



Linguistics (research)

VU University Amsterdam - Faculteit der Letteren - M Linguistics (research) - 2013-2014

Study Guide information for the Linguistics research Master's programme. Click on the links below to reach information about the courses. Alternatively, you may download the complete Study Guide as pdf file by clicking on the button "Make PDF from complete programme".

[Programme overview \(pdf\)](#)

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Research Master Linguistics

Programme components:

- [Research Master Linguistics](#), [Programme Linguistics Electives](#)

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Core Course Language Use	Period 1	9.0	L_AAMPLIN006
Core Course Linguistic Research		9.0	L_AAMPLIN007
Linguistics Term Paper	Period 5+6	9.0	L_AAMPLIN008
Linguistics Tutorial 1	Period 1+2+3	9.0	L_AAMPLIN002
Linguistics Tutorial 2	Period 1+2+3	9.0	L_AAMPLIN003
MA-Thesis Linguistics, MPhil	Ac. Year (September)	30.0	L_WAMPLINSCR
Programming in Python for Linguists		9.0	L_AAMPLIN011
Research in Language Technology		9.0	L_AAMPLIN010
Scientific Experiments in Language Engineering		9.0	L_AAMPLIN012
Seminar Research Design 1	Period 4	6.0	L_AAMPALG001
Seminar Research Design 2	Period 2+3	6.0	L_AAMPALG002

Research Master Linguistics, Programme Linguistics Electives

Choose Electives worth 33 credits.

You will choose your optional course from all the Master's courses (on linguistic topics, and English taught!) that the Faculty of Arts of VU University Amsterdam offers. You base this choice on your own interests and the specialty that you wish to develop. Once you've made your choice, you ask permission from the Examination Board Graduate School. The Board discusses the coherence of these courses, especially in the perspective of your research interests.

These courses include topics such as: phonology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics, textual analysis, anthropological linguistics, psycholinguistics, language variation, history of linguistics, language acquisition, lexicography, computer linguistics and sociolinguistics. If you wish to take a specific Master's course which is not taught at VU Amsterdam's Faculty of Arts, you can take this course elsewhere (at another faculty or even at another university), provided that you obtain permission from the Examination Board Graduate School.

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
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Academic English: Advanced Writing for Master Students	Period 3	3.0	L_ETMAALG002
Academic English: Pronunciation training MA	Period 2	3.0	L_EAMAALG005
Academic English: Remedial Writing for Master Students	Period 2	6.0	L_ETMAALG001
Anthropological Linguistics: an overview	Period 5	6.0	L_TAMATWS015
Metaphor in Professional Practice	Period 1	6.0	L_ECMATEC003
Metaphor, Mind and Multimodality	Period 4	6.0	L_ETMATEC006
Tools for Metaphor Analysis	Period 2	6.0	L_ECMATEC004

Academic English: Advanced Writing for Master Students

Course code	L_ETMAALG002 ()
Period	Period 3
Credits	3.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. M. Hannay
Teaching staff	prof. dr. M. Hannay
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

After successfully completing this course you will be able to write an academic text in English at the C1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference [CEFR] both in terms of relevant communicative competence and grammatical accuracy and vocabulary control; you will be able to spot the major coherence problems in the drafts of your own and other people's texts, and edit the text to improve coherence; you will also have a clear sense of where your English is strong and of what areas you can work on to develop your expressive potential .

Course content

This course is a partly remedial and partly finetuning course. It focuses on resolving linguistic issues that individual students still have in their English, and on further refining academic style and textual coherence. On the one hand the idea is to resolve issues that participants still have with their English, and on the other hand it is about learning to use structures that can make one's writing more 'interesting'.

Form of tuition

6 hrs seminar per week, in two blocks of three hours

Type of assessment

[A section of] a research paper or a dissertation in progress, approx. 3000 words; a series of editing assignments; an analysis of and report

on the weak areas in one's own English.

