



Universiteit Leiden

# Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2025

Programme-specific section:

## Master's Programme: Arts, Literature and Media (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 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 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 research methods in the fields of arts, literature and media;
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, both in writing and orally,
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 demonstrate, in their written and oral work:

1. to have adequate analytical and interpretive skills; to have a thorough knowledge and understanding of, and well-developed sensibility in an area of specialisation within the domains of arts, literature, and media; of the core concepts and current research issues related to a topic or theme in the chosen specialisation or to the research apparatus and methodologies;
2. a thorough knowledge and understanding of, and sensibility for a substantial range of works, genres and current developments in their specialisation;
3. an adequate knowledge of the relevant context (historical, cultural, social, religious, political, ideological, scientific, aesthetic) of the production, reception and dissemination of arts, literature and media of (a) specific field(s) and their impact on society at the time of production and in the present;

4. a thorough knowledge and understanding of the multi- and interdisciplinary aspects of the program Arts, literature and media which should be understood as an interdisciplinary, inter-medial and intercultural field of inquiry into artistic and cultural practices. As such, this knowledge enables graduates to relate Arts, Literature and Media to History, Social Sciences and other relevant fields.

### *II. Applying knowledge and understanding*

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

1. define a research topic, formulate research questions and identify an object of inquiry (e.g., a corpus of literary texts, images and other types of texts; a corpus of artworks, buildings or design; a corpus of films; other cultural objects and practices related to arts, literature and media) that will allow them to answer these research questions in a way that conforms with current scholarly practices in the fields of studies concerned;
2. select an appropriate methodology and body of theory for the analysis and interpretation of the object of inquiry, so that insightful and original answers to the research question can be given that take into account the specificities of arts, literature, media and their interaction;
3. bring object, analysis and theory into critical interaction. This implies that the object of inquiry is done justice in its own right, is treated comprehensively, and is clarified or problematised by the concepts and methods. It also implies that the concepts and methods used are done justice, clarified or problematised by the object of inquiry;
4. consider and combine theories and methods in such a way that the path to innovations in the field can be made explicit;
5. understand the used media's specificity;
6. understand and reflect on the social and historical dimensions of the researched artistic works or practices, literary works or practices, and media-related works and practices, and the theoretical approaches to them, and their shifting role in society;
7. contribute creative solutions to ongoing debates in the disciplines, based on independent research and theoretical reflection.

### *III. Making judgements*

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, that they:

1. have sufficient sensitivity for and sensibility with regard to the different aspects involved in the topic of inquiry;
2. can critically evaluate the relevance of existing studies on their topic of inquiry and of a corpus of works or cultural practices;
2. can build an argument that leads to a conclusion in a clear, cogent and verifiable manner;
3. can reflect critically on the role played by the graduates' methodological, theoretical and non-theoretical convictions and interests, in relation to international debates;
4. can include, in addition to theoretical aspects, also social, historical and ethical aspects of the studied topic and corpus, in the process that leads to the conclusion.

### *IV. Communication*

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

1. formulate a clear and well-founded thesis, hypothesis and research questions, and to divide the thesis into

convenient and manageable parts;

2. give a clear, systematic and well-founded oral or written report of the state of the art in their research field, the selected object of inquiry and the methodologies, concepts and theories used;
3. write grammatically correct English, according to the conventions of an accepted academic practice (e.g. Chicago Manual of Style, MLA Style or Art Bulletin Style Sheet).

#### V. *Learning Skills*

Graduates display, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

1. independently identify and collect the literature and historical sources in the fields of arts, literature, and media and to use current bibliographical instruments;
2. independently study the literature and historical sources of the field and to judge their quality and reliability;
3. formulate a clear and well-founded question and divide the question into lucid and manageable parts;
4. give a clear and well-founded oral and written report of research results meeting the criteria of the field;
5. initiate and conduct a research project under supervision at the entrance level of national or international subsequent education (PhD).
6. 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 means that graduates:
  - have defined the research question and written the thesis independently;
  - have conducted relevant and sufficient bibliographical research as well as a thorough analysis of the studied corpus;
  - have drawn up a realistic research plan;
  - know how to position themselves in international debates, both methodologically and theoretically

### 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<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

## Chapter 3 **Curriculum**

### Article 3.1 **Compulsory components**

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components worth 90 EC on a total study load of 120 EC. These

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

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

compulsory components include the set components from which a student is obliged to choose. This includes the electives offered by the recognised national research schools<sup>3</sup>, from which students must choose electives totalling 10 EC. Students can freely choose master courses for 30 EC within their area of research. These courses can either be at level 500 or 600.

