

OER Master Public Administration 2026-2027 ENG

Adopted on 9 June 2026

COURSE AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

Valid from 1 September 2026

Master's programmes Public Administration

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:

- Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document
- Academic Calendar
- Regulations for Student Registration, Tuition Fees and Examination Fees
- Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes
- [Online Proctoring Protocol](#)

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 –if necessary– adjusting the study load, how much time it takes students to comply. In accordance with Article 9.18 of the Act, the Programme Committee is assigned the task of annually assessing the implementation of the OER.

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- Enrolment protocol: [Inschrijfprotocol](#)
- Prospectus: [Prospectus Leiden University](#)
- Prospectus Master Public Administration: [Prospectus Master Public Administration](#)

Chapter 1 General Provisions

Article 1.1 Scope of the regulations

These regulations apply to the teaching and examinations of the Master's programme(s) Public Administration, henceforth referred to as the programme.

The programme is instituted in the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs of Leiden University, henceforth referred to as the Faculty, and is taught in The Hague by the institute of Public Administration.

Article 1.2 Definitions

In these regulations the following definitions apply:

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| a. Board of Admissions | The Board established by the Faculty Board that has the duty of determining, with the application of the entry requirements referred to in Article 7.30b, (1) and (3) of the Act and the University Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes, which applicants can be admitted to this Master's programme |
| b. Calendar day | a period of 24 hours beginning at midnight and indicated by a date on the calendar, including all days, such as working days, weekends, recognised public holidays and mandatory closing days; |
| c. Board of Examiners | The Board of Examiners for the programme, established and appointed by the Faculty Board in accordance with Article 7.12a of the Act; |
| d. Component | One of the courses or practical assignments of the programme, as referred to in Article 7.3 of the Act. The study load of each component is expressed in whole credits. Each component is concluded with an examination; |
| e. Credit | The unit in EC that expresses the study load of a component as referred to in the Act. According to the ECTS, one credit equals 28 hours of study; |
| f. Degree classification | Further degree classification by the Board of Examiners; |
| g. Digital teaching environment | A digital environment, such as Brightspace, in which students can work together, communicate and learn; |

h. ECTS	European Credit (Transfer System);
i. Education Administration Office	The office in the faculty where students can go for information and to register for courses (education information centre, service desk, Governance and Global Affairs.
j. Prospectus	The digital prospectus containing specific and binding information about the programme: https://studiegids.universiteitleiden.nl/ . The Prospectus constitutes an integral part of these regulations, and is included as an appendix;
k. Enrolment protocol	The enrolment protocol containing specific and binding information concerning enrolment in components, examinations, and final examinations, established by the Executive Board (https://inschrijfprotocol.universiteitleiden.nl/). The enrolment protocol constitutes an integral part of these regulations, and is included as an appendix;
l. Examination (<i>tentamen</i>)	An inspection of the knowledge, understanding and skills of the student with respect to a particular component, and an assessment thereof (in accordance with Article 7.10 of the Act). The assessment can take place in written form, orally as well as digitally, or a combination of these methods. An examination may consist of several constituent examinations. Credits are only awarded for examinations passed. The inspection is conducted according to the method determined by the Board of the Examiners to assure the quality of examination and final examinations;
m. Examiner	The person appointed by the Board of Examiners to conduct examinations, in accordance with Article 7.12c of the Act;
n. Final examination (<i>examen</i>)	The examinations associated with the components belonging to the programme or the propaedeutic phase of the programme, including an investigation to be carried out by the Board of Examiners itself, as referred to in Article 7.10 (2) of the Act;
o. First/second reader	The first or second examiner to read and assess the thesis/final paper/final report/final programme assignment. The first reader/reviewer is also the supervisor;
p. Language of instruction	The language of a programme, in which lectures and tutorials are given and examinations and final examinations are held;
q. Leiden Register of Study Programmes	Register of the programmes offered by Leiden University, maintained under the supervision of the Executive Board, as referred to in Article 7 of the Management and Administration Regulations;

- r. Level The level of a component according to the abstract structure as defined in the Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document¹
- s. Nominal duration of study The study load in years of study as established in the Central Register of Higher Education Programmes;
- t. Portfolio A monitoring and assessment file with which students (1) demonstrate that they have achieved a sufficient level of academic education to be awarded the degree, (2) record their personal process of academic learning during the programme, and (3) receive appropriate supervision and study advice;
- u. Practical assignment A practical assignment that contributes to an examination or final examination, as referred to in Article 7.13 (2) (d) of the Act, and takes one of the following forms:
- writing a thesis/final paper/final report/final programme assignment,
 - writing a paper or creating an artistic work,
 - carrying out a research assignment,
 - participating in fieldwork or an excursion,
 - completing an internship, or
 - participating in another educational activity aimed at acquiring particular skills;
- v. Pre-master's programme Opportunity to compensate for deficiencies in the context of a failure to meet the entry requirements as referred to in Article 7.30e of the Act;
- w. Programme The programme to which the OER relates: a coherent set of components, aimed at achieving clearly defined objectives relating to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a graduate of the programme is expected to have acquired. Each programme is concluded with a final examination;
- x. ;;Student A person enrolled at Leiden University in order to follow the courses, and/or sit the examinations and final examinations of the programme;
- y. The Act The Higher Education and Research Act [*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*, WHW];

