

# Prospectus Research Master Middle Eastern Studies 2008-2009

## Programme overview, 2008/2009

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### Objectives

The research master's programme offers students an excellent basis for their academic career. It provides ideal preparation for future PhD research, and the students' chances of successfully completing such research projects are maximised.

By the end of the programme, students will have acquired:

- thorough knowledge and understanding of the field;
- thorough knowledge and understanding of the interdisciplinary position of the field;
- insight into the relevance of the field for society at large.
- the ability to independently select and compile relevant literature and sources, using traditional and modern techniques (heuristic skills);
- the ability to independently study relevant literature and sources and to assess their quality and reliability;
- the ability to formulate, under supervision, a clear and substantiated research problem and to break it down into well-defined and manageable sub-problems;
- the ability to make the results of research clear in a substantiated fashion in an oral and/or written report;
- the ability to set up and execute a research project under supervision.

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

#### Structure

The research master's programme has seven tracks, students select one of these tracks: Arabic, Persian and Berber (track 1 with three specialisations); Turkish Studies (track 2); Islamic Studies (track 3); Hebrew-Aramaic (track 4); Christianity of the Middle East (track 5); Egyptology (track 6); and Mesopotamia and Anatolia (track 7).

The programme consists of four semesters with a course load of 30 ects each. The courses have a weight of 10 ects each and students generally follow three courses per semester. All students from this research master have to take the following two courses: 'Sources and Methods of Middle East Studies: History and Social Theory' and a course on intellectual and cultural debates on issues relevant to the study of the Near and Middle East. Apart from these common core courses, every track has some obligatory courses specific to the track. Other courses are elective. Therefore, students can, within limits,

follow courses matching their own interests.

The programme also has a number of components which in form are similar in all tracks, but may differ (partly) in content per track or even per student, such as the Term Paper or Summer School (for which 10 erts are reserved in the second semester); the common course in the third semester; and in the fourth semester a Colloquium, in which students, doctoral candidates and lecturers report on their research.

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

In the third semester, students participate in specialised seminars, and simultaneously start working on their individual research, which will result in a master's thesis. The thesis must be based on the student's own research, including primary data. Whether this material is gathered during fieldwork and/or a study-abroad period depends on the track chosen by the student. The fourth semester is entirely reserved for the writing of the thesis. This phase can also be used to prepare an application for a PhD position.

In order to graduate, students need to have successfully completed the 120 erts programme and have completed the thesis (40 erts) as part of that programme. The thesis should be related to the expertise of at least one of the members of staff involved in the chosen track.

Also see: [hum.leiden.edu/students](http://hum.leiden.edu/students) > [regulations](#).

In cooperation with institutes and universities outside the Netherlands a part of some of the tracks is offered abroad. In some tracks (a part of) a semester abroad is fully incorporated, in other tracks a term or semester abroad is optional. For more practical information on these terms or semesters abroad, please contact the School of Middle Eastern Studies.

### **Programme schedule**

#### ***Track Arabic-Persian-Berber, specialisation Arabic***

<b>sem</b>	<b>course title</b>	<b>ISIScode</b>	<b>t.a.</b>	<b>level</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
I	Sources and Methods: History and Social Theory (Common Core Course)	MOMA 401	s	400	10
I	Literature seminar I: choose one of the following four courses				10
	Current Research on Language and Society of the Maghreb	ARMA 501	s	500	
	Trends in Arabic Literary History	ARMA 502	s	500	
	Theories and Methods of Islamic Studies	ISMA 409	s	400	
	Issues in Islam in the Middle East: Past and Present	MOMA 501	s	500	
I	Literature seminar II: see Literature seminar I				10
					30

