

M.A. American Studies / English Linguistics / English Literatures and Cultures:

Work Groups – Independent Studies – Professional Experience

1) Work Groups (3 ECTS)

- Run parallel to advanced seminars (*Oberseminare*).
- The group explores an area related to the subject of the seminar and documents the work in a report and, if possible, a presentation of the results.
- The 2500-word report that must be completed must be based on substantial reading, the exact extent of which remains at the lecturer's discretion (as a guide: for literature, approx. 150-200 pages; for linguistics, fewer; transcription and annotation papers may also require a smaller amount of reading).
- When the assessment requirements are satisfactorily fulfilled, the advanced seminar is worth 9 ECTS; the work group counts for a further 3 ECTS. Grades for the module will be awarded on the basis of the term paper in the advanced seminar, the work group counts as 'coursework' which will have to be 'completed' (ungraded).

2) Independent Studies (6 ECTS)

- Students explore a subject area relevant to the field independently and summarise the results in a report/portfolio, which may be documentary.
- A supervising lecturer will be chosen by the student depending on the subject area. Lecturers will provide contact hours for preparation and support.
- Evidence of completion is rewarded with 6 credits (ungraded) after a report of 3000 to 5000 words or an extended documentation of the undertaken research has been handed in. Independent Studies provide students with the opportunity to distinguish themselves by having a portfolio on a thematic area that goes beyond the core requirements of their degree course.

Topic Suggestions for Independent Studies:

- Independent and systematic exploration of a larger topic area (e.g. the history of Petrarchism, the Romantic period, etc.) or theoretical concepts and ideas.
- Documentary report on high-profile literary or cultural events (book fairs, festivals etc.) or of the reception of books, artefacts, events.
- Taking on the responsibility of assisting with the preparation of new courses (documentation, methods, reading lists, etc.) in cooperation with a lecturer.

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3) Professional Experience (12 ECTS)

- Students become acquainted with practical work in and beyond the university by doing jobs, internships or practical work.
- Besides evidence students hand in a report/documentation on/of their experience (ungraded) of at least 1500 words.

Suggestions for Practice

- Internships.
- Previous or current work experience.
- Organisation of workshops or conferences.
- Putting together a scholarship application.
- Assisting with editorial projects (book publications, journals).
- Teaching in university and other contexts.

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