



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2016

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: International Relations

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 enable students to acquire academic knowledge, understanding and skills, and train them in the use of scientific methods in the field of International Relations;
2. to enable students to develop the following academic and professional skills:
 - independent academic reasoning and conduct,
 - the ability to analyse complex problems,
 - academic writing;
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:

- European Union Studies
- International Studies

Article 2.3 **Achievement Levels**

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

1. Knowledge and understanding

- a. comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the contemporary and historical dimension, the evolution and interdependency of bilateral and multilateral relations among states and non-state actors, within and outside of governmental institutions and frameworks, as well as of the main areas and issues of current global and regional politics and international relations, and for the specialisation European Union Studies with a special reference to one of the focal points of the master's programme, the European integration process;
- b. knowledge of the main academic terminology, theories and paradigms pertaining to the past, present and future of current global issues and politics, with a special focus on ideas and approaches related to the humanities.

2. Applying knowledge and understanding

- a. the ability to locate, analyse and critically assess primary documents emanating from relevant sources and secondary (academic) sources, relating to areas and issues relevant to International Relations, including the process of European integration;
- b. the ability to conduct and present independent multi-disciplinary research and to formulate and conduct substantial pieces of academic research (including a master's thesis) in the field of International Relations, thereby showing the ability to comprehend and apply relevant theoretical insights and methodological approaches;
- c. with regard to major regional and global areas and issues, the ability to successfully transfer and apply conceptualisation, research and presentation skills to non-academic settings and environments;
- d. the ability to initiate and conduct research into the relevant areas and issues of regional and global politics, economics and culture;

- e. the ability to follow and understand the evolution of academic and non-academic discussions on the complex interdependency of national, regional and global politics;
- f. the ability to apply and evaluate qualitative and, if applicable, quantitative methods to the relevant contexts.

3. Judgement

- a. the ability to independently and critically evaluate evidence and sources relating to the variety and interdependency of areas and issues of regional and global economics, politics and culture;
- b. the ability to evaluate the historical, political, economic and cultural factors that shape the interests and behaviour of major state and non-state actors in the contemporary world, including the European Union;
- c. the ability to recognise, reflect upon and judge between different academic opinions and arguments on the complexity and interrelationship of contemporary politics, cultures and economics.

4. Communication

- a. the ability to clearly and convincingly present academically-supported arguments and analyses with respect to the evolution of relations among states, international organisations and non-state actors before peer-group and professional audiences both orally and in writing;
- b. the ability to present research in the relevant areas and issues.

5. Learning skills

- a. the learning abilities required to be able to follow post-master's professional training or a PhD training of a largely self-determined or autonomous nature.

In addition to the above programme-wide achievement levels, graduates will have obtained the following achievement levels per specialisation:

Specialisation in European Union Studies

6. Knowledge and understanding

- a. comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the main policy areas (including external policies), institutions and decision-making procedures of the European Union);
- b. knowledge of the main academic paradigms and theories pertaining to the past, present and future evolution of the process of European integration;
- c. knowledge and understanding of the problem areas of the European Union, including issues such as foreign and security policy, relations with neighbouring countries, economic and monetary union, institutional reform, agricultural and rural policy, cultural policy.

7. Applying knowledge and understanding

- a. the ability to critically analyse primary documents emanating from the European Union and other relevant sources that relate to the European Union and its member states;
- b. the ability to follow the evolution of academic and non-academic discussions on European Union policy issues.

8. Judgement

- a. the ability to evaluate evidence and sources relating to the European Union and its member states;
- b. the ability to assess different academic opinions and arguments about European issues;
- c. the ability to evaluate policies of the European Union and its member states.

Specialisation in International Studies

9. Knowledge and understanding

- a. comprehensive knowledge and understanding of
 - the evolution, complexity and interdependency of the main areas (history, politics, economics and culture) of current global and regional politics and international relations, both within and beyond governmental frameworks and institutions;
 - the issues (globalisation, information, universalism and diversity, security, democracy and authoritarianism) of current global and regional politics and international relations, both within and beyond governmental frameworks and international institutions;
- b. knowledge of the main academic paradigms and theories pertaining to the past, present and future of major current global issues and politics, with a special reference to ideas, approaches and explanations related to the humanities;
- c. knowledge and understanding of the history, evolution, workings, challenges and activities of major international and regional organisations, including the European Union as well as an understanding of the increasingly important role of non-governmental actors and social media at various levels.

10. Applying knowledge and understanding

- a. the ability to locate, analyse and critically assess primary documents emanating from relevant sources and secondary (academic) sources, relating to areas and issues relevant to International Studies, and to critically and independently reflect on their content;
- b. the ability to place the performed research in a broader empirical context (addressing issues from a comparative perspective) as well as in a wider academic context (showing sensitivity towards multi-disciplinarity);
- c. the ability to successfully transfer and apply skills in conceptualisation, research and presentation with respect to major regional and global areas and issues to non-academic activities and environments.

11. Judgement

- a. the ability to evaluate evidence and sources relating to the complexity and interdependency of areas and issues of regional and global economics, politics and culture on the basis of oral and written presentations;
- b. the ability to evaluate the historical and political, economic and cultural factors that shape the interests and behaviour of major state and non-state actors in the contemporary world;
- c. the ability to evaluate the interests, policies and policy-outcomes of major state and non-state actors, including nongovernmental national, regional and global institutions;
- d. the ability to recognise, reflect upon and judge between different academic opinions and arguments about issues crucial to the complexity and interrelationship of contemporary politics, cultures and economics.

