

Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg  
Humanities Faculty  
Department of General Linguistics  
<http://www.uni-bamberg.de/aspra>

**Module Handbook  
for the Masters program in General Linguistics  
at the University of Bamberg**

valid from winter semester 2013/2014



Design: Dr. Diana Forker, 19.10.12

*This is a translated (and extended) version of the Module Handbook [Modulhandbuch] of the Masters program in General Linguistics. This English version is not legally binding, but is intended for informational purposes only. The German version remains authoritative in case of dispute.*

*Specialized terminology of the German academic system is sometimes included in square brackets in the text.*

Translation checked and approved by Geoffrey Haig, 24.11.2014

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This handbook is intended to answer frequent questions regarding the modular system of the Masters program in General Linguistics at the University of Bamberg.

It contains information about:

- (1) The General Examination Rules and Regulations for Bachelors and Masters programs [Allgemeine Prüfungsordnung für Bachelor- und Master-Studiengänge (APO)] at the University of Bamberg
- (2) The Examination Rules and Regulations [Studien- und Fachprüfungsordnung] for the MA program in General Linguistics

The Module Handbook supplements and explains the Rules and Regulations for the MA program [Masterstudienordnung]. It is not meant to replace the General Examination Rules and Regulations for Bachelors and Masters programs [Allgemeine Prüfungsordnung für Bachelor- und Master-Studiengänge (APO)] or the Examination Rules and Regulations [Studien- und Fachprüfungsordnung]. In the case of conflicting regulations, the latter have priority.

The student counselors at the department can be consulted for additional information.

The Module Handbook is frequently updated and made available online. The relevant version of the Module Handbook for each individual student is the version which was in effect at the time they enrolled.

### **Responsible for the Module Handbook**

Bamberg University  
Department of General Linguistics  
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### **BA/MA Examination Board for General Linguistics**

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## **1 General information**

### **1.1 What is the focus of the department?**

The main focus of research at the Department of General Linguistics at the University of Bamberg is empirical linguistics, i.e. the description of natural (spoken) languages, rather than theoretical linguistics. The main research areas pursued at the department include linguistic typology, documentation of endangered languages, language contact, and regional and minority languages. Research at the department is concentrated mainly on languages of the Middle East and the Caucasus, but the methods used in these research areas can be transferred to languages and regions all over the world.

### **1.2 The MA program in a nutshell**

The degree program leads to an MA in General Linguistics. In the program students acquire different techniques for collecting and analyzing linguistic data. Students have the opportunity to do independent research; they learn how to write scientific texts in English, and, last but not least, acquire language skills in the languages they work on.

A degree in General Linguistics opens avenues for employment in a wide variety of language-related fields, such as developing teaching materials, language teaching and working for subject-related

publishing companies and archives. A masters degree is also the prerequisite for enrollment in most PhD programs.

The MA program in General Linguistics at the University of Bamberg is characterized by its highly international character, its strong focus on research, and its flexibility:

**International character:** Courses which form part of the obligatory Core Modules (see section 2) are offered in English only, and can thus be completed without knowledge of German. The Master's thesis may also be written in English. German students are strongly encouraged to take a term abroad during their studies. International students, on the other hand, have the opportunity to attend language courses in German. Credits acquired in these courses may count towards the requirements of the degree program. In this way, students can complete a university degree, while simultaneously improving their skills in German.

**Focus on research:** The Department of General Linguistics hosts several research projects which involve international scholars from various regions. In their courses, students work with data and analyses from these research projects; this gives them the chance to acquire research skills through hands-on practice. The core part of the program contains a module on linguistic research methods (Masters Module 4). In this module, students develop their own research questions and carry out independent research projects under the guidance of experts from the field. During the preparation phase and while writing their Master's theses, students are encouraged to attend the MA Colloquium which is intended to help students define research topics and determine the most appropriate research methods for a given project.

**Flexibility:** Within certain limits, students can design the content of their degree program themselves. There are five possible variants of the program which all lead to the same degree, an MA in General Linguistics. While all students share a common core of compulsory courses (Core Modules 1–4), students can either choose among four regional focus areas, or complete the degree a particular regional specialization.

