Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2024

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: History

These Course and Examination Regulations (henceforth OER) have been drawn up in accordance with the Higher Education and Research Act [*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*; WHW] (henceforth the Act) and the following Leiden University regulations:

- the Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document;
- the Academic Calendar;
- the Regulations for Student Registration, Tuition Fees and Examination Fees;
- the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes;
- the Online Proctoring Protocol Leiden University.

The model OER are laid down in Dutch and then translated into English. In the event that there are differences between the two versions, the Dutch version will prevail.

Pursuant to Article 7.14 of the Act, the Faculty Board regularly evaluates the OER and considers, for the purpose of monitoring and adjusting the study load, how much time it takes students to comply. In accordance with Article 9.18 of the Act, the departmental committee is assigned the task of annually assessing the implementation of the OER.

These Course and Examination Regulations consist of two sections:
- a faculty section that is the same for all master's programmes and
- a section that contains information that is specific to a particular programme, what is known as the programme-specific section of the Course and Examination Regulations.

In the text below the relevant articles will refer to this programme-specific section. Other articles are included in the faculty section.

Contents

Appendices
Faculty Section:
Appendix A - Master's Thesis Regulations
Appendix B - General Academic Skills
Appendix C - Internship Regulations for Humanities Bachelor's and Master's programmes
Appendix D – Enrolment protocol

Programme-specific section:
Appendix E – Prospectus (see https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl/)
Appendix F – Transitional provisions

Chapter 2   Description of the Programme

Article 2.1   Objectives of the programme

The programme has the following objectives:

1.   to enable students to acquire academic knowledge, understanding and skills, and train them in the use of scientific methods in the field of history;

2.   to enable students to develop the following academic and professional skills:

    - independent academic reasoning and conduct,
    - the ability to analyse complex problems,
    - the ability to clearly report academic results, both in writing and orally;

3.   to prepare students for an academic career and further education;

4.   to prepare students for a career outside academia.

Article 2.2   Specialisations

The programme has the following specialisations:

   -    Ancient History
   -    Colonial and Global History
   -    Europe 1000-1800
   -    Cities, Migration and Global Interdependence
   -    Politics, Culture and National Identities, 1789 to the Present

The specialisation Europaeum Programme European History and Civilisation is being phased out. For the transitional provisions see Appendix F.

Article 2.3   Learning outcomes

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

I. Knowledge

1. Thorough knowledge and comprehension of one of the specialisations or subtracks as well as of the historiography of the specialisation, focusing particularly on the following:

    -    in the specialisation Ancient History: unification processes in the Graeco-Roman World, 400 BC – 400 AD; insight into the recent large-scale debates in the field with respect to both the history of mentality and socio-economic history;

- in the specialisation Colonial and Global History: how global (political, socio-economic, and cultural) connections interact with regional processes of identity and state formation; hence insight in cross-cultural processes (including the infrastructure of shipping and other modes of communication) that affect regions across the world such as imperialism, colonisation, islamisation, modernisation and globalization (in particular during the period 1200-1940);

- in the subtrack Maritime History also: the development of maritime history from the 16th century onwards; insight into recent issues in the field;

- in the specialisation Europe 1000-1800: broader processes of political, social and cultural identity formation between about 1000-1800; awareness of problems of periodization and impact of 'national' historiographical traditions on the field;

- in the specialisation Cities, Migration and Global Interdependence: the manner in which migrations (of people, goods and ideas) between and within states have led to shifts (in cohesion, ethnic composition, policies, imaging, culture, and power relations) in the period 1600-2000, with a focus on (urban) networks (within and across borders); or, when focusing on an economic subject, on the origin and outcomes of the Great Divergence, developments in political economy since ca 1600, increasing global interdependence throughout the centuries (including slavery and (post)colonialism), and the development of global governance.

- in the subtrack Governance of Migration and Diversity also: how forms of durable inequality according to ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, ability and religion intertwine in the period from 1945 onwards, with a focus on how authorities (national, supra-national, and non-governmental) try to have influence.

