

Master's Dissertation (A704050)

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

Credits 15.0 **Study time** 450 h

Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Eyckmans, June LW22 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025	crdts	offering
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, French)	15	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, French)	15	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, French)	15	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, German)	15	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, German)	15	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, German)	15	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, Italian)	15	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, Italian)	15	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, Italian)	15	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, Russian)	15	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, Russian)	15	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, Russian)	15	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, Spanish)	15	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, Spanish)	15	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, Spanish)	15	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, Turkish)	15	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, Turkish)	15	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, Turkish)	15	A
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Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, French, German)	15	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, French, Italian)	15	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages	15	A

(main subject Dutch, French, Italian)		A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, French, Italian)	15	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, French, Russian)	15	A
Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, French, Russian)	15	A
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Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Dissertation

Position of the course

The unit of study "MA dissertation" concludes the MA study programme: students have to apply the skills and knowledge they have acquired in order to investigate a specific subject in the research domain of Applied Linguistics. The MA dissertation gives the students the opportunity to show that they can elaborate on a scientific project autonomously. The students must demonstrate mastery of academic competence: they are able to formulate research questions and hypotheses, choose appropriate scientific methodology and reflect critically on the research subject of their choice. At the same time, the dissertation gives the students the opportunity to demonstrate that they are able to conceptualize and write a scientific paper in one of the two foreign languages in their curriculum. However, dissertations may be written in Dutch on the condition that they have the Dutch language as a research focus.

Methodologically, the MA dissertation is an important step in the development of research competence that exceeds the requirements of the bachelor's paper of the Bachelor in Applied Language Studies by far.

Contents

Depends on the subject chosen.

Initial competences

The general skills an academic bachelor from a related discipline is expected to master.

Final competences

1 The student:

- is able to write a scientific paper on a course-related topic in one of their chosen foreign languages (or in Dutch if the research topic concerns the Dutch language) with the help of their supervisor, but predominantly on their own;
- possesses heuristic and problem-solving skills at academic level in the field of study in question;
- has a critical mind.

2 Has a command of the language in which the dissertation is written at C2 level for comprehension (listening and reading) and writing skills [MC 1.1; assessed]

3 Is able to write a scientific paper on an Applied Linguistics topic, with the help of the supervisor, but predominantly in an autonomous way [MC 2.1., assessed]

4 Has a critical understanding of international specialist literature about the chosen topic, with an eye for new trends and innovative methodologies. [MC 2.2., assessed]

5 Shows problem-solving skills and has a critical mind at academic level in applying theoretical models and methods of analysis to the chosen research topic [MC 2.3., assessed]

6 Is able to communicate own research, both orally and in writing, in a coherent and clear manner [MC 2.4./MC3.2, assessed]

7 Is able to underpin views in a scientifically justified manner and with the necessary dose of critical self-reflection [MC 3.2./MC 3.3., assessed]

8 Displays a commitment to lifelong learning. [MC3.4., not assessed]

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

See section Course content-related study coaching

Learning materials and price

Learning platform:

- MA dissertation manual

References

Course content-related study coaching

The students enrol in a mentoring programme consisting of a tutorial "Introduction to the Master's dissertation" and a series of tutorials that will be administered by the course titular and by members of the department's research groups. In consultation with the student, he supervisor will decide which of these tutorials are useful and therefore compulsory. The tutorial "Introduction to the Master's dissertation is always compulsory.

The students will give a presentation of their research proposal (research question, bibliography, methodology) at the end of the first semester. After the presentation they will receive feedback from their supervisor, possible future evaluators, researchers from the department and student peers. The presentation is compulsory. Non-attendance will be taken into account in the final evaluation of the supervisor.

Apart from the tutorials, students are coached individually or in small groups by their supervisors.

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

Oral assessment, assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Written assignment and oral defense

The MA dissertation is assessed by the supervisor and a second reader. They grade the dissertation based on how the student has carried out the research work, and how this is reflected in the dissertation.

They provide a written report in which they motivate their score which makes up 80% of the final score. In their assessment report they touch on:

- clarity of the research question(s);
- delineation of the research field;
- pertinence and efficiency of the methodology;
- critical assessment of the sources;
- clear and logical structure;
- clear and concise wording;
- correct and idiomatic language use;
- student's critical assessment of own research and texts;
- student's effort;
- regularity with which the student worked;
- extent to which the students followed the advice given.
- participation in tutorials and presentation activity

During the exam period, the students are invited to defend their dissertation in the presence of their supervisor and the second reader. A member of the teaching staff presides the interview and acts as moderator. More people may attend the interview (teachers, assistants and others), but may not become involved in the interview. The students briefly introduce (5 minutes) the subject, methodology, results and conclusions of their research. Then, the supervisor and the second reader ask questions regarding the content, methodology and interpretation of results to which the student has to respond. The interview is approximately 30 minutes long. Supervisor and second reader decide on a score for the dissertation defense that determines 20% of the final score. The president calculates the final score and communicates the obtained grade to the student.

Second session: same

See also section Course content-related study coaching

Calculation of the examination mark

See heading 'Extra information on the examination methods'

Facilities for Working Students

Feedback can be given by appointment during office hours.