

Price comparison of PhD thesis / dissertation printing companies

Prijvergelijking voor het drukken van een proefschrift / dissertatie

Please read the disclaimer below before using the list. With help from Josine Rawee, I have obtained the prices in **March 2017** according to the order configuration listed below. For a fair comparison (other companies may offer a discount after inquiry), discounts are not taken into account in the price per copy.

Company	Printing method	Binding method	Cost for 100 (1x)	Cost for 200 (1x)	Cost for 400 (1x)	Additional discount
PrintSupport 4U	Print	Glued	€ 466 (€ 4.66)	€ 912 (€ 4.56)	€ 1495 (€ 3.74)	
Haveka (via F&N Boekservice)	Indigo	Glued	€ 525 (€ 5.25)	€ 938 (€ 4.69)	€ 1829 (€ 4.57)	
Holland Ridderkerk	Print	Sewn	€ 588 (€ 5.88)	€ 1047 (€ 5.24)	€ 1968 (€ 4.92)	
GVO www.proefschrift.nl	Print	Glued	€ 622 (€ 6.22)	€ 1074 (€ 5.37)	€ 1977 (€ 4.94)	10% RUG discount, UV spot: €175
NetzoDruk Groningen	Print	Glued	€ 970 (€ 6.20)	€ 1104 (€ 5.52)	€ 2074 (€ 5.19)	
Ridderprint	Print	Glued	€ 646 (€ 6.46)	€ 1117 (€ 5.59)	€ 2062 (€ 5.15)	10% RUG korting
Ipskamp Drukkers	Print	Glued	€ 726 (€ 7.26)	€ 1123 (€ 5.61)	€ 1918 (€ 4.79)	7.5% RUG korting
Uitgeverij U2pi (jouwboek.nl)	Print	Glued	€ 708 (€ 7.08)	€ 1135 (€ 5.68)	€ 2175 (€ 5.44)	

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Print Service Ede (proefschriftenprinten)	Print	Glued	€ 694 (€ 6.94)	€ 1206 (€ 6.03)	€ 2177 (€ 5.44)	
Proefschrift AIO	Print	Glued	€ 688 (€ 6.88)	€ 1214 (€ 6.07)	€ 2266 (€ 5.67)	
Drukbedrijf.nl	Print	Glued	€ 742 (€ 7.42)	€ 1261 (€ 6.31)	€ 1802 (€ 4.50)	
GVO www.proefschriften.nl	Print	Sewn	€ 724 (€ 7.24)	€ 1262 (€ 6.31)	€ 2336 (€ 5.84)	10% RUG discount, UV spot: €175
Uitgeverij U2pi (jouwboek.nl)	Print	Sewn	€ 798 (€ 7.98)	€ 1295 (€ 6.48)	€ 2455 (€ 6.14)	
Proefschriftmaken	Print	Glued	€ 873 (€ 8.73)	€ 1307 (€ 6.53)	€ 2121 (€ 5.30)	For 5 people, a discount of €200 (ex. VAT) per person is offered. Basic cover design costs € 50 (ex VAT).
Ridderprint	Print	Sewn	€ 767 (€ 7.67)	€ 1319 (€ 6.59)	€ 2443 (€ 6.11)	10% RUG korting
Off Page	Print	Glued	€ 957 (€ 9.57)	€ 1328 (€ 6.64)	€ 2073 (€ 5.18)	5% (RUG)
Optima	Print	Glued	€ 896 (€ 8.96)	€ 1330 (€ 6.65)	€ 2200 (€ 5.50)	6% RUG
PrintSupport 4U	Offset	Sewn	€ 1346 (€ 13.46)	€ 1468 (€ 7.34)	€ 1712 (€ 4.28)	
Off Page	Print	Sewn	€ 1030 (€ 10.30)	€ 1472 (€ 7.36)	€ 2422 (€ 6.06)	5% (RUG)

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Gildeprint	Print	Glued	€ 1126 (€ 11.26)	€ 1550 (€ 7.75)	€ 2398 (€ 5.99)	10% (RUG)
Haveka (via F&N Boekservice)	Indigo	Sewn	€ 869 (€ 8.69)	€ 1585 (€ 7.92)	€ 3017 (€ 7.54)	
Drukbedrijf.nl	Indigo	Glued	€ 1140 (€ 11.40)	€ 1590 (€ 7.95)	€ 2226 (€ 5.57)	
Eburon	Print	Glued	€ 1175 (€ 1.18)	€ 1695 (€ 8.48)	€ 2480 (€ 6.20)	
GVO www.proefschriften.nl	Offset	Glued	€ 1533 (€ 15.33)	€ 1720 (€ 8.60)	€ 1977 (€ 4.94)	10% RUG discount, UV spot: €175
NetzoDruk Groningen	Indigo	Glued	€ 1150 (€ 11.50)	€ 1866 (€ 9.33)	€ 3260 (€ 8.15)	
Drukkerij Mostert	Offset	Sewn	€ 1574 (€ 15.74)	€ 1884 (€ 9.42)	€ 2524 (€ 6.31)	
Off Page	Offset	Sewn		€ 1889 (€ 9.45)	€ 2175 (€ 5.44)	5% (RUG)
Eburon	Print	Sewn	€ 1330 (€ 13.30)	€ 1895 (€ 9.48)	€ 2785 (€ 6.96)	
GVO www.proefschriften.nl	Offset	Sewn	€ 1635 (€ 16.35)	€ 1908 (€ 9.54)	€ 2336 (€ 5.84)	10% RUG discount, UV spot: €175
Ipskamp Drukkers	Offset	Sewn	€ 2067 (€ 20.67)	€ 2247 (€ 11.24)	€ 2624 (€ 6.56)	

