

Master's Dissertation (A704050)

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 2025-2026

A (Year)

Dutch

Gent

master's dissertation

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Eyckmans, June

LW22

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

crdts

offering

Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English)

15

A

Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English)

15

A

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 Multilingual Communication: 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 Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Italian)

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 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 Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Spanish)

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 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

Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French)

15

A

Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, French)

15

A

Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages(main subject

15

A

Dutch, Russian)		A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, Spanish)	15	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, Spanish)	15	A
Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, Turkish)	15	A
Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, Turkish)	15	A

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.

The Master's Thesis Vademecum is an integral part of the course description and is available on Ufora.

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 language of the dissertation reflects a C2 level for comprehension (listening and reading) and writing skills [MC 1.1; assessed].
- 2 The student is able to autonomously write a scientific paper in one of the chosen foreign languages (or in Dutch if the research subject concerns the Dutch language) on an Applied Linguistics topic, with the help of a supervisor [MC 2.1., assessed].
- 3 The student demonstrates a critical understanding of international specialist literature about the chosen topic, with an eye for new trends and innovative methodologies. [MC 2.2., assessed]
- 4 The student shows problem-solving skills and a critical mind in applying theoretical models and methods of analysis with reference to the chosen research topic [MC 2.3., assessed]
- 5 The student is able to report on the research, both orally and in writing, in a coherent and clear manner [MC 2.4/MC3.2, assessed].
- 6 The student 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].
- 7 The student is able to motivate the use of generative AI (if any) in the text and during the oral defense [MC3.4., 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

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Tutorials Master's Dissertation

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Other

Name: Vademecum

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

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, the supervisor will decide which of these tutorials are useful and therefore compulsory. The tutorial "Introduction to the Master's dissertation" is always compulsory.

Apart from the tutorials, students are coached individually or in small groups by a supervisor.

Assessment moments

end-of-term 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

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Dissertation and oral defense

In the master's thesis, the student reports in approximately 15,000 words on the research conducted. In addition, the student is invited to an oral defense of the thesis with the thesis supervisor and the second reader. A member of the faculty serves as chairperson.

The student gives a brief (5-minute) introduction in Dutch about the thesis (topic, method, results). Afterwards, the supervisor and second reader ask critical questions about the content and the development of the thesis. Special attention is given to the critical narrative regarding the use of AI in parts of the thesis. The student is expected to respond to questions, justify the choices made, and either refute or accept any criticism. The oral defense lasts approximately 45 minutes. The thesis and its oral defense are assessed by the thesis supervisor and a second reader. Both provide a grade that each counts for 50% of the final grade. The supervisor evaluates the content, methodology, text structure, and process, as inferred from the written text, the answers given during the defense, and the interaction between supervisor and student. The focus of this evaluation is on the original, independent research work conducted by the student during the thesis process. The second reader evaluates the content, methodology, and text structure, as inferred from the written text and the responses during the defense.

The supervisor and second reader provide a written report in which they motivate their scores. 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;
- motivation of use of generative AI tools (if any)
- student's effort;
- regularity with which the student worked;
- extent to which the students followed the advice given.
- participation in tutorials

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.