ETHI2M - Introduction

Introduction

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ETHI2M - Teaching profile

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Learning outcomes

The holder of the Master [120] in Ethics prepares to become a citizen and contributor capable of assisting societal actors to respond, on a reasoned and informed basis, to ethical questions posed to them. The UCLouvain School of Philosophy offers its students a programme which will enable them to meet this challenge at the end of their studies.

In order to achieve this objective, students will need the following main virtues:

- the ability to examine transforming movements in modern society by applying critical thought to the phenomena embodying them;
- the ability to analyse ethical questions which raise decision-making processes and practices, but at an individual level and a social and political level;
- the ability to construct a reasoned and informed position in respect of these questions;
- the ability to assist social actors by calling for responsibility as regards these ethical questions.

Generally, at the end of the master, students will have developed a spirit of criticism, faculty of analysis and review, intellectual creativity, a sense of tolerance and dialogue as well as an ability to debate ethical questions. These qualities, encouraged by critical reflection skills exercises, knowledge of the theories, concepts and methods involved in philosophical ethics, practice in reasoning as well as exchanges with other disciplines and their actors, are highly valued in various professions (diplomacy, journalism, human resource management, teaching, etc.).

On successful completion of this programme, each student is able to :

1. Demonstrate an expert and critical understanding of theories, concepts and methods in the domain of philosophical ethics and how they are connected to other fields of philosophy and scientific disciplines.

1.1. Appropriate a range of theories, concepts and methods.
1.2. Make theoretical and methodological choices in view of their relevance in dealing with ethical questions and be able to explain their founding principles and limitations.
1.3. Compare the contributions of philosophical ethics to those of the humanities.

2. Discern and deal with ethical questions in a methodological manner, on a philosophically-grounded and scientifically informed basis.

2.1. Determine and analyse ethical questions which raise decision-making processes and practices at an individual, social or political level.
2.2. Clarify the socio-anthropological assumptions and normative principles on which the positions and possible arguments relating to these questions are grounded.
2.3. Compare these positions and arguments to the contributions of scientific disciplines.
2.4. Take an educated and critical position in relation to these questions.

3. Create and realize individual research (dissertation) implementing a rigorously methodological and critical approach in order to go deeper into an ethical research question.

3.1. Carry out a critical review of the literature on this question, making effective, critical and appropriate use of IT and primary and secondary ethical and philosophical sources.
3.2. Implement a rigorous methodological analysis approach relevant to the question.
3.3. Challenge and defend the ethical theories which arise from that question.
3.4. Carry out an analysis of them and draw a conclusion which is relevant both in relation to the debates between specialists in the field and its practical efficacy.
3.5. Take and argue an educated and critical position in relation to that question.

4. Communicate, discuss and hold constructive debates, orally and in writing, with different actors (specialists and non-specialists) involved in a given situation where ethical questions are posed.

4.1. Communicate, orally and in writing, on complex subjects (data, points of view and conclusions as well as the underlying knowledge and principles) in a clear, structured fashion, reasoned in accordance with the specific standards of communication relevant to the context and by adapting their presentations to the target audience and aims being pursued.
4.2. Communicate, orally and in writing, original scientific results to specialists in the field of research concerned and discuss them critically.
4.3. Converse respectfully and constructively with various counterparts, demonstrating an ability to listen, open-mindedness and tolerance.

RESEARCH FOCUS [30.0]

○ Mandatory
⊗ Optional
△ Not offered in 2024-2025
⊘ Not offered in 2024-2025 but offered the following year
⊕ Offered in 2024-2025 but not the following year
△ ⊕ Not offered in 2024-2025 or the following year
🟨 Activity with requisites
🌐 Open to incoming exchange students
🌐 Not open to incoming exchange students
[FR] Teaching language (FR, EN, ES, NL, DE, ...)

Click on the course title to see detailed informations (objectives, methods, evaluation...)

Year
1 2

○ *Content:*

○ **Portfolio cm 0 0 m 70.8G [] 0 d 2 w 0 0 m 127.558998 0 l S Q Q q 1 0 0 1 481.9 197.102 cm q 6 0 0 -6 0 22.728001**

OPTIONS [25.0]

Students must complete their programme with MS. [25.0]

Year

1 2

⌧ LEUSL2113   Digital Europe

OPTION IN GENDER STUDIES [15.0]

In this master's programme, the course LFILO2202 is not available in module 1 of the transversal option.

O Mandatory
⚙ Optional
△ Not offered in 2024-2025
⊘ Not offered in 2024-2025 but offered the following year
⊕ Offered in 2024-2025 but not the following year
△ ⊕ Not offered in 2024-2025 or the following year
🟨 Activity with requisites
🌐 Open to incoming exchange students
🌐 Not open to incoming exchange students
[FR] Teaching language (FR, EN, ES, NL, DE, ...)

Click on the course title to see detailed informations (objectives, methods, evaluation...)

