

Your future?

Discover what works for our students



**Universiteit
Leiden**

The Netherlands

Discover the world at Leiden University

Do you want to know more about the relation between studies and work?

Visit:

 bachelors.leiden.edu
 yourprospectsforwork.nl



Barbara Sumer
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Our studies?

The Faculty of Humanities provides courses such as Film and Literary Studies, Dutch Studies, Chinese Studies, History, Philosophy, Japan Studies and International Studies. We are often asked: "Nice course, but what can I do with it in the future?" To provide a satisfactory answer, a study into the job market is conducted every few years. This way, we find out what our students have become, how they found their jobs, and which preparation worked best. Good for you and for us, for this way we are able to provide you with even better coaching. In this brochure more about your prospects for work!

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Disclaimer:

The greatest care has been exercised during the composition of this brochure. Nonetheless, there is a possibility that it contains inaccuracies or that the information gets out of date in due course. The most current information can always be found on the website <http://hum.leiden.edu/careerservice>. If you have any comments about this publication, please send an e-mail to loopbaanservice@hum.leidenuniv.nl.

Advice about internships and work?

Contact the Student Career Service.
We can help you with the following:

- ▶ Individual advice on internships and career
- ▶ Workshops about job applications
- ▶ Careers test
- ▶ Employers' information
- ▶ Information on the labour market
- ▶ Vacancies (for internship and job)
- ▶ CV and application letter check

 071-5272235

 loopbaanservice@hum.leidenuniv.nl

 hum.leiden.edu/careerservice

Bezoekadres: Lipsius, Cleveringaplaats 1,
Leiden, ground floor

 Loopbaan Service Geesteswetenschappen

 Internship: [Twitter.com/ stagegeest /](https://twitter.com/stagegeest/)

 Work: [Twitter.com/loopbaangeest](https://twitter.com/loopbaangeest)

 Humanities Faculty - Universiteit Leiden



Tom van der Meer

Degree programmes: Bachelor / Master China Studies

Position: Publishing and editorial assistant

Organisations: Boom Uitgevers The Hague,
Eleven International Publishing, Leiden University

“My job has a lot of variety”

I found my job by chance. A friend helped me to find a job as a freelancer at publishing house Boom. When I was at the office for two consecutive weeks, one of the editors unexpectedly dropped out. Because of this, the publishing house offered me a contract to take over her tasks.

As a publishing and editing assistant, I am responsible for a portfolio of around 16 books and 5 magazines. I supervise the process from manuscript to printed book/magazine. To do this I need to keep in touch with the authors and make sure the manuscript goes through all the steps of the process. For example, I send books straight from the author to a company that checks the use of language, then to the team which typesets the text and then back to the author for a final check. In the meanwhile, I ask a designer to design a nice cover.

So on the one hand I am working on the text itself, for instance by checking the corrections (editing assistant), and on the other hand I coordinate the process (publishing assistant).

I do not use any specific skills of my programme of China Studies, like Chinese, but I do use general skills, such as formal communication, mostly in English, planning, searching for information and – frequently – solving unexpected problems. To keep in touch with my original field of expertise, I work as a student assistant one day a week at a China Studies tutorial. And I supervise an introductory module in China Studies for secondary school pupils.

My most useful tip:

During my studies I attended several workshops at the Student Career Service. This helped me a lot when learning how to apply for jobs. Therefore, I recommend everyone to start doing this on time. In addition, I have done a work placement at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs; this was a very valuable experience.

A master's degree **pays off**

After university, it doesn't take our students very long to find a job. On average, 74% found a job within two months after their graduation. 78% immediately found a job on academic or hbo level (hbo is a Dutch type of university for professional education). It took 19% between two and six months to find a job and 7% needed more than half a year. That last figure is not surprising, because unemployment among starters was considerable in both 2012 and 2013, even among those who received higher education. If you enter the job market with a bachelor's and a master's degree, you will – on average – obtain a higher position than with a bachelor's degree alone. 80% of those with a master's degree are able to find a job on hbo or academic level, compared to 62% with only a bachelor's degree. In short: a master's degree pays off.

