

## BA International Studies – Leiden University Semester Five and Six Final Year

The Leiden University system allows half a year of study (30 ECTS) to be taken outside the regular teaching program (Discretionary Space). In the International Studies degree, this is spread over the final year of study. It allows the student some considerable flexibility in designing the direction of study, and future MA and/or career trajectories.

### 30 ECTS BA International Studies Programme

Let us start with the ‘fixed’ part of the program. The entire (half of the) fifth semester is taken up with research (and writing) of the **bachelor thesis** (15 ECTS), chosen by the student in consultation with the supervisor. Students are encouraged, but not obliged, to spend this semester studying or working abroad in their region of specialization, and the program hopes to agree reciprocal arrangements with at least one university in each of the areas offered.

In the sixth semester students follow an **elective**, selected from the fourth semester list (or area-specific electives offered as part of other courses taught at the University) and a course on **advanced theory**. Some of the courses being designed include:

- Anthropology of Religion
- Cultural Anthropology
- Development Studies
- Historical Research Methods
- International Political Economy
- International Relations
- Nation Building and Failing States
- Regional Integration

### 30 ECTS BA International Studies Programme

In the Discretionary Space, students have several options for either 15 ECTS or for the entire 30 ECTS.

Students may choose to increase their **language proficiency**, either by taking more advanced language training while they are abroad or by following courses offered by the degree. Again, the entry levels and course attainments vary by language group. See Table below.

<b>Indo-European language/Latin Alphabet</b>			
Language Activities	Entry level	+ 15 ECTS	+ 30 ECTS
Oral Interaction	B1	B2	C1
Listening	B1	B2	C1
Reading	B2	C1	C1
<b>Indo-European language/Other alphabet OR Non-Indo-European language/Latin Alphabet</b>			
Oral Interaction	A2	B1	B2
Listening	B1	B2	B2

Reading	B1	B2	B2/C1
<b>Non-Indo-European language/Non Latin Alphabet</b>			
Oral Interaction	A2	A2	B1
Listening	A2	A2/B1	B1
Reading	A1	A2/B1	B1

*A1 Basis user: Breakthrough*

*A2 Basic user: Waystage*

*B1 Independent User: Threshold*

*B2 Independent User: Vantage*

*C1 Proficient User: Effective Operational Proficiency*

Students can could undertake academic **courses abroad** from those offered by our partner universities or, in consultation with the exam committee, courses from other university departments.

Alternatively, they could employ 15 ECTS to undertake an **internship** either in The Netherlands or abroad. The Faculty has a bureau specifically to advise students and to help them apply for internships, all of which have a research component and all of which are supervised by a member of the academic staff.

Another option is to employ all 30 ECTS to follow a **second area** trajectory. In this case students would follow the area courses in history, politics economics and culture, and an elective and combine it with an advanced essay (or mini-thesis).

Finally, the student may follow one of the special **minor programmes** offered by the university. Several of these are offered in English and we expect the list to grow as demand from English-language degree courses increases. At present, the list of English language programmes includes the following (but the list is continuously expanding) :

- Dutch Studies
- Economics and Public Policy
- European Union Studies
- Languages and Culture of Africa
- Law and Public Administration
- Law, Culture and Development
- Security
- Theory and Practice of Creative and Performing Arts

*For Dutch-speaking students, the list of possible options is considerably longer.*