



COSMOPOLIS ADVANCED

An Indonesian-Dutch Initiative for Higher Education in Colonial & Global History and Archival & Postcolonial Studies LU – UGM

Aims and Objectives

COSMOPOLIS ADVANCED is an initiative of the Institute for History at Leiden University (LU) in partnership with Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) in Yogyakarta. It offers a unique opening for advanced international students who aim for a Leiden PhD degree in the fields of Colonial & Global History or Archival & Postcolonial Studies. PhD projects will primarily be based on the study of more than 20 kilometres of Dutch archival materials (mainly in The Netherlands, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka and South Africa).

The still underexplored Dutch historical archives contain a wealth of detailed information on the history of countries surrounding the Indian Ocean and the Chinese Seas. Despite the fact that more and more of these resources are becoming digitally available, few scholars possess the language, archival, and historical skills to exploit these resources. This is particularly true for the early-modern era (1600-1800) as covered by the activities of the major Dutch trading company, the Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie (VOC). COSMOPOLIS ADVANCED provides the one and only international centre for training such skills. As such it builds on the experience of the successful Leiden programmes of TANAP (2000-2007), ENCOMPASS (2006-2012) and COSMOPOLIS (2012-2017) in which 123 students from Indonesia, elsewhere in Asia, and South Africa were instructed in the use of the Dutch archives. Alumni of these programmes have now gained tenured positions at the best academic and archival institutes in their countries of origin as well as abroad.

Programme details

COSMOPOLIS ADVANCED offers scholarships to graduate students from Indonesia and other countries at both the MA (18 months; 90 ecs) and the PhD (42 months; 210 ecs) level. Five MA scholarships are available in the current round (for students starting around July 2019). The programme consists of two stages:

1. MA Programme (18 months)

During the first year, it offers in-depth courses on methodology (i.e. Research Seminar, 10 ects), historiography (i.e. Literature Seminar 10 ects) and/or archival skills (i.e. Archival Seminar, 10 ects). This is combined with a tailor-made and very intensive Dutch language course (30 ects; level B2) supported by face-to-face courses that focus on palaeography and/or digital humanities (10 ects). After having successfully finished course work, during the next 6 months, students write a MA thesis (30 ECTS, i.e. 6 months) based on original research with Dutch-language sources. After the successful completion of the MA thesis an officially certified Master Degree in History will be awarded to the successful candidate.

Preparatory Thesis-*cum*-Pilot Study

What makes COSMOPOLIS ADVANCED unique is the fact that the MA programme is specifically designed to prepare students for PhD work that is based on Dutch primary sources. Hence, the MA thesis also serves as a so-called “pilot-study” in which students formulate a research proposal that provides detailed insight into research question(s), historiographical relevance, methodology, sources and a realistic time schedule for a PhD-project of 42 months. In this way, prospective students receive the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to continue their research at the PhD level.

2. PhD thesis

Selected PhD-fellows will conduct three-and-a-half years (42 months) of individual research under supervision of at least two staff-members from LU or other members of the consortium, and at least (in the case of UGM scholarships) one staff-member from UGM. During this period, the fellow will at least spend one academic term of his research in the region(s) of his/her study in which he/she can participate in teaching.

Eligibility

The programme intends to attract the most talented international students at the post-master level. Eligible candidates should be able to demonstrate:

- (a) Excellence in archival/historical research, as evidenced by a master degree in history or a related field that includes a substantial research thesis of 30 ECTS or its equivalent. Candidates with an MA-degree in a language other than English must have certified proficiency at a minimal degree of 7.0 IELTS/ 100 TOEFL.
- (b) Sufficient financial support for all relevant costs (including for living and accommodation) either through the Cosmopolis Advanced scholarship programme or private or external funding.

Scholarship details

Throughout the programme COSMOPOLIS ADVANCED will actively recruit at least 10 students for the MA programme based on a so-called Van Leur Scholarship (funded by Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, OC&W). The latter is specifically meant to stimulate research into the still most neglected VOC archives and the centuries’ old shared heritage it represents. After their selection by the scholarship committee, students will receive a scholarship for 18 months. For the Van Leur Scholarship Leiden University waives the lion share (€ 22,000) of the regular tuition fee of € 25,000 (for 18 months).

After the successful completion of the pilot-study, the Indonesian students compete for 5 PhD positions (funded by UGM Indonesia). Students working on the VOC compete for 2 PhD-positions (funded by OC&W). Other students will compete for PhD-positions on the basis of external funding. For PhD-fellows, Leiden University will provide office space and the usual research facilities. In Indonesia, office space and research facilities will be provided by the Indonesian partners.

A scholarship committee with representatives from both partners is responsible for the selection process. LU and UGM are responsible for the practical organization of the selection process of the Van Leur and UGM scholarships respectively. The committee will take decisions on the basis of the recommendations of LU (for Van Leur Scholarships) and UGM (for UGM scholarships). After selection, the selected students become regular MA and PhD-students at LU and are subject to the usual regulations regarding the programme in which they are enrolled.

Eligible Themes

COSMOPOLIS ADVANCED will specifically focus on themes suggested by the programme's name. The term 'Cosmopolis' implies that culture has no given essence but is constantly remade through the ongoing circulation of goods, people and ideas across boundaries. COSMOPOLIS ADVANCED will add a fresh perspective on important regional processes of state- and identity-formation (including the making of heritage and law), by looking through the lens of trans-regional interaction and its transmission to various local contexts. In other words, the programme will not only explore the increasingly important global linkages within and beyond societies, but also highlight the various ways in which these interact with the local level.

The two tracks of COSMOPOLIS ADVANCED include (A) Colonial & Global History and (B) Archival and Postcolonial Studies. Language acquisition, palaeography and Archival Studies will be the same and mandatory for all tracks.

The program is now accepting applications for five MA scholarships starting around July 2019 (see the application form). Applications must reach to LU or UGM no later than 1 December 2018, and, together with the application form, must include the following:

1. Letter of Motivation
2. CV (2 pages)
3. Research Proposal (2000 words excluding bibliography)
4. Two recommendation letters
5. Transcripts and certified copies of your BA and MA degrees
6. Certified proof of English language proficiency, minimally 7.0 IELTS/100 TOEFL

Students from Indonesia may contact prof. dr. Sri Margana for further information (s.margana@gmail.com). Students from countries other than Indonesia may contact Lennart Bes (l.p.j.bes@hum.leidenuniv.nl).