



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2026

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Classics and Ancient Civilizations

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 enable students to acquire academic knowledge, understanding and skills, and train them in the use of academic methods in the fields of Classical Antiquity and its reception, Ancient and Coptic Egypt, or the Ancient Near East as represented in the tracks Assyriology and Hebrew and Aramaic 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;
4. to prepare students for a career outside academia.

Article 2.2 Specialisations

The programme has the following specialisations:

- Assyriology
- Classics
- Egyptology
- Hebrew and Aramaic Studies

Article 2.3 Learning outcomes

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

1. *Knowledge and understanding*
 - a. Knowledge and understanding of one of the following fields of study: Assyriology, Classics, Egyptology or Hebrew and Aramaic Studies, and its principal languages, concepts, heuristic instruments, research methods and techniques;
 - b. Knowledge and understanding of interdisciplinary aspects of the specialisation, such as connections with the other specialisations within the programme and connections with other disciplines.
2. *Applying knowledge and understanding*
 - a. The ability to apply different methodologies relevant to the specialisation;
 - b. The ability to analyse a problem and formulate a research question, under expert supervision;
 - c. The ability to take on a research topic of moderate size and bring it to a conclusion under expert supervision.
3. *Judgement*
 - a. The ability critically to select and assess relevant primary source material;

- b. The ability critically to assess secondary literature and to actively engage with scholarly debate.
4. *Communication*
- a. The ability to give a clear and well-argued oral presentation on a research topic in accordance with the academic standards of the relevant specialisation;
 - b. The ability to give a clear and well-argued oral presentation that aims at a wider audience of humanities scholars and / or the general public;
 - c. The ability to write a clear and well-argued written presentation on a research topic in accordance with the academic standards of the relevant specialisation.
5. *Learning skills*
- a. The learning abilities required to be able to follow post-master's professional training or PhD training;
 - b. The ability to demonstrate domain specific skills and transferable skills in an academic and professional environment;
 - c. The ability to develop a personal and professional profile for employability on the future job market.

Learning outcomes per specialisation

1. Graduates of the specialisation **Assyriology** will have attained the following achievement levels:

1. *Knowledge and understanding*

- a. Knowledge and understanding of the formal and linguistic aspects of the Akkadian, Sumerian and / or Hittite language and scripts, and an adequate reading level;
- b. Knowledge and understanding of literary, historical and cultural aspects of Akkadian, Sumerian and / or Hittite texts;
- c. Familiarity with scholarly approaches to the history and archaeology of ancient Mesopotamia and / or Anatolia;
- d. A diverse and well-balanced view of ancient Mesopotamia and / or Anatolia on the basis of an integrated linguistic, literary, cultural-historical approach, and reflection on the connections between different ancient civilizations.

2. *Applying knowledge and understanding*

- a. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the interpretation of the Akkadian, Sumerian and / or Hittite language and scripts;
- b. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the interpretation of Akkadian, Sumerian and Hittite texts and archaeological evidence;
- c. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the history and archaeology of ancient Mesopotamia and / or Anatolia;
- d. The ability to interpret the complex connections between Mesopotamia, Anatolia, and other ancient civilizations on the basis of primary and secondary sources.

2. Graduates of the specialisation **Classics** will have attained the following achievement levels:

1. *Knowledge and understanding*

- a. Knowledge and understanding of the formal and linguistic aspects of ancient Greek and Latin texts;
- b. Knowledge and understanding of literary, historical and cultural aspects of Greek and Latin texts;
- c. Familiarity with scholarly approaches to the history of ancient Greece and Rome and / or ancient philosophy;

- d. A diverse and well-balanced view of Greco-Roman antiquity on the basis of an integrated linguistic, literary, cultural-historical approach, reflection on the connections between different ancient civilizations, and reflection on the relation between classical antiquity and later periods (in particular early modern Europe and the twenty-first century world).

2. *Applying knowledge and understanding*

- a. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the semantics and the communicative functions of Greek and Latin texts;
- b. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning literary devices in Greek and Latin texts, and to assess their functions in a broader literary context;
- c. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the history of ancient Greece and Rome and / or ancient philosophy;
- d. The ability to interpret the complex connections between classical antiquity and the modern world on the basis of primary and secondary sources.