Course reading

Hannay, M. & J.L. Mackenzie (2009). Effective Writing in English. 2nd edition. Bussum: Coutinho. There will also be separate materials posted on Blackboard.

Entry requirements

At least one year of university study, including experience in writing academic text; premasterstudents may also follow this course as long as they have completed an academic skills course.

Target group

Master and research master students who are relatively experienced writers and who wish to further develop the quality of their written academic English.

Remarks

Before the start of the course, you must submit a sample of your own unedited work. An analysis of this will provide the basis for a part of the course content. The course has obligatory attendance. If you miss more than two sessions you will not be allowed to complete the course.

Academic English: Pronunciation training MA

Course code	L_EAMAALG005 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	3.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. L.M. Rupp
Teaching staff	dr. L.M. Rupp
Teaching method(s)	Seminar, Lecture
Level	400

Course objective

After successfully completing this course you will be able to describe the 10 most common English pronunciation difficulties and fix these in your own pronunciation. You will also be able to describe the adverse effects of a broad foreign accent in professional situations.

Course content

We will analyse the 10 most common English pronunciation difficulties.

Form of tuition

Lectures (2 hours) and classes (2 hours) supported by audiomaterial. Students are expected to do weekly readings and assignments.

Type of assessment

2 recordings

Course reading

Rupp, L. 2013. Uitspraakgids Engels voor professionals. Amsterdam: VU Uitgeverij.

Target group

Students across the university who wish to improve their English pronunciation

Remarks

Class attendance is obligatory (80%). Participants will also need to have submitted 80% of the set weekly assignments in order to be assigned a grade for the course.

Academic English: Remedial Writing for Master Students

Course code	L_ETMAALG001 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	G.A. Dreschler MA
Teaching staff	G.A. Dreschler MA, drs. F. Teunissen
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

After successfully completing this course you will be able to write a well-structured English text in a formal style about a subject related to your own study, free of serious lexical and grammatical error which would have an adverse effect on the readability of the text. In terms of the Common European framework of Reference you will have achieved level B2 for linguistic accuracy and B2/C1 for relevant communicative competence.

Course content

This course involves (a) a practical introduction to basic aspects of the grammar of contemporary English, focusing on the problems that students typically have when writing formal English, (b) a remedial treatment of the macrostructures of academic texts in different disciplines, and (c) help in getting to grips with the basic problems involved in writing good, formal English (e.g. differences between English and Dutch, the essentials of English punctuation, formal style).

Form of tuition

2 hrs lecture per week; 2 hrs seminar per week

Type of assessment

Grammar and writing assignments during the course; final online grammar test plus academic paper of 2000 words.

Course reading

- Hannay, M. & J.L. Mackenzie (2009). Effective Writing in English. 2nd edition. Bussum: Coutinho.
- Separate grammar materials via Blackboard

Entry requirements

Registration as a master student.

Target group

For Dutch and international students who feel insecure about their English.

Remarks

The course has obligatory attendance. If you miss more than two weeks you will not be allowed to complete the course.

Anthropological Linguistics: an overview

Course code	L_TAMATWS015 ()
Period	Period 5
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Teaching staff	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Knowledge of central notions and methods of anthropological linguistics. Ability to observe and analyse linguistic phenomena from the perspective of anthropological linguistics. Critical reflection on views regarding the relationship between language and culture. The student is able to report in a clear manner on results of his or her own anthropological linguistic research. The student is able to interact critically with literature in the field of anthropological linguistics.

Course content

The following topics are discussed. Methods and basic notions of anthropological linguistics, orality and literacy, kinship terminology, counting and numeral systems, language and taboo, taxonomies and partonomies, the linguistic construction of personhood, language and gender.

Form of tuition

Seminar. Interactive lectures.

Type of assessment

Oral exam on W.A. Foley. Anthropological Linguistics. An introduction (Blackwell 1997).

