



Universiteit Leiden

# Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2025

Programme-specific section:

## Master's Programme: Arts and Culture

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 Course and Examination Regulations and considers, for the purpose of monitoring and adjusting the study load, how much time it takes students to comply with them. 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 academic methods in the field of Arts and Culture in general, and in particular with regard to the chosen specialisation;
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

- Art History
- Museum Studies

### Article 2.3 Learning outcomes

The learning outcomes are listed according to the Dublin descriptors: I. Knowledge and understanding, II. Applying knowledge and understanding, III. Making Judgements, IV. Communications and V. Learning skills.

All graduates of the programme Arts and Culture will all have acquired the learning outcomes, listed according to the Dublin descriptors III, IV and V. The learning outcomes under I and II are specified for the individual specialisations.

Graduates of the programme specialisation: **Art History** will have attained the following learning outcomes, listed according to the Dublin descriptors I and II:

#### *I. Knowledge and understanding*

The master's graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work:

1. thorough knowledge and understanding of the area of the history of art and art institutions, its basic concepts and current research issues with their contexts and perspectives, theoretical discussions, research apparatus and methods, as well as analytical and interpretive skills;
2. thorough knowledge and understanding of art works and artistic expressions regarding issues of globalisation, and their various contextualisations and theorizations;
3. in-depth knowledge of the relevant contexts (cultural, ideological, religious or scientific) in which art and its institutes and sites, function(ed) on the one hand, and their impact on society on the other;
4. knowledge and understanding of the interdisciplinary, intermedial and intercultural aspects of art history and art institutions.

## *II. Applying knowledge and understanding*

The master's graduates show, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

5. define a research topic, formulate research questions and identify an object of inquiry (a corpus of artworks or cultural practices related to art) that will allow them to answer these research questions in a way that conforms with current scholarly practices in art history;
6. analyse and critically assess the theories and practices of art history;
7. select an appropriate body of theory for the analysis and interpretation of the object of inquiry, so that innovative answers to the research question can be given; understand the social and historical dimensions of the topic of inquiry within the field of art history;
8. contribute creative solutions to on-going debates in the discipline of art history, based on independent research and theoretical reflection. Understand the social and historical dimensions of both the researched works of art or practices and their theoretical approaches;

Graduates of the programme specialisation: **Museum Studies** will have attained the following learning outcomes, listed according to the Dublin descriptors I and II:

### *I. Knowledge and understanding*

The master's graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work:

1. thorough knowledge and understanding of the area of art museums, institutes and sites, its basic concepts and current research issues with their contexts and perspectives, theoretical discussions, research apparatus and methods, as well as analytical and interpretative skills;
2. thorough knowledge and understanding of the history, practices and theories in the field of art museums, institutes and sites;
3. in-depth knowledge of the relevant contexts (cultural, ideological, religious or scientific) in which art museums, institutes and sites, function(ed) on the one hand, and their impact on contemporary society on the other;
4. knowledge and understanding of the interdisciplinary, intermedial and intercultural aspects of art museums, institutes and sites.

### *II. Applying knowledge and understanding*

The master's graduates show, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

5. define a research topic, formulate research questions and identify an object of inquiry (a corpus of artworks or cultural practices related to art) that will allow them to answer these research questions in a way that conforms with current scholarly practices in art museums, institutes and sites; analyse and critically assess the theories and practices of art museums, institutes and sites;
6. select an appropriate body of theory for the analysis and interpretation of the object of inquiry, so that innovative answers to the research question can be given; understand the social and historical dimensions of the topic of inquiry within the field of art museums, institutes and sites;
7. contribute creative solutions to on-going debates in the discipline of art museums, institutes and sites, based on independent research and theoretical reflection. Understand the social and historical dimensions of both the researched works of art or practices and their theoretical approaches;

The learning outcomes for III making judgements, IV Communication and V Learning skills for the Master Arts and Culture are:

### *III Making judgements*

The master's graduates demonstrate in their written and oral work the ability to:

