

Programme Outline: Single Honours Master of Arts in English: Language, Literatures and Cultures

Certificate: Language in Focus – Linguistics and Medieval English Studies

What is a Certified Study Area?

By choosing certain modules from the general curriculum, students can obtain an additional certificate along with their MA in English: Language, Literatures and Cultures. This means a specialisation on one of the four topics offered. The requirements for starting in one of these areas are the same as for the Single Honours programme. Obligatory modules cover the same as in the single honours curriculum plus the specific ones needed to get the study area certified.

What Does the Certificate Entail?

The main study areas for this certificate are Modern Linguistics and Medieval English Studies. They qualify students for all kinds of jobs where skills such as text editing, researching linguistic phenomena or competences in working with facsimiles come in handy. Modules cover overview courses, seminars where students study linguistic phenomena in depth, classes where English medieval texts and language developments are discussed as well as courses where the application of research and study techniques form the focus of attention.

What are the Overall Learning Objectives?

After completing this course of study, students

- have a good working knowledge of theoretical approaches and methodology on topics of English linguistics and Medieval English studies;
- can use these on analysing linguistic data and medieval texts,
- can critically reflect on secondary literature;
- have studied in depth specific areas, topics or theories with a view to both understanding their complexity and critically examining their workings and uses;
- have gained insight into the development of English literature and its materiality prior to the Renaissance;
- have the methodological and practical knowledge to do research on a particular topic or area of interest to them;
- have the critical and analytical skills to turn their research interest into a thesis of about 25,000 words.

How Does This Study Area Work?

Students have to collect credits from various areas:

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| • obligatory modules outside Linguistics and Medieval English Studies: | 12 credits |
| • Linguistics and Medieval English Studies modules (core curriculum modules): | 60 credits |
| • completion module in Linguistics or Medieval English Studies: | 6 credits |
| • soft skills modules: | 12 credits |
| • MA thesis: | 30 credits |

The Single Honours Master with a focus on Language Studies offers students a large variety of modules on all topics related to linguistics and history of English. There are two obligatory modules:

- M.EP.14: Academic Writing and Research Skills PLUS

- EITHER M.EP.15a: Advanced English Language Skills
OR M.EP.15b: American Culture and Institutions / British Culture and Institutions (for MA-students)

These modules help improve the students' academic writing and academic research skills as well as their practical English language skills and give them a deeper insight into customs, institutions and cultural practices in either Britain or the United States of America; they cover a total of 12 credits.

The study areas that form the core of the study programme provide students with nine modules to choose from, which can be classified according to their level of requirements. First-semester students should start with modules from Linguistics and Medieval Studies that repeat and improve students' knowledge of fundamental topics, approaches and terminology. After that, students are ready to take part in advanced seminars that build up on the foundations modules. Students also have to complete modules that broaden their range of linguistic skills and provide them with hands-on practice with medieval manuscripts. The MA thesis either on linguistic or medieval studies topics is accompanied by a completion module. With their choice of modules students have to complete a total of 66 credits from these areas.

For the 120 credits they have to show in total, students also have to hand in their MA thesis (30 credits) and enrol in soft skills modules ("Optionalbereich", 12 credits), which offer students classes to prepare them for life after university by e.g. teaching public speaking, language skills or working space organisation. For students without sufficient German skills, classes on German language are obligatory.

Which Module Should I Take in Which Semester?

Students have to cover three obligatory modules and can choose from eleven additional ones to fit their personal interests. The large variety of modules makes it difficult to standardise timetables. The following table should be considered as a suggestion only. Each standard block is worth 6 credits; double blocks are worth 12 credits. Grey blocks indicate soft skills modules. Blue blocks show obligatory modules that do not focus on topics of Linguistics or Medieval Studies. White blocks show elective or semi-elective modules in the core curriculum.

Studying Across the Disciplines: Linguistics and Medieval English Studies

Semester	1	M.EP.15a Advanced English Language Skills OR M.EP.15b American/British Culture and Institutions	M.EP.02b/02c Medieval English Studies	M.EP.020 Introduction to English Linguistics	M.EP.022 English Linguistics (C)	German A1*)	30	credits in total
	2	M.EP.14 Academic Writing and Research Skills	M.EP.05b Encountering the Medieval Text	M.EP.11a Linguistic Tools and Skills		German A2	30	
	3	M.EP.11 The Medieval Text in Manuscript, Archive and Media			M.EP.05a Advanced English Linguistics		24	
	4	M.EP.07a/b Completion Module in Linguistics or Medieval Studies	MA Thesis (30 credits)				36	

*) for students with no German language skills; other modules are possible

= 120 C

Focusing on Linguistics

Semester	1	M.EP.15a Advanced English Language Skills OR M.EP.15b American/British Culture and Institutions	M.EP.020/021 Introduction to English Linguistics (A/B)	M.EP.022 English Linguistics (C)	M.EP.Ac101 (Intercultural) Academic Skills	German A1*)	24	credits in total
	2	M.EP.14 Academic Writing and Research Skills	M.EP.05a Advanced English Linguistics			German A2	30	
	3	M.EP.09c Research Course: English Linguistics	M.EP.05c Advanced English Linguistics 2	M.EP.11a Investigating Language: Tools and Skills			30	
	4	M.EP.07a Completion Module in Linguistics	MA Thesis (30C)				36	

*) for students with no German language skills; other modules are possible

= 120 C

See the following pages for a more detailed explanation of the modules.

