



Linguistics (research)

VU University Amsterdam - Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen - M Linguistics (research) - 2017-2018

Note: It is no longer possible to enroll for this master

This two-year programme trains you as a researcher in theoretical linguistics, applied linguistics, applied language and communication studies or in linguistic engineering. The programme contains a set of core courses in these areas which all students follow, but at the same time it allows you to specialize in one of the main research themes of the Department of Language and Communication, namely Language, Cognition and Communication, Language Acquisition, Language Documentation and Computational Lexicology and Terminology . The researchers working within these departmental themes are all affiliated to interfaculty research institutes within the VU. As a result, a lot of attention is paid to the relations between linguistics, the cognitive sciences, anthropology, communication theory, and education. There is also a strong emphasis on learning how to use various methods of linguistic research (corpus-based research, fieldwork, native speaker intuitions, experiments, and linguistic modelling). The Computational Lexicology and Terminology Lab (CLTL <http://wordpress.let.vu.nl/>), an ambitious international research team has worked out a specialization in Linguistic Engineering, as a variant of the standard programme (Linguistics).

[Programme overview](#)

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Research Master Linguistics

This programme trains you as a researcher in theoretical linguistics, applied linguistics, applied language and communication studies or in linguistic engineering. The programme contains a set of core courses in these areas which all students follow, but at the same time it allows you to specialize in one of the main research themes of the Department of Language and Communication, namely Language, Cognition and Communication, Language Acquisition, Language Documentation and Computational Lexicology and Terminology. The researchers working within these departmental themes are all affiliated to interfaculty research institutes within the VU. As a result, a lot of attention is paid to the relations between linguistics, the cognitive sciences, anthropology, communication theory, and education. There is also a strong emphasis on learning how to use various methods of linguistic research (corpus-based research, fieldwork, native speaker intuitions, experiments, and linguistic modelling). The Computational Lexicology and Terminology Lab (CLTL <http://wordpress.let.vu.nl/>), an ambitious international research team has worked out a specialization in Linguistic Engineering, as a variant of the standard programme (Linguistics).

Only the second year of this programme will be offered in 2017-18. In 2017-18 a new Research Master Humanities will start with four specialisations (Art and Culture, Global History, Literature, Linguistics).

Programme Linguistics

Second year:

- Core Course General Linguistics (9 ects)
- Humanities Research Career Preparation (6 ects)
- One tutorial of your choice (9 ects)
- One elective of your choice (6 ects)
- Master's thesis (30 ects)

Programme Human Language Technology

Second year:

- Core Course General Linguistics (9 ects)
- Humanities Research Career Preparation (6 ects)
- Machine Learning (6 ects)
- Subjectivity Mining (6 ects)
- Course at National Research School (3 ects)
- Master's thesis (30 ects)

Programme Forensic Linguistics

Second year:

- Core Course General Linguistics (9 ects)
- Humanities Research Career Preparation (6 ects)
- Tutorial Forensic Linguistics (9 ects)
- FL 3: Language of Government and Business (6 ects)
- Master's thesis (30 ects)

All students have to follow courses for at least 10 ec at one of the Research Schools.

Programme components:

- [Research Master Linguistics Electives](#)
- [Research Master Linguistics, Specialization Forensic Linguistics/ Language and the Law](#)
- [Research Master Linguistics, Specialization Linguistic Engineering](#)

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Core Course General Linguistics	Period 1	9.0	L_AAMPALG009
Humanities Research Career Preparation	Period 2+3	6.0	L_AAMPALG006
Research Master Thesis Linguistics	Ac. Year (September)	30.0	L_WAMPLINSCR

Research Master Linguistics Electives

Choose Electives worth 6 credits (Specialization Linguistics).

You will choose your optional course from all the Master's courses (on linguistic topics, and English taught!) that the Faculty of Humanities 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 Humanities, 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.

A list of optional courses are shown (not exclusive).

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Academic English: Advanced Writing for Master Students	Period 2	3.0	L_ETMAALG002
Academic English: Remedial Writing for Master Students	Period 2	6.0	L_ETMAALG001
Anthropological Linguistics: An Overview	Period 5	6.0	L_TAMATWS015
Describing Morphosyntax	Period 2	6.0	L_TAMATWS014
English Text Editing MA	Period 2	6.0	L_ETMAALG004

Genre Design	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMATEC003
Genre Research	Period 2+3	6.0	L_AAMATEC004

Research Master Linguistics, Specialization Forensic Linguistics/ Language and the Law

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Forensic Linguistics 3: Language of Government and Business	Period 1	6.0	L_NCMPLIN003
Tutorial Forensic Linguistics	Period 2+3	9.0	L_NCMPLIN004

Research Master Linguistics, Specialization Linguistic Engineering

Follow courses for at least 3 ec at one of the Research Schools.

