



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2014

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: Middle Eastern Studies (research)

These course and examination regulations have been drawn up in accordance with Section 7.13 of the Higher Education and Research Act [*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*] (WHW) (henceforth the Act) and additional quality marks as set out in the framework document Leiden University Register of Study Programmes [*Leids universitair register opleidingen*].

Pursuant to Section 7.14 of the Act the Faculty Board regularly evaluates the course and examination regulations and assesses, for the purpose of monitoring and, if necessary, adjusting the study load, the time it takes students to comply with the regulations. In conformity with Section 9.18 of the Act, the department teaching committee is assigned the task of annually assessing how the course and examination regulations are implemented.

These course and examination regulations consist of two sections: a general section that is the same for all programmes and a section that contains information that is specific to a particular programme. This programme-specific section forms a whole with the general section, and only contains the articles with content that is specific to a particular programme.

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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 Middle Eastern Studies;
2. to enable students to develop the following academic and professional skills:
 - the ability to solve academic problems independently, critically and creatively;
 - the ability to analyse complex problems;
 - the ability to clearly report academic results, both in writing and orally;
3. to prepare students for an academic career at a university for postgraduate programmes;
4. to prepare students for a non-academic career in the public or private sector for which advanced research skills and practical research experience are a prerequisite.

Article 2.2 **Specialisations**

Not applicable.

Article 2.3 **Achievement Levels**

Graduates of the programmes will have reached the following achievement levels:

I. Knowledge and understanding

Graduates have and can show knowledge and understanding of relevant models and theoretical notions at a level typical of a master's student. They are capable of surpassing this level or deepening the knowledge and understanding and appear capable of contributing to the growth of knowledge or to its applicability, the latter most likely in a team of researchers.

1. a profound awareness of the current issues and research questions in the relevant disciplines and regional fields of the programme;
2. a thorough understanding of various theories and methodological approaches that are commonly used in research programmes in Middle Eastern Studies as well as in different related disciplines;
3. the ability to identify a theoretical framework suitable for addressing relevant problems and issues, with a particular sensitivity to the significance of 'the Middle East' in this regard;
4. advanced, up-to-date knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies appropriate to particular projects and locations;
5. sensitivity to the relationship between theory, method, place and language;
6. appropriate language skills to access sources in original languages, as relevant;

II. Application of knowledge and understanding

Graduates can apply knowledge and understanding and problem-solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to the field of study; they have the ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity.

1. the capacity to apply a theoretical or descriptive framework in conducting independent basic research in Middle Eastern Studies;
2. the capacity to deploy the theoretical and methodological tool-sets of at least one mainstream academic discipline;
3. the capacity to think critically and creatively about the parameters and origins of disciplinary tool-sets;

4. the ability to critically select, study and analyse literature relevant to the issues and problems presented by the curriculum and the research programmes in question;
5. the ability to independently formulate, perform and assess scientific research at a level suitable to preparing scientific publications;
6. sensitivity to the relationship between theory, method, place and language;
7. ability to deploy comparison as an analytical tool.
8. the fundamentals of research project management, such as framing the research, gathering data, articulating a thesis and ordering and presenting findings in oral and written form;

III. Making judgments

Graduates can formulate judgments on the basis of incomplete or limited information, taking into account the social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and understanding.

1. familiarity with the philosophy and ethics of Middle Eastern Studies research, and the limitations of individual research projects conducted in isolation;
2. sophisticated understanding of the stakes in the politics of knowledge and their relationship with the ethics of global citizenship;

IV. Communication

Graduates can clearly and unambiguously communicate conclusions and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

1. the capacity to report independently on relevant research which has been carried out according to current academic standards;
2. the ability to write scientific reports in English;
3. the ability to give persuasive oral presentations;
4. the ability to engage in the international academic debate;

V. Learning skills

Graduates have the learning skills to allow them to continue studies in a largely self-directed or autonomous manner.

the curiosity and eagerness to learn that is expected in any future research position, be it in an academic setting or in that of applied research, which are acquired through the training to develop autonomy and confidence in designing and conducting all stages of research.

Article 2.5 **Study Load**

The programme has a study load of 120 credits.

Article 2.8 **Language of Instruction**

In compliance with the Code of Conduct regarding Language of Instruction [*Gedragscode voertaal*¹] the language of instruction and examination of the programme is English. Students are expected to have an adequate command of the language of instruction of the programme.

