

Bachelor's Essay (A005329)

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

Credits 10.0 **Study time 300 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (Year)	Dutch, English	Gent	independent work
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

de Schryver, Gilles-Maurice	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Stroeken, Koenraad	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	crdts	offering
	10	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

BA dissertation, research task, paper

Position of the course

In the research task the student must prove that he/she is capable to conduct independent scientific research, is able to reflect critically, and can situate the research topic within a broader context.

The BA dissertation is a year-course, which means that the student must start with the work during the first semester. For students who opt for the Africa-track during the first semester, this thus further implies that they will need to have both a topic and a UGent supervisor BEFORE they leave for the field!

Contents

The student writes a paper of the genre 'scientific article', in Dutch or English, and between **7,000** and **12,500** words long, including footnotes and the references (but excluding addenda).

Initial competences

Having gained sufficient critical reflection in previous years of study.

Final competences

- 1 Being able to independently formulate a research question.
- 2 Being able to reach the answer to that research question independently and in a scientific manner.
- 3 Being able to reflect critically about a research topic.
- 4 Being able to frame a research question in a wider context.
- 5 Being able to delimit and process the scientific literature of a certain field.
- 6 Being able to use generative AI (which is allowed and encouraged), being fully aware of the ethical and deontological implications.

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

Independent work

Study material

Type: Other

Name: To be discussed with the supervisor.

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

References

To be discussed with the supervisor.

Course content-related study coaching

See the 'ROADMAP' in the Vademeicum of the BA AL&C.

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

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Calculation of the examination mark

The student is evaluated by the supervisor who supervised him/her for the BA dissertation and by a second reader who is a member of the academic and/or teaching staff of the Department of African Languages and Cultures and chosen by the examination board based on the topic of the thesis. Both submit their marks to the secretary of the examination committee, who, after (electronic) deliberation within the examination committee, enters the final grade in Oasis.

Facilities for Working Students

To be discussed with the supervisor.