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
Machine Learning	Period 1	6.0	L_AAMPUVA001
Subjectivity Mining	Period 2+3	6.0	L_AAMPLIN018

Academic English: Advanced Writing for Master Students

Course code	L_ETMAALG002 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	3.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	A.J. Gambrel
Examinator	A.J. Gambrel
Teaching staff	A.J. Gambrel
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 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

2 seminars of 2 hrs each week; one week of individual appointments.

Type of assessment

Takehome editing assignments (50%); edited versions of a text you've written before this course (50%); an analysis of and report on the weak areas in one's own English (required, no grade).

Course reading

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

Entry requirements

This course is only open to master students who already have experience in writing academic texts in English.

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

The course has an 80% obligatory attendance.

Academic English: Remedial Writing for Master Students

Course code	L_ETMAALG001 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	drs. I.M.W. 't Hart MPhil
Examinator	drs. I.M.W. 't Hart MPhil
Teaching staff	drs. I.M.W. 't Hart MPhil
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 errors 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 at least 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 other languages, the essentials of English punctuation, formal style).

Form of tuition

2 hrs lecture per week; 2 hrs seminar per week

Type of assessment

Early diagnostic writing assignment during the course; final online grammar test plus academic paper of 2000 words. The final mark is based on the grammar test and the academic paper, both of which need to have a pass mark.

Course reading

Hannay, M. & J.L. Mackenzie (2009). *Effective Writing in English*. 2nd edition. Bussum: Coutinho.

Foley, M. & D. Hall (2003). *Longman Advanced Learners' Grammar: A self study & practice book with answers*. Longman/Pearson.

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 Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Examinator	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 (2 hours a week)

Type of assessment

Written exam on W.A. Foley. Anthropological Linguistics. An introduction (Blackwell 1997) or a short essay on one of the topics discussed during the course.

Course reading

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

Recommended background knowledge

BA in Humanities, Linguistics or Social Sciences

Target group

Master's students of Linguistics, Master's students of Research Master Humanities: Linguistics, Research Master's students Theology (track Bible Translation); Master and Research Master's students Anthropology.

Core Course General Linguistics

Course code	L_AAMPALG009 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Examinator	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Teaching staff	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries, prof. dr. M.M.R. Coene
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Course objective

- To broaden and deepen the students' knowledge of grammatical theory and of current debates in the field of linguistics
- To enhance the ability of students to apply principles of linguistic analysis, argumentation and explanation
- To enhance the students' skills for using linguistic terminology in a precise and consistent manner
- To enhance the students' ability to reflect critically on linguistic analyses put forward in the literature
- To enhance the students' ability to use grammatical notions from phonology, morphology and syntax as analytical tools in applied

linguistic research

Course content

Week 1 Sounds: phonetics and phonology

first session, prof. de Vries

- the typology and the building blocks (chunks) of phonological systems and the factors constraining the variation in phonological systems

- study:

(a) chapter 4 Phonology, Viveka Velupillai, An Introduction to Linguistic Typology. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 2012.

(b) chapters 1-3, Morten H. Christiansen and Nick Chater, Creating Language. Integrating Evolution, Acquisition, and Processing. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2016.

second session, prof. Coene

- interactive working session related to the topics discussed in the first session

Week 2 Words: Morphology, Word Classes and Vocabulary

first session, prof. de Vries

- words: internal structure, classes and the (acquisition of) vocabulary

- study:

(a) chapter 5 Morphology

(b) chapter 6 The Lexicon and its Classes of Viveka Velupillai, An Introduction to Linguistic Typology. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 2012.

(c) chapter 4 The Now-or-Never Processing Bottleneck, Morten H. Christiansen and Nick Chater, Creating Language. Integrating Evolution, Acquisition, and Processing. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2016.

second session, prof. Coene

- interactive working session related to the topics discussed in the first session

Week 3 grouping words into phrases

first session, prof. de Vries

study:

- nominal categories and syntax

(a) chapter 7 Nominal categories and syntax, Viveka Velupillai, An Introduction to Linguistic Typology. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 2012.