¹ [Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document](#)

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| z. Working day | Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays and the compulsory closure days specified by the Executive Board; |
| aa. Inspection | The opportunity for the student to take note of the assessed work, the questions and assignments of the relevant examination, as well as the marking schemes used to mark the examination. |
| ab. Feedback session | The possibility for the student to be able to ask questions in connection with his or her assessed work, the questions and assignments of the relevant examination, as well as the marking schemes used to mark the examination. |

All other terms have the meaning ascribed to them by the Act.

Article 1.3 **Codes of conduct**

1.3.1 The Leiden University Code of Conduct on Standards of Behaviour between Lecturers and Students is applicable.² The aim of this code is to create a framework for a good, safe and stimulating work and study environment within Leiden University, in which teachers and students respect each other and in which mutual acceptance and trust are important values.

1.3.2 The Code of Conduct on Remote Teaching applies³; this provides guidelines for teaching and learning in digital environments, remote environments or any form of teaching that is primarily dependent on IT services.

1.3.3 The Leiden University Regulations on ICT and Internet Use are also applicable.⁴ These regulations define what is considered appropriate use of ICT and internet and how usage checks will be made. They also explain which conduct is not tolerated and the consequences that apply.

1.3.4 The Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs Code of Conduct is also applicable⁵. This code of conduct consists of a number of core values in order to reach an honest, open, safe and inspiring climate for study and work for all students and staff.

²[Leiden University Code of Conduct on Standards of Behaviour between Lecturers and Students](#)

³[Code of Conduct on Remote Teaching](#)

⁴[Leiden University Regulations on ICT and Internet Use](#)

⁵[FGGA Code of Conduct](#)

Chapter 2 Description of the Programme

Article 2.1 Objectives of the programme

The programme has the following objectives:

The Master of Science programme in Public Administration is an academic programme that emphasizes the ability to understand and analytically apply insights from different approaches within Public Administration to problems of governance, policymaking and public sector management. The programme aims to educate students to become academically trained public administration experts in a broad sense. The programme is rooted in social science research and aims to teach students to develop a critical attitude and adopt a perspective of scholarly independence. The programme strives to convey both general knowledge of the core themes and approaches in Public Administration and an awareness of specific real-world challenges and issues in specialised areas such as public management, welfare economics, or governance beyond national administrations. Furthermore, the programme emphasises the ability to reflect on the ethical and normative dimensions of governance and their consequences for the behaviour of government officials and civil servants. The graduate is thus capable of recognising and analysing a broad range of complex problems in the domain of the public sector, both at the national and the international level. The graduate is able to undertake independent research at graduate level, applying a broad range of theoretical approaches relevant to public administration.

Article 2.2 Specialisations

The programme has the following specialisations:

- Economics and Governance (EG)
- International and European Governance (IEG)
- Public Management and Leadership (PML)

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 the broad intellectual tradition of public administration and of important concepts and theories in related disciplines (political science, economics, organisational studies, law, sociology, psychology) as relevant to understanding various governance aspects.
 - b. Advanced knowledge and understanding of the distinctive nature of governance in the public sector, including the functioning of organizations, policymaking, management, and/or public service delivery, in a multi-actor and multi-level context.
 - c. Advanced knowledge and understanding of normative issues related to public governance and of the ethics of government.

Track specific qualifications Economics and Governance (EG)

- a. EG Advanced knowledge and understanding of the principles of welfare-economics in order to analyse policy problems, and develop suitable government responses.
- b. EG Advanced knowledge and understanding of the variety of policy and regulatory instruments for addressing policy problems, with their assumptions and trade-offs.
- c. EG Advanced knowledge and understanding of the challenges for the current welfare state, particularly in the areas such as pension systems, labour policy, social welfare and income distribution.
- d. EG Advanced knowledge and understanding of the relationship between the state and market from different intellectual perspectives.

Track specific qualifications International and European Governance (IEG)

- a. IEG Advanced understanding of the complex nature of contemporary public governance arising from the interactions between actors at different levels or sectors of governance: supranational, international, national, and local actors and institutions.
- b. IEG Advanced understanding of decision making in multi-level governance systems and its effects on the national and local levels of government.
- c. IEG Advanced knowledge of theoretical approaches analysing the tensions between domestic policies and global trends and regulatory regimes.
- d. IEG Deep awareness of the constraints and opportunities for domestic policy making arising through globalisation and the intervention of external actors and trans-border policies.

Track specific qualifications Public Management and Leadership (PML)

- a. PML Advanced knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and theories of public management and of state-of-the-art academic research with regard to core themes, such as management and public service performance, network management, public leadership, and human resource management.
- b. PML Advanced knowledge and understanding of the key trends in the management of public organizations.
- c. PML Advanced understanding of the opportunities and constraints for managerial decision-making in public organizations arising from the institutional context in which the organization is embedded.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding

- a. Identify and apply effectively a relevant theoretical framework to analyse real life problems and cases in a conceptually rigorous manner.
- b. Define and analyse problems in the three expertise areas, both normatively and empirically, and suggest feasible solutions for decision-making.
- c. Discuss the main challenges and opportunities that actors, organisations and/or institutions are currently confronted with, and assess their impact for choices in the respective expertise areas.
- d. Select an appropriate research design and method(s) to address a specific research question; collect and analyse qualitative and/or quantitative data relevant to answering the research question.

3. Judgement
 - a. Critically evaluate empirical research in the area of expertise, from a methodological and theoretical viewpoint.
 - b. Reach conclusions and/or solutions to problems based on data and on sound and balanced argumentation, considering the specific context of the practice/case at hand, and evaluate argumentations of others.
 - c. Reflect on relevant normative and ethical issues, particularly on the issue of multiple goals (legitimacy, effectiveness, etc.) and on the principles of democratic government, good government, and reliable government.
4. Communication
 - a. Present results of a research project at the level expected from academic work in the discipline of public administration.
 - b. Present arguments and analyses in a format appropriate for a broader professional audience and as input to expert groups.
 - c. Provide strategic advice to decision-makers.
 - d. Build, present and defend well-grounded arguments in oral communication,
 - e. Engage in national debates about the issues related to the three expertise,
 - f. Function effectively in a team, potentially in a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural setting.
5. Learning skills
 - a. Ability to effectively identify and synthesize existing primary and secondary literature in order to address a question or problem at hand.
 - b. A mind-set to seek evidence and draw from international and other relevant experiences for an informed judgement.
 - c. Ability to stay informed about current developments in the area of expertise, including the use of relevant social and other 'new' digital media, when applicable.
 - d. Awareness of the challenges of functioning in a multi-national environment and in a leadership position.

Article 2.4 **Structure of the programme**

The programme Public Administration is offered full time.

The nominal duration of the full-time programme is 1 year.

Article 2.5 **Study load**

The programme has a study load of 60 ECTS credits.

Article 2.6 **Start of the programme; uniform structure of the academic year**

The programme starts on 1 September and on 1 February of each year. In terms of regular courses, the programme is based on the university semester system and comprises 42 teaching weeks.

Article 2.7 Final examinations of the programme

The programme is concluded with a master's final examination.

Article 2.8 Language of instruction

2.8.1 Subject to the Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction and Examination,⁶ the language(s) in which the instruction is given is: English, and the language 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 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.⁷

Article 2.9 Quality

The programme is accredited by NVAO⁸ and meets the national and international quality requirements for degree programmes. The programme's teaching also meets the quality standards for teaching set out in the Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document.

⁶ [Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction, Article 4](#)

⁷ [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

⁸ [The Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders.](#)

Chapter 3 **Curriculum**

Article 3.0 **Exceptions due to *force majeure* situations**

3.0.1 If it is not possible, due to a crisis or other *force majeure* circumstances, to provide or take part in components as set out in the OER or the Prospectus, changes will be announced by the authorised body in due time. Such changes will be announced in any case in Brightspace, or alternatively a statement will be made in Brightspace regarding which other medium will be used to communicate about this. A crisis is understood to mean a crisis as defined in Article 1 of the Leiden University Regulations on Crisis Management Coordination.

Article 3.1 **Compulsory components**

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components worth a total study load of 60 ECTS credits. These compulsory components include the set components from which students are obliged to choose.

3.1.2 The Prospectus further specifies the actual structure of the programme, the study load, level,⁹ content, method of examination, and structure of the components of the curriculum.

3.1.3 If there is a significant discrepancy between the expected and the actual number of students in a course unit, such that the planned teaching or assessment format is no longer suitable for the group size, the Institute Board reserves the right to adjust the teaching and assessment methods. If this occurs, prior approval will be sought from the Board of Examiners, and the programme committee and students will be informed in a timely manner.

Article 3.2 **Optional components**

3.2.1 In addition to the components referred in 3.1.1, the student selects components worth a total study load of 0 ECTS.

3.2.2 The Board of Examiners must approve the student's selection of components.

3.2.3 In addition to the components taught at this university, and subject to the approval of the Board of Examiners, students may also select components offered by other Dutch or foreign universities, or components offered by another legal entity offering accredited undergraduate higher education programmes.

