EBERHARD KARLS UNIVERSITÄT TÜBINGEN

Module Handbook
General Linguistics
BA major

Valid from summer semester 2023

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Contents

1. Preliminary remarks

1.1. Goals of the program

The *BA General Linguistics program* serves to acquire basic scientific skills, which establish a first general, scientifically sound professional qualification of the students in the field of general linguistics. The subject of general linguistics is human language in all its manifestations. It explores the principles underlying the use of language using empirical data, thereby arriving at a formal description of the human language system. The core areas of general linguistics at the University of Tübingen are:

- Phonetics and Phonology
- Syntax
- Semantics
- Pragmatics
- Psycholinguistics

Graduates of the *BA General Linguistics program* have in-depth knowledge in these areas, which allows them to understand and discuss current research questions and analyses in topics such as language evolution, language change and language processing. In addition to these professional qualifications, this program puts emphasis on teaching different current models and methods. In particular, the following should be mentioned:

- Formal-logical analysis
- Quantitative methods
- Data-oriented methods
- Cognitive modelling

Graduates have in-depth knowledge and initial experience with the application of these methods. In addition, they will develop the necessary skills (under supervision) required for coming to a scientific understanding of current topics in linguistic research.

1.2. Languages of instruction

The *BA General Linguistics program* is closely linked to the international *BA Computational Linguistics program*. For this reason, many courses in general linguistics are also open to students of computational linguistics and are taught in English accordingly. This applies in particular to the introductory modules of the first semester. In later semesters, classes are held in German or English, depending on the lecturers and the composition of the auditorium. For this reason, English skills at least at B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference are required.

Proof of language proficiency in English and German must be provided by an internationally recognized test (TOEFL, IELTS, etc.). Applicants who can prove knowledge of a language at the Abitur level via the Abitur certificate or who speak one of the languages as their mother tongue do not need any additional proof, since the B2 level is already guaranteed.

2. General information

2.1. Program structure

The bachelor's degree in General Linguistics is divided into 3 academic years. The first year ends with the orientation examination, the second with the intermediate examination and the third with the bachelor's examination. In total, students acquire 99 credit points in the main subject, 60 credit points in the minor subject and 21 credit points in interdisciplinary, job-related skills. The assignment of the individual modules to the examination sections is shown in Table 3.2.

2.2. Credit points

Credit points are intended to quantify and make internationally comparable the average work-load a student has to manage to pass a module. One credit point is the equivalent of approximately 30 hours of work. One credit point is defined as one point under the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Sixty credits per year, i.e. 30 per semester, are required to complete a degree in the minimum prescribed time.

Credit points include both actual teaching time in class - contact hours - as well as private study (usually preparation and reviewing of the material taught, preparation for presentations in class, semester papers, and the bachelor's thesis).

2.3. Assessed and non-assessed coursework

Various forms of coursework must be completed for credit points to be awarded. This includes assessment and ungraded coursework.

Assessed work is generally given a grade and counts as, or counts towards, the grade for the module. The assessed work required for each module in the General Linguistics study program is set out in the module handbook. Assessment may be made in the form of a grade for performance either at the end of the learning process in a module (summatively - e.g. as an exam or assignment = result = the module grade) or it may be in several stages within a module (formatively - e.g. as a project or analysis task). Assessed work from each phase of assessment is incorporated into the module grade, whereby the phases may be weighted differently. A graded module has been passed if the module is graded "sufficient" (4.00) or better; it is possible to fail. The number and timing of any repeat exams permitted are regulated in the General Provisions of the exam regulations.

Non-graded coursework is noted as "completed" or "not completed". However, non-graded coursework has only been completed when the responsible teacher attests sufficient quality, i.e., well-founded academic feedback by the teacher is possible. Non-graded coursework has no influence on the module grade. Non-graded coursework may be, e.g.: presentation, abstract, analysis, experiment.

In the obligatory courses offered once a year, a retake exam is generally offered in the week before the next semester starts so that students who did not pass an exam have a second opportunity to pass the exam in a timely manner. Where successful, they thus can take courses building on this prerequisite without delay. Alternatively, students can also choose to repeat a course in the following year.

