GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Master's Dissertation (A006757)

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

Credits 21.0 **Study time 630 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (Year)	Dutch	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Stroeken, Koenraad	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	**crdts**	**offering**
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject African Languages and Cultures)	21	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Research report, research methods, research techniques

Position of the course

In this advanced course, required for the final completion of the MA studies, the student is asked to demonstrate their mastery of a selection of final curricular competencies by writing a Master dissertation of approximately 25,000 words (possibly with attachments) that will be defended in an oral presentation. The student is able to independently process the available (inter)national scientific research in the domain of teaching in general and their discipline in particular and to apply insights in their own classroom and school context. 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.

Contents

Determined in close consultation with and having the approval of a supervisor, the thesis topic should be original and innovative. The student submits a research paper (= MA dissertation) based on a literature review and possibly corpus of primary sources or field research on a subject within the core areas of the study programme. The supervisor will hold a PhD in an area connected to the study programme. The MA dissertation focuses on the integration of African Studies competences and competences related to teaching. This integration can be achieved in two ways:
(a) A domain-specific scientific research in African Studies, including an educational translation.
(b) An education-relevant problem definition, in which the teaching component forms the starting point of (didactic) research in African Studies.

Initial competences

Bachelor in African Languages and Cultures or upon approval of the programme committee.

Final competences

1 Advanced knowledge and comprehension of and insight into the scientific knowledge related to the study of African Languages and Cultures in general, and of methods, concepts and/or theories pertaining to the main subject in particular.
2 Ability to analyse scientific texts on African Languages and Cultures and one or more related disciplines involved in the programme (Linguistics, Anthropology,

Literary Studies, History).
3 Ability to synthesize texts on the main subject and/or integrate insights from those texts.
4 Ability to apply research methods and techniques autonomously in an advanced setting.
5 Ability to reason from a multidisciplinary perspective.
6 Ability to report scientifically about one's own research to the profession and the professional field.
7 Educational master: The student is able to independently unlock the available (inter)national scientific research in the domain of teaching in general and their discipline in particular and to apply insights in their own classroom and school context.
8 Educational master: 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

As agreed upon with the supervisor

Study material

None

References

not relevant

Course content-related study coaching

As agreed upon with the supervisor

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

See Vademecum
An oral presentation of the dissertation is required before any mark can be obtained for the work. The dissertation and the oral presentation will be discussed by the supervisor(s) and the extra reader, who have evaluated the thesis before the oral presentation takes place, as well as by the programme's full committee present during the oral presentation.

Calculation of the examination mark

The final mark for the MA dissertation is arrived at by consensus by the exam committee, based on the reader reports of the supervisor(s) and the extra reader, as well as the evaluation which the members of the exam committee made of the oral presentation and the defence.

Facilities for Working Students

As agreed upon with the supervisor