3.2.4 Students who are enrolled in the programme may assemble their own curriculum of components that are taught by an institution, as long as these are concluded with a final examination. They will require the permission of the most appropriate Board of Examiners. When granting such permission, the Board of Examiners also indicates to which University programme the curriculum is

⁹ [In accordance with the 'abstract structure', as described in the Framework Document of the Leiden University Register of Study Programmes.](#)

considered to belong.¹⁰ If necessary, the Executive Board designates a Board of Examiners to take this decision.

Article 3.3 **Practical assignments**

3.3.1 For each component, the Prospectus specifies which practical assignments are included, the nature and scope of the student's workload for these practical assignments and whether participation in these is a condition of admission to (other parts of) the examination. The Board of Examiners may exempt students from a practical assignment, in which case the Board can choose to apply alternative conditions.

3.3.2 The Prospectus specifies the scope and study load of the thesis/final paper/final report/final programme assignment, including the requirements that the final thesis/final paper/final report/final programme assignment must meet.

Article 3.4 **Taking part in components and sitting examinations**

3.4.1 **Taking part in components**

3.4.1.1 Students must register for the component according to the applicable enrolment protocol.¹¹ This means that students register for a component in MyStudymap, ticking the activities in which they want to participate (lecture, tutorial, practical assignment and examination). Registration is possible until no later than five calendar days before the start of the component. For some components, the term stipulated in the component's description in the Prospectus and in Article 3.4.1.2 applies. A different term applies for registration for the examination, as stipulated in Article 3.4.2.

3.4.1.2 In the case of a component with restrictions on the number of participants, participation takes place in order of enrolment. For students enrolled in the programme, timely enrolment guarantees placement in the components that form part of the mandatory curriculum of the programme.

3.4.1.3 Contrary to Article 3.4.1.1, a different enrolment period (fourteen days or twenty-eight calendar days) may apply to certain components, if approved by the Faculty Board. The relevant components and the corresponding enrolment term can be found in the Prospectus.

3.4.1.4 Students who have not enrolled on time can report to the Education Administration Office of the faculty of which the study programme is part. The relevant enrolment protocol specifies the circumstances on the basis of which students may be enrolled contrary to Article 3.4.1.1.

3.4.2 **Sitting examinations and constituent examinations**

¹⁰ In accordance with Article 7.3j of the WHW ('free curriculum in higher education').

¹¹ [Course and exam enrolment – Leiden University](#)

3.4.2.1 In order to sit the examination or constituent examination, students are required to register no later than ten calendar days before the start of the examination or constituent examination.

3.4.2.2 In order to take the resit of the same component in the current academic year, students are required to register no later than five calendar days before the start of the examination or constituent examination. This term also applies for the situation referred to in Article 4.6.2.

3.4.2.3 Students who have not registered for the examination on time according to the applicable enrolment protocol may report to the Education Administration Office of the faculty of which the programme forms part. The relevant enrolment protocol specifies the circumstances on the basis of which students may be registered contrary to Articles 3.4.2.1 and 3.4.2.2.

Article 3.5 **Distribution of study materials**

3.5.1 Students are not permitted to take photographs or make audio or video recordings of lectures or education-related meetings, including the feedback sessions after examinations (including examination assignments and model answers), without the explicit prior permission of the relevant lecturer. Should such permission be granted, students are only legally permitted to use the photograph or recording for their own use; all forms of distribution or publication of the photograph or recording are prohibited. A student has no independent control over these materials, unless the University has explicitly granted this to the student.

3.5.2 Students are prohibited from all forms of distribution or publication of study materials. The materials are for students' own use only.

3.5.3 Students are prohibited from infringing the intellectual property rights of the University, third parties or the person with whom licensing agreements were made.

Chapter 4 Examinations, Final Examinations and Further Education

Article 4.0 Exceptions due to force majeure situations

4.0.1 If it is not possible, due to a crisis or other *force majeure* circumstances, to offer examinations and final examinations in the form and at the point in time set out in the OER or the Prospectus, changes will be announced by the authorised body in due time. Such changes will be announced in any case in Brightspace, or alternatively a statement will be made in Brightspace regarding which other medium will be used to communicate about this. A crisis is understood to mean a crisis as defined in Article 1 of the Leiden University Regulations on Crisis Management Coordination.

Article 4.1 Frequency of examinations

4.1.1 Examinations are held twice during the academic year for each component offered in that academic year. The Board of Examiners determines the manner in which the second examination opportunity takes place for practical assignments.

4.1.2 The Faculty Board is responsible for the practical organisation of the examinations and final examinations and ensures, if necessary by means of invigilation, that the examinations and examinations proceed properly. If online proctoring is used, this is done according to the [Online Proctoring Protocol](#).

4.1.3 Not applicable.

4.1.4 If the grade for a component results from several constituent examinations, it is possible to vary from the number of examinations and resits as referred to in 4.1.1, on the understanding that students are given the opportunity during the second exam opportunity to pass the component by taking an examination that is representative of the component. If applicable, this is specified in the Prospectus.

