Designed for high-achieving students, Leiden University's master's in Middle Eastern Studies (Research) offers you unmatched resources and expertise.

Apply now

**Why study Middle Eastern Studies (research) at Leiden University?**

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at Leiden University has a reputation for a breadth and depth of expertise that is unmatched in Europe. You can explore subjects that span virtually the entire Middle East both in time and geography.

Learn more about the study programme

**Flexibility to construct your own programme**
This two-year research master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies allows you to freely combine subjects from seven focus areas: Turkish Studies; Arabic Studies; North African Studies; Persian Studies; Islam; Eastern Christianity; and Modern Middle Eastern Studies.

You can decide to focus on a region such as the Arab world, North Africa or the Persian world, or on a discipline such as history, politics, literature or languages. A key feature is our comparative approach to learning, which includes intra-Middle Eastern comparisons.

Check the entry requirements

Field research in the Middle East

Additional courses develop your academic skills to an advanced level, and you will have the opportunity to conduct field research in the Middle East or attend courses at another top university, here or abroad.

Find out more about the career prospects

Middle Eastern Studies (research) degree

Middle Eastern Studies (research) at Leiden University is an accredited degree programme. After successful completion of this programme, you will receive a research master’s degree in Middle Eastern Studies and the title Master of Arts (MA).

Why Leiden University

Leiden University offers ambitious students the latest knowledge and the freedom to develop their own area of expertise.

World-class education

Leiden University's Humanities department consistently ranks in the top 30 Humanities faculties worldwide. At Leiden University, the oldest university in the Netherlands, learning incorporates the latest research and resources found nowhere else in the world, such as those
of the famous Leiden University Library and its collections of original manuscripts, periodicals, and photos.

**Unique courses and small classes**

At Leiden University, you will be able to choose subjects from an expansive curriculum, including specialised subjects not available elsewhere. All classes are taught by accomplished scholars. Small classes give students valuable time interacting with instructors.

**Spend a semester in Morocco**

The Middle Eastern Studies department has close links with the Netherlands Institute in Morocco (NIMAR) and offers students of the Middle Eastern Studies (Research) programme the opportunity to spend one semester at the institute in Rabat for study or research.

**A head-start to your career**

Your qualification from Leiden University is respected by organisations worldwide. But that's not the only advantage of studying at Leiden. We challenge you to think harder, analyse more deeply, and devise new, creative solutions. Our graduates are equipped to solve the challenges facing society now and in the future.

**The Leiden Experience**

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Accept

**About the programme**

The two-year research master in Middle Eastern Studies equips you with advanced and in-depth knowledge in a region or discipline within the field of Middle Eastern Studies.

The Middle Eastern Studies (Research) programme consists of compulsory core courses, electives and core electives, workshops, presentations, and an MA thesis.
First year

Throughout the programme, you will, together with students of the MA Asian Studies (research), participate in two core courses. These include:

- **Critical Area Studies: Placing Your Research** – which covers theories and issues central to the field of area studies and examines key writings on the challenges of studying and writing about “other” cultures and societies.
- **Methodology in the Social Sciences and Humanities** - which critically explores the multitude of methodologies in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

In addition to the core courses you will choose core elective and elective courses specific to either Asian Studies or Middle Eastern Studies. You can also combine courses from each of these two master's programmes, from other (Research) MA programmes and/or courses from national Research Schools.

To assist you in making your choices, you are coupled with a “consultant”, one of the professors involved in the programme who (preferably) works on a topic of interest to you during the first weeks of their study. Together with your “consultant” you compose a programme which caters to your immediate and future interest.

Second year

You are expected to spend the third semester of the programme abroad doing fieldwork and/or studying at an affiliated institution.

After your return from Fieldwork or Study Abroad, you work on your MA-Thesis. The process of writing is supported by a “Thesis Seminar” which is obligatory and offered bi-weekly. During this seminar, you discuss relevant issues with your peers and present your research and writings to them, to your supervisor and the convenor of the seminar.

We also offer a one-year Middle Eastern Studies programme.
Apart from the contents, there can be other arguments to choose for either a master’s or a research master’s programme. Have a look at the table in pdf for a quick overview of the differences. For more details on the contents, also visit the master’s in Middle Eastern Studies’ pages.

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Tutorials
- Self-study
- Internship options

- Thesis
- Exams
- Peer feedback and assessment
- Essays, reports and final thesis
- Oral presentations

The aim of the two-year master's in Middle Eastern Studies (Research) is to provide you with in-depth and specialised knowledge within the field of Middle Eastern Studies with the added value provided by a comparative, area studies approach.

The acquisition of advanced academic skills in the interpretation of texts, the analysis and solution of conceptual problems, and the ability to independently conduct scientific research are other key goals of the programme. Opportunities are provided for students to broaden their academic skills by conducting field research or by studying subjects at another university.

