

Master's Dissertation I (H000079)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
Credits 4.0 Study time 120 h Contact hrs 30.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2017-2018

A (year)	Dutch	master's dissertation	27.5 h
		self-reliant study	0.0 h
		activities	
		seminar	2.5 h

Lecturers in academic year 2017-2018

Offered in the following programmes in 2017-2018	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Psychology (main subject Clinical Psychology)	4	A
Master of Science in Psychology (main subject Personnel Management and Industrial Psychology)	4	A
Master of Science in Psychology (main subject Teacher Education and Training)	4	A
Master of Science in Psychology (main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology)	4	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

problem identification, literature review, study design, scientific research, research management, scientific reporting, APA-guidelines, scientific integrity

Position of the course

This course contributes to the following competence areas:

Master of Science in Psychology, main subject Clinical psychology

- M.1.1. Advanced understanding of the concepts and approaches used in the sub-disciplines of clinical psychology.
- M.1.3. Have specialized and advanced insights with regard to both short-term as more specialized clinical-psychological diagnostics and intervention.
- M.2.1. Independently develop and evaluate psychological diagnosis and interventions.
- M.2.2. Evidence-based action as basic premise within clinical psychological praxis.
- M.2.3. Translation of scientific research to related psychological situations.
- M.2.4. Praxis based on respect for academic knowledge and scientific research findings.
- M.3.1. Systematic use of the empirical cycle as scientific mindset at the various stages of the clinical psychological process.
- M.3.2. Independently adopt a point of view on a complex clinical psychological problem.
- M.4.1. Communicate orally and in writing on one's own research to specialists and non-specialists.
- M.4.2. Have skills to cast a verbal, non-verbal and written clear, constructive, respectful and accurate report.
- M.4.3. Collaborate in a multidisciplinary setting.
- M.5.1. Demonstrate an ethical-deontological attitude based on multi-perspectivism.
- M.5.2. Thorough attention to the diversity of target groups within the context of aid.
- M.5.3. Insight in the psychological deontological code.
- M.6.1. Implementation of psychological diagnostics and intervention.
- M.6.2. Take into account the individual and cultural diversity in diagnostics and

intervention.

- M.6.3. Able to apply clinical psychological skills in the dealing with individuals and systems.

Master of Science in Psychology, main subject Personnel management and industrial psychology

- M.1.1. Master advanced knowledge of organizational psychology and creatively apply it to approach complex problems (individual, teams, organization).
- M.1.3. Have insight into the specific nature of psychology (theorising, modelling, information gathering, analyzing and concluding) and insight into scholarly practice, and independently apply knowledge of topical discussions on these issues to approach complex problems.
- M.2.1. Independently develop and implement organizational psychological research designs.
- M.2.2. Critically survey international organizational psychological research and use these sources in original research.
- M.2.3. Independently select adequate methods and techniques for organizational psychological research or design purposes.
- M.2.5. Creatively discover relationships and discover novel points of view and apply these for new organizational psychological applications.
- M.2.6. Qualify and correctly report the results of one's own organizational psychological research in a scholarly report, thesis or article.
- M.2.8. Act systematically in a scientific integer way while conducting organizational psychological research or practice.
- M.3.2. Independently come to conclusions for complex organizational psychological problems.
- M.3.3. Adopt a point of view on a complex organizational psychological problem and critically weigh various points of view.
- M.4.1. Communicate in writing on organizational psychology, one's own research and solutions to problems to specialists, non-specialists and other parties involved.
- M.4.2. Communicate orally on organizational psychology, one's own research and solutions to problems to specialists and non-specialists and to other parties involved.
- M.4.3. Communicate (orally and in writing) on organizational psychology, one's own research and solutions to problems to specialists and non-specialists and to other parties involved, but in a second language.
- M.4.4. Collaborate in a (academic) multidisciplinary setting with clients, staff, colleagues and externals.
- M.4.6. Communicate the results of diagnostic or organizational psychological praxis to clients.
- M.5.2. Integrate ethical and normative aspects in scholarly work.
- M.5.3. Adopt an attitude of civic engagement/active citizenship in domains relevant to organizational psychology.
- M.5.4. Integrate sensitivity towards cultural differences and respect for diversity in organizational psychological scholarly work.
- M.5.5. Systematic attention to sustainable development in scholarly work.
- M.5.6. Understand, recognize and encourage entrepreneurship.
- M.5.7. Choose a role as a novice practitioner in society.
- M.6.1. Use of diagnoses on organizational psychological problems or questions in daily practice.
- M.6.2. Design, develop and customize organizational psychological diagnosis and intervention methods.
- M.6.3. Being able to use a variety of organizational psychological intervention methods and techniques.
- M.6.4. Operationalize, implement and evaluate organizational psychological intervention.
- M.6.5. Independently using scientific organizational psychological knowledge at the level of a starting professional.