4.1.5 In accordance with Article 7.13 (2) (h) of the Act, the Prospectus specifies the dates of the examinations.

4.1.6 At a student's request the Board of Examiners may in exceptional circumstances diverge from the provisions of Article 4.1.1 and allow an additional resit.

4.1.7 The Board of Examiners may set certain rules for taking the resit. These rules are specified in the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiner.

4.1.8 During a master's programme, students may resit one examination that they passed. The Board of Examiners may diverge from this stipulation in exceptional, individual cases and at the student's request. A resit of an examination that was passed can only take place in the same academic year as the original examination. In the event of such a one-time resit, the highest result obtained applies.

The examination referred to in the first sentence may consist of a number of constituent examinations. Registration for this examination should take place in accordance with Articles 3.4.1.1 and 3.4.2.2.

4.1.9 The following are excluded from the resit option as referred to in Article 4.1.7:

- Oral examinations
- Practical assignments
- Examinations that the student passed at a different institution than Leiden University

4.1.10 If a component is included in multiple programmes, the student is only granted one opportunity to resit an examination that they previously passed for this component.

Article 4.2 **Obligatory sequence**

4.2.1 The Prospectus specifies the sequence in which examinations must be taken. Students may only sit examinations that are subject to a compulsory sequence once they have passed the examinations for one or more other components.

4.2.2 For the components and their attendant examinations which must be completed in a given sequence, the Board of Examiners may in special cases, and following a substantiated written request by the student, agree to an alternative sequence.

Article 4.3 **Form of examination**

4.3.1 The Prospectus states the method of examination. It indicates whether the examination or constituent examinations for a component take the form of a written, digital or oral examination, or a combination of these, or is completed in another way. Established forms of examination may only be modified in exceptional cases by the Board of Examiners, in consultation with the examiner. Any changes must not affect the learning objectives of the course component.

4.3.2 The procedure during examinations and the guidelines and instructions, as referred to in Article 7.12b (1) (b) of the Act, for assessing and establishing the results of examinations and final examinations are described in the 'Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners'.

4.3.3 Students with a disability or chronic medical condition are given the opportunity to apply for individual examination arrangements adjusted to their particular disability or condition. These arrangements may not affect the quality or level of difficulty of the examination. If necessary, the Board of Examiners seeks expert advice, as referred to in the Protocol on Studying with a Disability,¹² before reaching a decision.

¹² [Protocol on Studying with a Disability](#)

4.3.4 In special cases, the Board of Examiners may, at the request of the student and within the scope of the OER, permit a student to sit an examination in another manner than specified in the Prospectus.

4.3.5 Examinations are held in the language(s) of instruction for this programme that are specified in the OER. At the request of the student, the Board of Examiners may permit a student to sit an examination in another language.

Article 4.4 **Oral examinations**

4.4.1 Students take oral examinations individually, unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise.

4.4.2 Oral examinations are public, unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise owing to special circumstances, or unless the student has reservations.

Article 4.5 **Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners**

4.5.1 In accordance with Article 7.12b (3) of the Act, the Board of Examiners establishes rules concerning the performance of its tasks and responsibilities and the measures it can take in the event of fraud.

4.5.2 The Board of Examiners is responsible for ensuring that the right of students to appeal against decisions of the Board of Examiners or the examiners is guaranteed.

Article 4.6 **Assessment**

4.6.1 The examiner determines the grade as soon as possible after an oral examination has been conducted. The student receives a message about the grade via the University study progress system.

4.6.2 The examiner determines the grade of any written or other form of examination or constituent examination within fifteen working days of the day on which the examination or constituent examination was held. The result is notified to the student within the same fifteen working days. The final grade is recorded in the University study progress system, and the student receives a message about it via that system. The student will be informed of the result at least five working days before the next opportunity to resit the relevant examination. If this deadline is not met, the resit can be postponed.

4.6.3 If the examiner is unable to comply with the periods of fifteen and five working days respectively, as specified in Article 4.6.2, the student is notified accordingly in a message sent to the student's u-mail address before this term expires. This message includes the (latest) date by which the student will be informed of the result.

4.6.4 The examination result is expressed as a whole number or a number to a maximum of one decimal place, between and including 1.0 and 10.0. The result of the examination is not expressed as a number between 5.0 and 6.0. Additional provisions regarding the expression of results are laid down in the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners.

4.6.5 The examination result is considered to be a pass if it is 6.0 or higher.

4.6.6 If students must complete a practical assignment to be permitted to sit an examination, the Board of Examiners may decide that students have sat the examination once they have passed the practical assignments.

4.6.7 Together with the written or electronic notification of examination results, students are also informed of their right to inspect their graded examination papers, as referred to in Article 4.8, as well as of the appeals procedure.

