

# Master Prospectus Chinese Studies, 2008/2009

## Programme overview, 2008/2009

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### Objectives

*Successful completion of the programme equips students with:*

- an excellent command of Mandarin, and – for certain specialisations – of Premodern Chinese;
- extensive knowledge of China and insight into its internal and external dynamics;
- starting points for contextualising China within Asia;
- the ability to comment on China from different angles (e.g. Western Europe) for both specialist and general audiences, and to act as cultural mediators;
- insight into the history of Chinese Studies and its current development, as well as its interfaces with various disciplines (e.g. anthropology, [art] history, linguistics, literature, religious studies) and its social relevance;
- insight into disciplinary thinking;
- good analytical skills;
- insight into concepts, terminology and methodology as dictated by regional-disciplinary specialisation, as well as some experience in their application;
- research experience: the ability to locate, evaluate and use source materials, professional literature and research tools and techniques, as well as training in the oral and written presentation of results, both for monitoring purposes and for reporting in various professional settings.

The programme aims to raise students to a level of knowledge and skills that allows them to proceed to PhD research. Alternatively, graduates qualify for positions outside the university that require an academic level of thinking.

### Programme

Preparations for year 1 (*in situ*) are time-consuming. Students should apply for this programme as early as possible, preferably before 1 February and not later than 15 March. After this date, placement at a university in China/Taiwan for the MA-1 year cannot be guaranteed.

### Structure

The Master in Chinese Studies is divided into two parts.

#### *First Year*

The first year of the programme consists of intensive language acquisition in China or Taiwan. Applicants whose command of Chinese is assessed by the Department as

sufficient for program entry in year 2 are exempt from year 1 and enter the programme in its second year.

During the first year, the focus is on language acquisition. Students take special non-native speaker courses and – if their language skills are sufficient – courses from the regular programme. The Department of Chinese Studies has considerable experience in administering such *in situ* modules at National Taiwan Normal University, Peking University and other institutions in China and Taiwan.

Course levels *in situ* range from beginner to near-native. Students sign up for the appropriate level on the basis of recent scores in internationally recognised tests of Chinese as a foreign language, or examinations held at the beginning of the academic year. Courses are conducted entirely in Chinese, with the obvious exception of translation from and into English. In most, if not all courses, group size ranges from small (4 or 5 students) to medium (about 15 students), with up to 20 or 25 contact hours a week. Language pedagogy aims at giving students as much content exposure as possible. Courses may include training in Chinese as it is used in radio and TV bulletins, conversation, writing, Premodern Chinese, short stories, and translation.

### ***Second year***

The second year takes place in Leiden. Students join a Master's Class in Asian Studies, which concentrates on themes of scholarly significance across the region. Continued language training in the second year aims at an excellent command of Mandarin, and of Premodern Chinese for those whose research interest requires it, and focuses especially on broad and practical applications to the situations in which graduates often find themselves in their professional lives. Topics may include legal, commercial and political language use, language use on Internet, and language and the new media. A state-of-the-field seminar offers students context for their respective regional specialisations. Current scholarly discussions in Chinese Studies are linked to the critical evaluation of primary source materials.

In topical readings, a coherent series of Chinese texts are analysed according to a single theme, such as environmental problems or foreign policy. A writing course provides the students with more in-depth practice in written language skills, and focuses on basic skills such as taking minutes, reporting and correspondence.

### **Master's thesis and requirements for graduation**

In order to graduate, students must have successfully completed the 120 ects programme and have completed their final thesis as a component of that programme. The programme is concluded with a master's thesis based on original individual research. Students are supervised individually by staff members of the department.

The thesis for the Chinese Studies master's programme carries 15 ects, and as a rule contains a maximum of 10,000 words including notes, bibliography and appendices.

See also: [http://www.arts.leidenuniv.nl/students/ma\\_mphil.jsp](http://www.arts.leidenuniv.nl/students/ma_mphil.jsp)

## Programme schedule Master Chinese Studies

### Year 1

sem	course title	ISIScode	t.a.	level	ECTS
I + II	In China/Taiwan: Language Acquisition (Conversation, Writing, Classical Chinese, The News, Short Stories, Translation)	CM1LA05	400	60	
					<b>60</b>

### Year 2

sem	course title	ISIScode	t.a.	level	ECTS
I	Asian Studies Master Class:		s	500	10
I	Language Training: Modern Chinese Oral/ Aural	CM2LT05A	s	400	5
I	Language Training: Modern Chinese Reading/ Writing*	CM2LT05B	s	400	5
I	Language Training: Advanced Readings in Premodern Chinese*	CM2LT05C	s	400	5
I	State of the Field Seminar: Regionalism in East Asia**	CM2SREA	s	400	10
I	State of the Field Seminar: The Debate between Liberals and Neo-Confucians in Modern China**	CM2SNC	s	400	10
I	State of the Field Seminar: Modern Chinese Literature: The Exile Experience**	CM2SML	s	400	10
I	State of the Field Seminar: Art History**	CM2SKG	s	400	10
I	State of the Field Seminar: Political Economy of Contemporary China**	CM2SPE	s	400	10
					<b>30</b>
II	Topical Readings in Chinese	CM2TRC05	s	500	10
II	Chinese Writing	CM2CR05	s	500	5
II	MA-thesis	CM2TH05		500	15
					<b>30</b>

\* Student selects one of the two offered advanced language courses

\*\* Student selects one of the five offered State-of-the-Field Seminars

#### Key:

sem: semester

t.a.: teaching activity

s: seminar

l: lecture

sst: self-study

level: level-indication according to the Leiden 100-600 system