

# German Literature and Culture (MA)

Master



Universiteit  
Leiden

Discover the world at Leiden University

Part of  
Literary Studies (MA)

The master's programme in German Literature and Culture at Leiden University offers the largest number of German-language master's courses in the Netherlands and covers the fields of literary and cultural studies from the Middle Ages to the present.

[Apply now](#)

## Why study German literature and culture at Leiden University?

The specialisation in German Literature and Culture gives you access to excellent teaching and resources. The expansive curriculum spanning the Middle Ages to the present day allows you to pursue your personal area of interest. The programme explores topics including prose and poetry, film, politics, cultural memory

and identity, gender and intertextuality, migration, religion, and the differences between East and West Germany.

Moreover, since all classes are taught in German, you will greatly improve your fluency in oral and written German. This can be beneficial to your future career.

[Learn more about the study programme](#)

## **What are your career prospects?**

This Master's prepares you to become an expert on German language and culture. Our graduates work at different types of organisations, such as education, communication and marketing, government, media and consultancy. Jobs include translator, language teacher, copywriter and editor.

[Find out more about your career prospects](#)

## **Is German Literature and Culture the programme for you?**

Do you want to uncover German literature and how it relates to social issues while greatly improving your oral and written German? Then German Literature and Culture at Leiden University is the right Master's programme for you. Find out if you are eligible for this Master's programme by checking the admission requirements.

[Check the admission requirements](#)

## **Study at our German partner universities**

The programme has been developed in close connection with our German partner universities including the Freie Universität Berlin, the Universität Bremen, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Universität Leipzig, and Westfälische Wilhelmsuniversität Münster. You may choose to study some courses at these universities.

# **Why Leiden University**

Leiden University offers ambitious students a rich environment in which to reach their potential.

## **Reach a high level in the German language**

Our approach to learning at Leiden University is focused on the individual and their unique profile. All courses are taught in German, in small-sized classes. This gives you the opportunity to greatly improve your oral and written language skills.

## **The right location to study Literary Studies**

Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities is consistently ranked among the top 30 Humanities faculties worldwide in the THE World University Ranking. At Leiden University, the oldest university in the Netherlands, you can access the best teaching staff, state of the art research, and a wealth of resources found nowhere else in the world. With Leiden's world famous collections of original manuscripts and periodicals right here on campus, you have the literary world at your fingertips.

## Our expertise

The scholars teaching this Master's programme are experts in their respective research fields and integrate their research in their teaching. They form an integral part of the Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society (LUCAS), a leading European centre for research and teaching in literature, art and culture.

## A perfect start to your career

Our reputation means that your qualification is respected by organisations worldwide. Our graduates enjoy successful careers thanks to their broad and global mind-set, specialised and in-depth knowledge, and strong critical-thinking skills.

## Diversity and inclusion

We are convinced that our education can only flourish if everyone within the programme feels supported, respected and empowered to do their best work. We find it important to offer a learning environment that allows for different perspectives and points of view that students bring with them, depending on their ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, health, religion, age or socio-economic background. Every new generation sees the world from a new perspective – and our students are the newest generation. [We look forward to hearing more about your perspective.](#) Leiden University has been pursuing diversity policy since 2014, with the aim of creating a diverse and inclusive learning and working environment for all staff and students.

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# About the programme

Learn the newest insights from established researchers.

## Programme structure

The master's programme in German Literature and Culture covers a wide range of literary and cultural topics, from which you may freely tailor your individual programme. This specialization consists of four 10 EC courses or equivalent and an MA thesis (20 EC):

- Courses 1 and 2: Any two courses from the German Literature and Culture programme;
- Course 3: Any course offered in the German Literature and Culture programme; or any other course within the MA Literary Studies;
- Course 4: Any course offered in the German Literature and Culture programme; or any other course within the MA Literary Studies; or a course on a literary subject taught in another MA; or a course offered within the MA Linguistics: German Language and Linguistics; or a course offered via Masterlanguage (please note that Masterlanguage courses are 5 or 6 EC instead of 10).

