production | C1 | Spoken production | |
| Writing | C2 | Writing | C1 | Writing | C1 | | B2/C1 |
| | | | | | | Writing | C1 |

Additional Learning outcomes for graduates of the specialisation Translation

Graduates of the specialisation **Translation** have attained the following learning outcomes, listed according to the Dublin descriptors:

1. Knowledge and insight

Graduates of the specialisation **Translation** demonstrate, in their written and oral work:

- i. knowledge and understanding of the problems posed by the translation of multimodal, audiovisual, legal, literary or medical texts;
- ii. knowledge and understanding of areas of translation theory that may be of use to the translator of specialized texts;
- iii. knowledge and understanding of technological developments in the field, including the use of translation memories, terminology management, corpora, and machine translation, as well as knowledge and understanding of the theories and empirical research addressing these developments;
- iv. understanding of the importance of professional skills and knowledge and understanding of (automated) business processes involved in (intercultural) translation projects, including (intercultural) communication with clients and other stakeholders, (intercultural) project management, time and budget management, marketing and acquisition, and networking;
- v. knowledge and understanding of how disciplines such as linguistics, cultural studies, journalism, literary studies, philosophy, psychology, stylistics, lexical semantics and comparative law have contributed to the field;
- vi. knowledge and understanding of the relationship between writing and translation (e.g. contrastive rhetoric, genre theory), and editing and translation (including post-editing of machine translations);

- vii. specialist knowledge of and practical skill in the translation of multimodal, audiovisual, legal, literary or medical texts, such that the graduate is ready to embark on a career as a specialist translator;

2. Applying knowledge and insight

Graduates of the specialisation **Translation** demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

- i. apply research methods in translation theory to the translation of multimodal, audiovisual, legal, literary or medical texts from English to Dutch and vice versa;
- ii. handle existing theoretical models in the field of translation studies and to apply them critically;
- iii. assess the value of translation theories for translation problems and to critically apply the solutions offered by these theories;
- iv. assess the value of technological tools and the ability to use these tools in individual and collaborative projects (e.g., use of terminology databases, translation memories, machine translation software, corpora, project management systems);
- v. put into practice the professional skills required for professional translation service provision, including (intercultural) communication with clients and other stakeholders, (intercultural) project management, time and budget management, marketing and acquisition, and networking;
- vi. apply the language skills in Dutch and English (the two main target languages) needed to produce translations of publishable quality, according to the CEFR levels in the table below.

| <i>English:</i> | | <i>Dutch:</i> | |
|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Listening | C2 | Listening | C2 |
| Reading | C2 | Reading | C2 |
| Spoken interaction | C2 | Spoken interaction | C2 |
| Spoken production | C2 | Spoken production | C2 |
| Writing | C2 | Writing | C2 |

The specialisation **Translation** is a signed Member of the European Master's in Translation Network since 2019. As such, the specialisation must fulfil the requirements of the EMT Charter to guarantee the following Competences as learning outcomes: (i) Language and Culture Competences, (ii) Translation Competences, (iii) Technology Competences, (iv) Personal and Interpersonal Competences, and (v) Service Provision Competences.

See [EMT Competence Framework](#) for a full overview of the learning outcomes within the EMT Framework (2019-2024).

Article 2.5 Study load

The programme has a study load of 60 EC.

Article 2.8 Language of instruction

2.8.1. Subject to the Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction and Examination¹ the language(s) of instruction and examination in the programme is/are:

- Specialisation Linguistics: English

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

- Specialisation Modern Languages: English
- Specialisation Translation: English and Dutch

Specific language requirements for English, French, German, and Italian will apply for specific courses within the MA programme:

- For courses on French linguistics taught in French: A good command of French (the minimum entry level is CEFR C1, as evidenced by an appropriate test (Dalf C1 with a C1 score for each of the subtests)
- For courses on German linguistics taught in German: A good command of German (the minimum entry level is CEFR C1, as evidenced by an appropriate test (Goethe-Zertifikat C1)
- For courses on Italian linguistics taught in Italian: A good command of Italian (the minimum entry levels are CEFR C1 (listening, reading) and CEFR B2 (speaking, writing), as evidenced by an appropriate test).
- For courses on English linguistics taught in English: English IELTS 7.0/TOEFL (Internet based) 110²; a minimum score of IELTS 6.5 or TOEFL 22 is required for each of the four components.