(b) chapter 5 Language Acquisition through Multiple-Cue Integration, Morten H. Christiansen and Nick Chater, Creating Language. Integrating Evolution, Acquisition, and Processing. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2016.

second session, prof. Coene

- interactive working session related to the topics discussed in the first session

Week 4 Syntax: grouping phrases into simple clauses

first session, prof. de Vries

- valency and clausal syntax

study:

(a) chapter 9 Simple clauses, Viveka Velupillai, An Introduction to Linguistic Typology. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 2012.

(b) chapter 6 Experience-based Language processing, Morten H. Christiansen and Nick Chater, *Creating Language. Integrating Evolution, Acquisition, and Processing*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2016.

second session, prof. Coene

- interactive working session related to the topics discussed in the first session

Week 5 Syntax: clause combining

first session, prof. de Vries

- relative clauses, adverbial clauses, complement clauses, clause conjoining, clause chaining, serial verb constructions, the recursion debate, binding and local dependencies

study:

(a) chapter 11 Complex clauses, Viveka Velupillai, *An Introduction to Linguistic Typology*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 2012.

(b) chapter 7, Recursion as a usage-based skill, Morten H. Christiansen and Nick Chater, *Creating Language. Integrating Evolution, Acquisition, and Processing*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2016.

second session, prof. Coene

- interactive working session related to the topics discussed in the first session

Week 6 Linguistic Pragmatics

first session, prof. de Vries

- speech acts, politeness and honorific systems

study:

(a) chapter 12 Speech acts and politeness, Viveka Velupillai, *An Introduction to Linguistic Typology*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 2012.

(b) chapter 8 From fragmentation to Integration, Morten H. Christiansen and Nick Chater, *Creating Language. Integrating Evolution, Acquisition, and Processing*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2016.

second session, prof. Coene

- interactive working session related to the topics discussed in the first session

Form of tuition

Lecture and Working sessions involving student participation, 4 hours a week

Type of assessment

written exam

Course reading

Viveka Velupillai, *An Introduction to Linguistic Typology*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 2012.

Morten H. Christiansen and Nick Chater, *Creating Language. Integrating Evolution, Acquisition, and Processing*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2016.

Entry requirements

Entrance requirements: students must have completed one or more BA level introductory courses in linguistics (e.g. Taal in Context at the VU); if

students have deficiencies in this regard, they have to do the free on line course Miracles of Human Language first (<http://www.hum.leidenuniv.nl/dutchstudies/actueel/free-online-linguist>)

Target group

Research Master Linguistics

Remarks

Students of the one-year master programs general and applied linguistics join this course. They have less required reading and assignments because of the 6EC that they receive for following this 9EC course.. Their examination is adjusted to the 6EC study load.

Describing Morphosyntax

Course code	L_TAMATWS014 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Examinator	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Teaching staff	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

The student knows the fundamental notions and methods of descriptive linguistics in the domains of morphology and syntax. The student knows current typological, functional and cognitive frameworks within which morphosyntactic phenomena can be understood and explained. The student is able to apply fundamental notions and methods of descriptive morphosyntax to data obtained from independent fieldwork. The student is able to evaluate the adequacy of morphosyntactic descriptions. The student is able to interact in a critical manner with literature in the field of descriptive morphosyntax.

Course content

Students learn how to describe and document the morphosyntax both of lesser documented or unknown languages, and of languages that they are acquainted with.

Form of tuition

During the working sessions (1 session of 2 hours per week), the course readings are explained, illustrated and discussed. At the beginning of the course, each student chooses one language (description) that (s)he would like to know more about; for students from the master Theology: Bible Translation this might be one of the biblical languages. Throughout the course, students are expected to apply the central concepts from the literature to this language, and to share their findings with the other students. In addition, students get the opportunity to give a presentation and to get feedback on the topic about which (s)he plans to write a paper. Finally, working sessions are also used to apply the concepts discussed in class to new datasets.

Type of assessment

Written exam.

Course reading

Dixon, R.M.W. 2010. Basic linguistic theory, vol 1 and vol 2. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Selected chapters).

Payne, Thomas E. 1997. Describing morphosyntax, chapters 2-4.

(Recommended as preparatory reading for those with little background in linguistics).

Target group

Research master Humanities: Linguistics, master Taalwetenschappen, master Theology; Bible Translation.

