GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2025-2026

Master's Dissertation (C002309)

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

Credits 30.0 **Study time 825 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (Year)	Dutch	Gent	master's dissertation

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Computer Science	30	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Research, report

Position of the course

The master education ends with a master's dissertation. In this dissertation, students show that they are capable to apply the knowledge and skills they learned during their training in a concrete research project and to write a scientific thesis about it.
The research project involves the collecting, processing, analysis and interpretation of data. The research project does take place within the own faculty departments, another faculty of the UGent, another research institution (possibly abroad) or a company. For a stay abroad, a student may obtain a scholarship as part of the EU Erasmus program only if the duration of the internship is at least 2 months.
For students going abroad the faculty member sending out the student is the responsible supervisor.

Contents

In the master's dissertation students familiarise themselves, under supervision of a promoter, with a specialised and up-to-date topic in computer science, possibly with applications in interdisciplinary research or industry. The master's dissertation consists of a project containing the independent elaboration of the chosen topic by the student, followed by a presentation with oral defense. During the project, students and their supervisor(s) have consultation meetings on a regular basis. Possible dissertation topics, including a problem statement and aim, are announced electronically by the promoters. Students also have the opportunity of suggesting their own topic.

Initial competences

Students have mastered all fundamentals, basic skills and a significant number of advanced topics from the knowledge domains in computer science. Students also have basic skills in independent information searching and processing, as well as communication skills about computational problems and their solutions. These competences will continue being developed during the master's dissertation.

Final competences

1 Apply computational skills from the field of computer science to find software solutions to complex and computationally challenging problems from scientific research areas or computer science industry.
2 Can apply software developing techniques, strategies and processes in an

authentic corporate context, while paying attention to reliability, safety and the entire life cycle of software systems.

3 Have experience with projects that are integrative, requiring evaluation of potential solutions, and requiring work on a larger scale than typical course projects.

4 Can synthetisize and represent results.

5 Make effective presentations to a range of audiences about their own work, computational problems and their solutions.

6 Show an attitude of self-dependence, dedication and perseverance.

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, Work placement

Study material

None

References

Course content-related study coaching

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Assignment

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

Assignment

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

All students are expected to consult and apply the faculty code of conduct for the use of GenAI during the master's dissertation.
Students are expected to use tools based on generative AI in a responsible manner. In principle, generative AI is permitted or even recommended for improving the language quality of the thesis text and the quality of figures and graphs. Generative AI can also be used as a programming aid in most cases, but the exact processes for which generative AI may be used within each thesis must be concretely and clearly agreed between the supervisors/supervisors and the student.

Calculation of the examination mark

30% process, 30% product, 40% oral presentation/defense

The jury has the right to give someone a non-deliberable mark for the master's thesis if they have not passed one of the 3 parts (process, product or oral presentation/defense).