## The Combined Literary Studies and Linguistics programme

We also offer a combined programme of Literary Studies/German courses and Linguistics/-German courses:

- Two courses (20 EC): MA Literary Studies/German

- Two courses (20 EC): MA Linguistics/German
- MA thesis Literary Studies/German (20 EC)

This programme is particularly recommended if you plan to apply for the Educational Master afterwards.

### **Study courses at one of our partner universities**

### **Full-time and part-time**

All Literary Studies specialisations are offered both in full-time and part-time. Please note that the part-time study mode does not offer any evening classes.

The study programme includes four courses and a Master's thesis. For a more detailed programme and an overview of all the possible electives, please check the [Prospectus](#).

*Please note that this guide applies to the current academic year, which means that the curriculum for next year may slightly differ.*

## **Anthonya Visser**

Professor of German Language and Literature

“Literary Studies at Leiden University is unique primarily because of its interdisciplinary nature. Students are invited to choose their own specialisation, such as an approach to a specific issue or a particular topic.”

## **Is German Literature and Culture the programme for you?**

Check the admission requirements to find out if you are eligible for this Master's programme.

[Check the admission requirements](#)

## **Extra-curricular**

Get the most out of your studies at Leiden University by taking part in our extracurricular activities.

### **Community building**

Activities are organised by the programme to encourage community building, for instance the annual session where alumni talk about their careers and the information session about internships, specifically tailored to students of the Master's programme in Literary Studies. Moreover, the student association of the German Department, S!mp, regularly organises cultural and social activities.

Throughout the year, the Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society also organises lectures on relevant topics which are attended by Literary Studies staff, PhD students and MA students.

## **Masterlanguage**

Masterlanguage is a national network of courses for language and literature students. It offers courses on German literature and culture and on German Linguistics. All courses are taught in German, and take place at one of the participating universities. For more information, please visit the [Masterlanguage website](#) (in Dutch).

## **Leiden Leadership Programme**

Are you interested in developing your leadership potential? The [Leiden Leadership Programme](#) (LLP) is an Honours Programme specifically developed for ambitious master's students at Leiden University and the Delft University of Technology who recognise the importance of leadership abilities. The LLP offers in-depth training sessions, assessments, seminars, and the creation of a Personal Leadership Roadmap – a five-year plan for reaching and developing your leadership potential.

## **Study at the Academy of Creative and Performing Arts**

The Academy of the Creative and Performing Arts (ACPA) is a research institute and part of the Faculty of Humanities. The ACPA offers education such as electives, and talent programmes such as the Practicum Artium (PA), which gives you the opportunity to study photography, graphic design or drawing, and the Practicum Musicae at the Royal Conservatoire The Hague, where you can study classical music, singing, early music or jazz.

[Find out more about ACPA.](#)

## **Meet our staff**



**Prof.dr. S.P.M. Bussels**

Stijn Bussels is head of the Department of Art History and Professor Art history, especially before 1800 at the Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society. His fields of interest are early modern art and architectural history. View his full profile [here](#).





### **Dr. J.M. Müller**

Johannes Müller is a university lecturer and researcher at the Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society. His fields of interest includes Cultural history of German-speaking Europe, literature and migration and cultural memory. View his full profile [here](#).



### **Dr. I. O'Daly**

Irene O'Daly is an assistant professor at the Centre for the Arts in Society specialising in manuscript studies, the history of ideas, and classical reception. She is a specialist in the intellectual history of the Middle Ages with a particular interests in medieval classical reception, manuscript studies and the history of political thought. View her full profile [here](#).



## **Dr. D.E.A. Schellens**

Dorine Schellens is a university lecturer at the Centre for the Arts in Society with expertise on contemporary Russian and German literature and culture. Her current research focuses on imagined futures in contemporary Russian and Eastern German literature and art as media that reflect and shape societal discourses on change in the post-communist region. View her full profile [here](#).

[Meet more staff here](#)

## **Career prospects**

### **Where do our graduates work?**

Because of the extensive curriculum and specialisations, the career opportunities after completing the Literary Studies specialisation in German Literature and Culture are broad. Our graduates have landed jobs in various sectors of the job market, such as education, communication and marketing, government, media and consultancy. Examples of the diverse roles of our graduates include:

- Translator in the marketing field
- Language teacher
- Publishing assistant at a publishing house
- PhD candidate at various universities

The graphs below are based on alumni data from the MA Literary Studies 2016-2020.

