MA in Linguistics

2018-2019

UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics

Contents

1. **Overview of the MA in Linguistics**

The MA in Linguistics introduces students to current research approaches, methods and theories in core areas of linguistics as well as their effective application to a wide range of language-based phenomena. The program provides relevant qualifications for students who seek employment in a broad range of language related jobs or a professional career in linguistics and related fields.

The program nurtures core academic values such as the importance of systematic and empirically-based investigation of language phenomena based on critical reflection of existing theories and approaches. It promotes the importance of a multi-method approach to exploring language phenomena and emphasizes the relevance of interdisciplinary and inter-cultural perspectives.

The program develops students' academic communication skills, autonomous individual and group learning and research skills, and enhances pattern recognition and empirical study design skills through a variety of teaching and learning approaches. They include critical assessment of existing studies, methods and theories, hands-on group and individual project work, problem-based research approaches, group discussions and oral presentations.

The program provides a flexible learning environment in that it encourages students to identify and pursue their own research interests in relation to language through a wide range of option modules, while at the same time acquiring in-depth subject knowledge and competency as well as indispensable transferrable skills. These skills are acquired through module-based learning and significantly enhanced through work on a substantial independent research project, the minor MA thesis, during semester three.

Programme outcomes
- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the scientific principles, processes and approaches that underpin linguistic reasoning, analysis and research.
- Students will be able to critically analyse secondary sources, primary empirical data and existing research methods.
- Students will be able to systematically apply language-based theories, approaches and research methods to a wide range of related contexts such as language learning, language documentation, language awareness, language technology, language planning
- Students will be able to design coherent studies on a wide range of language-based phenomena, systematically analyze such phenomena and coherently communicate the findings.
- Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to use electronic research tools commonly used in linguistics.
- Students will be able to •demonstrate the ability to apply key transferable skills – presentation, information gathering and assessment, group-work and academic writing skills.

- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and the ability to systematically apply ethical standards in Human Subject research.

2.   Contact details for Linguistics staff

Dr Máire Ní Chiosáin Head of Linguistics MA Coordinator	maire.nichiosain@ucd.ie Office: Roebuck Castle 114 [*temporary*]
Professor Bettina Migge Head of School	bettinamigge@ucd.ie Office: A312 Newman Building
Mr Feargal Murphy	feargal.murphy@ucd.ie Office: A321 Newman Building
Professor Jamal Ouhalla *on leave Semester 1*	j.ouhalla@ucd.ie Office: A315 Newman Building
Dr Sandrine Peraldi	sandrine.peraldi@ucd.ie Office: Roebuck Castle 112 [*temporary*]

Registration and related issues should be discussed with the School Office, A301, slcl@ucd.ie.

### 3.	Structure of the MA: Modules

### 3.1	Core modules
Students must register for the following core modules (70 credits):

Semester 1

LING 40090 Sociolinguistics	(7.5 credits)
LING 40050 Phonology	(7.5 credits)

Semester 2

LING 40110 Syntax	(7.5 credits)
LING 40320 Corpus Linguistics	(7.5 credits)
LING 40230 Literature Review	(10 credits)

Semester 3

LING 40240 MA Thesis	(30 credits)

### 3.2	Option modules
Students must also choose option modules (20 credits in total over Semesters 1 and 2). The following modules in Linguistics and cognate areas are available:

Semester 1

LING 40250 Graduate Language Impairment	(10 credits)
LING 40220 Minority Languages	(10 credits)
LING 40330 Intercultural Communication	(10 credits)
PSY 30050 Behavioural Neuroscience	(5 credits)

Semester 2

LING 40260 Global English	(10 credits)
SLL 40290 Second Language Acquisition	(10 credits)
PSY 20060 Psychology of Language	(5 credits)
COMP 40020 Human Language Technologies	(5 credits)

Other allied/related modules are also available; students should discuss potential choices with the MA Coordinator first.

Module descriptors are available at http://www.ucd.ie/students/course_search.htm

3.3   Literature Review

LING 40230 Literature Review (Semester 2, 10 Credits)

This module includes both developing research skills and writing a review of the published literature on the topic of their MA thesis.

