



## Programme syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Engelsk språk- och litteraturvetenskap, masterprogram, 120  
högskolepoäng

English Language and Literature, Master Programme, 120 credits

### **Level**

Second cycle

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved 2018-06-04.

Revised 2025-09-11.

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2026.

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for studies at the second level and specific entry requirements:

90 credits in English Linguistics or English Literature, or some other relevant field within language or literature.

English 7 or the equivalent.

## Description of Programme

The Master's Programme in English Language or Literature is a two-year second-cycle programme with English as its main field of study. Students can specialise in linguistics, literature or linguistics and literature, as most of the courses in the programme combine these disciplines. The aim of the programme is for students to deepen their knowledge of modern, societally relevant linguistic and literary theories and methods, primarily within the research areas represented in the faculty's research centres.

The programme provides students with broad and in-depth subject knowledge, firmly rooted in research, within one of the specialisations as well as in the interdisciplinary field between them. It offers a solid foundation for doctoral studies in English and prepares students for national and international careers in the education sector, publishing, the cultural and educational sectors, and in communication, media, information management and administration.

The degree project is carried out in English literature, English linguistics, or a combination of both. The specialisation is chosen in consultation with the programme coordinator during the first semester.

The programme's courses are characterised by the subject's academic and methodological connections to current societal challenges. They are also linked to some of the university's leading research environments with strong societal relevance, such as the postcolonial and intermedial research environment, as well as multicultural communication and digital humanities. Theoretical perspectives and methods from these research environments are integrated into the programme's courses.

The programme is offered with two pathways. The first follows the standard programme syllabus, while the second is a Double Degree pathway that includes a mandatory exchange semester at a partner institution within the Double Degree collaboration. This second pathway leads to a Master's degree in English from Linnaeus University and from the partner institution included in the Double Degree agreement.

## Objectives

Central qualitative targets quoted from the Higher Education Ordinance:

### **Knowledge and understanding**

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- exhibit knowledge and understanding of the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field, as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- exhibit specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

### **Competence and skills**

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- exhibit an ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge, and to analyse, assess and handle complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information,
- exhibit an ability to identify and formulate issues critically, independently and creatively; to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and thus contribute to the formation of knowledge; and to evaluate this work,
- exhibit an ability to clearly report and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different groups, in speech and writing, and nationally as well as internationally,
- exhibit an ability to make use of qualitative as well as quantitative data, understand the principles for evidence-based research and understand the relation between theory and empirical evidence, and
- exhibit the skills required for participation in research and development work or independent work in some other qualified field.

### **Judgement and approach**

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- exhibit an ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also exhibit an awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work,
- exhibit insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used,
- exhibit an ability to reflect on social and ethical dimensions of research, and
- exhibit an ability to identify their individual need for further knowledge and take responsibility for their ongoing learning.

### **Programme-specific objectives**

After completing the programme, the student should be able to:

- discuss the main field of English and the linguistic and literary specialisations, as well as interdisciplinary combinations of these, and actively and critically follow developments and research within the chosen area
- apply linguistic or literary research methods and approaches to relevant social, ethical and societal issues
- write extended, nuanced academic texts of high complexity in advanced, discipline-appropriate English, adapted to genre and communicative context
- participate actively in subject-specific seminar discussions and also lead such discussions.

## **Content**

A programme council is responsible for the long-term, strategic development of the programme. Course coordinators are responsible for conducting course evaluations at the end of each course and for feeding back the results to the student group.

### **Programme Overview**

The programme is led by a programme coordinator, who is responsible for quality assurance, development and coordination of the programme. A programme council is responsible for the long-term, strategic development of the programme.

The programme consists of four semesters (120 credits) including compulsory as well as elective and optional courses. The overall structure of the programme is as follows:

#### **Semester 1**

The first semester focuses on an interdisciplinary approach to English linguistics and literature in relation to relevant societal issues as well as research-related communication.

#### **Semester 2**

The second semester provides in-depth studies in English linguistics or literature.

#### **Semester 3**

##### **Pathway 1 (MELL)**

In the third semester, students can choose to study abroad, undertake a placement

abroad, or take liberal education courses together with international students at Linnaeus University.

#### Pathway 2 (Double Degree)

During the third semester, students undertake a compulsory exchange semester at the partner institution included in the programme's Double Degree collaboration. The specific institution is indicated in the programme's call for applications for the Double Degree pathway.

#### Semester 4

The fourth and final semester of the programme comprises an independent degree project specialising in English linguistics or literature, or an interdisciplinary combination of the two.

### **Courses in the programme**

The following courses are included in the programme:

#### Year 1 Semester 1

English – an Interdisciplinary Subject, 5 credits, A1N. \*

Students are introduced to the interdisciplinary history of English studies and to a selection of theories and methods in both linguistics and literature that are relevant to the programme as a whole.

Academic Communication, 5 credits, A1N. \*

Students are introduced to various ways in which academic knowledge and research are communicated within academia and in interaction with society, for example academic writing, presentation techniques, digital humanities, popularisation of research and the use of digital media in academic communication.

Interdisciplinary and Digital Methods, 5 credits, A1N

This module introduces students to a selection of interdisciplinary research methods used in the subject, both qualitative and quantitative. Key theoretical frameworks are presented, and students apply relevant concepts in various analytical contexts, both literary and non-literary. Students also evaluate and critically reflect on the usefulness and limitations of the methods in relation to the social and cultural context of the primary material studied.

