

Russian and Eurasian Studies (MA)

Master





Universiteit
Leiden

Discover the world at Leiden University

In the Russian and Eurasian Studies master's programme our experts devote attention to the most recent developments, currently the war in Ukraine. Several courses will provide context and background about this war.

Why study Russian and Eurasian Studies at Leiden University?

This one-year master's degree explores Russia and the Eurasian world from the perspectives of language, literature and culture, or politics, history and economics. Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities has been studying Russia and the Slavic world since 1913. Scholars from around the world come to Leiden University to study and teach this important field. You will learn from our faculty members as well as visiting international scholars who also devote attention to the most recent developments.

[Learn more about the study programme](#)

What are your career prospects?

As the MA in Russian and Eurasian Studies is a unique programme which stands out from other programmes it is often seen as an asset by companies, non-profit organizations and government institutions. The impact of Russia in the current geopolitical situation which has changed dramatically since the war that Russia started against Ukraine also has led to a bigger demand for graduates with expertise in Russia and a solid command of the Russian language in governmental organisations and NGO's. As a graduate of the master's programme in Russian and Eurasian Studies, you will be qualified to meet this demand, with a range of career prospects that are both directly and indirectly related to your studies.

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

International classrooms and internships

An international classroom makes this a particularly rich learning environment for students. A competitive scholarship and internship programme also gives you the opportunity to study or do an internship abroad. Do you want to find out if you are eligible for this Master's programme?

[Check the admission requirements](#)







Jonathan works with Ukrainian refugees

When alumnus Jonathan Katzman started his master's programme in Russian and Eurasian Studies, he didn't foresee how useful those skills would be in the near future. Now, he manages a refugee centre for Ukrainians who have fled their war-torn country. [Read more.](#)



Raam op Rusland (Window on Russia)

Raam op Rusland is an online platform with news and background articles about Russia, written by Leiden scholars, students and alumni, and journalists, historians, economists, political scientists and many more. It is a stage for knowledge, analysis and debate. Raam op Rusland is Partner of Leiden University since 2018, every year two or three students of the MA Russian and Eurasian Studies get the opportunity to do an internship. [Read more](#)

In which sectors do students find jobs?

- 21 Communication and marketing
- 14 Non profit
- 14 Education
- 14 Government and semi-government
- 7 Consultancy
- 7 IT
- 7 Research
- 7 Information management
- 7 Wholesale and retail
- 2 Other

The graph above is based on alumni data from the MA in Russian and Eurasian Studies 2016-2020.

Chat with a student

Do you have a question about studying at Leiden University or student life in Leiden? Do you want more information about the Russian and Eurasian Studies master's programme?

[Chat with a current student](#) for answers to your questions!

Why Leiden University

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

A top-ranked university

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 resources found nowhere else in the world, such as those of the famous Leiden University Library and its collections of original manuscripts and periodicals.

Benefit from specialist expertise

Leiden University is one of Europe's top international research universities and an international centre of expertise. You will benefit from the expertise of specialists from the [Leiden University Centre for Linguistics](#), the [Leiden University Institute for History](#) and the [Centre for the Study of Arts in Society](#) as well as visiting professors and external specialists.

A head-start to your career

Our reputation as a centre of excellence means that your qualification is respected by potential employers at organisations worldwide. Our graduates enjoy [successful careers](#) thanks to their mix of relevant professional skills and excellent academic grounding.

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.

About the Programme

The Master's programme in Russian and Eurasian Studies offers you the opportunity to develop specialised knowledge of this region. The programme provides you with a qualification which is recognised by organisations around the world, and offers excellent preparation for a diverse range of careers.

Programme structure

The master's programme in Russian and Eurasian Studies offers you flexibility in the areas you choose to focus on in your studies. The core curriculum for all students includes the course on Information and Disinformation (5 EC) and the Research Seminar (5 EC) in the first semester, and the writing of a thesis (20EC) in the second semester. You are expected to choose at least two more of the courses from the list in the prospectus. In addition, you can opt for: a third course (10 EC) from within the programme; an elective (10 EC) from other MA programmes, or an internship (10 EC).

At the end of the programme, you are required to write a thesis based on original research. A member of our academic staff specialised in your field of research will supervise you throughout the writing of your thesis.

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.

Linguistics and History

Our courses on linguistic subjects draw on the cutting-edge research carried out at the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics, one of the largest linguistics institutes in the world. Courses on modern Russian society and its historical background are embedded in the Leiden University Institute for History, which has a special focus on the study of non-European societies in a global context.

Egbert Fortuin

Professor of Russian Language and Linguistics



"Russian and Eurasian Studies brings together specialists with different disciplinary backgrounds, but with a shared passion for one of the most fascinating and culturally diverse regions in the world. While the programme offers two mandatory courses, one on research methods and a multidisciplinary course on a topical overarching theme, students enjoy considerable freedom to follow their own interests by selecting courses from the field of politics, history, culture, international relations and linguistics."

