

Master's Dissertation (A004504)

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

Credits 15.0

Study time 450 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (Year)

Dutch

Gent

master's dissertation

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Galdi, Giovanbattista

LW06

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature](#)

crdts

offering

15

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Master's dissertation, research report, research methods and techniques

Position of the course

In this advanced subject the student is asked to demonstrate his/her mastery of a selection of final curricular competences by writing a Master's Dissertation of approximately 20.000 words (excluding the bibliography) to complete his/her MA studies. Those competences include being able to think and act in a scientific way, being able to apply research methods and techniques in an advanced setting, and being able to report about one's own research to the profession.

Contents

To be agreed upon with the supervisor(s).

Initial competences

Having successfully completed the bachelor research paper or having acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

- 1 Advanced comprehension of and insight into the scientific knowledge related to the discipline in general and to the main subject in particular.
- 2 Ability to analyse scientific texts from within the discipline.
- 3 Ability to synthesize texts from within the discipline and/or integrate insights from those texts.
- 4 Ability to apply research methods and techniques autonomously in an advanced setting.
- 5 Ability to report scientifically about one's own research with colleagues using a correct academic language in agreement with the formal and substantial requirements indicated in the evaluation form of the master thesis.
- 6 Effectively argue whether and why generative AI was or was not used in the research process.
- 7 Insight into the scientific integrity (plagiarism, correct use of references, ethical dimensions of scientific research, responsible use of generative AI)

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

Study material

None

References

Not applicable

Course content-related study coaching

Master's dissertation: guidance by supervisor(s).

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 Master's dissertation will be defended orally. The oral defence contains three parts and takes 30 minutes, discussion between evaluators included:

- 1 10 minute presentation by the student. The student presents an infographic explaining the topic and importance of the master's thesis to a lay audience, in the language of the master's thesis.
- 2 15 minute discussion between the student and the examiners.
- 3 5 minutes for discussion between evaluators (without the presence of the student)

A one-page hand-out is allowed.

The reports of the evaluators will be provided to the students before the oral defence, so they can fully prepare themselves.

The defence will be held in the language on which the dissertation is written, or in Dutch (e.g. as is also the case for the dead languages). Students can submit a request to defend their dissertations in another language (OER, art. 59, §1,5).

The oral defence will be organised at the end of the exam period.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical and continuous evaluation:

- Assignment (80%): the Master's dissertation is marked by three referees: the supervisor and two other referees (or the supervisor, the co-supervisor and one other referee). The third referee will be affiliated to a university or research institution from outside Flanders.
- Oral defence (20%): the evaluators each give a mark, the average of which will be the final mark

In the case of an unjustified absence or non-participation for one of the parts of the periodical and continuous evaluation, the student will receive a max. score of 9/20.