

**Master's Dissertation**

Code: 43976  
ECTS Credits: 9

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4316481 Teaching Chinese to Spanish Speakers	OB	0	2

**Contact**

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**Use of Languages**

Principal working language: spanish (spa)

**Teachers**

Melinda Ann Dooly Owenby  
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Maria Carmen Espin Garcia  
Claudia Vallejo Rubinstein  
Mireia Vargas Urpi

**Prerequisites**

None

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

The aim of this module is to elaborate and defend an MA dissertation (trabajo de fin de máster, TFM), which will integrate the knowledge acquired in the previous modules. In general terms, it is an MA dissertation that should address a topic related to teaching Chinese as a foreign language. In the MA dissertation, students must demonstrate that they:

- Have acquired the knowledge in which they have been trained in the Master's degree course.
- Have critical and analytical skills.
- Have systematic knowledge of the basic fields of study and a mastery of the skills and associated work methods.
- Are able to use specific resources appropriately to support study, work and research in professional and academic contexts.
- Are able to present and defend the results obtained.

## Competences

- Apply methodology for research, specific techniques and resources for researching and producing innovative results in a certain area of specialisation.
- Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously.
- Generate and manage innovative proposals and projects in professional activity and in research.
- Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
- Make a comparative analysis of linguistic and cultural aspects of Chinese and Spanish for teaching purposes.
- Recognise the specific characteristics of Chinese language and culture to apply them to the teaching of Chinese for Spanish speakers.
- Relate research in language teaching and learning with teaching practice or learning processes observed in the classroom to make suggestions for improvements from both a theoretical and practical point of view.
- Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.
- Work individually and in a team and be able to analyse, interpret and synthesise the information generated.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Apply methodology for research, specific techniques and resources for researching and producing innovative results in a certain area of specialisation.
2. Clearly and precisely explain how Chinese and Spanish differ in a particular linguistic area, for teaching purposes.
3. Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
4. Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously.
5. Generate and manage innovative proposals and projects in professional activity and in research.
6. Improve classroom work and curriculum design by integrating action research.
7. Integrate and apply theoretical knowledge when formulating and solving a specific problem in teaching a particular aspect of the Chinese language or culture.
8. Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
9. Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.
10. Use research tools independently as a basis for reflecting on matters of professional practice or research in the Chinese-as-a-foreign language classroom, and suggest improvements.
11. Work individually and in a team and be able to analyse, interpret and synthesise the information generated.

## Content

This module has no particular content, as all students will carry out their MA dissertation individually on a topic they choose, under the supervision and guidance of their supervisor.

MA dissertations must include the following parts:

- Title page: title, author's name and signature, supervisor's name and signature, name of the MA programme, date, name and signature of the programme's coordinator
- Abstract and key words in Spanish and Chinese
- Index
- Introduction (aims, motivation and structure)
- Theoretical and methodological framework

- Main part of the dissertation (context, analysis, case study, etc.)
- Conclusions
- List of references (only references cited in the dissertation)
- Appendixes (if any)

MA dissertations must comply with the following formal aspects:

- Length: between 22.000 and 25.000 words approximately, excluding appendixes
- Line spacing: 1,5
- Font size: 12
- Font: Arial or Times New Roman for Spanish, Simsun/Songti for Chinese
- Footnotes: Times New Roman 10
- References: APA, MLA or Harvard. Please see [Guía de estilo para el uso de palabras de origen chino](#)

## Methodology

### PLANNING

This module is exclusively devoted to the writing of the dissertation and is based on students' autonomous work and discussions with their supervisor, as students will write it individually and will present it orally in a viva. Therefore, students must organize their work autonomously. However, there will be a minimum of 4 face-to-face discussions with the supervisor, which are compulsory. These meetings will be useful to solve problems on the structure, content and methodology of the dissertation. In the following planning table, compulsory face-to-face meetings with the supervisor will be set, as well as the dates in which drafts must be handed in.

WEEK	CONTENT	METHOD
1	First meeting with the supervisor to set the aims, content and approach of the dissertation	Face-to-face discussion with the supervisor 1
3	Handing in the dissertation project, which must include: title, aims, structure, methodology and basic bibliography	Online discussion with the supervisor
7	First draft: handing in 40% of the dissertation	Online discussion with the supervisor
8	Revision of the first draft	
12	Second draft: handing in 90% of the dissertation	Online discussion with the supervisor
14	Revision of the second draft	Face-to-face discussion with the supervisor 3
16	Final version of the dissertation	Online discussion with the supervisor

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Preparation for the viva

Face-to-face discussion  
with the supervisor 4

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Supervised			
Discussions with supervisor	10	0.4	2, 6, 8, 3
Type: Autonomous			
Elaboration of the dissertation and preparation for the Viva	150	6	10, 1, 2, 5, 7, 6, 8, 3, 4, 9, 11
Reading appropriate bibliography	64	2.56	7, 8, 9

## Assessment

This MA will conclude with the writing of and public viva for an MA dissertation, which will be about 60 minutes long maximum. The examining committee will be made up of three members, excluding the dissertation supervisor. If the MA dissertation is not submitted on time or is failed, students will have to retake it the following year.

Assessment will include:

- Written dissertation: 80% (40% tutor, 40% examining committee)
- Viva: 20%

The main assessment criteria will be:

- General assessment (20%)
- Suitability of contributions and results (20%)
- Structure (15%)
- Methodology (15%)
- Formal aspects and language level (15%)
- Citations and bibliography (15%)

Irregularities in assessment activities

In case of irregularities (plagiarism, copying, identity theft, etc.) in an assessment activity, the mark of the whole activity will be 0. In case of irregularities in various assessment activities, the final mark of the module will be 0. Assessment activities in which irregularities have occurred (such as plagiarism, copying, identity theft) are excluded from re-evaluation.

Students are encouraged to check the UAB instructions on plagiarism (<http://blogs.uab.cat/dretsautor/category/plagi/>) and the 'Guia explicativa sobre com citar per evitar el plagi' by the UAB, available on the same website.

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
supervisor's grade	40%	0.25	0.01	10, 1, 2, 5, 7, 6, 8, 3, 4, 9, 11
thesis committee's grade	40%	0.25	0.01	10, 1, 2, 5, 7, 6, 8, 3, 4, 9, 11
viva	20%	0.5	0.02	2, 5, 7, 8, 3, 4

## Bibliography

Since each MA dissertation is on a specific topic, bibliography will vary depending on the topic chosen, but here are some basic reference works related to research methodology:

- Casas-Tost, Helena and Sara, Rovira-Esteva. 2015. *Guia de estilo para el uso de palabras de origen chino*. Madrid: Adeli. <<https://ddd.uab.cat/record/180644>>
- Hartley, James. 2008. *Academic Writing and Publishing: A Practical Handbook*. London: Routledge.
- Koval, Martín; Koval, S. (2015). *¿Cómo se hace un trabajo académico? Material de apoyo del Taller de metodología y redacción académica*. EDICIONES INCERTIDUMBRE.
- Murray, Rowena, and Sarah Moore. 2006. *The Handbook of Academic Writing*. Berkshire, England: Open University Press.
- Nicodemus, Brenda; Swabey, Laurie. 2016. "Action Research." In *Researching Translation and Interpreting*, edited by Angelelli, Claudia V.; Baer, Brian James, 157-67. New York; Oxon: Routledge.
- Nunan, David. 1992. *Research Methods in Language Learning*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Rigo, Antònia; Genescà, Gabriel. 2002. *Cómo Presentar una Tesis y Trabajos de Investigación*. Vic; Barcelona: Eumo, Octaedro.