

Dissertation 2024

30.00 credits		Q1 and Q2
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This learning unit is not open to incoming exchange students!

Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes	Whatever the subject, the Master's dissertation enables students to: • carry out a critical analysis and synthesis of a given scientific question, • contextualise an issue in relation to current knowledge, • present the results of their work by justifying their methodological choices, arguing their hypotheses and scientifically presenting the results obtained.
Learning outcomes	At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to: demonstrate the ability to present correctly the results of personal, objective and methodical work, the quality of which is not necessarily linked to its scope. The dissertation is, like the other forms of teaching, an integral part of the programmes in which it is included. It is a piece of research required of students which, at this stage of their training, should be considered as an introduction to research in the discipline concerned. The dissertation consists of research work: • specific, in relation to other teaching activities; • methodical, the foundations of which are laid by the basic training; • integrated into the programme and limited in scope.

Evaluation methods

Supervision and composition of the dissertation jury

The dissertation is supervised by a promoter. Exceptionally, if the subject of the dissertation so requires, a co-supervisor may be called upon by the promoter with the agreement of the chair of the jury.

The student must submit his/her subject for approval to the promoter by the date specified in the faculty calendar.

The dissertation jury consists of at least the promoter and one other reader appointed by the Master's jury (represented by the jury chair).

The promoter's and reader's marks take into account:

- achievement of the objectives set;
- the ability to produce a relevant and well-documented summary;
- personal commitment and the ability to discuss methodological choices;
- the coherence of the work carried out:
- the correctness, quality and relevance of the written word.

Assessment criteria for the dissertation

In its final mark, the promoter also takes into account the student's commitment and the regularity of the work done throughout the Master's programme as part of the dissertation (in particular, submission on time and the quality of the dossier submitted at the end of the first annual block).

The dissertation reader is responsible for drawing up a detailed written report on certain formal aspects of the dissertation (= "language report"):

- spelling
- language (precision and appropriateness of terms, syntactical correctness);
- punctuation
- presentation of the text itself, bibliography, notes, references, etc.

Language report

The language report may lead the jury to reduce the mark awarded to the dissertation, in accordance with the procedures set out in the document "Evaluation of language proficiency in written work, TFCs, dissertations and TFEs on bachelor's and master's degree programmes in French and Romance languages and literature (general studies and French as a foreign language)". *** [see document to be approved by the ROM jury on 28/6/24], or even to declare failure.

In the event of failure of the dissertation due to the language report, without prejudice to article 153 of the RGEE, the chair of the jury will notify the student that he/she cannot present the oral defence of the dissertation, given that this failure cannot be remedied by the defence.

For dissertations written in Spanish or Italian, the 2nd reader includes the language assessment in his/her mark.

Rules on plagiarism and the use of Al

Throughout the dissertation, the student must demonstrate a perfect command of the rules of bibliographic referencing; at the risk of being suspected of plagiarism, he/she must remember to

- NOT copy a text without inverted commas and/or without mentioning the source;
- NOT reproduce a graph, data, illustration, etc. without mentioning the source;
- NOT reformulate or summarise an author's original idea without mentioning the source;
- DO NOT translate, in whole or in part, a source without referencing it;
- DO NOT use someone else's work by presenting it as your own (even if the author of the work has given his or her agreement);
- DO NOT buy a work.

See https://uclouvain.be/fr/etudier/uss/lutter-contre-le-plagiat.html

This definition completes the definition given in art. 107 §2 of the RGEE and constitutes a special provision within the meaning of §3 of the same article.

Any student who fails to comply with the scientific referencing standards set out above is liable, in the event of irregularity or plagiarism established by the jury, to academic sanctions as detailed in the RGEE (section 7).

If generative artificial intelligence (AI) is used, it must be used responsibly and in accordance with the practices of academic and scientific integrity. As scientific integrity requires that sources be cited, the use of AI must always be reported.

Oral presentation

The dissertation is defended orally before a jury made up of the promoter and the reader. The oral presentation is an opportunity for the student and the members of the jury to exchange views. The oral examination is taken into account in the final assessment of the dissertation. The practical arrangements for the oral examination are communicated to the student no later than the first day of the session in which the dissertation is registered.

Teaching methods

Students must have at least two meetings with their supervisors during the first year.

By the first day of the final session of their first year at the latest, students must send their supervisor a file summarising the work carried out over the year.

This file will comprise at least : a title, a description of the question (one page), a plan and a structured bibliography.

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Content	The masters dissertation, irrespective of the subject, allows a student to :		
	 carry out a critical analysis and summarise a given scientific topic; put a specific issue/statement in context drawing on existing information; present the results of the dissertation by justifying the methodological choices, explaining the hypotheses and scientifically stating the results obtained. 		
	A dissertation must contain at least 80 pages (200.000 caracters long), a length deemed necessary to make a detailed presentation of a research hypothesis, a proof or of a well-argued account supported by quotations, references, sources and demonstrating familiarity with the subject bibliography. The dissertation includes an introduction relating in particular to methodology, a development displaying the analysis and synthesis of the argument, a conclusion and a bibliography.		
Inline resources	https://moodle.uclouvain.be/course/view.php?id=4142		
Other infos			
Faculty or entity in charge	ELAL		

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)						
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes		
Master [120] in French and Romance Languages and Literatures : General	ROM2M	30		Q		