Key	
Form of evaluation:	b = graded; ub = not graded (pass/fail); kP = no exam
Assessment type:	K = written exam; MP = oral exam; PA = project work; H = semester paper; R = presentationt If several forms of examination are possible, they are listed one below the other. In the specific case, the lecturer decides on the actual form of examination for the event in question.
Duration:	Duration of the exam in minutes
Weighting:	In courses = weighting of the exam grade as part of module grade In modules = weighting of the module grade for the final grade
SWS:	Credit hours per week during semester (Semesterwochenstunden)
Status:	o = obligatory; f = facultative (not compulsory)
Class type:	VL = lecture; S = seminar; T = tutorial; Ü = exercise
LP:	Credit points (ECTS points)

3. Course of studies

3.1 Overview by modules

(according to the module overview of the study and examination regulations)

Module-number	Compulsory / Required elective	Module title	Recom-mended semester	LP (Credit points)
ASW-BA-01	Compulsory	Linguistic fundamentals	1	6
ASW-BA-02	Compulsory	Methods I	1	6
ASW-BA-03	Compulsory	Methods II	2	6
ASW-BA-04	Compulsory	Phonetics & Phonology	2	9
ASW-BA-05	Compulsory	Syntax & Semantics	3	9
ASW-BA-06	Compulsory	Psycholinguistics	3	9
ASW-BA-07	Compulsory	Semantics & Pragmatics	4	9
ASW-BA-08	Compulsory	Language & Cognition	4	12
ASW-BA-09	Compulsory	Variation, Evolution & Change	5	12
ASW-BA-10	Compulsory	Language Use	5	9
ASW-BA-11	Compulsory	Exam module	6	12

Fundamental and methodological modules
provide fundamental linguistic knowledge and methodological fundamentals

Basic modules
provide fundamentals of the core areas of linguistics

Advanced modules
deepen linguistic and methodological knowledge and provide an insight into current research topics

3 .2   Overview according to course of studies

Semester	LP (CP)	Modules B.A. major	
1.	12	ASW-BA-01 **Linguistic fundamentals** (6 CP)	ASW-BA-02 **Methods I** (6 CP)
2.	15	ASW-BA-04 **Phonetics & Phonology** (9 CP)	ASW-BA-03 **Methods II** (6 CP)
		Orientation test (modules ASW-BA-01, -02, -03)	
3.	18	ASW-BA-05 **Syntax & Semantics** (9 CP)	ASW-BA-06 **Psycholinguistics** (9 CP)
4.	21	ASW-BA-07 **Semantics & Pragmatics** (9 CP)	ASW-BA-08 **Language & Cognition** (12 CP)
		Intermediate exam (modules ASW-BA-04, -05, -06, -07)	
5.	21	ASW-BA-09 **Variation, Evolution & Change** (12 CP)	ASW-BA-10 **Language Use** (9 CP)
6.	12	ASW-BA-11 **Exam module** (12 CP)	
Σ	99		

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Basic modules
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4. Module Descriptions

Module no.: ASW-BA-01	Module name: Linguistic Fundamentals		Module type: Compulsory
ECTS credits	6		
Workload **- contact hours** **- private study**	Workload: 180 hours	Contact hours: 60 hours / 4 credit hours per week	Private study: 120 hours
Duration of module	1 semester		
Frequency	each winter semester		
Language of instruction	English		
Teaching formats	Proseminar "Introduction to General Linguistics", 4 SWS, 6 CP (lecture-style teaching, exercises, group work)		
Content of module	"Introduction to Linguistics" provides a foundation in linguistics. The goal is to give the student an overview of the research fields within linguistics: their methodology, historical development, and the ways in which they are linked as well as their significance beyond the boundaries of linguistics as a discipline.		
Goals	Students will be able to analyze linguistic data on all levels of description (phonology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics) using the conceptual means of linguistics. They will also gain insight into the specific approaches of different linguistic schools to linguistic phenomena. In addition, they will become aware of how current quantitative methods from machine learning and data science enrich and change linguistics.		

