

Master of American Studies (advanced master)

60 ECTS CREDITS ♦ LANGUAGE: ENGLISH ♦ DEGREE: MASTER

Course content

Perhaps the most important international relationship of the 21st century is being forged today between the European Union and the United States. On every major issue, from economics over defense planning to social policy, the agreements and the differences between Europe and the U.S. are felt not just on these two continents, but around the world. Increasingly, policymakers on both sides of the Atlantic are finding that a keen understanding of history, the values and the social context of the other are essential requirements to successful discussion, negotiation and joint undertakings in culture, business and government between Europe and America.

The Master in American Studies offers complete and up-to-date information on the United States. By offering a diverse range of courses, the MA program seeks to present a balanced picture that allows you to reach a more encompassing, in-depth understanding of the country and its culture. With a total of eight courses, ranging from law and economics to history, politics and various expressions of culture, in addition to a final thesis, this full-time program allows students both to develop an overview and to zoom in on specific topics.

Course structure

The four organising universities (Antwerp, Ghent, Louvain and Brussels) collaborate to offer courses that are unique to the program. The Master consists of eight courses (four per semester), half of which are situated in the field of 'American Culture'. The topics of these cultural courses may vary from one year to the next. In addition, all students take the following five core courses: American History, Politics, and Economics I & II; Methodology of Trans-Atlantic American Studies; American Culture: Regions and Ethnicities; US Law and Justice in an International Context. In addition to meeting the eight specific course requirements students also write a master thesis on a topic of their choice within the subject area of the program.

> Master thesis

The master thesis is a requirement for every candidate to obtain a master degree. It is an original piece of research - 15,000 to 20,000 words - that aims to develop and strengthen the students' research skills. Students can select a topic of their choice, and they are given guidance by a supervisor. The master thesis consists of a literature review part, a theoretical reflection and an original analysis of the topic.

Together with the thesis defense (viva), it is worth a third of the total marks for the MA program.

Career perspectives

The Master of American Studies is tailored to everyone who stands to profit from a better understanding of the USA for their future careers, whether as a journalist, interpreter, diplomat, writer, teacher, editor, academic or employee of an American company. Students with a special interest in the States but without any professional ambitions in this direction are of course also welcomed into the program.

Master of American Studies

60 ECTS CREDITS ♦ LANGUAGE: ENGLISH ♦ DEGREE: MASTER

TOELATINGSVOORWAARDEN VOOR HOUDERS VAN EEN VLAAMS DIPLOMA

Na gunstige beoordeling na een geschiktheidsonderzoek:

- Master
en de corresponderende diploma's van vóór de bachelor-
masterstructuur

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEGREE STUDENTS

Since the program is situated at 'Ma-na-Ma' level, applicants with a higher education degree awarded in the Flemish Community must have an MA degree by the start of classes.

For all international students, it is the responsibility of the Program Director to assess applicants' suitability for the program: a good bachelor-level degree, a persuasive motivation, and a strong command of English will be the key criteria.

LANGUAGE

See: www.americanstudies.UGent.be

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Study programme

www.UGent.be/coursecatalogue

> by Faculty > Programme types > select your programme

Application deadline

The application for this advanced master programme is to be started up via the specific website.

There are different deadlines for international applicants requiring a student visa, for other international applicants, and for Belgian applicants.

www.americanstudies.UGent.be

Enrolling institution

You submit your application to the Program Director, who will evaluate it and, assuming a positive evaluation, will issue you a letter of acceptance. Keep this letter on hand, as you will need it to register as a student at Ghent University.

www.americanstudies.UGent.be

Tuition fee

A higher tuition fee is applicable to this advanced master programme.
www.UGent.be/higherfee

Contact

Ghent University
Faculty of Arts and Philosophy - English Department
Prof. Gert Buelens
Blandijnberg 2, 9000 Gent - F + 32 (0)9 264 41 74
americanstudies@UGent.be

Center for American Studies – Royal Library
Ms. Myriam Lodeweyckx
Keizerslaan 4 (Boulevard de l'Empereur),
1000 Brussels - T + 32 (0)2 519 55 23 - cas@kbr.be

Information about program and online application:
www.americanstudies.UGent.be

Last update: January 2015