

English Linguistics – Master (120 ECTS)

Programme description

The Master's degree programme in English Linguistics covers graduate level studies in English linguistics, and is to be seen as an extension of work at the Bachelor's level. The programme places special emphasis on the formal aspects of grammar, in particular syntax and phonology. The programme has a strong comparative component, although the study of English naturally maintains a central place in the programme. Students will develop insight into the structure of language in general and of English in particular, social and geographic variation, as well as the historical development and acquisition of English. At the Master's level, students will develop special interests based on their coursework and will write either a Master's Thesis or two article-length papers whose main empirical focus should be on English.

The programme consists of the following components:

- 60 ECTS of coursework and
- 60 ECTS for either one (1) thesis, or two (2) articles

Both the coursework and thesis/articles must have English as their main empirical focus. The three elective ten credit courses can come from any 3000-level course in language or linguistics offered by the groups for English and General Linguistics. If their relevance for the programme can be demonstrated, other courses may be accepted by application.

Master's Thesis

The degree includes 60 ECTS which must be earned either (i) by writing one Master's Thesis (60 ECTS) or (ii) by writing two papers (30 ECTS each). This work is normally done individually, but may be part of a larger research project being carried out at the faculty, especially projects being carried out at the Center for Advanced Studies in Theoretical Linguistics (CASTL). The topics for this work will be chosen in consultation with one of the academic staff, who will serve as a supervisor. Those opting to write two papers, must write one of them in the core disciplines phonology or syntax. The two papers cannot be in the same field.

Part-time studies

In principle, the programme is open for part-time studies, however the structure of the programme is not designed to accommodate part-time students.

Interdisciplinary courses

Some of the Master's degree programmes offered by the faculty overlap to a certain degree in that they offer a range of "interdisciplinary" courses. For example, the core disciplines of phonology and syntax are taught as part of both Theoretical Linguistics and English Linguistics, and are therefore assigned a HIF-code in the university catalogue. Not all of the HIF-courses, however, may be appropriate for incorporation into a given programme. To find out which HIF-courses are accepted as part of the Master's degree programme in English Linguistics, please consult the list below.

The groups participating in the teaching of the programme are English and General linguistics. The core courses for the Master's degree programme in English Linguistics are taught in the context of the Center for Advanced Study in Theoretical Linguistics (CASTL).

Progression

The following courses are compulsory in Semester 1: HIF-3010 Syntax I, HIF-3022 Phonology I.

The following course is compulsory in Semester 2: *Either* HIF-3011 Syntax II *or* HIF-3021 Phonology II

Programme structure

Term	10 ects	10 ects	10 ects
1st term (autumn)	HIF-3010 Syntax I	HIF-3022 Phonology I	Elective course in English language or linguistics (3000-level)
2nd term (spring)	HIF-3011 Syntax II or HIF-3021 Phonology II	Elective course in English language or linguistics (3000-level)	Elective course in English language or linguistics (3000-level)
3rd term (autumn)	ENG-3991 Master's Thesis in English Linguistics		
4th term (spring)	ENG-3991 Master's Thesis in English Linguistics		

Learning outcomes

After completing the Master's of Philosophy in English Linguistics the students will have acquired the following:

Knowledge and understanding:

- specialised knowledge of a linguistic subfield through work with the Master's Thesis
- deeper knowledge of English linguistics through the study of core subjects
- broadened knowledge of adjoining fields through elective courses
- a critical view of the theories and methods that have been underlying linguistic research

Skills:

The students will have achieved

- ability to orient themselves in linguistic scientific literature with special regard to the development of theory and methods, and to earlier research
- skills in problem solving, analysis of linguistic data, and in presentation of findings according to academic standards
- skills in communicating scientific content in English at a high level

Competence:

- The core goal of the programme is to prepare students for study at PhD level. It also qualifies for work in occupations that require thorough knowledge of human language and/or experience with independent project work.

Admission requirements

Admission to the Master's programme in English Linguistics requires a Bachelor's Degree (180 ECTS) in English language, a degree combining English language and literature, or equivalent qualification. An average grade of equivalent to C or better in the Norwegian grading system is required.

Applicants must enclose an application essay (Statement of purpose) written in English (maximum of two pages). This should include descriptions of their motivation for, interest in and expectations relating to their Master's degree studies and ideas for their Master's Thesis project.

The application deadline for Norwegian and other Nordic applicants is **April 15th**.

The application deadline for students outside the Nordic countries (self-financed applicants) is **December 1st**. More information for self-financed applicants is available at: [General admission requirements for self-financed applicants](#).

Both deadlines are for admission to the programme commencing in the autumn semester. The programme does not admit new students in the spring semester.

Teaching and assessment

Teaching takes the form of lectures and seminars. Evaluation is carried out at the end of each course on the basis of a portfolio of the students written work. As a Master's student, you will be assigned a supervisor who will monitor your progress throughout your studies. The Master's Thesis will be assigned a grade (from A to F); the coursework will be graded on the same scale. For information about examinations; please see the individual course descriptions.

Language of instruction

The language of instruction and all syllabus material is English.

Exchange possibilities

Students can apply for exchange studies or field work abroad according to the available cooperation agreements within scholarship programmes such as Erasmus, Nordplus, Barentsplus or North2North. Please consult the international coordinator at the faculty for more information.

Job perspectives

The core goal of the programme is to prepare students for study at PhD level. It also qualifies for work in occupations that require thorough knowledge of human language and/or experience with independent project work, for example teaching, programming, administration, industry or the media.

Access to further studies

On successful completion of the degree programme, students may be qualified for admission to a PhD in Linguistics.