1. find and research primary and secondary, modern, historical and digital sources, to judge the quality of these sources, their reliability and their theoretical and/or historical relevance to a research topic, and to use these sources to formulate and/or answer a research question that is relevant to the current debate on the topic;
2. write a well-argued academic paper founded on one's own research based on primary and secondary sources, by taking into account current debates and perspectives;
3. find and use collections of relevant objects and images of these objects, and integrate these in an essay in such a way that they clarify and/or strengthen the argumentation;

#### *IV Communication*

The master's graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work the ability to:

1. give a clear and well-argued oral presentation in English, based on one's own research and to critically evaluate presentations of research results of fellow students presented before an academic or lay audience; to write a well-argued academic paper based on one's own research
2. participate orally or in writing in a constructive and critical manner in an academic discussion; to take up and defend a position, as well as to question and revise both one's own position and that of others based on coherent arguments;
3. to write grammatically correct English; and to use a consistent system of reference according to the conventions of the MA Arts & Culture Style Sheet.

#### *V Learning skills*

The master's graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work the ability to:

1. enter into a post-master's professional programme or PhD programme requiring independent research;
2. if required for the research topic, read academic texts in other languages than English or Dutch, such as Italian, German, French, Middle or early modern Dutch;
3. (Applicable if the free component of 10 credits is filled with an internship) independently complete content-related tasks in a relevant field of research on a level matching the specialisation and study programme, and to be able to integrate these tasks in the general project goal.

### **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 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>

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

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

## Chapter 3 Curriculum

### Article 3.1 Compulsory components

3.1.1 The programme includes a compulsory set of components worth a total study load of 60 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 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:

<i>Component:</i>	<i>Participation in class and examination after passing:</i>
MA Thesis	At least one core course: - Core Course I: Critical Perspectives in Art History and Museum Studies <i>or</i> - Core Course II: Art History and Curatorial Practice - At least one Thematic Elective

### Article 4.3 Form of examination

4.3.6 Not applicable.

## Chapter 5 Admission to the Programme as of September 2026 or February 2027

### 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 Art History or from a foreign research university of an equivalent level.
- 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 in a Humanities or Archaeology programme related to Arts and Culture 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
  - have completed at least 40 EC (or equivalent) on relevant courses in the field of Art History and/or Museum Studies of sufficient level, which demonstrate:

- knowledge and understanding of the history of art production in Europe and in cultures globally and of different forms of art, architecture and design, so that students can place works of art in their developmental context using the latest scholarly understanding; and
  - such knowledge and understanding of the history, theories and practices in the field of art in a global perspective and of the relevant contexts (cultural, ideological, religious, academic, technological and scientific) in which art works function on the one hand, and their impact on their society on the other, that they can place these art works and practices in relevant artistic and academic contexts and can demonstrate insight into societal developments, using the latest scholarly understanding;
- or*
- such knowledge and understanding of the history, practices and theories in the field of Museum Studies and of the relevant contexts (cultural, ideological, religious, technological or scientific) in which art museums, art institutes and heritage sites function on the one hand, and their impact on their society on the other that they can place these in their context and development using the latest scholarly understanding; and
- the following art historical skills: the ability to give well-founded criticism to academic art-historical texts and the ability to link knowledge of art with the methods and theoretical concepts within the discipline of art history as well as with theoretical concepts from the general cultural history.

Applicants who are in possession of a bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university in International Studies and who have completed 40 EC of relevant optional courses which are part of the Bachelor's programme Art History are considered to have fulfilled these requirements.

- 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).

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, (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 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);
- 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.

Applicants may be asked to submit a writing sample, proving the aforementioned qualities in the field of knowledge, understanding and skills.

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 **English and Dutch 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 of America or South-Africa;
- a diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- a diploma of an English-taught higher professional education (hbo) programme of four years at a Dutch university of applied sciences;
- 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, the language level can be demonstrated with one of the following tests:

- English 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;
- Cambridge English C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with overall score 180, where each separate component score must be at least 169<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.

