



Guide to the MSc Programme

Cultural Anthropology & Development Sociology

SEPTEMBER 2025 intake



Universiteit
Leiden
Social and Behavioural Sciences

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WELCOME AT CADS

Welcome to the MSc Programme Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology!

This document provides some essential information on the structure and organisation of the programme.

Detailed information on the programme can be found on the [website of the Institute CADS](#) and in the [Prospectus](#).

As specified in the Prospectus, the MSc CADS offers three specialisations: [Global Ethnography](#), [Sociology of Policy in Practice](#) and [Visual Ethnography](#).

Disclaimer: No rights can be derived from this booklet. The education and exam regulations (Onderwijs en Examen Reglement - OER) and the online Prospectus (which is an addition to it) are authoritative.



STRUCTURE OF THE MSc PROGRAMME

An Integrated Programme

The course Contemporary Anthropological and Social Theory introduces incoming master students to the highest standards of empirical reasoning employed in the discipline, with a particular emphasis on the art of ethnographic research. In addition, the course Research Design (specialisation-specific groups) consists of three-hour tutorials in which students link literature and in-class discussions to their individual fieldwork topics. Together with the individual supervision by one of our staff, these courses facilitate the writing of the research proposal.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES & INTERNSHIPS

Students enrolled in one of the MSc programmes CADS develop their own research project that includes several months of fieldwork. The project is intended to teach you how to do research, and how to analyse the data, it is 'learning by doing'. Global Ethnography (GE) students can make use of the research opportunities offered by our staff members listed on the website of CADS. A separate heading lists the research internships that the institute is currently offering as part of the Sociology of Policy in Practice (PiP). Please check these pages regularly for updates, as new research opportunities and research internships may be added.





The study advisor grants permission to conduct field research once the following conditions are met:

(1) The student's Research Proposal must receive a pass grade (6-10) from its individual supervisor. The assessment form should be sent to the study advisor.

(2) The individual supervisor must approve the language proficiency of the student, as applicable to the field research envisaged.

(3) The *Ethics form* has to be filled out completely and sent to the study advisor.

(4) A *Letter of Liability* has to be filled out completely and sent to the study advisor.

(5) In case of field research abroad, the student has to register in uSis in the *Study Abroad portal*. In this portal, it is particularly important to fill out your complete contact details at which you can be reached while abroad.

obtaining an **INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISOR**



After the first weeks of the programme, you will be assigned an individual supervisor, a member of the CADS faculty with whom you will work on your research project. You will regularly meet your individual supervisor and discuss with them how your project is progressing. The individual supervisor will also be one of the two members of staff to review and grade your thesis.

METHODS IN PRACTICE

The course Research Design encompasses a mandatory 'Methods in Practice' (MiP) week, which is intended to provide you with hands on training with respect to ethnologic method.

The MiP week is scheduled for 14-17 October 2025.

In order to make full use of the time available for the MiP week, the training will be conducted from Tuesday morning until Friday afternoon in Amsterdam.

Daytime will be dedicated to individual methodological exercises, which are then evaluated in the evening.

During the stay food (vegan/vegetarian) and drinks (non-alcoholic) will be provided by the Institute CADS. Dormitories on location are available and will be substantially sponsored by the Institute CADS. If you want to make use of this accommodation, we demand a contribution of 50 euro per person (for three nights). Further details will follow in September 2025.





research

LOCATIONS

In the first weeks of the MSc you will be asked to propose a preliminary topic. You will also be asked to specify the location(s) at which you would like to do fieldwork, the networks you have in place to enable it, and clarify how you will communicate (in what language) with your research interlocutors. You will also need to make sure that you can create an iterative feedback process for yourself locally to discuss your data and thoughts/interpretations.

During the fieldwork, you will need to interact with your supervisor via e-mail or social media. Dependent on the location of your fieldwork, you may or may not be visited by one of the Leiden supervisors during fieldwork.