“Our graduates find work quite easily”

Research

In the autumn of 2013 we asked TNS Nipo to conduct a study among students who graduated between 2012 and 1 July 2013. Graduates from this period (1,664 in total) were asked by e-mail and by letter to return a questionnaire. 25,5% of the graduates responded. Because of the research method chosen, the number of respondents, and their large diversity, TNS Nipo concluded that the results of the questionnaire gave a sufficiently correct and varied impression to make statements about the entire group.

Striking facts

76% of our students with relevant work experience found a paid job within two months. For alumni without relevant work experience, this is 67%. Relevant work experience signifies that the students did a work placement, had a relevant job on the side, or were a member of the board during their time at university. It was also striking that the group of students who have only done their master's programme in Leiden contained a large number (59%) of international students. Of this number, a relatively large group now works below their level of education. An explanation would be that international students earn less on average in another country, or that it is harder for them to find a job in The Netherlands.

Level of employment with a bachelor's and a master's degree:

- 40% academic level
- 28% hbo or academic level
- 10% hbo level
- 8% below hbo level
- 14% no specific level/level unclear

What do they earn at their current jobs?

- 16% over €2600
- 24% between €2300 and €2599
- 15% between €2000 and €2299
- 14% between €1700 and €1999
- 31% less than €1700

The appeal of humanities students

The world is more and more connected, and social and technological developments take place at an incredible pace. Our students learn to get to know the world and to find answers to complex current issues. They have knowledge of specific countries, events, cultures, and regions. At the same time, they are broadly educated. Because they are used to study other cultures, they are able to view (global) issues from different perspectives. Examples of such issues are “How will The Netherlands be able cooperate better within the European Union?”. During their studies, our students read a large number of texts and wrote a lot of papers. By analysing and interpreting complex information, and processing this into a presentation or a readable, you develop skills which come in very handy when you want to pursue a career as a journalist, communications consultant, negotiator, teacher, press officer, or policy adviser.

Remarkable

A study by The University of Oxford has shown that scholars are much more influential than we tend to think. They have a large impact on politics, the government, and on journalism.

Source: *Humanities Graduates and the British Economy: The Hidden Impact* University of Oxford July 2013.



Linn ten Haaf

Degree programmes: Bachelor / Master Latin- American Studies

Position: Management Trainee HR

Organisation: Unilever

“I realised I wanted to work for an international company”

After studying Systems Engineering, Policy Analysis & Management at Delft University for a year, I decided to follow my passion: to study Latin-America Studies in Leiden. During my studies I did as much on the side as possible. For instance, I took on a full-time board membership, and I did a work placement in Buenos Aires for half a year. During my master’s programme I took part in the Leiden Leadership Programme for developing personal and leadership qualities. Because of all these experiences at university, I realised I wanted a career at a large international company.

Study provided useful skills for my job

In September 2013 I became an HR management trainee at Unilever. Trainees here get a real job right from the start. Together with my manager I support the head of the sales department of Europe in the field of human resources. It’s a very diverse job: one day I am conducting salary negotiations with a Unilever expat who is coming to The Netherlands, and the next day I am drawing up a plan to match the right people to the right positions even better. Of course, I do not directly apply

the knowledge I acquired during my studies, but I do notice intercultural cooperation on an international workplace comes easy to me because of everything I know about different cultures. My degree programme and my relevant job as a student assistant also provided me with skills such as cooperating and planning and executing projects independently.

Why Unilever?

The young, international corporate culture, the professional atmosphere and the direct responsibility given to trainees at Unilever immediately appealed to me. Everyone is proud of the famous brands and the vision of Unilever; it’s all so catching! Moreover, I enjoy making an effort for people, and of course human resources is all about getting the best out of people.