Article 2.5 Study Load

The programme has a study load of 60 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 languages of instruction of the programme.

Article 3.1 Compulsory Components

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components totalling a study load of 60 credits. These compulsory components include the optional courses [*keuzevakken*] from which a student is obliged to choose.

Article 4.2 Obligatory Order

4.2.1

Students must have completed the thesis and methods seminar successfully before a thesis supervisor will be assigned to them.

Article 4.3 Examination Formats

4.3.7 Not applicable.

Article 5.2 Admission to the academic year 2016-2017 and following years

5.2.1 Pursuant to Article 7.30b, first paragraph, of the Act holders of one of the following degrees may be admitted to the programme and one of its specialisations:

<i>Specialisation Master</i>	<i>Admission on the basis of Bachelor programme, with specialisation</i>
European Union Studies	[no direct admission]
International Studies	International Studies (Leiden University) Liberal Arts and Sciences: Global Challenges (LUC The Hague): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Diversity• World Politics

5.2.2 The Board of Admissions may, on request, grant admission to the programmes to persons who do not meet the requirements specified in 5.2.1 but who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board of Admissions that they possess an equal level of knowledge, understanding and skills as the holders of a degree specified in 5.2.1, possibly under conditions to be further determined, without prejudice to the requirements in 5.2.4.

5.2.4 Alongside the requirements specified in 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b, second paragraph, of the Act:

- have earned the degree of Bachelor at a university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic Bachelor's degree, or demonstrate to meet the requirements for such a degree, including the General Academic Skills listed in Appendix C; and
- are 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); for the 'speaking' and 'writing' components a minimum score of IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 25 is required); and
- are in possession of an academic Bachelor's degree in the field of social sciences, humanities, law or economics.

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).

In addition to the requirements set out above, the following additional entry requirements apply to the following specialisations:

- Specialisation European Union Studies:
 - Applicants must have completed the minor in European Union Studies at Leiden University or components worth at least 30 credits in the field of contemporary European studies with comparable content and course objectives.
 - Applicants may be asked to submit a writing sample, proving the aforementioned qualities in the field of knowledge, understanding and skills.
- Specialisation International Studies:
 - Applicants must have completed the following components which are part of a Bachelor's programme comparable to International Studies at Leiden University:
 - Global History (5 EC)
 - Introduction to Area Studies (5 EC)
 - Globalisation, Culture and Language (5 EC)
 - International Economics (5 EC)
 - International Politics (5 EC)
 - Politics of a specific area (i.e. Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America, Russia and Eurasia, South and Southeast Asia) (5 EC)

If applicants have not completed the specific components listed, they are required to demonstrate in their application that they have completed components worth at least 30 credits in the field of International Studies with comparable content and course objectives.

- Applicants who have not completed components worth at least 30 credits in the field of International Studies as noted above are required to submit a 1,250 word essay as part of the admission process. In this essay they must demonstrate a clear affinity with and specific knowledge of International Relations, specifically in the area of International Studies, equivalent to the level acquired upon graduating from the Bachelor's programme referred to in article 5.3.1. Specifically, the essay must clearly answer an original research question, provide a reasonable and reasonably well organised argument that demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the essay topic and critically engage with the additional reading specified on the website of the programme (<http://www.mastersinleiden.nl/programmes/international-studies/en/entry-requirements>).

Admission Requirements from academic year 2017-2018

For the specialisations Culture and Politics, Global Conflict and Security, Global Order and Justice, and Global Political Economy the same entry requirements apply as for the specialisation International Studies. In addition to this, the following requirements apply for the specialisation Global Political Economy:

- Applicants must have completed courses on International Economics or International Political Economy that equal to at least 20 credits.

5.2.5 If the Executive Board has determined a maximum capacity for the programme, the order of admission will be determined by the qualitative admission requirements as referred to in Article 5.2.4 and Appendix F.

Article 5.4 **Bridging Programmes (Premasters)**

5.4.1 The programme has established the following bridging programmes (for the following target groups) in order to remedy deficiencies:

The department has set up a bridging programme for the specialisation in European Union Studies worth 45 credits, which includes a pre-master thesis. The bridging programme is intended for:

- students in possession of a Bachelor's degree from a university of applied sciences [*HBO*] in the field of economics, history, political science (and international relations), law or European Studies, with an average grade of at least 7.0 (Dutch grading system)
- students who have obtained an academic Bachelor's degree from a university, in a related discipline who do not meet the entry requirements.

Students who successfully complete this bridging programme will be admitted to the specialisation European Union Studies. Students can only start with the bridging programme in September.

Semester	Course unit title	Credits
I	The History of European Integration	5
I	Institutions of the European Union	5
I	The European Union Today	5
I	Academic Skills	5
		20
II	Law and Economics of the European Union	5
II	Pre-master thesis	10
	<i>Choice of 2 of the following 5 course units:</i>	
II	European Security	5
II	Criticisms of the European Project	5
II	Human Rights Protection in Europe	5
II	EU-Russia Relations	5
II	EU Neighbourhood Policy and Migration	5
II	The Nature and Practice of Lobbying in the EU	5
		25

5.4.2 Information regarding the bridging programmes can be requested from the coordinator of studies of the programme.