

# MASTER OF ARTS IN AFRICAN STUDIES

60 ECTS CREDITS - LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

## WHAT

Ghent University's Master in African Studies is the only program of its kind in Belgium, offering a one-of-a-kind academic focus on Africa. What makes it special? It takes a truly interdisciplinary approach, diving deep into Africa's peoples, cultures, literatures, and languages—especially in Central and Eastern Africa. The program blends broad thematic courses with specialised seminars, giving you training in diverse fields, from anthropology and history to literature and linguistics. It is a unique, multidisciplinary experience that will sharpen your critical thinking about Africa's place in the world, all while fostering a real 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', 'Methods in Corpus Linguistics and Experimental Linguistics', '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](http://www.ugent.be/educatievemaster).

## LABOUR MARKET

In today's interconnected world, Africa's influence is growing—and so is the need for experts who really understand the continent. Our society needs graduates with deep academic knowledge about Africa. By studying African cultural frameworks, languages, and history, you will gain the skills to bridge cultures and make a real impact. Where can this degree take you? Graduates in African Studies go on to work in NGOs, cultural organisations, international relations, research, immigrant support, education, tourism, government, and business—in both Europe and Africa. Government agencies especially value our graduates' Africa expertise. Some alumni become international relations experts, integration officers, or Swahili teachers, while others join major organisations like UNESCO and other UN bodies. International companies also seek out our graduates—and it is easy to see why. Many African economies are booming, and businesses and governments worldwide are investing in the region. And for those who want to go further, some alumni pursue PhDs, specialising in African Studies.

## 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](http://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/fsa/aleendiploma).

htm#Verkortebachelor

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](http://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](http://www.ugent.be/language requirements)

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## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Study programme

[studiekiezer.ugent.be/master-of-arts-in-african-studies-en/programma](https://studiekiezer.ugent.be/master-of-arts-in-african-studies-en/programma)

### Information sessions

#### EVOLV

[evolv.ugent/en/students/further-studies](https://evolv.ugent/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](https://www.ugent.be/tuitionfee)

### Learning path counsellor

Stefanie De Sloovere

T +32 9 264 39 44

[stefanie.desloovere@ugent.be](mailto:stefanie.desloovere@ugent.be)

### Contact (for international degree students)

Faculty of Arts and Philosophy

For programme-related questions: [africanstudies@ugent.be](mailto:africanstudies@ugent.be)

For administrative questions contact the Ghent University

international admission desk: [www.ugent.be/csa](https://www.ugent.be/csa)

[www.africanstudies.ugent.be](https://www.africanstudies.ugent.be)