II	Research Seminar: Text and Transmission	ARMA 504	s	500	10	
II	Anthropology of Islamic Law	ISMA 410	s	400	10	
	Alternatively, (and after having received written permission from the Board of Examination) students opt to take another relevant course offered in one of the other tracks of Middle Eastern Studies or at another University.					
II	Term Paper: Critical Study of Literature and Sources in Preparation for the MPhil Thesis	MES 503	sst	500	10	30
III	Research Seminar: Intellectual and Cultural Debates (Common Core Course)	MES 601	s	600	10	
III	Choose one of the following four courses:		s/l	600	10	
	The Islamic book: from Manuscript to Modern Media (including extra assignment)	MES 607				
	Current Research on Language and Society of the Maghreb (including extra assignment)	MES 608				
	Trends in Arabic Literary History (including extra assignment)	MES 610				
	Issues in Islam in the Middle East: Past and Present (including extra assignment)	MES 611				
III	Start of Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	10	30
IV	Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	30	30
						120

***Track Arabic-Persian-Berber, specialisation Persian***

	<b>sem course title</b>	<b>ISIScode</b>	<b>t.a. level</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
I	Sources and Methods: History and Social Theory (Common Core Course)	MOMA 401	s	400 10
I	Literature seminar I:			
	Classical Persian Poetry as a Living Tradition	NPMA 502	s	500 10
I	Literature seminar II one of the following three			500 10

courses

Issues in Islam in the Middle East: Past and Present	MOMA 501	s		
Text and Transmission: Persian Manuscripts	NPMA 503	s		
The Islamic book: from Manuscript to Modern Media	MES 501	s		
Current Intellectual Debates: Literature and Politics	NPMA 501	s		

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II	Research Seminar:		s	500	10
II	Persian Literature outside Iran: Literary History	NPMA 602	s	600	10
II	Term Paper / Summer School	MES 503	sst	500	10

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III	Research Seminar: Intellectual and Cultural Debates (Common Core Course)	MES 601	s	600	10
III	Master Class / Tutorial: Historiography and Cultural History	MES 602	s/l	600	10
III	Start of Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	10

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IV	Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	30
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***Track Arabic-Persian-Berber, specialisation Berber***

sem	course title	ISIScode	t.a.	level	ECTS
I	Sources and Methods: History and Social Theory (Common Core Course)	MOMA 401	s	400	10
I	Literature seminar I: Introduction to Berber Studies	MES 508	s	500	10
I	Literature seminar II: Select one of the following three options:				
	Current Research on Language and Society of the Maghreb	ARMA 501	s	500	10

	Berber Linguistics & Berber Linguistics: Assignment	MABER1 MABER2	s sst	600	5 5
	One of the following three Maghreb languages				
		Tashelhiyt	MES 507A MES 507B	500	5 5
		Tarifiyt	MARIF MARIF2	500	5 5
		Moroccan Arabic	MES 502	500	10
				30	
II	Semester at the Dutch-Moroccan Institute in Rabat				
II	Research Seminar (at Rabat)			500/ 600	10
II	Master Class / Tutorial (at Rabat)			500/ 600	10
II	Term Paper: Critical Study of Literature and Sources in Preparation for the MPhil Thesis / Summer School	MES 503	sst	500	10
					30
III	Research Seminar: Intellectual and Cultural Debates (Common Core Course)	MES 601	s	600	10
III	Select one of the following two options:				
	Berber Linguistics & Berber Linguistics: Assignment	MABER1 MABER2	s sst	600	5 5
	Current Research on Language and Society of the Maghreb	ARMA 501	s	500	10
	Alternatively, (and after having received written permission from the Board of Examination) students opt to take another relevant course offered in one of the other tracks of Middle Eastern Studies or at another department or university.				
III	Start of Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	10

