Master’s in Middle Eastern Studies

Hebrew and Jewish Studies

uva.nl/ma-hebrew-jewish-studies
Amsterdam is a city rich in Jewish life and culture. Local institutions include the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana, the Ets Haim/Livraria Montezinos, the Jewish Historical Museum and the Municipal Archive. Together with the UvA they host extensive collections, ranging from primary sources to contemporary research and material objects. Hebrew and Jewish Studies is the only Master's in the Netherlands that allows you to specialise in Jewish Studies, with or without Hebrew. Starting from your own interests and career perspective, you can build a tailor-made programme that is either broad or specialised, theoretical or more practically oriented. The staff have a broad expertise in Jewish history and culture from antiquity to the present. They closely collaborate with colleagues in Amsterdam and abroad, which allows you to benefit from a broad range of local and international traineeships.

"As long as some people named Cohen aren’t Jewish, we have some explaining to do. The intricate challenge of Jewish life in a non-Jewish world, that is what this Master's is about."

Prof. Irene Zwiep
Career prospects

The degree will provide you with a thorough overview of Jewish cultural and intellectual history. You will also learn to handle original Jewish texts and artefacts in the light of current academic research, and to relate these sources to historical and contemporary questions and debates.

As society is in dire need of independent, analytical thinkers who are capable of solving complex issues, you will be well prepared when entering the job market. More specifically, the programme targets students who wish to prepare for a PhD in Jewish Studies. However, you will also be able to find work in Jewish heritage, museums, libraries and similar institutions, journalism and the media, as well as in education.

Did you know?
Each January, the programme organises an intensive Winter School in Jewish Studies.

Spotlight on a course

Jewish Studies, core course (12 ECTS)
This course offers an introduction to Jewish Studies as a profession. Centering on concrete historical cases and sources, it is designed to help you place your area of specialisation within the broader field. The first part gives a historical outline, from the early 19th-century Wissenschaft des Judentums, to its American, Israeli and post-war European academic offshoots. The second part of the course introduces you to different approaches to Jewish studies, such as memory studies, sociology and social sciences, folklore and ethnography, and political sciences.
Entry requirements

The Master’s in Middle Eastern Studies: Hebrew and Jewish Studies is open to all students with a university Bachelor's diploma in:

• Humanities, or
• Social Sciences.

For some specialisations, knowledge of Hebrew or other relevant languages (for example Yiddish, Arabic, Greek) is required. Candidates with a Bachelor’s degree other than Jewish Studies are advised to contact us. For more information, please see:

uva.nl/ma-hebrew-jewish-studies > Application and admission