## **In which sector do students find jobs?**

- 36 % Education
- 14 % Communication and marketing
- 9 % Government and semi-government organisations
- 8 % IT
- 6 % Financial institutions
- 5 % Publishing
- 5 % Media and journalism
- 3 % Research
- 3 % Consultancy
- 3 % Business services
- 8 % Other

## **Teacher qualification**

If you are interested in a career in teaching, you can apply for the Dutch-taught teacher-training MA at the ICLON Graduate School of Education after graduating from the master's programme. To be admitted, you need to have a master's degree in the relevant discipline. Fluency in Dutch is mandatory, and additional entry requirements may apply.

## **Career preparation**

Find out how this programme exactly prepares you for your future career and check our career preparation activities.

The Master's programme in German Literature and Culture at Leiden University equips you with a range of transferable skills and knowledge that will help you stand out in your future career. Your specialised knowledge is complemented by a broad and contextual understanding as well as critical-thinking skills that can be applied to complex conceptual problems. Other skills you may encounter in the various Literary Studies courses are:

- Problem-solving skills
- Oral and written communication
- Creative thinking
- Collaboration
- Argumentation

You have the opportunity to do an internship at an organisation in the Netherlands or abroad. Internships are a great way to gain first-hand experience in your area of interest and deepen your expertise. Organisations that our students have interned at include:

- Royal Library The Hague, Koopman Collection
- Dutch Embassy in Paris
- Royal Brill Editions

*Please note that you will need to find your own internship and have to follow an internship procedure for approval. Pursuing an internship may have consequences for the date of your graduation.*

The Literary Studies Career Colloquium enables you to actively prepare your future career by providing you with information and inspiration. This programme, specially tailored for Literary Studies students, consists of a series of meetings over the year on your personal profile, academic and practical skills. It includes two career events where you can meet professionals and alumni, in order to clarify your personal career prospects and start building your network.

Our staff can help you identify both the career that is right for you, and the necessary steps to get you there. Our team at [Humanities Career Service](#) provide all Leiden University humanities students with professional advice and guidance on everything from internships and career planning to job applications. Humanities Career Service also organises regular workshops on topics such as effective interview skills and creating a successful CV.

The Humanities Career Service offers you various (online) workshops, webinars and info sessions. [Check our overview of career activities.](#)

The [Leiden University Career Zone](#) is an online career portal that helps you to prepare for the job market. Here you can find information, tools and tips to help you gain more personal insight, learn about the job market, develop your application skills, plan your academic and professional career, find job vacancies and discover what the [Career Service](#) can do for you.

Join the [Mentor Network](#) to contact alumni with experience on the labour market and ask them for advice. More than 1200 alumni are happy to help you!

## **Jelle on finding an internship via Leiden University's Mentor Network**

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## **Admission and application**

Find out how to apply for German Literature and Culture at Leiden University by following our step-by step guide.

This specialisation is part of the MA in Literary Studies. If you would like to apply to this programme please first select the MA Literary Studies (CROHO code: 60813) in Studielink and then select German Literature and Culture.

## Step-by step guide

This guide clearly explains the steps you need to take to apply, and the subsequent admission process.

- Step 1: [Check the admission requirements](#)
- Step 2: [Check the application deadlines](#)
- Step 3: [Collect the required documents](#)
- Step 4: [Start your application](#)
- Step 5: [Pay your tuition fees](#)
- Step 6: [Prepare for your studies at Leiden University](#)

## Admission requirements

To be eligible for German Literature and Culture at Leiden University, you must meet the following admission requirements.

### Diploma requirements

You are eligible to apply for the MA Literary Studies: German if you have:

- A bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university in German Language and Culture or European Languages and Cultures: German; or
- A bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic Bachelor's degree, with:
  - Active (writing, speaking) and passive (reading, listening) proficiency in German at the final level of the degrees referred to in the first bullet point; and
  - At least 40 EC of courses in German Literature and Culture; and
  - Demonstrable knowledge of and insight into the historical development of German literature (Medieval, Early Modern, and Modern); and
  - Substantial literary research skills, demonstrated in a BA thesis and/or substantial research papers written as part of a BA programme.

