

Faculty of Humanities

In this era of globalisation, humanities are more important than ever. Migration, integration, trade, and technology are blurring the borders between countries and cultures. To be able to cooperate and live together, it is crucial that we understand each other. Humanities offer the insights we need to do this.

The Faculty of Humanities in Leiden is unique in its breadth of languages, cultures, arts and societies of the world, in their historic context, from prehistory to the present. We offer a challenging and international study environment in which research and education are closely intertwined. The master's programmes we offer are often small-scale and we provide room for customisations such as personal learning trajectories.

Humanities research and education at Leiden are among the top 30 in the world (THE).

Faculty of Humanities

1 and 2	year master's programmes
2,148	master's students
25%	international master's students
68	nationalities
€2,209	EU/EEA student tuition fee*
€19,300	Non-EU/EEA student tuition fee*

* This tuition fee is per year and only applies if this is your first master's programme in The Netherlands

** English language proficiency requirements are subject to change. Please check our website for the updated English language proficiency requirements. You can find the exact language requirements and more detailed language requirements per programme under each programme description. Also check our website for detailed information on the types of English tests accepted and the equivalent scores for IELTS, TOEFL and Cambridge English tests.

NOTE: Tuition fees are subject to change. Please check online our updated tuition fees.

Master's programmes

African Studies

ENGLISH  SEPTEMBER  1 YEAR  LEIDEN

This multidisciplinary programme offers ambitious students the opportunity to explore the African continent from a wide range of perspectives: historical, literary, cultural, socio-economical and political. A three-month internship at an organisation of your choice in Africa will give you the chance to gain invaluable cultural and professional experience.

Career

Your degree prepares you for roles in cultural organisations, education, policy-making, tourism, development, publishing, public relations, and journalism.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree from a university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic bachelor's degree. Knowledge, understanding and skills comparable to those acquired upon graduating from the Bachelor's programme in African Language and Cultures at Leiden University.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/african-studies

African Studies (Research)

ENGLISH  SEPTEMBER  2 YEARS  LEIDEN

The programme is unique in continental Europe for the interdisciplinary range of subjects offered and the variety of perspectives. Within the Research MA you will focus on developing your research skills, and you will have an entire year (including six months consisting of fieldwork) to execute your own research project. This offers you outstanding opportunities to get insights into working and conducting research in Africa and to enhance your job prospects.

Career

Positions as a policy maker or consultant for African-focused organisations worldwide, as well as professions focused on the African continent, e.g. at ministries, NGOs, international organisations, or in management, education, journalism or public relations.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in the field of African languages and cultures, (African) linguistics, history, cultural anthropology, literature, sociology, political sciences, public administration or other studies related to the social sciences.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/african-studies-research



Art History and Museum Studies

ENGLISH  SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  1 YEAR  LEIDEN

This is a unique programme in terms of its diverse and interdisciplinary range of subjects. The programme offers you the choice of two specialisations, each of which explores different themes from a comparative and global perspective. A broad range of electives allows you to further customise your degree.

Specialisations

- Art History
- Museum Studies

Career

Positions at museums, art galleries, cultural institutions, (art) libraries and archives, as well as positions in the publishing and general media sectors, art trade, journalism or public relations.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in art history.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/arts-and-culture

Arts, Literature and Media (Research)

ENGLISH  SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  2 YEARS  LEIDEN

This two-year interdisciplinary research programme focuses on the study of the media, as well as art and literature. The programme stands out because of its global character, focus on design and applied arts and the collaboration with the programme in Media Studies.

Career

Positions at research agencies or in the research departments of companies or government organisations. Many graduates enter PhD programmes at Leiden or other top universities abroad. Outside of research, positions are in the publishing, cultural public domain, art trade, public relations, translating and teaching fields.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in art history, media studies, cultural studies, archaeology, fine art, architectural studies, comparative literature/literary studies or in a specific language and culture.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/arts-literature-media-research

Asian Studies (60 EC)

ENGLISH  SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  1 YEAR  LEIDEN

This programme focuses on the study of Asia as a whole or on a region within Asia. It is accessible to students with or without competence in one or more Asian languages and is unique in the Netherlands.