**Detailed programme**

For a detailed programme, see the Prospectus. Please note that this guide applies to the current academic year, which means that the curriculum for next year may slightly differ.

**Tsolin Nalbantian**
Researcher and University Lecturer
“Students of this master's are surrounded by faculty who are as diverse in their backgrounds as they are in their teaching and research interests. This diverse academic environment encourages students to pursue their own interests, all while being exposed to a wide variety of new experiences and ideas.”

Many career paths

“When it comes to the careers of our graduates, the sky is the limit. Our alumni go on to become journalists, NGO workers, teachers, academics, consultants, and diplomats, to name a few of their many career paths.”

Long-term commitment

“We aim to nurture in our students a long-term commitment to the region and its people. The training our students receive at Leiden provides them with the skills to connect with the people, customs, experiences, and history of the Middle East: skills that are of increasing importance in a great many organisations today.”

Extra-curricular

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

Community building

Throughout the year activities are organised by both the Middle Eastern Studies department and the Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam and Society (LUCIS). This includes for example the LUCIS What’s New!? lecture series which focuses on current research on Islam and the Middle East.

Coordinator of studies

During the first weeks of their study, students are expected to meet with their coordinator of studies to discuss their programme. The coordinator of studies can help you if you have specific questions relating to the academic content of the programme, exam regulations, courses and study scheduling (and delay) of your studies.
Uhlenbeck scholarship programme

For research master’s students, the Faculty of Humanities has set up the Uhlenbeck scholarship programme. If you would like to spend a period of time abroad for field work, research or a study exchange, you can apply for a (supplementary) scholarship.

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.

Career prospects

Create a world of opportunities with a master's degree from Leiden University.

The MA in Middle Eastern Studies (Research) prepares students for a wide number of careers in which in-depth knowledge and advanced conceptual, analytical and interpretative skills are essential.

Examples of the diverse roles of our graduates include:

- Freelance writer/translator/project coordinator at a translation centre
- Lecturer at a Dutch university
- Translator and executive secretary at an embassy in the Netherlands
- Policy officer for education and funding at a national student union
- PhD candidate at a university in Spain
- PhD candidate at Leiden University
- Policy officer for Sahel region at a ministry
- Production assistant at a Swedish museum
- Teacher of English/Islamic religion at an educational institute in Saudi Arabia
- Middle East representative at a shipping and forwarding company.
Your qualifications

Our graduates have pursued successful careers in the public, private and non-profit sectors. Graduates have also gone on to pursue a PhD and a career in academia. If you wish to pursue an academic career, your Master's is excellent preparation for a PhD programme or a career in a research agency or the research department of a company or government organisation. Your strong analytical and problem-solving skills can also be applied in a wide range of other vocations.

A Leiden University degree

Leiden University master's graduates are sought-after employees at (inter)national organisations. Our graduates are known for their combination of robust academic training, in-depth and relevant knowledge, and critical, multidisciplinary approach to problem-solving.

Brigitte van de Pas
Graduated in Research MA Middle Eastern Studies

"I enrolled in the research master’s programme Middle Eastern Studies because I wanted to do a second degree that had a bit more immediate relevance for today’s world than my first degree, History. I am fascinated by other peoples and cultures, and this programme allowed me to study the Middle East as a whole, without having to choose one particular country to specialise in."

Research skills

"I am currently working as a researcher for the Benelux markets at the market research company Statista in Hamburg, Germany. Although the research I am doing now has little to do with the Middle East, the research skills learned at university are applicable to other types of research as well. Critical thinking, analysing information and presenting it the way non-experts would also understand it is vital to my job."

Prepared to work in an international environment

"The international atmosphere of the Leiden Institute of Area Studies as well as my study abroad period in Turkey and my internships in Kuwait and Egypt furthermore prepared me to work in an international environment, with people
from all over the world. During my studies I never once considered the possibility of working with statistics, but as the saying goes: life is what happens to you when you are busy making other plans!"

The graphs below are based on alumni data from the research programmes of the Faculty of Humanities

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

- 45.0 % Research
- 17.0 % Education
- 8.0 % Government and semi-government organisations
- 6.0 % Publishing and the book industry
- 3.0 % Communication
- 3.0 % Culture, sports and recreation
- 18.0 % Miscellaneous

**How successful are they in finding a job?**

- 68.0 % found a job within two months
- 79.0 % found their first job at academic level

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**Career preparation**

**Knowledge and skills**

The development of in-depth knowledge in the field, and the ability to think critically and analytically, are key goals of this programme. The Middle Eastern Studies (Research) programme will introduce you to the concepts and academic approaches current in Middle Eastern Studies, including disciplines such as: linguistics, history and social sciences.

You will learn to use these concepts and approaches in researching and analysing source material. Your thesis work will give you the opportunity to apply these methods in your own research.

