Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2018-2019

Master's Dissertation

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019
Pauwels, Lieven

RE23
lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

Master of Science in Criminological Sciences

Teaching languages
Dutch

Keywords
Self-reliant scientific work, written dissertation, oral defence.

Position of the course
The Master's Dissertation demonstrates the ability of the student to successfully adopt the competences outlined by the master programme of criminological sciences, in particular to graduate as competent, independent and critical criminologists. To describe, analyse and clarify a relevant criminological problem using all available socio-scientific sources. On this basis, to set up an own research, preferably from a multi-disciplinary angle.

Contents
The Master's Dissertation is considered to be the final thesis of the Master of Criminological Sciences. Departing from a vision on theory, research and practice the student is meant to set up an own critical and scientific research design based on a relevant criminological problem.

The Master's Dissertation thereby contains an independent, critical, professional and scientific analysis of a chosen criminological problem, which is presented in a high quality paper demonstrating constructive judgement and innovative ideas.

The Master's Dissertation does have to comply with the basic standards for scientific publications.

For more concrete guidelines concerning the writing of the Master's Dissertation we refer tot the brochure "Master's Dissertation Criminology" (which will be distributed via the digital learning environment).

Initial competences
To be acquainted with relevant criminological sources (law, jurisprudence, legal doctrine, manuals and books of reference, monographs, scientific magazines, professional literature, data bases, internet...)

To have profound knowledge of and insight in criminological basics, theoretical insights and research methods of the most important disciplines contributing (or having contributed) to the criminological study of deviance and criminality phenomena.

Final competences
1 To dispose of profound, in-depth and specialized knowledge and insight in criminality and deviance phenomena and to be able to critically reflect upon the reactions to these phenomena from general and criminological frames of reference and different
paradigms, perspectives and research traditions.

2 To be able to demonstrate scientifically correct, and if required practice oriented, connections between different subdisciplines of criminological science.

3 To be able to master a (meta) criminological theme as a critical, independent intellectual.

4 To be able to differentiate between essence and detail.

5 To acknowledge societal evolutions and international influences.

6 The ability to independently pursue and sustain in pursuing to unravel a chosen theme and to take, define and argument a personal view in light of diverging vision in the criminological debate.

7 The ability to translate a complex problem into a intelligible and fluent report.

8 To identify, appraise, select, process and critically apply relevant criminological sources and scientific literature in a high quality paper.

9 The persistence to furrow through the masse in sources, in different sub- and related disciplines, in different databases and libraries, in different languages.

10 To demonstrate an active interest in current affairs. Flexibility in closely monitoring evolutions in ethical, cultural and legal matters.

11 The openness to analyse diverging points of view and evaluate them in an objective manner.

12 Self-discipline to initiate regular feedback on the status of the Master's Dissertation and to gradually implement a thorough research design.

13 To adopt a critical-reflective attitude towards criminality, deviance and the societal reaction thereupon.

14 Presenting a written report fluently, defending it, and being able to cope with critique.

15 Answer questions to the point and correctly.

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

Learning materials and price
Brochure "Master's Dissertation" (will be distributed via the digital learning environment).

References
Brochure "Master's Dissertation" (will be distributed via the digital learning environment).

Course content-related study coaching
Individual supervision by the promotor (and/or doctor-assistants). The student can contact the promotor or the assistant(s) at the times that are communicated.

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
Examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods
A written paper of minimal 40.000 and maximum 65.000 words (bibliography and annexes excluded). The Master's dissertation has to be defendend orally.

Calculation of the examination mark
If the average score awarded by the members of the reading committee is below 10/20, decimal points will be disregarded. Hence, 9,5 will be treated as 9 not as 10.