

# Master Linguistik (Linguistics)

October 2020

## 1. General aspects

The MA Linguistik (Linguistics) of the Institute of Linguistics has a strong focus in grammatical theory (especially syntax, morphology, and phonology). In addition, it includes courses in language typology, computational/mathematical and experimental linguistics and linguistic methods. The program is partly interwoven with the teaching program of the PhD program/Research Training Group *Interaction of grammatical building blocks*. The work load corresponds to 90 credit points as modules (= 9 modules) and the master thesis (= 30 credit points). The program is determined by two types of regulations: the examination regulation (*Prüfungsordnung*) and the study regulation (*Studienordnung*); unfortunately, both are written in German.

### 1.1. Modules (*Module*)

The content of the modules (and the type of exam) is specified in the module descriptions (*Modulbeschreibungen*). All modules have a work load of 10 credit points (*Leistungspunkte*). Almost all modules comprise 3 courses. The institute offers at least 3 modules each semester (and the *Research internship* module), which allows you to finish your course obligations in 3 semesters and to focus on your MA thesis in the 4th semester (unless you want to attend a module that is offered in your 4th semester).

### 1.2. Exams (*Prüfungen*)

There are different types of exams in the various modules. The type of exam is specified for each module; you are not free to choose between alternative forms of exams. The details of the exams are determined by the teachers of the courses.

- *Hausarbeit*: term paper; usually written in one of the courses of the module. However, the teachers could also demand that you write a paper that relates 2 or all courses of the module.
- *Projektarbeit*: This type of exam includes a presentation (e.g. a poster presentation) and a (shorter) written-up version of the presentation. Interpreted literally, you should pursue a very small research project for presentation. For some members of the faculty, *Projektarbeit* is not much different from *Hausarbeit*. Note that the presentation and the written version are graded separately (in principle). The module grade is the average of these two grades.
- *Portfolio*: combination of several assignments in the courses of the modules; the final grade is the average of the various (averaged) course grades
- *Klausur*: written exam of 120 minutes comprising the contents of the courses of the module
- *Mündliche Prüfung*: oral exam of 30 minutes comprising the contents of the courses in the module
- *Projektbericht*: report of your research internship

You have 2 free trials for each exam; however, you cannot repeat an exam that you passed in order to get a better grade. If you fail, you have to repeat the exam within a year. If necessary, you may ask for a 3rd trial (by writing a letter to the chair of the exams committee); the 3rd trial is usually granted. It is the course teacher's right to set deadlines for papers/reports etc. Exams have to be graded within a specified period of time, usually 4-6 weeks (see *Prüfungsordnung*). The exams office won't remind teachers/supervisors/reviewers if the evaluation is overdue. You have to ask the exams office to remind these people. However, it's good to contact the respective teachers/supervisors etc. personally before you take official steps.

## Grades

German system	sehr gut very good	gut good	befriedigend satisfactory	ausreichend sufficient	nicht bestanden fail
	1.0 1.3	1.7 2.0 2.3	2.7 3.0 3.3	3.7 4.0	5.0

## 2. Contents of the MA program

The program includes three types of modules: Foundational modules, Advanced modules and Special modules. Most modules are taught in a 4-semester cycle. You are free to choose any module; however, you can enrol only for at most two Special modules.

### 2.1. Foundational modules

Module	Exam
04-046-2002 Phonology, Morphology, Syntax	<i>Portfolio</i>
04-046-2033 Empirical methods	<i>Portfolio</i>
04-046-2001 Semantics	<i>Klausur</i>

**Phonology, Morphology, Syntax:** This module is especially suited for students who did not attend our BA program. Major concepts and relevant frameworks in these three areas are recapitulated.

**Empirical methods:** This module includes courses on fieldwork techniques (e.g., data elicitation), data annotation and corpus management, statistics, experimental techniques, programming etc.

**Semantics:** This module will recapitulate major concepts of formal and lexical semantics.

### 2.2. Advanced modules

Modules may include topical courses in grammatical theory, computational/experimental approaches or linguistic typology.

Module		Exam
04-046-2015	Local Syntax	<i>Hausarbeit</i>
04-046-2016	Non-local Syntax	<i>Projektarbeit</i>
04-046-2013	Segmental Phonology	<i>Projektarbeit</i>
04-046-2014	Suprasegmental Phonology	<i>Projektarbeit</i>
04-046-2010	Morphology	<i>Projektarbeit</i>
04-046-2031	Linguistic Typology	<i>Mündliche Prüfung</i>
04-046-2025	Computational perspectives on grammar	<i>Portfolio</i>
04-046-2026	Grammatical perspectives on cognition	<i>Portfolio</i>

**Segmental Phonology/Suprasegmental Phonology:** selected phonological phenomena (e.g. segmental processes, tone, stress etc.), phonological theories, major concepts of phonology, artificial grammar experiments etc.

**Local Syntax/Non-local Syntax:** selected syntactic phenomena, (derivational/representational/declarative) theories of syntax, processing of syntax, computational aspects of syntax, syntactic typology etc.

**Morphology:** Inflectional and derivational morphology, theories of morphology, processing of morphology, morphological typology etc.

**Linguistic typology:** selected phenomena in linguistic typology, research methods (sampling etc.)

**Computational perspectives on grammar:** computational/mathematical aspects of grammars/linguistic structures

**Grammatical perspectives on cognition:** relevance of linguistic theories for the explanation/prediction of the use (parsing) of natural language

### 2.3. Special modules

There are three types of Special modules.