The regional focus areas comprise Slavonic languages, Romance languages, Variation and Change in English, and Languages of the Middle East and the Caucasus. The regional focus is determined by the choice of Elective Modules (for details, please see the Study Regulations [Studienordnung], the Subject-specific Examination Rules and Regulations [Fachprüfungsordnung] and Section 2, below).

To illustrate this, let's take the example of a student holding a BA in Romance Studies with a focus on Linguistics. This student would be advised to retain their focus on Romance languages during their MA in General Linguistics. To this end, they would have to choose Elective Modules hosted at the Department of Romance Studies. This example carries over to students holding a BA in English Studies, Slavonic Studies, Oriental Studies, and so forth.

### 1.3 Entry requirements

Prospective students must hold an appropriate university degree. A degree is rated appropriate only if the final exam has been passed with a total grade of at least the German grade "gut" (2,5) or an equivalent grade from a foreign institution. Additionally, prospective students must have been awarded at least 30 ECTS in linguistics-focused modules during their previous studies (please refer to the Studienordnung for details of admission requirements).

Applicants must be able to provide evidence for English language skills equivalent to level C1 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

#### **1.4 Start and duration of the study program**

While in principle students can enroll for the Masters program in any semester, the curriculum is tailored for enrollment during the winter semester. The prescribed duration of the study program is four semesters. The program can also be studied on a part-time basis. In this case, the duration is eight semesters.

#### **1.5 The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)**

The MA program in General Linguistics is based on the European Credit Transfer System. Students receive a certain number of ECTS for each module they have passed.

The credit system follows two basic principles:

- No ECTS can be obtained without passing a module exam.
- One ECTS credit roughly corresponds to a workload of 30 hours. These 30 hours include time spent attending courses, as well as time spent on independent study-related activities, such as accessing research sources, reading, completing practice exercises, and exam preparation.

The minimum of ECTS required in order to pass a module is predetermined. Each of the courses which make up a specific module is allocated a certain number of ECTS, depending on the workload of the course. The credit system is designed in such a way that students who fulfill the required workload should be able to successfully complete the courses.

### **2. Structure and organization of the MA program**

#### **2.1 Modular structure**

The Masters program has a modular structure. Each module consists of at least two courses assigned to a common focus area. Students receive a certain number of ECTS for each course they have completed. For completing the modules prescribed by the Examination Rules and Regulations [Studien- und Fachprüfungsordnung], students gain the required amount of ECTS and receive their degree. An overview and descriptions of the modules are found on pages 6–20 of this handbook.

#### **2.2 Regional focus areas**

Students have the option of choosing one of four regional focus areas or, alternatively, do without regional specialization. A regional focus has an influence on both the range of electives from which students choose (see section 2.4 below for details), and the topic of their Master's thesis. Masters Modules 1–4 (see p. 6) and the Research Module (MA Colloquium, see p. 6) are compulsory for all students. Upon successful completion of the program, all students receive an MA in General Linguistics, but the regional focus will also be specified in their degree certificate.

The four regional focus areas are described in the following:

##### **1) MA in General Linguistics, focus on Slavonic Languages**

This variant is intended for students who have had a focus on Slavonic Languages (or one of them) and Slavonic Linguistics during their first degree, and who want to deepen this focus while simultaneously broadening their knowledge in General Linguistics. Students with a focus on Slavonic Languages write their Master's thesis on a topic related to Slavonic Languages.

##### **2) MA in General Linguistics, focus on Romance Languages**

This variant is intended for students who have had a focus on Romance Languages (or one of them) and Romance Linguistics during their first degree, and who want to deepen this focus while

simultaneously broadening their knowledge in General Linguistics. Students with a focus on Romance Languages write their Master's thesis on a topic related to Romance Languages.

**3) MA in General Linguistics, focus on Variation and Change in English**

This variant is intended for students who have had a focus on English or on varieties of English (or one of them) and English Linguistics during their first degree, and who want to deepen this focus, while simultaneously broadening their knowledge in General Linguistics. Students with a focus on English write their Master's thesis on a topic related to the English language.

**4) MA in General Linguistics, focus on Languages of the Middle East and the Caucasus**

This variant is intended for students who have had a focus on Languages of the Middle East and the Caucasus (or one of them) during their first degree, and who want to deepen this focus while simultaneously broadening their knowledge in General Linguistics. Students with a focus on Languages of the Middle East and the Caucasus write their Master's thesis on a topic related to the Languages of the Middle East and the Caucasus.

