

CER Master's programme Cyber Security 2024-2025 ENG

Adopted on 26 June 2024

COURSE AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

Valid from 1 September 2024

Master's programme Cyber Security

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

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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- Prospectus <https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl>

Chapter 1 **General Provisions**

Article 1.1 **Scope of the regulations**

These regulations apply to the teaching and examinations of the Master's programme Cyber Security, 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 Security and Global Affairs.

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. 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. |
| c. 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. |
| d. 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. |
| e. Degree classification | Further degree classification by the Board of Examiners. |
| f. Digital teaching environment | A digital environment, such as Brightspace, in which students can work together, communicate and learn. |
| g. ECTS | European Credit (Transfer System) |
| h. Education Administration Office | The office in the faculty where students can go for information and to register for courses (education information centre, service desk, OSC). |
| i. 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. |

- j. 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.
- k. Examination
(*tentamen*) 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.
- l. Examiner The person appointed by the Board of Examiners to conduct examinations, in accordance with Article 7.12c of the Act
- m. Final examination
(*examen*) 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
- n. 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.
- o. Language of instruction The language of a programme, in which lectures and tutorials are given and examinations and final examinations are held
- p. 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
- q. Level The level of a component according to the abstract structure as defined in the Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document¹
- r. Nominal duration of study The study load in years of study as established in the Central Register of Higher Education Programmes
- s. 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

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

of academic learning during the programme, and (3) receive appropriate supervision and study advice

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| t. | 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 |
| u. | 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 |
| v. | 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. |
| w. | Student | A person enrolled at Leiden University in order to follow the courses, and/or sit the examinations and final examinations of the programme |
| x. | The Act | The Higher Education and Research Act [<i>Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek</i> , WHW] |
| y. | Working day | Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays and the compulsory closure days specified by the Executive Board |
| z. | 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. |
| aa. | 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 Furthermore, the following Faculty codes of conduct apply to the programme:

- Code of Conduct Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs⁵. 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.

Chapter 2 Description of the Programme

Article 2.1 Objectives of the programme

The programme has the following objectives:

The programme aims to educate professionals with an Master's degree and several years of work experience to become professionals with an integral outlook on cyber security. They will be able to identify a variety of theoretical frameworks and approaches suitable for addressing cyber security issues, and to select the appropriate ones that can contribute to strategic solutions for cyber risks (in order to reduce these to acceptable levels) and related issues. They understand which additional expertise should be invoked for identifying, assessing and mitigating relevant cyber security risks. After completing the programme, graduates have understanding, knowledge and skills, at tactic strategic level, related to (a) the cyber security challenges of today and tomorrow, (b) possible (mono and multi-disciplinary) approaches to take up these challenges, and (c) how their personal knowledge, understanding and skills can contribute to the overall (quality of the) solutions.

Article 2.2 Specialisations

The programme Cyber Security has the following specialisations:

- Technical Track*
- Governance Track*

*A track is only offered when a minimum of 5 students participate in the given track.

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](#)

Article 2.3 **Learning outcomes**

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

After successful completion of the programme participants obtain a Master of Science (MSc) from Leiden University. Those who complete the programme have the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to solve multi- or interdisciplinary cybersecurity-related issues in a professional field for which academic schooling is useful. Participants have the option of further study (obtaining a PhD) after this master's degree.

A. Knowledge and understanding

Graduates have knowledge and understanding of:

- cyberspace as a complex socio-technical system, which cyber threats and vulnerabilities exist in society, in organisations, as well as in applications and products, and how these can lead to incidents with what potential impact
- basic principles of the use and abuse of the Internet (incl. cyber actors and their acting)
- an integral approach on cyber risk management
- central concepts, methods, frameworks, main research methods, ways of working and applications in the field of Social Sciences, Law and Computer Sciences, suitable for addressing cyber security problems in these different scientific fields.

