GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2024-2025

Master's Dissertation (J000546)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 30.0 **Study time 900 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 2)	English	Gent	independent work master's dissertation group work

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025	crdts	offering
International Master of Science in Sustainable Drug Discovery	30	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Master's dissertation, thesis, research, professional skills

Position of the course

A Master's Dissertation is defined as "a paper completing a Master program, in which a student shows analytical and synthetic capabilities, an independent problem solving capability at an academic level and, in general, a critical, reflecting and research oriented attitude. In the International Master in Sustainable Drug Discovery, these objectives are achieved in a research task to be performed independently by the student in a university or company (worldwide) under the responsibility of a local supervisor. The student chooses an academic promotor among the "independent staff" (professors) of the 4 consortium partners who have a teaching responsibility. The academic promotor is responsible for the scientific supervision of the student during his master research. Moreover, from the first semester on, the students will assess their professional skills in the context of their master research as well as learn to employ them for their future development.

Contents

First master year (1 and 2 semester):

1) professional skills seminars, encompassing skills gap analysis, systems thinking, research proposal

2) S-DISCO day(s) organization, where also the master research topics will be presented.

Second master year:

1) 3°semester: preparation of master's dissertation, encompassing background and comprehensive literature study, objectives and research design proposal.

2) 4°semester: the student carries out (in silico and/or wet-lab) experimental work for approximately 3.5 months fulltime at one of the participating companies or laboratories. The topic of the dissertation is situated in one of the scientific disciplines of the student's pharmaceutical education. The research question, design, methods, results and a critical discussion are written down in a dissertation, to be defended in public before an examination board (physical or online) consisting of representatives of the consortium universities and associated partners. The examination board is empaneled depending on the research field.

Initial competences

Having successfully completed all courses of the first master year.

Final competences

1 To conduct scientific literature searches and summarize the findings in a review format
2 To plan and independently perform scientific experiments.
3 To analyze and interpret research results in a critical way.
4 To describe and discuss research results in a dissertation.
5 To present research results orally.
6 To conduct a scientific discussion about research results.

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Master's dissertation, Group work, Independent work

Study material

Type: Other

Name: Books and scientific papers related to the topic of the dissertation
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Additional information: online or library

References

Course content-related study coaching

It is expected that the student writes the master's dissertation independently. Guidance and assistance, as well as individual coaching, is provided by the dissertation supervisor(s) and/or his co-workers (in case of problems, feedback about the research approach or parts of the thesis before the final version). The student is responsible to keep the supervisor(s) informed about their work.

Individual presentations by the student for an audience including the supervisor, and/or the latter's co-workers and/or the fellow master students.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Professional practice, Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

1 Professional skills, S-DISCO day(s) and preparation of thesis in the 1°, 2° and 3° semester.
2 Participation of research in 4°semester: evaluation of the student's involvement/commitment and attitude (by the supervisor, both mid-term and final evaluation).
3 Evaluation of the submitted dissertation by the supervisor and two other jury members.
4 Oral defence: presentation and questioning.
The dissertation supervisors are available to provide feedback about the final scores.

Calculation of the examination mark

The examination mark is the result of the (1) the professional skills over the 4 semesters of the master programme , and (2) the daily participation in the master research, the resulting dissertation and the oral defence.
The evaluation criteria are defined in the evaluation form of the master's dissertation. This form is part of the master's dissertation manual. Parts of evaluation: professional skills, S-DISCO day(s) and thesis preparation in 1 to 3 semester (4/20) 20%; research process (5/20) 25%; written report (5/20) 25%; presentation and oral defence (6/20) 30%.