



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 2021-12-06.

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2022.

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 Programme in English Language or Literature is a two-year programme at the second level 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 develop their knowledge of relevant, modern linguistic and literary theories and methods, primarily within the fields included in the research centres at the faculty.

In this programme students develop broad and in-depth knowledge in one of the specialisations as well as in an interdisciplinary field combining these. This provides a solid foundation for doctoral studies in the subject and prepares students for national and international work in education, publishing, culture, communication, media, information and administration.

The degree project is written in English literature or linguistics, or a specialisation combining linguistics and literature. The specialisation is chosen in consultation with the programme coordinator during the first semester.

The courses offered in the programme are characterised by the academic and methodological connections of the subject to challenges in society. The courses are furthermore connected to the university's prominent research centres with close connections to society, such as the postcolonial and intermedial research centres, as well as multicultural communication and text mining in Data Intensive Digital Humanities. Theoretical approaches and methods from these research centres are included in the courses of the programme.

Objectives

Central qualitative targets according to 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 study, English, and the linguistic and literary specialisations as well as interdisciplinary combinations of these, and follow development and research in one of these fields actively and critically,
- connect and apply linguistic or literary research methods and questions to relevant social, ethical and societal issues,
- write comprehensive academic and popular texts that are varied and nuanced, and that exhibit a high degree of complexity, in adequate English, adapted to the genre and the target reader's needs,
- participate actively in subject-specific seminar discussions as well as lead such discussions.

Content

The programme has two coordinators, one for each specialisation, responsible for quality assurance, development and coordination of the programme. The Programme Advisory Board is responsible for the long-term, strategic development of the programme. Course coordinators are responsible for carrying out a course evaluation at the end of each course and for giving feedback as regards the results of the evaluation to the student group.

Programme Overview

The programme consists of four semesters (120 credits) including compulsory as well as elective and optional courses. The programme is largely structured 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 includes in-depth studies in English linguistics or literature.

Semester 3

In the third semester, students can choose to study or conduct an internship abroad, or take courses together with international students at Linnaeus University.

Semester 4

The fourth and last semester of the programme includes an independent degree project specialising in English linguistics or literature, or an interdisciplinary combination of these.

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 and theories of the subject of English, and study a selection of programme-relevant theories and methods in both linguistics and literature.

Academic Communication, 5 credits, A1N. *

Students are introduced to various ways of communicating academic knowledge and research in the academic world and in contacts with society, for example academic writing, presentation techniques, digital humanities, popular science and the use of digital media in academic communication.

Cognitive Stylistics, 5 credits, A1N. *

Students explore the interdisciplinary field of cognitive poetics, including topics such as conceptual metaphors, cognitive stylistics, cognitive psychology, multimodality, discourse analysis, reader-oriented theory and stylometry. Students practise basic analytical skills and develop a broad understanding of the communication of information and feelings through different media.

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

Students develop knowledge of how literature and other media may be used as tools in critical reviews of society from theoretical perspectives which are focus areas of the programme: gender studies, postcolonial studies, ecocriticism and intermediality.

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 linguistic foci of the programme: corpus linguistics including stylistic application of corpus methods, language and cognition, and discourse analysis.

Year 1 Semester 2

Theme Course 1, 15 credits, A1N. *

Students choose an elective theme course in their chosen specialisation.

Theme Course 2, 15 credits, A1N.*

Students choose an elective theme course in their chosen specialisation. Students who wish to apply for a one-year Master (60 credits) can instead choose to write their Master's thesis here.

Theme courses offered will be related to current and ongoing research in English by researchers and doctoral students at the university.

Year 2 Semester 3

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

Alternative 1

Studies abroad, 30 credits.

Students choose relevant courses at the first (minimum G1F) or second (minimum A1N) level, in English or other subjects, of a total of 30 credits at one of Linnaeus University's partner universities.

Alternative 2

Internship abroad, 30 credits.

Students conduct an internship abroad in administration, teaching or research, after consultation with the programme coordinator.

Alternative 3

Students choose relevant courses at the second level, in English or other subjects chosen in consultation with the programme coordinator, of a total of 30 credits. In addition to the existing courses, other courses are being developed on the basis of experienced colleagues' research interests.

Year 2 Semester 4

Degree Project (Master) 30 credits, A2E.*

Students conduct a degree project individually or in pairs, with the help 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 this programme, students should have gained extensive knowledge and skills necessary for doctoral studies in the subject. The programme prepares students for national and international work in education, publishing, culture, communication, media, information and administration. The programme also offers opportunities for professional development for secondary school teachers in English. The common content of the programme ensures a solid foundation in the subject, while the choice of thematic courses enables students to focus their studies on linguistics or literature.

Internationalisation

The Department of Languages participates actively in international networks for knowledge exchange and projects. The courses in the programme include international lecturers, researchers and teachers. During the third semester, students have the opportunity to study or conduct an internship abroad in administration, teaching or research, in consultation with the programme coordinator. Students also have the opportunity to study abroad at any of the universities with which Linnaeus University has agreements or one of the specifically selected prestigious universities with which the programme has agreements.

Sustainable societal development

Sustainable development is discussed on the basis of its relevance for each subject. All courses are characterised by broad perspectives on democracy, diversity, communication, multiculturalism, equality, gender, transgender identity or manifestations, ethnicity, religion or other views of life, disabilities, sexuality and age. These perspectives are specified in the syllabus for each course. The interdisciplinary design of the programme encourages new approaches as well as cooperation concerning relevant societal issues. The integration and examination of different perspectives in the programme are specified in the syllabus for each course.

Quality Development

The programme has a programme coordinator responsible for quality assurance, development and coordination of the programme. The Programme Advisory Board is responsible for the long-term, strategic development of the programme.

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities has a quality system for following up and developing our programmes. An education council prepares programme syllabi and other aspects concerning quality, such as the right to award degrees and the range of programmes offered, before the Faculty Board makes the final decisions. Revised and new syllabi are prepared in Syllabus Committees before the Head of Department makes the final decision about approval.

The range of courses and programmes offered is regularly evaluated in accordance with the Faculty's plan for systematic quality work.

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
Master of Arts (120 credits) with specialization in linguistics, Main field of study:
English

Or:

Filosofie Masterexamen med inriktning mot litteraturvetenskap, huvudområde:
Engelska
Master of Arts (120 credits) with specialization in literary studies, Main field of study:
English

Or:

Filosofie Masterexamen med inriktning mot språk och litteraturvetenskap,
huvudområde: Engelska
Master of Arts (120 credits) with specialization 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

Any costs for material and costs in connection to study trips or studies or internship abroad are paid by the student. Some parts of the programme may also be offered for students in other courses and programmes.

In the case of discrepancies between the Swedish and English version of this syllabus, the Swedish is superior.