The requirements per course are listed in the Prospectus (<https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl/en/studies/masters/m>).

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 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.³

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. Students registered for the **specialisation Modern Languages** may take a course from the national Masterlanguage curriculum as one of the compulsory components.

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.

² See also the [English test score equivalency table](#) of Leiden University.

³ [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

Chapter 5 Admission to the Programme per 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):

- a. a Bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university (in the specialisation) in:

| <i>Specialisation Master</i> | <i>Admission on the basis of a Bachelor's degree in,</i> |
|------------------------------|--|
| Linguistics | Linguistics |
| Modern Languages | English Language and Culture French Language and Culture German Language and Culture Italian Language and Culture |
| Translation | [no direct admission, see article 5.2.1b] |

- 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;

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

Specialisation Linguistics

- Sufficient knowledge of and insight in linguistics, including core linguistics courses (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics), demonstrated by:
- A Bachelor's degree in a language-related field, such as English/French/German/Italian/China Studies/Classics, or any other language, with 30 EC in linguistics-related courses of which at least 20 EC in core linguistics courses (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics); or
- A Bachelor's degree in non-related field, such as Computer Science, International Studies, Psychology, or Mathematics, with 45 EC in language- and linguistics-related courses of which at least 20 EC in core linguistics courses (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics).

Specialisation Modern Languages

- Knowledge of and insight in linguistics and proficiency in the language of study comparable with the qualifications acquired by students graduating from the Bachelor's programme referred to in article 5.2.1a, for example:
 - A Bachelor's degree in Linguistics, including knowledge and understanding of active (writing, speaking) and passive (reading, listening) proficiency in the language of study at the final level of the degrees referred to in Art. 5.1.2a.
- A Bachelor's degree in English/French/German/Italian (including knowledge and understanding of active (writing, speaking) and passive (reading, listening) proficiency in the language of study at the final

level of the degrees referred to in Art. 5.1.2a) or China Studies, with 30 EC in linguistics courses of which at least 20 EC in core linguistics courses (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics).

- The aforementioned proficiency of the language of study translates into the following requirements:
 - French: CEFR C1 levels for all components (writing, speaking, reading, listening);
 - German: CEFR C1 levels for all components;
 - Italian: CEFR C1 for listening and reading; CEFR B2 for speaking and writing
 - English: IELTS 7.0/TOEFL (Internet based) 110; a minimum score of IELTS 6.5 or TOEFL 22 is required for each of the four components.

Specialisation Translation

Proven active (writing, speaking) and passive (reading, listening) proficiency in English and Dutch at the final level of the Leiden University minor in Translation (see also Art. 5.2.3.2.). Proven translation skills, proven academic writing skills in English and Dutch, and knowledge and understanding of translation studies and culture specific translation issues, comparable to those acquired by completing the Leiden University minor in Translation of at least 30 EC.

For example:

- a Bachelor's degree in English Language and Culture or a language-related field and a completed minor in translation that includes Dutch-English translation and English-Dutch translation; or
- a Bachelor's degree in a non-related field and a completed minor in translation that includes Dutch-English translation and English-Dutch translation.

demonstrated by:

- For applicants with a Bachelor's degree in English Language and Culture or a language-related field who have not completed a minor in translation that includes Dutch-English translation and English-Dutch translation: a sufficient entry test, consisting of an English to Dutch translation, a Dutch to English translation, and a written exam consisting of open and multiple-choice questions on Translation Studies and Culture Studies for Translators;
- For applicants with a Bachelor's degree in a non-related field without a completed translation minor:
 - a. a sufficient entry test, consisting of an English to Dutch translation, a Dutch to English translation, and a written exam consisting of open and multiple-choice questions on Translation Studies and Culture Studies for Translators; and
 - b. affinity with language and translation, demonstrated by the Questionnaire Master Application;

Applicants who have a Bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university in English Language and Culture or a language-related field and who have completed the minor in Translation at Leiden University are considered to have fulfilled the additional requirements for the specialisation *Translation*.