Company	Printing method	Binding method	Cost for 100 (1x)	Cost for 200 (1x)	Cost for 400 (1x)	Additional discount
NetzoDruk Groningen	Print	Sewn	€ 1367 (€ 1.37)	€ 2263 (€ 1.14)	€ 3980 (€ 9.95)	
Drukkerij van der Eems	Offset	Sewn		€ 2375 (€ 11.88)	€ 3193 (€ 7.98)	
NetzoDruk Groningen	Indigo	Sewn	€ 1548 (€ 1.55)	€ 2608 (€ 13.04)	€ 4648 (€ 11.62)	
Drukkerij van der Eems	Indigo	Glued	€ 1452 (€ 14.52)			
Proefschrift AIO	Offset	Sewn			€ 2067 (€ 5.17)	

Disclaimer

I have created this list mainly for my own convenience. You are welcome to use it, but do not blame me if the company you chose is not to your liking or I have made an error in the list. Note that the prices published on this website were obtained in March 2017 and these may differ at present. Furthermore, I did not assess the quality of the printed theses. If you want to print with a company always ask them to send an example thesis, so you can judge the quality for yourself.

Order configuration

The prices were obtained in March 2017 and include the following:

- Book size: 17 x 24 cm
- Number of pages in black and white: 218
- Number of pages in colour: 2 (offset: 1 sheet in colour)
- Cover: full colour, laminated with matte finishing, about 250 grams/m²
- Inside: about 90 grams/m²
- Delivery to one address in The Netherlands
- Invitations (printed on same paper as the cover) and propositions (single sided)
- Prices for both glued and stitched binding

- Prices for 100, 200 and 400 copies
- Delivery of printed proof (offset: digital) before the actual printing starts
- A print-ready pdf of both the thesis and cover is provided by the PhD student
- Including 6% VAT (BTW)

Additional information

Free ISBN number

PhD students of the university of Groningen can obtain an ISBN number for their thesis for free via the [University Library](#).

Subsidies for publishing the dissertation

PhD students of the university of Groningen can obtain a subsidy of [€750](#) for printing the dissertation. In addition, most of the faculties of the university offer additional funding. It therefore makes sense to inform if your faculty also offers a subsidy for printing the dissertation.

Important remark about number of copies

According to the printing industry delivery terms and conditions, a printing company is allowed to deviate 10% from the agreed number of copies. So if you order 200 copies, you could receive between 180 and 220 copies for which you are charged. Contact the printing company in advance to know how often they deviate from the agreed amount (most will not deviate at all).

Printing methods

Offset printing

Of the three printing methods, the quality of [offset printing](#) is the best. Unfortunately, the price of offset printing is very high when printing fewer than 250 copies. Only when printing about 300 or 400 copies the price will be comparable (or even somewhat cheaper) than digital printing. Because pages are printed on large sheets of 16 or 32 pages, having one color page means the entire sheet needs to be printed in colour, increasing the price substantially. Of course you may add 15 (or 31) colour pages for free, but only if you place them on the correct page (printing companies can tell you which pages to use).

Indigo printing

A few companies use an [HP Indigo digital press](#) for printing. This ink-based printing method is cheaper than offset for a limited number of copies and offers (almost) the same printing quality as offset. Unfortunately this method is still more expensive than digital printing.

Digital printing

[Digital printing](#) is by far the cheapest printing method for a limited amount of theses (e.g., 100 or 200) and is based on heating toner which attaches to the paper (i.e. like a laser printer). While the quality of digital printing is somewhat lower than offset and Indigo printing, it has very good value due to the low price. In addition, it is (depending on the company) possible to order additional copies after the initial order for the same price, which is not possible for offset printing because of its very high initial costs. Also the inclusion of colour pages is flexible, because you only pay for each single page and are not restricted to specific page numbers. Finally note that there are many digital printer brands and types, which may have an effect on the quality.

Which method?

Now the question arises which method to choose. If you need about 400 copies and you are certain you do not want to print extra theses after a while, your best bet is offset printing. For fewer than 250 copies, I would go for digital printing, as this will save you money compared to offset and Indigo printing. If you have a lot of colour images and require the best possible quality (and you are also willing to spend more) then go for offset or Indigo printing.

Other quality-related factors

Binding method

Besides the printing method, there are other factors influencing the quality and cost of your thesis. The first is the binding method. Besides choosing for either hardcover or paperback, pages can be glued or stitched. The cheapest and most common binding method (for digital printing) is glueing; individual pages are glued to the back of the cover. Most of the times this is labeled 'Perfect bind' (cheapest) or [PUR](#) (more expensive and higher quality). Stitched binding is most common for offset printing and results in the highest quality.

Paper weight and quality

Another factor is the weight and quality of the paper. In general companies offer a cover weight of about 250 grams (per square meter) and about 90 grams paper for the inside (80 grams is the weight of standard printing paper). Heavier paper

has the advantage that it is harder to see through and feels thicker. However, also the paper quality matters in this respect. Therefore always ask to see a sample of the paper type the company uses.

Cover design

Depending on how creative you are and how well you are able to use a graphics program to design the cover of your thesis, you may want to find someone to design this for you. A friend of mine, Esther Ris, who studied at the Academy of Arts, designs them for a fee. So if you like the covers shown at her site, <http://www.proefschriftomslag.nl>, feel free to contact her.

Thesis design

If you like the style of my [dissertation](#), you are free to download a [LaTeX template](#) I've created. You may use or modify it in whatever way you see fit. However, I provide no support, no guarantees it will work (you need to take [additional steps](#) to get the Minion Pro font to work), and I am not responsible if anything goes wrong. If you use the template for your dissertation, I'd appreciate an acknowledgment in the dissertation and a link to my website.