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IV	Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	30	30
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**Track Turkish Studies**

sem	course title	ISIScode	t.a.	level	ECTS
I	Sources and Methods: History and Social Theory (Common Core Course)	MOMA 401	s	400	10
I	Literature seminar I: students choose one of the following five courses			500	10
	From Ottoman Empire to Turkish Republic	TUMA 501	s		
	The Ottoman Empire and Europe	TUMA 502	s		
	Christian Communities in the Ottoman Empire	RM5610	s		
	Society and Culture in Central Asia and the Caucasus	TUMA 510	s		
	Issues in Islam in the Middle East: Past and Present	MOMA 501	s		
I	Literature seminar II: see Literature seminar I			500	10
					30
II	During the second semester students follow at least two courses at Sabanci University, Istanbul of 10 ECTS each (in total 20 ECTS). A list of the courses on offer will be made available in the Fall semester.				
II	Students who remain in Leiden can choose from the following courses up to a total of 20 ECTS. All courses can be extended to 10 ECTS by means of an extra assignment:				
	Topics in Turkish Linguistics	TUMA 505	s	500	5
	Worlds of Fiction: Modernism and Post-Modernism in Turkish Literature and Film	TUMA 506	s	500	5
	Manuscripts as Sources for the History of Ottoman Culture	TUMA 507	s	500	5
	The European Union and the Turkic World	TUMA	s	500	5

	(Turkey, the Caucasus and Central Asia)	513				
	From Protectorates to Sovereign States: Soviet and post-Soviet Central Asia	TUMA 512	s	500	5	
II	One of the following two options:			sst	500	10
	Term Paper	MES 503				
	Summer School (Baku)					30
III	Research Seminar: Intellectual and Cultural Debates (Common Core Course)	MES 601	s	600	10	
III	Master Class / Tutorial: students choose one of the following four courses			s/l	600	10
	From Ottoman Empire to Turkish Republic (including extra reading)	MES 603	s			
	Ottoman Empire and Europe (including extra reading)	MES 604	s			
	The Islamic book: from Manuscript to Modern Media (including extra assignment)	MES 607	s			
	Society and Culture in Central Asia and the Caucasus (including extra reading)	MES 609	s			
III	Start of Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	10	30
IV	Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	30	30
						120

***Track Egyptology***

	<b>sem course title</b>	<b>ISIScode</b>	<b>t.a.</b>	<b>level</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
I	Egyptian Temple Inscriptions of the Graeco-Roman Period	EGMA 501	s	500	10
I	Papyrology: select one of the following three courses			500	10
	Demotic Papyrology	EGMA 502	s		
	Greek Papyrology	EGMA 503	s		

	Coptic Papyrology	EGMA 504	s			
I	Egyptology in the Field: Research and Facilities in Egypt (Two months at the Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo)	EGMA 505		500	10	30
II	Research Seminar: Intellectual and Cultural Debates (Common Core Course)	MES 601	s	600	10	
II	Master Class: : Problems and Priorities	EGMA 601		600	10	
II	Term Paper	MES 503	sst	500	10	30
III	Sources and Methods: History and Social Theory (Common Core Course)	MOMA 401	s	400	10	
III	Master Class: Documentary Texts from Deir el-Medina and their Social and Cultural Setting	MES 606	s/l	600	10	
III	Start of Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	10	30
IV	Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	30	30
						120

***Track Mesopotamia and Anatolia***

	<b>sem course title</b>	<b>ISIScode</b>	<b>t.a. level</b>		<b>ECTS</b>
I	Sources and Methods: History and Social Theory (Common Core Course)	MOMA 401	s	400	10
I	Literature seminar I: Select one of the following three courses			500	10
	The Languages of Old West Asia	ASMA 501	s		
	The Archaeological Context of Archives	ASMA 502	s		
	The Society of Mesopotamia and Anatolia	ASMA 503	s		
I	Literature seminar II: (see Literature seminar I)		S	500	10 30

II	Research Seminar: Intellectual and Cultural Debates (Common Core Course)	MES 601	s	600	10
II	Master Class / Tutorial: Religion and Science in West Asia before the Greeks	ASMA 601		600	10
II	Term Paper / Summer School	MES 503	sst	500	10
					30
III	Semester abroad				
III	Research Seminar (abroad)			500/ 600	10
III	Master Class / Tutorial (abroad)			500/ 600	10
III	Start of Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	10
					30
IV	Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	30
					30
					120

