GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2025-2026

General Research Skills (E029700)

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

Credits 3.0 **Study time 90 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2027-2028

A (semester 1)	English	Gent
B (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

De Paepe, Michel	TW08	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**crdts**	**offering**
Bridging Programme Master of Science in Engineering: Ships and Marine Technology	3	A
Bridging Programme Master of Science in Mechanical and Electrical Systems Engineering	3	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering	3	B
Master of Science in Engineering: Ships and Marine Technology	3	B
Master of Science in Engineering: Ships and Marine Technology	3	A
Master of Science in Mechanical and Electrical Systems Engineering	3	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Research methodology, paper writing, research communication, self-management, ethics

Position of the course

This course gives an introduction to research skills, to prepare students for the master thesis

Contents

- Introduction
  - Research: definition, scope, aims
  - Ethics in research: responsible conduct of research and avoiding plagiarism
  - The international research community and publications
  - Research types and methods in the field of our Master
- Time & data management – planning
  - Meeting agenda
  - Meeting reports
  - Data management
  - GANTT charts
- Literature research and reference management
  - Using databases - Web Of Science
  - Referencing
  - Paper management – Mendeley / Zoterro / Endnote / ...
- Research objectives & hypothesis
  - Formulation of a research objective
  - Formulation of a research hypothesis
  - Sub-objectives and work plan
- Writing skills
  - Structure of a Master Dissertation
    - Problem formulation
    - Methods and materials

    - Analysis
    - Conclusion
  - How to write a literature survey: structure, synthesis, ...
  - Writing an extended abstract
- Presentation skills
  - How to bring your results in 15 minutes
  - Slide design and layout in the Ghent University template

Initial competences

- Writing and presentation skills acquired in the project line of the master
- Reporting skills acquired during the project line of the master

Final competences

1 Have knowledge on finding literature in relevant databases and do correct referencing
2 Be able to write structure papers for a literature review
3 Understand the good practises and ethics for publications
4 The ability to plan a research project
5 Be able to formulate research objectives
6 Be able to write a research paper

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Extra information on the teaching methods

- This course is taught in 6 lectures in the first weeks of the semester.
- The students get 5 assignments they have to hand in.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no

References

Course content-related study coaching

- Interactive support through the electronic learning platform (forums, e-mail), in person: after agreement on date, fixed contact hour: immediately before and after lectures.
- Additional guidance by lecturer on demand

Assessment moments

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

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

5 assignments to be handed in on Ufora

Calculation of the examination mark

The 5 assignments are scored each for 4 points of the 20