## **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.

## **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 a. Not applicable.

5.2.1 b. Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act), if they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Faculty Board that they meet the following admission requirements, without prejudice to the requirements specified in 5.2.4.

- 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 one of the following programmes:
  - Comparative Literature/Literary Studies;
  - a specific Language and Culture, preferably relating to the available expertise in LUCAS: classic Greek & Latin, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian;
  - Art History;
  - Culture, media and film studies, or related programmes with a focus on arts, literature and media.

5.2.1 c. Not applicable.

5.2.2. Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements 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.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://studiegids.universiteitleiden.nl/en/courses/128042/research-school-courses-arts-literature-and-media>

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.

### 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, in addition to the requirements under 5.2.1. b., 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 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 7; where each separate component score must be at least 6.5;
- Toefl (Internet based) 100; where each separate component score must be at least 22;
- Cambridge English C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with overall score 185, where each separate component score must be at least 176<sup>4</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 The language level in 5.2.3.1, with the exception of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet, and 5.2.3.2 does not apply when a higher command of the language is required and included as a qualitative admission requirement (selection requirement) in Article 5.2.4. If a higher language requirement is included in Article 5.2.4, all students are required to fulfil this requirement.

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 (selection requirements)**

5.2.4.1 In addition to the requirements specified in 5.2.1 5.2.2 and 5.2.3, the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b (2) of the Act:

- A. Good grades comparable with an average mark of at least 7.5 (Dutch grading system) for their entire bachelor's programme,
- B. A grade for the bachelor's thesis of an 8 or higher, and

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<sup>4</sup> See also the [English test score equivalency table](#) of Leiden University

- C. Affinity with and suitability for scholarly research in the specific field of the programme and the ability to clearly report on research, and
- D. Demonstrable motivation to study the particular Research MA programme, and
- E. An English language requirement of at least IELTS 7.0/Toefl (internet based) 100.<sup>4</sup> A minimum score of IELTS 7.0 or Toefl 25 is required for each of the four components, Cambridge English C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with overall score 185, where each separate component score must be at least 185<sup>5</sup>.

5.2.4.2 These qualitative admission requirements will be measured or assessed according to the following method:

- A and B: as evidenced by a transcript of records and diploma of the relevant obtained academic degree.
- C: to be demonstrated by a “Writing Sample”. All applicants are required to submit a writing sample (a relevant research paper or Bachelor’s Thesis). In case applicants are unable to demonstrate via a writing sample that they meet the requirement sub 5.2.4.1 D, are required to submit a 1,250 word essay as part of the admission process:
  - in this essay they must demonstrate a clear affinity with and specific knowledge of arts, literature and media in general
  - specifically, the essay must clearly answer a research question, provide a reasonable and reasonably well-organised argument that demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the topic of the essay. The argument must be supported with references according to a consistent reference style.
- A, B and C: one letter of reference in which the supporting scholar reports on the research capacities of the student.
- D: to be demonstrated by a well-argued and structured motivation letter in which the applicant indicates why they want to follow the research MA programme and convincingly discusses what makes the applicant a good candidate for the research MA programme. The statement, including any relevant extracurricular activities, should be between 700 and 1,500 words.
- E: as evidenced by sufficient scores for a language test taken no more than two calendar years previously.

In addition, to assess the admission requirements stated in 5.2.1, 5.2.2, and 5.2.3, the Board of Admissions will use the following documents:

- copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s);
- proof of language proficiency (if applicable, see 5.2.3);

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.b. and meets the qualitative requirements specified in 5.2.4.1.

5.2.4.3 Proof that the student meets the qualitative admission requirements must be provided by the following deadline:

**Start in September**

- In case a visa or residence permit is required, the deadline for application in the online application portal (uSis) is 1 April.
- In case a visa or residence permit is not required, the deadline for application in the online application portal (uSis) is 15 May.

**Start in February**

- In case a visa or residence permit is required, the deadline for application in the online application portal (uSis) is 15 October.

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<sup>5</sup> See also the [English test score equivalency table](#) of Leiden University

- In case a visa or residence permit is not required, the deadline for application in the online application portal (uSis) is 15 November.

For further information on the admission procedure and required application documents please see: <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/admission-and-application/masters>.

#### Article 5.2.5 **Maximum capacity**

5.2.5.1 Not applicable.

#### Article 5.3 **Deficiencies**

See the faculty section.

#### Article 5.4 **Pre-master's programmes and educational modules**

5.4.1 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.