***Track Islamic Studies***

	<b>sem course title</b>	<b>ISIScode</b>	<b>t.a.</b>	<b>level</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
I	Sources and Methods: History and Social Theory	MOMA 401	s	400	10
I	The Empirical Study of Islam in Contemporary Europe: The Phenomenon of Conversions (including extra assignment)	???	s	400	10
I	Literature seminar II: choose one of the following four courses				10
	Fatwas and the Dissemination of Religious Authority in Indonesia	ISMA 402		400	
	The Islamic book: from Manuscript to Modern Media	MES 501	s	500	
	Comparative study of Religion (including extra assignment)	?????	s	500	
	Theories and Methods of Islamic Studies	ISMA 409	s	400	
I	Bi-weekly staff seminar	ISMA 405a		400	*
					30

II	Research Seminar: Text and Transmission	ARMA 504	s	500	10	
II	Anthropology of Islamic Law	ISMA 410	s	400	10	
II	Term Paper: Critical Study of Literature and Sources in Preparation for the MPhil Thesis	MES 503	sst	500	10	
II	Bi-weekly staff seminar	ISMA 405b		400	*	
						30
III	Research Seminar: Intellectual and Cultural Debates	MES 601	s	600	10	
III	Master class: choose one of the following three courses		s	600	10	
	Fatwas and the Dissemination of Religious Authority in Indonesia (with extra assignment)	MES 612				
	Issues in Islam in the Middle East: Past and Present (including extra assignment)	MES 611				
	The Islamic book: from Manuscript to Modern Media (with extra assignment)	MES 607				
III	Start of Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	10	
III	Bi-weekly staff seminar	ISMA 405c		400	*	
						30
IV	Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	30	
IV	Bi-weekly staff seminar	ISMA 405d		400	*	
						30
						120

***Track Hebrew-Aramaic***

	<b>sem course title</b>	<b>ISIScode</b>	<b>t.a. level</b>	<b>ECTS</b>	
I	Sources and Methods: History and Social Theory (Common Core Course)	MOMA 401	s	400	10
I	Literature seminar I: Reading Source Texts	HAMA 501	s	500	10
I	Literature seminar II: Historical Grammar of	HAMA	s	500	10

	Hebrew and Aramaic	502			30
II	Research Seminar: Intellectual and Cultural Debates (Common Core Course)	MES 601	s	600	10
II	Master Class / Tutorial: select one of the following three tutorials:			600	10
	Hebrew Literature	HAMA 601	s		
	Cultural History of Communities Writing in Aramaic	HAMA 602	s		
	Northwest Semitic Epigraphy	HAMA 605	s		
II	Term Paper / Summer School	MES 503	sst	500	10 30
III	Semester abroad				
III	Research Seminar (abroad)			500/ 600	10
III	Master Class / Tutorial (abroad)			500/600	10
III	Start of Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	10 30
IV	Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	30 30
					120

***Track Christianity of the Middle East***

	<b>sem course title</b>	<b>ISIScode</b>	<b>t.a. level</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
I	Sources and Methods: History and Social Theory (Common Core Course)	MOMA 401	s	400 10
I	Literature seminar I: Christian Literature of the Middle East	MES 523	s	500 10
I	Literature seminar II: choose one or two of the following courses up to a total of 10 ECTS			
	Art History and Archaeology of the Christian Middle East (This course has a weight of 5	MES 524	s	500 5 (10)

ECTS, but can be extended to 10 ECTS)

Christian Communities in the Ottoman Empire

(This course has a weight of 5 ECTS, but can be extended to 10 ECTS)

	RM5610	s	500	5 (10)
Issues in Islam in the Middle East: Past and Present	MOMA 501	s	500	10
				30

II	Research Seminar: Intellectual and Cultural Debates (Common Core Course)	MES 601	s	600	10
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II	Religion, Art and Identity of Christian Societies in the Middle East	MES 525	s	500	10
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II	Term Paper / Summer School	MES 503	sst	500	10
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III Semester abroad

III	Research Seminar (abroad)			500/ 600	10
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III	Master Class / Tutorial (abroad)			500/ 600	10
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III	Start of Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	10
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IV	Thesis Work	MES 600	sst	600	30
					30

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