UCLouvain



2024

## Dissertation (Master's paper)

25.00 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			
Prerequisites	The prerequisite(s) for this Teaching Unit (Unité d'enseignement – UE) for the programmes/courses that offer this Teaching Unit are specified at the end of this sheet.			
Main themes	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.			
Learning outcomes	At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to:  The dissertation must demonstrate the author's ability to describe correctly the results of a personal, objective and methodical work. Similar to the other forms of learning, the dissertation is an essential component of the programme to which it belongs. It consists of research work which students should consider as a first step in research in their particular field.  The dissertation is a research work:  • specific, as regards the other teaching activities; • methodical, the underlying methodology has already been acquired in the bachelor and masters programme; • integrated in the programme and limited to the scope of the subject.			

#### Evaluation methods

The dissertation is supervised by a promoter. Exceptionally, if the subject of the dissertation so requires, a co-supervisor may be requested by the promoter with the agreement of the chair of the jury. The student must submit his/her subject to the promoter for approval. The dissertation jury is made up of at least the promoter and two other readers appointed by the Master's jury (represented by the jury chair).

The promoter's and readers' 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;
- the correctness, quality and relevance of the written word.

In awarding the 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, the timely submission and quality of the dossier submitted at the end of the first annual block).

Throughout the dissertation, students must demonstrate their perfect mastery of the rules of bibliographic referencing; at the risk of being suspected of plagiarism, they must NOT

- Copy a text without inverted commas and/or without mentioning the source:
- Reproduce a graph, data, illustration, etc. without mentioning the source;
- Reformulate or summarise an author's original idea without mentioning the source;
- Translate, in whole or in part, a source without referencing it;
- Use the work of others and present it as your own (even if the author of the work has given his or her agreement);
- Buying a work.

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

This definition supplements the one set out in art. 107 §2 of the RGEE, which constitutes a special provision within the meaning of §3 of the same article.

Any student who fails to comply with the standards of scientific referencing 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.

The dissertation is defended orally, in a maximum of 30 minutes (presentation by the student and questions from the jury), before a jury comprising at least the promoter and the readers. During the oral presentation, the student briefly outlines the main thrusts and conclusions of his/her research; the jury reacts and asks questions. The oral presentation is taken into account in the final assessment of the dissertation.

#### Teaching methods

Students are required to meet their promoter on at least two occasions during the first annual block. No later than the first day of the final session of their first annual block, they must send their promoter a dossier summarising the work carried out during the year.

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This dossier must include at least: a title, a description of the problem (one page), an outline and a structured bibliography.

The jury may object to a student's registration for the dissertation if the student has not participated in the various stages of the teaching process as detailed above and, a fortiori, if the student has never contacted his/her promoter (except for validation of the dissertation subject when first registering for block 1 of the master's degree) cf. RGEE articles 73 and 74.

A student deemed to be at the end of the cycle may register for the dissertation in the June or September session. Only students who have already presented their dissertation, without credit, at the session of a previous academic year are authorised to register for the January session.

#### Content

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.

A dissertation must be at least eighty pages long, i.e. 200,000 characters (including spaces; including bibliography and notes, but excluding appendices) of original, personal writing, the space needed to present a research hypothesis, a demonstration or an argumented presentation supported by quotations, references, sources and familiarity with the bibliography on the subject. It includes an introduction, in particular a methodological one, a development showing the analysis and synthesis of the subject, a conclusion and a bibliography.

#### Inline resources

https://moodle.uclouvain.be/course/view.php?id=4142

### Université catholique de Louvain - Dissertation (Master's paper) - en-cours-2024-lthea2992

Other infos	RGEE: https://uclouvain.be/fr/etudier/reglement-general-des-etudes-et-des-examens.html Plagiat: https://uclouvain.be/fr/etudier/uss/lutter-contre-le-plagiat.html
Faculty or entity in charge	ELAL

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)						
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes		
Master [120] in Performing Arts	THEA2M	25	LTHEA2990			