FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (OER)

Part B: Master's degree programme in

Middle Eastern Studies

ISAT 60842

for the academic year 2025-2026

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Section 1 General provisions

Article 1.1 – Applicability

These Regulations comprise two parts – Part A and Part B. This is the degree programme-specific Part B to complement Part A, which contains general provisions which apply to the teaching, examinations and final assessments of the Master's degree programmes provided by the Faculty of Arts, hereinafter referred to as **the Faculty**. Part B contains stipulations that specifically concern the Master's degree programme in **Middle Eastern Studies**.

Section 2 – Admission

Article 2.1 – Entry requirements

1. Students with a Dutch or foreign certificate of higher education that indicates that they have knowledge and understanding of, and subject-specific skills in, Middle Eastern Studies at an academic Bachelor's level will be admitted to the degree programme.
2. Holders of a certificate from the Bachelor's degree programme in *Middle Eastern Studies* from the University of Groningen or from another Dutch university are expected to have the knowledge, understanding and skills listed in Article 2.1.1 and will be admitted to the degree programme on that basis.
3. Holders of a certificate from a Bachelor's degree programme of a Humanities/Arts or Law Faculty of a Dutch University other than that listed in Article 2.1.2, who have completed the Faculty Minor in Middle-Eastern Studies at the University of Groningen, are expected to have the knowledge, understanding and skills listed in Article 2.1.1 and will be admitted to the degree programme on that basis.
4. If a student does not have a Bachelor's degree as mentioned in Article 2.1.2 or Article 2.1.3, the Admissions Board is responsible for investigating whether the candidate can be admitted on basis of their knowledge, understanding and general level equivalent to that of a Bachelor's degree as mentioned in Article 2.1.2 or Article 2.1.3.

Article 2.2 – Language requirement for foreign certificates

1. Students who have been admitted to the degree programme on the basis of a foreign certificate or degree may be required by the Board of Examiners to pass an English language test before registration, to be held by an agency stipulated by the Board of Examiners.
2. The English language proficiency requirement can be met by passing an examination in English at the level of the VWO final exam or by passing the TOEFL iBT with a score of at least 90 (with a minimum score of 21 on each individual part) or an IELTS score of 6.5 (with a minimum score of 6.0 on each individual part).

Article 2.3 Admission to the Master's tracks

In addition to the provisions of Article 2.1, the following admission requirements apply to the various tracks in this Master's degree programme:

A Bachelor's degree in Middle Eastern Studies (UG), History or International Relations/International Organization ensures no-threshold access to this Master's degree programme.
Holders of an academic Bachelor's degree of an Arts/Humanities or Law Faculty from a Dutch University will be admitted to the Master's degree programme after completing the Faculty minor in Middle Eastern Studies. Holders of an academic Bachelor's degree in a field relevant to the Master's degree programme that do not comply with the above conditions may be admitted upon explicit approval of the Admissions Board of the degree programme. The Admissions Board will assess whether the programme followed and the level of the Bachelor's degree obtained are sufficient in order to be able to participate in the Master's degree programme in Middle Eastern Studies.

Section 3 Content and structure of the degree programme

Article 3.1 – Student workload

1. The student workload of the degree programme is 60 ECTS.
2. The student workload is expressed in whole ECTS credit points.

Article 3.2 Learning outcomes of the degree programme

Master's qualifications (Dublin Descriptors)	**Learning outcomes of the Master's degree programme in Middle Eastern Studies**
	Graduates of the Master's degree programme in Middle Eastern Studies have demonstrated the following:
Knowledge and understanding Graduates have demonstrable knowledge and understanding that is founded upon and extends and/or enhances what is typically associated with the Bachelor's level and that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying ideas within a research context.	**1.** specialist knowledge in the field of political and religious developments in the present-day Middle East **2.** the understanding that is needed in order to study the field from theoretical and methodological perspectives, and knowledge of common approaches in this context **3.** familiarity with the academic codes of behaviour/ethics regarding references to and use of the work and insights of others and regarding the collection and processing of empirical data **4.** in-depth knowledge and understanding of current developments in the field
Applying knowledge and understanding Graduates have the ability to apply their knowledge, understanding and problem-solving abilities in new and unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field of study; they are also able to integrate their knowledge and process complex materials.	**5.** the ability to formulate an academic problem independently, and in so doing, to select and apply an adequate theoretical framework and one or more relevant research methods **6.** the ability to deal creatively and systematically with complex issues and reach well-reasoned conclusions **7.** the ability to write and speak as well-informed critics or empirically-oriented academics in a well-founded, independent way, making adequate use of relevant questions, debates and developments in culture and the media **8.** the ability to study the relationships between characteristics of the Western world and the Middle East in an academically sound way **9.** the ability to study, in an academically sound way, how concepts and activities contribute to the societal functioning of expressions related to the Middle East **10.** the ability to provide an academic analysis of a genre, period, movement or body of work in relation to the Middle East **11.** the ability to independently conduct theoretical and empirical research within their own field **12.** the ability to use the academic knowledge, understanding and skills acquired in fulfilling a position in society and/or academia, bearing in mind ethical and societal questions