**Humanities Career Service**
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.

**Humanities Career Event**

Each year, the Faculty of Humanities organises a Humanities Careers Event. This all-day event is your chance to learn everything you can about how to find the job you want and successfully attain it. The event includes workshops on a wide range of topics as well as opportunities to network with alumni and potential employers and attain tips, information and potential job leads.

Check out the video of the Humanities Career Event 2019!

**Admission and Application**

Find out how to apply for Middle Eastern Studies (research) at Leiden University by following our step-by step guide.

**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 Middle Eastern Studies (research) at Leiden University, you must meet the following admission requirements.

**Diploma requirements**

- A bachelor’s degree from a university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic bachelor’s degree.
- Good grades comparable with an average mark of at least 7.5 (Dutch grading system) for the entire bachelor’s programme, and a grade for the bachelor’s thesis of an 8 or higher.
- Knowledge of the fundamentals of Middle Eastern Studies and/or area studies, literary studies, linguistics, history and/or social sciences
- For some electives on offer within the programme, the language level of students working has to be equal to the exit level of the relevant bachelor’s programme of Leiden University.
- The admissions process may involve a skype interview.

No direct admission, all students need to submit an online application.

Applicants with a degree from a Dutch University of Applied Sciences (HBO) are not eligible for admission.

**Language requirements**

Sufficient command of English (IELTS 7.0, TOEFL 100 (internet-based) or Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE); a minimum score of IELTS 6.5 or TOEFL 22 is required for each of the four components).

**Exams accepted**

- IELTS: academic test only
- TOEFL
- Cambridge English Exam
Cambridge English Exam equivalences

Programme requiring IELTS 6.5 = Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE), with a minimum grade of C
Programme requiring IELTS 7.0 or higher = Cambridge Proficiency (CPE)

Other exam criteria

- Exam results may not be more than two years old.
- Institutional exams, such as ITP-TOEFL, cannot be accepted.
- Chinese students who need a Nuffic certificate should take either an IELTS or a TOEFL IBT exam.

Exemptions

You may be considered exempt from submitting one of the above-mentioned English exam results if:

- You have an (English-taught) International Baccalaureate.
- You completed your secondary or higher education in the USA, the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia or Canada (except French-taught programmes in Canada).
- At the discretion of the Board of Admissions, you are a Dutch student with pre-university education (VWO) level English.

In exceptional cases, students who otherwise qualify for an exemption but whose application documents cast doubt on their English proficiency may be asked to sit an English exam.

Submitting your exam results

All English exam results must be uploaded to the online application system.
Your English exam results must be checked for authenticity by the Admissions Office before the deadline for applying for a visa/residence permit (if applicable), or before the start date of your programme. To make this possible, please do the following:

- TOEFL exam: tell ETS to send your original results report to Leiden University Admissions Office – institution code 0504.
- Cambridge certificate: send your ID number and your “secret number” (check the Candidate Results Online service) to the Leiden University Admissions Office.
- IELTS: a scanned exam result is sufficient - no further steps will be required.

>> Go to the next step: Check the application deadlines

**Application deadlines**

- If you need a visa or residence permit, you must apply for admission before **1 April**.
- If you do not need a visa or residence permit, you must apply for admission before **15 June**.

- If you need a visa or residence permit, you must apply for admission before **15 October**.
- If you do not need a visa or residence permit, you must apply for admission before **1 December**.

*Please note: After February 2020 you can only start this master's programme in September. You can then no longer start in February.*

**Apply early!**

If you don’t have a Dutch diploma that grants direct admission, you’ll have to complete a two-part application procedure:

- First register your application(s) in the national system Studielink.
A day later you will receive log-in details for Leiden University’s application system (uSis), where you can complete your application.

You must submit your application via Leiden University’s application system (uSis), before the deadlines mentioned above. So don’t delay; if you haven’t registered in Studielink and activated your uSis account in time to apply by the deadline, you’ll miss out!

Other deadlines

If you want to request accommodation via Leiden university Housing Office, apply early! Accommodation is allocated on a first-come first-served basis and there is limited availability, which means the Housing Office cannot guarantee accommodation. Submit both your application for admission and your housing request well before the deadlines. You don’t have to wait for a decision on your application before submitting your housing request. Read more about when to arrange 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.

Your letter of motivation should be a personal statement explaining why you want to follow the programme, why you want to do so at Leiden University, and what makes you think you’ll be a good candidate. The statement must be between 700 and 1,500 words and written in English.

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.

**Additional requirements specific to Middle Eastern Studies (research)**

Applicants are requested to include in their application a “Research Proposal” of approximately 1,000 words outlining the topic or field of research that interests them most and that they wish to pursue at Leiden University, combined with an annotated bibliography of at least five (5) works.
This programme requires two letters of recommendation. At least one letter must be from an academic member of staff.

