English-Speaking Cultures: Language, Text, Media
Master
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Description of the study programme

The master’s degree in “English-Speaking Cultures: Language, Text, Media” is a programme for students with a background in English Studies, North American Studies, Linguistics (with English Linguistics as the main component), Comparative Studies (with a focus on English Linguistics or Literatures and Cultures in English), or related subjects. Courses are offered only in English.

The E-SC master’s degree offers students the possibility of extending and/or specialising their previous studies within a highly flexible, research-based, structured teaching programme. Students build their own focus by concentrating on one of the three profile areas covered by the programme: (1) British, North American and Postcolonial Literatures; (2) Linguistics: Varieties, Medialities and Applications (including language variation and innovation, contact linguistics, multimodal linguistics, trans-, multi- and intermediality studies, as well as language teaching and assessment); and (3) British, North American and Postcolonial Cultural History (including the analysis of cultural artifacts and materials). In addition, students develop specific competences in advanced communication focusing on the use of English in the professional world, refining their investigation, presentation, and negotiation skills. The master’s programme as a whole enables students to conduct their own critical research with respect to literary, cultural, and linguistic positions and developments. Students learn to pursue innovative developments in research into the English language, into accounts of language teaching and learning, into English-language texts and media of any kind, and to subject these to academic analysis within appropriate theoretical frameworks. Knowledge and text production in both Eurocentric and postcolonial contexts can also be critically explored. The study programme begins with general overviews of the three profile areas as well as topic-based courses that extend the study focus and offer early opportunities for specialization. In the second year, focused courses on research positions and methods lead students to define their own specific research topics to be taken forward to the final M.A. thesis.
The study programme is multidisciplinary in its general orientation, involving literary, cultural, and linguistic approaches. Both within and beyond this focus, the research profile of the teaching faculty includes aspects of cultural history, gender studies, rewritings of Shakespeare, science novels, travel narratives, Hollywood and transnational cinema, linguistic varieties, contact linguistics, multimodality, as well as the field of language teaching and assessment.

Admission criteria and requirements
(Based on the admission regulations of 15 November, 2017)

To apply for the E-SC master’s programme, students must have a B.A. degree, an M.A. degree or the equivalent in English Studies, North American Studies, Linguistics (with English Linguistics as the main component), Comparative Studies (with either English Linguistics and/or Literatures and/or Cultures in the English-speaking world as its main component), or a related field. For students with a background in Linguistics, at least 60 credit points (CP\(^1\)) of the previous programme must have been earned in the field of English. Students who have not yet completed their B.A. degree may nonetheless apply if they have completed the greater part of their studies (corresponding to at least 150 CP, 60 CP of which must be in an English-related subject). In such cases, admission can be granted on the condition that every other requirement with respect to the admission regulations has been fulfilled and that the B.A. degree will be successfully completed at the latest two weeks after the start of the M.A. programme lecture period. Students who have a degree worth 180 credit points (CP) with no discernible differences in terms of content, workload, and requirements in relation to the aforementioned undergraduate (or graduate) degrees may also apply.

- Applications include the official form for admission, certification of a successfully completed B.A. degree, proof of proficiency in English at C1 level according to the Common European Framework, a tabular CV, and the transcript of records from any previous degree.

\(^1\)Note: the formulations “credit points” and “CP” refer to the credit-point structure of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) (or equivalent).
• **Exemption from the proof of proficiency in English at C1 level:** Students whose university-entrance qualification was obtained at an education institution where the primary language of instruction and examination was English, or who completed their B.A. or M.A. degree in an all-English programme, are exempt from the obligation to provide proof of proficiency in English at C1 level, on condition that they provide the corresponding documentation as evidence. Students who have either successfully graduated from the "English-Speaking Cultures" B.A. programme at Bremen University or any other equivalent B.A. programmes are also exempt from this requirement, on condition that they provide the corresponding documentation as evidence.

• **Proof of 60 credit points (CP) in an English-related subject or linguistics must be submitted before the application deadline.**

For further information, please check the current admission requirements at www.uni-bremen.de/en/master.html.

**Expected interests and qualifications**
We seek graduate students who have a strong record of academic performance as undergraduate students and take a keen interest in theory-oriented, methodologically rigorous research and its applications.

**Occupational fields and career opportunities**
Upon completion of the M.A. programme, students may choose to continue on PhD research or seek a career in non-academic occupational fields, such as further education, political institutions, public administration, the publishing industry, the media, non-governmental organisations, or the corporate sector.