Specialisations

- East Asian Studies
- History, Arts and Culture of Asia
- Politics, Society and Economy of Asia
- South Asian Studies
- Southeast Asian Studies

Career

Positions in journalism, publishing, international trade, marketing, business, public relations, education and development aid, or with government institutions, international organisations and NGOs. Alumni also often find employment in Asia itself.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in a discipline from the Humanities or Social Sciences. Specialisation-specific requirements and sufficient command of a relevant Asian language may also apply.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/asian-studies

Asian Studies (120 EC)

ENGLISH CHINESE  SEPTEMBER  2 YEARS  LEIDEN

This is a disciplinary specialisation and an advanced language acquisition programme, which includes one year at a university in China, Japan or Korea.

Specialisations

- Chinese Studies
- Japanese Studies
- Korean Studies

Career

Positions with NGOs, multinationals and small and medium-sized companies, at news organisations (e.g. as a journalist or correspondent), or in the public relations sector (e.g. as a travel guide, interpreter or translator).

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in a discipline from the Humanities or Social Sciences. Specialisation-specific knowledge and sufficient command of the relevant Asian language are also required.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/asian-studies



Asian Studies (Research)

ENGLISH  SEPTEMBER  2 YEARS  LEIDEN

This programme focuses on the study of a region (China, Japan, Korea, South Asia or Southeast Asia) or a subject such as political science, religious studies, art and culture, or language and literature studies, taking a regional or interregional approach.

Career

Positions in publishing, international trade, public relations, education and development aid, or in government and NGOs. Our graduates often find employment in Asia itself. You will be equipped to pursue a position conducting independent research at an academic level, such as that of a junior academic researcher or a doctoral student on a PhD programme.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in a discipline from the Humanities or Social Sciences. Knowledge of the fundamentals of Asian Studies and/or area studies, literary studies, linguistics, history and/or social sciences.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/asian-studies-research

Classics and Ancient Civilizations

ENGLISH  SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  1 YEAR  LEIDEN

The programme consists of current research on all the cultures of the Mediterranean region and all historical periods. There is an emphasis on reading ancient texts in their language of origin and discussing possible interpretations. The programme is unique in the Netherlands and has been ranked 4th in the 2021 QS World University Rankings by Subject.

Specialisations

- Assyriology
- Classics
- Egyptology
- Hebrew and Aramaic Studies

Career

Positions in the fields of publishing or teaching, at policy-making departments of governmental bodies, within the education sector, or within cultural tourism.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in a field related to the specialisation. Specialisation-specific knowledge is also required.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/classics-and-ancient-civilisations

Classics and Ancient Civilizations (Research)

ENGLISH  SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  2 YEARS  LEIDEN

Leiden University's Classics and Ancient Civilizations Research programme ranked 4th in the 2021 QS World University Rankings by Subject. This programme consists of all areas of current research into the civilizations of Greece, Rome and the Ancient Near East. Research is placed in a broader context, and the programme makes creative use of a wide range of research methods.

Specialisations

- Assyriology (research)
- Classics (research)
- Egyptology (research)
- Hebrew and Aramaic Studies (research)

Career

Graduates work as junior researchers in an academic environment. Outside academia, career options include working within the fields of publishing or teaching, at policy-making departments of governmental bodies, within the education sector, or within cultural tourism.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in a field related to the specialisation. Specialisation-specific knowledge is also required.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/classics-and-ancient-civilisations-research

Dutch Studies/Neerlandistiek

DUTCH  SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  1 YEAR  LEIDEN

This Dutch-taught programme is intended for students from the Netherlands and abroad. It is multidisciplinary in nature, ranging from the Middle Ages to the present day and provides you with an international view on the Dutch language and culture. Topics studied include literature, linguistics, language acquisition and the history, including art history, of the Netherlands.

