



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2024

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Latin American Studies (research)

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

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

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

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

These Course and Examination Regulations consist of two sections:

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

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

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Chapter 2 Description of the Programme

Article 2.1 Objectives of the programme

The programme has the following objectives:

1. to broaden and deepen the students' knowledge, understanding and skills, and train them in the use of scientific methods in the field of contemporary history, cultural and social analysis of Latin America and the Caribbean;
2. to enable students to develop the following academic and professional skills:
 - the ability to solve academic problems independently, critically and creatively;
 - the ability to analyse complex problems;
 - the ability to clearly report academic results, both in writing and orally;
3. to prepare students for an academic career at a university for postgraduate programmes;
4. to prepare students for a non-academic career in the public or private sector for which advanced research skills and practical research experience are a prerequisite.

Article 2.2 Specialisations

Not applicable.

Article 2.3 Learning outcomes

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

1. Knowledge and understanding

Graduates demonstrate in their written and oral work:

- a. A thorough knowledge and understanding of central research questions and debates in the field of Latin American Studies, with a special focus on knowledge of current debates on Latin American Modernities;
- b. A thorough knowledge and understanding of the interdisciplinary aspects of Latin American studies;
- c. For those who choose to focus especially within the scope of the social studies: knowledge of its basic concepts, research methods and techniques and the developments in the specialisation; or:
For those who choose to focus especially within the scope of Latin American cultural studies: knowledge of basic concepts, research methods and of text and discourse analysis.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

- a. translate the acquired knowledge on key issues and the academic debates around them into relevant research questions, which in terms of content and scope can be studied in an independent research;
- b. have a thorough knowledge of up-to-date research methods used in the followed path and are able to operationalize this knowledge in an independent way into a concrete and feasible research design;

- c. contribute to the on-going debates on Latin American modernities through a case-study based on independent research and theoretical reflection;
- d. be sensitive towards the relationship between theory, method and place: understand the specificity of Latin American social and cultural dimensions of both the researched practice and the theoretical approaches to it;
- e. critically select, study and analyse literature relevant to the issues and problems presented by the curriculum and the research programmes in question;
- f. carry out independent research in and/or on Latin America and they possess the intercultural skills to work there with relevant individuals and institutions.

3. *Making judgements*

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the capacity to:

- a. critically evaluate their sources;
- b. build an argument that leads to its conclusion in a clear, cogent, and verifiable manner;
- c. make careful considerations about the academic merits and utility of academic arguments and of material that is at the basis of their research and subsequent final report;
- d. form a good judgment about the social, cultural and ethical aspects which should be taken into account when conducting and reporting about their research.

4. *Communication*

Graduates demonstrate the ability to:

- a. formulate a clear and well-founded hypothesis and research questions, and to divide these into convenient and manageable parts;
- b. produce a clear, systematic and well-founded oral or written report of the state of the art in their research field, the selected object of inquiry and the concepts and theories used;
- c. present their work for an audience of specialists in the field and non-specialists;
- d. write texts at a high scholarly standard in Spanish, Portuguese or English;
- e. to rework the results of the thesis into an article for an academic journal and/or non-academic publications.

5. *Learning Skills*

Graduates demonstrate, in their written and oral work, the ability to:

apply learning skills that allow them to initiate and conduct a research project with a great degree of independence and autonomy, under expert national or international supervision.

This means that graduates:

- have articulated the research question or thesis independently;
- have conducted relevant bibliographical research;
- have drawn up a feasible research plan;
- possess the learning skills that enable them to pursue a follow-up study which demands a great amount of self-organisation and self-sufficiency, such as writing a PhD thesis.

Article 2.5 **Study load**

The programme has a study load of 120 credits.

Article 2.8 **Language of instruction**

2.8.1. Subject to the Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction and Examination¹ the language in which the instruction and in which the examinations and final examinations are held are Spanish, Portuguese, and English. Students are expected to have an adequate command of at least one of the language(s) of instruction and examination in the programme, in accordance with the requirements stated in Article 5.2.3. As appropriate, the Faculty publishes the OER in English for English-taught programmes.