The Board of Admissions will assess whether your degree and background are sufficiently related to the level and content of a bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university in German Language and Culture on the basis of the requirements specified above.

*Students with a Bachelor in German Language and Culture from Leiden University are directly eligible for admission. Students can apply in [Studielink](#). There is no need to submit an application for admission using the online application portal.*

If you have a bachelor's degree from a research university that does not meet the requirements specified above, you may be eligible for a pre-master programme tailored to your individual background. After submitting your application in Studielink, the Board of Admissions will decide whether you can be directly admitted to the master's programme or whether you will first need to complete a pre-master's programme. It is not possible to apply for a pre-master's programme directly. Once you have completed the imposed pre-

master programme, you will be admitted to the master's programme. For more information about the individual pre-master's programme, please [read more here](#).

If you have a Bachelor's degree in German from a university of applied sciences, equivalent to the level of a Dutch hbo bachelor's degree (i.e. lower secondary education teaching qualification, or tweedegraads), the Board of Admissions may impose the 60 EC pre-master's programme. [Read more about the pre-master's programme](#).

## Language requirements

### February 2024 intake:

In order to successfully participate in this programme, you must be proficient in English. The following requirements apply:

- IELTS: 7.0; with a score of at least 7.0 for each component.
  - We do **not** accept [IELTS Academic online](#).
  - We do **not** accept IELTS General Training or IELTS Indicator.
- TOEFL (Internet based) 100, with a score of at least 25 for each components.
  - We are **not** able to accept The TOEFL IBT Home Edition™, except in the following situations only:  
You took the test before 1 Sept 2022 (and it is not more than 2 years old), or you are unable to take an in-person test on location because test centres are inaccessible or closed due to unsafe conditions in a country.
  - We do **not** accept the following types of test: TOEFL My Best™ scores (multiple test scores combined), TOEFL Essentials™ or institutional tests such as ITP.

Note that English test results may **not** be more than two years old.

You do not have to submit an English proficiency test if you have completed your education in the USA, UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Canada (except French-taught programmes in Canada) Singapore, South-Africa or Malta; or if you have obtained an English-taught International Baccalaureate™; or if you have completed a Dutch VWO diploma or an English-taught bachelor at a Dutch research university.

For detailed information, including exemption criteria and methods of submission, refer to [English language proficiency](#).

### From September 2024:

The following requirements apply:

- [IELTS](#) Academic modules only, on paper or on computer: 6.5 overall, with at least 6.0 for each separate component score.
  - We do **not** accept [IELTS Academic online](#).
  - We do **not** accept IELTS General Training or IELTS Indicator.
- [TOEFL](#) internet based: 90 overall, with at least 20 for each separate component.
  - We are **not** able to accept The TOEFL IBT Home Edition™, except in the following situations only:  
You took the test before 1 Sept 2022 (and it is not more than 2 years old), or you are unable to take an in-person test on location because test centres are inaccessible or closed due to unsafe conditions in a country.
  - We do **not** accept the following types of test: TOEFL My Best™ scores (multiple test scores combined), TOEFL Essentials™ or institutional tests such as ITP.
- [Cambridge English Exam](#) C2 Proficiency, or C1 Advanced (180), with a minimum score of 169 for each separate component.

Note that English test results may **not** be more than two years old.

You do not have to submit an English proficiency test if you have completed your education in the USA, UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Canada (except French-taught programmes in Canada) Singapore, South-Africa or Malta; or if you have obtained an English-taught International Baccalaureate™; or if you have completed a Dutch VWO diploma or an English-taught bachelor at a Dutch research university.

For detailed information, including exemption criteria and methods of submission, refer to [English language proficiency](#).

German at level CEFR C1, as evidenced by an appropriate test (Goethe-Zertifikat C1).

[>> Go to the next step: Check the application deadlines](#)

## Application deadlines

### Starting in September

- Applicants who need a visa or residence permit or need to extend their residence permit must apply for admission before **1 April**.
- All other applicants must apply for admission before **15 May**.