Critical thinking

The ability to reflect critically on any information coming from the countries of the former Soviet Union is part of the toolkit that our students develop. Whether that information is presented in the form of news reports, scholarly articles or popular culture, students acquire the skills to deal with these sources while keeping an open mind and remaining conscious of their own positionality. To achieve this goal we seek to challenge our students in a variety of educational forms and genres, as well as through intellectually engaging extra-curricular activities such as guest lectures and film viewings.

Exciting environment

At the MA Russian and Eurasian Studies students have the opportunity to work on exciting and topical themes that immediately align with the research interests of the staff who are all committed teachers and internationally respected specialists. The programme offers a warm and inspiring environment in which students can feel socially secure without compromising their commitment to academic excellence.

Admission and Application

Do you want to find out if you are eligible for this Master's Programme?

[Check the entry requirements](#)

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 the programme to encourage community building. The teaching generally takes the form of small-scale seminars and tutorials, in which lively and engaging discussions are encouraged. The small class sizes give you a high degree of contact with both your lecturers and fellow students.

Study abroad

You may choose to study a part of your Russian Studies programme abroad. The programme also offers a limited number of competitive scholarship and internship programmes available in Russia, Georgia and other countries.

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.

Meet our staff



Dr. O.F. Boele

Otto Boele is Senior University Lecturer with expertise on Literary Reception, Reception History, Contemporary Russian Literature, Rosmanticism, and Russian Cinema. View his full profile [here](#).





Prof.dr. E.L.J. Fortuin

Egbert Fortuin is Professor Russian Language and Linguistics. His research focuses on semantics, syntax and pragmatics, and in the interaction of these domains. View his full profile [here](#).



Dr. M.J. Frear

Matthew Frear is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of History. His main fields of research are Russian and Eurasian politics and international relations, and comparative authoritarianism. View his full profile [here](#).



Dr. J.H.C. Kern

Henk Kern is University Lecturer at the institute for History with an expertise in Russian and Soviet history. The theme of his dissertation was 19th century Russian transition in European eyes. View his full profile [here](#).



Prof. dr. J. Schaeken

Jos Schaeken is Professor of Slavic and Baltic Languages and Cultural History; his area of specific interest is Russia. He also chairs the bachelor's programme in Russian Studies and the master's programme in Russian and Eurasian Studies. View his full profile [here](#).

[Meet more staff here](#)

Career prospects

Where do our graduates work?

The master's programme in Russian and Eurasian Studies degree is a qualification that will open doors to a wide range of careers. Exactly because the MA in Russian Studies is a unique programme which stands out from other programmes it is often seen as an asset by companies, non-profit organizations and government institutions.

The impact of Russia in the current geopolitical situation which has changed dramatically since the war that Russia started against Ukraine also has led to a bigger demand for graduates with expertise in Russia and a solid command of the Russian language in governmental organisations and NGO's. As a graduate of the master's programme in Russian and Eurasian Studies, you will be qualified to meet this demand, with a range of career prospects that are both directly and indirectly related to your studies.

Examples of the diverse roles of our graduates include:

- Academic staff member for Eastern European collection
- Political editor
- Regional coordinator at a human rights organisation
- Librarian of Eastern European material
- Partner for management and business development
- Consultant
- Information manager at a network organisation of consultants and policy experts
- Project manager/policy advisor
- Communications officer at an NGO

Tatiana Kleerebezem-Egorova



"During the final period of my studies I managed to find a decent starter's function in a visa bureau which cooperates with the Russian Consulate in the Hague. Recently I found a new job as office manager at Uranium One. It is an international company which is engaged in mining, production and sale of uranium. As it operates among others in Russia and Kazakhstan I deal with the Russian language and Russian-speaking people every day."

Expanding my knowledge

"Russian and Eurasian Studies offered me a good opportunity to expand my knowledge about Russia and its neighbouring countries in the sphere of politics, economics and culture. Moreover, thanks to well-qualified teachers, I was able to develop my analytical skills and critical thinking. I should mention that I found these studies both personal and flexible. There was always space for your own interests in the field. In addition, student union MOST organises many activities which help to create a warm and friendly atmosphere among the students. I truly enjoyed studying at Leiden University and doing this MA programme."

In which sectors do students find jobs?

The graphs below are based on alumni data from the MA in Russian and Eurasian Studies 2016-2020.

- 21 % Communication and marketing
- 14 % Non-profit (e.g. at an idealistic organisation)
- 14 % Education
- 14 % Government and semi-government organisations
- 7 % Consultancy
- 7 % IT
- 7 % Research
- 7 % Information management
- 7 % Wholesale and retail
- 2 % Other

Career preparation

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

The development of in-depth knowledge in the field, and the ability to think critically and analytically are key goals of this programme. Upon graduation, you will have a profound knowledge of either the linguistics, literature and culture, or the history, politics, international relations, and economy of the Russian and Eurasian region.

