

Master's Dissertation (A005390)

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 2026-2027

A (Year)	Dutch	Gent	master's dissertation
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Taverniers, Miriam	LW06	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Scandinavian Studies)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Scandinavian Studies)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Scandinavian Studies)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Scandinavian Studies)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Greek)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Historical Perspectives)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Iberian-Romance Languages)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Scandinavian Studies)	15	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	15	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Research report, research methods, research techniques, academic reporting

Position of the course

In this advanced course component, the student is required to demonstrate his/her mastery of a selection of final curricular competencies by writing a Master's Dissertation of approximately 20.000 words including footnotes and references (but excluding appendices, if any) to complete his/her MA studies. Those competencies include the ability to think and act scientifically, 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 and beyond.

The course component 'master's thesis' forms the conclusion of the master's programme and therefore cannot be exempted: all competences and contents concerning a specialised subject within the research domain of the master's programme in Language and Literature: Two languages contribute. Subjects with a pronounced educational component are reserved for master's theses in the two-year educational master's programme.

With the master's thesis, the student proves that he/she can independently carry out a scientific project based on the knowledge and skills acquired during the master's programme. It They demonstrate their academic training and thier ability, within a subject domain that they have defined themselves, to formulate a research question in a scientifically sound manner and to arrive at nuanced answers through critical reflection and the most suitable methods. It also proves that they can adequately conceive, write out and orally present an academic paper.

Contents

To be agreed upon with the supervisor(s).

Students are free to choose their discipline (linguistics or literature) and topic.

This course component is based on the responsible use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI). A reflection on the use (or non-use) of GenAI as separately specified and communicated is mandatorily included in the thesis.

Initial competences

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

Methodologically, the master's thesis goes beyond the seminar work that is part of the 'Bachelor's thesis' course unit.

Final competences

- 1 Demonstrate advanced comprehension of and insight into the scientific knowledge of the discipline in general and of the main subject in particular.
- 2 Have the attitude to autonomously make an original contribution to scientific knowledge.
- 3 Formulate a scientific research question.
- 4 Process insights from existing scientific research.
- 5 Apply methods of research and analysis at an advanced level.
- 6 Act with scientific integrity: respect authorship and not commit plagiarism; refer correctly to scientific literature; take into account the ethical dimensions of scientific research; use generative AI responsibly.
- 7 Communicate in both writing and speaking, using correct academic language, about one's own research to one's professional peers.
- 8 Argue convincingly why generative AI was or was not applied during the research process.
- 9 Explain the significance of one's own research using an infographic designed for the wider public.

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**Course content-related study coaching**

Guidance by supervisor(s). Infosessions and explanatory video on how to make an infographic.

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

No later than a previously fixed and communicated date, the student submits a master's thesis of approximately 20,000 words. The master's thesis is then assessed by a reading committee consisting of three evaluators, i.e. the supervisor and two other referees, potentially including a co-supervisor. The evaluators each determine a provisional score, using an evaluation form (periodic assessment). At the end of the exam period, an oral defense of the master's thesis takes place (non-periodic assessment). This defense lasts 25 minutes and consists of two parts:

(1) The student presents an infographic in which he/she explains the subject and importance of the master's thesis to a lay audience, in the language of the master's thesis.

(2) Discussion between the evaluators and the student on various aspects of the master's thesis.

In principle, the interview takes place in the language of the master's thesis.

Students can submit an application to hold the evaluation interview in another language (OER, art. 59, §1,5).

Calculation of the examination mark

80% non-periodical: evaluation of the thesis by a commission consisting of three evaluators, viz. the supervisor and two other readers, among whom possibly a co-supervisor. The final mark is decided by the committee on the basis of the marks of the three evaluators. Each individual mark is given the same weight.

In case of the supervisor and any co-supervisor, the 80% are composed of 70% evaluation of the thesis and 10% process evaluation.

20% periodical: The evaluators assess the performance of the student during the oral defense, including the presentation of the infographic. The committee decides the final mark on the basis of the marks of all evaluators present. Each individual mark is given the same weight.

Participation in the oral defense is mandatory. Students who do not participate in the oral defense, including the presentation of the infographic, cannot receive a final mark higher than 9/20.

Students must pass the thesis in order to pass this course.

If the student scores less than 10/20 on the written part, the student will be notified of this before the oral defence and may choose to refrain from participating in the oral defence. In this case, the oral defence will be replaced by a feedback session at the same time.

The marks for the aspects of the evaluation are only final once the evaluation procedure has been completed.