Specialisations

- Dutch Discourse Studies
- Dutch Language, Culture and Society
- Dutch Linguistics
- Modern Dutch Literature
- Older Dutch Literature

Career

Many graduates pursue a career in education. Others work as a journalist, communications specialist, editor, translator or researcher.



Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in Dutch language and culture or Dutch studies. Specialisation-specific knowledge is also required, as well as command of the Dutch language.

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/dutch-studies

European Politics and Society

ENGLISH  START SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  2 YEARS  LEIDEN KRAKOW PRAGUE BARCELONA

This is a unique two-year programme in which you will be able to study at four major European universities in Prague, Leiden, Krakow and Barcelona. The programme focuses on the societal, political, and economic processes that have formed present-day Europe.

Career

Graduates work for public services, research institutes, business services, banking and financial services, communications, education, or within policy development.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in a field related to the programme. Knowledge of international relations, political science, European studies or other related disciplines is recommended.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 95

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/european-politics-society

History

ENGLISH  START SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  1 YEAR  LEIDEN

The programme offers you the chance to specialise in niche subject areas not offered elsewhere. A flexible format also allows you to tailor your degree to suit your career goals. To help you develop a cohesive area of expertise, the programme offers six specialisations each with its own thematic focus. Within some specialisations, you have the added option of focusing on Heritage and Postcolonial Studies, Maritime History, Economic History or Governance of Migration and Diversity.

Specialisations

- Ancient History
- Cities, Migration and Global Interdependence
- Colonial and Global History
- Europaem Programme on European History and Civilisation: Leiden-Oxford-Paris programme
- Europe 1000-1800
- Politics, Culture and National Identities, 1789 to the Present

Career

Positions within public services, research institutes, business services, financial services, communications and

teaching, as well as policy development, management, coordination, editing and information services.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in history. Specialisation-specific knowledge may also be required.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/history

History (Research)

ENGLISH  START SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  2 YEARS  LEIDEN

This programme has a special emphasis on the development of theories of historical processes, historiography and the methodology of historical research. During your studies you will experience the riches and challenges of academia not only via frequent meetings with your tutor, but also during the seminars in which staff members and students discuss one another's research findings.

Specialisations

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

Career

Positions in research, or in policy-making at government departments and NGOs, positions in international organisations or companies, in journalism, public relations and business services.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in history or a comparable degree with a relevant specialisation. Specialisation-specific knowledge is also required.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/history-research

International Relations

ENGLISH  START SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  1 YEAR  LEIDEN

Leiden University's MA in International Relations offers a comprehensive understanding of current global and regional issues, providing an outstanding platform for a career in the international arena. The programme is characterised by a challenging combination of theoretical knowledge and practical experience. We are the only university in the Netherlands to offer this wealth of area



specialists and the extensive range of contacts with national and international government and non-government institutions.

Specialisations

- Culture and Politics
- European Union Studies
- Global Conflict in the Modern Era
- Global Order in Historical Perspective
- Global Political Economy

Career

Positions in international government, non-government and for-profit spheres. There is an increasing demand for young people with language skills and the knowledge to operate across nations and cultures.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in the field of social sciences, humanities, law or economics.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/international-relations

Latin American Studies

ENGLISH PORTUGUESE
SPANISH SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY 1 YEAR LEIDEN

The programme explores the most current social, political, linguistic and cultural developments shaping Latin America today. It is multidisciplinary in nature, including disciplines such as modern history, literature and linguistics, and maintains close contacts with academic institutions and universities in Latin America. A research trip to Latin America gives you the chance to immerse yourself in one of the region's languages and cultures.

Career

Positions within cultural organisations, education, translation, tourism, documentation, development cooperation, embassies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and non-profit organisations focusing on Latin America.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies or knowledge, understanding and skills comparable to those acquired upon graduating from a similar programme. Sufficient command of the language of instruction is also required.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 6.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 79-80

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/latin-american-studies

Latin American Studies (Research)

ENGLISH PORTUGUESE
SPANISH SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY 2 YEARS LEIDEN

This programme is your opportunity to explore the social, cultural, and historical narratives shaping present-day Latin America. Taught by international researchers, this interdisciplinary programme centres around the theme 'Latin American Modernities: Resistance, Revival and Change'.