Do you consider to put your knowledge into practice during your studies? Determine whether an internship could be an option for you. Start orientating your possibilities by visiting an internship information session. This way you can receive information about the internship procedure and listen to tips of former interns. Notice that you will search for an internship yourself to find a place of your interest. Do you need some help with this or the application process? Do not hesitate to contact the [Career Service](#). When you have found an internship, inform us. Then, the internship coordinator advises you how to proceed and provides your internship plan with feedback so it can be submitted for approval to the board of examiners.

Student Sophie talks about her internship at VPRO

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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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Student Sophie did an internship at the VPRO

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Admission and Application

Find out how to apply for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Leiden University by following our step-by step guide.

If you would like to apply to this programme please select the MA Russian and Eurasian Studies (CROHO code: 60848) in Studielink.

Step-by step guide

The guide will give you the necessary help and guidance in submitting your application.

- 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 Russian and Eurasian Studies, you must meet the following admission requirements.

Diploma requirements

You are eligible to apply for the MA Russian and Eurasian Studies if you have:

- A bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university in Russian Studies; or
- A bachelor's degree from research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic bachelor's degree; and
- knowledge, understanding of and skills in at least two disciplines of the Master's programme: politics, international relations, history, economics, linguistics, literature and culture; and
- academic knowledge of Russian history and society, and
- a reading command of the Russian language at the level of B1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

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 Russian Studies on the basis of the requirements specified above.

Students with a Bachelor in Russian Studies 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's 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, whether you will first need to complete a pre-master's programme, or whether your deficiencies are considered too extensive and you can therefore not be admitted at all. It is not possible to directly apply for a pre-master's programme.

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.

Once you have completed the imposed pre-master's programme, you will be admitted to the master's programme. For more information about the individual pre-master's programme, please contact the [Coordinator of Studies](#).

The programme offers tailor-made pre-master's programmes for students with a bachelor's degree in Russian, Russian Culture, History or Society obtained at a university of applied science (HBO). For questions about the pre-master's programme please contact the [Coordinator of Studies](#).

Language requirements

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](#).

[>> Go to the next step: Step 2: 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**.

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: Step 3: 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 requirements specific to Russian and Eurasian Studies

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 programme

The pre-master's is a bridging programme for students who have applied for the MA Russian and Eurasian Studies, but who, according to the Board of Admissions, still have deficiencies in their educational background. Once you have completed the pre-master's programme, you will be admitted to the Master's programme.

Diploma requirements

- students with a bachelor's degree in Russian, Russian Culture, History or Society obtained at a university of applied science (HBO).
- For students with an academic bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch WO bachelor's degree, who do not [meet the admission requirements](#).

Applicants with a Dutch university of applied sciences bachelor's degree (HBO) or those with a comparable degree, can expect, if considered eligible, to be assigned the full 60 EC pre-master programme.

English language requirements

The English 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 pre-master.

Application procedure pre-master programme

In order to apply for the pre-master programme, you must first apply for the master's programme.

After submitting your application for the master programme in Studielink, the Board of Admissions will decide whether you can be directly admitted to the master's programme, whether you will first need to complete a pre-master's programme, or if you're not eligible for either programme because the deficiencies are too extensive.

Students who have been offered a pre-master programme, will find the procedure for the registration into the pre-master programme stated on their admission statement.

Start date

This pre-master offers 1 intake: September. Depending on the individual student's educational background, the Board can also decide whether a start in February would suit instead.

More information

This pre-master is tailor-made. The Board of Admissions will decide based on your educational background what the pre-master should look like. The pre-master consists of bachelor-level courses and may include an academic skills course and/or a final assignment comparable to a bachelor's thesis.

The premaster is taught in Dutch and in English. You must be able to deal with sources in the target language.

[Read more about tuition fees for pre-master programmes here.](#)

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

Are you unsure which tuition fee applies to you? Consult our [Tuition Fee Calculator](#).

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 at the [DUO website](#).

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.

Are you unsure which tuition fee applies to you? Consult our [Tuition Fee Calculator](#).

Tuition fee if the pre-master's or conversion programme has less than 60 study credits (EC)	2023-2024	2024-2025
	€39,- per EC	€42,- per EC

If the pre-master's or conversion programme has 60 study credits or more, you pay the statutory tuition fee of that college year.

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 Russian and Eurasian Studies is [MOST](#). You may contact the study association via bestuur@mostleiden.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:

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

Ruban van Gaalen

Email: stuco-ma-res@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.

Chat with a student

Do you have a question about studying at Leiden University or student life in Leiden? Do you want more information about the Russian and Eurasian Studies master's programme? Chat with a current student for answers to your questions!