Current Literary and Cultural Theory, 7.5 credits, A1N. \*

Students develop knowledge of how literature and other media can be used as tools for critically examining society from the theoretical perspectives emphasised in the programme.

Current Theories and Methods in Linguistics, 7.5 credits, A1N. \*

In this module students are introduced to three key areas of linguistic research, which form the programme's linguistic focus: corpus linguistics, including the stylistic application of corpus methods; language and cognition; and discourse analysis.

#### Year 1 Semester 2

Thematic Course 1, 15 credits, A1N. \*

Students choose an elective theme course in their chosen specialisation.

Thematic Course 2, 15 credits, A1N.\*

Students choose another elective course in their chosen specialisation. Alternatively, students who wish to take a one-year Master's degree (60 credits) may instead write their thesis in this semester.

The thematic courses are linked to current research in English carried out by both senior researchers and doctoral students at the university.

### Year 2 Semester 3

In the third semester, students choose one of three alternatives:

#### Pathway 1 (MELL)

##### Alternative 1

Studies abroad, 30 credits.

Students choose courses at first- (minimum G1F) or second-cycle level (minimum A1N), in English or other relevant subjects, totalling 30 credits at one of Linnaeus University's partner universities. Courses are chosen in consultation with the programme coordinator.

##### Alternative 2

Work placement abroad, 30 credits.

Students undertake a placement abroad in administration, teaching or research, organised in consultation with the programme coordinator.

##### Alternative 3

Students choose relevant second-cycle courses in English or other subjects, in consultation with the programme coordinator, totalling 30 credits. In addition to existing courses, new ones are developed on the basis of the research interests of academic staff.

#### Pathway 2 (Double Degree)

During the third semester, the student undertakes a compulsory exchange semester at the programme's partner institution for the Double Degree, within the subject of English, corresponding to 30 credits at either first- (minimum G1F) or second-cycle level (minimum A1N).

### Year 2 Semester 4

Degree Project (Master) 30 credits, A2E.\*

Students conduct a degree project individually or in pairs, under the supervision of a supervisor with subject knowledge in one of the specialisations English linguistics or English literature, or an interdisciplinary combination of these.

\*= course within the main field of study

### **Societal relevance**

After completing the programme, students should have acquired broad knowledge and skills necessary for doctoral studies in English. The programme prepares graduates for national and international careers in education, publishing, the cultural and educational sectors, as well as in communication, media, information management and administration. It also provides opportunities for professional development for secondary school teachers of English. The programme's common content ensures a

solid foundation in the subject, while the choice of thematic courses enables students to focus more specifically on linguistics or literature.

### **Internationalisation**

The Department of Languages takes an active part in international networks for knowledge exchange and collaborative projects. Courses in the programme feature internationally active lecturers, researchers and teaching staff.

During the third semester, students may choose to study or undertake a placement abroad, focusing on administration, teaching or research. This is organised in consultation with the programme coordinator. Students have access to the full range of exchange agreements available at Linnaeus University, as well as to agreements with specifically selected partner universities of high international standing.

### **Sustainable societal development**

Sustainable development is addressed with reference to its relevance for each subject. All courses are characterised by broad educational and general knowledge perspectives on democracy, diversity, communication, multiculturalism, gender equality, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, sexual orientation and age. These perspectives are specified in the syllabus for each course. The interdisciplinary design of the programme encourages new approaches and collaboration around societal issues. How these perspectives are integrated into the programme and assessed are set out in the syllabus for each course.

## **Quality Development**

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities has a quality system for the follow-up and development of programmes. An education board prepares programme syllabuses and other quality-related matters, such as degree-awarding powers and the range of programmes offered, before the Faculty Board makes the final decisions. Revised and new syllabuses are prepared by syllabus committees before being approved by the head of department. The range of courses and programmes is reviewed regularly as part of the faculty's systematic quality assurance.

## **Degree**

After completing their studies, in accordance with the requirements stated in the Qualification Ordinance in the Higher Education Ordinance and in Linnaeus University's local Qualification Ordinance, the student may apply for a degree. Students who have completed the Master Programme in English Language and Literature, 120 credits, may obtain the following degree, depending on the specialisation of their degree project:

Filosofie Masterexamen med inriktning mot språkvetenskap  
*Huvudområde: Engelska*

Degree of Master of Arts (120 credits) with Specialisation in Linguistics  
*Main Field of Study: English*

Or

Filosofie Masterexamen med inriktning mot litteraturvetenskap

*Huvudområde: Engelska*

Degree of Master of Arts (120 credits) with Specialisation in Literary Studies

*Main Field of Study: English*

Or

Filosofie Masterexamen med inriktning mot språk- och litteraturvetenskap

*Huvudområde: Engelska*

Degree of Master of Arts (120 credits) with Specialisation in Linguistics and Literary Studies

*Main Field of Study: English*

The degree certificate is issued in two languages (Swedish and English). A Diploma Supplement in English is enclosed with the degree certificate.

### Other Information

Costs for materials and costs related to study trips, studies abroad or placements abroad are to be covered by the student. Joint teaching with other courses and programmes may take place. In the event of discrepancies between the Swedish and the English version of this programme syllabus, the Swedish version shall prevail.