English Text Editing MA

Course code	L_ETMAALG004 ()
Period	Period 2
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	prof. dr. M. Hannay
Examinator	prof. dr. M. Hannay
Teaching staff	prof. dr. M. Hannay
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

- The course has a vocational value. Many translators also do editing work. But it can also be very valuable for refining your own writing skills, as editing is really part of writing.
- The course develops specific skills, in particular relating to reading, error spotting and formulation.
- From a theoretical point of view the course aims (a) to further develop your insights into the relationship between cohesion and coherence; (b) to introduce you to the problems concerned in explaining the source of error: many problems in second language writing may be put down to interference from the first language, but problems also have other sources; (c) to problematize the notion of error.

Course content

- You first get an overview of what editing involves, plus a number of diagnostic exercises. You will get the opportunity to do the same exercises again at a later stage in the course.
- We then go on to look at matters concerning correctness at the level of the word, phrase and clause. This is called category 1 editing. There is a strong check function to this part: you should be already be reasonably comfortable with spotting, explaining and correcting the most frequent errors relating to spelling, punctuation, lexical choice, lexical grammar and clause grammar.
- Then you get an overview of category 2 editing, which involves message management. Special attention is paid to the categories of ordering, linking, coordinating and sentencing.
- There are exercises throughout, starting with material where you have

to spot just one error in a sentence and then becoming more and more complex. Over the last two weeks of the course you will be dealing with text segments where anything at all may be wrong.

- There will be special treatment of alleged cultural differences between writing in Dutch and English.

Form of tuition

4 hrs per week

Type of assessment

A dossier of editing assignments (70% of the mark) plus a position paper on the practice of professional editing (30% of the mark).

Course reading

A reading list will be placed on Canvas

Entry requirements

This course is open to master students who have a strong BA background in English language.

Target group

Master students who wish to develop basic editing skills and refine their own writing process.

Remarks

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

Forensic Linguistics 3: Language of Government and Business

Course code	L_NCMLIN003 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. S.A. Blackwell
Examinator	dr. S.A. Blackwell
Teaching staff	dr. S.A. Blackwell
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Form of tuition

Seminars

Entry requirements

Admission to the research master Linguistics

Target group

Students of the research master Linguistics

Genre Design

Course code	L_AAMATEC003 ()
Period	Period 1

Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. J.M.W.J. Lamerichs
Examinator	dr. J.M.W.J. Lamerichs
Teaching staff	dr. C.M.J. van Hooijdonk, dr. J.M.W.J. Lamerichs
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

The overall aim of this course is to bring theories and methods from disparate areas of discourse analysis together to help you in adequately orienting yourself towards issues that concern an understanding of discourse as comprising different 'genres' or modes of communication that are designed to fulfil certain goals. The course aims to raise your awareness of how the concept of 'genre' and similar notions that are used to identify differences in form and function of types of discourse can be used as a central concept for improving the production and understanding of different types of discourse. We aim to do so by approaching the topic on a theoretical and practical level. In doing so, the course will increase your abilities as an academically trained communication professional to deal with discourse and its shape and form in different communicative settings and for different purposes. This may involve analysis, evaluation and improvement of design features of written and spoken discourse from the point of view of what constitutes a genre, what genre conventions are adhered to by producers and which genre expectations the intended audience may have accordingly.

Course content

In this course, students familiarize themselves with the notion of genre as a feature of discourse on a conceptual and a practical level. Students will learn to apply the concept broadly as a 'tool for thinking' that is instrumental in thinking about how to organize, recognize and also produce different types of texts and talk. Students will practice with different types of discourse, such as press releases, online customer reviews and Facebook posts and try to explicate the (often implicit) genre conventions and expectations from different points of view: the communication professional and the audience. The course will be flexibly organised around timely genre-related problems in the area of language and communication in institutional settings. Examples of these genre-related problems may be the explicitness of conventions for producing different types of discourse, whether the notion of 'purity' of genres is useful to deepen our understanding of some of the mismatches in design but most importantly how to understand so-called 'hybrid genres'. In trying to come to terms with these problems, students will reflect on the value of different theoretical approaches that have been developed to conceptualise and understand the notion of genre and similar concepts and how these concepts can aid (or obscure?) our understanding of genre related design issues.

As future communication professionals, students will not only be able and responsible for producing different types of discourse, but they will also be able to understand the role of different aspects that are key to constituting different genres and will learn and improve to argue which characteristics of the discourse need to be adapted to improve its

effectiveness in different communicative settings. The course will combine theoretical discussions with hands-on work on analysing different types of discourse.

Form of tuition

Weekly lectures and seminars (2x2 hours) and presentations of student work.

Type of assessment

Assignments (30%) and exam (70%).