**2.3 Overview of the curriculum**

The MA program has four components:

- Core Modules in General Linguistics: Masters Modules 1–4 and Research Module
- Master's Thesis Module
- Elective Modules
- Language Modules

The following diagram illustrates the basic structure of the degree program. Note that within the components "Elective Modules" and "Language Modules", the actual size and number of modules selected may vary; the diagram gives only the overall minimum number of ECTS points required for these components, but does not specify individual modules. These are selected individually by the student. Please see section 2.3 below for a more detailed description of the individual components.

## Overview of the curriculum:

	<b>Core Modules 40 ECTS</b>	<b>Language Modules 20 ECTS</b>	<b>Elective Modules 30 ECTS</b>
<b>Semester 1-3</b>	Theoretical Foundations of Linguistics 8 ECTS	Language Modules 20 ECTS  The size of the modules for language training varies from subject to subject.	Elective Modules 30 ECTS  The size of the modules may vary from subject to subject.
	Language Variation and Change 8 ECTS		
	Sociolinguistics of Minority Languages 8 ECTS		
	Linguistic Research Methods 10 ECTS		
	Research Module 6 ECTS		
<b>3-4</b>	Master's Thesis Module 30 ECTS		

### 2.3.1 Core Modules

Core Modules treat essential topics, and are compulsory for all students. All courses within the Core Modules are taught in English, and are generally hosted by the Department of General Linguistics. There are five Core Modules:

- **Masters Module 1**     **Theoretical Foundations of Linguistics**  
Advanced courses in one of the core areas of linguistic analysis: Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics.
- **Masters Module 2**     **Language Variation and Change**  
Linguistic Typology, Dialectology, Areal Linguistics
- **Masters Module 3**     **Sociolinguistics of Minority Languages**  
Multilingualism, Language Policy, Language Ideologies
- **Masters Module 4**     **Linguistic Research Methods**
- **Research module**     **MA Colloquium**  
Students independently formulate research questions and plan methodologies for their Master's thesis. These are then presented and discussed in the colloquium.

More detailed descriptions of the Core Modules can be found in Section 3 below.

### **2.3.2 Master's Thesis Module**

Students generally start writing their Master's thesis at the end of the third semester. In order to officially register the topic of their thesis, students must have completed at least three Core Modules.

The thesis has to be registered at the Examination Office [Prüfungsamt] early enough to allow students to complete the program within the prescribed time limit. The time limit for the Master's thesis is six months. The Master's Thesis Module is assigned 30 ECTS.

### **2.3.3 Elective Modules**

Depending on their focus area, students can be more or less restricted in their choice of Elective Modules. In principle, students can choose among courses from all BA and MA programs at the University of Bamberg, as long as they meet the requirements.

However, students are advised to use their Elective Modules as preparation for their Master's thesis, and to choose courses thematically connected its topic. Students are also encouraged to take courses on research methods (such as designing questionnaires, statistics, relevant software skills, etc.) in order to gain skills in the field of collecting and analyzing linguistic data. In order to supplement the courses offered by the linguistic department, courses offered by other departments, such as the Departments of Sociology, Psychology and Pedagogic, should be consulted as well.

Courses completed while studying abroad can generally be accredited and integrated into the degree program as part of the Elective Modules, but students should consult the Akademisches Auslandsamt and the Program Coordinator in order to check this.

The Elective Modules add up to a total of 30 ECTS. It is also possible to complete modules from the core component of the MA program in General Linguistics itself, and to have them recognized as part of the Elective Modules (but of course one and the same module can only be accredited to either the core component, or the elective component, but not both). If students wish to use these modules for their elective component, they are then referred to as the following:

- Elective Module Theoretical Foundations of Linguistics - 8 ECTS  
(Module exam: written examination or essay)
- Elective Module Language Variation and Change - 8 ECTS  
(Module exam: written examination or essay)
- Elective Module Sociolinguistics of Minority Languages - 8 ECTS  
(Module exam: written examination or essay)
- Elective Module Linguistic Research Methods - 10 ECTS  
(Module exam: essay)



### 2.3.4 Language Modules

The Language Modules component for the MA program in General Linguistics involves a minimum of 20 ECTS.

