

Prospective students for the UGent MA in African Studies should have an understanding, preferably acquired at undergraduate level, of the following terms:

(Please note: this list is indicative, not exhaustive)

A. Theoretical (an understanding of what these concepts mean):

- African Archaeology
- African cosmologies
- African museology
- Agency
- Assimilationism in colonisation vs indirect rule
- Autoethnography
- Basic linguistic concepts such as phoneme, allophone, morpheme, allomorph, lexeme, place and manner of articulation, etc.
- Codeswitching, borrowing, linguistic transfer
- Colonisation, colonialism, coloniality
- Culture and social structure
- Deconstructing stereotypes
- Diglossia
- Discourse analysis
- Divination
- Embodiment paradigm
- Emic/etic
- Ethnicity/tribalism-debate
- Ethnography
- (Ethnographic) Fieldwork; Ethnographic Data; Interview; Participatory observation
- Evolutionism / Racialism
- Essentialism in historiography
- Exoticizing
- Exolect, endolect
- Extended case method
- Functionalism
- Globalisation
- Glossonym, ethnonym
- Holistic Anthropology
- Idealism
- Imperialism
- Indigeneity
- Interpretive anthropology; Phenomenology
- Intertextuality
- Language death; Language revitalization
- Language documentation archive
- Language documentation corpus
- Language codification, language standardisation
- Language ideologies versus linguistic ideologies
- Language maintenance; Language shift
- Language phyla
- Language policy, language planning, corpus planning
- Lifeworlds
- Liminality and communitas

- Lingua franca, interethnic language
- Linguistics and major levels of linguistic structure (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics)
- Material culture
- Modernities
- Official language
- Orthography
- Patri- and matrilineal kinship systems
- Pidgin language, creole language, pidginisation, creolisation
- Postcolonialism; Postcoloniality; Postmodernism
- Primitivism
- Primordialism
- Regiolect, sociolect
- Restitution
- Segmentary lineage systems
- Self-reflexivity; Ethics
- Sociolinguistics; Linguistic Anthropology
- Structuralism
- Text and Performance
- The different types of multilingualism/bilingualism

B. Minimal factual knowledge required:

- Afroasiatic languages, Nilo-Saharan languages, Niger–Congo languages, Khoisan languages
- Basics of African geography (countries, cities etc)
- Bantu
- The basics of the history of the European colonisation of Africa, across its regions
- The basics of the history of decolonisation and of postcolonial states (regimes, names of most important leaders) in Africa, across its regions
- The language phyla of Africa
- Official languages of present-day African states (which European exolect where)
- The major African lingua francas and their regional distribution
- Historical spread and presence of Arabic in Africa
- The main genres and developments in African oral literatures
- The main genres and developments in African written literatures
- The key anthropologists and their approaches

C. Basic skills (practical, methodological)

- Paper / Essay writing
- Obtaining and processing academic literature
- Using academic databases
- Dealing with (digital) archives
- Oral presentation
- Computer skills: Internet, Word, PowerPoint