Requirements for the awarding of credit points/ grading (and weighting, where appropriate)	*Name of course*	*Class type*	*Status*	*Credit hours in semester*	*ECTS*	*Assessment type*	*Assessment duration*	*Grading system*	*Calculation of module grade*
	Introduction to Linguistics	S	O	4	6	K	90	b	100

Serves as:	ASW-BA-04, -05, -06, -07, -08, -09, -10
Requirements for admission	none

Module no.: ASW-BA-02	Module name: Methods I		Module type Compulsory
ECTS credits	6		
Workload - contact hours - private study	Workload: 180 hours	Contact hours: 60 hours / 4 credit hours per week	Private study: 120 hours
Duration of module	1 semester		
Frequency	each winter semester		
Language of instruction	English		
Teaching formats	Proseminar "Mathematical Methods: Logic", 2 SWS, 3 CP (lecture-style teaching, exercises, group work) Proseminar " Programming and Data Analysis", 2 SWS, 3 CP (lecture-style teaching, presentation, report)		
Content of module	The introductory seminar "Mathematical Methods: Logic" teaches basic methodological knowledge for the formal-structural analysis of expressions, their structure and meaning. "Programming and Data Analysis" takes students into the programming of simple algorithms with the primary goal of familiarizing students with the processing and sifting of empirical data and several of the usual relevant analyses which build upon them and which are relevant from the linguistics point of view.		
Goals	Students learn the terminology basics of mathematical and logical concepts needed in linguistics and are able to follow linguistic argumentation and analysis.		

Requirements for the awarding of credit points/ grading (and weighting, where appropriate)	*Name of course*	*Class type*	*Status*	*Credit hours in semester*	*LP*	*Assessment type*	*Assessment duration*	*Grading system*	*Calculation of module grade*
	Mathematical Methods: Logic	S	O	2	3	K	90	b	100
	Programming and Data Analysis	S	O	2	3	kP	-	-	-

Serves as:	ASW-BA-04, -05, -06, -07, -08, -09, -10
Requirements for admission	None

Module no.: ASW-BA-03	Module name: Methods II		Module type Compulsory
ECTS credits	6		
Workload - contact hours - private study	Workload: 180 hours	Contact hours: 60 hours / 4 credit hours per week	Private study: 120 hours
Duration of module	1 semester		
Frequency	each summer semester		
Language of instruction	English		
Teaching formats	Proseminar "Mathematical Methods: Statistics", 4 SWS, 6 CP (lecture-style teaching, exercises, group work)		
Content of module	The "Mathematical Methods: Statistics" course introduces students to basic methods in statistical modeling, evaluation and visualization of empirical data. Students will also learn what conclusions can be drawn from statistical analyses with respect to linguistic research questions.		
Goals	Students who completed this course will be familiar with basic concepts in statistics, specifically with respect to their application to linguistic research. They will have learned to use a programming language to fit models to empirical data, and to apply visualization techniques for exploratory data analysis as well as for the graphical representation of statistical models.		

Requirements for the awarding of credit points/ grading (and weighting, where appropriate)	*Name of course*	*Class type*	*Status*	*Credit hours in semester*	*LP*	*Assessment type*	*Assessment duration*	*Grading system*	*Calculation of module grade*
	Mathematical Methods: Statistics	S	O	4	6	K	90	b	100

Serves as:	ASW-BA-08, -09, -10
Requirements for admission	None

Module no.: ASW-BA-04	Module name: Phonetics and Phonology		Module type Compulsory
ECTS credits	9		
Workload **- contact hours** **- private study**	Workload: 270 hours	Contact hours: 90 hours / 6 credit hours per week	Private study: 180 hours
Duration of module	1 semester		
Frequency	each summer semester		
Language of instruction	English		
Teaching formats	Proseminar "Phonetics & Phonology", 4 SWS, 6 CP (lecture-style teaching, exercises, group work) Tutorial on "Phonetics & Phonology", 2 SWS, 3 LP (exercises, group work, plenary discussion)		
Content of module	The Phonetics and Phonology module provides an overview of the various linguistic sounds and how they are formed, transmitted, and perceived. Furthermore, functional aspects of these sounds are introduced and the basics of phonetic analysis taught.		
Goals	Students obtain knowledge of articulatory, acoustic, and perceptive phonetics. They become familiar with the basic concepts in phonology and with the methods of phonetic analysis; they are also able to fully understand such analyses and to transfer them to comparable phenomena.		