Career

Positions at specialised state agencies, ministries, development organisations, NGOs, European companies that operate in Latin America or the Caribbean, or positions as a junior university lecturer or researcher.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in area studies, literary studies, history and/or social sciences. Specialisation-specific knowledge and sufficient command of the language of instruction are also required.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/latin-american-studies-research

Linguistics

ENGLISH SEPTEMBER 1 YEAR LEIDEN

In the Linguistics programme you can focus on your main inspiration: a specific language, analytical curiosity, theoretical interest or translating ambitions. The programme is delivered by the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics, which brings together renowned scholars from a variety of theoretical and applied perspectives. The Translation specialisation is a member of the prestigious European Masters in Translation (EMT) Network which ensures you receive a professional qualification of the highest standards.

Specialisations

- Linguistics
- Modern Languages
- Translation

Career

Positions within the publishing sector, teaching, translation, health services and ICT, or a position as a junior academic researcher.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in linguistics or in a discipline which is relevant to the specialisation. Specialisation-specific requirements may also apply.



English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

Translation specialisation:

IELTS: 7.5

TOEFL internet-based: 113

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/linguistics

Linguistics (Research)

ENGLISH  START SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  2 YEARS  LEIDEN

This programme covers all areas of modern linguistics and is offered by the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCL). A wide selection of language studies is available. An important aspect of this programme is developing your ability to conduct original and innovative research. You will have the opportunity to attend conferences, workshops and lecture series organised in Leiden, as well as internationally. All these will help you get your career off to an outstanding start.

Career

Positions as a researcher within an institute or company, or other positions where an academic level of thinking and working is required for example in publishing, teaching, translation or ICT.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in linguistics, a language and culture programme or a comparable degree with a relevant specialisation. Specialisation-specific knowledge is also required.

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/linguistics-research

Literary Studies

ENGLISH OR THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION  START SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  1 YEAR  LEIDEN

This programme has a focus on medieval, early modern and modern literature at the English and French departments, early modern literature at the Italian department and modern literature at the German department. The programme offers you a specialised qualification in one of four languages and cultures or a comparative perspective on these languages, with each specialisation offering considerable scope for individual customisation.

Specialisations

- English Literature and Culture
- French Literature and Culture (in French)
- German Literature and Culture (in German)
- Italian Literature and Culture (in Italian)
- Literature in Society. Europe and beyond

Career

Positions in publishing, communications, translation, business services, education, journalism or commerce.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in a field related to the specialisation. Requirements also include specialisation-specific knowledge and command of the language of instruction.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

English Literature and Culture specialisation:

IELTS: 7.5 / TOEFL internet-based: 113

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/literary-studies

Media Studies

ENGLISH OR THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION  START SEPTEMBER  1 YEAR  LEIDEN

Each specialisation explores a different medium in depth, including how it interrelates with other media forms. You will also investigate the roots of this relatively new academic field. The Media Studies specialisations provide ample opportunity for you to apply ideas in practice throughout the programme.

Specialisations

- Book and Digital Media Studies
- Cultural Analysis: Literature and Theory
- Film and Photographic Studies
- Journalism and New Media (in Dutch)

Career

Positions in journalism, editing, cultural institutions, publishing, all branches of the book trade, libraries, the cultural heritage sector and knowledge industry.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in a field related to the discipline. Specialisation-specific knowledge is also required.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/media-studies

Middle Eastern Studies

ENGLISH  START SEPTEMBER  1 YEAR  LEIDEN

This programme covers virtually the entire Middle East region, both in time and geographically. The programme exposes you to research covering the history, literature, languages and politics of the Arab, Persian and Turkish world, with special attention for the field of Islamic law, anthropology, philology and the modern Middle East. The programme offers you great flexibility to create your own specialisation within the field of Middle Eastern Studies.