- in the specialisations Politics, Culture and National Identities: political practices, symbols and perceptions, nationalism, and national identities in a cultural and societal context from 1800;

- in the subtrack Postcolonial and Heritage Studies: the history and politics of cultural knowledge production and heritage formation (including archives) in colonial and postcolonial situations, at local, transnational and global levels; insight into processes of cultural decolonization, exploring the nature, legacies and (dis-)connections of colonial power structures in present-day societies, regarding culture, heritage politics, Orientalism, museums, collecting etcetera. Understanding heritage in the broadest sense – including archives, museums, historical sites, objects, sites of memory, rituals – as the prism to study these problems;

- in the specialisation Europaeum Programme European History and Civilisation: state formation in Europe; European identity from a comparative perspective; the development of culture and society in Europe;

2. Thorough knowledge and comprehension of the theoretical, conceptual and methodological aspects of the specialisation or subtrack in question, with a particular focus on the following:

- in the specialisation Ancient History: the comparative method; application of socio-scientific methods; specialised source knowledge, in particular of documentary sources;

- in the specialisation Colonial and Global History: empirical research from a comparative and connective perspective;

- in the subtrack Maritime History also: comparative research; archive research;

- in the specialisation Europe 1000-1800: the ability to analyse and evaluate primary sources from the period, if necessary with the aid of modern translations; ability to make use of relevant methods of quantitative and qualitative analysis to interpret sources in their textual and historical context;

- in the specialisation Cities, Migration and Global Interdependence, including the subtrack Governance of Migration and Diversity: the interdisciplinary approach (application of theories, models and methods from social sciences and economics when relevant), the comparative perspective (diachronic and synchronic) and working with a large variety of primary sources;

- in the specialisation Politics, Culture and National Identities: international comparison and transfer; the analysis of the specific perspectives of secondary studies; a cultural-historical approach of politics and a political-historical approach of culture;

- in the subtrack Postcolonial and Heritage Studies: on postcolonial theory, critical heritage studies, and history of science approaches;

- in the specialisation Europaeum Programme European History and Civilisation international comparison; archive research; the perspective of three different traditions – Leiden, Sorbonne and Oxford.

II. Skills

Graduates of this programme will have reached the following academic skills at a level that builds on and exceeds the level reached in their previous education:

1. The ability to independently identify and select secondary literature, using traditional and modern techniques;

2. The ability to independently identify and select primary sources, using traditional and modern techniques;

3. The ability to analyse and evaluate a corpus of sources with a view to addressing a particular historical problem;

4. The ability to analyse and evaluate literature with a view to addressing a particular historical problem;

5. The ability to independently formulate a clear and well-argued research question, taking into account the theory and method of the field and to reduce this question to accessible and manageable sub-questions;

6. The ability to independently set up and carry out an original research project that can make a contribution to existing scholarly debates;

7. The ability to give a clear and well-founded oral and written report on research results in correct English, when required, or Dutch, meeting the criteria of the discipline;

8. The ability to participate in current debates in the specialisation;

9. The ability to apply knowledge and understanding, and problem solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to the field of study.

III. Academic attitude

Graduates of this programme will have reached the following:

1. The ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgments with incomplete or limited information, including the ability to reflect on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of knowledge and judgments;

2. The ability to reflect on one's own professional integrity and moral conduct;

3. The ability to provide constructive feedback to and formulate criticism of the work of others and the ability to evaluate the value of such criticism and feedback on one's own work and incorporate it;

4. Understanding of the relevance for society of the historical discipline in general and the specialisation in particular.

Article 2.5 **Study load**

The programme has a study load of 60 credits.

Article 2.8   **Language of instruction**

2.8.1.   Subject to the Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction and examination[1] the language in which the instruction is given and in which the examinations and final examinations are held is English. Students are expected to have an adequate command of the language of instruction and examination in the programme, in accordance with the requirements stated in Article 5.2.3. As appropriate, the Faculty publishes the OER in English for English-taught programmes.

2.8.2.   Contrary to Article 2.8.1, in individual cases the Board of Examiners can permit the student to write the final thesis in another language, in accordance with the Guideline on Language Policy.[2]

Chapter 3   Curriculum

Article 3.1   Compulsory components

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

Chapter 4   Examinations, Final Examination and Further Education

Article 4.2   Obligatory sequence

4.2.1   For the specialisations Ancient History, Colonial and Global History, Europe 1000-1800, Cities, Migration and Global Interdependence, and Politics, Culture and National Identities, 1789 to the Present, the following obligatory sequence applies.