Master of Science in Psychology, main subject Theoretical and experimental psychology

- M.1.1. Master advanced knowledge of psychology and creatively apply it to approach complex research questions in cognitive psychology, experimental psychology or neurosciences.
- M.1.3. Have insight into the specific nature of psychological science (theorising, modelling, information gathering, analyzing and concluding) and insight into scientific practice, and independently apply knowledge of current discussions on these issues to approach complex research questions on cognitive psychology, experimental psychology or neurosciences.
- M.2.1. Independently develop and implement research designs in cognitive psychology, experimental psychology or neurosciences.
- M.2.2. To master a critical overview of international research in cognitive psychology, experimental psychology or neurosciences and use these sources in original research. To situate one's own research in the international research community.
- M.2.3. Independently select adequate methods, designs and techniques for research

- in cognitive psychology, experimental psychology or neurosciences.
- M.2.5. Creatively discover relationships between psychological concepts and discover new perspectives and apply these for new applications.
- M.2.6. Interpret and correctly report the results of own research in cognitive psychology, experimental psychology or neurosciences in a scholarly report, thesis or article.
- M.2.8. To act systematically with scientific integrity while conducting psychological research or practice.
- M.3.2. Independently evaluate complex psychological problems in cognitive psychology, experimental psychology or neurosciences.
- M.3.3. Adopt a point of view on a complex psychological problem in cognitive psychology, experimental psychology or neurosciences and critically weigh various points of view.
- M.4.1. Communicate in writing on cognitive psychology, experimental psychology or neurosciences, one's own research and solutions to psychological issues to specialists, non-specialists and other parties involved.
- M.4.2. Communicate orally on cognitive psychology, experimental psychology or neurosciences, one's own research and solutions to psychological issues to specialists and non-specialists and to other parties involved.
- M.4.3. Communicate (orally and in writing) on cognitive psychology, experimental psychology or neurosciences, one's own research and solutions to psychological issues to specialists and non-specialists and to other parties involved, but in a second language.
- M.4.4. Collaborate in a (academic) multidisciplinary setting with staff and colleagues.
- M.5.2. Integrate ethical and normative aspects in scholarly work.
- M.5.3. Adopt an attitude of civic engagement/active citizenship in domains relevant to cognitive psychology, experimental psychology or neurosciences.
- M.5.4. Integrate sensitivity towards cultural dependency of research outcomes and respect for diversity of subjects in scholarly work.
- M.5.5. Systematic attention to sustainable development in scholarly work.
- M.5.6. Communicate research outcomes to the general public (science communication).
- M.5.7. Choose a role as a novice practitioner in society.
- M.6.1. Apply diagnoses or measurements on psychological issues or research questions.
- M.6.2. Design, develop and customize psychological measurements, diagnosis and intervention methods in order to answer research questions.
- M.6.3. Independently use and apply scientific psychological knowledge at the level of a starting professional.

