

Master Thesis

2014/2015

Code: 42292

ECTS Credits: 12

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313157 Estudis Anglesos Avançats / Advanced English Studies	OB	0	2

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: anglès (eng)

Some groups entirely in English: No

Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes

Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

Students must have passed the taught part of the master's before they can defend their master's theses.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The objectives of the master's thesis module are:

- (a) Help students decide on a research topic and supervisor according to academic strengths and preferences.
- (b) Provide students with the guidance needed to undertake graduate-level research on English literature, linguistics, language acquisition and language use, with a special focus on multilingual contexts.
- (c) Train students to work autonomously following their supervisor's guidance.

Skills

- Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
- Analyse the relationship between factors, processes or phenomena in the acquisition of English as a second language, its learning and teaching methods, and its literature, history and culture.
- Apply methodological knowledge of statistical analysis and data generation, treatment and codification of multilingual databases, analysis of literary texts, etc. to research.
- Communicate the knowledge acquired and the contributions of ones research correctly, accurately and clearly both orally and in writing.
- Critically argue, issue judgements and present ideas on the basis of the analysis of information originating from scientific production in these areas.
- Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
- Distinguish and contrast between the different methodological and theoretical models applied to the academic study of the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.
- Resolve problems in multicultural academic and/or professional environments associated with the studies of the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, and the literature and culture of this language.

- Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
- Use new technologies for capturing and organising information relevant to lifelong learning and problem-solving in professional activities.
- Use the English language for academic and professional purposes related to research into the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.

Learning outcomes

1. Analyse and interpret at an advanced level literary texts and critical texts concerning English Philology, extracting relevant citations and making content summaries.
2. Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
3. Apply an autonomous methodology to research, based on the application of scientific currents in relation to English Philology.
4. Carry out statistical analyses, generate, treat and codify data for multilingual databases, analyse literary texts, etc. following the appropriate research methodology.
5. Communicate the knowledge acquired and the contributions of ones research correctly, accurately and clearly both orally and in writing.
6. Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
7. Distinguish and contrast the different theoretical and methodological models applied to the academic study of English Philology.
8. Make an oral presentation in English to an examining board on a subject related to advanced research into English Philology.
9. Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
10. Use new technologies for capturing and organising information relevant to lifelong learning and problem-solving in professional activities.
11. Use secondary sources related to English Philology.
12. Write up one's own research study in relation to an aspect of English Philology, applying secondary sources to the critical argumentation.

Content

Students will have to submit a 30-50 page original research paper dissertation. The paper may be on any topic that relates to any of the subjects included in the master's programme and/or within the area of expertise of professors in the programme.

Language students may choose to write an empirical research paper (an experimental or ethnographic study with a final written report) or a theoretical paper (for instance, a *critical* state-of the art essay which may include descriptive data and linguistic argumentation). Literature students will undertake a dissertation on an approved topic in their specialist area (i.e. either history of English and American literature and criticism or cultural studies).

There will be guidance at the beginning of the academic year for the selection of Master's Thesis topics and supervisors.

Methodology

Students will have regular meetings with their supervisor to discuss and assess the progress of their master's thesis. This involves active preparation for supervision sessions and a great deal of autonomous work in data collection, data analysis and writing up.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Supervised			
Master's Thesis preparation, writing and defence	300	12	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Evaluation

The master's thesis will have to be defended orally before a committee of three members. Students will be assessed on the basis of both the written thesis and the oral presentation.

The TFM coordinator is the person you should contact:

- if you experience problems with your supervisor
- to find out about relevant deadlines
- for administrative information (how and where to apply for your MA certificate, for example)

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Master's Thesis	100%	0	0	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Bibliography

Blanpain, K. (2006) *Academic Writing in the Humanities and Social Sciences: A Resource for Researchers*. Leuven: ACCO.

Clark, I. (2006) *Writing the Successful Thesis and Dissertation: Entering the Conversation*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Swales, J. and C. Feak (2000) *English in Today's Research World*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Wray, A., A. Bloomer and K. Trott (1998) *Research projects in Linguistics: A Practical Guide for Researching Language*. London: Arnold.