GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Master's Dissertation (A005198)

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

Credits 24.0 **Study time 720 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2027-2028

A (Year)	English	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

Weber, Erik	LW01	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**crdts**	**offering**
Research Master of Arts in Philosophy	24	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Research skills, writing skills, presentation skills.

Position of the course

The Master's dissertation is supervised by a supervisor affiliated to one of the participating universities.

Contents

The master's dissertation contains 1 long or two shorter 2 articles (about 10.000 words together) in a format in which they can be submitted to an academic journal or book (e.g. conference proceedings) in philosophy.
The dissertation also contains a meta-level text on each article (or one such text for two articles) This text describes the intended audience, including a list of possible journals to which the article(s) may be submitted. Description of the audience and choice of journals must be motivated. The text also contains a specific state of the art, i.e. an exposition of the background knowledge that the readers of the article are supposed to have (in the article itself, there is no space for such an exposition).
If the dissertation contains two articles, these must belong to the same subdiscipline of philosophy or should have a thematic coherence.
The dissertation must include an epilogue in which you situate your research results in the larger field to which it belongs. This includes a brief description of potential follow-up research.

Initial competences

Advanced research skills (problem selection, problem solving, argumentative writing) in philosophy.

Final competences

1 Ability to act as author of academic articles.
2 Ability to frame the results of one's research in a larger context.
3 Ability to report on one's research orally (for academic peers) in a clearly-understood manner.

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, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

There are 3 mandatory sessions that count as 'lectures' (hoorcollege). The topics covered include: the specific properties and requirements of a dissertation in the research master's program; use of generative AI; process of submitting articles to academic journals; dealing with peer review / revision of articles.
Classes are not recorded.

Study material

None

References

Course content-related study coaching

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Professional practice, Skills test, Presentation, 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

Submission of the master's dissertation. Only students who have attended the mandatory sessions (the "process") are allowed to submit the dissertation (unless there was a valid reason for their absence).
Oral presentation of aims, methods and results of master's dissertation.
Defence (questions by supervisor and readers).

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 content and genesis of 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.

Facilities for Working Students

None.