Research skills and research ethics
Students will develop research skills and complete tasks that relate to the MA thesis. These will be introduced during the course of Semester 1 and will continue through Semester 2.
All students are required to submit an application for ethical approval for a research project. This will be required regardless of whether or not the final research project chosen (the MA thesis topic) involves working with human subjects. Further information will be provided in the course of Semester 1; in the meantime, students may consult the website of the UCD Office of Research Ethics: http://www.ucd.ie/researchethics/

The deadline for submission of the ethics application will be **the end of Semester 1**.

The Literature Review
- Each student will research and write a thesis (see §3.4), starting with a review of the relevant literature in Semester 2**.** This aspect of the course gives students the opportunity to begin their own research in an area of Linguistics that is of interest to them.

- Students are encouraged to talk to their lecturers (and potential supervisors) during the first and second semester and explore possible project topics. Each student will select an area of investigation (in conjunction with a supervisor).

- Students should decide on a topic, contact a potential supervisor and discuss possibilities by **Monday 4 March 2018**.

- Having chosen a topic, each student will critically review the published literature on that topic. Assessment will involve a conference-like presentation of academic literature at the end of the semester, along with the submission of a write-up of the material presented.

- The Literature Review will conclude with a proposed research question which will then be the focus of the MA thesis. In as far as it is possible, students will define the structure of their thesis at this stage.

- Students should familiarise themselves with university policies on academic integrity and plariarism.
  http://libguides.ucd.ie/academicintegrity

  http://www.ucd.ie/governance/resources/policypage-plagiarismpolicy/

4.   LING 40240 MA minor thesis (Semester 3, 30 credits)

4.1 Thesis supervision
As mentioned in §3.3, students should talk to prosective supervisors early on to explore potential topics.

- All members the teaching team in Linguistics are in principle available as suervisors, however, depending on commitments/supervision capacity, students will not necessarily get the supervisor they want.

- Students will meet with their supervisor(s) on a regular basis during the research and writing phase. It is essential to agree a schedule that will take into account that supervisors may take annual leave or be away on research field trips during the summer months

- The period of supervision ends on the **15 July** unless alternative arrangements are agreed. Students then have a month to complete the writing of their thesis before the submission deadline.

- The deadline for submission of the MA dissertation is **Wednesday 14 August 2019**. Late submission of a dissertation could have implications for fees and conferring dates.

4.2 Thesis guidelines

Length
10,000-15,000 words (including literature, footnotes, tables etc.).
Before submitting a thesis that departs significantly from this broad guideline, you must discuss this with your supervisor and receive formal authorisation for the difference.

Structure
Appendix 1 provides a structure for the thesis that includes the following

Title page
Table of contents
Acknowledgments (if any)
Abstract
List of Tables (if any)
List of Figures (if any)
List of Appendices (if any)
References of Bibliography
Appendices (if any)

Formatting

Layout: Margins at the binding edge shall be not less than 30mm and other margins not less than 20mm. 1.5 spacing shall be used, except for indented quotations and footnotes, where single spacing may be used.

Font: The recommended font used shall be a sans serif font (including Arial, Helvetica, Tahoma or Trebuchet) and shall not be less than 11pt. Footnotes shall not be less than 9pt.

Page Numbering: Pages shall be numbered consecutively throughout the substantive text of the thesis, including appendices. Prefacing pages shall also be numbered consecutively, but utilising the Roman numeral format (i., ii., iii., iv., v., etc.). Page numbers shall be right justified at the bottom of the page.

Binding

Two hard copies of the thesis must be submitted to the School Office. These should be bound with a soft cover [a clear cover and backing card, bound together by a thermal strip]. These copies must be accompanied by a signed submission form (see final page of this document).
One identical electronic copy in PDF format must be submitted via SafeAssign on the Blackboard site for Ling40230 (Literature Review). You should also send an electronic version of the final version of their thesis to your supervisor (by e-mail).

Submission deadline: Thursday, 15 August 2019, 4pm

4.3   Non-completion of thesis component

Students who successfully complete 60 credits in Semester 1 and 2 but who do not complete the thesis component can exit with a Graduate Diploma in Linguistics. Students considering such a strategy should talk to the MA Coordinator at the earliest date possible.

Implications for fees:
A student registered to the MA in Linguistics who wishes to exit with the 60 credit Graduate Diploma in Linguistics will not be eligible for the third term fees for the MA in Linguistics providing that they indicate to the School their intention to exit with the Graduate Diploma within the first six weeks of the Summer Term. The Graduate School Board will consider the request for a transfer (from MA to Graduate Diploma) and if approved will submit a recommendation on fees.