

Master's Degree Dissertation

Code: 42292
ECTS Credits: 12

| Degree | Type | Year | Semester |
|----------------------------------|------|------|----------|
| 4313157 Advanced English Studies | OB | 0 | 2 |

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

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) Helping students decide on a research topic and supervisor according to academic strengths and preferences.

(b) Providing 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) Training students to work autonomously following their supervisor's guidance.

Competences

- 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 one's 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 can be on a 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.

Students in the Language specialization can choose to carry out an empirically-oriented dissertation (an experimental or ethnographic study with a final written report) or a theoretically-oriented dissertation (for instance, a critical essay on the state-of-the-art that could include descriptive data and linguistic argumentation). Students in the Literature specialization will carry out a dissertation on a topic within their area (for example, history of English and American literature, and critical or cultural studies).

A list of possible master's thesis titles for students to choose from will be provided at the beginning of the academic year. There will be guidance for the selection of master's thesis topics and supervisors.

Methodology

The Masters Thesis must follow the Department of English's Paper Guidelines.

CALENDAR

October: General meeting with the MA Theses Coordinator

November-December: Supervisor assignment

January-February: Proposal

March-April: 5-page slice (Literature specialisation) and Workplan (Language specialisation)

May-June: Final draft submission

End of June: Official submission of MA Theses

July: Oral Defence by mid July.

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, 5, 9, 6, 7, 11, 4, 8, 12, 10 |

Assessment

The master's thesis will have to be defended orally before a committee of two 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 or to find out about relevant deadlines.

Supervisors have to approve a thesis before it is submitted for its defense.

Students are required to employ non-sexist language in their written and oral productions. For guidelines on how to do this, they are advised to check the website of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA)

VERY IMPORTANT: Total or partial plagiarism of any of the exercises will automatically be considered "fail" (0) for the plagiarized item. Plagiarism is copying one or more sentences from unidentified sources, presenting it as original work (THIS INCLUDES COPYING PHRASES OR FRAGMENTS FROM THE INTERNET AND ADDING THEM WITHOUT MODIFICATION TO A TEXT WHICH IS PRESENTED AS ORIGINAL). Plagiarism is a serious offense. Students must learn to respect the intellectual property of others, identifying any source they may use, and take responsibility for the originality and authenticity of the texts they produce.

Assessment Activities

| Title | Weighting | Hours | ECTS | Learning Outcomes |
|-------|-----------|-------|------|-------------------|
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Bibliography

Bell, Judith. 2010. *Doing your research project. A guide for first-time researchers in education, health and social science*. Open Up Study Skills (5th Edition), UK.

Galvan, Jose L. and Galvan, Melisa C. 2017. *Writing Literature Reviews. A guide for Students of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. London: Routledge (7th Edition).

Hyland, Ken. 2008. *English for Academic Purposes. An advanced resource book*. New York: Routledge.

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Van Geyte, Els. 2013. *Writing: Learn to write better academic essays*. Academic Skills Series. London: Collins EAP.

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Wray, Alison and Aileen Bloomer. 2006. *Projects in Linguistics. A practical guide to researching Language*. London: Hodder Education (2nd Edition).