GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Master's Dissertation (A005572)

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

Credits 20.0 **Study time 600 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (Year)	Dutch, English	Gent	master's dissertation

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Torck, Mathieu	LW21	staff member
Dessein, Bart	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Anderl, Christoph	LW21	co-lecturer
Andreeva, Anna	LW21	co-lecturer
Dayeh, Islam	LW21	co-lecturer
De Clercq, Eva	LW21	co-lecturer
De Simone, Daniela	LW21	co-lecturer
Franke, Lisa	LW21	co-lecturer
Heirman, Ann	LW21	co-lecturer
Kreil, Aymon	LW21	co-lecturer
Markiewicz, Christopher	LW03	co-lecturer
Mondini, Sara	LW21	co-lecturer
Niehaus, Andreas	LW21	co-lecturer
Uhl, Christian	LW21	co-lecturer
Van Steenbergen, Jo	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	**crdts**	**offering**
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)	20	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	20	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	20	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies)	20	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Research methodology, research technique, dissertation, Middle East studies, Indology, Sinology, Japanology

Position of the course

In this specialized course, the student is asked to demonstrate his/her independent mastery of a series of final curricular competences by writing an MA dissertation of at least 25,000 words (exclusive of bibliography), to complete his/her MA studies. The learning outcomes the course aims at are being able to think and act in a scientific way, being able to apply research methods and techniques in an advanced setting, and being able to report about one's own research to the profession.

Contents

The student decides the topic of the dissertation and the methodology in agreement with his/her supervisor. The supervisor will hold a PhD in an area connected to the specific study field (Middle East Studies, Sinology, Japanology, Indology) of the student. The dissertation has to be based on a clearly defined

research problem and the research question has to be developed from a status quaestionis. The research has to be formulated in a dissertation that has a clear and logic structure. The dissertation has to be written in a correct language, with a correct use of specialized terminologies. The dissertation has to be built on a relevant bibliography and has to apply the scientific reference system correctly.

Initial competences

Having successfully completed the 'Bachelor's Essay' or having acquired the necessary skills by other means.
The student is aware of the possibilities and limitations of the use of Artificial Intelligence, and of the ethical and deontological implications related to the use of Artificial Intelligence.
Knowledge of English and French.

Final competences

1 1. Advanced comprehension of and insight into the scientific knowledge related to the research discipline in general, and to the main subject of research in particular;
2 2. Ability to translate and annotate a primary source (target language);
3 3. Ability to analyze scientific texts related to the discipline studied;
4 4. Ability to synthesize scientific texts from within the discipline and/or integrate insights from those texts;
5 5. Ability to describe a relevant issue relating to an Oriental language or culture in a scientific way;
6 6. Ability to formulate adequate research questions relating to an Oriental language or culture;
7 7. Ability to independently apply research methods and techniques on an advanced level;
8 8. Ability to, be it under quidance of a promotor, independently contribute to the present scientific state of the field;
9 9. Ability to report scientifically about one's own research to the profession.
10 10. Master of Science in Teaching: The student is able, independently, to aquire the available (inter)national scientific research in the domain of teaching in general and his discipline in particular, and to apply insights in their own classroom and school context.
11 11. Master of Science in Teaching: The student is able to complete a full research cycle on an education-relevant topic and to report on it in accordance with scientific criteria.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

It is a shared responsibility of the student, the supervisor and/or the adviser to hold at least three meetings during the dissertation process. Participation in these meetings is required to submit the written dissertation.

Study material

None

References

varieting with the subject of the dissertation

Course content-related study coaching

guidance by the supervisor

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

Professional practice, Oral assessment, Assignment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

It is a shared responsibility of the student, the supervisor and/or the adviser to hold at least three meetings during the dissertation process. Participation in these meetings is required to submit the written dissertation.

The dissertation is evaluated on the following aspects:

- content
- does the dissertation start off from a clear research question
- is the choice of the subject matter motivated
- is the subject matter clearly defined
- does the research start off from a status quaestionis

- methodology
- is the methodology justified
- are the correct methodological steps taken in order to solve the research question

- structure
- does the dissertation have a clear structure
- is the argumentation clear and coherent

- language
- are specialized terminologies used correctly
- are specialized terminologies used consequently
- is the language correct
- is the language stylistically adequate

- argumentation and conclusion
- is the relevant literature used adequately
- does the dissertation provide an answer to the research question
- is the conclusion sustained by the presented material and the argumentation

- technical accuracy
- is the bibliography complete
- are the scientific references correct and complete

- formal aspects
- is the material presentation of the dissertation (lay-out, typography) well-cared-for

- academic value
- is the dissertation an original and/or relevant contribution to the research field
- oral presenation

Calculation of the examination mark

The final mark is determined once the three compulsory assessment components (process, written dissertation, oral defence) are completed. It is not simply the sum of these components but reflects the extent to which the student has achieved the intended learning outcomes. In this regard, the oral defence is essential for determining whether the student can justify the Master's dissertation and whether the dissertation meets the criteria for academic integrity. Students who fail to fulfil any one of these three requirements cannot pass the Master's dissertation. See the faculty Master's dissertation regulations for all modalities.

Facilities for Working Students

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy