POSTGRADUATE GUIDE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDENTS

WHAT TOPICS CAN I WRITE ABOUT?
WHAT COURSES CAN I ATTEND?
HOW DOES SUPERVISION OF MY THESIS WORK?
Dear M.A. student,

What should I write about in my M.A. thesis? That is the question that you will have to ask yourself now that you begin your studies at the English Language program. In your second year of studies you will write a 60 credits master's thesis, ENG4190. During your first year you will attend the obligatory course ENG4100 where you will write a thesis outline. You decide the topic for your thesis in the outline. You can choose between many topics inside the academic field of English language, but not everything.

It is important that your topic derives from one or more of the courses that you attend in your first year. You cannot choose a topic for your M.A. thesis that is outside of the academic fields we offer. The teachers that supervise will be introduced in this guide.

To receive a supervisor you need to attend ENG4100 and hand in your thesis outline at the end of the course and get it approved. You will then receive a supervisor based on your thesis outline. You will be able to indicate who you want as your supervisor, but it is first and foremost the topic of your thesis that decides which supervisor you get. You will receive an e-mail from the supervisor you have been handed. It is important that you print out and sign the “agreement of supervision” as soon as possible and hand it in to your student advisor. The agreement can be found on the webpage for your M.A. thesis ENG4190.

✓ Read the course description and information for ENG4190 online. You will find most of the information you need there.

✓ Read the “agreement of supervision” thoroughly and know what we demand of you. It can be useful to go through the agreement with your supervisor the first time you meet. You should also decide with your supervisor how much, and how often, you should hand in each time, and other practical things that are useful to have a common understanding of. You should also make a small progression-report.

✓ You have two years to finish your degree as a M.A. student at the English Language program. If you do not have the opportunity to be a full time student, or you need leave, then you can apply for it here: http://www.hf.uio.no/studier/admin/master/

All the supervisors in English language are presented in the following pages with information about their current research, what courses they teach and what topics they can supervise. For a more detailed list of their publications you can go on www.uio.no and visit their UiO homepage by searching on their name.
Topics I can supervise:

Phonology (historical and modern), historical linguistics, language change, translation

Courses I teach:
ENG2156/4156 – History of the English Language
ENG3100 – Thesis course, English Language
ENG4103 – Historical English Syntax

Current research:
Phonological change (qualitative vs. quantitative changes, isolative vs. combinative changes, merger, near-merger, etc.); Middle English dialectology; language change and linguistic evolution, including more theoretical and general issues; using historical corpora. Contrastive analysis

Topics I can supervise:
Modern English grammar, phraseology, corpus linguistics, contrastive analysis and learner language analysis.

Courses I teach:
ENG4100 – English Language Research: Methods and Thesis Outline
ENG4102 – Phraseology in English
ENG4106 – Contrastive analysis: Syntax, lexis, discourse
ENG2162 – Contrastive and Learner Language Analysis

Current research:
Contrastive phraseology, contrastive analysis and learner language analysis.
Bergljot Behrens
Associate Professor

Topics I can supervise:
Contrastive linguistics, semantic and pragmatic approaches to empirical language studies, cognitive approaches to L2 acquisition, translation studies

Courses I teach:
TRANS 4102 – Pragmatikk I oversettelse og kontrastiv tekstanalyse
TRANS 4111 – Teori og metode I oversettelsesstudier
ENG 2157/4157 – Semantics and Pragmatics

Current research:
Cross-linguistic differences in L1 and L2 production: translators, learners.

Johan Elness
Professor

Topics I can supervise:
Modern English language, contrastive analysis, corpus linguistics, historical English syntax and global English (British, American, New Zealander (?), South African English)

Courses I teach:
ENG1100 – English Grammar, an introduction.
ENG2152/4152 – Varieties of English Texts
ENG2163/4163 – Global English
ENG4103 – Historical English Syntax
ENG4108 – Tense and aspect in English

Current research:
English corpus linguistics. Tense and aspect in English. Diachronic English syntax, Language and culture. Global English
Topics I can supervise:
Topics in English grammar and phraseology, systemic functional grammar, contrastive analysis and learner language analysis.

Courses I teach:
ENG2151/4151 – Systemic Functional Grammar, introduction
ENG2162 – Contrastive and Learner Language Analysis
ENG4100 - English Language Research: Methods and Thesis Outline
ENG4106 - Contrastive analysis: Syntax, lexis, discourse
ENG4115 – Texture and Linguistic Structure

Current research:
English functional grammar (syntax), theme-rheme structure, contrastive linguistics, phraseology (advanced learner English), English as a second language.

