

Education and Examination Regulations 2024-2025

Degree Programme / Programme: Literary Studies (research) / Comparative Literary Studies

Clause 2.1 – Requirements for admission to the programme

1. Consideration for admission to the degree programme Literary Studies (research) / *Comparative Literary Studies* requires a Dutch or foreign diploma that demonstrates knowledge, understanding and skills at the level of a university Bachelor's degree and shows that its holder has the following specific knowledge, understanding, and skills:
 - a. familiarity with the academic study of culture;
 - b. knowledge of the methods and theories applied in the study of culture in general, and literature in particular;
 - c. an excellent level of academic achievement;
 - d. intellectual curiosity and highly developed analytical skills;
 - e. a strong motivation to pursue further training in literary research from a comparative perspective;
 - f. the ability to use English as a working language and an international orientation.
2. Students will be selected on the basis of an assessment of the following core competencies:
 - motivation and talent (also on the basis of GPA and student progress monitoring);
 - level of required knowledge and the mastery of research methods and techniques used in the subject area;
 - general academic level of knowledge and skills;
 - command of the language(s) used in the programme.

This information is used to consider whether the student concerned is in a position to successfully complete the Master's programme within the nominal time period.

3. There is a fixed quota for admission to the programme. The maximum number of students to be admitted to the programme is 20. The admissions committee referred to in Article 2.3 (of the faculty EER) will rank the applications received using the criteria set out in Article 2.1.2. and will accept applications for admission by their ranking.

Clause 3.1 – Aim of the programme

1. The programme aims to:
 - Provide specialized knowledge, insight and skills in the field of study as practiced today at leading research universities;
 - Prepare students for a career as a researcher in the field of literature and culture, both within academic and non-academic contexts;
 - Prepare students for a PhD programme.
2. Graduates with this degree:
 - have advanced knowledge of and insight into the field of comparative literary studies with specific reference to literary cultures of the modern period showing due regard for its position within the broader field of the Humanities;
 - have thorough knowledge of a specialisation within that field or at the intersection with a cognate field;
 - have the academic independence and the necessary skills to engage critically with theoretical debates in the field and to formulate new research questions;
 - have the academic skills to conduct original research in the field using appropriate methods and respecting professional codes;
 - are able to report on findings in a professional manner;
 - are able to communicate conclusions, as well as the underlying knowledge, grounds and considerations, to both specialists and non-specialists.

Clause 3.2 – Attendance mode

The RMA Comparative Literary Studies is a full-time programme.

Clause 3.3 – Language in which the programme is taught

The programme is taught in English: 100% of the courses for the degree programme is taught in English. Appendix 3 provides the reasoning behind the programme's language policy.

Clause 3.6.1 – Curriculum

The programme consists of the following components, having the specified credit load:

Profile 1: With Study Abroad

Core Curriculum	Courses	Compulsory	50 EC
Research School	Courses	Compulsory	5 EC
Electives	Courses	Compulsory choice	5 EC
Study abroad	Courses	Compulsory	30 EC
Research Project	Thesis	Compulsory	30 EC

Profile 2: Without Study Abroad

Core Curriculum	Courses	Compulsory	50 EC
Research School	Courses	Compulsory	10 EC
Electives	Courses	Compulsory choice	30 EC
Research Project	Thesis	Compulsory	30 EC

Profile 3: Without Study Abroad, with Internship

Core Curriculum	Courses	Compulsory	50 EC
Research School	Courses	Compulsory	10 EC
Electives	Courses	Compulsory choice	15 EC
Practical Component	Internship	Compulsory	15 EC
Research Project	Thesis	Compulsory	30 EC

Clause 4.6 – Evaluation of quality of the education

1. The Director of Education is responsible for monitoring the quality of the courses and teaching. To this end the Director of Education will ensure that quality assurance involves evaluating courses and an evaluation at curriculum level. In ensuring the quality of courses the Director of Education will draw on the advice and suggestions for improvement of the curriculum committees on promoting and safeguarding the quality of the course.
2. The courses and teaching in the degree programme will be evaluated using one or more of the following means:
 - course evaluation: at the end of the course, the participating students are asked to evaluate the course through the digital survey system;
 - evaluation at curriculum level: through curriculum dialogues (in Dutch *onderwijsgesprekken*);
 - by means of the National Student Survey (*Nationale Studenten Enquête – NSE*) the students will be asked for their opinion on all aspects of the courses, teaching and the facilities.
3. Students who have participated in courses offered by the Faculty of Humanities will be informed of the results of the course evaluations.