**Curriculum and content of the study programme**
**The curriculum and content**
The study programme is designed to run over a period of 4 semesters (two years) including the M.A. thesis. The curriculum reflects the research-oriented nature of the study programme, providing ample opportunity to gather the requisite research skills and knowledge and to work on honing those skills for concrete research tasks within areas of specialisation.
The **first semester** comprises the orientation phase, recognising the fact that enrolled students may come from several disciplinary backgrounds. An **orientation module** offers a series of lectures illustrating the scope, aims, and current research projects undertaken in each of the three specialisation areas. This is combined with **overview seminars** in each of the three specialisation areas; students must select two of these overview seminars. The semester also includes the first part of an **obligatory module for advanced communication skills**. Finally, a further **supplementary-studies module** must be taken; students choosing three courses (over two semesters) from a pool comprising a selection of language courses (e.g. German for non-German speakers), courses from relevant neighbouring disciplines, and/or courses on soft skills.

The **second semester** builds on the first with **two extension modules**, comprising two courses each. The first extension module sets out theories, concepts, current research trends and methods in each of the specialisation areas; the second extension module focuses on specific topics and themes from the current research landscape in each of the specialisation areas. Practical skills are also developed further in the **second part of the module extending advanced communication skills**, as well as in a **module focusing on practical academic work experience**, for which students must gather documented experience from a wide range of activities, such as conference or workshop organisation, work-experience in relevant institutions or companies, active participation in conferences, workshops, or tutorials.

In the **third semester**, the modules of the programme provide the opportunity for a strong specialisation in the focus areas on offer, constituting concrete preparation for the work to be undertaken for the M.A. thesis. A **specialisation module** offers two advanced courses in each of the programme’s three focus areas. A **research module** provides the scope within which a single research project, including theories, methods, corpora, literature research, and so on, is undertaken. The **research project** is a major element of the programme, conducted primarily in independent individual or group work, closely guided by a supervisor selected by the student. In this way, students gain in-depth experience in the planning, execution, analysis and written de-
scription of a research project in preparation for the M.A. thesis. Finally, a **second module for academic work experience** refines and develops students’ skills through further practical activities, students being required to select activities that they did not cover in the first academic work experience module.

The final, **fourth semester** completely **focusses on the M.A. thesis**, including both the necessary research and writing the thesis itself. An accompanying **research colloquium for thesis preparation** is also part of this module. Ideally, the M.A. thesis should build directly on the research project begun in the third semester, drawing on the additional extension modules taken. It is possible for students to construct their own specialisations with considerable flexibility: the selection of courses within the extension modules can either focus more narrowly on single specialisation areas, or maintain greater breadth with courses from one or two of these areas. However, it is strongly recommended that the final M.A. project be undertaken in a primary specialisation area that each student builds for herself or himself.

The successful completion of each **module** earns students a certain number of **credit points** reflecting the average workload for the module in question. 1 CP corresponds to 30 hours of work including the in-course sessions at university, preparation, reading and other homework, etc. A module is a coherent teaching unit concerning a specific topic. The extension modules and specialisation module consist of two courses, which need to be selected from a pool of courses on offer; the orientation module consists of a lecture series and two courses; the research module consists of one course, while the final master thesis module consist of an accompanying research colloquium and the master thesis; the supplementary studies module consist of three courses; the academic work experience module requires the collection of certificates from a number of activities, depending on the workload. It is necessary to gain the requisite CP in each of the modules set out in the curriculum in order to successfully complete the programme. In each semester an average of 30 CP should be accomplished. Over the course of the 4 semesters (2 years) 120 CP in total must be acquired. A course catalogue providing detailed module descriptions: [http://ma-esc.uni-bremen.de](http://ma-esc.uni-bremen.de)
Module Structure and Study Schedule – “English-Speaking Cultures: Language, Text, Media”
This chart presents the module structure and recommended study schedule; modules can be completed in a different order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Structure</th>
<th>Compulsory Modules incl. Module MA Thesis (54 CP)</th>
<th>Compulsory Elective Modules * (66 CP)</th>
<th>∑ 120 CP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stages according to § 2 Abs. 2 MPO</td>
<td>Master Thesis (30 CP)</td>
<td>SuStMo Supplementary Studies Module (9 CP) ***</td>
<td>30 CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Year</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Semester</td>
<td>OrMo Orientation Module (15 CP)</td>
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<td>30 CP</td>
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<td>UEP Part 1 Using English in the Professional World (6 CP) **</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>UEP Part 2 Using English in the Professional World (3 CP) **</td>
<td>ExMo1 Extension Module 1 (9 CP)</td>
<td>AWE1 Academic Work Experience 1 (9 CP)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ExMo2 Extension Module 2 (9 CP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Year</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Semester</td>
<td>ReMo Research Module (9 CP)</td>
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<td>30 CP</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SpecMo Specialisation Module (12 CP)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Semester</td>
<td>MaThe Master Thesis (30 CP)</td>
<td></td>
<td>30 CP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CP = Credit Points

* Students can choose seminars (2 seminars combined make 1 module) from the three profile areas: 1) British, North American and Postcolonial Literatures; 2) Linguistics: Varieties, Medialities, Applications; 3) British, North American and Postcolonial Cultural History.

