



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid from 1 September 2026

Programme-specific section:

Bachelor's programme: Linguistics / Taalwetenschap

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 Regulation on the Binding Student Advice;
- the Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document;
- the Academic Calendar;
- the Regulations for Student Registration, Tuition Fees and Examination Fees;
- the Remote Surveillance Protocol;
- the Guideline for elective space and minor policy.

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 Section 7.14 of the Act the Faculty Board regularly evaluates the course and examination regulations and assesses, for the purpose of monitoring and, if necessary, adjusting the study load, the time it takes students to comply with the regulations. In conformity with Section 9.18 of the Act, the department teaching committee is assigned the task of annually assessing how the course and examination regulations are implemented.

These Course and Examination Regulations consist of two sections;

- a faculty section that is the same for all bachelor degree programmes,
- a section that contains information specific to a particular degree programme (this document).

This programme-specific section forms a whole together with the faculty section and only includes the articles that contain details specific to a particular programme. Other sections are included in the faculty section.

Contents

1. General provisions
2. Description of the programme
3. Curriculum
4. Examinations and Final Examination
5. Admission to the Programme
6. Student Counselling and Study Advice
7. Evaluation of the Programme

8. Final Provisions

Appendices

Appendix E – Prospectus (see <https://studiegids.universiteitleiden.nl/en/>)

Chapter 2 Description of the Programme

Article 2.1 Objectives of the Programme

The aim of the programme is to promote the students' academic development in terms of knowledge, understanding and skills in the field of Linguistics to such an extent that:

- the student meets the entry requirements for admission to the master's programmes that follow on from the bachelor's programme;
- the student is able to work in positions for which undergraduate-level academic knowledge and skills in the above field are required or desirable.

Article 2.2 Specialisations

The programme has the following specialisations:

- Language and Cognition
- Comparative Indo-European Linguistics
- Descriptive Linguistics
- Taal in Gebruik

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

All graduates of the Linguistics programme:

- a. have knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of linguistics and of the standard approaches and research methods, and a number of the most recent approaches and research methods, within this field;
- b. have basic knowledge and understanding of the phonological, morphological, syntactic and pragmatic (communicative) and sociolinguistic analyses of linguistic phenomena;
- c. have basic knowledge and understanding of important differences and similarities between the languages of the world and their use;
- d. have basic knowledge and understanding of the historical development of languages and their use.

II. APPLYING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

All graduates of the Linguistics programme:

- a. are able to independently perform phonological, morphological, syntactic, pragmatic and historical linguistic analyses of linguistic phenomena at an elementary level;
- b. can design and conduct a small-scale linguistic research study, under supervision, taking account of the traditional and digital methods and techniques that are relevant for the discipline.

III. MAKING JUDGEMENTS

All graduates of the Linguistics programme:

- a. are able to collect and interpret linguistic data in the area of their specialisation, in order to make an academic judgement.

IV. COMMUNICATION

See the learning outcomes formulated by the Faculty (Appendix A).

V. LEARNING SKILLS

See the learning outcomes formulated by the Faculty (Appendix A).

Supplementing and deepening the above general learning outcomes, the following learning outcomes apply for the various specialisations:

A. Graduates of the specialisation Language and Cognition:

I. KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- a. have experience with recent experimental methods and in-depth knowledge of experimental phonetics, psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics;
- b. have knowledge and understanding of the theoretical principles of sound structure, syntactic structure and meaning;
- c. for graduates of the 'Computational Linguistics' sub-track, additional requirements are that they have insight into and knowledge of recent computational methods in the field of corpus linguistics and language technology.

II. APPLYING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- a. can use the acquired knowledge and understanding in the areas of sound structure, syntactic structure and meaning to formulate academic research questions and devise arguments to solve linguistic problems;
- b. can use the acquired experimental methods and knowledge in the areas of experimental phonetics, psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics to design and conduct small experiments;
- c. for graduates of the 'Computational Linguistics' sub-track, the additional requirement is that they can use the programming skills and knowledge acquired to test linguistic hypotheses using corpus analysis and computer models.

