

## 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 2018-2019

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

### Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019	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

Master's Dissertation I is a part of block 1, that focusses throughout the program on the research methods that a psychologist needs to master. In this course, the student is prepared for the course Master's Dissertation II

### 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.