Article 3.1 **Compulsory Components**

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components totalling a study load of 120 credits. These compulsory components include the optional courses [*keuzevakken*] from which a student is obliged to choose.

¹ The Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction and Examination [*Gedragscode voertaal*] was adopted by the Executive Board on 28 May 2013 and can be found on the following website: [media.leidenuniv.nl/legacy/language of instruction.pdf](http://media.leidenuniv.nl/legacy/language%20of%20instruction.pdf).

These compulsory components also include 10 credits for electives offered by the recognised national research schools. For this programme Leiden Global is regarded as a recognised national research school.

Article 4.2 **Obligatory Order**

4.2.1 Not applicable.

Article 4.3 **Examination Formats**

4.3.7 Not applicable.

Article 5.2 **Admission to the academic year 2014-2015**

5.2.1 Not applicable.

5.2.2 Without prejudice to the stipulations in Article 5.1.1 regarding maximum capacity, persons who will be granted admission to the programme, if they:

- have earned the degree of Bachelor at a university not being a university of professional education, or demonstrate that they meet the requirements for such a degree, including the General Academic Skills listed in Appendix C;
- have a demonstrable affinity with and suitability for academic research; and
- are sufficiently proficient in the language of instruction, to be assessed by the faculty board (English TOEFL 600/250/100 or IELTS 7.0);
- possess the knowledge, understanding and skills that have been acquired upon completion of a bachelor's programme that includes the General Academic Skills as listed in Appendix C, preferably along the lines of a relevant regional or disciplinary specialisation that includes in particular sufficient knowledge and understanding of the required regional languages;
- possess comparable qualities in the field of knowledge, understanding and skills that have been acquired upon graduating from a bachelor's programme, preferably along the lines of a relevant regional or disciplinary specialisation that includes in particular sufficient knowledge and understanding of the required regional languages.

5.2.3 Not applicable.

Article 5.3 **Admission to the academic year 2015-2016**

5.3.1 Not applicable.

5.3.2 Without prejudice to the stipulations in Article 5.1.1 regarding maximum capacity, persons will be granted admission to the programme, if they:

- have earned the degree of Bachelor at a university not being a university of professional education, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic Bachelor's degree, or demonstrate that they meet the requirements for such a degree, including the General Academic Skills listed in Appendix C; and
- have affinity with and suitability for scholarly research, demonstrated by good grades comparable with an average mark of at least 7.5 (Dutch grading system) for their entire bachelor's programme, and a grade for the bachelor's thesis of an 8 or higher; and
- are sufficiently proficient in the language of instruction, to be assessed by the Faculty Board (English IELTS 7.0, TOEFL 100 (internet-based) or Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE); a minimum score of IELTS 6.5 or TOEFL 22 is required for each of the four components); and

- possess knowledge of the fundamentals of Middle Eastern Studies and/or area studies, literary studies, linguistics, history and/or social sciences, that ideally, but not necessarily, includes knowledge and understanding of the regional languages.

5.3.3 Not applicable.

Article 5.5 **Bridging Programmes (Premasters)**

Not applicable.

Appendix D - Curriculum

Master's programme 2014-2015
Middle Eastern Studies (research)