Requirements for the awarding of credit points/ grading (and weighting, where appropriate)	*Name of course*	*Class type*	*Status*	*Credit hours in semester*	*LP*	*Assessment type*	*Assessment duration*	*Grading system*	*Calculation of module grade*
	Phonetics and Phonology	S	O	4	6	K	90	b	100
	Tutorial Phonetics and Phonology	T	O	2	3	kP	-	-	-

Serves as:	ASW-BA-09, -10
Requirements for admission	ASW-BA-01, ASW-BA-02

Module no.: ASW-BA-05	Module name: Syntax and Semantics					Module type Compulsory			
ECTS credits	9								
Workload **- contact hours** **- private study**	Workload: 270 hours		Contact hours: 90 hours / 6 credit hours per week			Private study: 180 hours			
Duration of module	1 semester								
Frequency	each winter semester								
Language of instruction	English								
Teaching formats	Proseminar "Syntax & Semantics", 4 SWS, 6 CP (lecture-style teaching, exercises, group work) Tutorial on "Syntax & Semantics", 2 SWS, 3 CP (exercises, group work, plenary discussion)								
Content of module	The Syntax & Semantics module provides basic knowledge of the analysis of language expression structures and of the compositional analysis of the meaning derived from them.								
Goals	Students obtain greater knowledge of syntax and basic knowledge of sentence semantics. They will be able to fully understand syntactic analyses and corresponding semantic derivations and to transfer them to comparable phenomena.								
Requirements for the awarding of credit points/ grading (and weighting, where appropriate)	*Name of course*	*Class type*	*Status*	*Credit hours in semester*	*LP*	*Assessment type*	*Assessment duration*	*Grading system*	*Calculation of module grade*
	Syntax and Semantics	S	O	4	6	K	90	b	100
	Tutorial Syntax and Semantics	T	O	2	3	kP	-	-	-
Serves as:	ASW-BA-09, -10								
Requirements for admission	ASWBA01, ASW-BA-02								

Module no.: ASW-BA-06	Module name: Psycholinguistics		Module type Compulsory
ECTS credits	9		
Workload - contact hours - private study	Workload: 270 hours	Contact hours: 90 hours / 6 credit hours per week	Private study: 180 hours
Duration of module	1 semester		
Frequency	each winter semester		
Language of instruction	English		
Teaching formats	Introductory seminar "Psycholinguistics", 4 SWS, 6 CP (lecture-style teaching, exercises, group work, laboratory work) Tutorial on "Psycholinguistics", 2 SWS, 3 CP (exercises, group work, plenary discussion)		
Content of module	The Psycholinguistics module provides an introduction to experimental methods, which are essential for systematic testing linguistic theories and approaches against empirical data. This course familiarizes students with a range of experimental techniques, and the challenges of interpreting and situating experimental research with respect to linguistic theories.		
Goals	Students who complete this course will have acquired knowledge of the fundamental concepts of current experimental research on language processing. They will also gain practical experience in conducting experiments, especially behavioral experiments, but will also have been familiarized with the basics of eye-tracking, EEG, electromagnetic articulography and ultrasound.		

