

Master Prospectus Korean Studies, 2008/2009

Programme overview, 2008/2009

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Objectives

Successful completion of the programme equips students with:

- an excellent command of Korean, and – for certain specialisations – a knowledge of Classical Chinese;
- broad knowledge of Korea and understanding of its internal and external dynamics;
- starting points for contextualising Korea within Asia;
- the ability to comment on Korea from different angles (e.g. Western Europe) for both specialist and general audiences, and to act as cultural mediators;
- understanding of the history of Korean studies and its current development, as well as its interfaces with various disciplines (e.g. Anthropology, (Art) History, Political science) and its social relevance;
- understanding of disciplinary thinking;
- good analytical skills;
- understanding of 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 methodology 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

Deadline for application is April 1st, 2008 for foreign students. Late applications (unless otherwise indicated) will not necessarily be refused, but applications received after the above-mentioned dates may lead to a delay in the processing of your application.

If you would like the Leiden University to arrange housing on your behalf, you are strongly advised to observe the application deadlines. International students who are already living in the Netherlands and who do not need a visa or housing can observe the deadlines for Dutch students (June 1st, 2008).

Structure

In the first semester courses are attended in Leiden. The next two semesters are spent at a Korean partner university. For the fourth and final semester students return to Leiden again.

First Semester

Much of the teaching in this semester overlaps with that of the Asian Studies Research Master's. The Master's Class in Asian Studies deals with a number of important cultural and cultural-historical subjects, such as 'the West seen as the Other' and also such issues as globalisation and frontier cultures in Asia, and Asian philosophies and religions. Language training in the second year aims at providing a command of Korean and focuses especially on broad and practical applications for situations in which graduates often find themselves in their professional lives. Topics include legal, commercial and political language use, and language use on the Internet and in new media. The state-of-the-field seminar offers students specialist knowledge. This discussion lecture aims to acquaint students with the primary sources of, and scientific literature about a subject relevant to Korean studies. Current scholarly discussions in the area of Korean studies are linked to the critical evaluation of primary source materials. Possible subjects of discussion are 'Historiography and public debate in present-day Korea', 'Religious reactions to modernisation and social change in Korea', and 'Colonial Modernity in Korea'.

Second and Third Semester

Korean language skills can only be improved by means of intensive contact with native speakers in Korea itself. The second and third semester of the programme consist of a stay at a good Korean university, where the emphasis lies on intensive language acquisition. There is a variety of course levels. Students sign up for the appropriate level on the basis either of recent scores in internationally recognised tests of Korean as a foreign language, or of examinations held at the beginning of the academic year. Courses are conducted entirely in Korean, with the obvious exception of translation from and into English. Language pedagogy aims at giving students as much content exposure as possible. For the language acquisition courses, the Korean Languages and Cultures Department of Leiden University has entered into student exchange agreements with Korea University, Seoul National University, Sungkyunkwan University, Sookmyung University, the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, and Yonsei University.

Fourth Semester

In the final semester, much time is once more devoted to writing and writing skills. In the topical readings course, a central theme, for example Korean historiography or traditional Korean literature, is studied through a coherent series of Korean texts. A course of lectures on writing in Korean 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 master's thesis as a component of that programme. The master's thesis should be based on a substantial use of primary material in the Korean language and the relevant academic literature. Students are supervised individually by staff members of the department. The thesis for the Korean Studies master's programme carries 15 ects, and as a rule contains a maximum of 17,000 words including notes, bibliography and appendices.

Also see: http://www.arts.leidenuniv.nl/students/ma_mphil.jsp >

Programme schedule

Year 1 + 1st semester year 2

sem	course title	ISIScode	t.a.	level	ECTS
I	Asian Studies Master Class: Theory and Method in Asian Studies	JM2TM07	s	500	10
I	State and Society in Modern Korea	KM2SFS07	s	500	10
I	Advanced Language Training : - Speaking and Writing - Reading	KM2LTAW KM2LTBW	s		5 5 30
sem	course title	ISIScode	t.a.	level	ECTS
II + III	In Korea: Language Acquisition (Conversation, Writing, The News, Short Stories, Translation)	KM1LA07		400	60 60

2nd semester year 2

sem	course title	ISIScode	t.a.	level	ECTS
II	Topical Readings in Korean	KM2TRK06	s	500	10
II	Korean Composition	KM2KR07	s	500	5
II	MA-thesis	KM2TH06	sst	500	15

Key:

sem : semester

t.a. : teaching activity

s. : seminar

l. : lecture

sst. : self-study

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

ECTS : European Credit Transfer System