Year	Semester	Block	Course title	Prospectus number	Mode of instruction	Level	EC	Status	Number of examinations	Assessment methods	Achievement levels applied
1	I	1 & 2	Common Core Course (Fall semester): Theory and Issues in Area Studies	5474VTI14	sem	500	10	C	3	wp, op, pa	I-V
			Core Elective Course (choose one of the following courses **):				10	C			
1	I	1 & 2	<i>Sacred Journeys: Pilgrimage and Holy Places (ResMA)</i>	5474ISJ14	sem	600	-10	O		wp, op, pa	I-V
1	I	1 & 2	<i>The Information Age Across Asia and the Middle East (ResMA)</i>	5474IIA14	sem	600	-10	O		wp, op, pa	I-V
1	I	1 & 2	<i>The Ottoman Empire and Europe (ResMA)</i>	5474IOE14	sem	600	-10	O		pa, wp	I-V
1	I	1 & 2	<i>The Ottoman Empire and Turkey (1908 - 1945) (ResMA)</i>	5474IOT14	sem	600	-10	O			I-V
1	I	1 & 2	<i>Literature and Politics in the Persian-speaking World (ResMA)</i>	5474ILP14	sem	600	-10	O		op, wp	I-V
1	I	1 & 2	<i>Persian Manuscripts: From Author to Text (ResMA)</i>	5474IPM14	sem	600	-10	O		pa, op, wp	I-V
1	I	1 & 2	<i>From Inkwell to Internet: Text and Transmission in the Muslim World (ResMA)</i>	5474III14	sem	600	-10	O			I-V
1	I	1 & 2	<i>Oral Traditions (ResMA)</i>	5474IOT14	sem	600	-10	O			I-V
1	I	1 & 2	Elective Course from one of the MA programmes (choose one or two courses from the list that can be found in the e-prospectus)			400/500	10	C			
							30				
1	II	3 & 4	Common Core Course (Spring semester): Research Methods in Area Studies	5474VRM14	sem	500	10	C	8	wp, op, pa	I-V
			Core Elective Course (choose one of the following courses **):				10	C			
1	II	3 & 4	<i>Arts and Culture in Area Studies: Culture and conquest: the impact of the Mongols and their descendants (ResMA)</i>	5474IAC14	sem	600	10	O		wp, op, pa	I-V
1	II	3 & 4	<i>International Political Economy of the Middle East (ResMA)</i>	5474IIP14	sem	600	10	O			I-V
1	II	3 & 4	<i>Topics in Arabic Linguistics (ResMA)</i>	5474IAL14	sem	600	10	O			I-V
1	II	3 & 4	<i>Culture and Society in the Medieval Muslim World (ResMA)</i>	5474ICS14	sem	600	10	O		pa, op, wp	I-V
1	II	3 & 4	<i>The Formation of Contemporary Turkey: Kemalism and Its Competitors (ResMA)</i>	5474ICT14	sem	600	10	O			I-V
1	II	3 & 4	<i>From Persian to Tajik: Language and Power in the Persianate World (ResMA)</i>	5474IPT14	sem	600	10	O		pa, op, wp	I-V
1	II	3 & 4	<i>Ulama in the Modern Muslim World (ResMA)</i>	5474IUM14	sem	600	10	O		pa, op, wp	I-V
1	II	3 & 4	<i>Anthropology of Muslim Societies (ResMA)</i>	5474IAM14	sem	600	10	O		pa, op, wp	I-V
1	II	3 & 4	<i>Developments in the Modern Middle East</i>	5474IDM14	sem	600	10	O			I-V
1	II	3 & 4	Elective Course from one of the MA programmes (choose one or two courses from the list that can be found in the e-prospectus)			500	10	C			
							30				
2	I*	1 & 2	Study abroad and/or fieldwork ***			600	30	C			I-V
							30				
2	II*	3 & 4	Thesis Writing Seminar	5474VTWSS	sem	600	5	C			I-V
2	II*	3 & 4	ResMA Thesis	5474VTH14	ss	600	25	C		wp	I-V
							30				

Notes:

* Students starting in February go abroad in semester II and do the Thesis Writing Seminar and ResMA Thesis in semester I.

** Depending on their individual study plan, students can also choose Core Elective Courses from the ResMA Asian Studies, after getting permission from the Board of Examiners.

*** Students who want to go abroad need to contact a potential supervisor of their project early in the semester previous to the semester in which they go abroad to write a sound proposal.

This proposal needs to be submitted to the Board of Examiners for approval at least two months before the student leaves (preferably before the end of the semester previous to the semester in which they go abroad).

Students who do not go abroad choose two or more Core Elective Courses (with a minimum total of 20 EC) and one or two Elective Courses (with a minimum total of 10 EC).

Abbreviations

Mode(s) of instruction:

lc	lectures
sem	seminars
tut	tutorials
men	mentoring
ss	self-study
exc	excursion
is	internship

Level:

400 level of education according to the Leiden 100-600 structure

Status of the course:

C (compulsory) if the course is a compulsory component for all students of the programme/specialisation
O (optional) if the course is an optional component of the programme

Methods of assessment:

w	written examination
wm	written examination with multiple choice questions
we	written examination with essay questions
wth	take home examination
wp	paper, essay, thesis
oe	oral examination
op	oral presentation
tr	translation
pa	participation
as	(weekly) assignments
pro	protocol

Achievement levels applied:

According to the numeration of achievement levels in art. 2.3 of the programme section of the Course and Examination Regulations