



UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Program description

Master's Programme in English Acquisition and Multilingualism

120 credits
Tromsø

The programme description has been approved by the board of The Faculty of Humanities, Social Science and Education on 14.09.2017. Reviewed March 2023



Study programme name	Bokmål: Mastergradsprogram i engelsk språktilegnelse og flerspråklighet Nynorsk: Mastergradsprogram i engelsk språktilegning og fleirspråklegheit Engelsk: Master's Programme in English Acquisition and Multilingualism
Degree obtained	Master of English Linguistics with a specialization in Language Acquisition and Multilingualism
Target group	The Master in English Acquisition and Multilingualism is well suited for students who are interested in how mental grammars are acquired, how they may vary, and how they may be lost or weakened through lack of exposure and use in multilingual contexts. The programme is also well suited for students with a general interest in English linguistics. Students admitted to the programme will be closely integrated into the AcqVA (Acquisition, Variation and Attrition) Aurora Centre, which is an active and productive research group producing cutting edge research on various aspects pertaining to multilingualism and multilingual language acquisition. The students will get the opportunity to carry out hands on research and co-publish with the members of the group. The programme is particularly well suited for students who want to pursue a career within research.
Admission requirements, required prerequisite, recommended prerequisite knowledge	Admission to the master's programme in English Acquisition and Multilingualism requires a bachelor's degree (180 ECTS), or equivalent qualification, in English language, or a degree combining English language and literature (minimum 80 ECTS in English). Applicants need an average minimum grade of C or better from the bachelor's degree to be admitted to the master's program. Applicants from Norway or Nordic countries: • The application deadline for Norwegian and other Nordic applicants is 15 April (for admission to the autumn semester) • <u>Her finner du all informasjon knyttet til søking og opptak.</u> Applicants from outside the Nordic countries: • The application deadline for international applicants is 15 November (for admission to the autumn semester) • Applicants with education from non-Nordic countries must document English language proficiency. <u>You will find more information about English language requirements here.</u> • <u>You will find more information about international admission here.</u> (Please note that all questions related to the admission process should be directed to the International Admission Office at the university).

The study programme's Learning Outcome	Upon the completion of the Master's programme the candidate will have the following learning outcomes: Knowledge The candidate has extensive knowledge about: • the acquisition of English as a first, second and third language • different theoretical accounts of language acquisition, variation and attrition, both in general and with regard to specific linguistic phenomena • how languages may influence each other in multilingual situations, and which factors determine the direction of this influence • how the English language can both affect and be affected by contact with other languages, and how this has shaped varieties of English around the world • methodological approaches to the study of acquisition, variation and attrition Skills The candidate can: • make use of available literature appropriately and evaluate it critically • identify linguistic structures in language acquisition, variation and attrition that may add to our knowledge of these phenomena • make use of appropriate methodology to study language acquisition, variation, and attrition, taking into account the context in which the relevant phenomenon occurs and the speakers it affects • apply a theoretical framework to the linguistic structure in question, even when this represents a novel analysis of the relevant linguistic data • undertake a small research project with the help of a supervisor General competence The candidate is able to: • apply methodological and theoretical knowledge to other linguistic contexts • communicate academic content in a way appropriate for audiences of both experts and the general public, and can do this both orally and in writing
Academic content and description of the study programme	The Master comprises a course component of 60 ECTS and a thesis of 60 ECTS. The course work consists of five compulsory modules; two of these will run in the Autumn (first semester) and three will be offered in the Spring (second semester):

- ENG-3019 Psycholinguistics and Neurocognition of Multilingualism (10 ECTS)
- ENG-3050 Second Language Acquisition (10 ECTS)
- ENG-3060 Multilingualism (10 ECTS)
- ENG-3070 Varieties of English (10 ECTS)
- HIF-3082 Quantitative Methods in Linguistics (10 ECTS)

In addition, the student can choose between the following two or three courses in the first semester (Autumn):

- HIF-3010 Syntax I (10 ECTS), or
- HIF-3022 Phonology I (10 ECTS), or
- ENG-3040 First Language Acquisition (10 ECTS, may not run every autumn)

The five compulsory components represent the core of the programme and provide the students with a solid empirical and theoretical background in issues pertaining to language acquisition, variation and attrition in monolingual and multilingual situations. The courses investigate how English is acquired in different contexts, including monolingual first language acquisition, bilingual first language acquisition, child and adult second language acquisition, as well as the acquisition of a third (or more) language(s).

The courses also consider how the simultaneous or sequential acquisition of two or more languages affects both general cognition and any other languages the speaker knows. This includes the study of heritage languages, that is, minority languages that develop in small communities removed from the geographical area where these languages were originally (and still are) spoken. In this connection, the candidate will be exposed to ongoing discussions in the field regarding how heritage languages should be characterised.

