
PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

Master in Theoretical Linguistics

120 credits

Tromsø

The programme description has been approved by the board of Faculty of Humanities, Social Science and Education. Revised September 2018.

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	<p>Admission to the Master's programme in Theoretical Linguistics requires a Bachelor's Degree (180 ECTS) in a language or in linguistics, or a degree combining linguistics and literature, or an equivalent qualification. The applicant should have at least three semesters (minimum 80 ECTS) of concentrated work 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 equivalent to C or better in the Norwegian grading system is required. Applicants who hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent issued in countries other than the above mentioned region/countries: An average grade equivalent to B or better in the Norwegian grading system is required.</p> <p>Applicants must enclose an application essay (Statement of purpose) written in English (maximum of two pages). This should include descriptions of their motivation for, interest in and expectations relating to their Master's degree studies and ideas for their Master's Thesis project.</p> <p>Applicants from Norway or Nordic countries:</p> <p>The application deadline for Norwegian and other Nordic applicants is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 April for admission to the autumn semester <p>The application deadline for international applicants is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 December for admission to the autumn semester. <p>More information on admission requirements is found at the UiT website.</p>

<p>The study programme's Learning Outcome</p>	<p>After completing the Master in Theoretical Linguistics the candidate will have the following learning outcomes:</p> <p>Knowledge:</p> <p>The candidate has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 form the foundations for linguistic research <p>Skills:</p> <p>The candidate can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>General competence:</p> <p>The candidate is able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>Faglig innhold og beskrivelse av studiet/ Academic content and discription of the study programme</p>	<p>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</p>

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 programme board.

Interdisciplinary courses

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.

Progression

The following courses are compulsory in Semester 1: HIF-3010 Syntax I, 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 and/or third semester.

Table: programme structure

	<table border="1"> <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
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																		
Learning activities, examination and assessment	<p>Teaching takes the form of lectures and seminars.</p> <p>Assessment is carried out at the end of each course on the basis of a portfolio of the students' written work. 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.</p> <p>All course work is processed electronically via the university's web-based services.</p> <p>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 LAVA connected to the programme.</p>																	
The study programme's relevance	<p>The programme is an excellent starting-point for further study at the PhD-level.</p> <p>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.</p>																	
Work scope	<p>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</p>																	

	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 larger research project being carried out at the faculty, especially projects being carried out at the Center for Advanced Studies in Theoretical Linguistics (CASTL). The topics for this work will be chosen in consultation with one of the academic staff, who will serve as a supervisor. Those opting to write two papers, must write one of them in one of the core disciplines of phonology or syntax. The two papers cannot be in the same field.
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 and/or third semester. Please consult the department's list of Erasmus partners for details.
Administrative responsibility and academic responsibility	Administration of the program is handled by the Department of Language and Culture within the Faculty of Humanities, Social Science and Education. Academic responsibility is handled by the programme board in Theoretical Linguistics.
Quality assurance	The programme quality is evaluated every year. All courses will be evaluated once during the period of the study programme. The programme board 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.