B. Graduates of the specialisation Taal in gebruik:

I. KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- a. have knowledge and understanding of the social, functional and strategic principles underlying language use;
- b. have knowledge and understanding of the interactions between language and society.

II. APPLYING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- a. can analyse the social, functional and strategic principles of language use, and the interactions between language and society, in written and/or spoken;
- b. can use the acquired knowledge and understanding of the social, functional and strategic principles underlying language use, and the interactions between language and society, to design and conduct a research study by applying appropriate methods.

C. Graduates of the specialisation Descriptive Linguistics:

I. KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- a. have knowledge and understanding of the diversity of languages of the world in the areas of phonetics, phonology, morphology and syntax;

- b. have experience with the methods and techniques that are used to document and describe less well-known languages, including linguistic fieldwork;

II. APPLYING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- a. are able to conduct empirical research on a less-described language on the basis of fieldwork, using the relevant technical resources available to Descriptive Linguistics.

D. Graduates of the specialisation Comparative Indo-European Linguistics:

I. KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- a. have knowledge and understanding of the historical grammar of Proto-Indo-European;
- b. have general knowledge and understanding of the culture of the speakers of Proto-Indo-European;
- c. have in-depth knowledge of the methodology of historical comparative linguistics; have general knowledge and understanding of the history of studying the Indo-European languages;
- d. have knowledge and understanding of the grammar of Gothic, Ancient Greek, Hittite, Lithuanian and Sanskrit respectively;

II. APPLYING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- a. can use the acquired knowledge of the grammar of Gothic, Greek, Hittite, Lithuanian and Sanskrit to translate a (literary) text from the language concerned to Dutch/English, with the help of a dictionary;
- b. are able to independently apply the comparative method to Indo-European languages.

Furthermore, all the Humanities programmes at Leiden University train students in the general academic skills formulated by the Faculty. These skills relate to the Dublin descriptors Judgement, Communication, and Learning skills as specified in Appendix A of the general section.

Article 2.9 **Language of instruction**

2.9.1. Subject to the Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction [*Gedragscode voertaal*¹], the language in which the instruction is given and in which the examinations and final examinations are held is Dutch and English. Since 2019-2020 the language of instruction and examination within the post-first-year specialisations Language and Cognition, Descriptive Linguistics and Comparative Indo-European Linguistics are English, while the language of instruction within the specialisation Taal in gebruik is Dutch. Students are expected to have an adequate command of the language of instruction and examination in the programme/specialisation, in accordance with the requirements stated in Article 5.2.4. As appropriate, the Faculty publishes the Course and Examination Regulations (OER) in English for English-taught programmes.

2.9.2. Contrary to Article 2.9.1, for individual cases the Board of Examiners may allow that the thesis is written in another language, in accordance with the Guideline on Language Policy².

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

² [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

Chapter 3 Curriculum

Article 3.2 Optional components

3.2.8 Contrary to Article 3.2.2, students may not choose the following minor programmes from Leiden University, the TU Delft or the Erasmus University Rotterdam, because their content is similar, fully or in part, to compulsory components in the programme:

- For students in the specialisation Language and Cognition (Taal en cognitie): minor Tweedetaalverwerving (Second-language acquisition). Students in the other specialisations must replace minor courses that overlap with courses already taken in the BA Linguistics programme. Prior to taking this minor, students submit replacement components to the Examination Board responsible for the minor (Neerlandistiek) for approval.

Chapter 4 Examinations and Final Examination

Article 4.2 Obligatory sequence

4.2.1 The student may only participate in classes and examinations of the following course components after he or she has successfully completed the examinations for the prior course components that are listed together below:

Chapter 6 Student Counselling and Study Advice

Article 6.3 Study advice

6.3.2 Not applicable.

Chapter 7 Evaluation of the programme

Article 7.1 Evaluation of the programme

The programme is evaluated as follows:

- course evaluations
- programme evaluations

The Programme Committee advises the Programme Board based on the outcomes of the evaluation.