

Korean Studies

Master of Arts



The Master's in Korean Studies at Leiden University offers specialised, in-depth study of the cultural and societal issues of pre-modern and modern Korea. Study South Korea from diverse disciplinary perspectives – at times using original source materials – from its religion and popular culture to its modern and contemporary history, with a central focus on mastering the Korean language.



Why study Korean Studies at Leiden University?

- Expertise on Asia at Leiden University is internationally renowned. Learn from some of Europe's best scholars in the field, many of whom are at the leading edge of Asia-related research.
- Tailor your qualification to reflect your interests or career ambitions. You can choose from a broad range of electives and select a subject for your MA thesis. Choose to focus on a single country, or on a specific discipline and region.
- Acquire an excellent command of the Korean language.
- All Asian Studies programmes make the most of Leiden University's world-class resources, including its famous and unique collections of Asian artifacts.
- Leiden University opened the first centre dedicated to Korean studies in Western Europe in 1947. This centre has since gone from strength-to-strength, with academics participating in high-profile research projects around the world.



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Study in South Korea

Two semesters of your degree will be spent studying at one of our partner universities in South Korea, such as the Seoul National University, Sungkyunkwan University, or Yonsei University. Here you will be able to follow either Korean language courses, or content courses conducted in the Korean language. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to immerse yourself in South Korean culture, language, and society, while developing a host of new skills that will prepare you for real-world success after your master's degree.

An academic career

If you have ambitions to pursue a PhD position or career as a researcher outside of academia you can apply for the two-year research master's in Asian Studies on completion of the programme.

Career prospects

Graduates of the MA in Korean Studies can offer expertise that is highly relevant to many organisations today.

Some of the occupations of our graduates include:

- Secretary at an Embassy
- Policy Officer at a ministry
- Communications adviser
- Coordinator of an Asia desk
- Coordinator of a Korean trade mission
- Export consultant on Korea
- Junior policy officer, political and international relations
- Manager of a translation and interpreting agency
- Marketing Officer
- Travel consultant on Korea
- Sales manager Korea
- Interpreter of Korean
- Translator of Korean

Study programme

Year one	Year two
Core courses (10 EC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Introduction to Asian Studies › Thesis & Methods Classes 	MA Thesis Asian Studies (15 EC)
Language Courses (10 EC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Advanced Korean Reading 	Language Courses (5 EC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Topical Readings in Korean
Electives (10 EC) You may choose from a wide range of electives, options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The Politics of North Korea(n) Culture › The Politics of Digital East Asia › Material Culture, Memory and Commemoration along the Silk Roads in Central Asia › Constructing Digital Language Toolkits › The Literature of Mature Indian Esoteric Buddhism 	Electives (10 EC) You may choose from a wide range of electives, options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Asia through Consumption › Democratizing Histories › Crime and Criminal Justice: East Asian Perspectives › Colonial Modernity and Gender in Korean Literature and Film › Confucianism, Idealism and Power in East Asia's Past and Present
Year in Korea (60 EC)	

Facts and figures

Degree

Asian Studies (MA)
Asian Studies (Research MA)

Duration

2 year

Start

September

Language

English

Application deadlines

For September entry:

- › 1 April (students from non-EU countries)
- › 15 June (students from EU countries)

Tuition fee

€2,060 EU / €16,800 non-EU per year

Entry requirements

Detailed information about the entry requirements and admission is available on the [website](#)

More information

For more information about the programme, please visit our [website](#).

If you have any questions about the content of the programme or entry requirements you can get in touch with the Coordinator of Studies:

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A word from our Staff Members

“Korea is not only an object of study, but also a site of critical knowledge production. We do not only ask what we can know, but how we can know.”

Koen De Ceuster, Researcher and University Lecturer



What our alumni say

“Last year, immediately after graduating the 120EC Korean Studies master, I started a dual degree PhD in Korean Studies and History of Medicine/Drugs.”



“Although there is a research master that prepares you for a PhD track, I decided to enroll for the Korean Studies track instead. Mainly because I wanted to improve my Korean language skills and take courses at a Korean university. The master gave me a solid base for PhD research. It taught me to critically engage with primary and secondary sources (in both Korean and English) within and outside my field of interest, and it introduced me to core works in the field of Asian Studies.”

Maaike de Vries, graduated in Korean Studies