Year
1 2

o Content:

⚙ **Couples, Families, Sexualities**

| ⚙ LSEXM2713 | Sociological approaches to family and couple | Lorena Rocio Izaguirre Valdivieso | ⊘ [q1] [30h] [5 Credits] 🌐 | |

OPTIONAL COURSES

O Mandatory
⌗ Optional
△ Not offered in 2024-2025
⊘ Not offered in 2024-2025 but offered the following year
⊕ Offered in 2024-2025 but not the following year
△ ⊕ Not offered in 2024-2025 or the following year
🟨 Activity with requisites
🌐 Open to incoming exchange students
🌐 Not open to incoming exchange students
[FR] Teaching language (FR, EN, ES, NL, DE, ...)

Click on the course title to see detailed informations (objectives, methods, evaluation...)

Year

1 2

o *Content:*

⌗ **Ethics and Public Policies**

| ⌗ LESPO2211 | Integrated exercises of economic and social ethics | | [FR] [q2] [0h+30h] [6 Credits] △ 🌐 | x |

					Year	
					1	2
⌘ LEPL2210	Ethics and ICT	Axel Gosseries Olivier Pereira	EN [q2] [30h] [5 Credits] 🌐 > *French-friendly*		x	x
⌘ LECON2065	History of Economic Thought	Luca Pensieroso	EN [q1] [30h] [5 Credits] 🌐		x	x
⌘ LECON2067	Critical Analysis of Market Economies		EN [q1] [30h] [5 Credits] △ ∅ 🌐		x	x
⌘ LSEXM2813	Philosophy of the family and couple	Nathalie Frogneux	FR [q1] [22.5h] [3 Credits] 🌐		x	x

Supplementary classes

> **To access this Master, students must have a good command of certain subjects. If this is not the case, in the first annual block of their Masters programme, students must take supplementary classes chosen by the faculty to satisfy course prerequisites.**

What is a preparatory module?

It is a set of supplementary classes (courses, practical works, seminars, etc.) from the first cycle (see the non-exhaustive list below). The complementary module (maximum 60 credits) is tailor-made by the jury according to the student's educational background and added to the Master's programme in order to acquire fundamental knowledge to then pursue the 120 credits of the Master's programme.

Who is it for?

- Students from a non-university higher education institution
- Candidates admitted with additional training
- Candidates admitted on the file with additional training

All the explanations are in this document (in French).

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🟨 Activity with requisites
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[FR] Teaching language (FR, EN, ES, NL, DE, ...)

Click on the course title to see detailed informations (objectives, methods, evaluation...)

O Philosophical subjects

⌘ LFILO1120	Metaphysics	Not open to incoming exchange students

| ⚅ LFILO1370 | History of arabic Philosophy | Cécile Bonmariage | FR [q2] [30h] [5 Credits] ⊘ 🌐 |

○ Introduction to academic writing

| ○ LFILO1499 | Writing a scientific text | | FR [q1+q2] [] [10 Credits] 🌐 |

ETHI2M - Information

- Minor in Philosophy
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- Minor in Philosophy
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All Belgian masters	If students have followed: the Minor in Philosophy in bachelor the Certificat universitaire en philosophie (fondements) the Certificat universitaire en philosophie (approfondissement)	Access with additional training	Maximum 15 credits of supplementary classes integrated into the master's programme
			Programme to be determined depending on the student's educational background (consult Admission and Enrolment Procedures)
			If the UCLouvain Admissions Office considers the enrolment application sufficiently complete, it will submit the application to the faculty for a decision.
Any other Belgian master		Access with additional training	Programme to be determined depending on the student's educational background (consult Admission and Enrolment Procedures)
Foreign Masters		Access based on application	All candidates must ensure that they meet the specific access requirements. In case of admission, maximum 60 credits of supplementary classes integrated into the Master's programme (consult Acces on the file).

Holders of a non-University 2nd cycle degree

Only applicable to graduates of higher education institutions of the French Community of Belgium

Access based on validation of professional experience

> It is possible, under certain conditions, to use one's personal and professional experience to enter a university course without having the required qualifications. However, validation of prior experience does not automatically apply to all courses. Find out more about Validation of priori experience.

Candidates who do not fulfil the abovementioned admission requirements, but who have duly attested significant experience relevant to the field of study in question, may apply for admission to the programme on the basis of an individualised admission procedure.

For more information on the procedure for admission by validation of learning from experience (VAE) in the Faculty of Philosophy, Arts and Letters: https://uclouvain.be/fr/facultes/fial/valorisation-des-acquis-de-l-experience-vae.html.

Access based on application

Access based on application : access may be granted either directly or on the condition of completing additional courses of a maximum of 60 ECTS credits, or refused.

Admissibility criteria
A candidate's application will be deemed admissible if it meets all of the following criteria:

- Previous course of study including **at least 3 years of higher education** (equivalent to 180 European credits), leading to an undergraduate degree;
- For holders of a **degree from outside Belgium:**

1.