Students can choose among the language courses taught within the following degree programs at the University of Bamberg:

- a) Bachelor- and Masters programs in Slavonic Studies
- b) Bachelor- and Masters programs Romance Studies
- c) Bachelor program Islamic Orient
- d) Masters program Islamic Studies
- e) Masters program Arabic Studies
- f) Masters program Iranian Studies
- g) Masters program Turkish Studies

For detailed descriptions of the respective modules, see the Module Handbooks for the relevant degree programs.

Equivalent language skills acquired elsewhere may also be recognized, but you will need to lodge a special application in order to have them assessed.

## 2.4 Curricula for the different focus areas

### First Variant: MA in General Linguistics (without a regional focus)

- **Masters Modules 1–4** and the **Research Module** (MA Colloquium) are compulsory.
- **Elective Modules:** Elective Modules must be comprised of at least 20 ECTS, and the content of the chosen modules must be connected to linguistics. Students may choose among modules from the following subjects:
  - Slavonic Studies
  - Romance Studies
  - English/American Studies
  - Arabic Studies
  - Turkish Studies
  - Iranian Studies
  - German Studies
  - Classical Philology

Students can freely choose the modules for the remaining 10 ECTS from other subjects. However, they are advised to choose modules which are connected with the topic of their Master's thesis.

### Second Variant: MA in General Linguistics, focus on Slavonic Languages

- **Masters Modules 1–4** and the **Research Module** (MA Colloquium) are compulsory.
- **Elective Modules:** Students must complete modules adding up to 20 ECTS in Slavonic Studies. They can freely choose the modules for the remaining 10 ECTS from other subjects. However, for this variant, and for the three variants described below, students are advised to choose modules which are connected with the topic of their Master's thesis.

**Third Variant: MA in General Linguistics, Focus on Romance Languages**

- **Masters Modules 1–4** and the **Research Module** (MA Colloquium) are compulsory.
- **Elective Modules:** Students must complete modules adding up to 20 ECTS in Romance Studies. They can freely choose the modules for the remaining 10 ECTS from other subjects.

**Fourth Variant: MA in General Linguistics, Focus on Variation and Change in English**

- **Masters Modules 1–4** and the **Research Module** (MA Colloquium) are compulsory.
- **Elective Modules:** Students must complete modules adding up to 20 ECTS in English/American Studies. They can freely choose the modules for the remaining 10 ECTS from other subjects.

**Fifth Variant: MA in General Linguistics, Focus on Languages of the Middle East and Caucasus**

- **Masters Modules 1–4** and the **Research Module** (MA Colloquium) are compulsory.
- **Elective Modules:** Students must complete modules adding up to 20 ECTS in one of the following subjects:
  - Arabic Studies
  - Turkish Studies
  - Iranian Studies

Students can freely choose the modules for the remaining 10 ECTS from other subjects.

Regarding rules and regulations for the Elective Modules from other subjects, see the Study Regulations [Studienordnungen], and the Subject-specific Examination Rules and Regulations [Fachprüfungsordnungen] for the relevant degree programs.

### 3 Module descriptions

h.p.w. = hours per week (during the semester)

#### Masters Module 1, MA General Linguistics

##### Theoretical Foundations of Linguistics

(compulsory module, 8 ECTS)

**Teaching forms:**

lecture, seminar/work group

**Minimal duration:**

1 semester (1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> semester)

**Frequency:**

every winter semester

**Content and learning goals**

This module contains lectures and seminars/work groups dealing with the core areas of linguistics: phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics und pragmatics.

The module aims at deepening students' knowledge in theoretical linguistics, in order to provide a good foundation for the description of language structures. In hands-on courses, dealing with both languages of Europe and non-European languages, students improve their skills in the analysis of language structures. They learn how to take into account and critically assess recent linguistic theories. In this module, students learn to work independently and discuss selected topics relating to the field of linguistics within a given time limit.

**Compatible with the following degree programs:** This module is an obligatory part of the MA program in General Linguistics. It can also be chosen as Elective Module by students of other subjects. The latter are advised to choose this module only if their English skills are equivalent to level C1 or higher.