B. Applying knowledge and understanding

Graduates are able to:

- analyse complex cyber security problems and link them to relevant theories, concepts and methods from different disciplines.
- translate and apply theoretical knowledge of cyber security to professional practice and vice versa in order to facilitate and enable adequate decision making in public and private sectors.
- develop a set of adequate measures to reduce cyber risks in society and business to acceptable levels.

D. Judgements

Graduates are able to:

- use academic skills and perform based on a scientific attitude (e.g. helicopter view, integrity, analytical skills, idealism and vision, internal drive) and to make the connection between business interests and other interests.
- find, consult and use relevant (international) literature on cyber security and related fields.
- formulate a scientific based policy, strategy or research plan for professional tasks/scientific aims.

D. Communication

Graduates are able to:

- construct and articulate scientific arguments (in oral and written modes) on cyber security challenges in professional and academic settings.
- discuss and evaluate results, cases and new developments in cyber security with colleagues, decision makers and researchers.
- write a scientific report or an accessible, scientific publication on cyber security.

F. Learning skills

Graduates are able to:

- anticipate required changes to the organisation's information security strategy and formulate plans to anticipate and leverage new developments.

- keep their knowledge about relevant technology, emerging technologies, relevant market applications, market needs and trends and branch-specific issues up to date.

Option 1 Technical Track

Graduates have: technical understanding of ICT systems, technical measures and interventions in relation to cyber security questions.

Graduates are able to: translate technical understanding of cyber security into a multidisciplinary oriented policy or strategy.

Graduates are able to: communicate technical issues, scientific findings and complex case studies on Cyber Security clearly and unambiguously to a nontechnically trained audience.

Option 2 Governance Track

Graduates have: understanding of central concepts and applied theoretical and empirical techniques in relation to cyber security questions within the field of law and various social sciences.

Graduates are able to: translate legal, administrative and managerial understanding of cyber security into a multidisciplinary oriented policy or strategy.

Graduates are able to: communicate non-technical issues, scientific findings and complex case studies on Cyber Security clearly and unambiguously to a technically trained audience

Article 2.4 Structure of the programme

The programme offers institutional tuition fee.

The part-time programme is offered as a daytime programme.

The nominal duration of the part-time programme is 2 years.

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 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/are *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

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

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.

Chapter 3 **Curriculum**

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

3.0.1 If it is not possible, in the event of a crisis as defined in Article 1 of the Leiden University Regulations on Crisis Management Coordination, or other *force majeure* circumstances, such as coronavirus measures, 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, 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.

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 a large difference exists between the expected and actual enrolment of students in a component, the programme director in consultation with the programme committee can decide to change the format of teaching methods and assessment or offer an alternative component.

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

⁷ Guideline on Language Policy

⁸ The Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders.

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

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 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 are allocated to components in order of registration, on the provision that they register in good time, students who are enrolled in a programme are guaranteed access to the components that are obligatory to the programme. Students may only take certain components once they have passed the examination of a preceding component. The Prospectus specifies the components to which this condition applies.

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 [not applicable]

3.4.1.4 [not applicable]

3.4.2 **Sitting examinations and constituent examinations**

3.4.2.1 For each component, the Prospectus specifies if the component includes a sitting examination.

3.4.2.2 [not applicable]

3.4.2.3 [not applicable]

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

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 coronavirus measures**

4.0.1 If it is not possible, in the event of a crisis as defined in Article 1 of the Leiden University Regulations on Crisis Management Coordination, or other *force majeure* circumstances, such as coronavirus measures, 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, 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.

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 of resit 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 to resit and 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 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 Examiners.

4.1.7 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.

4.1.8 During a master's programme, students may resit one examination that they passed, without prejudice to the power of the Board of Examiners to deviate from this stipulation in exceptional cases and at the student's request. This only applies if the resit takes 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 4.1.8:

- 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 whether the examination or constituent examinations for a component take the form of a written, digital or oral examination, or a combination of these.

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,¹¹ before reaching a decision.

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.

4.3.6 The procedure of completion of the Master's thesis is specified in the Prospectus.

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.

