

## 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	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**

<a href="#">Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies</a>	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
	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 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**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Assignment

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

The students are evaluated based on the submitted dissertation and their oral defence thereof. The defense takes place after submitting the dissertation.

In addition, process evaluation is employed in which the supervisor assesses during feedback sessions the extent to which the student has achieved the final competences.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Dissertation: 80%

Oral presentation and defence: 20%

When the student obtains less than 10/20 for one of the components, they can no longer pass the course unit Master's Dissertation as a whole.

If the total score does turn out to be a mark of ten or more out of twenty, this is reduced to the highest fail mark (9/20).

**Facilities for Working Students**

Possibility of absence during feedback sessions.