Requirements for the awarding of credit points/ grading (and weighting, where appropriate)	*Name of course*	*Class type*	*Status*	*Credit hours in semester*	*LP*	*Assessment type*	*Assessment duration*	*Grading system*	*Calculation of module grade*
	Psycholinguistics	S	O	4	6	K	90	b	100
	Tutorial Psycholinguistics	T	O	2	3	kP	-	-	-

Serves as:	ASW-BA-08
Requirements for admission	ASWBA01, ASW-BA-02

Module no.: ASW-BA-07	Module name: Semantics and Pragmatics						Module type Compulsory		
ECTS credits	9								
Workload - contact hours - private study	Workload: 270 hours		Contact hours: 90 hours / 6 credit hours per week				Private study: 180 hours		
Duration of module	1 semester								
Frequency	each summer semester								
Language of instruction	English								
Teaching formats	Proseminar "Semantics & Pragmatics", 4 SWS, 6 CP (lecture-style teaching, exercises, group work) Tutorial on "Semantics & Pragmatics", 2 SWS, 3 CP (exercises, group work, plenary discussion)								
Content of module	In the introductory seminar and supplementary tutorial "Semantics & Pragmatics", we examine basic theories and methods for the analysis of meaning in expressions and statements. The module gives an overview of relevant semantic and pragmatic core concepts, such as context dependency, intensionality, presupposition, and speech act theory.								
Goals	Students obtain greater knowledge of sentence semantics analysis and basic knowledge of pragmatics. They are enabled to fully understand semantic derivations and the pragmatic interference based on them, and to transfer them to comparable phenomena.								
Requirements for the awarding of credit points/ grading (and weighting, where appropriate)	*Name of course*	*Class type*	*Status*	*Credit hours in semester*	*LP*	*Assessment type*	*Assessment duration*	*Grading system*	*Calculation of module grade*
	Semantics and Pragmatics	S	O	4	6	K	90	b	100
	Tutorial Semantics and Pragmatics	T	O	2	3	kP	-	-	-
Serves as:									
Requirements for admission	ASWBA01, ASW-BA-02								

Module no.: ASW-BA-08	Module name: Language & Cognition		Module type Compulsory
ECTS credits	12		
Workload **- contact hours** **- private study**	Workload: 360 hours	Contact hours: 60 hours / 4 credit hours per week	Private study: 300 hours
Duration of module	1 semester		
Frequency	each summer semester		
Language of instruction	English		
Teaching formats	Advanced seminar in the area of "Language & Cognition", 2 SWS, 6 CP (lecture-style teaching, exercises, group work) Advanced seminar in the area of "Project Language & Cognition", 2 SWS, 6 CP (literature research, group work, plenary discussion, laboratory work, experiment)		
Content of module	Language is a central part of human cognition. At the same time, many areas of human cognition are only accessible via the medium of language. The Language & Cognition module introduces students to basic ideas in cognitive modelling. In the project seminar, students carry out their own first pilot experiments.		
Goals	Students acquire in-depth knowledge of cognitively-oriented approaches to language, including language and error-driven learning, communicative development, and human language processing. They also acquire the skills and background knowledge to read current research literature and learn methods and techniques for obtaining and analyzing relevant linguistic data using corpora, databases and experiments.		

Requirements for the awarding of credit points/ grading (and weighting, where appropriate)	*Name of course*	*Class type*	*Status*	*Credit hours in semester*	*LP*	*Assessment type*	*Assessment duration*	*Grading system*	*Calculation of module grade*
	Language & Cognition	S	O	2	6	K MP PA H	90 30 -- --	b	100
	Project Language & Cognition	S	O	2	6	kP	-	-	-

Serves as:	ASW-BA-11
Requirements for admission	ASWBA01, ASW-BA-02, ASW-BA-03, , ASW-BA-06

Module no.: ASW-BA-09	Module name: Variation, Evolution & Change		Module type Compulsory
ECTS credits	12		
Workload **- contact hours** **- private study**	Workload: 360 hours	Contact hours: 60 hours / 4 credit hours per week	Private study: 300 hours
Duration of module	1 semester		
Frequency	each winter semester		
Language of instruction	English		
Teaching formats	Advanced seminar in the area of "Variation, Evolution & Change", 2 SWS, 6 CP (lecture-style teaching, exercises, group work) Advanced seminar in the area of "Project Variation, Evolution & Change", 2 SWS, 6 CP (literature research, group work, plenary discussion, implementation		
Content of module	Language behavior and the individual languages which result from it are dynamic, complex, and adaptive systems. The Variation, Evolution & Change module deals with language transformation processes and provides an introduction to models and theories of language evolution and transformation. In the project seminar, students implement solutions to relevant problems independently.		
Goals	Students obtain in-depth knowledge of historical linguistics and of variation linguistics and are accordingly familiar with the relevant methods. They are able to apply these methods, particularly in the implementation of appropriate software, in the analysis of new problem complexes.		