¹¹ [Protocol on Studying with a Disability](#)

4.6.4 The examination result (the final calculated grade of a component) is expressed as a whole number or a number to a maximum of one decimal place, between and including 1.0 and 10.0 (rounded to 0.0 or 0.5). The result of the examination is not expressed as a number between 5.0 and 6.0.

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 may limit the validity of an examination pass, subject to the authority of the Board of Examiners to extend the period of validity in individual cases. The period of validity of an examination pass may 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 resit 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 unrounded 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 unrounded 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

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 2025 or February 2026

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.¹²

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 master's degree in a relevant subject area from a recognized institution of higher education or university of applied sciences (in Dutch *hoger beroepsonderwijs*, hbo); (ie, in the possession of knowledge and skills to carry out scientific research or demonstrable knowledge of methodology relevant to their own discipline).
- b. Without prejudice to Article 2.1.a. professionals without a university (of applied sciences) master's degree but with a relevant university (of applied sciences) bachelor's degree are conditionally acceptable provided they have other appropriate additional education / courses in combination with or related to relevant work experience. See article 5.2.4.2.

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.

¹²[Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes](#)

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 **Dutch and English 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 university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university
- A diploma of an English-taught 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 during the intake interview. As a guideline the level should be comparable to:

- 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;¹³
- 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]

5.2.3.4 [not applicable]

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

5.2.4.1 In addition to the requirements specified in 5.2.1 or 5.2.2 or in derogation of the language requirement in 5.2.3, the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b (2) of the Act:

- Some years of work experience in a private or public organization that is engaged with the organization of and handling of issues in the area of (cyber) security.
- Motivation and willingness to participate proactively in small-scale, intensive and interactive lectures and work groups.
- English proficiency: a good command of the English language is required to follow courses, write academic papers and conduct scientific research in English. This will be discussed during the intake interview. As a guideline the level should be at least comparable:
 - IELTS 6.5;

¹³ See also the comparison table: [english-test-equivalencies.pdf \(universiteitleiden.nl\)](https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/graduate-programmes/cyber-security/requirements)

- TOEFL internet based 90

5.2.4.2 These qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements) will be measured or assessed according to the following method:

- A letter of motivation and CV in which the applicant further specifies his/her motivation and work experience. The letter should be written in English.
- An intake interview, in English, in which any deficiencies are identified and an agreement is made about how they will be compensated for. As compensation can be considered other certificates, prior assessments, portfolio, references or a tailor-made academic assignment. See article 5.2.1.

5.2.4.3 Proof that the student meets the qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements) must be provided by the following deadline:

- Approximately 1 December, but there is room for exceptions.

Article 5.2.5 **Capacity limitation**

5.2.5.1 If the Executive Board has determined a maximum capacity for the programme, the order of admission will be determined by the qualitative admission requirements (selection requirements) as referred to in Article 5.2.4.1.

5.2.5.1
[not applicable]

5.2.5.3
[not applicable]

5.2.5.4
[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 10 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**

[not applicable]

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.

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 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.¹⁴

Article 6.6 Study and internships abroad

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.

¹⁴[Protocol on Studying with a Disability](#)

Chapter 7 Evaluation of the Programme

Article 7.1 Evaluation of the programme

The education in the programme is evaluated as follows:

- Students fill out a questionnaire upon completion of each component of the programme. The Programme Committee receives the outcome of the course evaluations (student questionnaires) directly from the faculty bureau. The Programme Committee discusses the outcomes of the evaluations with the programme director. The committee advises the Programme Director on measures for quality improvement.
- Upon completion of their programme, students fill out a questionnaire on general aspects of the programme. The Programme Committee receives the outcome of the programme evaluations (student questionnaires) directly from the faculty bureau. The Programme committee discusses the outcomes of the evaluations with the programme director. The committee advises the Programme Director on measures for quality improvement.
- The results of both questionnaires will also be processed in a longitudinal overview and it will be discussed during regular meetings with teachers.

The Programme Board/Programme Director will inform the Programme Committee about the outcomes of the evaluation.

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 2024.