4.6.8 The Board of Examiners may draw up rules that specify under which conditions it may exercise its power as specified in Article 7.12b (3) of the Act to determine that students do not have to pass every examination and/or under which conditions the results of constituent examinations can compensate for each other. These rules are specified in the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Examiners.

Article 4.7 **Period of validity of examinations**

4.7.1 The Faculty Board can limit the period of validity of an examination pass. The Board of Examiners may, however, extend the period of validity in individual cases. The period of validity of an examination pass can only be limited if the examined knowledge, understanding or skills are demonstrably outdated.

4.7.2 The Board of Examiners may, in accordance with the criteria specified in the Rules and Regulations and at the request of the student, extend the validity of examinations for a period to be specified by the Board itself. In the event of special circumstances in the sense of Article 7.51 (2) of the Act, the Board of Examiners will act in accordance with the pertinent provisions in Article 7.10 (4) of the Act.

4.7.3 The validity period referred to in 4.7.1 starts on 1 September of the academic year following that in which the grade was obtained or the exemption granted.

Article 4.8 **Inspection and feedback session**

4.8.1 Students are entitled to inspect and receive feedback on their graded examination within a maximum period of 30 calendar days following the publication of the results of a written or digital examination, and in any case before the second exam opportunity takes place

4.8.2 During the period referred to in 4.8.1, students may inspect the examination questions and assignments, as well as the grading schemes used to grade the examination.

4.8.3 The time and manner of the inspection and feedback session on the examination are specified in the Prospectus or the digital teaching environment.

4.8.4 The Board of Examiners is authorised to decide whether the inspection of the examination paper and the feedback session are to be collective or individual.

4.8.5 The examiner determines where and when the inspection of the examination paper and the feedback session will take place.

4.8.6 Students who are unable to attend the feedback session due to demonstrable circumstances beyond their control are granted another opportunity, if possible within the period referred to in 4.8.1.

Article 4.9 **Exemption from examinations and/or practical assignments**

At the student's request and after consultation with the examiner in question, the Board of Examiners may grant the student exemption from one or more examinations or practical assignments if the student:

- has completed a component at a research university or university of applied sciences that is similar in content and level to the component for which the student is requesting exemption, or
- has demonstrated, through relevant work or professional experience, that they have acquired sufficient skills and knowledge in relation to the component in question.

Article 4.10 **Final examination**

4.10.1 The Board of Examiners awards a degree certificate when there is sufficient proof that the final examination has been passed.

4.10.2 As part of the final examination, the Board of Examiners is entitled to conduct its own evaluation of the knowledge, understanding and skills of the examination candidate and assess the results.

4.10.3 The degree is only conferred once the Executive Board has declared that all procedural requirements (including the requirement to pay tuition fees) have been met. One degree certificate is awarded for each programme. The degree certificate states that the programme or specialisation was delivered by Leiden University..

4.10.4 Pursuant to the regulations referred to in Article 7.11 (3) of the Act, a student who is entitled to graduate may ask the Board of Examiners to postpone graduation, as long as the student has not exceeded the maximum period of enrolment of the nominal study duration plus one academic year for the programme in question.

4.10.5 This request must be submitted within five working days of the student receiving notification of their final examination results. In the request the student must indicate when they wish to receive the degree certificate.

4.10.6 The Board of Examiners may also approve the request if refusing it would result in a considerable injustice.

4.10.7 A supplement in Dutch and/or in English that conforms to the standard European Diploma Supplement format, including the grading table applicable for the degree programme, is attached to the degree certificate. In addition to the degree certificate, students are issued with a translation of the degree certificate and a certificate in Latin.

Article 4.11 **The degree**

4.11.1 The degree of Master of Science is awarded to those who have passed the final examination of the programme.

4.11.2 The degree certificate specifies which degree has been awarded.

Article 4.12 **Degree classification**

4.12.1 The student is awarded a degree classification for the final examination.

4.12.2 The final degree classification is based on the weighted average of the grades obtained for all examinations that form part of the final examination, with the exception of the components for which an exemption was granted or for which the student only obtained a proof of attendance. Components completed from other programmes, including components followed abroad, must be approved by the Board of Examiners.

4.12.3 The weighted average of all grades is determined by multiplying the number of ECTS credits for each component by the grade awarded for this component, adding these together and then dividing the result by the number of credits earned.

4.12.4 Without prejudice to the provisions of 4.12.6 and 4.12.7, the degree certificate and diploma supplement include the 'cum laude' classification if the following conditions are met for the full-time programmes:

- the weighted average for all components is 8.0 or higher
- the grade for the final assignment of the master's programme is 8.0 or higher
- the examination was passed within the nominal duration of study + 1 year

The Board of Examiners sets corresponding conditions for part-time programmes, proportionate to the nominal duration of the study programme.

4.12.5 Without prejudice to the provisions of 4.12.6 and 4.12.7, the degree certificate and the diploma supplement include the 'summa cum laude' classification if the following conditions are met for the full-time programmes:

- the weighted average for all components is 9.0 or higher
- the grade for the final assignment of the master's programme is 9.0 or higher
- the examination has been passed within the nominal duration of study
- all components have been completed with a minimum grade of 7.0
- no component may concern a resit.

