

EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN



Handbook
M.A. English Linguistics

Winter Semester 2015/2016

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
English Department



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1. Objectives of the Program

The M.A. program *English Linguistics* provides a full understanding of current linguistics and a thorough training in the empirical methods used in linguistic research. The combination of empirical research with theoretical modeling is an internationally renowned hallmark of linguistics in Tübingen. The course structure of the M.A. program *English Linguistics* reflects this depth. In addition to core areas of phonetics, morphology, syntax, and semantics, the program offers specializations in second language acquisition, information structure, language processing, experimental syntax, formal semantics, and psycholinguistics. The curriculum provides in-depth knowledge in the description of English in cross-linguistic comparison, in the range of methods in linguistic research, and in the key areas of theoretical and applied linguistics. This core program is amended with an interdisciplinary component in which students learn the comparative perspective by studying the linguistic analysis of other languages and/or broaden their knowledge about language studies in neighboring disciplines such as psychology, philosophy, cognitive science, computational linguistics, etc. The M.A. program *English Linguistics* has a strong emphasis on research. Students develop, conduct, and evaluate their own research projects, one of which they fully develop in their final M.A. thesis. Students amend the strong research profile with an internship or teaching practical, where they apply their competences in linguistic analysis, linguistic research, and critical thinking in different contexts.

Graduates of the M.A. in *English Linguistics* are qualified for professional careers inside and outside academia. They have gained a profound understanding of linguistic analysis. They can successfully apply the core methods of linguistics to investigate research questions in theoretical as well as applied linguistics. They are able to critically reflect on and evaluate language phenomena and research results in core domains such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics as well as in second language acquisition, information structure, language processing, experimental syntax, formal semantic, and psycholinguistic. Thus, the *English Linguistics* M.A. qualifies students for various career options. Students can pursue an academic career by applying for a Ph.D. program in Linguistics or Cognitive Science, or they can use their linguistic and analytical skills for a non-academic career in fields related to language and communication. M.A. holders are able to work on linguistic topics at an academic level, they have learned to abstract and synthesize information, to evaluate explanations critically, and are competent in the planning and execution of research and project work. With these abilities, they are qualified for positions, among others, in publishing, language technology and teaching, translation agencies, and journalism.

2. Course of Studies

2.1 Overview: Modules

(corresponds to the overview of modules included in the study and examination regulations)

Module number	Obligatory/ Elective	Module Title	Recommended Semester	CP
ELI-MA-01	O	Descriptive Linguistics ¹	01	12
ELI-MA-02	O	Linguistic Methodology ¹	01	12
ELI-MA-03	O	Psycholinguistics and Applied Linguistics ¹	02	12
ELI-MA-04	O	Theoretical Linguistics ¹	02	12
ELI-MA-05	O	Interdisciplinary Profile	01 and 02	12
ELI-MA-06	O	Research I: Research Project	03	12
ELI-MA-07	O	Research II: Academic Writing	03	6
ELI-MA-08	O	Professional Experience	03	12
ELI-MA-09	O	Master Thesis and Oral Exam	04	30

¹ At least two of the modules ELI-MA-01 to ELI-MA-04 require a written type of exam (term paper or written test). At least one requires an oral exam.

2.2 Overview: Course of Studies

Semester	CP	Core Curriculum		Interdisciplinary Profile	Research		Professional Experience
1	30	ELI-MA-01 (12 CP)	ELI-MA-02 (12 CP)	ELI-MA-05 (6 CP)	---		---
2	30	ELI-MA-03 (12 CP)	ELI-MA04 (12 CP)	ELI-MA-05 (6 CP)	---		---
3	30	---		---	ELI-MA-06 (12 CP)	ELI-MA-07 (6 CP)	ELI-MA-08 (12 CP)
4	30	ELI-MA-09 (30 CP)		---	---		---

Legend	
Type of Evaluation:	G = graded; NG = not graded (pass/fail) NE = no exam
Type of Exam:	WE = Written Exam; OE = Oral Exam; TP =Term Paper; P = Presentation; T = Thesis; D=Portfolio/Documentation
Duration:	Duration of exam in <i>min</i>
CH:	Hours per week during the semester
Status:	O = obligatory; E = elective
Type of Class:	L = Lecture; S = Seminar; E = Exercise, WG = Work Group
CP:	Credit Points (ECTS-Punkte)
n/a:	Not applicable

