

# Southeast Asian Studies

## Master of Arts



The master's in Southeast Asian Studies at Leiden University explores Southeast Asia in-depth and from the perspective of its history, literature, media, culture, religions, philosophy or philology. The programme offers a large and varied selection of subjects and the freedom to choose the areas on which you will focus.

### Why study Southeast Asian 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 language and a single country, or on a specific discipline and region.
- All Asian Studies programmes make the most of Leiden University's world-class resources, including its famous and unique collections of Asian artifacts.



**Universiteit  
Leiden**  
The Netherlands

**Learn a language**

Knowledge of an Asian language is not required for this master’s programme, but you have the option of taking an intensive modern language course in Indonesian for beginners instead of an elective in both the first and second semesters.

**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**

As a graduate of the MA in Asian Studies, you are qualified to work within a variety of fields where there is a demand for expertise in Asia, including journalism and publishing, international trade and marketing, business, public relations, education and development aid, and in government, international organisations and NGOs..

Some of the occupations of our graduates include:

- Account manager at a translation agency
- Project manager at a trading and consultancy company in India
- Owner of a consultancy firm
- Consultant at a defence and security company
- Communications officer at an animation studio in Japan
- Relations management officer at an organisation promoting internationalisation in education
- Editor at an academic publishing house
- Content editor at a booking website

**Study programme**

Semester 1	Semester 2
<p><a href="#">Core course: Introduction to Asian Studies</a> (5 EC)</p> <p><a href="#">Thesis &amp; Methods Classes</a> (5 EC)</p>	<p>MA Thesis Asian Studies (15 EC)</p>
<p><b>Electives (20 EC)</b></p> <p>You may choose from a wide range of electives</p> <p>Options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› <a href="#">Indonesian 1</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">Politics of Culture in Southeast Asia</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">Histories of Southeast Asia</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">Religious Themes in Asian Art</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">Economic Development and Social Change in Southeast Asia</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">Oral Traditions</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">Cultures of Resistance in the Post-colonial World</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">From Inkwell to Internet: Text and Transmission in the Muslim World</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">The Literature of Mature Indian Esoteric Buddhism</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Electives (15 EC)</b></p> <p>You may choose from a wide range of electives.</p> <p>Options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› <a href="#">Indonesian 2</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">Democratizing Histories</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">Asia through Consumption</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">From Buddhānsmṛti to Nembutsu: A History of Buddha Contemplation across Asia</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">Political Economy of Southeast Asia</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">Hands-on Research Experience in Museum Volkenkunde</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">Austronesian and Papuan Linguistics</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">Anthropology of Muslim Societies</a></li> <li>› <a href="#">‘Ulamâ’ in the Modern Muslim World</a></li> </ul>

## Facts and figures

### Degree

Asian Studies (MA)  
Asian Studies (Research MA)

### Duration

1 year (MA)  
2 years (research MA)

### Start

September, February

### Language

English

### Application deadlines

*For September entry:*

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

*For February entry:*

- › 15 October (students from non-EU countries)
- › 1 December (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:

Dr. Guita Winkel  
stucoMAAS@hum.leidenuniv.nl  
+31 (0)71 527 2547

## A word from our Staff Members

**“I try to encourage my students to think critically by pushing them to interrogate the categories through which we think and by which we describe the world: where they came from, what forces constructed them, and for what purposes.”**

*Ethan Mark, Research and University Lecturer*



## What our alumni say

**“In my current position as management trainee at TU Delft, I benefit every day from having followed the MA East Asian Studies. I owe it to this programme that I have a unique outlook on the world, which makes a great difference when making decisions or doing business.”**

*Robbert Beers, Graduated in Asian Studies*