Students have to pass their exam and if not there will be a resit in order to pass the course. The grades for the assignments can only be used as compensation if the exam has resulted in a pass. There are no resits for the assignments.

Course reading

List of articles and book chapters available via UBVU Library.

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.

Remarks

Students in the Research Master programme should realise that we expect slightly more from them in terms of the quality of their research, the level of their argumentation and depth of their understanding of genre-related issues in spoken and written discourse. The assignments and exams will be graded accordingly.

Presence at the seminars is mandatory. You will be asked to leave the course when you are absent at 2 or more seminars.

Genre Research

Course code	L_AAMATEC004 ()
Period	Period 2+3
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. M.L.M.J. Vliegen
Examinator	dr. M.L.M.J. Vliegen
Teaching staff	dr. M.L.M.J. Vliegen, dr. G. Mulder
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar
Level	400

Course objective

The overall aim of this course is to turn the knowledge and skills you learned in the course Genre Design to practice. You will apply your knowledge and skills to the construction and design of a Ted Talk of your own. The crux of the course lies in the empirical testing of the communicative quality of your Ted Talk.

Course content

Issues of text quality will be considered against the background of the contents presented in Genre Design. In order to investigate whether a given genre variable influences the effectiveness of a Ted talk, you will design and produce two versions of your own TED talk. You will then carry out informant-based research evaluating the effectiveness of your two versions. The results of the analysis will be written down in an academic research report.

Form of tuition

Lectures (2 hrs per week) and seminars (2 hrs per week).

Type of assessment

Research report.

Course reading

Readings will be announced on the Canvas site of the course.

Entry requirements

Genre Design.

Recommended background knowledge

Successful participation in an introductory course in statistical analysis is required.

Target group

Master Students Communication and Information Sciences, Language or Linguistics.

Humanities Research Career Preparation

Course code	L_AAMPALG006 ()
Period	Period 2+3
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. J.W.H.P. Verhagen
Examinator	dr. J.W.H.P. Verhagen
Teaching staff	dr. J.F. van der Meulen, dr. J.W.H.P. Verhagen
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	600

Course objective

In this course, students will learn how to write a research proposal according to the format of NWO or other international research organisations. This will prepare them for a possible PhD-application after graduation. After finishing this course, the students will:

- Be able to write a convincing research proposal for both peers and an interested lay audience;
- Understand the procedures and assessments for grant applications, and apply this knowledge when writing a research proposal;
- Be able to present a research proposal convincingly in a short time frame;
- Be able to convincingly reply to critical questions about the research

proposal;

- Be able to evaluate research proposals, even when they are not from their own discipline, and to give a reasoned judgement about the quality.

Course content

In the Master courses Research Design 1 and 2 students learn about the culture of application and research practice in the scientific world, in particular in the field of Humanities. Students are also trained to design a research proposal that meets the highest requirements of judgment for PhD positions. In particular, the Research Design 2 course prepares for writing an individual research proposal that can be developed into a grant application.

In order to achieve this goal, the course focuses on the various aspects of the writing process, and on the procedures for grant application followed at NWO and other scientific bodies. This includes the dynamics of selection committees and the role of knowledge utilization.

The course is designed to start from the basics, by first developing a research idea into a short abstract that will be discussed with fellow students. Emphasis will be on defining the scientific impact of the research proposal, and on explaining this to non-experts. Following this, a final research proposal will be written that will be presented in a 'mock interview' setting, where the students will comment on one another's proposals.

In order to achieve the learning goals the following learning activities are offered:

1. Guest lectures

In a number of guest lectures (including PhD-students) you will be informed about what it takes to become a PhD-student, what are the relevant procedures for grant application, and how you can avoid the pitfalls.

2. Discussions

During the course, you will be asked frequently to actively reflect on all aspects of writing research proposals through discussion with your fellow students.

3. Presentations

Once you have developed and written down your ideas for a research proposal, you will present these in class to your fellow students.

4. Peer review

An important aspect of this course is receiving peer review from your fellow students. This will help you to understand whether your research proposal is sufficiently clear.