Course reading

W.A. Foley. Anthropological Linguistics. An introduction (Blackwell 1997)

Target group

Master's students of Linguistics (Specialisation Language Documentation and Bible Translation) and MPhil-students of Linguistics

Core Course Language Use

Course code	L_AAMPLIN006 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. T. Krennmayr
Teaching staff	dr. T. Krennmayr
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Remarks

This course alternates on a yearly basis with the other Linguistics core-module 'Linguistic Research'. The course will be taught in 2013-2014.

Core Course Linguistic Research

Course code	L_AAMPLIN007 ()
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. M.M.R. Coene
Teaching staff	prof. dr. W.L.M. Wetzels, prof. dr. M.M.R. Coene
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Linguistics Term Paper

Course code	L_AAMPLIN008 ()
Period	Period 5+6
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. P.H.F. Bos
Level	500

Course objective

Writing a paper outline has several aims. Firstly, it forces the student to define the boundaries of his/her research (narrowing down the scope). Secondly, it helps the student organize his/her ideas. He/she is forced to present material in a logical form, and relate the different ideas in this paper in a cohesive way. Thirdly, writing an outline will aid the student in the process of writing. Finally, it allows for early feedback.

Course content

The student selects a research topic and contacts the preferred paper advisor. The topic of the research paper must differ from all course papers written by the student. However, it may be related to a course

paper topic and/or the thesis topic. The student hands in an outline of the paper. The student discusses the term paper outline with the supervisor. The student then hands in the final draft of the term paper. Deadlines are set by instructor.

Both the instructor and student may call for additional meetings, when needed. The instructor may establish additional requirements. The outline must contain the following information: (1) a tentative, annotated table of contents. For each section, provide a title and describe its topic/goal in one or two sentences, (2) the goal of the paper, (3) the central thesis of the paper, (4) line of argumentation, (5) the proposed research methodology, (6) preliminary bibliography.

Form of tuition

Several meetings with supervisor

Type of assessment

Writing a paper

Course reading

Depends on topic of the paper

Entry requirements

Admission to the research master's Linguistics

Target group

Students of the research master's Linguistics

Linguistics Tutorial 1

Course code	L_AAMPLIN002 (500610)
Period	Period 1+2+3
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. P.H.F. Bos
Level	500

Course objective

The goal of a tutorial is to discuss a specific research question or thesis. Depending on the topic a tutorial can take one of many forms, ranging from a set of instructions to complete a task, to interactive sessions in which specific research topics are discussed, to reshaping a model of analysis in order to make it useful for a specific linguistic corpus or a specific research area, etcetera.

Course content

The way that the tutorial takes form, is up to both the lecturer and the student. Together they will discuss the best way to deal with the specific research question. At the end of the tutorial, the student usually writes a paper on the specific research topic, including a description of the way that the tutorial was given shape.

Form of tuition

Interactive meetings with lecturer

Type of assessment

Depends on decisions made by lecturer and student

Course reading

Depends on topic of the tutorial

Entry requirements

Admission to the research master's Linguistics

Target group

Students of the research master's Linguistics

Linguistics Tutorial 2

Course code	L_AAMPLIN003 (500611)
Period	Period 1+2+3
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	Dutch
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. P.H.F. Bos
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Course objective

The goal of a tutorial is to discuss a specific research question or thesis. Depending on the topic a tutorial can take one of many forms, ranging from a set of instructions to complete a task, to interactive sessions in which specific research topics are discussed, to reshaping a model of analysis in order to make it useful for a specific linguistic corpus or a specific research area, etcetera.

Course content

The way that the tutorial takes form, is up to both the lecturer and the student. Together they will discuss the best way to deal with the specific research question. At the end of the tutorial, the student usually writes a paper on the specific research topic, including a description of the way that the tutorial was given shape.