**Module examination:** written examination of 60 minutes, or term paper with a two month time limit

**ECTS:** 8

**Workload:** 240 hours

**Structure of the module and teaching forms:**

a)	lecture (2 h.p.w.; not graded)	2 ECTS
b)	seminar/work group (2 h.p.w.)	6 ECTS
or	seminar (2 h.p.w.)	8 ECTS

Module coordinator [Modulbeauftragter]: Geoffrey Haig

## Masters Module 2, MA General Linguistics

<b>Language Variation and Change</b> (compulsory module, 8 ECTS)		
<b>Teaching form:</b> seminar	<b>Minimal duration:</b> 1 semester (1 <sup>st</sup> –3 <sup>rd</sup> semester)	<b>Frequency:</b> every summer semester

<p><b>Content and learning goals</b></p> <p>This module is concerned with different kinds of language variation. Language may vary across time, space or social strata. The module covers areas such as language change, sociolinguistics, dialectology, areal linguistics and language typology, all of which deal with different kinds of language change.</p> <p>In this module, students are familiarized with recent methods in describing and analyzing language change and language variation. In hands-on courses, students work on data and results from research projects carried out at the department. The module serves as preparation for independent research projects. Students learn how to deal with complex topics and how to write research papers within a given time limit.</p> <p><b>Compatible with the following degree programs:</b> This module is an obligatory part of the MA program in General Linguistics. It can also be chosen as Elective Module by students of other subjects. The latter are advised to choose this module only if their English skills are equivalent to level C1 or higher.</p> <p><b>Module examination:</b> written examination of 60 minutes or term paper with a two month time limit</p> <p><b>ECTS:</b> 8</p> <p><b>Workload:</b> 240 hours</p>
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<b>Structure of the module and teaching forms:</b> seminar (2 h.p.w.)	8 ECTS
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Module coordinator [Modulbeauftragter]: Geoffrey Haig
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## Masters Module 3 MA in General Linguistics

### Sociolinguistics of Minority Languages

(compulsory module, 8 ECTS)

**Teaching form:**

seminar

**Minimal duration:**

1 semester (1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> semester)

**Frequency:**

every winter semester

**Content and learning goals**

This module deals with the interface of language and society, with a special focus on the sociolinguistics of European and non-European minority languages. The courses within this module focus on theoretical approaches and challenges from the following subfields: multilingualism, language contact, and language policy.

In this module, students learn how social factors, such as region, age, gender, and social class, etc. can influence language. They also further their skills in academic writing.

**Compatible with the following degree programs:** This module is an obligatory part of the MA program in General Linguistics. It can also be chosen as Elective Module by students of other subjects. The latter are advised to choose this module only if their English skills are equivalent to level C1 or higher.

**Module examination:** written examination of 60 minutes or essay with a two month time limit

**ECTS:** 8

**Workload:** 240 hours

**Structure of the module and teaching forms:**

seminar (2 h.p.w.)

8 ECTS

Module coordinator [Modulbeauftragter]: Geoffrey Haig

## Masters Module 4 MA in General Linguistics

### Linguistic Research Methods

(compulsory module, 10 ECTS)

**Teaching forms:**

lecture/seminar

**Minimal duration:**

1 semester (1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> semester)

**Frequency:**

every summer semester

**Content and learning goals**

The goal of this module is to teach students techniques for linguistic fieldwork, as well as data collection and analysis. Students acquire these skills in hands-on courses, for instance, field work courses on a non-European language or a small and underdescribed dialect of German. Students are further introduced to linguistic software used in data analysis, such as Praat, ELAN, Toolbox, FLEx and similar programs. The module may also involve a course on the structure of a non-European language, depending on the availability of suitable instructors at any given time.

**Compatible with the following degree programs:** This module is an obligatory part of the MA program in General Linguistics. It can also be chosen as Elective Module by students of other subjects. The latter are advised to choose this module only if their English skills are equivalent to level C1 or higher.