Please note we can only approve destinations that have a code green or code yellow according to the Dutch government, during your fieldwork. Please check the Dutch government travel advice and the Health and Safety page.



the research **PROPOSAL**

A research proposal is a paper not shorter than 15 pages. More info on contents and criteria can be found in the [Prospectus](#). The final version of your proposal should be submitted via Brightspace before Monday 8 December, 12:00. *You cannot start your fieldwork unless the research proposal has been graded.*

Please discuss the drafting of your research proposal with your individual supervisor. In case of a re-take, submission of the revised research proposal: Monday 5 January 2026. The fieldwork period will then shift forward by (at least) one week.



FIELD REPORTS

Throughout your fieldwork period, you will write three mandatory reports.

Fieldwork/Internship report 1

Operationalization in the field (500 words)

Take the main concepts from your research proposal, and explore what these translate into in the field. Indicate strategies how you will research them.

(To be submitted to your supervisor after 3 weeks in the field)

Fieldwork/Internship report 2

Reflection on the fieldwork experience (500 words)

A progress report. How is it going so far? What have you done, what do you still want to do?

(To be submitted to your supervisor after 6 weeks in the field)

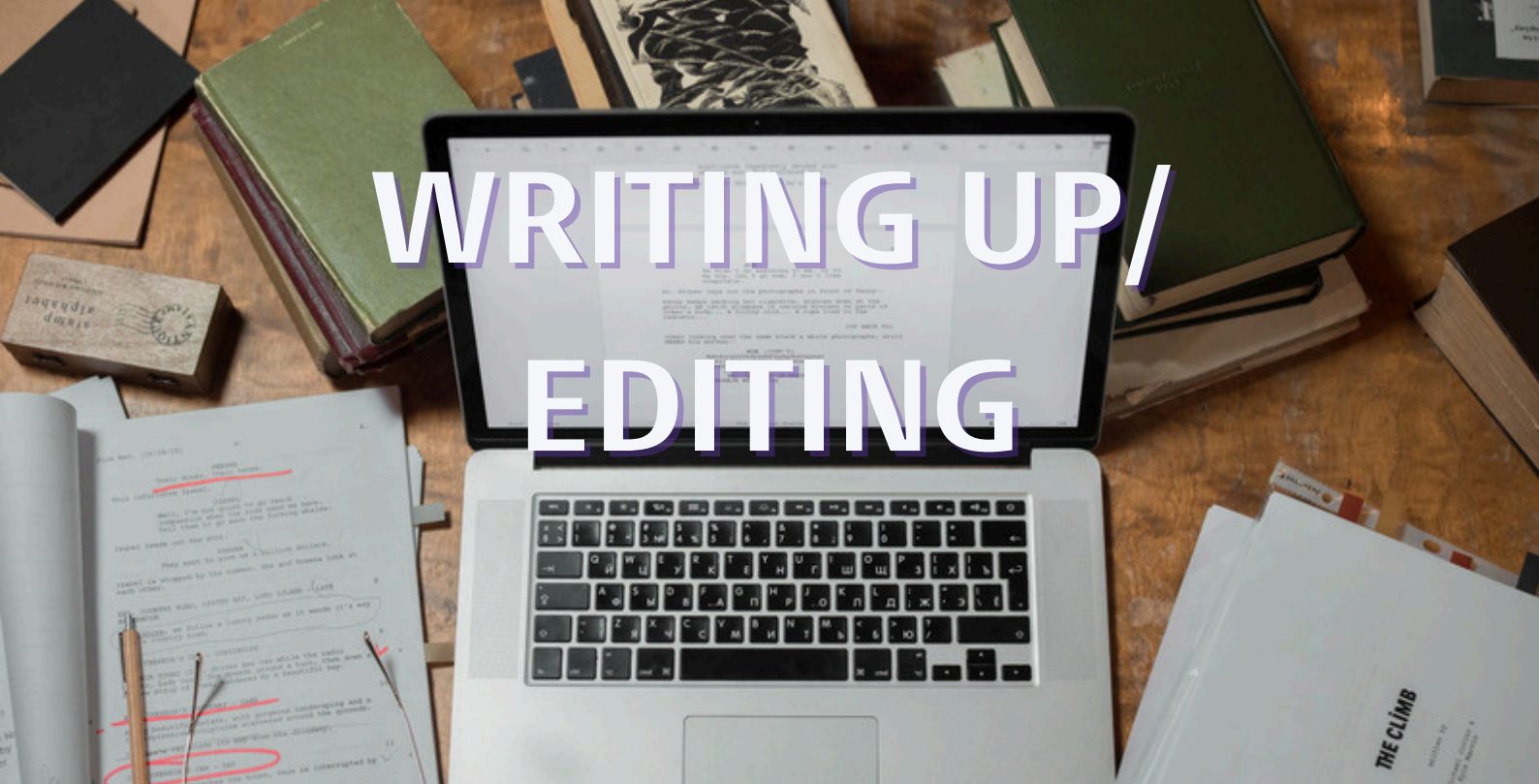
Fieldwork/Internship report 3 (final)