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

## 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 and educational modules

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

### Museum Studies

Students who have completed an academic Bachelor's programme in Humanities other than the Bachelor's programmes listed in Article 5.2.1 and who do not meet the entry requirements listed in Article 5.2.1, may be offered a premaster of 30 EC to remedy their deficiencies.

Programme for semester I (30 EC)			
Semester	Course title	Language	EC
Obligatory courses			
I	Framing AMS Case Studies	English	5
I	The History of Museums	English	10
Choose <b>one</b> of the BA2 or BA3 seminars			
I	Vulgar Arts (BA2)	English	5
I	Sensing Style: from Subcultures to Digital Bubbles (BA3)	English	10
I	Fotografie: van snapshot tot fotofilm (BA2)	Dutch	5
I	Kunst en cultuur I: Nederlandse kunst en architectuur voor 1600(BA2)	Dutch	5
Elective space: choose <b>two</b> of the following (one in case of a BA3 seminar)			
I	World Art Studies	English	5
I	Materials and Techniques in Art and Architecture	English	5
I	Visuele analyse / Visual analysis	Dutch / English	5
I	Art in Europe before 1800	English	5
I	Core Curriculum: World Art and Beyond	English	5

Programme for semester II (30 EC)			
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Semester	Course title	Language	EC
Obligatory courses			
II	Cultural Representation and Signifying Practices	English	5
II	Architecture and Design in Europe and the US 1550-present	English	10
II	Introduction to the History of Museums	English	5
II	Visual Arts in Europe and the US 1800-present	English	5
Choose <b>one</b> of the BA2 seminars			
II	Art and the Other: 'Primitivism' in Perspective	English	5
II	Collecting in the Contemporary Museum	English	5
II	Art & Technology	English	5
II	Global Renaissance	Dutch	5

### Art History

Students who have completed an academic Bachelor's programme in Humanities other than the Bachelor's programmes listed in Article 5.2.1 and who do not meet the entry requirements listed in Article 5.2.1, may be offered a premaster of 30 EC to remedy their deficiencies.

Programme for semester I (30 EC)			
Semester	Course title	Language	EC
Obligatory courses			
I	Framing AMS Case Studies	English	5
Choose <b>one</b> of the BA2 or BA3 seminars			
I	Vulgar Arts (BA2)	English	5
I	Sensing Style: from Subcultures to Digital Bubbles (BA3)	English	10
I	Fotografie: van snapshot tot fotofilm	Dutch	5
I	Kunst en cultuur I: Nederlandse kunst en architectuur voor 1600	Dutch	5
Elective space: choose <b>four</b> of the following			
I	World Art Studies	English	5
I	Art in Europe before 1800	English	5
I	Visuele analyse/ Visual Analysis	Dutch / English	5
I	World Art Studies	English	5
I	Materials and Techniques in Art and Architecture	English	5

Programme for semester II (30 EC)			
Semester	Course title	Language	EC

Obligatory:			
II	Cultural Representation and Signifying Practices	English	5
II	Architecture and Design in Europe and the US 1550-present	English	10
II	Digital Heritage	English	5
II	Visual Arts in Europe and the US 1800-present	English	5
Choose one of the BA2-seminars			
II	Art & Technology	English	5
II	Global Renaissance	Dutch	5
II	Collecting in the Contemporary Museum	English	5
II	Art and the Other: 'Primitivism' in Perspective	English	5

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

Students with a bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic Bachelor's degree, who do not meet all requirements specified in article 5.2.1b will be admitted after completing an individual bridging programme of a maximum of 40 EC. Students who successfully complete the individual bridging programme, will be admitted to the relevant specialisation of the MA Arts and Culture. This bridging programme can include a course in Academic Skills.

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.

5.4.2 Information regarding the bridging programmes can be requested from the study advisor of the programme.

5.4.3 The language requirements for a pre-master's programme are identical to the language requirements for the master's programme for which admission has been requested. These requirements must be met before the start of the premaster.

5.4.4. Educational modules: not applicable.

5.4.5. Educational modules: 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.

