



UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Program description

Master in Theoretical Linguistics

120 credits

Tromsø

The program description has been approved by the board of Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education. Revised September 2018. Revised October 2021.



Study programme name	Bokmål: Master i teoretisk lingvistikk Nynorsk: Master i teoretisk lingvistikk Engelsk: Master in Theoretical Linguistics
Degree obtained	Master's of Philosophy in Linguistics
Target group	The programme is well suited for students who wish to study language from a comparative perspective.
Admission requirements, required prerequisite, recommended prerequisite knowledge	Admission to the Master's programme in Theoretical Linguistics requires a Bachelor's Degree (180 ECTS), or equivalent qualification, in a language or linguistics, or a degree combining linguistics and literature (minimum 80 ECTS in linguistics/language/literature, of which minimum 60 ECTS must be in linguistics and/or language). Applicants who hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent issued in Europe, Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand: An average grade C as a minimum requirement. Applicants who hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent issued in countries other than the above mentioned region/countries: An average grade B as a minimum requirement. A special interest in the formal and descriptive properties of natural language is a precondition. The application deadline for applicants from Norway or Nordic countries is • 15 April for admission to the autumn semester The application deadline for international applicants is • 15 November for admission to the autumn semester. More information on admission requirements is found at the UiT website.
The study programme's Learning Outcome	After completing the Master's programme in Theoretical Linguistics the candidate will have the following learning outcomes: Knowledge: The candidate has: • specialised knowledge of a linguistic subfield through work with the Master's Thesis • deeper knowledge of theoretical linguistics through the study of core subjects • broadened knowledge of adjoining fields through elective courses • a critical view of the theories and methods that have been informing linguistic research

	Skills: The candidate can: • orient himself or herself in linguistic scientific literature with special regard to the development of theory and methods, and to earlier research • solve problems, analyze linguistic data, and present findings according to academic standards • communicate scientific content at a high level General competence: The candidate is able to: • work in occupations that require thorough knowledge of human language and/or experience with independent project work • analyze academic, professional and research ethical problems in linguistics • apply his/her knowledge and skills in new linguistic areas in order to carry out advanced assignments and projects • communicate extensive independent work and masters language and terminology of linguistics • communicate about linguistic issues, analyses and conclusions, both with specialists and the general public • contribute to new thinking and innovation processes in linguistic theorizing
Academic content and description of the study programme	The Master's in Theoretical Linguistics covers graduate level studies in theoretical linguistics, and is to be seen as an extension of work at the Bachelor's level. The programme places special emphasis on the formal aspects of grammar, in particular syntax and phonology. The approach to these disciplines relies on comparative studies of different languages. Students will develop insight into the structure of language, comparative aspects of linguistic research, social and geographic variation, the historical development of languages, and language acquisition. At the Master's level, students will develop special interests based on their coursework and will write either a Master's Thesis or two article-length papers. The programme consists of the following components: • 60 ECTS of coursework and • 60 ECTS for either (1) one thesis, or (2) two articles. The two elective ten credit courses can come from any 3000-level course in language or linguistics offered by the groups for English and General Linguistics. Other courses may be accepted (e.g. courses in

