

MASTER OF ARTS IN AFRICAN STUDIES

60 ECTS CREDITS - LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

WHAT

Ghent University's Master in African Studies is the only Master's programme of its kind in Belgium, and it has a unique academic focus on the African continent. The programme starts from a truly interdisciplinary approach as its course units take on an in-depth perspective on Africa's peoples, cultures, literatures and languages, with an emphasis on Central and Eastern Africa. It combines broad thematic course units and specialised seminars, training students in disciplines as diverse as anthropology, history, literature studies and linguistics. This unique multidisciplinary programme will stimulate your critical thinking about Africa's position in the world with a true sense of appreciation for cultural diversity.

STRUCTURE

The Master in African Studies consists of three main course units at five ECTS each, four course units at five ECTS each selected from a list of specialist Africanist course units, ten ECTS worth of elective course units to be chosen freely from the university's course catalogue, and a Master's thesis at fifteen ECTS.

Main Course Units

The Master in African Studies focuses on Central and Eastern Africa but not without establishing connections with other parts of the continent, especially Western and Southern Africa. This area is studied from different academic subdisciplines in the three main mandatory course units: 'Language, History and Identity in Central and Eastern Africa', 'Literature, Media and the Arts in Central and Eastern Africa', and 'Conflict and Society in Central and Eastern Africa'.

Elective Course Units

Students enjoy a great degree of freedom to shape their own curriculum by choosing course units from various subdisciplines, based on their individual research interests. They choose four course units from the following list: 'Anthropology of Affect and Materiality', 'Anthropology, Africa and the Anthropocene', 'Poverty, Development and Inequality in Modern African History', 'History and Theory of African Urbanism', 'Bantu Corpus Linguistics and Lexicography', 'Comparative Bantu Grammar', 'Gender and Identity in African Literatures', and 'African Archaeology'. In addition, students choose an additional ten ECTS worth of course units either from the Africanist course units listed above, or from the university's wider course catalogue, including

courses on Swahili and Lingála, the two most important languages of Central and Eastern Africa.

Master's Dissertation

The Master's programme culminates in a Master's Dissertation. This is a research paper based on independent, empirical research, and preferably (but not necessarily) the result of fieldwork in Africa. By writing a Master's dissertation, students testify to their ability to conduct independent research, their mastery of a methodological framework and to their thorough knowledge of a specific Africanist topic. If you want to combine your Master's degree with a Teacher's degree, then there is the option of taking a Master's Programme in Teaching (in Dutch: 'Educatieve master') instead of the master described above. The Master's Programme in Teaching, however, is a Dutch-taught programme, except for the Africa-related classes. More information can be found on www.ugent.be/educatievemaster.

LABOUR MARKET

In a globalising world, in which Africa plays an increasingly important role, our society needs graduates with academic expertise on Africa. A thorough understanding of African cultural frameworks, languages and history provides students with the knowledge and skills to build bridges between cultures. Graduates in African Studies find jobs in the NGO sector or cultural sector, international relations, academic research, immigrant support programmes and diversity sector, education, the tourist industry, governmental institutions or business world, both in Europe and in Africa.

Several government jobs require our graduates' specific knowledge of African cultural and linguistic diversity. For example, certain alumni work as international relations experts, integration officers or Swahili teachers. Others are active in international organisations such as UNESCO and other UN institutions.

Our alumni are also wanted by international companies, which is not surprising. The economies of many African countries are booming. Governments and companies from around the world invest in the South.

Certain alumni continue doing PhD research within a specific subfield of African languages and cultures.

TOELATINGSVOORWAARDEN VOOR HOUDERS VAN EEN VLAAMS DIPLOMA

1 Rechtstreeks:

- Bachelor in de Afrikaanse talen en culturen

2 Rechtstreeks, na check door de inrichtende faculteit van formele toelatingsvereisten:

- Een diploma van een bacheloropleiding in het academisch onderwijs, op voorwaarde dat de student voldoende (wetenschappelijk) vertrouwd is met de talen en culturen van Afrika

3 Op voorwaarde van toelating door de inrichtende faculteit: na het met succes voltooien van een voorbereidingsprogramma:

60 SP

- Een diploma van een bacheloropleiding in het academisch onderwijs

4 Op voorwaarde van toelating door de inrichtende faculteit: na het met succes voltooien van een schakelprogramma:

60 SP

- Een diploma van een bacheloropleiding in het professioneel onderwijs

5 Na het met succes voltooien van een bacheloropleiding met studieduurverkorting

120 SP

a opleidingen nieuwe structuur:

- Een diploma van een bacheloropleiding in het academisch onderwijs

andere dan vermeld bij de andere toelatingscategorieën

- Een diploma van een bacheloropleiding in het professioneel onderwijs

andere dan vermeld bij de andere toelatingscategorieën

- Een diploma van een masteropleiding aansluitend op een bacheloropleiding

andere dan vermeld bij de andere toelatingscategorieën

b opleidingen oude structuur:

- Een diploma van een academische opleiding van de tweede cyclus

andere dan vermeld bij de andere toelatingscategorieën

Additional Information on Admission (Flemish Degree)

For admission subject to passing an abridged bachelor's

programme, students will have to present their previous degree to the faculty.

More info:

www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/fsa/aleendiploma.htm#Verkorteachelor

If you believe that you qualify for an exemption of specific course units, please check <https://www.ugent.be/ps/nl/voorstudenten/administratie/vrijstellingen>.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEGREE STUDENTS

You are eligible to apply for this programme if you hold a relevant Bachelor's degree (which should be comparable to the Flemish degrees with direct admission). Admission is based on an evaluation of the content of your previous studies.

Applicants upload their CV and a motivation letter during the application process, demonstrating their (scholarly) familiarity with languages and cultures of Africa. The reading list and concept list attached (+ link) are indicative in that regard. An interview may be part of the admission procedure. The Study Programme Committee decides whether to accept the application or not. The Study Programme Committee may decide that the applicant must follow a preparatory course.

Information on admission requirements and the administrative procedure for admission on the basis of a diploma obtained abroad, can be found on the following page: www.ugent.be/prospect/en/administration/enrolment-or-registration.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Language requirements Dutch: no language requirements
English: CEFR level B2

The language requirements for this study programme can be found on: www.ugent.be/language requirements

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Study programme

studiekiezer.ugent.be/master-of-arts-in-african-studies-en/programma

Information sessions

Graduation Fair

afstudeerbeurs.gent/en/students/further-studies

Enrolling institution

Information on enrolment at Ghent University.

Application Deadline (for International degree students)

For students who **need a visa**: before 1st of April

For students who **do not need a visa**: before 1st of June

[Read more](#)

Tuition fee

More information is to be found on: www.ugent.be/tuitionfee

Learning path counsellor

Stefanie De Sloovere

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stefanie.desloovere@ugent.be

Contact (for international degree students)

Faculty of Arts and Philosophy

For programme-related questions: africanstudies@ugent.be

For administrative questions contact the Ghent University

international admission desk: www.ugent.be/csa

www.africanstudies.ugent.be