- Letters of recommendation must be written on letterhead paper, signed and (for verification purposes) they must bear the full contact details of the applicable referee.
- Your referee should describe your skills, qualities and competencies.

**Option 1. Uploading the letter yourself**
You can upload the letter(s) of recommendation in the online application portal (uSis).

**Option 2. Sent by your referee**
Your referee can send the letter directly to the university, as follows:

1. Your referee must clearly state your name and application number in the letter.
2. He or she should send the letter to us, either:

   - digitally, by uploading the letter in our contact form
   - by posting it to:

   *Leiden University Admissions Office*
   “Gravensteen” Pieterskerkhof 6
   2311 SR Leiden, the Netherlands

3. Complete this form and upload it in the online application system (uSis), instead of your letter of recommendation.

>> 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.
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).
- You are an Indonesian student applying for an MSc programme and have been given a “review letter” by the Leiden Science Indonesia Office (LESIO).

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.

   The Admissions Office will ask you if you want to accept the offer of (conditional)
   admission. Please respond via the online application portal (uSis), by going to ‘Application
   study programme(s)’ then accessing the ‘Confirm’ screen, where you will have three
   options:

   1. Accept
   2. Accept, but defer to a later start date
   3. Decline

**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

# 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 2019-2020 are:

- Dutch, EU/EEA, Swiss and Surinamese students: €2,083 per year
- Non-EU/EEA students €17,500 per year
- Second Dutch master’s programme: €15,800 per year

**More information about tuition fees**

The tuition fee for this programme is €2,083 for the academic year 2019-2020 (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:

<p>| Austria | Latvia |</p>
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The fee applies for both full-time and part-time study.

**The tuition fee for this programme is €17,500 for the academic year 2019-2020 (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.

*Please note! If you will be studying at Leiden University via a cooperation agreement, the fees quoted in the agreement will apply.*

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

**The tuition fee for this programme is €15,800 for the academic year 2019-2020 (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 45 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 45 ECs, you will have to pay €34 per study credit (EC).
45 EC or more

For programmes of more than 45 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 e-prospectus.

Sign up for an introduction programme! 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. It will be sent to you at your Dutch address as soon as you have registered as a student and paid your tuition fee. Alternatively, you can collect it from the Student Affairs Front Office. Read more about your student card here.

As soon as you start studying at Leiden University 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.

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.

**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.

**Study associations**

Leiden University’s Faculty of Humanities has a number of study associations run by students and related to a particular department or programme. Study associations organise social activities such as informal gatherings, sports events, and parties, as well as study-related activities such as excursions and study trips.

The study association related to Middle Eastern Studies is Sheherazade. You may contact the study association via info@sheherazadeleiden.nl.

**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:

**International Student Network (ISN)**

ISN 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. Through the programme you will learn everything you need to know about the university, the student community, and the practical side of life in Leiden.

**Information activities**

Come and meet us at the Leiden University Master’s Open Day!

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**About our Master’s Open Day**

Are you thinking about joining a master’s programme at Leiden University? Come and visit our Master’s Open Day! This event is your opportunity to learn everything you need to know about our master’s programmes and how they can help you reach your goals. Attend presentations, meet our lecturers, learn about the careers of our alumni and hear first-hand the experiences of students and graduates on life at Leiden University.
Jelle and Rick: “The main reasons we’re visiting the Master’s Open Day is to talk to students and recent alumni. The website gives you a lot of information, but talking to students gives us a much better idea of what it’s really like to study this degree.”
Sophie: “I came to the Master’s Day because I have some questions that I couldn’t find answers to via the site. In my bachelor’s I am already specialising in North America, so this master’s is a good match. And next year, in the first semester, I’ll be going to Boston!”
Luuk: “Today I want to find out what it’s like to be doing a master’s, and what the real focus of the programme is. I’ve just been looking at International Relations, because I really like the dynamics of the programme. It focuses on current events, and I’m particularly impressed with the international aspects of the master’s, which I feel give it more weight.”
Nino and Elias: Nino: “I’m now doing a bachelor’s in Assyriology, and I may want to do a master’s in it too. We’ve heard that studying here is real fun. We’re from Italy but we love Holland and the Dutch.”
Dennis: Studying: pre-master’s in Dutch Literature (Vrije Universiteit), master’s in Philosophy (University of Amsterdam) Interested in: Literary Studies, Dutch Studies, Cultural Analysis: Literature and Theory.

Contact

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

The website and our Frequently Asked Questions are the quickest ways to find an answer to your questions.

Questions about the Programme

Coordinator of studies
Ms. Nicole van Os
Phone: +31 (0)71 527 29 37
Email: stucoVrieshof@hum.leidenuniv.nl

Questions about the application procedure

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 till Friday between 11.00 and 16.00, Tuesday 11.00 to 21.00.