For applicants with a Bachelor's degree from a university of applied sciences [*hbo-bachelor*] in English Language and Culture or a language-related field: a translation pre-master programme (40 to 60 EC).

The Board of Admissions will decide whether an applicant is eligible to take the entry test or is eligible for admission to the translation pre-master programme, respectively.

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 applicant 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.

Additionally, for the **specialisation Translation**

- Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in a non-related field and not having completed the minor Vertalen Engels-Nederlands are required to take an entry test consisting of an English to Dutch translation, a Dutch to English translation, and a written exam consisting of open and multiple-choice questions on Translation Studies and Culture Studies for Translators. (for details see <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/study-programmes/master/linguistics/translation/admission-and-application/admission-requirements#entry-test>)

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:

Specialisations Linguistics

- IELTS 6.5, where each separate constituent score must be at least 6.0, TOEFL 90 (internet-based) where each separate constituent score must be at least 20²,

Modern Languages (French/German/Italian/Chinese)

- IELTS 6.5, where each separate constituent score must be at least 6.0, TOEFL 90 (internet-based) where each separate constituent score must be at least 20²,

Modern Languages (English)

- IELTS 7.0, where each separate constituent score must be at least 6.5/TOEFL (Internet based) 100, where each constituent score must be at least 22².

Additional language requirements will apply for specific courses within the programme. See also Art. 2.8.1. The requirements per course are listed in the Prospectus (<https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl/en/studies/masters/m>).

Specialisation Translation:

- IELTS 7.5, where each separate constituent score must be at least 7.0, /TOEFL (Internet based) 113², where each separate constituent score must be at least 25. The requirement to provide an English language test result applies to all students who have completed a Bachelor's programme other than the Bachelor's programme referred to in article 5.2.1b. This is at the discretion of the Board of Admissions.

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

5.2.3.3. Only applicable to the specialization in *Translation*: Dutch: minimally CEFR C1 levels for all components (writing, speaking, reading, listening).

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

Not applicable.

Article 5.3 Deficiencies

See the faculty section.

Article 5.4 Pre-master's programmes

5.4.1 The programme has established the following pre-master's programmes (for the following target groups) in order to remedy deficiencies:

Specialisation Linguistics

For students with an academic Bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to a Dutch wo Bachelor's degree, who do not meet the requirements as specified in article 5.2.1b, the Board of Admissions may impose a pre-master's programme between 20 and 60 EC in order to remedy deficiencies.

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.

Specialisation Modern Languages

Students holding a Bachelor's degree from a university of applied sciences [*hbo*] in one of the modern languages (lower secondary education certificate, *tweedegraads*) will be admitted to the MA Linguistics - specialisation Modern Languages after completing an individual bridging programme of 60 EC. This programme always includes a course in Academic Skills.

For students with an academic Bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to a Dutch wo Bachelor's degree, who do not meet the requirements as specified in article 5.2.1b, the Board of Admissions may impose a pre-master's programme between 20 and 60 EC in order to remedy deficiencies.

Specialisation Translation

For applicants with a Bachelor's degree from a university of applied sciences [*hbo-bachelor*] in English Language and Culture or a language-related field the Board of Admissions will decide whether an applicant is eligible for admission to a translation pre-master's programme between 40-60 EC in order to remedy deficiencies. See 5.2.1b for further information.

Please consult the Prospectus for more information about the specific pre-master's programmes for the different specialisations within the programme.

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

- 5.5.2 Information regarding pre-master's programmes can be requested from the study advisor of the relevant specialisation.

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.