3. Module Descriptions

3.1. Core Curriculum

Number: ELI-MA-01	Module Title: Descriptive Linguistics				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	12 Note: At least two of the modules ELI-MA-01 to ELI-MA-04 require a written type of exam (term paper or written test). At least one requires an oral exam.								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h	Class Time: 60 h / 4 CH			Self-Study: 300 h				
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar - Exercise / Workgroup / Tutorial - Coursework in the seminar and the workgroup or exercise or tutorial are at the discretion of the instructor (e.g. presentation, protocol exercises, portfolio etc.) - Workgroup or Exercise can be substituted with a relevant undergraduate seminar. The relevance is at the discretion of the instructor. 								
Content	This module focuses on linguistic descriptions of grammatical phenomena in different subfields of linguistics (such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, or pragmatics). In addition to the descriptive elements, students will be introduced to current theories and the empirical foundation thereof.								
Objectives	<p>The students possess detailed knowledge about grammatical phenomena of English, and are familiar with the scholarly discussion in general. They are furthermore able to analyze these phenomena in the light of current linguistic theories and are familiar with some of the current developments in descriptive linguistics, especially regarding the analysis of the phenomena they have focused on. They are also able to critically evaluate the existing literature.</p> <p>In their workgroup, they have explored one aspect of their topic in further detail. They are capable of relating the results of their workgroup to the overall topic of the class, and to present them in an appropriate and accessible fashion.</p>								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of Grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar focusing on descriptive linguistics</i>	S	O	2	9	OE/ WE/ TP	30/ 180/ --	g	100
	<i>Workgroup / Exercise / Tutorial</i>	WG / E	O	2	3				
Transfer	MA English Linguistics								
Requirements for Participation	None								

Number: ELI-MA-02	Module Title: Linguistic Methodology				Type of Module: Obligatory					
CP	12 Note: At least two of the modules ELI-MA-01 to ELI-MA-04 require a written type of exam (term paper or written test). At least one requires an oral exam.									
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h		Class Time: 60 h / 4 CH		Self-Study: 300 h					
Duration	1 semester									
Frequency	Each semester									
Language of Instruction	English									
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar - Exercise / Workgroup / Tutorial - Coursework in the seminar and the workgroup or exercise or tutorial are at the discretion of the instructor (e.g. presentation, protocol exercises, portfolio etc.) - Workgroup or Exercise can be substituted with a relevant undergraduate seminar. The relevance is at the discretion of the instructor. 									
Content	This module focuses on the methodology of linguistic research of grammatical phenomena in a subfield of linguistics (such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics or pragmatics). Students will see different methodological approaches to investigating a phenomenon and how these methods can be used to build and test theories.									
Objectives	<p>The students possess detailed knowledge about the methodology of linguistic research of grammatical phenomena in a subfield of linguistics (such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics or pragmatics) and are familiar with how different methods are used, compared and evaluated in that subfield.</p> <p>They are able to analyze different phenomena employing a subset of these methods. They are also able to critically evaluate the existing literature with regard to the methods used.</p> <p>In their workgroup, they have explored one aspect of their topic in further detail. They are capable of relating the results of their workgroup to the literature and the overall topic of the class, and to present them in an appropriate and accessible fashion.</p>									
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>		<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of Grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar focusing on linguistic methodology</i>		S	O	2	9	OE/ WE/ TP	30/ 180/ --	g	100
	<i>Workgroup / Exercise / Tutorial</i>		WG / E	O	2	3				
Transfer	MA English Linguistics									
Requirements for Participation	None									

