

## **Programme Outline: Single Honours Master of Arts in English: Language, Literatures and Cultures “Pick and Mix” Option**

The Master of Arts in the degree programme English: Language, Literatures and Cultures contains modules from a variety of areas: English linguistics, Medieval English, British literature and culture, North American literature and culture, Life and Institutions, use of English, and Anglophone literature and culture. Students have only two obligatory modules to complete:

- 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.

Outside this, there are beginner's, advanced and research modules in the various sub-departments. Students can choose from all these topics and try what they have to offer; specific module combinations result in certificates.

- Studies in English Literature and Culture: Focus on Literary and Cultural Management
- Anglophone Literature and Culture
- Literary and Cultural Studies
- Language in Focus - Linguistics and Medieval English Studies

Because of the specificity of the module combinations each of the certificates is covered separately. The following covers the “pick and mix” variety of the Master of Arts programme, i.e. a combination of modules that ensures students getting a good insight into several areas before choosing the one that they wish to write their MA thesis in. This combination covers a total of 66 credits.

The MA degree is awarded once students have completed the following:

- the two obligatory modules outlined above (12 credits);
- a minimum of six elective modules worth 66 credits in total, one of which is the completion module offered by the sub-department the MA thesis is written in (6 credits);
- external modules worth 12 credits from the soft skills range of modules (“Optionalbereich”), i.e. modules that prepare students for life after university by e.g. teaching public speaking, language skills or time management skills;
- the MA thesis (30 credits).

For students without sufficient German skills, classes on German language are obligatory in the soft skills area.

### **Overall Programme Learning Outcomes**

After completing this course of study, students

- have a good working knowledge of theoretical approaches and methodology in literary and cultural studies, linguistics and medieval English studies;
- can use this on analysing texts and critically reflecting on secondary literature;
- can also use this on analysing linguistic data from both historical and current corpora;

- have a good overview knowledge of historical periods in the development of literature and culture of the Anglophone and North American regions;
- have studied in depth specific areas, topics or authors with a view to both understanding their complexity and critically examining their workings and uses;
- have similarly studied linguistic data and developments in depth;
- have gained insight into the development of English as well as of Anglophone literature prior to the Renaissance;
- have the methodological and practical knowledge to do research on a particular topic or area of interest to them, either in literary and cultural or linguistic areas;
- have the critical and analytical skills to turn their research interest into a thesis of about 25,000 words.

### Which Module Should I Take in Which Semester?

Students have to collect credits from various areas:

- obligatory modules on Academic writing skills, on language practice or on American/British Culture and Institutions: 12 credits
- core curriculum modules on topics from literature, culture, linguistics, medieval studies: 60 credits
- completion module in the area where the MA thesis is written: 6 credits
- soft skills modules: 12 credits
- MA thesis: 30 credits

Students have to cover two obligatory modules and can choose from twenty-five 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; the choice of modules outlined here is designed to give students an insight into a maximum range of different areas.

Each standard block is worth 6 credits; double blocks are worth 12 credits. Grey blocks indicate soft skills modules. Blue blocks show obligatory modules. White blocks show elective modules in the core curriculum.

<b>Semester</b>	1	M.EP.15a Advanced English Language Skills OR M.EP.15b American/British Culture and Institutions	M.EP.01a Anglophone Literature and Culture	M.EP.01b North American Literature and Culture	M.EP.020 Introduction to English Linguistics	German A1 (for students with no German language skills)	30	<b>credits in total</b>
	2	M.EP.14 Academic Writing and Research Skills	M.EP.04a Advanced Anglophone Literature and Culture	M.EP.02b/02c Medieval English Studies	M.EP.05a Advanced English Linguistics	German A2	30	
	3	M.EP.09a Research Course: Anglophone Literature and Culture		M.EP.10c Anglophone Literature(s) – Developments and Contrasts			24	
	4	M.EP.06a Completion Module in Anglophone Literature and Culture	MA Thesis (30 credits)				36	

= 120 credits

The modules are explained in more detail in the following. Note that, in this study programme, students prepare for their MA thesis on Anglophone Literature and Culture by taking the research-oriented module M.EP.09a; this is followed by the thesis, which in turn is accompanied by a completion module. Students wishing to write their thesis e.g. in English Linguistics would exchange M.EP.09a for M.EP.09c - a research-oriented module offered by the Linguistics department - and M.EP.06a for M.EP.07a, the Linguistics completion module. A full description of the modules can be found online.

