



Universiteit Leiden

# Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2026

Programme-specific section:

## Master's Programme: Middle Eastern Studies

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.

### Contents

1. General Provisions
2. Description of the Programme
3. Curriculum
4. Examinations, Final Examination and Further Education
5. Admission to the Programme
6. Student Counselling and Study Advice
7. Evaluation of the Programme
8. Final Provisions

### Appendices

Faculty section:

Appendix A - Master's Thesis Regulations

Appendix B - General Academic Skills

Appendix C - Internship Regulations for Humanities Bachelor's and Master's programmes

Appendix D - Enrolment protocol

Programme-specific section:

Appendix E - Prospectus (see <https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl/>)

## **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 scientific methods in the field of Middle Eastern 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**

Not applicable.

### **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. a profound insight into the current issues, core concepts and research questions in relevant disciplines and regional fields of the programme;
  - b. a thorough understanding of various textual corpuses or other primary source materials, theories and methodological approaches and research techniques that underwrite Middle Eastern Studies;
  - c. for students taking beginner's level language modules, an appropriate foundation to build upon in further studies (A1 in listening, reading, writing, spoken interaction, and spoken production according to the Common European Framework).
  - d. the ability to develop a conceptual framework suitable for addressing relevant problems and issues;
  - e. the ability to recognize the relationship between theory, method and research context;
  - f. a thorough knowledge of and insight into the interdisciplinary position of the study subject; and
  - g. a thorough understanding of the relevance of the study subject outside of academia.
2. Applying knowledge and understanding:
  - a. the capacity to critically apply theoretical and interpretative approaches when conducting basic independent research in Middle Eastern Studies;
  - b. the capacity to deploy theoretical and methodological tool-sets derived from the humanities and/or social sciences for the analysis and interpretation of the object of inquiry;
  - c. the ability to critically analyse primary and secondary sources;

- d. the ability to independently formulate, perform and assess research at a level suitable for preparing students for an academic career.
3. Making judgments:
    - a. the ability to select, compile, compare and analyse discipline-related literature and sources independently, using traditional and/or modern approaches;
    - b. the ability to independently study discipline-related literature and to assess these as to their quality and reliability.
  4. Communication
    - a. the capacity to report independently on relevant research that has been carried out according to current academic standards for the field of research;
    - b. the ability to write research reports in academic English; and
    - c. the ability to give cogent oral presentations;
  5. Learning skills
    - a. the capacity to apply learning skills that allow them to initiate and conduct a research project independently, under academic supervision. This includes:
      - i. The ability to formulate a clear and well-argued problem under academic supervision;
      - ii. the ability to break these problems down into clear and manageable research questions;
      - iii. the ability to design and execute a research programme that is both innovative and feasible;
      - iv. the capacity to apply ideas, instructions and constructive criticism of supervisors and peers and in turn offer feedback to the work of others; and
      - v. 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 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>

## 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.

## Chapter 4 **Examinations, Final Examination and Further Education**

---

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

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

## Article 4.2 **Obligatory sequence**

4.2.1 In the classes and examination of the following components can only be taken part once the examination of the preceding components specified below have been successfully completed:

<i>Component:</i>	<i>Participation in class and examination after passing:</i>
MA Thesis Middle Eastern Studies	Research proposal, written for one of the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Border/line: gender, ethnicity, and nation in the cultures of the MENA</li><li>• History and politics of the global Middle East: comparison, connection, causation</li><li>• Social and culture history of the Middle East: the Ottoman Empire</li></ul>

## Article 4.3 **Form of examination**

4.3.6 Not applicable.

## 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. A bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university (in the specialisation): Middle Eastern Studies;
- 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, and
  - the bachelor's degree is in the field of Middle Eastern Studies or a relevant subfield, such as Arabic Studies, Hebrew Studies, Persian Studies, or Turkish Studies; or
  - the bachelor's degree is in Social Sciences or Humanities, with either a relevant regional specialisation (e.g. Middle Eastern Studies), or a regionally relevant minor, or courses on the cultures, histories, literatures, politics, and/or religions of the Middle East with a total of at least 30 EC.

Applicants with a bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university in International Studies who

- have completed all area courses for the Middle East, and either
    - wrote their BA thesis on the Middle East or
    - completed optional courses worth 10 EC on the Middle East.
- are considered to have fulfilled the entry 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).

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 may also impose further conditions.

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);

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>.

### **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, 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 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>.

5.2.3.5 Additional language requirements will apply for specific courses within the MA programme. The requirements per course are listed in the Prospectus.

#### 5.2.4 **Qualitative admission requirements**

5.2.4.1 Not applicable.

#### 5.2.5 **Capacity limitation**

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 The programme has established two pre-master's programmes (60 EC and 30 EC) to address the needs of the following target groups in order to remove deficiencies. Pre-master's programmes/bridging programmes must be completed successfully within the prescribed period as specified in sub Article 5.2.1c.

The 60 EC pre-master programme below is intended for students who have earned the degree of bachelor at a university of applied sciences in a relevant field, equivalent to the level of a Dutch HBO bachelor's degree, in order to remedy deficiencies.

It is also intended for students with an academic bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch WO bachelor's degree, who do not meet the admission requirements as specified in article 5.2.1b.

Students need to finish the complete pre-master's programme successfully before they can start with the MA-programme.

---

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

<b>60 EC start in FALL</b>				
<b>Obligatory courses:</b>				<b>25</b>
Academic Skills Pre-Master	5003KAS	sem	300	5
Economies of the Middle East	5852VEME	lc	200	5
Core Curriculum: Humanities in a Digital World	5000VHDW1	lc	100	5
Introduction to the Study of Islam	5071VITSI	lc	100	5
The living Quran	pm	sem	200	5
<b>Choose one course:</b>				5
History of Modern Turkey	5852VHMT	lc	200	
History of Modern Iran	5852VHMIR	lc	200	
		Total EC sem 1		<b>30</b>
<b>Obligatory courses:</b>				<b>25</b>
History of the Modern Middle East: Transformations and Challenges	5851VHMME	lc	200	5
Diasporas and minorities in the Middle East	5853VDIA	sem	300	5
Political Islam	5851VPI01	lc	200	5
Pre-master Final Assignment Middle Eastern Studies which will be written in connection with the chosen course below	5850VPMA	ss	400	10
<b>Choose one course:</b>				5
Ideology and Politics in the Modern Middle East	5852VIPME	sem	200	
Anthropology of the Middle East	5852VANME	sem	200	
		Total EC sem 2		<b>30</b>
		Total EC		<b>60</b>

The 30-EC pre-master's programme below is intended for students who have earned the degree of bachelor at a research university in a relevant field, but who lack the minimum required ECs as defined in the entry requirements.

<b>30 EC start in SPRING</b>				
<b>Obligatory courses:</b>				<b>30</b>
History of the Modern Middle East: Transformations and Challenges	5851VHMME	lc	200	5
Diasporas and minorities in the Middle East	5853VDIA	lc	300	5
Anthropology of the Middle East	5852VIPME	Sem	200	5
Comparative Literatures of the Middle East	5853VCLME	Sem	300	10
Political Islam	5851VPI01	lc	200	5
		Total EC sem		<b>30</b>

5.4.2 Information on the pre-master's programmes can be requested from the study adviser of the programme/specialisation and can be found in the Prospectus.

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.