Making judgements Graduates have the ability to integrate knowledge, handle complexity and formulate judgements with incomplete or limited information, including reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgements.	**13.** the ability to take a well-reasoned standpoint with regard to current developments in the field and to defend this standpoint in oral and written debates **14.** the ability to provide an independent, well-founded, comparative analysis and interpretation of aspects of the Middle East **15.** the ability to critically assess theoretical and empirical research within their own field
Communication Graduates have the ability to communicate their conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously.	**16.** the ability to use academic research and to present the results of such research in both oral and written form to specialist and non-specialist audiences
Learning skills Graduates have the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.	**17.** the ability to efficiently and effectively process large amounts of complex information **18.** the awareness that developments within and outside the field require continuous further learning, as well as the oral and written language proficiency that is required in order to be able to continue to follow the academic literature and debate in the field **19.** the ability to follow developments in the discipline, to extend and deepen their own knowledge and understanding and to apply this knowledge and understanding in professional practice **20.** the necessary skills to perform their jobs successfully. This includes: o demonstrate initiative and personal responsibility o be able to take decisions in complex and unpredictable situations o the ability to work independently o the ability to function as a member of a team

See appendix 1 for the Assessment Plan, including the Matrix of learning outcomes attained/instruc units passed in the degree programme.

Article 3.3 – Medium of Instruction

1. The degree programme is taught in English.
2. The thesis/final assignment must be written in Dutch or English. The thesis/final assignment may only be written in a language other than Dutch or English if the Board of Examiners has given permission to do so.

Article 3.4 – Master's tracks

The degree programme has the following Master's tracks:

No.	Master's track
1	Middle Eastern Studies

Article 3.5 – Composition of Master's tracks

1. The Master's track comprises the following course units with their related student workloads:

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	Conflicts in the Middle East	10 ECTS
2	International Organizations, Imperialism and the Middle East	5 ECTS
3	Understanding Sectarianism and Minorities in the Middle East	5 ECTS
4	Memory, Heritage and Politics in the MENA	5 ECTS
5	Contemporary Developments in the Middle East	5 ECTS
6	Tutorial/Placement/Study abroad period	10 ECTS
7	Master's thesis	20 ECTS

All course units are listed in the online course catalogue OCASYS.

1. Because of changing titles/content in 2024-2025, a transitional arrangement has been made for the following course (from 2025-2026 onward):

- International Organizations, Governance and the Middle East (old)
- International Organizations, Imperialism and the Middle East (new)

2. The modes of instruction and assessment for the course units listed above are set out in the syllabus for each individual course unit and the Assessment Plan for the degree programme.
3. In situations of force majeure, when it is not reasonably possible to provide teaching in the manner stated in OCASYS, alternative modes of instruction and assessment may temporarily be used. This is on condition that the prescribed learning outcomes are still achieved upon completion of the degree programme.

Section 4 Tests and examinations of the degree programme

Article 4.1 – Compulsory order

The examinations for the course units listed below may not be taken before the examinations for the associated course units have been passed:

no.	Course unit	no.	After having successfully completed the following course unit(s)
6	Master's thesis	1-5	Having obtained at least 20 ECTS of the compulsory course units (1 t/m 5)

SECTION 5 TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 5.1 – Amendments

1. Any amendments to part A of these Regulations will, after discussion with and where necessary approval from the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
2. Any amendments to Part B of these Regulations will, following a recommendation by and/or upon the approval of the Programme Committee and the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
3. Any amendments to these Regulations will not apply to the current academic year, unless it may reasonably be assumed that the amendment in question will not harm the interests of students.
4. In addition, the Board of Examiners may not take any decisions under these regulations that would be to the disadvantage of students.

Article 5.2 – Publication

1. The Faculty Board will duly publish these Regulations, any rules and guidelines formulated by the Board of Examiners, and any amendments to these documents.
2. Copies of the documents referred to in Article 5.2.1 are available from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website through the Student Portal.

Article 5.3 – Date of commencement

These Regulations will take effect on 17 October 2025.

These Regulations were decreed by the Board of the Faculty of Arts on 17 October 2025 and approved by the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee where required.

Appendices:
Appendix 1: Assessment Plan