The Board of Examiners sets corresponding conditions for part-time programmes, proportionate to the nominal duration of the study programme.

4.12.6 The Board of Examiners may also decide to award a distinction in other, exceptional cases, on the condition that the weighted average grade does not differ by more than 0.5 from the grades stipulated in the fourth and fifth paragraphs above. This may involve such considerations as the student's development throughout the study programme, any exceptional performances on the part of the student in completing the final paper or thesis and any other relevant exceptional circumstances.

4.12.7 If a student has been subject to a disciplinary measure as a result of irregularity, fraud or plagiarism, as set out in the Rules and Regulations, a distinction will not be awarded, unless the Board of Examiners decides otherwise.

Article 4.13 **Further education**

The degree awarded grants the holder access to a PhD programme.

Chapter 5 Admission to the programme as of September 2027 or February 2028

Article 5.1 Confirmation of admission

5.1.1 The Faculty Board provides confirmation of admission if the student meets the entry requirements specified in Articles 5.2 and 5.3. If the Executive Board has determined a maximum number of students for the programme, a confirmation of admission will be issued if the student meets the entry requirements and this maximum number is not exceeded.

5.1.2 Confirmation of admission must be requested according to the rules set out in the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.¹³

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)¹⁴:

- a. a bachelor's degree in public administration, political science, public management, public economics or a similar programme closely related to Public Administration from a research university (wo) and competence in the methodology of social science research as evidenced by prior course work, or
- b. a bachelor's degree from a research university (wo) provided that the person has completed the minor 'Public Administration: Multi-Level Governance' or the minor 'Bestuurskunde: Openbaar Bestuur, Beleid en Management' at Leiden University and shows competence in the methodology of social science research as evidenced by prior course work; or
- c. a bachelor's degree in cultural anthropology, pedagogical sciences, law, social/behavioural sciences, history, area studies, philosophy, international studies, sociology, and public health from a research university (WO) and additionally having passed the prescribed pre-master's programme pursuant to Article 5.4.1.
- d. a bachelor's degree in public administration, public administration & public policy, business administration, European studies, human resource management, international public management, security studies, and management and consultancy from a university of applied sciences (hbo) and additionally having passed the prescribed pre-master's programme pursuant to Article 5.4.1.

¹³ [Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

¹⁴ Please note: *"In our system, a bachelor's degree generally grants access to master's programmes. No distinction is made between a bachelor's degree from a university of applied sciences and a bachelor's degree from a research university. Parliamentary Papers II 31288, no. 1188, letter from the Minister of Education, Culture and Science on the approach to accessibility and progression in higher professional education and university education, 9 April 2025.*

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 this condition once 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-taught programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South Africa
- A diploma of an English-taught academic education (WO) programme completed at a Dutch university
- A diploma of an English-taught four-year higher professional education (HBO) programme completed at a Dutch university of applied sciences
- A 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:

- IELTS 6.5, where each separate constituent score must be at least 6.0;
- TOEFL (internet-based) 90, where each separate constituent score must be at least 20;¹⁵
- Cambridge English C2 Proficiency or C1 Advanced with an overall score of 180, where each separate constituent score must be at least 169.

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.

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See also the comparison table: [english_proficiency_masters_programmmes_eng.pdf](#)

5.2.3.4 The language level in <5.2.3.1, with the exception of the 2nd and 3rd bullet point, 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.

Article 5.2.4 **Qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements)**

5.2.4.1 Not applicable,

Article 5.2.5 **Capacity limitation**

5.2.5.1 not applicable

Article 5.3 **Deficiencies**

5.3.1 Holders of a bachelor's degree from a research university, a related university bachelor's diploma as referred to in 5.2.1, point b or an equivalent diploma with a maximum of 1 ECTS of deficiencies, may be admitted to the programme, as long as it may reasonably be expected that they will meet the entry requirements within a reasonable period of time.

5.3.2 Students who still have the deficiencies referred to in 5.3.1 when admitted to the programme may participate in the programme but may not sit a final examination or any examinations that the Faculty Board has specified in its decision to grant admission.

5.3.3 For the admission referred to in 5.3.1 the Board of Admissions assembles a catch-up programme with examination opportunities.

5.3.4 If students are admitted to the programme on the basis of 5.3.1 and must sit examinations to meet the entry requirements, these are not considered part of the curriculum of the master's programme.

Article 5.4 **Pre-master's programmes and educational modules**

5.4.1 The programme has developed the following pre-master's programmes (for the following target groups) in order to remove deficiencies: Pre-Master's programme Public Administration.

5.4.2 Pursuant to Article 7.30b (1) of the Act, holders of one of the following degrees referred to in 5.2.1c in this OER may be admitted to the bridging programme, provided that they meet the language requirements as described in article 5.2.3.