	philosophy, psychology, mathematics, and so on), subject to approval by the Head of Linguistics and English Language. <i>Interdisciplinary courses</i> Several "interdisciplinary" courses are offered, and these courses are assigned a HIF-code in the university catalogue. Not all of the HIF-courses, however, may be appropriate for incorporation into the programme. To find out which HIF-courses are accepted as part of the Master in Theoretical Linguistics, please contact the programme staff. <i>Progression</i> The following courses are compulsory in Semester 1: HIF-3010 Syntax I, and HIF-3022 Phonology I. In addition students are required to complete an elective course. The following courses are compulsory in Semester 2: HIF-3011 Syntax II, and HIF-3021 Phonology II. In addition students are required to complete an elective course. Elective courses may be selected from the list of courses offered by the groups for English, Finnish, Linguistics, Scandinavian, Russian and Saami. Note that elective courses should be oriented to theory of language rather than practical language learning. It is also possible to take courses offered by other Faculties as long as their relevance to the degree can be documented. This is a full time study in Tromsø. It is possible to take courses abroad in the second semester.																	
Table: programme structure	<table><tr><th>Semester</th><th>10 credits</th><th>10 credits</th><th>10 credits</th></tr><tr><td>Semester 1</td><td>HIF-3010 Syntax I</td><td>HIF-3022 Phonology I</td><td>Elective course</td></tr><tr><td>Semester 2</td><td>HIF-3011 Syntax II</td><td>HIF-3021 Phonology II</td><td>Elective course</td></tr><tr><td>Semester 3</td><td colspan="3" rowspan="2">LIN-3990 Master's Thesis in Linguistics</td></tr><tr><td>Semester 4</td></tr></table>	Semester	10 credits	10 credits	10 credits	Semester 1	HIF-3010 Syntax I	HIF-3022 Phonology I	Elective course	Semester 2	HIF-3011 Syntax II	HIF-3021 Phonology II	Elective course	Semester 3	LIN-3990 Master's Thesis in Linguistics			Semester 4
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Learning activities, examination and assessment	Teaching takes the form of lectures and seminars. The most common forms of examination are home exams written on assigned topics over a one-two week period or term papers on topics that students choose in cooperation with course instructor. Grades range from A-F, where A is the highest grade and F is fail. As a Master's student, you will be assigned a supervisor who will monitor your progress throughout your studies. The Master's thesis project is developed in discussion with the supervisor taking into account the ongoing research activity and expertise in the department to find a topic that is at the forefront of current linguistic theorizing. The Master's Thesis will be assigned a grade (from A to F); the coursework will be graded on the same scale. For information about examinations, please see the individual course descriptions.																	

	All course work is processed electronically via the university's web-based services. Students are encouraged to take an active role in their education and give lecturers and their supervisor feedback on the learning process and teaching methods used. Students are also encouraged to participate actively in the research environment by attending research seminars, colloquia, and workshops and conferences organized by the research groups CASTL-FISH and AcqVA Aurora connected to the programme.
Summary of coursework requirements and assessment	For further information about work requirements, exam format and evaluative criteria, see the individual course descriptions on the UiT website.
The study programme's relevance	The programme is an excellent starting-point for further study at the PhD-level. It also qualifies candidates for work in occupations that require specialized insight into language and/or experience with independent project work, for example programming, administration, industry or the media.
Work scope	The Master's in Theoretical Linguistics is a demanding programme that requires the student to work throughout the term. The students are expected to spend 40 hours per week on their studies, including preparation for lectures and seminars, work on term papers and other assignments.
For master's theses/independent work in master's degrees	The degree includes 60 ECTS which must be earned either (i) by writing one Master's Thesis (60 ECTS) or (ii) by writing two papers (30 ECTS each). This work is normally done individually, but may be part of a research project being carried out at the Department of Language and Culture (ISK). The topic and supervisors for this work will be chosen in consultation with one of the academic staff. There is no other restriction on the subfield of linguistics that the thesis should deal with, but it is expected that the content be contextualized to reflect an understanding of the relevant issues from linguistic theory. This applies also to those opting to write two papers, but in this case the two papers cannot be in the same subfield.
Language of instruction and examination	The language of instruction, of all syllabus material, and of exams is English.
Internationalisation	The programme is embedded in a thriving international research environment and students are encouraged to get into contact with guest researchers from abroad. Furthermore, the department has a well-stocked portfolio of Erasmus agreements, which the students can make use of.
Student exchange	Students taking the Master's in Theoretical Linguistics are encouraged to make use of one of our exchange agreements in the second semester.

Administrative responsibility and academic responsibility	Administration of the program is handled by the Department of Language and Culture within the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education. Academic responsibility is handled by the Head of Linguistics and English Language.
Quality assurance	The programme quality is evaluated every year. All courses will be evaluated once during the period of the study programme. The Head of Linguistics and English Language decides which methods are to be made use of for the evaluation, as well as how the results should be reported back to the students and used for the improvement of the programme.