### Starting in February

- Applicants who need a visa or residence permit or need to extend their residence permit must apply for admission before **15 October**.
- All other applicants must apply for admission before **15 November**.

**Please note:** You must submit your application via [Studielink](#) and Leiden University's application system (uSis), before the deadlines mentioned above.

## Other deadlines

Leiden University reserves a limited number of rooms each year for international students. However, as the number of housing requests always greatly exceeds the number of rooms available, we strongly recommend that you also look into other housing options at the same time. [Read more about how and when to arrange housing](#). If you want to request accommodation via Leiden University, submit both your application for admission and your housing request well before the deadlines! Accommodation is offered on a first-come first-served basis and is not guaranteed. You don't have to await admission before requesting housing.

If you want to apply for a scholarship, grant or loan, please bear in mind that different deadlines apply, and these deadlines can often be earlier. Deadlines vary per scholarship. Visit the [scholarship website](#) for more details.

[>> Go to the next step: Collect the required documents](#)

## Required documents

When you apply for admission, you'll be asked to submit several documents.

Note: If you have a Dutch diploma that grants direct admission, you will generally *not* be asked to submit additional documents.

## Required application documents

You'll need to submit the following documents:

Please upload a copy of the page(s) in your passport containing your personal details and photograph. If you are from the EU/EEA, you can submit a copy of your identity card instead. Please upload copies of both sides.

If you are a non-EU/EEA national already living in the Netherlands, upload copies of both sides of your Dutch residence permit.

Your CV (curriculum vitae) must be written in English and should contain your basic personal data, as well as a clear overview of your educational and professional history to date.

You can apply for admission before receiving the results of your English language test. However, a sufficient result will then be a condition of your eventual admission. Of course, if you already have your English language test results, you can upload them directly.

- Digital copies of diplomas and transcripts are initially required. Once you have been admitted, we will inform you how to submit certified copies.
- The documents must be in the original language. If they are not in English, Dutch, German or French, they must be accompanied by official translations into one of these languages.
- If you have not yet completed your current programme, state your expected graduation date and submit copies of all transcripts obtained to date plus a list of subjects still to be completed.

## Additional documents specific to German Literature and Culture

You are required to upload additional information: 1) about your acquired knowledge, understanding and skills in the field of the Master's programme you are applying for and 2) about your acquired general academic skills. You can upload this [format Questionnaire Master Application](#).

- You can check the programme specific requirements regarding knowledge, understanding and skills on the [Admission Requirements](#) page.
- The format includes the list of general academic skills which the candidate must possess in order to be admitted to the Master's programme at the Faculty of Humanities.
- You can [contact the coordinator of studies](#) for further questions about the questionnaire.

[>> Go to the next step: Step 4: Start your application](#)

## Application procedure

The application procedure is broken down into three parts.

### Part 1. Application in Studielink

All students applying for a degree programme at Leiden University must start the application process in Studielink, the national online registration system for students wishing to follow a degree programme at a Dutch university. Studielink is open for applications from 1 October in the year preceding the academic year in which you wish to start.

1. Go to [Studielink](#) and enter your details according to the instructions provided. For this step you will need:
  - a copy of your valid passport or European ID card, or
  - if you are a Dutch resident, your [DigiD](#)

*Be aware! If you wish to apply for a specialisation of a master's programme: first select the master's programme in Studielink, then select the specialisation for which you wish to apply in Step 4 (Institutional Questions) in Studielink.*

2. Within two days you will receive:

- an email with information on the next steps you'll need to take;
- your university ULCN student account details (unless, of course, you already have a ULCN account)
- the link to Leiden University's online application portal (uSis)

After receiving your ULCN student account details, log into Leiden University's online application portal (uSis), using the link provided. Here you can view the status of your application, which will be one of two possibilities.

### **1. You can be directly admitted**

If your (Dutch) diploma grants you direct admission, Leiden University's online application portal (uSis) will let you know. The portal provides an overview of what you have to do to complete your application, for example arranging housing, scholarships, applying for a visa/residence permit and insurances. Please follow the instructions carefully and proceed to step 3 Student registration.

