

Master's Dissertation (A003903)

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

Credits 20.0 **Study time 600 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (Year)	Dutch	Gent	peer teaching	0.0h
			seminar	
			master's dissertation	

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Driesen, Pauline	LW17	staff member
Sterckx, Marjan	LW17	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	crdts	offering
	20	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

scientific research; text edition; heuristics, analysis, source criticism, synthesis

Position of the course

The master's thesis is the capstone in the development of scientific competences related to independent and critical scientific research.

Contents

In this course unit, students work on a comprehensive research thesis, on the basis of which they demonstrate their ability to independently and with integrity conduct high-quality scientific research in the field of art history (heuristics, source criticism, synthesis). The topic of the research thesis is determined by the students in consultation with the supervisor with relevant research expertise. The thesis is a further deepening of the competences acquired in the bachelor's thesis, and may also tie in with this in terms of content.

Initial competences

Having successfully finished the bachelor program and the bachelor thesis.

Final competences

- 1 Formulate a well-defined and motivated research problem.
- 2 Be able to search and collect relevant, scientifically valuable sources and current literature.
- 3 Analyse and interpret sources critically.
- 4 Apply the prevailing scientific methodologies and terminologies.
- 5 Have the skill to formulate scientific content with respect for the 1 international formal criteria.
- 6 Construct a logic and meticulous argument.
- 7 Formulate verifiable conclusions.
- 8 Present scientific results to a specialized audience.
- 9 Assess the utility of informatics applications in the field of written reporting and deploy them appropriately in scientific research. If generative artificial intelligence is used, this requires an understanding of its operation, limitations, risks and ethical implications for responsible use.

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, Seminar, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

During the academic year, feedback sessions are organised on a regular basis, collectively and/or individually. During these feedback sessions, the progress of the bachelor's thesis is examined on the basis of assignments.

Collective feedback sessions take the form of seminars and/or peer teaching in which students, under supervision, discuss each other's presentations and work and receive feedback from the supervisor and/or tutor.

In the case of (additional) individual supervision, the student reports regularly on the development of the research work to the supervisor and/or tutor, who monitors its smooth progress and makes adjustments if necessary.

The Master's thesis itself is a written piece of work (the research paper) in which the student demonstrates the required final competencies.

Study material

None

References

Course content-related study coaching

Guidance, individually or in group, by the promotor in collaboration with an assistance or researcher.

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, Oral assessment, 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

The students are evaluated on three parts: the research process, the submitted dissertation and the oral defence thereof. The defense takes place after submitting the dissertation.

For the process evaluation, the supervisor and/or adviser assesses during feedback sessions and/or conversations the extent to which the student has achieved the final competences.

It is a shared responsibility of the student, the supervisor and/or the adviser to hold at least three meetings during the dissertation process. Participation in these meetings is required to submit the written dissertation.

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. See the faculty Master's dissertation regulations for all modalities.

Facilities for Working Students

Absence during the feedback sessions or meetings is allowed, provided that clear

arrangements have been made regarding the follow-up of the process.