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

Chapter 3 **Curriculum**

Article 3.1 **Compulsory components**

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

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

Article 4.2 **Obligatory sequence**

4.2.1 Not applicable.

Article 4.3 **Form of examination**

4.3.6 Not applicable.

Chapter 5 **Admission to the Programme as of September 2025**

Article 5.1 **Confirmation of admission**

See the faculty section.

Article 5.2 **Admission to the programme**

5.2.1 a. Not applicable.

5.2.1 b. Holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme (Article 7.30b (1) of the Act), if they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Faculty Board that they meet the following admission requirements, without prejudice to the requirements specified in 5.2.4.

- a bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic Bachelor's degree, including the General Academic Skills listed in Appendix B of the Faculty section of these regulations, and

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

² [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

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

- Candidates must possess knowledge of the fundamentals of area studies, literary studies, history and/or social sciences, demonstrable from a bachelor's thesis, (or equivalent written work if from a foreign institution), in which relevant literature and research are covered;

5.2.1 c. Not applicable.

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.

Article 5.2.3 **Language requirements**

5.2.3.1 As further clarification of Article 2.8 concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas, or must meet the criteria of:

- An [International Baccalaureate](#) diploma from a programme taught in English (or an IB diploma with English A);
- a diploma of secondary or higher education completed in Australia, Canada (with the exception of French-language programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States 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.

The following additional language requirements for Spanish and/or Portuguese apply:

- Candidates should be sufficiently proficient in the language of instruction, Spanish and/or Portuguese, to be assessed by the Admissions Board. These are the levels of the BA Latin American Studies at Leiden University and other comparable academic degree programmes:
 - Listening: CEFR B2;

- Reading: CEFR C1;
 - Spoken interaction: CEFR B2;
 - Spoken production: CEFR B2;
 - Writing: CEFR B2.
- Candidates who have previous knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese (e.g. heritage speakers) will be assessed by the Admissions Board.

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

Article 5.2.4 **Qualitative admission requirements**

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

- A. Good grades comparable with an average mark of at least 7.5 (Dutch grading system) for their entire bachelor's programme; and
- B. A grade for the bachelor's thesis of an 8 or higher; and
- C. Affinity with and suitability for scholarly research in the specific field of the programme; and
- D. Demonstrable motivation to study and suitability for the particular Research MA programme.

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

- A and B: as evidenced by a transcript of records and diploma of the relevant obtained academic degree.
- C: to be demonstrated by a "Research Proposal". All applicants are required to submit a Research Proposal of approximately 1000 words, accompanied by an annotated bibliography of at least five (5) items, outlining the topic or field of research that the applicant wishes to pursue at Leiden University, and indicating the names of one or two faculty members who might guide that research.
- D: to be demonstrated by a well-argued and structured motivation letter and by the required CV. In the motivation letter the applicant indicates why he/she wants to follow the research MA programme and convincingly discusses what makes the applicant a good candidate for the research MA programme. The statement should be between 700 and 1,500 words. The CV includes two referees, from which the institutional affiliation and email address are described. The admissions committee may contact referees listed on the applicant's CV to verify that the applicant meets this requirement.

In addition, to assess the admission requirements stated in 5.2.1, 5.2.2, and 5.2.3, the Board of Admissions will use the following documents:

- copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s);
- curriculum vitae (resumé);
- proof of language proficiency (if applicable, see 5.2.3).

The admission process may include an interview with the Board of Admissions, should this be necessary to clarify whether the applicant has the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in 5.2.1.b. and meets the qualitative requirements specified in 5.2.4.1.

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

Start in September

- In case a visa or residence permit is required, the deadline for application in the online application portal (uSis) is 1 April.
- In case a visa or residence permit is not required, the deadline for application in the online application portal (uSis) is 15 May.

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

Article 5.2.5 **Maximum Capacity**

5.2.5.1 Not applicable.

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

5.4.1 Not applicable.

Chapter 7 Evaluation of the Programme

Article 7.1 **Evaluation of the Programme**

The programme is evaluated as follows:

- Course Evaluations
- Programme Evaluation

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