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UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN



Handbook
M.A. English Linguistics

Winter Semester 2021 / 2022

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
English Department



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1. Objectives of the Program

The degree scheme M.A. *English Linguistics* provides an in-depth understanding of issues in current linguistics and a training in the methods used in linguistic research. The combination of empirical research with theoretical modeling is an internationally renowned hallmark of linguistics in Tübingen, and the course structure of the M.A. *English Linguistics* reflects this research strength. In addition to the core areas of phonetics, morphology, syntax, and semantics, the program offers specializations in such areas as second language acquisition, information structure, language processing, experimental syntax, formal semantics, and psycholinguistics. The curriculum provides a thorough grounding in the description of English in cross-linguistic comparison, in the developing approaches to linguistic research, and in the key areas of theoretical and applied linguistics. This core program is complemented by an interdisciplinary component in which students can broaden their perspectives by studying courses from outside the English Department. They can thus extend their range of expertise into the linguistic analysis of other languages or broaden their knowledge about language studies in neighboring disciplines such as psychology, philosophy, cognitive science, and computational linguistics.

The M.A. *English Linguistics* has a strong emphasis on doing linguistics and doing research, rather than just learning about what others have done. Students develop, conduct, and evaluate their own research projects, one of which they fully develop in their final M.A. thesis. The degree scheme provides an opportunity for students to use the knowledge and skills that they gain in their courses in a work environment too. The Practice and Application module allows students to apply their competence in linguistic analysis, linguistic research, and critical thinking in an applied context (e.g., by carrying out an internship or teaching a tutorial).

Graduates of the M.A. *English Linguistics* are qualified for professional careers inside and outside academia. They have gained a profound understanding of different levels and categories of linguistic analysis, and can successfully apply linguistic techniques to investigate research questions in both theoretical and 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, but also in the extended fields of second language acquisition, information structure, language processing, experimental syntax, formal semantics, and psycholinguistics.

The M.A. *English Linguistics* thus qualifies students for various career options. They 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.

However this degree scheme also has wider objectives. One important aim of the program's focus on linguistic analysis is to enable participants to see for themselves the many ways in which human language and the uses of language across the world are remarkably similar. While languages may vary along certain parameters, just as societies and aspects of culture can and do vary, many things remain surprisingly constant: the way children develop language, the sorts of things that people use language to say, the factors which affect language form, and the sorts of distinctions that languages encode are examples of this. The study of English Linguistics can thus offer a perspective into language as a common feature of humanity.

Another important insight which a study of Linguistics can offer is how people can say one thing but mean something else or something more (implicature), or alternatively seem to be saying something but retain deniability (presupposition). The sharpening of graduates' analysis of the components of meaning can afford them essential skills in negotiating the multiple information sources and media of today's world.

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	02 and 03	12
ELI-MA-06	O	Research I: Academic Writing	01	6
ELI-MA-07	O	Research II: Research Project	03	12
ELI-MA-08	O	Practice and Application	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	Practice and Application
1	30	ELI-MA-01 (12 CP)	ELI-MA-02 (12 CP)	---	ELI-MA-06 (6 CP)	---
2	30	ELI-MA-03 (12 CP)	ELI-MA04 (12 CP)	ELI-MA-05 (6 CP)	---	---
3	30	---		ELI-MA-05 (6 CP)	ELI-MA-07 (12 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; PF=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 = Workgroup
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 / Lecture - Coursework in the seminar and the workgroup or exercise or lecture are at the discretion of the instructor (e.g. presentation, protocol exercises, portfolio etc.) - The 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 / Lecture</i>	WG/ E/L	O	2	3				
Transfer	n/a								
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 / Lecture - Coursework in the seminar and the workgroup or exercise or lecture are at the discretion of the instructor (e.g. presentation, protocol exercises, portfolio etc.) - The 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 a 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 / Lecture</i>	WG/ E/L	O	2	3				
Transfer	n/a								
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 / Lecture - Coursework in the seminar and the workgroup or exercise or lecture are at the discretion of the instructor (e.g. presentation, protocol exercises, portfolio, etc.) - The 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 lecture, 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 lecture 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 / Lecture</i>	WG/ E / L	O	2	3				
Transfer	n/a								
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 / Lecture - Coursework in the seminar and the workgroup or exercise or lecture are at the discretion of the instructor (e.g. presentation, protocol exercises, portfolio, etc.) - The 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 / Lecture</i>	WG/ E/L	O	2	3				
Transfer	n/a								
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: 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. Final written assignment. 								
Content	In the MA Academic Writing course, incoming students will perform a variety of writing exercises designed to explore the conventions of different text types. Students will be asked to analyze and produce a range of text types, paying close attention to target audience, structure and language; examples may include research papers, abstracts, proposals, conference reviews, or book/article reviews. The final written assignment will allow for different writing styles and techniques from students of diverse academic backgrounds to be identified and addressed.								
Objectives	The module will provide incoming MA students with a sufficient knowledge of the academic writing skills necessary for pursuing the MA English Linguistics. Working with different text types will prepare students for the writing they will encounter throughout their degree and beyond / in the workplace.								
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 Writing</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>PF</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>100</i>
Transfer	M.A. American Studies, M.A. English Literatures and Cultures								
Requirements for Participation	Based on the writing sample submitted with their application, students may be required to pass Written Communication I before taking the MA Academic Writing course. (In that case, Written Communication I can be used as a workgroup for one of the core modules).								