Appendix 1 – Composition Degree Programme

Curriculum Programme: Comparative Literary Studies (120 EC)

Core curriculum (50 EC)

Course code	Course name	EC	Period
TLRMV16201	Tlc-Core Theories and Current Debates	5	1
TLRMV16206	Tlc-Thinking Literature	5	1
MCRMV16035	Mec-Humanities Today	5	1
TLRMV21207	Tlc-Literature in the Postcolony	5	2
TLRMV16208	Tlc-Media Materialities	5	2
TLRMV16200	Tlc-Cultural Memory and Citizenship	5	2
TLRMV16204	Tlc-Masterclasses	10	3
TLRMV16202	Tlc-Distant Reading	2.5	3
TLRMV16203	Tlc-Research Lab	7.5	3-4

Research School (5-10 EC)

Students have to follow 10 EC at a Research School in the Netherlands. This obligation does not apply to students who follow 30 EC at a university abroad, in which case they may limit themselves to 5 EC at a Research School.

Course code	Course name	EC	Period
TLRMV16213	Tlc-Research School I	5	1, 2, 3, 4
TLRMV16214	Tlc-Research School II	5	1, 2, 3, 4

Master's thesis (30 EC)

Course code	Course name	EC	Period
TLRMV16205	Tlc-Thesis Comparative Literary Studies	30	1, 2, 3, 4

Electives (5-30 EC)

Students have to follow elective modules of their own choosing with a maximum of 30 EC, depending on the profile mentioned in article 3.6.1.

Students may select as electives:

- non-compulsory modules offered by the RMA programme in Comparative Literary Studies (see the table below);
- modules offered by other related RMA programmes within or outside the Faculty of Humanities at Utrecht University or elsewhere in the Netherlands. For these courses, students will have to apply for approval by the Board of Examiners;
- modules offered by other related MA programmes (including the Masterlanguage programme) within or outside the Faculty of Humanities at Utrecht University or elsewhere in the Netherlands (on condition that the number of EC from those programmes does not exceed 10 EC). For these courses, students will have to apply for approval by the Board of Examiners.

Course code	Course name	EC	Period
TLRMV16211	Tlc-Topics in Literary Research A	5	1
TLRMV16212	Tlc-Topics in Literary Research B	5	2
TLRMV16210	Tlc-Aesthetics of the Posthuman	5	4

Study Abroad (30 EC)

Course name	EC	Period
Study Abroad	30	1, 2, 3, 4

Internship (15 EC)

Course code	Course name	EC	Period
TLRMV16209	Tlc-Internship Comparative Literary Studies	15	1, 2, 3, 4

Appendix 2 – Transitional Provisions RMA Comparative Literary Studies 2024-2025

There are no transitional provisions for students who started before 2021-2022. These students should contact the study advisor if they have questions about their study programme.

Students who started in the academic years 2021-2022, 2022-2023 or 2023-2024 need to complete the education programme as described in the EER-attachment for their academic year. If certain components of the programme are not offered in the current academic year 2024-2025, the following transitional provisions will apply.

The new compulsory courses are equivalent to the old courses (see below), unless stated otherwise. If a student has completed the old course, the new equivalent course can't be taken as well.

It is possible to make the transition from the exam programme of an earlier cohort to the programme of the current academic year (2024-2025). If the student chooses to do so, they must comply to all regulations of the exam programme of the current academic year and must request approval from the Board of Examiners. Please contact your study advisor if you are considering this.

Transitional provisions for students who started in 2021-2022 (cohort 2021) [Exam Programme LS-OLWM-16] or 2022-2023 (cohort 2022) or 2023-2024 (cohort 2023) [Exam Programme LS-OLWM-22]

There are no changes in the exam programmes.

Appendix 3 – Language policy

English is the language of choice given this programme's international character and orientation. Comparative Literature is an international field of research and English has become its lingua franca. We read primary and secondary texts from all over the world in English translation. Students are encouraged to read the texts in the original language whenever possible, but discussion of them takes place in English. Since our programme prepares students for an international career (either inside or outside of academia), acquiring excellent skills in academic English is part of the programme. Moreover, Comparative Literary Studies provides an international learning environment with our student body including a significant number of students from outside the Netherlands. Finally, our teaching staff is not only strongly internationally oriented but also internationally trained (almost all the compulsory modules are taught by international staff).