### **2. You cannot be directly admitted: additional action is required**

If you do not have a (Dutch) diploma that grants you direct admission, we will require additional documents to allow us to decide about your application. The online application portal (uSis) will tell you this and explain how to do so. See also Part 2: Admission to Leiden University.

## **Part 2. Admission to Leiden University**

If you cannot be directly admitted, you must apply for admission via Leiden University's online application portal (uSis). Please follow all steps below.

In our online application portal (uSis) you can finalise your application by uploading the necessary documents and answering a few questions. This portal provides an overview of what you need to do to complete your admission application. Please follow the instructions carefully and make sure to include all the items that are asked for. We strongly recommend that you complete your application well in advance of the application deadline.

All applicants with an international degree must pay a **non-refundable** €100 application fee, which entitles you to apply for up to three programmes/specialisations in the same academic year. We cannot start processing your application until we receive this application fee, so please pay it as soon as possible. The online application system explains how you can pay it.

### **Can I be exempted from paying the application fee?**

You do *not* have to pay the application fee if:

- You are following, or have completed, a bachelor's degree at a Dutch university (of applied sciences).
- You have previously registered as an exchange, bachelor's, master's or pre-master's student at Leiden University.
- You have previously been admitted to **the same** degree programme at Leiden University, but you decided to postpone your studies. This does *not* apply if you are applying for a different study programme or specialisation.
- You have refugee status in the Netherlands (with a residence permit for asylum).

Exemptions cannot be granted for any other reasons.

After you have submitted your application, the online application portal (uSis) will, if applicable, ask you if you want to apply for student housing, a visa/residence permit or a scholarship. Be sure to make a careful note of the relevant deadlines for these options.

After receiving your application fee payment (if applicable), the Admissions Office will check whether all the necessary documents have been uploaded and they will inform you by email whether any further items are required. The Board of Admissions of the faculty will then:

- decide whether you meet the admission requirements for the programme;
- strive to issue a decision on your completed application within four to six weeks of the University receiving it.

Once a decision has been reached you will be informed by email. You can view your admission status in the online application portal (uSis).

There are three possible outcomes:

**1. You are admitted**

You have met all conditions for admission.

**2. You are conditionally admitted**

You will be admitted, provided that you meet certain conditions. These conditions will be specified in the online application portal (uSis).

**3. You are not admitted**

The reason(s) for non-admission will be clearly stated in the online application portal (uSis). If you are informed that you have been (conditionally) admitted, you will have to take a number of additional steps.

If you are (conditionally) admitted, the Admissions Office will ask you to confirm whether you will join the study programme. You can do so in the online application portal (uSis).

1. Go to '[Application study programme](#)' in the online application portal (uSis).
2. Open the 'Confirm' screen. Here you will see three options:

- Yes, I want to study at Leiden University.
- No, I no longer wish to study at Leiden University and hereby withdraw my application.
- Maybe later; I do not wish to start this semester/academic year. I would like to receive further instructions by email.

### **The sooner the better**

Confirm attendance as soon as possible, to avoid missing other important deadlines and information about your study programme.

### **Changing your mind**

You can still change your mind if necessary, either in uSis or by contacting the Admissions Office [master team](#).

### **Deadline final decision**

Do you need a student visa or residence permit? You can only request one after confirming attendance. So make sure to confirm attendance before the [visa/residence permit deadline](#).

If you don't need a visa or residence permit, the latest deadline for confirming attendance is before the start date of your study programme.

## **Part 3. Student registration**

If you've been (conditionally) admitted, follow these steps to register as a student at Leiden University:

Check in the online application portal (uSis) whether you need to submit any documents to meet the conditions of your admission. Instructions on how to do so will be provided in uSis.

Arrange the payment of your [tuition fee](#) before the official start date of your programme. You will receive instructions and information on the available payment methods by email.

If you are an international student, go to the [Prepare your stay](#) page of our website for information about the practical matters you should take care of before and upon arrival. These include, for example, arranging housing, scholarships, applying for a visa/residence permit and insurances.

[>> Go to the next step. Step 5: Pay your tuition fees](#)

## **Pre-master's**

If you have one of the following backgrounds you can apply to the pre-master:

- If you have a relevant academic bachelor's degree from a research university, but you do not fulfil the [entry requirements](#), or
- you have a bachelor's degree from a university of applied science (HBO) in German lower secondary education certificate, *tweedegraads*).