Topics I can supervise:
Topics within second language acquisition, contrastive linguistics and translation, certain aspects of semantics and pragmatics (especially reference, number and definiteness in the noun phrase, speech acts, politeness).

Courses I teach:
ENG2158/4158 – Translation into English
ENG2157/4157 – Semantics and Pragmatics
ENG4116 – Second Language Acquisition

Current research:
The acquisition of articles and plural markers, noun phrase structure, definiteness, classifiers.
Topics I can supervise:
Topics relevant to courses I teach.

Courses I teach:
ENG2154/4154 – Old English, Introduction
ENG2160/4160 – Language and Settlement in English, ca. 400-1200 A.D.
ENG2164/4164 – The World of Beowulf
ENG4110 – Older English Philology and Literature

Current research:

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The duration of this programme is four semesters (two years)

It consists of a Master’s thesis (60 credits) and a series of courses (60 credits), 120 credits in total. The selected courses should be relevant to the work on the Master’s thesis.

Guidelines for selecting courses:

Obligatory courses:

- ENG4190 - Master Thesis in Languages: English

Choose one of the following method courses (10 credits):

- ENG4100 - English Language Research: Methods and Thesis Outline (10 credits), or
- LING4101 - Språkvitenskapens vitenskapsteori (10 credits)

50 credits elective courses:

- **Maximum 30 credits from Group 1.** Group 1 contains courses where Bachelor and Master students are taught together (joint 2000/4000 level). At least one course in language history and one in modern language should be included. If this requirement is fulfilled in the Bachelor’s degree, it does not apply to the Master’s degree, and you can choose freely among the courses in Group 1.

- **Minimum 20 credits from Group 2.** Group 2 contains courses that are exclusively for MA students (4000 level only).

- Up to 20 credits may be chosen freely among other language courses common to the Language programme. Non-linguistics courses (civilization/literature from English-speaking areas) can be chosen if the course is relevant to the Master’s thesis and has been approved by the supervisor. These 20 credits can replace courses from group 1.
ELECTIVE COURSES

Courses in Group 1:

- ENG4151 - Systemic Functional Grammar, introduction
- ENG4152 - Varieties of English Texts
- ENG4154 - Old English, Introduction
- ENG4155 - Aspects of Chaucerian Language and Literature
- ENG4156 - History of the English Language
- ENG4157 - Semantics and Pragmatics
- ENG4158 - Translation into English
- ENG4159 - Accents of English in the British Isles
- ENG4160 - Language and Settlement in England, ca. 400-1200 A.D.
- ENG4163 - Global English
- ENG4164 - The World of Beowulf

Courses in Group 2:

- EDID4010 - Fundamental concepts of teaching English as a Foreign Language
- ENG4102 - Phraseology in English
- ENG4103 - Historical English Syntax
- ENG4104 - Chaucer and the Manuscript Tradition
- ENG4106 - Contrastive analysis: Syntax, lexis, discourse
- ENG4108 - Tense and aspect in English
- ENG4110 - Older English Philology and Literature
- ENG4115 - Texture and Linguistic Structure
- ENG4116 - Second Language Acquisition

Please see the program structure online for list of courses common to the Language program:

http://www.uio.no/english/studies/programmes/languages-master/programme-options/english/structure/
The table below shows the structure of the MA degree:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>languages</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. semester</td>
<td><strong>ENG4190 - Master Thesis in Languages: English</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. semester</td>
<td><strong>ENG4190 - Master Thesis in Languages: English</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. semester</td>
<td>Course from group 2 / studies abroad</td>
<td>Modern language course / studies abroad</td>
<td>Method course at 4000 level / studies abroad</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. semester</td>
<td>Language history course</td>
<td>Course from group 2</td>
<td>Freely chosen course</td>
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<td>10 ECTS credits</td>
<td>10 ECTS credits</td>
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The Master’s thesis in English language will normally comprise 80-100 pages. No matter the type of thesis, substantial bibliographic competence is required. The empirical material can be gathered from texts, electronic corpora, oral recordings and – particularly for older English – from manuscripts. The theoretical and methodological basis for the thesis is secured through the methods course and the linguistics courses at 4000 level (particularly from Group 2).

All teaching is conducted in English, and the thesis should be written in English.

The Master’s degree can be taken part-time, by choosing to complete less than full workload each semester.

Contact your **studiekonsulent (student advisor)** if you have any questions regarding structure and accomplishment.

**We want you to study one semester abroad!** If you are interested, please contact your student adviser. If you take LING4101 in your first semester (taught in Norwegian) you can easily take three elective courses while studying abroad in your second semester. You can also find courses that is similar to ENG4100 and get that approved.