Number: ELI-MA-07	Module Title: Research II: 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>	<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>ne</i>	<i>0</i>
	<i>Independent Studies</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>6</i>				
Transfer	n/a								
Requirements for Participation	Successful completion of two of the modules ELI-MA 01 to ELI-MA 04								

3.4 Practice and Application

Number: ELI-MA-08	Module Title: Practice and Application		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	<p>Students can fulfill this module by undertaking professional or skills development activities outside the university (Practice I) or at the university (Practice II). Note that the final responsibility for finding a suitable internship or work placement rests with the students themselves.</p> <p>Practice I: Students carry out an internship with a company or institution, and hand in a report of about 1500 words reflecting on how the experience has contributed to their professional training. The expected length of the internship is about 6 weeks (full time equivalent).</p> <p>Practice II: Students perform tasks at the university that contribute to their training as professional linguists. The expected overall time commitment is the same as for the internship required for the Practice I track.</p> <p>Some options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) teaching a tutorial which accompanies a linguistics class / working in the / working as research assistants (Hiwis) for one semester, if found suitable by the faculty (ii) taking courses offered by the Career Center and / or the Foreign Language Center / German as a Foreign Language department (iii) assisting with academic events organized by the department / the linguistics section (e.g., workshops, conferences) (iv) assisting the faculty in their research as applicable 		
Content	In this module, students will apply the skills learned in the course of the program in a professional context and / or acquire transferable skills (e.g., language skills, pedagogical skills, project management skills) that will contribute to their professional development.		
Objectives	<p>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.</p> <p>Students who taught a tutorial or worked at the Research and Writing Center have gained pedagogical skills and have learned to present and structure knowledge.</p> <p>Students who worked as research assistants or assisted with other academic activities have a gained a better understanding –via hands-on practice— of how linguistic research proceeds.</p> <p>Students who have taken professional development courses have acquired transferable skills relevant for their future careers (in or outside of academia).</p>		

Requirement for Credit Points / Grade	Title	Type of Class	Status	CH	CP	Type of Exam	Duration of Exam	Type of Evaluation	Calculation of Grade for Module
	<i>Practice I (internship)</i>	n/a	O	n/a	12	n/a	n/a	ne	0
	<i>Practice II (tutorial / assisting with research / professional development courses)</i>	n/a	O	n/a	12	n/a	n/a	ne	0
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 approximately 80 pages in which they explore a linguistic phenomenon 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.								

The order of written thesis and oral exam is determined by the student in consultation with the supervisor. The whole exam period without any extensions lasts a maximum of six months, beginning from registration. Of these, a maximum of four months is given for the written thesis, a maximum of two months for the preparation of the oral exam.

4. Final Grade

The final grade is calculated from the grades of modules ELI-MA-01 to ELI-MA-04 and ELI-MA-09. Module ELI-MA-09 (Master Thesis and Oral Exam) constitutes 50% of the final grade. Modules ELI-MA-01 to ELI-MA-04 make up the remaining 50%.