Number: ELI-MA-03	Module Title: Psycholinguistics and Applied Linguistics				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	12 Note: At least two of the modules ELI-MA-01 to ELI-MA-04 require a written type of exam (term paper or written test). At least one requires an oral exam.								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h		Class Time: 60 h / 4 CH		Self-Study: 300 h				
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar - Exercise / Workgroup / Tutorial - Coursework in the seminar and the workgroup or exercise or tutorial are at the discretion of the instructor (e.g. presentation, protocol exercises, portfolio, etc.) - Workgroup or exercise can be substituted with a relevant undergraduate seminar. The relevance is at the discretion of the instructor. 								
Content	The students attend a seminar in psycholinguistics or applied linguistics. The seminar provides an in-depth discussion and analysis of topics in the field of first and second language acquisition or in language processing. In combination with the exercise, workgroup or tutorial, students will be introduced to empirical issues in language sciences, different research methods, and scientific analysis.								
Objectives	<p>The students possess a critical understanding of core issues in psycholinguistics and applied linguistics, and they are familiar with current research and scholarly discussions of these issues.</p> <p>They are able to analyze different phenomena in the field of psycholinguistics and applied linguistics and are able to critically evaluate the existing literature.</p> <p>In combination with the exercise, workgroup, or tutorial they have explored one research aspect of their topic in further detail. They are capable of relating the results of their workgroup to the overall topic of the class, and to present them in an appropriate and accessible fashion.</p>								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of Grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar focusing on Psycholinguistics / Applied Linguistics</i>	S	O	2	9	OE/ WE/ TP	30/ 180/ --	g	100
	<i>Workgroup / Exercise / Tutorial</i>	WG /E	O	2	3				
Transfer	MA English Linguistics								
Requirements for Participation	None								

Number: ELI-MA-04	Module Title: Theoretical Linguistics				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	12 Note: At least two of the modules ELI-MA-01 to ELI-MA-04 require a written type of exam (term paper or written test). At least one requires an oral exam.								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h	Class Time: 60 h / 4 CH			Self-Study: 300 h				
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar - Exercise / Workgroup / Tutorial - Coursework in the seminar and the workgroup or exercise or tutorial are at the discretion of the instructor (e.g. presentation, protocol exercises, portfolio, etc.) - Workgroup or Exercise can be substituted with a relevant undergraduate seminar. The relevance is at the discretion of the instructor. 								
Content	This module offers detailed analyses of selected grammatical phenomena in a subfield of linguistics and its interfaces as well as crosslinguistic perspectives. The goal is to identify parametric variation and to compare current theories regarding their theoretical validity and formal and conceptual complexity.								
Objectives	<p>The students possess detailed knowledge about the core tenets of theoretical linguistics and are familiar with different current theories.</p> <p>They are able to analyze different phenomena in light of these theories. They are also able to critically evaluate the existing literature.</p> <p>In their workgroup, they have explored one theoretical perspective in further detail. They are capable of relating the results of their workgroup to the overall topic of the class, and to present them in an appropriate and accessible fashion.</p>								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of Grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar focusing on theoretical linguistics</i>	S	O	2	9	OE/ WE/ TP	30/ 180/ --	g	100
	<i>Workgroup / Exercise / Tutorial</i>	WG / E	O	2	3				
Transfer	MA English Linguistics								
Requirements for Participation	None								

3.2 Interdisciplinary Profile

Number: ELI-MA-05	Module Title: Interdisciplinary Profile				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h	Class Time: 60 h / 4 CH			Self-Study: 300 h				
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	Language of the course								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two seminars - If they so choose, one seminar can be substituted with two lectures - If they have not done them before, either Translation II or Written Communication II can constitute one of the two seminars - Required coursework is at the discretion of the instructor of each seminar or lecture (e.g. presentation, protocol, exercises, etc.) 								
Content	In this module, students will attend classes (seminars or lectures) on different aspects of linguistics. These courses can be any kind of linguistics courses and can also be from other departments such as other philologies, general linguistics, or any area that currently cooperates interdisciplinarily with linguistics, e.g. Psychology, Medicine, and others who have joined projects with linguists, for example in the collaborative research center SFB 833.								
Objectives	The students broaden their linguistic horizon by attending courses on other languages and research goals in other areas beyond the field of English Linguistics. They are also able to discuss and evaluate different disciplinary approaches.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of Grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar</i>	S	O	2	6	n/a	n/a	ne	0
	<i>Seminar</i>	S	O	2	6				
Transfer	n/a								
Requirements for Participation	None								