In order to complete:	The student has successfully concluded:
MA Thesis	MA Academic Skills and Thesis Seminar

Article 4.3   Form of examination

4.3.6   Not applicable.

Chapter 5   Admission to the Programme as of September 2025 or February 2026

Article 5.1   Confirmation of admission

See the faculty section.

Article 5.2   Admission to the programme

5.2.1   Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act):

   a. A bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university (in the specialisation):

Specialisation Master	Admission on the basis of Bachelor programme
All specialisations	History

---

[1] Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction
[2] Guideline on Language Policy

Ancient History	Ancient Near Eastern Studies/track The Ancient Near Eastern World

b. To be considered as holding a degree sufficiently related to the one specified in 5.2.1a, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- a bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic Bachelor's degree, including the General Academic Skills listed in Appendix B of the Faculty section of these regulations, and
- have completed historical courses on relevant topics for the chosen specialisation and of sufficient level, to an equivalent of approximately 45 EC;
- be able to conduct independent empirical research;
- be able to read academic literature and reflect critically on it;
- have a knowledge of general history and be able to present their findings (based on a critical reading of the literature or based on empirical research) in a systematic and analytical manner;
- be able to write a thesis with proper references to the literature.

Applicants who have completed the following degrees including the coursework specified below are considered to have fulfilled these requirements:

- a Bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university in Languages and Cultures of South and Southeast Asia, including the combined programme in History worth 60 credits;
- a Bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university in International Studies, including
  - o BA Thesis on a historical subject,
  - o the following optional courses which are part of the Bachelor's programme History:
    - BA-Werkcollege (BA History, second year) or Elective on historical subject (BA International Studies, second year) (10 EC)
    - completed a BA-Seminar (BA History, third year) in the BA History (either as an extra pre-master-course or as an extra Elective in the BA International Studies) (10 EC)
- a Bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Global Challenges with
  - o a Major in Human Diversity: track Global and Contemporary History or
  - o a Major in World Politics: track Global History

c. a bachelor's degree and additionally having passed the prescribed pre-master's/bridging programme pursuant to article 5.4.1. Students may overrun the allotted time for the prescribed pre-masters/bridging programme by one semester (in case of a pre-master's/bridging programme of 30 EC or less) or one study year (in case of a pre-master's/bridging programme of more than 30 EC).

5.2.2 Any person who fails to meet the degree requirements or prescribed pre-master's requirement referred to in 5.2.1 may submit a request to the Board of Admissions. The Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant may be granted admission to the programme.

To this end, the Board of Admissions assesses whether the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the same level as a bachelor's degree or related bachelor's degree as referred to in 5.2.1, (a) and (b) or whether they meet these conditions after additional requirements have been met.

The Board of Admissions assesses, where relevant, whether the applicant meets the qualitative selection requirements referred to in 5.2.4.

Admission process

Applicants as referred to in Article 5.2.1.b and Article 5.2.2 are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with:

- copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s);
- proof of language proficiency (if applicable, see 5.2.3);
- curriculum vitae (resume);
- a filled in 'Questionnaire Master Application' demonstrating that the candidate 1) has gained knowledge, understanding and skills in the field (of the specialisation) of the MA programme and 2) has acquired general academic skills as listed in Appendix B of the Faculty section of these regulations.
- a writing sample (a substantial individual research paper, e.g. BA Thesis, capstone project or final paper) demonstrating the candidate's ability to formulate problems and the skill to select the correct methodological approach as well as primary sources to analyse these problems.

The admission process may include an interview with the Board of Admissions, should this be necessary to clarify whether the applicant has the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in 5.2.1.a.

For further information on the admission procedure and required application documents please see https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/admission-and-application/masters.

5.2.3 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 of America or South-Africa;
- a diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- a diploma of an English-taught higher professional education (hbo) programme at a Dutch university of applied sciences;
- a Dutch pre-university education (vwo) diploma.

- 5.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 5.2.3.1, the language level can be demonstrated with one of the following tests:
    - English IELTS 6.5; where each separate component score must be at least 6.0;
    - TOEFL (Internet based) 90; where each separate component score must be at least 20;
    - Cambridge English C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced with overall score 180, where each separate component 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.