Requirements for the awarding of credit points/ grading (and weighting, where appropriate)	*Name of course*	*Class type*	*Status*	*Credit hours in semester*	*LP*	*Assessment type*	*Assessment duration*	*Grading system*	*Calculation of module grade*
	Variation, Evolution & Change	S	O	2	6	K MP PA H	90 30 -- --	b	100
	Variation, Evolution & Change	S	O	2	6	kP	-	-	-

Serves as:	ASW-BA-11
Requirements for admission	ASWBA01, ASW-BA-02, ASW-BA-03, ASW-BA-04, ASW-BA-05

Module no.: ASW-BA-10	Module name: Language Use						Module type Compulsory		
ECTS credits	9								
Workload - contact hours - private study	Workload: 270 hours		Contact hours: 60 hours / 4 credit hours per week				Private study: 210 hours		
Duration of module	1 semester								
Frequency	each winter semester								
Language of instruction	English								
Teaching formats	Advanced seminar in the area of "Language Use", 2 SWS, 6 CP (lecture-style teaching, exercises, group work) Advanced seminar in the area of "Project Language Use", 2 SWS, 3 CP (literature research, group work, plenary discussion)								
Content of module	Language is primarily a means for its users to achieve non-language goals. In the Language Use module, theories and approaches relating to this functional per-spective are discussed and in the project seminar further developed, inde-pendently, in group projects.								
Goals	Students obtain in-depth knowledge of pragmatics and of the socio-linguistic as-pects of language use. They are able to fully understand relevant analyses and to develop their own simple analyses.								
Requirements for the awarding of credit points/ grading (and weighting, where appropriate)	*Name of course*	*Class type*	*Status*	*Credit hours in semester*	*LP*	*Assessment type*	*Assessment duration*	*Grading system*	*Calculation of module grade*
	Language Use	S	O	2	6	K MP PA H	90 30 -- --	b	100
	Project Language Use	S	O	2	3	kP	-	-	-
Serves as:	ASW-BA-11								
Requirements for admission	ASWBA01, ASW-BA-02, ASW-BA-03, ASW-BA-04, ASW-BA-05								

Module no.: ASW-BA-11	Module name: Exam module					Compulsory			
ECTS credits	12								
Workload **- contact hours** **- private study**	Workload: 360 hours								
Duration of module	1 semester								
Frequency	each semester								
Language of instruction	-								
Teaching formats	Writing the BA thesis								
Content of module	The topic of the BA thesis usually follows the topic of one of the modules ASW-BA-08, ASW-BA-09 or ASW-BA-10.								
Goals	Students are able to independently research a scientific question in the literature, to summarize and to discuss it. They are able to produce a research paper that meets scientific standards.								
Requirements for the awarding of credit points/ grading (and weighting, where appropriate)	*title*	*type of teaching*	*status*	*SWS*	*LP*	*exam form*	*exam duration*	*grading system*	*Calculation of module grade*
		-	O	-	12	BA thesis	-	B	100
Serves as:	-								
Requirements for admission	ASW-BA-08, ASW-BA-09, ASW-BA-10								

5. Transferable skills

The modules described above comprise a total of 21 ECTS for the acquisition of interdisciplinary skills: 6 ECTS from Methods I (logic, programming); 6 ECTS from Methods II (statistics), 3 ECTS from phonetics and phonology (including physics of language); 3 ECTS from Psycholinguistics (introduction to essential concepts of psychology) and
3 ECTS from Language & Cognition (introduction to essential concepts of cognitive science).