**Module examination:** essay (within a seminar) with a two month time limit

**ECTS:** 10

**Workload:** 300 hours

**Structure of the module and teaching forms:**

a)	lecture (2 h.p.w.)	2 or 4 ECTS
b)	seminar/work group (2 h.p.w.)	6 or 8 ECTS
or	seminar/work group (2 h.p.w.)	10 ECTS

Module coordinator [Modulbeauftragter]: Geoffrey Haig

## Masters Module 5 MA in General Linguistics

### Research Module

(compulsory module, 6 ECTS)

**Teaching forms:**

colloquium

**Minimal duration:**

1 semester (3<sup>rd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> semester)

**Frequency:**

every semester

**Content and learning goals**

The Research Module consists of a colloquium in which students present and discuss their research topics and methodologies. It is intended as close preparation for, and accompaniment of, the Master's thesis. Students learn to develop their own research questions and analyses, based on current research methodologies and topics, and to present and discuss initial results in a clear and scientific way. The selection of topics and methodologies will be dependent on the chosen topic of their Master's thesis.

**Requirements:** Students are strongly advised to complete at least two Core Modules in General Linguistics (Masters Modules 1–4) before they enroll for the Research Module.

**Module examination:** oral examination (30 minutes)

**ECTS:** 6

**Workload:** 180 hours

**Structure of the module and teaching forms:**

colloquium  
(2 h.p.w.)

6 ECTS

Module coordinator [Modulbeauftragter]: Geoffrey Haig

## Masters Module 6 MA in General Linguistics

(replicates Module 1 above; the different numbering refers to the fact that this version will be chosen if intended for the Elective component [Erweiterungsbereich])

<b>Elective Module Theoretical Foundations of Linguistics</b> 8 ECTS)		
<b>Teaching forms:</b> lecture, seminar/work group	<b>Minimal duration:</b> 1 semester (1 <sup>st</sup> –3 <sup>rd</sup> semester)	<b>Frequency:</b> every winter semester

### Content and learning goals

This module contains lectures and seminars/work groups dealing with the core areas of linguistics: phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics und pragmatics.

The module aims at deepening students' knowledge in theoretical linguistics, in order to provide a good foundation for the description of language structures. In hands-on courses, dealing with both languages of Europe and non-European languages, students improve their skills in the analysis of language structures. They learn how to take into account and critically assess recent linguistic theories. In this module, students learn to work independently and discuss selected topics relating to the field of linguistics within a given time limit.

**Compatible with the following degree programs:** This module is an obligatory part of the MA program in General Linguistics. It can also be chosen as Elective Module by students of other subjects. The latter are advised to choose this module only if their English skills are equivalent to level C1 or higher.

**Module examination:** written examination of 60 minutes, or term paper with a two month time limit

**ECTS:** 8

**Workload:** 240 hours

### Structure of the module and teaching forms:

a)	lecture (2 h.p.w.; not graded)	2 ECTS
b)	seminar/work group (2 h.p.w.)	6 ECTS
or	seminar (2 h.p.w.)	8 ECTS

Module coordinator [Modulbeauftragter]: Geoffrey Haig



## Masters Module 7 MA in General Linguistics

(replicates Module 2 above; the different numbering refers to the fact that this version will be chosen if intended for the Elective component [Erweiterungs bereich])

<b>Elective Module Language Variation and Change</b> (8 ECTS)		
<b>Teaching form:</b> seminar	<b>Minimal duration:</b> 1 semester (1 <sup>st</sup> –3 <sup>rd</sup> semester)	<b>Frequency:</b> every summer semester

### Content and learning goals

This module is concerned with different kinds of language variation. Language may vary across time, space or social strata. The module covers areas such as language change, sociolinguistics, dialectology, areal linguistics and language typology, all of which deal with different kinds of language change.

In this module, students are familiarized with recent methods in describing and analyzing language change and language variation. In hands-on courses, students work on data and results from research projects carried out at the department. The course serves as preparation for independent research projects. Students learn how to deal with complex topics and how to write research papers within a given time limit.

**Compatible with the following degree programs:** This module is an obligatory part of the MA program in General Linguistics. It can also be chosen as Elective Module by students of other subjects. The latter are advised to choose this module only if their English skills are equivalent to level C1 or higher.

