

Middle East Studies
Faculty of Humanities, Leiden University

MA Thesis Proposal

The MA Thesis Proposal is due on **3 February 2020**. You will write it as a final assignment in your core course, Theories and Methods of Middle East Studies. Taking the feedback of your instructor, and the direction of your thesis supervisor, you will improve this version for submission to your supervisor, who will give you critical advice for the rest of the thesis.

In most cases, this proposal will be revised into the first chapter of your thesis.

All thesis proposals must include the following sections:

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| Tentative Title |
| Keywords (Three to five keywords that identify your research field and focus) |
| Research question |
| Relevance of Research / Contribution to the field (a convincing answer to, “why is this research important, or “so what?”) |
| Methodology (Description of research design, including theoretical framework, and selection of methods, including discussion of how these will be employed. E.g. How will you answer the research question?) |
| Literature review (2500 words, or as determined by your supervisor) |
| Preliminary Table of Contents / outline of chapters (provide a preliminary title, a brief description of contents, and word count for each chapter) |
| Timeline / planning (indicate what you will be working on during each month until the completion of the thesis, bearing in mind the hard deadlines of the programme) |
| Bibliography |

In your first meeting with your thesis supervisor in November, you should clarify her/his expectations for the final Thesis Proposal.