You will be admitted after completing the pre-master's programme. This one-year programme of 60 EC is taught in German and Dutch.

In order to apply for the pre-master's, students must follow the regular application procedure via Studielink. The Board of Admissions then decides whether students are directly admitted to the programme or only after the completion of a pre-master's. The Board of Admissions determines the content of the pre-master's based on the submitted documents.

The language requirements for a pre-master's programme are identical to the language requirements for the master's programme for which admission has been requested. These requirements must be met before the start of the premaster.

## More details

For more information, see the [Prospectus](#).

# Tuition fees

Your tuition fee depends on a number of factors, such as your nationality and your previous Dutch higher-education qualifications.

The tuition fees for the academic year **2023-2024** are:

- Dutch, EU/EEA, Swiss and Surinamese students: €2,314 per year
- Non-EU/EEA students €19,300 per year
- Second Dutch master's programme: €15,400 per year

The tuition fees for the academic year **2024-2025** are:

- Dutch, EU/EEA, Swiss and Surinamese students: €2,530 per year
- Non-EU/EEA students €20,900 per year
- Second Dutch master's programme: €16,300 per year

## More information about tuition fees

**The tuition fee for this programme is €2,314 for the academic year 2023-2024 (statutory fee) and €2,530 for the academic year 2024-2025 (statutory fee).**

This tuition fee applies if this is your first master's programme and you are a national of one of the following countries:

Austria	Latvia
Belgium	Liechtenstein
Bulgaria	Lithuania

Croatia	Luxembourg
Cyprus	Malta
Czech Republic	Norway
Denmark	Poland
Estonia	Portugal
Finland	Romania
France	Slovakia
Germany	Slovenia
Greece	Spain
Hungary	Suriname
Iceland	Sweden
Ireland	Switzerland
Italy	

The fee applies for both full-time and part-time study.

**The tuition fee for this programme is €19,300 for the academic year 2023-2024 (institutional tuition fee) and €20,900 for the academic year 2024-2025 (institutional tuition fee).**

If you are not a national of an EEA country, Suriname or Switzerland, generally speaking you will have to pay an institutional tuition fee. This fee applies for both full-time and part-time study.

However, if, on the basis of your Dutch residence permit, you are eligible for student finance from the Dutch education agency (DUO) you are entitled to pay the statutory tuition fee. Information on qualifying residence permits can be found in the [DUO nationality chart](#).

Only applicable to EU/EEA, Swiss and Surinamese nationals.

**The tuition fee for this programme is €15,400 for the academic year 2023-2024 (institutional tuition fee) and €16,300 for the academic year 2024-2025 (institutional tuition fee).**

If you are following a second Dutch master's programme you will generally have to pay an institutional tuition fee that is higher than the statutory tuition fee. Some exceptions apply.

Consult the [tuition fee flowchart for second master's programmes](#) to find out how much tuition fee you will have to pay.

## Less than 60 EC

If you are going to follow a pre-master's or conversion programme after completing a bachelor's programme, and if the programme is less than 60 ECs, you will have to pay €42 per study credit (EC).

## 60 EC or more

For a pre-master of 60 ECs you will have to pay the statutory tuition fee. If the pre-master's or conversion programme is more than 60 ECs – and therefore longer than one year - or if you are going to follow courses that are not part of your conversion programme, you will have to pay the institutional tuition fee for the programme in question (see second study programme). These fees apply to students of all nationalities.

## Scholarships, grants and loans

Leiden University offers a wide range of scholarships for students from specific regions of the world, or for specific programmes. Leiden University also offers the Leiden University Excellence Scholarship (LExS), a programme specifically designed for non-EU/EEA students enrolling in a master's programme. [Find out more about scholarships, grants, loans and deadlines](#)

If you are an EU/EEA or Swiss national and under 30, you may be eligible for a [loan from the Dutch government](#) to cover your tuition fees.

[>> Go to the next step. Step 6: Prepare for your studies at Leiden University](#)

# Prepare for your studies

You've been accepted! Leiden University looks forward to welcoming you as a new student. Your next step is to prepare for your studies. Below you can find some tips to help you get a head start as you embark on your studies at Leiden University.