5.4.3 Students who have obtained a university 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 qualification.

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

5.4.5 In addition to the requirements specified in 5.4.2, the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the Pre-Master's programme pursuant to Article 7.30b (2) of the Act :

- results from previous education that give sufficient confidence that the person concerned can successfully complete the Pre-master's and the Master's programme. A certified grade list from the completed Bachelor's programme (wo- or hbo) that demonstrates an unrounded weighted average grade of at least 7.0 used as is the criterion for sufficient confidence.

5.4.6 In exceptional circumstances, the Board of Admissions can admit persons to the programme who do not meet the requirements specified in 5.4.5. if a substantial and relevant work experience can clearly demonstrate the person's capability to successfully complete the Pre-Master's and Master's programme. A resume and explication demonstrating the relevance of the work experience for the programme will be the basis of the decision.

5.4.7 Where article 5.4.5. and 5.4.6. apply, the admission requirements will be implemented as follows:

- for the start of the Pre-Master's in the first semester: May 15th or April 1st for students who need housing or a visa;
- for start of the Pre-Master's in the second semester: November 15th or October 15th for students who need housing or a visa¹⁶.

5.4.8 Information on the Pre-Master's programme can be requested from the Institute of Public Administration. In principle, the Pre-Master's programme involves evening classes.

5.4.9 The Pre-Master's programme must be successfully completed within one year to be admitted to the Master's programme.

5.4.10 Admission to the Pre-Master's programme is granted only once. After one year, the right to be admitted to the Pre-Master's programme expires regardless whether the admission requirements can be met.

5.4.11 Components which may be obtained in another Pre-Master's programme of the Institute of Public Administration cannot be used to replace components in the Public Administration Pre-Master's programme. This also applies vice versa.

¹⁶ Please be aware that the Pre-master's starts in the second block of the semester; consequently block 2 and 4

Chapter 6 Student Counselling and Study Advice

Article 6.1 Study progress administration

6.1.1 The Faculty Board keeps records of the results achieved by individual students.

6.1.2 Students may inspect their results in the study progress system at any time.

Article 6.2 Introduction and student counselling

The programme is responsible for the introduction and student counselling.

Article 6.3 Supervision of the thesis/final paper/final report/final programme assignment

6.3.1 Together with the first reader, the student draws up a plan for the thesis/final paper/final report/final programme assignment as referred to in 3.3.2. This plan is based on the study load for this component, as specified in the Prospectus.

6.3.2 The plan referred to in 6.3.1 also specifies the frequency and manner of supervision.

Article 6.4 Top-level sport

Students who engage in top-level sport at a professional level are given the opportunity to adjust their study programme to their sporting activities wherever possible. The programme determines who falls within this category in line with the guidelines set out in Section III of the Regulations on Financial Support for Students, drawn up by the Executive Board.

Article 6.5 Disability or chronic medical condition

Where possible, students with a disability or chronic medical condition are given the opportunity to adjust their study programme to the limitations resulting from their disability or chronic medical condition. The study programme can be adjusted to the individual disability or chronic medical condition of the student in question, but this must not affect the quality or level of difficulty of the components or the final examination curriculum itself.¹⁷

Article 6.6 Study and internships abroad

¹⁷[Protocol on Studying with a Disability](#)

Special measures will be taken for students who suffer from a demonstrable delay in their studies as a result of study or an internship abroad that has been approved by the Board of Examiners, in order to limit the delay.

Chapter 7 Evaluation of the Programme

Article 7.1 Evaluation of the programme

The education in the programme is evaluated as follows:

- Course evaluations of a frequency and format determined by the programme, within the legally defined requirements and according to the principles of the faculty assessment framework.
- Programme evaluations

The Programme Board/Programme Director will inform the Programme Committee about the outcomes of the evaluation. The committee of this programme advises the Programme Board on measures for quality improvement.

Chapter 8 Final Provisions

Article 8.1 Amendments

8.1.1 Amendments to these regulations are adopted by a separate order of the Faculty Board, with the prior consent of the Faculty Council or the Programme Committee, depending on the topics concerned.

8.1.2 Amendments to these regulations which apply to a particular academic year must be adopted before the start of that year and published in the prescribed manner, unless earlier implementation of an amendment to the regulations is strictly necessary and, in all reasonableness, does not harm the students' interests.

8.1.3 Amendments to these regulations may not adversely affect any prior decision pertaining to students taken by the Board of Examiners on the basis of these regulations.

Article 8.2 Publication

The Faculty Board or Programme Board is responsible for publishing these regulations, the Rules and Regulations established by the Board of Examiners, and any amendments to these documents via the University website.

Article 8.3 Term of application

The Course and Examination Regulations apply for the duration of one academic year.

Article 8.4 Entry into force

These regulations enter into force on 1 September 2026.