3.3 Research

Number: ELI-MA-06	Module Title: Research I: Research Project				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h	Class Time: 30 h / 2 CH			Self-Study: 330 h				
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designing and planning a larger research project supervised by an instructor - Colloquium including presentation of outline of research project - Planning and executing a theoretical or empirical study under the supervision of an instructor. Independent studies have to be documented in an appropriate form, e.g. as a portfolio, report, etc. 								
Content	In this module, students will design and plan a larger project and present it to their peers in a Colloquium. Based on this discussion, they will conduct a theoretical or empirical study and summarize their results.								
Objectives	The students are able to develop a research project and situate it within current scholarly debates. They are capable of presenting the project in an appropriate manner and to respond appropriately to the feedback of peers and faculty. They are able to understand and provide feedback on other students' projects. In their research project, the students learn how to structure empirical and theoretical research and how to plan, execute and document a project.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of Grade for Module</i>
	<i>Colloquium</i>	S	O	2	6	n/a	n/a	ne	0
	<i>Independent Studies</i>	n/a	O	n/a	6				
Transfer	n/a								
Requirements for Participation	Successful completion of two of the modules ELI-MA 01 to ELI-MA 04								

Number: ELI-MA-07	Module Title: Research II: Academic Writing				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	6								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 180 h	Class Time: 30 h / 2 CH			Self-Study: 150 h				
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special M.A. course on academic writing in English - Coursework: completion of numerous practical exercises (e.g. essays, reviews, proposals, bibliographies, response paper) 								
Content	The students attend a practical class on Academic Writing in English. They analyze examples of academic writing (in literary and cultural criticism or linguistics) and perform a variety of writing exercises.								
Objectives	The students know the conventions of scholarly writing. They recognize different writing strategies and styles, and they are capable of identifying the different elements of scholarly texts. They can also design and structure their own texts according to scholarly conventions.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of Grade for Module</i>
	<i>Academic English</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>ne</i>	<i>0</i>
Transfer	M.A. American Studies, M.A. English Literature and Culture								
Requirements for Participation	Successful completion of two of the modules ELI-MA-01 to ELI-MA-04								

3.4 Professional Experience

Number: ELI-MA-08	Module Title: Professional Experience				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h	Class Time: n/a			Self-Study: 360 h				
Duration	n/a								
Frequency	n/a								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internship of at least six weeks - Students can also teach a tutorial for one semester instead if found suitable by the faculty. - Report of at least 1,500 words 								
Content	In this module, students will work independently in an area that is in demand of the set of skills of a linguist, be it in academia or outside of it.								
Objectives	Students who did an internship know how the skills they have acquired during their studies can be used outside academia and which skills they may still lack. They have a better idea which line of work they might want to pursue after graduation. Students who taught a tutorial have gained pedagogical skills. They have learned to present and structure knowledge. Students who are aiming at a career in academia (PhD) can be involved in the whole spectrum of academic activities.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of Grade for Module</i>
	<i>Internship</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>ne</i>	<i>0</i>
Transfer	n/a								
Requirements for Participation	None								

3.5 Master Thesis and Oral Exam

Number: ELI-MA-09	Module Title: Master Thesis and Oral Exam				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	30								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 900 h	Class Time: n/a			Self-Study: 900 h				
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MA Thesis - Oral Exam 								
Content	The students write a thesis of c. 80 pages in which they explore a specific aspect of English linguistics in detail. For the oral exam, they prepare three special topics in the field of linguistics.								
Objectives	The students are able to conduct a larger research project and to present the results in an appropriate and accessible fashion according to academic standards. In the oral exam, they demonstrate that they have acquired general knowledge of linguistics, and that they can discuss three special topics on the basis of research literature.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade (Weighted)	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of Grade for Module</i>
	<i>Master Thesis</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>20</i>
	<i>Oral Exam</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>OE</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>10</i>
Transfer	n/a								
Requirements for Participation	Successful completion of ELI-MA-01 to ELI-MA-04.								