When examining the application, the jury will pay particular attention to the following points:

- **Consistency** between the candidate's previous academic career and the prerequisites for the targeted program. The match between the candidate's academic background and the UCLouvain bachelor's degree giving direct access to the master's program need not be perfect, but the skills acquired (see specific access conditions) must be close; Example: for an application for admission to a master's program in modern languages and literature, the candidate's previous training includes courses in languages and literature in both modern languages.
- **Grades** obtained in the program's major disciplines (see specific entry requirements);
- **Arguments** put forward by the applicant in his or her cover letter (training project in line with the program in question, relevance of arguments, coherence between the applicant's application and the program in question, etc.) Example: the language combination requested by the applicant is organized in the program in question.
- **Original covering letter**. An original covering letter is expected, explaining the personal training project. Any plagiarism or use of artificial intelligence in writing the letter to the jury will result in the application being disqualified.
- **Experience gained**. If the access diploma was obtained more than 5 years ago, it is imperative that the experience acquired since leaving school is directly related to the field of study of the programme applied for.

Changes to the conditions of access to the Faculty of Philosophy, Arts and Letters for 2025-2026 will be available in this document .

Admission and Enrolment Procedures for general registration

Teaching method

The courses on the programme of the Master [120] in Ethics guarantee students lessons in ethical reflection and train the students in how to acquire the necessary scientific skills for ethical reflection in a specific field. As for the research seminars, they are the place "par excellence" where the student learns how to integrate research work into an academic debate on ethics.

Given that UCLouvain is a complete university which is very up-to-date in ethical research, the students are easily integrated into the activities of the various ethical research bodies in UCLouvain: Centre de philosophie du droit (CPDR), Unité d'éthique biomédicale (EBIM), Chaire Hoover d'éthique économique et sociale (ETES), Centre interdisciplinaire techniques, sciences et sociétés (CITES).

Incidentally, internationalisation is not forgotten, as students can take part of their training away from UCLouvain, either by sharing courses with KU Leuven, or through a stay at a foreign university. Finally, the programme ends with the writing and oral defence of an individual piece of research.

Evaluation

The evaluation methods comply with the regulations concerning studies and exams. More detailed explanation of the modalities specific to each learning unit are available on their description sheets under the heading "Learning outcomes evaluation method".

In the courses and all the more so in the seminars on the master en éthique, students are often evaluated on their individual work. The relatively small class sizes means that teachers can provide follow-up guidance and constructive criticism.

To obtain a student's average, the grades awarded for each course unit are weighted by their respective credits

Mobility and/or Internationalisation outlook

As part of their studies, students enrolled in the Master [120] in Ethics are encouraged to undertake:

- a **study visit** for one term (30 credits) in one of the many universities with which the School of Philosophy has concluded partnership agreements, in Europe under the Erasmus+ programme, in Switzerland under the SEMP programme, or elsewhere in the world under the FAME/Mercator programme and/or
- a **study visit** for one term (30 credits) in one of the partner universities in Flanders, under the Erasmus Belgica programme and/or
- an **internship** in Belgium or abroad, in preparation for their Master's dissertation.

The School of Philosophy has privileged teaching and research collaborations with the University of Montréal (*Département de philosophie and the Centre de recherche en éthique*).

It is advisable to organise the study visit during the second term of the first year or the first term of the second year.

Furthermore, under the agreement between UCLouvain and KU Leuven, courses may be taken from the Hooger Instituut voor Wijsbegeerte programme at KU Leuven.

To find out more:

- Contacts
- Practical information (in French)
- Information on international internships (in French)

Mobility within the framework of the ESST network

Students interested in the **"Ethics in Sciences and Techniques" professional focus** can benefit from specific research training in this field as part of the European inter-university program "Society, Science and Technology" organized by the ESST network.

They can follow a term of the master's programme in a university of the ESST network with which the UCLouvain has established a mobility agreement specific to this programme, such as for example: the Université de Strasbourg, the University of Maastricht, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens or the University of Oslo.

For further information, please consult the ESST Network website and contact Professor Jean-Michel Counet who is in charge of international relations at the School of Philosophy, or the coordinator of the ESST program at UCLouvain, Professor Alexandre Guay.

Courses at KU Leuven

Students interested in the **"Public Ethics and Policies" professional focus** have the opportunity to follow courses and seminars (in English) jointly offered by the specialization "Ethique et philosophie sociale et politique" from the Master's degree in Philosophy organised by the Hooger Instituut voor Wijsbegeerte (KU Leuven).

Mobility @home

All students can take advantage of many elements of internationalization of the master's degree in philosophy, such as teacher exchanges, the annual allocation of part of a course to a foreign professor within the framework of the Mercier Chair, the development of courses jointly provided by UCLouvain and KU Leuven, exchange of professors and students as part of exchange programmes, etc.