



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2026

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Russian and Eurasian 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 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.

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 Russian and Eurasian 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. General knowledge and multidisciplinary understanding of current issues and debates in the main disciplines of Russian and Eurasian Studies (politics, economics, international relations, history, culture, literature and linguistics), viewed in their national context and/or from a broader Eurasian and international perspective.
 - b. Specialised knowledge of and insight into at least two research areas in the field of Russian and Eurasian Studies (politics, economics, international relations, history, culture, literature and linguistics), viewed in their national context and/or from a broader Eurasian and international perspective.
2. Applying knowledge and understanding:
 - a. The ability to operate a scientific conceptual apparatus that is informed by the main disciplines of Russian and Eurasian Studies (politics, economics, international relations, history, culture, literature and linguistics) and to employ relevant and appropriate modern research methods for each of those disciplines in order to independently develop a problem formulation in the field of Russian and Eurasian Studies.

3. Judgement:

- a. The ability to independently define informed and persuasive viewpoints (on the basis of Russian and non-Russian sources and supplemented by one's own findings) which contribute to scholarly discussions about developments in the field of Russian and Eurasian Studies.
- b. The ability to critically reflect on differing opinions and hypotheses as well as on one's own research, taking into account and weighing alternative arguments.

4. Communication:

- a. The ability to independently draw up an adequate scholarly report of the research conducted in the field of Russian and Eurasian Studies in various presentation forms.
- b. The ability to communicate the scientific knowledge and skills that are characteristic of graduates of the master's degree programme Russian and Eurasian Studies in a socially relevant way.

5. Learning skills

- a. The learning skills required to be able to follow post-master's professional training or a PhD training of a largely self-determined or autonomous nature.

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 Policy².

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. The student can exchange one of the optional courses for a course from outside the programme or an internship, both of which should meet the required level (500). In these cases permission from the Board of Examiners is compulsory.

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

Article 4.2 **Obligatory sequence**

4.2.1 Not applicable.

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

² [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

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):

Bachelor programme Russian 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
 - knowledge, understanding of and skills in at least two disciplines of the Master's programme: politics, international relations, history, economics, linguistics, literature and culture; and
 - academic knowledge of Russian history and society, and
 - a reading command of the Russian language at the level of B1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

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

- have completed all area courses for Russia and Eurasia, and the programme's Russian language classes (25 EC), and
- wrote their BA Thesis and/or completed optional courses worth 15 EC on Russia and Eurasia

are considered to have fulfilled these 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 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 filled in '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.

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 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.

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

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>.

5.2.4 Qualitative admission requirements

5.2.4.1 Not applicable.

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 The programme offers tailor-made pre-master's programmes for students with a bachelor's degree in Russian, Russian Culture, History or Society obtained at a university of applied science (HBO). Pre-master's programmes/bridging programmes must be completed successfully within the prescribed period as specified in sub Article 5.2.1c.

As a rule the premaster consists of 60 EC or less and contains a number of the following components (depending on the student's deficiencies):

- a BA thesis (10 EC);
- Philosophy of Science (5 EC);
- 3 - 4 seminars (10 EC each) selected from the two specialisations within the BA programme: Language and Culture (LC) or Politics, History and Economics (PHE);
- Language acquisition (20-25 EC; Russian Grammar, Reading Skills). The language of instruction is Dutch, but some courses may be taught in English. Below is an overview of the 10 EC seminars on offer.

Semester	Title of Course	Track	Language of instruction	Credits
I	Sovjetgeschiedenis en herinnering	PHE	Dutch	10
I	Russische Poëzie en korte verhalen	LC	Dutch	10
I	Moderne Russische taalkunde	LC	Dutch	10
I	De Russische economie	PHE	Dutch	10
II	Geschiedenis van de Russische taal	LC	Dutch	10
II	Russian Politics	PHE	English	10
II	Russian Foreign Policy	PHE	English	10
II	Russische film	LC	Dutch	10

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, the Board of Admissions may impose a pre-master's programme, tailored to the individual background of the prospective student, to be completed before admission into the MA programme.

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

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.