

Arts and Culture (MA)

Master



Universiteit
Leiden

Discover the world at Leiden University

Specialisations

- Art History (MA)
- Museum Studies (MA)

The MA Arts and Culture at Leiden University offers two specialisations: Art History and Museum Studies.

Art History and Museum Studies at Leiden University

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Why study Arts and Culture at Leiden University?

A unique programme in terms of its diverse and interdisciplinary range of subjects, the Arts and Culture master's programme offers you the choice of two specialisations: [Art History](#) and [Museum Studies](#). Each explores different themes from a comparative and global perspective and offers a broad range of electives, allowing you to further customise your degree. We encourage every student to pursue the academic areas they are passionate about.

What will you study?

This programme will give you a comprehensive grounding in the history, methods and theories of art history and museology, while also engaging with contemporary museum practice. The two specialisations in our programme, [Art History](#) and [Museum Studies](#), will cut across disciplinary boundaries, while making it possible for you to steer towards one of the fields according to your own interests. There is an emphasis on the study of the object and its agency; critical theory and world art studies; and museum and collection studies. Possible paths lead through the late medieval and early modern period, to contemporary art and the digital age, as well as cultures of collecting and the museum in past and present times.

Learn from the leading minds in the field

At Leiden University, you are joining one of the world's leading universities. In the MA in Arts and Culture, you learn from internationally-respected researchers at the [Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society \(LUCAS\)](#) as well as eminent scholars and practitioners from our network of academic and cultural institutions. You benefit from this network both in what you learn, and in how, with opportunities for internships, exchange programmes and regular visiting speakers.

Academic challenge combined with social relevance

The master's in Arts and Culture is an academically-challenging programme, with an emphasis on training students to be excellent researchers and stand-out critical thinkers. Relevance is of key importance, with current issues integrated into everything you learn. Because of this, our programme attracts motivated students from all around the world, all of whom are seeking an academic programme that promises the best in knowledge, skills, and career prospects.

Small classes and an individual approach

Our approach to learning at Leiden University is focused on the individual and their unique profile. Teaching takes the form of small-scale lectures, where every student is involved in class discussions and receives a high level of focused attention from lecturers.

Arts and Culture specialisations

For more information about our study programmes, please check the MA Arts and Culture specialisations:

- [Art History](#)
- [Museum Studies](#)



Master's student Laura develops own exhibition: 'A very enriching experience'

Many students dread writing a thesis. Master's student Laura Robustella's practice-based thesis shows that it is well worth the effort. She developed an art exhibition based on her master's thesis. [Read more.](#)

Information activities

Get to know us through our online and in-person events for prospective students!



Two speakers at the open day

Are you thinking about joining this Master's programme, and want to determine if it will be the right fit for you? Below, you can browse the events that we have coming up, and sign up to experience Leiden University and the programme for yourself. Alternatively, take a look at the Master Talks videos to find out more about the programme or check out our virtual campus tours!

Upcoming Events

Master's Open Days

The next [Master's Open Day](#) will take place on 16 February 2024. You can also still watch the recordings of all the presentations from the last Online Open Days. The videos can be found on the [Master Talks page](#).

Master Talks: Programme videos

On the [Master Talks: programme videos platform](#) you can find videos for each master's programme. This includes a video which gives a short introduction to the programme. You can also find the recording of the Master's Online Open Days of 5-6 October and watch the programme presentation on the platform.

Get to know the campus

Check out our virtual campus tours, filmed in 360 degrees – by dragging the video, you can look around at the surroundings yourself. Below is the video recorded at the Humanities faculty, where most of your lectures will take place; you can also view other 360 campus tours of the various university faculties [here](#).

360 Campus tour: the Humanities faculty

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