

# MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (M.PHIL.) IN ENGLISH LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

The department offers an international Master's programme: Master of Philosophy (abbreviated 'M. Phil.') in English Linguistics and Language Acquisition.

## Learning Outcome

This programme provides the basis for a career in public and private sector organisations where there is a demand for a high level of competence in the fields of English language and linguistics, language acquisition, or language and cognition, for example, expertise in how humans comprehend and use language in speech and writing.

The programme also provides the basis for further postgraduate education / doctoral research with a specialisation in language acquisition, language processing and/or English linguistics; or any career where analysis, development, text production and communication play an essential role.

## Knowledge

The candidates

- are familiar with theoretical concepts and frameworks, and methods involved in the study of language acquisition, language and cognition, language processing and English linguistics,
- are acquainted with central questions and past and current debates in the subject area, and can compare, contrast and evaluate different approaches,
- have acquired in-depth specialist knowledge from the writing of their master's thesis on a self-chosen topic within the fields of language acquisition, language processing, language and cognition and/or English language and linguistics.

## Skills

The candidates

- are able, using English, to apply an array of precise theoretical linguistic concepts in approaching and analysing a variety of different questions,
- are able to communicate in English, both orally and in writing, in formal and academic contexts using forms appropriate to the subject area,
- are able to identify relevant topics and questions within the subject area,
- know how to identify and locate source materials within the subject area, and are able to make critical use of these.

## General competence

The candidates

- are able to formulate productive research questions and to assess the suitability and validity of different methodologies,
- are able to plan and carry out a research project of substantial scope under supervision,
- are able to make use of a range of research tools in a research investigation,
- know how to apply ethical standards in research, for example standards concerning the use and citation of sources and the handling of data that has been collected,
- are able to work with, to create an overview of, and to identify the main points in, large amounts of text,

- are able to create and organise an extensive written document in accordance with specific guidelines and requirements.

## Admission/Entry requirements

Applicants should hold a B.A. or an equivalent degree in English or Linguistics with a sufficient background in topics related to English language or linguistics. Only candidates with a minimum of 20 ECTS in English language/linguistics courses will be considered for acceptance.

Successful applicants to the Master's programme must meet the minimum average grade requirement for admission, which is the grade C by the Norwegian grading scale, or equivalent approved minimum grade.

Officially certified copies of all educational certificates, including transcripts and diplomas from secondary school and university education, must be submitted.

An English proficiency test must be included. Applicants must pass either the TOEFL with a minimum score of 600/90 points on the paper based/internet based test, or the IELTS with a minimum score of band 6.5. Citizens of Ireland, the UK, the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand do not have to submit TOEFL/IELTS test results. This is also the case for applicants who have spent at least one year in any of these countries, attending higher secondary school or university. Applicants from African countries with a B.A./B.Sc./B.Eng. degree where the language of instruction has been English and those who have passed English as a subject at GCE A-level with grade C or better are also exempted. Applicants with a university degree in English language (B.A. in English) are also exempted from the English language proficiency test requirement. Please be aware that applicants from Asian countries (for example Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam) with a B.A./ B.Sc./ B.Eng. degree where the language of instruction has been English are not exempted from the English language requirements, except for candidates holding a B.A. degree in English.

## Courses

Course code	Course title	ECTS credits	Semester	Restricted admission
ENG2153	First and Second Language Acquisition	7.5	Autumn	
ENG3110	Special Subject in English Language	7.5	Spring	
ENG3920	Master's Thesis in English Linguistics and Language Acquisition	60	Autumn and spring	Yes 1)
SPRÅK3000	Theories and Methods in Linguistics	15	Autumn	
SPRÅK3200	Semantics and Pragmatics	7.5	Autumn	
SPRÅK3210	Linguistic Theory and Comparative Grammar	7.5	Spring	
SPRÅK3300	Cognitive Aspects of Language	7.5	Spring	
SPRÅL3800	Unspecified Topic/Self Study	7.5	Spring	Yes 1)
1) Admission to the course requires admission to the M. Phil.-programme.				

## Programme components

The table below shows how a Master of Philosophy in English Linguistics and Language Acquisition is usually built up.

Semester	7.5 credits	7.5 credits	7.5 credits	7.5 credits
Spring 4	ENG3920 Master's Thesis in English Linguistics and Language Acquisition			
Autumn 3	ENG3920 Master's Thesis in English Linguistics and Language Acquisition			
Spring 2	SPRÅK3210 Linguistic Theory and Comparative Grammar	SPRÅK3300 Cognitive Aspects of Language	ENG3110 Special Subject in English Language	SPRÅL3800 Unspecified Topic/Self Study
Autumn 1	SPRÅK3000 Theories and Methods in Linguistics		SPRÅK3200 Semantics and Pragmatics	ENG2153 First and Second Language Acquisition

The range of topics that could be offered in the programme includes advanced topics in modern English syntax, studies of the lexicon, first language acquisition and second language acquisition studies, translation theory and communication studies.

Students who wish to include other courses offered by the department, should contact the department for further information regarding the possibilities for an individual curriculum.

The department offers supervision in the syntax/semantics of modern English, first and second language acquisition, the syntax/semantics interface and theories on contemporary information structure.

In their second semester in the programme, students should choose a topic for their Master's thesis. A supervisor will be appointed for each student based on his or her choice of topic. By the end of the second semester, students have to submit a project proposal for their Master's thesis. The project proposal must be approved by the department.

After the first year of studies, during the period mid-June to mid-August, candidates are given the opportunity to go back to their home countries to do field-work if this is necessary for the completion of their thesis.

## Overlapping courses

SPRÅK3200 *Semantics and Pragmatics* (7.5 ECTS credits) overlaps with ENG3510 *Topics in Semantics*. Students who have previously passed the exam in ENG3510, will therefore not receive credit for passing the exam in SPRÅK3200.

SPRÅK3210 *Linguistic Theory and Comparative Grammar* (7.5 ECTS credits) and SPRÅK3300 *Cognitive Aspects of Language* (7.5 ECTS credits) each overlap with ENG3122 *Cognitive and Theoretical Aspects of Language* (15 ECTS credits). Students who have previously passed the exam in ENG3122 will not therefore receive credit for passing the exams in SPRÅK3210 and SPRÅK3300.

Students who have previously passed the exam in ENG3123 *Translation* (7.5 ECTS credits) may include this course in their M.Phil degree instead of SPRÅL3800 *Unspecified Topic/Self-Study*.