Career

Positions in the diplomatic service, at policy-making departments in ministries, the education, cultural, tourism or social-cultural sectors, and international organisations.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in a field related to the specialisation. Specialisation-specific knowledge is also required.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/middle-eastern-studies

Middle Eastern Studies (Research)

ENGLISH  SEPTEMBER  2 YEARS  LEIDEN

This programme offers the possibility of focusing completely on a region, such as the Arabic world, North Africa, Turkey or the Persian world, or on a subject, such as history, political science, religious studies or language and literature studies. Both a regional or an interregional approach are possible.

Career

Positions in the public or private sectors in which advanced research skills are required. This includes editing, education, tourism, journalism or research in commercial or governmental organisations.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree which includes knowledge of the fundamentals of Middle Eastern studies and/or area studies, literary studies, linguistics, history and/or social sciences.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/middle-eastern-studies-research

North American Studies

ENGLISH  SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  1 YEAR  LEIDEN

The North American Studies programme takes a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of the United States, with a particular emphasis on examining key aspects of American history, culture, and literature, from a historical perspective. It offers the possibility of researching large-scale or more specific topics in the history, literature or culture of the U.S. While the programme focuses on the U.S., you will also explore the role the U.S. plays in the region and in the world.

Career

Graduates find employment in fields that require general academic training and skills for which an extensive knowledge of U.S. history, politics, or culture is required.

Career options include teaching, journalism, politics, government, publishing, translation and research.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in American Studies, or in the field of humanities or social studies with a focus on American studies.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/north-american-studies

Philosophy (60 EC)

ENGLISH  SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  1 YEAR  LEIDEN

This programme studies historical and systematic approaches to philosophy, with a focus on primary philosophical texts. In addition, connections are made between the history of philosophy and current philosophical discussions.

Specialisations

- Global and Comparative Philosophy
- Modern European Philosophy
- Moral and Political Philosophy
- Philosophical Perspectives on Politics and the Economy
- Philosophy of Knowledge

Career

The programme prepares you for any career in which conceptual, analytic and interpretative skills are important, including careers in the public sector, business and the media, as well as an academic career.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in philosophy or a comparable degree.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/philosophy-60

Philosophy (120 EC)

ENGLISH  SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY  2 YEARS  LEIDEN

This programme is intended for students of a non-philosophical discipline who are interested in a philosophical reflection on their field of study. It offers training in text interpretation and analysing and solving abstract problems. Possible points of interest include: the foundations, history and methodology of the chosen field of study, the relationship with related fields of study and the ethics of professional practice.

Specialisations

- Philosophy of Humanities
- Philosophy of Law, Governance, and Politics
- Philosophy in World Traditions



Career

Positions in research, as well as in the public sector, in journalism and communication, business services, culture and teaching.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree from a university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic bachelor's degree in a discipline relevant to the chosen specialisation, or a bachelor's degree in a programme in which philosophy is combined with the chosen discipline.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/philosophy-120

Religious Studies

ENGLISH START SEPTEMBER 1 YEAR LEIDEN

This multidisciplinary programme is unique for its wide spectrum of religions and themes including modernisation and globalisation. You will be equipped with everything needed to analyse situations and tackle problems in society at large. Our staff members are specialised in Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and New Religious movements.

Career

Positions as editor, journalist, policy adviser, counsellor, teacher of religion or philosophy, or a career in research.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in theology, religious studies, world religions, Islamic studies, or Islamic theology.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/religious-studies

Russian and Eurasian Studies

ENGLISH START SEPTEMBER FEBRUARY 1 YEAR LEIDEN

Students in this programme can focus on the languages, literature and cultures of Russia and the Eurasian world, on the political, historical and economical background of the region, or on a combination of the two. There is the option of studying abroad. Please note that most courses do not require prior knowledge of Russian.

Career

Positions with NGOs, in trade and commerce, transport, consultancy, journalism, translation, banking, tourism, civil service and academic research.

Best preparatory bachelor's

A bachelor's degree in Russian studies or a comparable degree.

English proficiency**

IELTS: 7.0 / TOEFL internet-based: 100

masters.universiteitleiden.nl/russian-and-eurasianstudies