Master of Science in Psychology, main subject Teacher education and training

- M.1.1. Advanced understanding of the concepts and approaches used in the sub-disciplines of psychology.
- M.1.3. Specialized and advanced science-based insights regarding action-oriented educational psychological diagnostics and intervention.
- M.2.1. Independently develop and evaluate educational psychological diagnosis and interventions.
- M.2.2. Evidence-based action as basic premise within educational psychological praxis.
- M.2.3. Translation of scientific research to related (educational) psychological situations.
- M.2.4. Praxis based on respect for academic knowledge and scientific research findings.
- M.3.1. Systematic use of the empirical cycle as scientific mindset at the various stages of the (educational) psychological process.
- M.3.2. Independently adopt a point of view on a complex (educational) psychological problem.
- M.4.1. Communicate orally and in writing on one's own research to specialists and non-specialists.
- M.4.2. Have skills to cast a verbal, non-verbal and written clear, constructive, respectful and accurate report.
- M.4.3. Collaborate in a multidisciplinary setting with attention to empowerment.
- M.5.1. Adopt an ethical-deontological attitude based on a multi-perspectivism.
- M.5.2. Thorough attention to the diversity of target groups within the context of aid and education.
- M.5.3. Insight in the psychological deontological code.
- M.6.1. Act independently in relation to several other specialized disciplines and thereby using scientific knowledge on diagnosis and interventions.
- M.6.2. Conduct evidence based diagnostics and plan and implement interventions with regard to typical and atypical learning.
- M.6.3. Take into account the individual and cultural diversity and comorbidity in diagnostics and intervention.
- M.6.4. Able to apply (educational) psychological skills in the empowered dealing with

individuals and systems.

Contents

Master's Dissertation I is a written and systematic report of the first phases of the study of a psychological theme. The student is expected to complete the first steps of the research cycle, including the identification and formulation of a problem, the theoretical framing of a problem, developing and formulating hypotheses, choosing a research approach (an empirical study, a methodological study, or a literature study), developing a research design, choosing among research methods and operationalizations, developing a research plan, and conducting research directed at the collection of data. The report has to be written in a technical-scientific language, including the following elements: description of the problem/theme and its context, research questions/objectives, theoretical and/or conceptual basis (relying on the literature), research design (argumentation for choices and procedures, if relevant, also for instruments, samples, data-analytic strategy), and the procedure that is followed to collect the data. Relying on this report, a third party should be in a position to replicate the data-collection or start with the analysis of the data.

The final aim is a well-written manuscript (Dutch or English) that can serve as the introduction of Master's Dissertation II that has to finally result in a manuscript that is suited for publication submission.

A compulsory seminar on scientific integrity will be organised. Not participating in this seminar, leads to failure for Master's Dissertaion I.

Initial competences

Final competences

To relate, to situate and to demonstrate implications of theoretical concepts.

- To be acquainted with the recent developments in the domain.
- To define, to prepare and to carry out a research question.
- To choose from a multitude of research approaches and techniques.
- To design and to evaluate research.
- To operationalise or to carry out a research plan.
- To analyse and to interpret research results and to relate them to the original research question.
- To report and to present research and research results.
- To select and to integrate literature in order to create knowledge.
- To develop and to substantiate an opinion.
- To collaborate with colleagues, principals, professionals from other disciplines and personnel.
- To communicate psychology related knowledge and insights.
- To reflect on the interaction between psychology and the public debate.
- To reflect on the interaction between psychology and policy issues.
- To formulate a diagnosis as a working hypothesis based on presenting conditions.
- To choose between a multitude of intervention methods and techniques.
- To design and to develop methods for diagnosis and intervention.
- To operationalise or to carry out an intervention plan.
- To evaluate an intervention in order to correct and remedy.
- To stimulate the active participation of the client in diagnosis and intervention.
- To respect relevant deontological codes.
- To respect the clients' singularity and particularities.
- To defend personal decisions in an ethical way.

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, seminar, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminars organised by the departments.

Learning materials and price

Regulations concerning the Master's Dissertation are available on line at:
<http://www.fsappw.ugent.be/index.php?position=9x2x0>

References

American Psychological Association (2001). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: Fifth Edition. APA Books, Washington DC.

Course content-related study coaching

- By appointment.
- Individual coaching by the supervisor.

The student is responsible for developing a planning and is requested to report on this progress from time to time in the form of written syntheses submitted for discussion to the supervisor. Individual and/or collective feedback is organised around these reports.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

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

Participation, assignment

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

Participation, assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Evaluation of the submitted work relative to the objectives described for Master's Dissertation I. Specific evaluation criteria are available for the students in the Master's Dissertation regulations

Calculation of the examination mark

Students who do not participate in the periodic and/or permanent evaluations for the course unit concerned or the compulsory seminar on scientific integrity will at the most be given a non-deliberative final quotation.