Module		Exam
04-046-2035	Language in focus	<i>Projektarbeit</i>
04-046-2034	Research internship	Internship report
???	Imported module	see module description

**Language in focus:** This module will not be taught on a regular basis. It will be offered if the teaching capacities of our institute allow it. The idea of this module is to have a common topic for all three courses, which take a different perspective on the topic (in terms of linguistic subdisciplines, methods etc.).

**Research internship:** This is a module without courses. It involves an internship (of at least 150 hours) in a research project at our institute or at a research institution with some focus on linguistics (e.g., MPI for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences and MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, MPI for the Science of Human History in Jena). Sometimes, specific internships are advertised (activities to support some Phd/student/researcher/faculty member). If you decide to make an external internship, please talk to some faculty member and clarify whether the kind of activity in your internship fulfils the requirements of the module. You should also check with your

designated internship supervisor whether you will be allowed to report on your internship activities (in a colloquium and in the internship report). You have to present the contents of your internship in one of our colloquia; please choose a colloquium that comes closest to the content of your internship. In addition you have to submit a short written report. Please enrol for the internship in the semester in which you plan to fulfill the exam requirements (oral presentation and internship report).

**Import of modules:** You may enrol for modules of other departments. The modules should have a reasonable relation to linguistics. You must get the consent of the exams committee (*Prüfungsausschuss*). There is a formular on the institute's website (: "Antrag auf Anrechnung externer Module") which you should fill out and submit to the chair of the exams committee. In addition, the module manager (*Modulbeauftragter*) of the respective module will decide whether the teaching capacities suffice to include you. You cannot register directly for the modules via Almaweb; you should contact the module manager (or you may register on some list).

### 3. Module scheme

I	II	III	IV
WS	SS	WS	SS
Phonology, Morphology, Syntax	Morphology	Phonology, Morphology, Syntax	Empirical methods
Semantics	Grammatical perspectives on cognition	Linguistic Typology	Computational perspectives on grammar
Local Syntax	Segmental Phonology	Non-local Syntax	Suprasegmental Phonology
Research internship			
Language in focus?			
Module import			

In the winter semester 2020 slot I will be taught (followed by the slots II, III and IV in the next semesters).

### 4. Module enrolment (*Moduleinschreibung*)

You have to enrol for the modules in fixed time periods (usually 12 - 5 days before the start of the teaching period) via *Tool* (<https://tool.uni-leipzig.de/>). By enrolling for the module, your are already registered for the exam. You can quit the module later in Almaweb (<https://almaweb.uni-leipzig.de/>) within a fixed time period (usually starting from 6-7 weeks after the start of the teaching period till 4 weeks before the end of the teaching period). If you want to quit later, you have to get the permission from the exams committee. Last minute cancellations are not accepted.

## 5. MA Thesis

The MA thesis involves a work load of 30 credit points. There are fixed deadlines for registration of the thesis (usually early June and early/mid December; cf. the website of the exams office (*Prüfungsamt*)). The thesis has to be written within 23 weeks. In certain cases the deadline may be extended (up to 4 weeks in the regular case); contact your supervisor and the chair of the exams committee if you have the feeling that you cannot meet the deadline. The MA thesis should be written in the 3rd/4th semester. In our experience, many students write their MA thesis in the 4th-6th semester.

All regular faculty members may act as supervisors/reviewers. You may make suggestions for the 2nd reviewer of the thesis. Ideally, the topic of the thesis should relate to the teaching/research context of the institute. You may get an impression of former MA theses on our department's website (→ Studium > Abschlussarbeiten).

## 6. Colloquia/talks

You are welcome to attend all colloquia of our department including the IGRA colloquium (all will be conducted online this semester). Sometimes, colloquia are obligatory courses of modules. Please check the module descriptions. The various colloquia differ in the topics discussed, but also a little bit in their character (as readings groups, presentations of BA/MA/PhD theses or series of talks). Here's the list of colloquia in the winter semester 2020:

- *Phonology reading group* (Jochen Trommer): Monday, 17:15-18:45
- *Morphology/Syntax colloquium* (Gereon Müller): Friday, 14:00-15:30
- *Readings in semantics* (Gregory Kobele): Monday, 9:15-10:45
- *IGRA colloquium*: Wednesday, 17:15-18:45

## 7. IGRA

Please note that some courses of the MA program (usually those dealing with phonology, morphology or syntax) are also attended by PhD students of our graduate program (*Interaction of grammatical building blocks* (IGRA)). Since you are the major target group of the MA courses, please give feedback if you think that a course presupposes too much knowledge. You are free to attend the special courses of the IGRA program. However, you won't receive credits for these special courses.

## 8. The institute

In the winter semester 2020 the core faculty will consist of the following people:

Name	Expertise
Michael Frazier PhD	Psycholinguistics
PD Dr. Fabian Heck	Syntax, Morphology
Prof. Gregory Kobele PhD	Computational Linguistics
Jun.Prof. Maria Kouneli PhD	Syntax, Morphology
Prof. Dr. Gereon Müller	Syntax, Morphology
Prof. Dr. Barbara Stiebels	Linguistic Typology, Lexical semantics
Prof. Dr. Jochen Trommer	Phonology, Morphology

Paula Fenger PhD (IGRA post-doctoral researcher, expertise in morphosyntax) will also teach in the MA program.

In case of questions/problems you may contact any faculty member. At the moment, the following faculty members are in charge:

Studienfachberatung:	Prof. Jochen Trommer
Vorsitzender Prüfungsausschuss:	Prof. Gregory Kobele
Studiengangsbeauftragter MA Linguistik:	Prof. Gereon Müller