Studying Across the Disciplines: Linguistics and Medieval English Studies

Semester I:

- **EITHER** M.EP.15a Advanced English Language Skills **OR** M.EP.15b American Culture and Institutions / British Culture and Institutions (for MA-students) – 6 credits (OBLIGATORY)

The module is designed to **improve** the students' **practical language skills** or give them a deeper insight into **customs, institutions and cultural practices** in either **Britain or the United States of America**, e.g. in giving presentations, writing essays, moderating talks, etc., and how to use these skills during their studies. Students can choose between several options to meet their individual interests.

- M.EP.02b/02c: *Medieval English Studies* – 6 credits

This module combines a **lecture** which is designed as an **overview** about the literature and culture of medieval England with a **seminar** about a specific topic. Thus, students learn about the culture and the functions of literature in that period of time as well as having a closer look at certain works. Students with no prior knowledge on medieval English will be placed in an overview course on the development of Old and Middle English language and literature to enable them to proceed studying these languages and texts in subsequent modules. As the literature of that time was handwritten, knowledge about the techniques and materials used are also part of the learning outcomes. Furthermore, students will have to put their existing competences on languages into a new context and learn how to decipher and read original manuscripts. The module ends with either an **end-of-term exam** or a **term paper**.

- M.EP.020: *Introduction to English Linguistics* – 6 credits

This module is for relative beginners in Linguistics. It combines a **seminar** which gives an overview of the topics covered in the departmental programme with an **independent study** period. Areas covered are phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics and pragmatics. Students learn to apply these methods to the central issues of modern linguistics; they also learn to analyse arguments and form a structured opinion on these matters. The module ends with a written end-of-term exam (90 mins.).

Students who already have a very good overview knowledge of the various linguistic areas of research and applications should choose module M.EP.021 *English Linguistics (B)* instead (6 credits) which combines an advanced seminar with an overview course that improves students' background knowledge.

- M.EP.022: *English Linguistics (C)* – altogether 12 credits; each part worth 6 credits

This module, consisting of two parts, combines **two lectures** on formal syntax and on formal semantics. The first part of the module, Introduction to Syntactic Theory, focuses on the formalization of syntactic knowledge and the implementation of syntactic theories and focuses on empirical phenomena such as sentence formation, questions, passives etc. The second part of the module, Introduction to Semantic Theory, focuses on the formalization of semantic knowledge and the implementation of semantic theories while considering empirical phenomena such as the meaning of questions, negation, quantification etc. Both lectures are accompanied by optional **lab classes and tutorials**, which put an emphasis on the practical application of the material covered in the lecture courses. Each part of the module ends with a portfolio (3500 words each). This module is a prerequisite for advanced courses in linguistics.

The module can be studied in two semesters. If students decide to take the two parts consecutively rather than simultaneously, it is highly recommended that they take

- Introduction to Semantic Theory (lecture, lab class, and tutorial) in the winter term
- Introduction to Syntactic Theory (lecture, lab class, and tutorial) in the summer term

- *German: A1* – 6 credits (SOFT SKILLS/EXTERNAL ELECTIVE)

This serves as an example of what students can choose from for the "Optionalbereich". German as a language can be started from scratch. Students will get a certificate about their command of the language after successfully finishing the final test. For international students who do not have sufficient skills in German language, it is obligatory to take these classes.

Credits earned this semester: 30
Overall credits: 30

Semester II:

- M.EP.14 Academic Writing and Research Skills – 6 credits (OBLIGATORY)

This module is designed to deepen students' **academic writing and academic research skills**. The module expects students to write a **portfolio** of about 1200 words and a **term paper** of about 2200 words.

- M.EP.05b: *Encountering the Medieval Text* – 6 credits

This module combines an advanced-level **seminar** on a specific field of research with **independent studies**. Students deepen their knowledge of the linguistic and literary characteristics of medieval texts, improve their editing skills also with a view to using contemporary media, and learn to use databases and corpora for additional research. The module expects a **term paper** of about 7500 words. Students have to show that they are able to apply the scientific theories and approaches discussed in the seminar.

