

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Dr. Jacqueline Hylkema & Dr. Hanne Cuyckens
Title of clinic:	Hugo Grotius, Oppression & Freedom: Curating the LUC/Special Collections Exhibition
Number of students:	10
Major (if applicable and approved by the Major Convener):	HD:CHS, IJ and WP. Students from other majors are welcome to apply for this RC as an elective.
(Pre)requisites (if applicable):	An interest in political/legal/social/cultural history. It will also be useful if you have reading knowledge of at least one of the following languages: Dutch, French, German, Italian, Arabic, Latin and Ancient Greek. Please indicate on your application which of these languages you read.

Research context

This Research Clinic offers students the opportunity to participate in a unique project: to curate and organize an exhibition by Leiden University's Special Collections. As part of its thematic programme *Oppression and Freedom*, the Special Collections and LUC will collaborate in an online exhibition on Hugo Grotius (1583-1645), consisting of rare and valuable SC materials and curated and organized by LUC students.

When Grotius started his studies at Leiden University in 1594, he was only 11 years old. Already perceived as a prodigy, he spent his time at the university studying a large range of subjects in different academic disciplines. At the age of 16, he published his first book, on the seven liberal arts, and then went on to become a playwright, poet, civil rights activist, theologian, historian, diplomat, translator, political refugee and founding father of the field of international law. Grotius' work on religious freedom and international law is taught in several LUC courses but the story of the young man who came to Leiden University to be educated in the liberal arts and then use his interdisciplinary education to help solve the global challenges of his time resonates with our college in many different ways.

In this clinic, you will be involved in the exhibition from the first selection of the exhibits to its opening in December. You will learn what the curation of an exhibition entails and in addition to researching and describing two of its exhibits (which will include early modern prints, Grotius' letters and other manuscripts as well as rare editions of his work), you will be involved in almost every aspect of the organization. This RC is obviously of particular interest to students who want to go on and work in the heritage sector but is also relevant to those of you who are interested in the history of international law, religious diversity, international relations, and any of the other fields relating to Grotius' legacy. The RC will – obviously - include researching materials in the Special Collections' but it has been set up in such a way that it is possible to participate fully online.

Students' tasks and activities-

The students' main task will be to select, research and write the description of two exhibits in the exhibition. In addition, they will be responsible for other tasks, such as being involved in the decisions on the title and general narrative of the exhibition, writing and/or editing related texts, generating publicity for both the exhibition and the opening, and organizing the opening and a small number of related online events.

In block 1, there will be weekly two or three-hour meetings, ranging from seminars on the various aspects of Grotius' work to workshops on the necessary research and writing skills as well as various other aspects of curation and the PR and publicity work involved in exhibitions. Block 2 will also involve meetings but based on the students' particular roles and responsibilities, these will be smaller and less regular than in block 1.