In the course of the study programme, students will get a thorough overview of varieties of English. This includes both macro and micro-variation. Micro-variation is manifested in different dialects of English, while macro-variation pertains to how different Englishes are the result of different acquisition and language contact situations. As a consequence of the latter, multilingualism may influence the course of development of a language, and the many varieties of English in the world today are good examples of this.

Finally, the study programme provides a foundation in linguistic theory and quantitative methods in order to prepare the students for the more independent work on the MA thesis.

Table: programme structure

In odd number years, the courses are offered in the following order:

Semester	10 credits	10 credits	10 credits
1. semester	ENG-3019 Psycholinguistics and Neurocognition of Multilingualism	ENG-3060 Multilingualism	HIF-3010 Syntax I, or HIF-3022 Phonology I or ENG-3040 First Language Acquisition (may not run every autumn)
2. semester	ENG-3050 Second Language Acquisition, or exchange	ENG-3070 Varieties of English, or exchange	HIF-3082, Quantitative Methods in Linguistics, or exchange
3. semester	ENG-3991 MA-thesis in English Linguistics		
4. semester			

In even number years, the courses are offered in the following order:

Semester	10 credits	10 credits	10 credits
1. semester	ENG-3050 Second Language Acquisition	ENG-3070 Varieties of English	HIF-3010 Syntax I, or HIF-3022 Phonology I or ENG-3040 First Language Acquisition (may not run every autumn)
2. semester	ENG-3019 Psycholinguistics and Neurocognition of Multilingualism, or exchange	ENG-3060 Multilingualism, or exchange	HIF-3082, Quantitative Methods in Linguistics, or exchange
3. semester	ENG-3991 MA-thesis in English Linguistics		
4. semester			

Learning activities, examination and assessment	The course work consists of a combination of lectures and seminars. The candidate is expected to take an active part in their own learning experience, and to accept an offer to study on the programme is to agree to do so. All courses include various compulsory assignments, such as oral presentations, problem-solving tasks, and smaller paper assignments. These assignments must be approved in order to take the exam. 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. 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	With increasing migration, experts on multilingualism are constantly becoming more sought after in both public and private workplaces. The Master's in English Acquisition and Multilingualism provides the candidate with a solid background in language acquisition and multilingualism and educates candidates that are well suited for work in educational institutions, administrative public institutions related to issues of multilingualism, as well as international associations, organisations, and enterprises that are multilingual or deal with multilingual and multicultural issues. The programme is also an excellent starting-point for further study at the PhD-level, as it provides the candidate with in-depth training in an exceptional research environment which places a great deal of emphasis on teamwork and co-publishing.
Work scope	The Master's in English Acquisition and Multilingualism 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 Master includes a theoretically informed piece of independent research on a limited topic within English linguistics under supervision, in most cases related to acquisition, variation, attrition or other aspects of multilingualism. The Master's thesis should be 70-100 pages in length (1.5 spacing, Times New Roman 12), and should involve one year of full-time work (semesters 3 and 4). The topic of research will be decided upon in collaboration with the AcqVA Aurora research group. Students are also encouraged to present their on- going work at the AcqVA lunch seminar.

Language of instruction and examination	<i>English</i>
Internationalisation	The programme's international profile is ensured in the following ways: • by including international literature in the reading lists • by making use of international guest lecturers • by having international exchange students visit UiT • by encouraging local students to make use of our international exchange agreements • by allowing data collection to take place in another country • by making it possible for students to attend an international conference
Student exchange	Students taking the Master's in English Acquisition and Multilingualism are encouraged to make use of one of our exchange agreements in the second and/or third semester. We especially recommend our agreements with the following institutions: The University of Konstanz, which offers an MA in Multilingualism: https://www.ling.uni-konstanz.de/studium/master-of-arts/ma-multilingualism/ The University of York (via the Norwegian Study Centre in York): https://www.york.ac.uk/nsc/masters/why-masters/ Both these institutions offer MA programmes with a high degree of thematic overlap with the MA in English Acquisition and Multilingualism, making a high level of overlap in the course work possible while on an exchange in the second term. However, as both institutions also offer a wide variety of programmes and courses in adjoining areas, an exchange will also open up possibilities for course work on related topics relevant to the MA-thesis. Students are required to take 30 ECTS in their second semester. For exchanges that continue into the third semester, students will work on their theses under the supervision of a UiT instructor, while simultaneously benefitting from the international experience.
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 programme board.
Quality assurance	The programme will be evaluated every year, while the courses will be evaluated once during the two-year period of the study programme. The board of the programme 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.
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