

## Master's Dissertation (I001510)

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

Credits 30.0      Study time 900 h      Contact hrs 0.0 h

Course offerings in academic year 2019-2020

A (year)      English

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020	crdts	offering
<a href="#">International Master of Science in Rural Development</a>	30	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Scientific research, research techniques, scientific reporting, written manuscript, oral presentation

Position of the course

Students can choose the topic for their master's dissertation (thesis) in a broad range of disciplines in which the scientific staff of the master programs is active. The students can propose their own research topic or become involved in ongoing research within the research group of their promoter(s). Students have to conduct research with the appropriate expertise in order to contribute to the development of a particular research domain. The ultimate goal is to initiate students into research at an academic level so that, upon completion of their master program, they are able to carry out scientific research in a proper way. For some programs, specific requirements will be mentioned in the practical procedure.

Contents

The master's dissertation is a written report of the scientific research the student has conducted.

This manuscript contains the following items, similar to the structure of a scientific publication:

- o preface
- o table of contents
- o list of abbreviations
- o abstract
- o introduction
- o relevant literature: should contain only what is necessary to understand the work, with a focus on a critical synthesis
- o methodology
- o results: raw data can be delivered in an electronic format
- o discussion
- o general conclusions
- o recommendations for further research
- o list of references
- o appendices (only in an electronic format)

More information about the practical procedure for the master's dissertation and about the properties, rights and duties of those involved in the master's dissertation can be found on the website of the faculty.

Initial competences

A thorough scientific basic knowledge and knowledge of research techniques in the

field of the master program.

#### Final competences

- 1 define a research problem
- 2 formulate clear research questions
- 3 set up an appropriate methodology
- 4 carry out a critical literature study
- 5 collect data meticulously (using existing data sets or data obtained by lab or field work or surveys)
- 6 process data in a correct way
- 7 analyze data in a critical way
- 8 make a concise synthesis
- 9 draw up a final manuscript – scientific report , which includes taking into account all formal aspects of the final manuscript with respect to construction of the dissertation, language and style, figures and tables, references
- 10 show the necessary independence, motivation, dedication and initiative while obtaining final competences 1-9
- 11 give a clear oral presentation of the results of the work
- 12 argue in a well founded manner during the discussion

#### 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

#### References

Practical Research: Planning and Design by Paul D. Leedy & Jeanne Ellis Ormrod, 2009, Prentice Hall. ISBN 9780137152421

#### Course content-related study coaching

The master's dissertation is actively coached by the promoter(s) and tutor(s) during counseling meetings, during which the work as well as the ongoing learning process involved are reviewed.

#### 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

Participation

#### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

#### Extra information on the examination methods

Examination method depends on the institute of defense of the dissertation.

For dissertations defended at UGent:

Size of the dissertation manuscript: aim at 60 pages/ 20.000 words (from "introduction" up to and including "list of references)

Timing of the oral examination:

o oral presentation: maximum 10 min

o interactive discussion: 15 min (no questions are asked by the promotor(s))

o deliberation and feedback: 10 min

#### Calculation of the examination mark

For the Master's Dissertations that are defended at UGent, the calculation of the final mark is done as follows:

30 scored by promotor(s) on competences 1-9 (based on the practical work and the manuscript)

10 scored by the external jury member on competences 1-9 (based on the manuscript)

only)

10 scored by each of the two jury members on competences 6-9 (based on the manuscript only)

10 scored on competence 10 by the promoter(s)

10 scored on competence 11 by the examination committee at the moment of dissertation defense

20 scored on competence 12 by the examination committee at the moment of dissertation defense.

Based on the individual scores, a final score is given on behalf of the examination committee.

The scoring of the masterdissertations defended at one of the partneruniversities outside UGent follow the rules used at that university. Each jury will have an external jury member who will evaluate competences 1 to 9.

Students who eschew periodic and/or permanent evaluations may be failed by the examiner.