



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2026

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Classics and Ancient Civilizations (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 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.

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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 academic methods in the field of the cultures of Classical Antiquity, 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:
 - 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

The programme has the following specialisations:

- Assyriology (research)
- Classics (research)
- Egyptology (research)
- Hebrew and Aramaic Studies (research)

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. Thorough knowledge and understanding of one of the following fields of study: Assyriology, Classics, Egyptology, 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 independently to identify and collect the relevant literature and historical sources using traditional and modern methods;

- c. The ability to analyse a problem and formulate a clear and well-founded thesis and to divide it into convenient and manageable parts;
- d. The ability to design and complete under expert supervision a substantial research project at the level suitable to preparing scholarly publications.

3. *Judgement*

- a. The ability critically to select and assess the relevant primary source material;
- b. The ability independently to study the relevant literature and historical sources and to judge their quality and reliability;
- c. The ability critically to assess the relevant secondary literature and to contribute to 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 present the outcomes of a research project in the format of a scholarly article that could be submitted to a relevant peer-reviewed journal.

5. *Learning skills*

- a. The learning abilities required to be able to follow post-master's professional or PhD training;
- b. The ability to demonstrate domain specific skills in an academic environment;
- c. The ability to demonstrate transferable skills (e.g., critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, teamwork, information management, project design, time management and problem solving) in a professional environment;
- d. 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. The ability to read primary texts that require an advanced knowledge and understanding of the formal and linguistic aspects of the Akkadian, Sumerian and / or Hittite language and scripts;
- b. The ability critically to evaluate and reflect upon the literary, historical and cultural aspects and contexts of Akkadian, Sumerian and / or Hittite texts;
- c. The ability to draw upon scholarly approaches to the history and archaeology of ancient Mesopotamia and / or Anatolia;
- d. The ability to formulate a diverse and well-balanced view of ancient Mesopotamia and Anatolia on the basis of an integrated linguistic, literary, cultural-historical approach, and the ability to reflect 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. The ability to read primary texts that require an advanced knowledge and understanding of the formal and linguistic aspects of ancient Greek and Latin;
- b. The ability critically to evaluate and reflect upon the literary, historical and cultural aspects and contexts of Greek and Latin texts;
- c. The ability to draw upon scholarly approaches to the history of ancient Greece and Rome and / or ancient philosophy;
- d. The ability to formulate 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 ancient civilizations, and the ability to reflect 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. The ability to read primary texts that require an advanced 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;
- b. The ability critically to evaluate and reflect upon the literary, historical and cultural aspects and contexts of Egyptian texts;
- c. The ability to draw upon an advanced knowledge and understanding of the archaeology and cultural history of ancient Egypt, including familiarity with modern Egypt and its research facilities;
- d. The ability to formulate a diverse and well-balanced view of ancient Egypt on the basis of an integrated linguistic, archaeological, cultural-historical approach, and the ability to reflect 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. The ability to read primary texts that require advanced knowledge and understanding of the formal and linguistic aspects of Classical Hebrew and Aramaic;
 - b. The ability critically to evaluate and reflect upon the literary, historical and cultural aspects and contexts of Hebrew and Aramaic texts;
 - c. The ability to draw upon scholarly approaches to the history and archaeology of the ancient Levant (i.e., Israel / Palestine, Jordan, the Lebanon and Syria);
 - d. The ability to formulate a diverse and well-balanced view of the ancient Levant on the basis of an integrated linguistic, literary, cultural-historical approach, and the ability to reflect 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 ancient Palestine and Syria and other ancient civilizations on the basis of primary and secondary sources.

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 Examination¹ 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.²

Chapter 3 **Curriculum**

Article 3.1 **Compulsory Components**

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components worth a total study load of 120 EC. These compulsory components include the set components from which a student is obliged to choose. This includes the electives offered by the recognised national research schools³, from which students must choose electives totalling 10 EC.

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](#)

³ <https://www.staff.universiteitleiden.nl/vr/humanities/graduate-school/during-your-phd/research-schools?cf=humanities>

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 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.

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

A Bachelor's degree in Classics or a comparable discipline, with classes on Greek or Latin texts in the original language, roughly equivalent to the 90 credits (for both languages combined) required in the Dutch system. Applicants are required to submit 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.

Specialisation Egyptology

Knowledge and relevant skills pertaining to at least one of the following topics and demonstrated by having successfully completed classes in one or more of these topics amounting to 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 the region involved;
- the cultural history of the region involved, 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 / Classical Hebrew or a comparable Northwest Semitic language.

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.

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 (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 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 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 169.⁴

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 2nd and 3rd 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.

⁴ 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>.

Article 5.2.4 **Qualitative Admission Requirements**

5.2.4.1 In addition to the requirements specified in 5.2.1 or 5.2.2 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 7.50 (Dutch grading system) for the entire bachelor's programme, and
- B. A grade for the bachelor's thesis of at least 8.0 (Dutch grading system), and
- C. Demonstrable motivation to study the particular Research MA programme/specialization, and
- D. Affinity with and suitability for scholarly research in the specific field of the MA specialization and the ability to clearly report on research, and

5.2.4.2 Where Article 5.2.4.1 applies, the admission requirements will be implemented as follows:

- A and B: as evidenced by a transcript of records and diploma of the relevant obtained academic degree;
- C: 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 them a good candidate for the research MA programme. The statement should be between 700 and 1,500 words;
- D: to be demonstrated by two letters of recommendation, the motivation letter (as referred to in 5.2.4.2 C) and 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 5.2.4.1c, they 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 the field of the specialisation for which they apply,
 - 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.

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);
- For the *Specialisation Classics* only: an overview of ancient Greek and Latin texts (with numbers of pages in the OCT) 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.b. and meets the qualitative requirements specified in 5.2.4.1.

5.2.4.3 Where Article 5.2.4.1 applies, the deadline for the admission requirements is as follows:

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.

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

Track Assyriology:

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 premaster.

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

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.