Form of tuition

Interactive meetings with lecturer

Type of assessment

Depends on decisions made by lecturer and students

Course reading

Depends on topic of the tutorial

Entry requirements

Admission to the research master's Linguistics

Target group

Students of the research master's Linguistics

MA-Thesis Linguistics, MPhil

Course code	L_WAMPLINSCR (541652)
Period	Ac. Year (September)
Credits	30.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. P.H.F. Bos
Level	500

Course objective

The Master's thesis should show the student's advanced ability to formulate relevant research questions, to find and evaluate information and data in an independent and critical way, and to write a scientific thesis within a given period of time. The student must aim at writing a thesis that, at least, can be reworked into a good, publishable paper.

Course content

The student selects a research topic and contacts a preferred thesis supervisor. This information is sent to the exam committee. The exam committee evaluates the research topic, and assigns supervisor. An attempt will be made to assign the preferred supervisor. However, the committee must ensure reasonable advising load for the individual lecturers. After that, a thesis contract and research plan are drawn and signed, and sent to the exam committee.

The student hands in drafts of chapters of the thesis, on a regular basis. The supervisor provides written comments on each draft, and clarifies them in a meeting. All corrected drafts are kept until the thesis is completed.

Form of tuition

Interactive meetings with supervisor

Type of assessment

Writing a thesis

Course reading

Depends on topic of the thesis

Entry requirements

Admission to the research master's Linguistics

Target group

Students of the research master's Linguistics

Metaphor in Professional Practice

Course code	L_ECMATEC003 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. G.J. Steen
Teaching staff	prof. dr. G.J. Steen
Teaching method(s)	Seminar

Level	400
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Course objective

It is the aim of this course to show how metaphor works in a wide range of genre events in professional settings, in order to forge a solid foundation for metaphor analysis, evaluation and application by linguists and discourse analysts

Course content

This course will equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to analyze metaphor in professional practice. We will discuss the role of metaphor in a range of professional contexts such as education, therapy, and the mass media, and make a distinction between three dimensions of metaphor use: its linguistic form, its conceptual structure, and its communicative function. Using texts from different kinds of discourse you will learn how to analyse these dimensions of metaphor in use, gain knowledge of their specific behavior in specific professional practices, and learn how to think about possibilities for evaluation and intervention.

Form of tuition

Seminars based on student presentations

Type of assessment

Grades will be based on a combination of assignments, at least one presentation, and a final paper of about 5,000 words; the paper must be a pass.

Course reading

TBA

Entry requirements

BA degree in communication studies, language, linguistics, or other field relevant to the course content.

Target group

Master's students of Communication studies, Language, or Linguistics.

Metaphor, Mind and Multimodality

Course code	L_ETMATEC006 ()
Period	Period 4
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. A.J. Cienki
Teaching staff	prof. dr. A.J. Cienki
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

To learn about metaphor as it may reflect patterns of thought; to gain insight into how we understand abstract ideas in terms of our physical experience; to see how approaches in this area have been applied to

analyse metaphor use in different media of expression (audio and visual). The course can thus provide useful background for audio-visual communication advising.

Course content

What does it mean to say that there are many 'metaphors we live by'? In this course, we explore approaches to this question, including the theories of conceptual metaphor and conceptual blending. We examine how they relate to a view of meaning that focuses on the embodied basis of our experience in the world, looking at how our abstract concepts are grounded in physical perceptions. Research on metaphor use in different modes of expression (gestures with speech, print ads and commercials, visual arts, sound/music) then provides material for discussing the value of (and potential problems with) these theories. Methods of analysing metaphor in different expressive modes and their combinations (multimodal forms) will be considered throughout.

Form of tuition

Seminars with presentations and discussions of readings.

Type of assessment

Presentations, active participation in class discussions, short essays, and a final paper (4000 words).

Course reading

Selected journal articles and book chapters.

Entry requirements

BA degree in communication studies, language, linguistics, literature, or other relevant field of study.