3. Graduates of the specialisation ***Egyptology*** will have attained the following achievement levels:

1. *Knowledge and understanding*

- a. Knowledge and understanding of the formal and linguistic aspects of the ancient Egyptian language and scripts, especially Middle Egyptian, Coptic and / or Neo-Middle Egyptian, and an adequate reading level;
- b. Knowledge and understanding of literary, historical and cultural aspects of Egyptian texts;
- c. Knowledge and understanding of the archaeology and cultural history of ancient Egypt, including familiarity with modern Egypt and its research facilities;
- d. A diverse and well-balanced view of ancient Egypt on the basis of an integrated linguistic, archaeological, cultural-historical approach, and reflection on the connections between different ancient civilizations.

2. *Applying knowledge and understanding*

- a. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the interpretation of ancient Egyptian scripts and languages;
- b. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the interpretation of Egyptian texts and archaeological evidence;
- c. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the history and archaeology of ancient and Coptic Egypt;
- d. The ability to interpret the complex connections between Egypt and other ancient civilizations on the basis of primary and secondary sources.

4. Graduates of the specialisation ***Hebrew and Aramaic Studies*** will have attained the following achievement levels:

1. *Knowledge and understanding*

- a. Knowledge and understanding of the formal and linguistic aspects of Classical Hebrew and Aramaic, and an adequate reading level;
- b. Knowledge and understanding of literary, historical and cultural aspects of Hebrew and Aramaic texts;
- c. Familiarity with scholarly approaches to the history and archaeology of the ancient Levant (i.e., Israel / Palestine, Jordan, the Lebanon and Syria);
- d. A diverse and well-balanced view of the ancient Levant on the basis of an integrated linguistic, literary, cultural-historical approach, and reflection on the connections between different ancient civilizations.

2. *Applying knowledge and understanding*

- a. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the semantics and communicative functions of the Classical Hebrew and Aramaic languages;
- b. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the interpretation of Classical Hebrew and Aramaic texts and archaeological evidence;
- c. The ability to formulate and discuss research questions concerning the history and archaeology of the ancient Levant;
- d. The ability to interpret the complex connections between the ancient Levantine cultures and other ancient civilizations on the basis of primary and secondary sources.

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 Examination¹ 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.²

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 in the specialisation *Classics* are allowed to take 10 EC 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.

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

² [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

Chapter 5 Admission to the programme as of September 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. bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university (in the specialisation) in:

<i>Specialisation Master</i>	<i>Admission on the basis of Bachelor programme, with specialisation</i>
Assyriology	Ancient Near Eastern Studies/Ancient Cultures of the Mediterranean World: Assyriology
Classics	Classics (Latin and ancient Greek)
Egyptology	Ancient Near Eastern Studies/Ancient Cultures of the Mediterranean World: Egyptology
Hebrew and Aramaic Studies	Ancient Near Eastern Studies/Ancient Cultures of the Mediterranean World: Hebrew and Aramaic

- 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 Assyriology

Detailed knowledge at the level of an academic Bachelor's degree of at least 30 EC in one of the following:

- the grammar of the most important phases of the Akkadian, Hittite or Sumerian language, of the relevant scripts and of the historical development of the language and scripts;
- the archaeology, the material culture and art history of the region involved;
- the cultural history of the region involved, including its literature, its religion, its social structure and its material culture.

Specialisation Classics

An academic Bachelor's degree in Classics or a comparable discipline, with classes on Greek and Latin texts in the original language, equivalent to the 95 credits required in the Dutch system. Applicants are required to submit an overview of ancient Greek and Latin texts that they have read in the original language during their undergraduate/graduate studies.

Specialisation Egyptology

Knowledge of at least one of the following, obtained through an academic Bachelor's degree in the Humanities or Archaeology with a particular focus on Egyptology (at least 30 EC):

- the grammar of the most important phases of the Egyptian language, of the relevant scripts and of the historical development of the language and scripts;
- the archaeology, the material culture and art history of ancient Egypt;
- the cultural history of Egypt, including its literature, its religion, and its social structure.