- M.EP.11a: *Investigating Language: Tools and Skills* – 12 credits; each part worth 6 credits

This module aims at broadening students' skills and knowledge beyond the areas that form the core research topics in the two departments. Students are expected to complete **two courses**; they can choose from courses on statistics and logic; psycholinguistics and corpus linguistics; palaeography; and Medieval Latin, German, Romance languages, or Scandinavian languages. The module ends with a **term paper** of about 7500 words or with a **written end-of-term test** (90 mins.) in which the core skills are tested both practically and with an eye to critical reflection.

This module can be studied in two different semesters.

- M.EP.022: *English Linguistics (C)* – altogether 12 credits; each part worth 6 credits

See above.

- *German: A2* – 6 credits (SOFT SKILLS/EXTERNAL ELECTIVES)

See above.

Credits earned in this semester: 30
Overall credits: 60

Semester III:

- M.EP.11: *The Medieval Text in Manuscript, Archive and Media* – 12 credits

This module follows up from the advanced seminar on Medieval English Studies (M.EP.05b). It focuses on the representation of medieval texts in a variety of contexts. To that end, it combines an **advanced course** in which students learn to deal with facsimiles of medieval texts and which is accompanied by an **independent study** period that expects students to work on a research topic of their own with an **excursion** to a library that holds medieval manuscripts. Students may handle the manuscripts and learn about preservation techniques and the presentation of medieval manuscripts at first hand.

The module expects students to write up their findings from the research project in a **term paper** of about 7500 words, and to **reflect on their experiences** in the excursion (about 2000 words). With this module, students gain insight into the life of medieval texts outside editions, learn about the specific difficulties that handling and archiving them entails, and get a glimpse of professions in archival areas.

- M.EP.11a: *Investigating Language: Tools and Skills* – 12 credits; each part worth 6 credits

See above.

- M.EP.05a: *Advanced English Linguistics* – 6 credits [M.EP.05c is equivalent]

This module combines a **seminar** on a specific field of research with **independent studies**. Students learn how to verify linguistic theories and the competence to critically evaluate new developments in theories. The independent studies require three meetings during the course of the semester to evaluate the student's progress. The module concludes in a **term paper** of about 7500 words. Students have to show that they are able to apply the scientific theories and approaches discussed in the seminar.

Credits earned in this semester: 24
Overall credits: 84

Semester IV:

- M.EP.07a or M.EP.07b: *Completion Module in English Linguistics or Medieval Studies* – 6 credits (OBLIGATORY)

The completion modules are designed to give advice and support to students while writing their MA theses. Students meet with their supervisor in a **colloquium** and discuss their plans and progress for their theses. This gives valuable feedback throughout the semester and a chance to get inspiration from other students' work. For the linguistics module, students also have to take part in an advanced seminar; for the medieval studies module students combine the colloquium with an independent study period. In any case, the completion modules end with an **oral exam** in which the key ideas and results of the MA thesis are presented and discussed critically.

- *Thesis in English Linguistics or Medieval English Studies* – 30 credits (OBLIGATORY)

The MA thesis is usually the last thing students hand in during their studies. With it students show the competences acquired throughout their studies by working on their own project, using the methods of research and theories they got introduced to during their MA degree.

Credits earned in this semester: 36
Overall credits: 120

Focusing on Linguistics

Semester I:

- **EITHER** M.EP.15a: Advanced English Language Skills **OR** M.EP.15b: American Culture and Institutions / British Culture and Institutions (for MA-students) – 6 credits (OBLIGATORY)

The module is designed to **improve** the students' **practical language skills** or give them a deeper insight into **customs, institutions and cultural practices** in either **Britain or the United States of America**, e.g. in giving presentations, writing essays, moderating talks, etc., and how to use these skills during their studies. Students can choose between several options to meet their individual interests.

- M.EP.020: *Introduction to English Linguistics (A)* – 6 credits

This module is for relative beginners in Linguistics. It combines a **seminar** which gives an overview of the topics covered in the departmental programme with an **independent study** period. Areas covered are phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics and pragmatics. Students learn to apply these methods to the central issues of modern linguistics; they also learn to analyse arguments and form a structured opinion on these matters. The module ends with a written end-of-term exam (90 mins.).

Students who already have a very good overview knowledge of the various linguistic areas of research and applications should choose module M.EP.021 *English Linguistics (B)* instead (6 credits) which combines an advanced seminar with an overview course that improves students' background knowledge.

- M.EP.022: *English Linguistics (C)* – altogether 12 credits; each part worth 6 credits

This module, consisting of two parts, combines **two lectures** on formal syntax and on formal semantics. The first part of the module, Introduction to Syntactic Theory, focuses on the formalization of syntactic knowledge and the implementation of syntactic theories and focuses on empirical phenomena such as sentence formation, questions, passives etc. The second part of the module, Introduction to Semantic Theory, focuses on the formalization of semantic knowledge and the implementation of semantic theories while considering empirical phenomena such as the meaning of questions, negation, quantification etc. Both lectures are accompanied by optional **lab classes and tutorials**, which put an emphasis on the practical application of the material covered in the lecture courses. Each part of the module ends with a portfolio (3500 words each). This module is a prerequisite for advanced courses in linguistics.