### 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.01a: *Anglophone Literature and Culture* – 6 credits (ELECTIVE)

This module **introduces students to the study of Anglophone Literature and Culture**. It combines a lecture with independent studies. The **lecture** covers a general overview of the literature and culture of a certain period of time, e.g. the eighteenth century, or a particular topic, e.g. travel literature.

The **independent study section** accompanies the lecture by deepening students' knowledge on cultural and literary theories which are instrumental in doing in-depth academic research. Students are expected to read up on specified texts and theories, to summarise and critically analyse them.

The module finishes with a **written end-of-term** or an **oral exam** focusing on the contents of the lecture but taking the skills acquired independently into account. The competences acquired help students to deal with cultural products which are a vital part of this course of studies.

- M.EP.01b: *North American Literature and Culture* – 6 credits (ELECTIVE)

This module introduces students to the study of North American Literature and Culture through a lecture series on American Literary and Cultural History or on Literary, Cultural and Media Theory. The module finishes with a **written exam**. Through this module, students gain insights in the field of studies covered by the North American Studies department and into the necessary methods and theories.

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

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.).

- *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 completing 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.04a: *Advanced Anglophone Literature and Culture* – 6 credits  
(OBLIGATORY)

The advanced module grants deeper insights into the study of Anglophone Literature and Culture. The knowledge and competences from the basic module are honed and applied in new contexts. Students can choose from a variety of seminars and lectures for this module to meet their individual ambitions, e.g. seminars on Shakespearean tragedies, their transformation into a TV series, or on postcolonial theory. This **topic-centred seminar** is combined with a lecture that focuses on a specific literary period or topic; the **lecture** serves to give additional background information to help understand the seminar discussions.

The module ends with a **term paper** of about 7500 words on a topic from the seminar. After having finished the module, students have access to the research module. This means that at this point, they will have acquired all the competences needed to work with academic literature and form a balanced critical opinion of their own based on the theories used.

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

This module combines a **lecture** which is designed as an **overview** of 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.05a: *Advanced English Linguistics* – 6 credits (ELECTIVE)

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.

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

This serves just 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 in this semester: 30**  
**Overall credits: 60**

### Semester III:

- M.EP.09a: *Research Course: Anglophone Literature and Culture* – 12 credits  
(OBLIGATORY)

The research module combines a **colloquium** with independent studies. This leads to unique research projects which will be accompanied by regular meetings with lecturers where students present their results and discuss their progress. On the one hand, this is a perfect preparation for the MA thesis, and on the other hand it paves the way to follow one's own interests in the world of cultural and literary studies. Students have to show that they are capable of working on their own, developing research questions, come up with fitting methods to answer them and reflect on the results to improve their following projects.

The module ends with a **portfolio** which contains the various parts of drafting a research project (e.g. an annotated bibliography, critical summaries of secondary literature, reflections on possible methodologies). Students should note that they will spend most of the time outside the classroom, and plan accordingly.

- M.EP.10c: *Anglophone Literature(s) – Developments and Contrasts* – 12 credits  
(ELECTIVE)

This module **deepens students' knowledge of Anglophone literary history** from the Renaissance to the present day. It combines two **advanced courses (either lectures or seminars)** with **independent studies**. The two courses selected have to be completely different in focus. In the independent studies part, the themes and texts dealt with in class will be deepened in theory and methods-based self-study and literary and cultural critical skills extended. The module ends with an **oral exam** (30 mins.) in which students have to demonstrate their knowledge on literary historical, cultural historical and reception history gained in the advanced courses and independently. Students show that they can present methodologically sound theories and research positions and that they can recognize, outline and critically reflect on lines of development within individual periods of Anglophone literary history.

**Credits earned in this semester: 24**  
**Overall credits: 84**

#### **Semester IV:**

- M.EP.06a: *Completion Module in Anglophone Literature and Culture* – 6 credits  
(OBLIGATORY - AREA ELECTIVE)

This module is 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 module ends with an **oral exam** in which the key ideas and results of the MA thesis are presented and discussed critically.

- *Thesis* - 30 credits (OBLIGATORY - AREA ELECTIVE)

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***