## For international students

If you are an international student, a wealth of information can be found on the '[Prepare your stay](#)' page of our website. This includes information about visas, housing, financial matters, what to arrange upon arrival, and much more.

## For Dutch students

- The '[student website](#)' page on Leiden University's student website contains information about practical aspects, introduction weeks and student associations. It's also a handy source of study-related information and advice.
- For detailed information about courses, schedules and reading materials, check out the [Prospectus](#).

Sign up for the introduction week in [Leiden \(OWL\)](#) or [The Hague \(HOP\)](#)! It's the best way to get acquainted with student life and the student cities of Leiden and The Hague.

Your student card is your proof of registration as a student of Leiden University. You can find your digital student card in the Leiden University app three days after your student registration is finalised. Read more about your student card [here](#).

As soon as you receive notification that your student registration has been finalised you should apply for a Leiden University ID card, or LU-Card. It also serves as your library card, print & copy card and access pass. Read more about applying for an LU-card [here](#).

## Student life

Your time at Leiden is about more than just studying. Some of your best experiences will stem from being a part of our lively and diverse student community, as well as from life in the beautiful city of Leiden.

## Welcome and orientation programme

In August and February each year, Leiden University hosts the English-language [Orientation Week Leiden \(OWL\)](#), which welcomes both international and Dutch students. The OWL is an excellent way to get to know Leiden University, the city, and other students.

## Life in Leiden

Picturesque and the perfect size, Leiden is the ideal place to spend your university days. The Faculty of Humanities is located within the heart of the city, where dozens of cafes, shops and bars line its historic laneways and leafy canals. Small enough to run into familiar faces, but big enough to keep offering surprises – you will treasure your time at Leiden. And for adventures further afield, the major cities of The Hague and Amsterdam are a short train ride away, along with Schiphol Airport, which is just half an hour away by train.

Our study and student associations organise a huge variety of social, cultural, and study events to keep you busy all year round. You can also join the University Sports Centre, which offers scheduled group sports and fitness classes, amongst other activities.

The study association related to German Literature and Culture is [S!MP](#). You may contact the study association via [simp.leiden@gmail.com](mailto:simp.leiden@gmail.com).

## International Student Associations

Leiden has several student organisations that specifically cater for international students. These associations organise regular social events and activities that help create the strong sense of community that exists within our international student body. The main two organisations are:

### **Erasmus Student Network Leiden (ESN)**

[ESN Leiden](#) is an international student organisation which hosts a range of activities and programmes. They also have a buddy programme which provides new students with the right support to assimilate into Leiden and the university.

### **AEGEE Leiden**

[AEGEE](#) is a leading European student association with sister organisations in over 40 countries across Europe. AEGEE organises many activities in Leiden, from dinners and pool nights to boat trips and guest lectures.

For an overview of all of our student associations, please visit our [Student associations page](#).

## Humanities Master's Buddy Programme

The Humanities Master's Buddy Programme has been set up by the Faculty of Humanities to help all students who are new to the university to integrate quickly and easily into university life. You will be matched to a buddy who can help you out with your academic and practical questions. Additionally you will be able to attend fun monthly activities and make friends from all over the world.

For more information about the Buddy Programme, please visit the [Humanities Buddy Programme page](#).

## 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**

Due to the selected cookie settings, we cannot show this video here.

[Watch the video on the original website or](#)

Accept cookies

## **Contact**

If you have a question, there are various ways to get in touch with us.

This website and our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) are the quickest ways to find an answer to many of your questions.

## **Questions about the Programme**

### **Coordinator of studies**

Laura Kouters

Email: [stuco-ma-literarystudies@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:stuco-ma-literarystudies@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

## **Questions about the application procedure, tuition fees and scholarships**

### **Student Affairs Front Office**

Phone: +31 (0)71 527 80 11

Email: [Contact form](#)

Or visit their [website](#)

### **Visiting address**

Leiden: Plexus Student Centre

Kaiserstraat 25, ground floor

2311 GN Leiden

Monday to Friday between 11.00 and 16.00, Tuesday between 11.00 and 17.30.