The module can be studied in two semesters. If students decide to take the two parts consecutively rather than simultaneously, it is highly recommended that they take

- Introduction to Semantic Theory (lecture, lab class, and tutorial) in the winter term
- Introduction to Syntactic Theory (lecture, lab class, and tutorial) in the summer term

- M.EP.Ac101: *(Intercultural) Academic Skills* – 6 credits

The module has been designed to offer students with little or no experience at a German University a set of skills (academic writing, academic reading etc.), insight into administrative components (exam registration, timetabling etc.), and an introduction to highly relevant institutions and tools (the University's libraries, research and citation management software etc.). To complete the module, students attend a minimum of four **workshops** and six **consultation sessions** with the

department's academic advisors. The module, which should be taken over the course of two to three terms, closes with a portfolio. Students are advised to contact Dr. Marleen Knipping if they are interested in participating in this module.

- *German: A1* – 6 credits (SOFT SKILLS/EXTERNAL ELECTIVE)

This serves as an example of what students can choose from for the “Optionalbereich”. German as a language can be started from scratch. Students will get a certificate about their command of the language after successfully finishing the final test. For international students who do not have sufficient skills in German language, it is obligatory to take these classes.

Credits earned this semester: 24
Overall credits: 24

Semester II:

M.EP.14: Academic Writing and Research Skills – 6 credits (OBLIGATORY)

This module is designed to deepen students' academic writing and academic research skills. The module expects students to write a **portfolio** of about 1200 words **and** a **term paper** of about 2200 words.

- M.EP.05a: *Advanced English Linguistics* – 6 credits [M.EP.05c is equivalent]

This module combines a **seminar** on a specific field of research with **independent studies**. Students learn how to verify linguistic theories and the competence to critically evaluate new developments in theories. The independent studies require three meetings during the course of the semester to evaluate the student's progress. The module concludes in a **term paper** of about 7500 words. Students have to show that they are able to apply the scientific theories and approaches discussed in the seminar.

- M.EP.022: *English Linguistics (C)* – 6+6 credits

See above.

- M.EP.Ac101: *(Intercultural) Academic Skills* – 6 credits

See above.

- *German: A2* – 6 credits (SOFT SKILLS/EXTERNAL ELECTIVES)

See above.

Credits earned in this semester: 30
Overall credits: 54

Semester III:

- M.EP.05c: *Advanced English Linguistics 2* – 6 credits [equivalent to M.EP.05a]

This module combines a **seminar** on a specific field of research with **independent studies**. Students learn how to verify linguistic theories and the competence to critically evaluate new developments in theories. The independent studies require three meetings during the course of the semester to evaluate the student's progress. The module concludes in a **term paper** of about 7500 words. Students have to show that they are able to apply the scientific theories and approaches discussed in the seminar.

- M.EP.11a: *Investigating Language: Tools and Skills* – 12 credits

This module aims at broadening students' skills and knowledge beyond the areas that form the core research topics in the two departments. Students are expected to complete **two courses**; they can choose from courses on statistics and logic; psycholinguistics and corpus linguistics; palaeography; and Medieval Latin, German, Romance languages, or Scandinavian languages. The module ends with a **term paper** of about 7500 words or with a **written end-of-term test** (90 mins.) in which the core skills are tested both practically and with an eye to critical reflection.

- M.EP.09c: *Research Course: English Linguistics* – 12 credits

The research module combines a series of talks on linguistics (Linguistic **Colloquium** or Oberseminar) with an **advanced research-focused course**. This helps students to find a research topic and to propose their own research projects. In the final **term paper** of about 7500 words, students have to show that they are capable of working on their own, can develop research questions, come up with fitting methods to answer them, design an experimental study, and reflect on the results.

Credits earned in this semester: 30
Overall credits: 84

Semester IV:

- M.EP.07a: *Completion Module in English Linguistics* – 6 credits

(OBLIGATORY)

The completion modules are designed to give advice and support to students while writing their MA theses. Students meet with their supervisor in a **colloquium** and discuss their plans and progress for their theses. This gives valuable feedback throughout the semester and a chance to get inspiration from other students' work. The completion module in Linguistics ends with an **oral exam** in which the key ideas and results of the MA thesis are presented and discussed critically.

- *Thesis in English Linguistics* – 30 credits

(OBLIGATORY)

The MA thesis is usually the last thing students hand in during their studies. With it students show the competences acquired throughout their studies by working on their own project, using the methods of research and theories they got introduced to during their MA degree.

Credits earned in this semester: 36
Overall credits: 120