Type of assessment

During this course, the students will have to submit 4 written assignments, and will have one graded oral assignment (the 'mock interview'). Furthermore, there will be three non-graded assignments. The assessment programme is as follows:

ASSIGNMENT - GRADING WEIGHT

evaluation of 2 research proposals (assignment 1) - 5%

draft abstract (assignment 2) - not graded

elevator pitch - not graded

CV + knowledge utilisation (assignment 3) - 10%

final abstract (assignment 4) - 15%

draft proposal (assignment 5) - not graded

5 minute presentation (assignment 6) - 20%

'mock interview' (assignment 6) - 10%

final proposal (assignment 7) - 40%

Grades 0-10, attendance obligatory. Final grades below 6.0 are insufficient. Grades between 5.5 and 6.0 will however be rounded to 6.0. Grading for the assignments will be done on the basis of rubrics. These rubrics will be made available through Canvas.

Entry requirements

Seminar Research Design 1

Target group

RMA students Faculty of Humanity

Machine Learning

Course code	L_AAMPUVA001 ()
Period	Period 1
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Examinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Teaching staff	dr. H.D. van der Vliet, dr. A.S. Fokkens
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Course objective

Students will learn:

- what the main machine learning technologies used in Natural Language Processing are
- how they work and how they can be used
- the methodologies for using these technologies in NLP research.

Name and describe the main machine learning technologies in NLP.

Be able to apply these technologies to specific NLP tasks.

Design a research environment where machine learning is used to solve an NLP problem.

Interpret and analyze evaluation results from machine learning experiments.

Course content

Machine learning is a dynamic and active research field. The main goal of machine learning is to develop systems which can automatically solve different problems without being specifically programmed, i.e. by learning from the data. In this course, we will focus on the use of machine learning as a methodology for solving NLP related problems (e.g. how to automatically recognize parts-of-speech, how to extract grammatical relations between lexical items, how to solve anaphoric reference etc.). Both theories behind the techniques and practical know-how will be covered.

Particular attention will be paid to the methodologies for using machine learning in NLP research. We will cover the experimental setup, running existing packages on new tasks and evaluation of overall results as well as error analysis. The course covers practical skills that can be

useful in industry as well as in academia. It can be seen as a follow-up course of the NLP technologies course, where this course dives deeper into machine learning and experimental setup. The course can be followed by any student with sufficient linguistic and programming knowledge.

Form of tuition

Lecture and work group

Type of assessment

Oral exam (50%); final project (50%). To pass the course students have to obtain a passing grade (6 or higher) in both the oral exam and in the final project.

Course reading

Manning and Schütze. Foundations of Statistical Natural Language Processing

Entry requirements

Linguistic knowledge and basic programming skills

Recommended background knowledge

Optional courses: Python for Text Analysis; NLP Technologies, [Linguistics course]

Target group

Master students (research masters language & communication, in particular: linguistic engineering specialization)

Remarks

voluit: Machine Learning for Natural Language Processing

Research Master Thesis Linguistics

Course code	L_WAMPLINSCR (541652)
Period	Ac. Year (September)
Credits	30.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. H.D. van der Vliet
Level	600

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 a 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 and at least 60 ec

Target group

Students of the research master's Linguistics

Subjectivity Mining

Course code	L_AAMPLIN018 ()
Period	Period 2+3
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	drs. E. Maks
Examinator	drs. E. Maks
Teaching staff	drs. E. Maks, dr. R. Morante Vallejo
Teaching method(s)	Seminar
Level	500

Course objective

Understanding subjectivity in text by analyzing opinions, sentiment, modality, speculation, etc.; Annotating layers of subjectivity in tekst; Developing and using subjectivity lexicons; Design a research environment where NLP techniques are used to solve a subjectivity mining subtask.; Interpret and analyze results of the subjectivity mining process.

Course content

Subjectivity is one of the key elements of natural language. Every communicative act is subjective to some degree. Subjectivity starts with the intentions of the producer of the message and affects its associated functions and syntactic structures, not to mention the choice of vocabulary and associated connotations. This course combines theoretical linguistic notions about perspectives with hands-on work on real language data in the lab. Moving between theory, discussions, practical data annotation and data use (machine learning and quantitative/ qualitative analysis), you explore a wide range of linguistic phenomena: modality, attribution, factuality, sentiment emotions and opinions.

Form of tuition

lectures (2 hours/week)

Type of assessment

Weekly assignments

Course reading

to be announced

Recommended background knowledge

Linguistic knowledge and basic programming skills

Target group

master students (research masters language & communication, in particular: linguistic engineering specialization)

Tutorial Forensic Linguistics

Course code	L_NCMLIN004 ()
Period	Period 2+3
Credits	9.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coordinator	dr. F. van der Houwen
Examinator	dr. F. van der Houwen
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 shape, 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. Lecturer and student will decide on the frequency and form of the meetings.

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 Linguistics

Target group