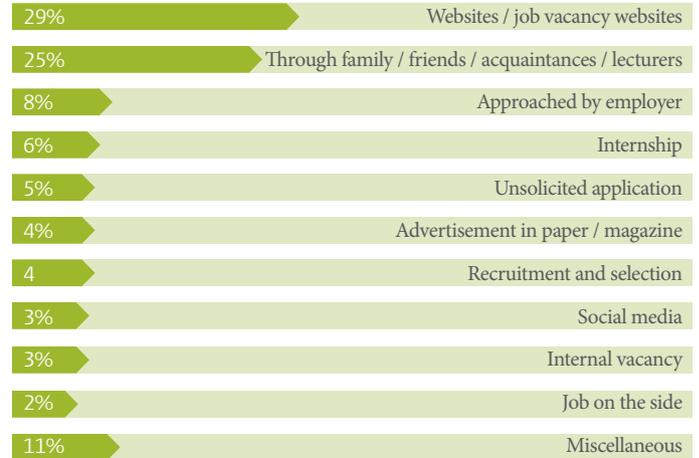
My most useful tip: Consider your future consciously and show your future employer – with your choice of programme and your activities on the side – your passion and what you’ve got to offer. Good luck!

Work prospects

You're done studying: you have to find a job now. How do you go about that? Do you put your network into action, or do you chiefly look online? It turns out: students do both.

Students who have obtained both a bachelor's and a master's degree in Leiden say more often than average that they use word of mouth to look for a job, and they also use social media more than average. Students who have only completed a master's degree in Leiden put their network into action less often. This could be explained by the large group of international students included in this group (59%), which has had fewer opportunities to build such a network in the Netherlands. Incidentally, 47% of the graduates find a job through their network. The network consists of friends, family, acquaintances, but also an employee who approaches you, internal vacancies, and contacts/ positions through an internship, job on the side, or social media. So it is a good idea to invest in your network.

By which means did you obtain your current position?



Remarkable facts

61% of the people with paid employment indicate that they hold the position they aspire to. The other 39% have various reasons why they chose a different position: to at least have an income; because a position at their own level was not available at the time; and as a stepping stone towards a better job by obtaining work experience so they can advance in their career. Half of the graduates without paid employment indicate that they are not able to find a paid job; a third thereof indicates that the desired position cannot be found at the moment.

What helps your career the most?

1. Academic skills
2. Academic diploma
3. Relevant work experience during studies
4. Internship(s)
5. Courses of the major / specialisation

What do you do if you don't find your dream job right away?

As a starter on the job market, it's not always possible to start in your dream job straight away. In that case you have a number of options. For instance, you could look for other employment in the sector of your preference, or see whether you can gain work experience for your dream position in a different sector. Suppose you want to become a communications consultant for a development organization, but that job is not up for grabs. Then try to find a position as a communications consultant somewhere else.

In which branch do students work after their bachelor and master degree (%)?

Education	21
Research	14
Government	10
Communication	7
Culture, sports, and recreation	7
Business services	5
Journalism	4
Consultancy	4
ICT	3
Industry	3
Health and welfare services	3
Other*	19

* Including banks, publishers, and nonprofit organisations.



Sara Tariq

Position: Copy editor for an educational institution
Degree programmes: Bachelor Middle Eastern Studies, Bachelor / Master Religious Studies
Organisation: An educational institution

“Really a research assistant”

During my position as student assistant at the ICS (information centre for students) and the new disability centre I was recommended for my second student assistant position by a co-ordinator of studies whom I had interviewed for her former assistant position. I was actively involved in all sorts of matters that I would not have learned about otherwise. I truly got a taste of ‘the real world’ outside of my studies. That was very valuable. What is more, I acquired a whole range of social, analytical and research skills, from which I still benefit.

From one job to the next

I also still reap the rewards from my summer job at publishing house Brill, where I worked freelance in 2008, editing the Encyclopedédie de l’Islam, Index des Noms Propres. That job on the side also looked good on my CV, and definitely helped when I was applying. And thanks to that job on the side, I found a full-time job during my master’s at the same private educational institution where I still work.

My most useful tip: Play your cards right and combine your studies with a summer job, job on the side, internship, or pick your minor and thesis subject strategically.

Field of work (%)?

Teaching	18
Research and development	15
Writing/ editing	8
Administration/ accounting	6
Sales	6
Communication	5
Consultancy/ advise	5
Management	5
Marketing/advertising/PR	5
Policy development	4
Miscellaneous	16

Various employers

Our students end up working for diverse employers. As a result they work in many different sectors and practice various professions. You could think of jobs like fund raiser, translator, journalist, curator, policy adviser, marketer, communications consultant, teacher, researcher, and ICT consultant.



Leiden University is an international university which connects people and knowledge.



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