

Master's Dissertation (A006791)

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

Credits 25.0

Study time 750 h

Course offerings in academic year 2027-2028

A (Year)

Dutch

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

Lambrecht, Thijs

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028

[Master of Arts in History](#)

crdts

25

offering

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

research capabilities, (scientific) communication

Position of the course

The master dissertation is the final general course of the History programme. It aims at independently conducting critical scientific research. It builds on the competences achieved in the bachelor in History.

Contents

In this course, students write an extensive research paper. On the basis of this paper students demonstrate their ability to carry out independent scientific research: formulating a research question based upon recent literature, collecting and interpreting primary source material and communicating the research results. The theme is determined by the student in consultation with a supervisor. A diverse range of possible topics is made available in a thesis brochure.

The master's thesis is a personal, original scholarly piece of work by which the student proves to have all the skills of an accomplished historian. This principle also determines the use of artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT. The student always remains ultimately responsible for the piece of work that is the fruit of his or her independent efforts. As long as that is the case, AI can be used. As applies to use of AI in the history programme generally, any use must be explicitly stated in the master's thesis. As an additional condition, we ask that the student also always consult with the supervisor about the use of generative AI. For the use of ChatGPT in data analysis, the same rules apply as for other digital tools. In consultation with the supervisor, a responsible method of working is worked out which is also mentioned in the discussion of the methodology. It is recommended to keep a log of the research and the data files built up. AI can also be used to support the writing process, for example by checking texts for fluency, provided again that the use is mentioned.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the course unit Historical Practice 3: Bachelorpaper or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means

Final competences

- 1 To have the ability to employ historical scientific methodology in research or professional activities.
- 2 To have a basic knowledge of the diversity of sources and academic literature (also in another language than Dutch) used in historical research and the

specialist skills required to read and interpret sources (also in another language than Dutch).

- 3 To have the ability to initiate problem-oriented historical research.
- 4 To have the ability to critically analyse and make original use of current national and international scientific debates in the field of history (also in another language than Dutch).
- 5 To have the ability to write a relevant and coherent historical scientific research project.
- 6 To have the ability to independently select, correctly use and critically evaluate methods for qualitative and quantitative research.
- 7 To have the ability to creatively design and implement one's own historical research.
- 8 To possess the techniques required to independently collect, criticise, and process historical sources and literature (also in another language than Dutch), and to integrate these in a historical argument.
- 9 Be able to give a nuanced interpretation and correct presentation of the results of one's own research in the form of a report, thesis or article.
- 10 To systematically act with scientific integrity.
- 11 To have the ability to independently recognize the dynamics, processes and recurrences in complex historical situations.
- 12 To have the ability to form nuanced and value conscious opinions on historical questions.
- 13 To have a reflective and critical attitude that demonstrates historical scientific curiosity, pluralism and a positive attitude towards lifelong learning.
- 14 To have the ability to critically reflect upon the limits of one's own skills, thoughts, and actions.
- 15 To be able to approach a problem systematically from multiple perspectives – multiperspectivism.
- 16 To have the ability to write down the results of one's own historical scientific research in a clearly structured, academically justified text, written in a clear and academically correct language
- 17 To have the ability to present the results of one's own historical research, to both experts and peers, in a clearly structured oral presentation, in a clear and academically correct language.
- 18 To have the ability to communicate (also in another language than Dutch), collaborate and act in an inspiring, advisory or authoritative manner, depending on the situation.
- 19 To have the ability to critically assess social issues and contemporary views and contextualize them historically in scientific work.
- 20 To have the ability to interpret contemporary developments from a historical-comparative perspective in one's own scientific work.
- 21 To have the ability to integrate cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, and historical consciousness into a scientific work.
- 22 To have the ability to undertake independent historical research, and the ability to fit into a group conducting historical scientific research.

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

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

(Approved)

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

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.

Calculation of the examination mark

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.