Preliminary analysis/Interpretation of the data (2000 words)

What are your findings so far? What themes have emerged? What patterns have you detected? What more do you want to explore?

(To be drafted in your final weeks in the field, and to be submitted 4 days before the start of the Thesis Seminar)

The final report will also be used as a stepping stone to a further discussion of the writing process, or in case of a visual project, the editing of a film.



WRITING UP / EDITING

The trajectory by which you process your data, will normally encompass the following phases:

- Analysis of your data: finding the topic and especially connections between different topics
- Reading literature related to the key topic
- Identifying key ethnographic pieces (texts, quotes, scenes, moments that you will use to support your argument)
- Developing an academic argument
- Identifying sub-arguments
- Structuring your thesis
- Reflection on the field, on methodology, on representation and on ethics
- Writing draft chapters, making draft edits etc.
- Finalisation of the thesis

More details can be found in the syllabus for the Thesis seminar that will be distributed upon return from the field.



MSc students as **JUNIOR RESEARCHERS** at CADS

MSc students conduct research that fits within the themes that are central to the research programme of the Institute CADS. One important way to engage with this research programme is through participation in the research seminars.

During their stay at Leiden students are expected to regularly attend the institute's monthly research seminar which is usually held on Monday afternoons of the second or third week of the month. The topic and location of the seminar are published on Brightspace, the Institute's website and on the posters around the Institute.



the main DEADLINES

One year is a short period of time for such a project and in order to complete everything on time we have created a structure that includes a number of strict deadlines. Please note that you must keep to these deadlines in order for your MSc to be completed on time. You can find the enrolment deadlines for each course in the [Prospectus](#).

First draft of the research proposal	28 November 2025
Submission of the completed research proposal	8 December 2025
In case of a re-take submission of the revised research proposal	5 January 2026
Submission of the first fieldwork report	after 3 weeks in the field
Submission of the second fieldwork report	after 6 weeks in the field
First draft of the Master Thesis Project	22 May 2026
Submission of the completed thesis	19 June 2026
In case of a re-take submission of the revised research thesis	14 August 2026



course

REGISTRATION

You can use [MyStudyMap](#) to add courses and examinations to your schedule and to enroll for courses and exams. Plan your enrolments in MyStudyMap in advance. You can plan everything in your own time, then submit all your course enrolments in one go at the start of the enrolment period. Some courses do not require enrolment via MyStudyMap, check the [Prospectus](#) for the enrolment requirements per course.

Please note: your enrolment plan is not an actual enrolment and does not guarantee you a place.

For more details regarding the registration for classes, please see the individual course descriptions in the [Prospectus](#). Make sure you choose the right specialisation.

CONTACTS AT CADS

The Institute of Cultural Anthropology
and Development Sociology is situated in:

Pieter de la Court Building (3rd floor)
Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences
Wassenaarseweg 52
2333 AK Leiden
The Netherlands

[A route planner](#) can be found on the website.

The general [Students Services Desk](#) can
be found on the ground floor of the building.

For all further questions on the MSc
programme, please do contact our study
advisor Loes Abendanon or (for questions
which the study coordinator cannot answer)
the coordinator MSc programme Jan Jansen.



Loes Abendanon

Study Advisor

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Jan Jansen

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An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road with yellow double lines, curving through a dense forest. The trees are in various stages of autumn, showing shades of orange, red, and brown, interspersed with some evergreen trees. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down on the road and the surrounding woods.

version August 2025