Programming in Python for Linguists

Course code	L_AAMPLIN011 ()
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Teaching staff	ir. M.P.H. Huntjens, dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Practical, Seminar
Level	500

Research in Language Technology

Course code	L_AAMPLIN010 ()
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Teaching staff	dr. M.G.J. van Erp, dr. A.S. Fokkens
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Scientific Experiments in Language Engineering

Course code	L_AAMPLIN012 ()
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Teaching staff	dr. M.G.J. van Erp, dr. A.S. Fokkens
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Seminar Research Design 1

Course code	L_AAMPALG001 ()
Period	Period 4
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. B.J. Peperkamp
Teaching staff	prof. dr. B.J. Peperkamp, prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

Being able to take a position in theoretical debates, to substantiate methodological choices and to point out innovative research possibilities in the field (part 1).

Being able to comment substantially on other people's research proposals. Being able to defend and make a case for different points of view, to lead a debate, to question and discuss different sets of values from different perspectives (part 2).

Being able to write a research proposal which meets the criteria for research proposals by NWO and to give a substantiated oral and written presentation at a high level of abstraction (part 2).

Course content

The Research Design seminar consists of two parts which take place consecutively during the fourth term of year one and the second term of year two of the Research Master course. Students will be taught to step-by-step design a research proposal which meets the highest requirements. In the first part of the course the emphasis will be on positioning oneself in scientific debates, on the making of methodological choices and the search for future research possibilities that will lead to innovations in the research. This will be done by means of in-depth discussions of theoretical articles, other sources and research proposals.

Form of tuition

The seminar course consists of two terms of; seven weekly meetings of four hours each. All students will be expected to be well- prepared and

to participate actively and autonomously at all times. Students will take on the roles of presenter, commentator and discussion leader.

Type of assessment

Oral and written presentations, comments on presentations by other students. Students will be assessed on their class participation, written assignments, oral presentations and their peer reviews of fellow students.

Course reading

To be announced

Entry requirements

Admission to research master

Target group

Students of research masters in faculty of the humanities

Remarks

Together Research Design 1 and Research Design 2 form an obligatory part of the Research Master Programme

Seminar Research Design 2

Course code	L_AAMPALG002 ()
Period	Period 2+3
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	prof. dr. P.B.M. van den Akker
Teaching staff	prof. dr. P.B.M. van den Akker, prof. dr. B.J. Peperkamp, prof. dr. M. Hannay
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Course objective

Learning how to meet the NWO PhD thesis research proposal criteria by writing such a proposal and discuss those of other students.

Course content

Students will study examples of good research proposals. Introductory lectures by specialists including PhD students will give information about writing proposals. Students will write a research proposal, present that orally and submit a written version. The whole group will read and discuss this work. The presenter will use the inputs to improve his proposal and finalise it.

Form of tuition

Seminar

Type of assessment

Students will be assessed on their class participation (10%), written assignments (10%), oral presentation (20%) and PhD proposal (60%). Grades 0-10, attendance obligatory.

Course reading

Provided through Blackboard

Entry requirements

Seminar Research Design 1

Target group

Research master students

Tools for Metaphor Analysis

Course code	L_ECMATEC004 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Letteren
Coordinator	dr. T. Krennmayr
Teaching staff	dr. T. Krennmayr
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

develop analytical skills for researching metaphor in discourse with special attention to the identification of metaphor across registers

Course content

This course will equip you with the skills needed to build your own dataset coded for metaphor. We will discuss what it means to identify metaphor on a linguistic and conceptual level of analysis and critically look at tools analysts can use to code their data for metaphor. Through hands-on activities using texts from different kinds of discourse you will learn to identify various types of metaphor, to describe their patterns and functions, and to resolve challenges you encounter as you gather your data.

Form of tuition

TBA

Type of assessment

Grades will be based on a combination of assignments, at least one presentation, and a final paper of about 4,000 words.

Course reading

TBA

Entry requirements

BA degree in communication studies, language, linguistics, or other field relevant to the course content.

Target group

Master's students of Communication studies, Language, or Linguistics. May also be of interest to students of literary studies.

Remarks

Registration obligatory