**Module examination:** written examination of 60 minutes or term paper with a two month time limit

**ECTS:** 8

**Workload:** 240 hours

<b>Structure of the module and teaching forms:</b> seminar (2 h.p.w.)	8 ECTS
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Module coordinator [Modulbeauftragter]: Geoffrey Haig

## Masters Module 8 MA General Linguistics

(replicates Module 3 above; the different numbering refers to the fact that this version will be chosen if intended for the Elective component [Erweiterungs bereich])

<b>Sociolinguistics of Minority Languages</b> (8 ECTS)		
<b>Teaching form:</b> seminar	<b>Minimal duration:</b> 1 semester (1 <sup>st</sup> –3 <sup>rd</sup> semester)	<b>Frequency:</b> every winter semester

### Content and learning goals

This module deals with the interface of language and society, with a special focus on the sociolinguistics of European and non-European minority languages. The courses within this module focus on theoretical approaches and challenges from the following subfields: multilingualism, language contact, and language policy.

In this module, students learn how social factors, such as region, age, gender, and social class, etc. can influence language. They also further their skills in academic writing.

**Compatible with the following degree programs:** This module is an obligatory part of the MA program in General Linguistics. It can also be chosen as Elective Module by students of other subjects. The latter are advised to choose this module only if their English skills are equivalent to level C1 or higher.

**Module examination:** written examination of 60 minutes or essay with a two month time limit

**ECTS:** 8

**Workload:** 240 hours

<b>Structure of the module and teaching forms:</b> seminar (2 h.p.w.)	8 ECTS
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Module coordinator [Modulbeauftragter]: Geoffrey Haig

## Masters Module 9 MA General Linguistics

(replicates Module 4 above; the different numbering refers to the fact that this version will be chosen if intended for the Elective component [Erweiterungsbereich])

### Elective Module Linguistic Research Methods

(10 ECTS)

**Teaching forms:**

lecture/seminar

**Minimal duration:**

1 semester (1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> semester)

**Frequency:**

every summer semester

**Content and learning goals**

The goal of this module is to teach students techniques for linguistic fieldwork, as well as data collection and analysis. Students acquire these skills in hands-on courses, for instance, field work courses on a non-European language or a small and underdescribed dialect of German. Students are further introduced to linguistic software used in data analysis, such as Praat, ELAN, Toolbox, FLEx and similar programs. The module may also involve a course on the structure of a non-European language, depending on the availability of suitable instructors at any given time.

**Compatible with the following degree programs:** This module is an obligatory part of the MA program in General Linguistics. It can also be chosen as Elective Module by students of other subjects. The latter are advised to choose this module only if their English skills are equivalent to level C1 or higher.

**Module examination:** essay (within a seminar) with a two month time limit

**ECTS:** 10

**Workload:** 300 hours

**Structure of the module and teaching forms:**

a)	lecture (2 h.p.w.)	2 or 4 ECTS
b)	seminar/work group (2 h.p.w.)	6 or 8 ECTS
or	seminar/work group (2 h.p.w.)	10 ECTS

Module coordinator [Modulbeauftragter]: Geoffrey Haig

## Masters module 10 MA General Linguistics

<b>Master's Thesis Module</b> (compulsory, 30 ECTS)		
<b>Teaching forms:</b>	<b>Minimal duration:</b> 1 semester (3 <sup>rd</sup> –4 <sup>th</sup> semester)	<b>Frequency:</b>

### Content and learning goals

Students write their Master's thesis within this module. The Master's thesis is an academic text which demonstrates that the student has acquired adequate knowledge of their subject, and is able to independently apply scientific methods in addressing specific research questions within a given time limit.

**Requirements:** Students must have completed at least three Core Modules (out of Masters Modules 1–4) in General Linguistics before they can register their thesis topic.

### Special remarks:

Students must register their thesis topic and choice of supervisors before starting to write their thesis. Students are strongly encouraged to write their Master's thesis in English. Furthermore, they have to explicitly state in their thesis that they have written the thesis without the help of others, and that they have not made use of any source material or aids other than those indicated.

**Compatible with the following degree programs:** This module is an obligatory part of the MA program in General Linguistics. It is not compatible with any other degree program.

**Required number of pages:** about 70–90 pages

**Time limit:** 6 months

**ECTS:** 30

**Workload:** 900 hours

Module coordinator [Modulbeauftragter]: the supervisors of the Master's thesis