

Master's Dissertation (A005119)

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

Credits 15.0 **Study time** 450 h

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (Year) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Andriessen, Laura	LW21	staff member
Dhondt, Carmen	LW21	staff member
de Schryver, Gilles-Maurice	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Stroeken, Koenraad	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Arts in African Studies	15	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Research report, research methods, research techniques, academic reporting

Position of the course

In this advanced course the student is required to show competence in the goals as set for the MA-curriculum (final competences), this in order to put a capstone on his/her MA studies.

These goals include:

- 1 being able to reason and act in an academic way,
- 2 being able to carry out independent research,
- 3 being able to apply advanced research methods,
- 4 being able to report about research results in a sophisticated and well-argued manner. The result is an extended essay, which is evaluated by the supervisor and other referees. The candidate is also required to present the research results during an oral defence.

Contents

As agreed upon with the supervisor(s).

At the beginning of the academic year, the lecturer-in-charge organizes information sessions, in which information is conveyed about the formal requirements of the thesis, about research methods and the responsible use of digital tools, incl. generative AI, and about possible research topics. Students are expected to take part in these sessions.

Initial competences

Fulfil the conditions to start the Master in African Studies.

Final competences

- 1 Advanced comprehension of and insight into the scholarly knowledge related to the study of African Languages and Cultures in general, and of methods, concepts and theories pertaining to the thesis subject(s) in particular.
- 2 Ability to analyse and reflect on scholarly texts in the domain of African Languages and Cultures as well as one or more related disciplines covered by the programme (Linguistics, Literature Studies, History, Anthropology, ...).
- 3 Ability to reason from a multidisciplinary perspective.
- 4 Ability to undertake research and apply research techniques autonomously in an

advanced setting.

5 Ability to use generative AI (which is allowed and encouraged), being fully aware of the ethical and deontological implications.

6 Ability to report in a scholarly form about one's own research for academic peers (in written and oral form).

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, Independent work

Study material

Type: Other

Name: As agreed upon with the supervisor

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

References

not relevant

Course content-related study coaching

Supervision by the supervisor both personally and in groups, interactive support through Ufora, consulting lecturer via e-mail or by appointment.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

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

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.

The master's dissertation is evaluated by the promoter(s) and by at least one additional reader. The defence of the master's dissertation consists of an oral presentation and discussion.

Calculation of the examination mark

Participation in the MA information sessions in the course of the academic year is compulsory. In case of non-participation, the exam will be considered incomplete. 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

As agreed upon with the supervisor