Specialisation Hebrew and Aramaic Studies

An academic Bachelor's degree in Theology or Semitic Languages or a comparable degree, with at least 15 EC of Biblical or Classical Hebrew or a comparable Northwest Semitic language.

- 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);
- a completed '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.
- For the Specialisation *Classics* only: an overview of ancient Greek and Latin texts (with numbers of pages) that they have read in the original language during their undergraduate/graduate studies;

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 (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 6.0; where each separate component score must be at least 6.0;
- TOEFL (Internet based) 80, with at least 4.0 (new 1-6 scale as of 21 January 2026) or 20 (old 0-30 scale) for each separate component.;
- Cambridge English C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced, where each separate component score must be at least 169³

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.

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

Track Assyriology:

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

If you have a bachelor's degree from a research university that does not meet all the requirements mentioned above, you may be eligible for a pre-master's programme tailored to your individual background. For students with a BA in Humanities or Archaeology this is a 30 EC programme, and for students with a BA in a different field the pre-master's programme consists of 60 EC. After submitting your application in Studielink, the Board of Admissions will decide whether you can be directly admitted to the master's programme, whether you will first need to complete a pre-master's programme, or whether your deficiencies are considered too extensive and you can therefore not be admitted at all. It is not possible to directly apply for a pre-master's programme.

The English 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 pre-master.

Track Classics:

If you have a bachelor's degree from a research university in Humanities, that does not meet all the requirements mentioned above, you may be eligible for a 30 EC pre-master's programme tailored to your individual background. After submitting your application in Studielink, the Board of Admissions will decide whether you can be directly admitted to the master's programme, whether you will first need to complete a pre-master's programme, or whether your deficiencies are considered too extensive and you can therefore not be admitted at all. It is not possible to directly apply for a pre-master's programme.

The English 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 pre-master.

The pre-master programme of the Classics track can only be offered in Dutch.

Track Egyptology

If you have a bachelor's degree from a research university in Humanities or Archeology with a particular focus on the ancient Mediterranean world, that does not meet all the requirements mentioned above, you may be eligible for a 30 EC pre-master's programme tailored to your individual background. After submitting your application in Studielink, the Board of Admissions will decide whether you can be directly admitted to the master's programme, whether you will first need to complete a pre-master's programme, or whether your deficiencies are considered too extensive and you can therefore not be admitted at all. It is not possible to directly apply for a pre-master's programme.

The English 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 pre-master.

Track Hebrew and Aramaic Studies

If you have a bachelor's degree from a research university in Humanities or Archeology with a particular focus on the ancient Mediterranean world, that does not meet all the requirements mentioned above, you may be eligible for a 30 EC pre-master's programme tailored to your individual background. After submitting your application in Studielink, the Board of Admissions will decide whether you can be directly admitted to the master's programme, whether you will first need to complete a pre-master's programme, or whether your deficiencies are considered too extensive and you can therefore not be admitted at all. It is not possible to directly apply for a pre-master's programme.

The English 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 pre-master.

The pre-master programme of the Hebrew and Aramaic Studies track can only be offered in Dutch.

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

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

5.4.3 The English 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. The pre-master's in Classics and Hebrew & Aramaic can only be offered in Dutch.

5.4.4. Students who have obtained a university's bachelor's or master's degree, and who meet the requirements set for sufficiently related subjects, may be enrolled for the exclusive purpose of following and completing an educational module in order to obtain a 'limited level-two' teaching qualification⁴.

5.4.5. The educational modules are the responsibility of the ICLON Board of Examiners.

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.

⁴ In Leiden, this concerns a teaching qualification in one of the following relevant school subjects: *Chinese Taal en Cultuur, Duits, Engels, Filosofie, Frans, Geschiedenis en Staatsinrichting, Godsdienst en Levensbeschouwing, Griekse en Latijnse Taal en Cultuur, Nederlands* or *Spaans*. During registration, students in an educational module are subject to the ICLON Course and Examination Regulations and the ICLON Board of Examiners.