** The seminars offered for the compulsory module “Using English in the Professional World (UEP)” have to be taken as a rule; upon request to the examination board, already completed seminars or comparable achievements can be accredited according to § 22 AT MPO if there are no substantial differences with regards to the acquired skills and competences to the ones in UEP 1 and 2 of the MA E-SC at the University of Bremen.

*** For the module “Supplementary Studies Module (SuStMo)”, students can acquire competences and achievements of up to 9 CP from a great offer of activities across a time span of 2 semesters.
Internship
An internship is optional.

Language of instruction
All courses in the programme are taught completely in English.

(Research) co-operation schemes
Students enrolled in this master’s programme may benefit from a number of international co-operation schemes focused on academic exchanges (internships, research projects, or studies in the context of a regular academic semester) and an increasing number of research collaboration arrangements and partnerships, permitting students to experience and adapt to an international environment, including the benefits of studying and conducting research in other educational systems. International co-operation schemes are active with universities in Canada, the USA, the Netherlands, Sweden, Italy, Denmark, Malta, the UK, Ireland, Brazil, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. Please explore our homepage for further information:
www.fb10.uni-bremen.de/anglistik/auslandsstudium/default.aspx

Start of the study programme
The programme starts at the beginning of the winter semester of each year. Courses in the winter semester (WiSe) begin in mid-October and end in early February, with a two-week break during the holiday season. The summer semester (SoSe) lecture period lasts from the beginning of April to mid-July.

Duration of study
The master’s programme is a two-year course, comprising four semesters.

Degree
Master of Arts (M.A.)

Teachers
Please see our teaching faculty:
www.fb10.uni-bremen.de/anglistik/personal.aspx
Admission and application

Please check current information at

Deadline for application (beginner)
15 July for the winter semester

Deadline for application (advanced)
15 January for the summer semester (advanced only)

Documents required for application

• Online-Application for admission: www.uni-bremen.de/master
• A current CV (tabular) including information on the applicant’s educational and work history, publications (if any), language abilities, and extracurricular interests.
• Corresponding documents relating to the entry requirements.
• Transcript of Records from previous and/or current B.A./M.A. degree programmes.

For further information please see: www.uni-bremen.de/master.

Admission Office (Secretariat for Students International – SfSi)

University of Bremen
Administration Building (VWG)
Ground floor

Postal address: University of Bremen
SfS-International
P.O. Box 33 04 40
28334 Bremen
phone: +49 421 218-61002
master@uni-bremen.de
www.uni-bremen.de/master
Office hours: Mo, Tue & Thu 9–12 a.m., Wed 14–16 p.m.
Contact and advisory services

Internet address of the study programme:
http://ma-esc.uni-bremen.de

Programme directors
Prof. Dr. Marcus Callies
University of Bremen
Faculty 10: Linguistics and Literary Studies
Universitäts-Boulevard 13
28359 Bremen
callies@uni-bremen.de

Prof. Dr. Kerstin Knopf
University of Bremen
Faculty 10: Linguistics and Literary Studies
Universitäts-Boulevard 13
28359 Bremen
kknopf@uni-bremen.de

Student advisory service
Study Center Faculty 10 (Studienzentrum FB 10)
University of Bremen
Faculty 10: Linguistics and Literary Studies
Universitäts-Boulevard 13
28359 Bremen
www.fb10.uni-bremen.de/studienzentrum/personen.aspx

Advice for international students (International Office)
Information and advice on housing, working, health insurance, visa and more:

Claudia Pellegrino
University of Bremen
Administration Building (VWG) Room 0580
Mon, Tue & Thu 9–12 a.m., Wed 14–16 p.m.
claudia.pellegrino@vw.uni-bremen.de
KONTAKT

Zentrale Studienberatung

Besuchsadresse:
Bibliothekstr. 1, Verwaltungsgebäude VWG,
Haupteingang, Erdgeschoss, Flur links

Postadresse:
Universität Bremen
Zentrale Studienberatung
Postfach 33 04 40
28334 Bremen

0421 218-61160
zsb@uni-bremen.de
www.uni-bremen.de/zsb

Beratungszeiten (ohne Voranmeldung):
Mo, Di & Do 9–12 Uhr
Mi 14–16 Uhr
Zusätzliche Termine für Berufstätige und Auswärtige nach Vereinbarung