

Master's Dissertation (A006767)

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

Credits 21.0 Study time 630 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (Year)	Dutch	Gent	master's dissertation	0.0h
			independent work	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

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Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Linguistics and Literature) 21 A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Systematic and methodical preparation of a scientific manuscript, literature research, research techniques, problem definition, scientific research, scientific reporting, independent work, critical reflection

Position of the course

The master's thesis is a paper in which the student, under the supervision of a supervisor (and possibly a co-supervisor), demonstrates analytical and synthetic skills and independent problem-solving skills at an academic level. The paper reflects the student's general critical-reflective attitude and research attitude. The course component 'master's thesis' forms the conclusion of the master's programme and therefore cannot be exempted.

The following learning outcomes are set in the educational master's with regard to the master's thesis:

- The Educational Master is able to independently unlock the available (inter) national scientific research in the field of teaching in general and his discipline in particular and to apply insights in his own classroom and school context.
- The Educational Master is able to complete a complete research cycle on an educationally relevant subject and to report on this in accordance with scientific criteria.

Contents

The master's thesis is the reflection of new, original and own work. The content of the master's thesis cannot therefore be found in work published or unpublished before the start of the study. If the student falls back on his own work (e.g. also an earlier master's thesis or papers from previous education or courses), this must be used as a reference.

The study reports on research carried out by the student himself. The subject must demonstrate that the student has acquired the final competences of the study. In the educational master's degree in language and literature, the master's thesis focuses on the integration of the domain competences of language or literature and the competences related to teaching. This integration can be achieved in two ways:

- a. A domain-specific scientific research in linguistics or literature, with an educational translation.
- b. An educationally relevant problem statement, in which the teaching-related component forms the starting point of the (subject-didactic) research in language

or literature.

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

Initial competences

To have obtained the diploma of 'Bachelor in Language and Literature', or have acquired the final competences in another way.

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 Communicate in both writing and speaking, using correct academic language, about one's own research to one's professional peers.

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

None

References

Course content-related study coaching

Individual supervision is provided by the (co)promoter(s). The (co)promoter(s) are available on the days and times that he/she explicitly states for this purpose. Appointments can be made in mutual consultation. Feedback is provided by email, during consultation hours or by appointment. 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 25,000 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. Each evaluator

determines a provisional score, using an evaluation form (non-periodical evaluation).

At the end of the exam period, an oral defense of the master's thesis takes place (periodical evaluation). 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 defense takes place in the language of the master's thesis.

Students can submit an application to hold the defense in another language (OER, art. 59, §15).

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 required to pass the course component 'master's thesis'. 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 succeed for the thesis (in-sessional evaluation) 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 three aspects of the evaluation are only final once the evaluation procedure is been completed.