



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2025

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: African Studies (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;
- 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 broaden and deepen the students' 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:
 - the ability to solve academic problems independently, critically and creatively;
 - the ability to analyse complex problems;
 - the ability to clearly report academic results in writing, oral, and/or audio-visual;
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

Not applicable.

Article 2.3 Learning outcomes

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

I. Knowledge and understanding

Graduates have:

- A profound awareness of the current issues, core concepts and research questions in the relevant disciplines and regional fields of the programme;
- A thorough understanding of various theories and methodological approaches and techniques that are commonly used in research in African Studies as well as in different related disciplines;
- The ability to develop a conceptual framework suitable for addressing relevant problems and issues;
- Advanced, up-to-date knowledge of the quantitative and qualitative research methodology appropriate to particular projects and locations;
- Sensitivity to the relationship between theory, method and actual research context;
- A thorough knowledge of and insight into the interdisciplinary position of the study subject;

- A thorough understanding of the societal relevance of the study subject.

II. *Applying knowledge and understanding*

Graduates have:

- The capacity to critically apply theoretical and descriptive approaches when conducting basic independent research in African Studies;
- The capacity to (innovatively) deploy theoretical and methodological tool-sets derived from the humanities and social sciences for the analysis and interpretation of the object of inquiry;
- The ability to critically select, study and analyse literature;
- The skills of proposing, organising, and executing long-term fieldwork research in Africa or an Africa-related setting independently;
- The ability to independently formulate, perform and assess scientific research at a level suitable for preparing scientific publications;

III. *Making judgments*

Graduates have:

- The ability to select, compile, compare and analyse discipline-related literature and sources independently, with the aid of traditional and modern techniques (heuristic skills);
- The ability to independently study discipline-related literature and sources and to assess these as to their quality and reliability;
- Profound knowledge of the philosophy and ethics of African Studies research and the limitations of individual research projects;
- Awareness of the role of comparison;
- Sophisticated understanding of the stakes in the politics of knowledge and their relationship with the ethics of fairness and objectivity;
- The fundamentals of research project management, such as framing the research, gathering data, data storage, articulating a thesis, ordering and presenting findings in oral and written form and reflection on the ethics of scientific inquiry.

IV. *Communication*

Graduates have:

- The capacity to report independently on relevant research that has been carried out according to current academic standards for the field of research;
- The ability to write scientific reports in English;
- The ability to give persuasive oral presentations;
- The ability to engage in the international academic debate and in policy and societal discussions.

V. *Learning skills*

Graduates have:

- The capacity to apply learning skills that allow them to initiate and conduct a research project with a great degree of independence and autonomy, under expert national or international supervision. This includes:
- The ability to formulate a clear and well-argued problem ; and the ability to break these problems down into clear and manageable sub-problems;
- The ability to set up and carry out a research project ;
- The capacity to take into account ideas, instructions and constructive criticism of supervisors and peers and in turn offer feedback to the work of others;
- The ability to set up a realistic work schedule and keep to the agreed time guidelines.

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 Examination¹ 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. 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.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. This includes electives offered by the recognised national research schools³, from which students must choose electives or the course *Theoretical Foundations and the Interdisciplinary Nature of African Studies* offered by the Graduate Programme of African Studies (GPAS), totalling 10 EC.

Article 3.4.1 **Taking part in programme components**

3.4.1.6. Scheduled programme components in the free or bound elective space of the programme may be cancelled if too few students have registered for them. Cancellation in such cases is only possible if:

- there are sufficient alternative courses to choose from, for which students can still register; and
- the Prospectus clearly states:
 - which courses could be cancelled in case of too few registrations; and
 - at how many registrations the course will go ahead; and

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

² [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

³ <https://www.staff.universiteitleiden.nl/vr/humanities/graduate-school/during-your-phd/research-schools?cf=humanities>

- on what date the student will be informed whether or not the course will go ahead; and
- that, if a course that was offered in the previous year is unexpectedly cancelled because of too few registrations, two examination opportunities (resits) will still be offered, in accordance with article 4.1.1.

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>	<i>Participation in examination after passing:</i>
Seminar Writing Research Proposal		New Frontiers in Africanist Research
Research Project Fieldwork	Seminar Writing Research Proposal	

Article 4.3 Form of examination

4.3.6 Not applicable.

Chapter 5 Admission to the programme as of September 2026

Admission to this programme will no longer be possible from academic year 2026-2027.

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.