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28.00 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	<p>Whatever the subject, the Master's dissertation enables students to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The dissertation consists of research work :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 promoter.

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

The dissertation jury is made up of two readers: the promoter and another reader appointed by the Master's jury (represented by the jury chair).

Oral defence

The dissertation is defended orally before a jury made up of the promoter and the reader. The oral examination 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.

Dissertation assessment criteria

The final mark takes into account :

- achievement of the set objectives ;
- the coherence and general quality of the work carried out (relevant and well-documented synthesis of the scientific literature, quality of the methodological approach and appropriateness to the objectives, relevance and soundness of the analysis and interpretation)
- the ability to discuss critically the methodological choices made and the conclusions drawn from the work;
- the correctness, quality and relevance of the written presentation;
- the quality of the oral presentation.

The promoter's final mark also takes into account the student's commitment and the regularity of the work done on the dissertation throughout the Master's programme.

Language report

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.

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 \(general studies and French as a foreign language\)](#)', or even to declare the dissertation a 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 or she may not present the oral defence of the dissertation, given that this failure cannot be made good by the defence.

Rules on plagiarism and the use of AI

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

- DO NOT copy a text without inverted commas and/or without mentioning the source;
- DO NOT reproduce a graph, data, illustration, etc. without mentioning the source;
- DO 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.

Teaching methods	<p>Students are required to meet with their promoter at least twice during the first annual block. No later than the first day of the final session of their first year block, they must send their promoter a dossier summarising the work carried out during the year.</p> <p>This dossier must include at least: a title, a description of the problem (one page), an outline and a structured bibliography.</p> <p>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 not been in sufficient contact with his/her promoter (except for validation of the dissertation subject when first registered for block 1 of the master's degree) cf. RGEE articles 73 and 74.</p> <p>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 year n-1 may present it at the January session.</p>
Content	<p>The Master's thesis is a personal contribution to scientific knowledge.</p> <p>Students will show that they are capable of carrying out the essential stages of scientific research, i.e. defining a problem, collecting bibliographical data and heuristics on sources, criticising and interpreting documentary databases, drawing up a synthesis and communicating the results.</p> <p>A dissertation must be at least eighty pages long (i.e. 200,000 characters including spaces) of original, personal writing (including bibliography and notes, but excluding appendices). Where a substantial part of the dissertation is devoted to a critical edition and/or an original translation of a text, this standard is increased to a minimum of 60 pages (i.e. 150,000 characters including spaces) of argued personal writing (to which must be added the pages of the edition and/or translation).</p> <p>All dissertations must include an introduction, in particular a methodological one, a development showing the analysis and synthesis of the subject, a conclusion and a bibliography.</p>
Inline resources	<p>https://moodle.uclouvain.be/course/view.php?id=4142</p>
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	28		