For more information on language tests and diplomas which are sufficient with regard to the required command of English please see https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/admission-and-application/masters/admission-requirements#language-requirements.

Article 5.2.4   Qualitative admission requirements

Not applicable.

5.2.5   Maximum capacity

5.2.5.1   Not applicable.

Article 5.3   Deficiencies

See the faculty section.

Article 5.4   Pre-master's Programmes and educational modules

5.4.1   The programme has established pre-master's programmes (for the following target groups) in order to remedy deficiencies. Pre-master's programmes must be completed successfully within the prescribed period as specified in sub Article 5.2.1c.

The Pre-master History (language of instruction: Dutch) is primarily intended for:

- Students with a Bachelor's degree from a university of applied sciences in History, equivalent to the level of a Dutch HBO bachelor's degree (lower secondary education certificate, *tweedegraads*).

After completing this bridging programme students will be admitted to the Master's programme in History. The total study load of the bridging programme is 60 credits and consists of the following components from the Bachelor's programme History:

First semester	*Second semester*
BA2-Werkcollege* (10 EC)	BA3-Seminar * (10 EC)
Kerncurriculum: Wetenschapsfilosofie *or* Historiografie en geschiedfilosofie (5 EC)	Kerncurriculum: Wetenschapsfilosofie *or* Historiografie en geschiedfilosofie (5 EC)
Kerncollege BA2: Burgers en onderdanen *or* Global Connections (5 EC)	Premaster-Eindwerkstuk Geschiedenis (15 EC)
Hoorcollege* (5 EC)	
Hulpvak* (5 EC)	

* See the Prospectus of the bachelor History for the specific range of courses for these components.

For candidates who can demonstrate to have relevant knowledge and skills related to one or more of the components of the pre-master's programme described above, the pre-master's programme may be tailored to their individual backgrounds (resulting in programmes smaller than 60 EC).

For students with an academic bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch WO bachelor's degree, who do not meet the admission requirements as specified in article 5.2.1b, the Board of Admissions may impose a pre-master's programme, tailored to the individual background of the prospective student, to be completed before admission into the MA programme.

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

5.4.3 The language requirements for a pre-master's programme are identical to the language requirements for the master's programme for which admission has been requested. These requirements must be met before the start of the premaster.

5.4.4. Students who have obtained a university's 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[3].5.4.5. The educational modules are the responsibility of the ICLON Board of Examiners.

Chapter 7   Evaluation of the programme

Article 7.1   Evaluation of the programme

The programme is evaluated as follows:
- course evaluations
- programme evaluation

The Programme Committee advises the Programme Board based on the outcomes of the evaluation.

---

[3] In Leiden, this concerns a teaching qualification in one of the following relevant school subjects: *Chinese Taal en Cultuur, Duits, Engels, Filosofie, Frans, Geschiedenis en Staatsinrichting, Godsdienst en Levensbeschouwing, Griekse en Latijnse Taal en Cultuur, Nederlands* or *Spaans*. During registration, students in an educational module are subject to the ICLON Course and Examination Regulations and the ICLON Board of Examiners.

Appendix F – Transitional provisions

As of 1 September 2024 the specialisations of the MA History have been changed. The following specialisation is being phased out:

- Europaeum Programme European History and Civilisation

Students who have started the specialisation before 1 September 2024 will be allowed to complete the programme up until 31 August 2025.

Transitional programme

Old programme	Transitional programme
First trimester, Leiden University	
Europaeum – Historiography (5 EC)	Not applicable
Introduction to the History of States and Nations in Europe (5 EC)	Not applicable
Optional Course History (10 EC)	Not applicable
5000-word proposal for a MA-thesis, under the direct supervision of an academic member of the Leiden History Department	Not applicable
Second trimester, Université Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne)	
Transatlantic Relations and Identities (10 EC)	Not applicable
Europe through the Ages/The historic foundations of Europe: identities and civilizations (10 EC)	Not applicable
Third trimester , Oxford University	
MA thesis (20 EC)	Students have the time until the end of year 2024-2025 to finish their MA thesis.